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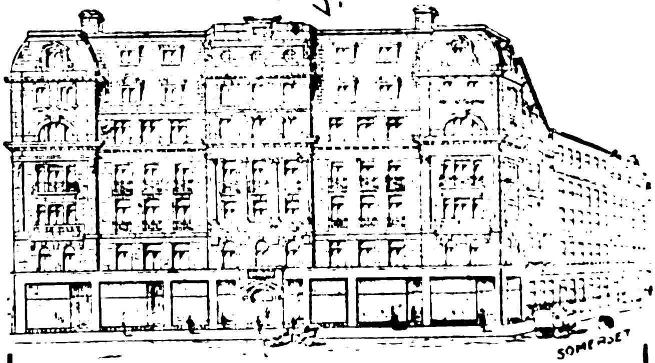

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An attempt by the Turks to recapture Jerusalem was generally expected, and it caused no surprise when General Allenby announced that such an attempt had actually been made. It failed completely to win any ground—on the contrary, the British advance has continued unchecked. Bethel has now been occupied, twelve miles north of Jerusalem, and other villages on either side of the main road leading north to Shechem. The Turks have lost rather heavily in their unsuccessful attacks; between December 27 and 29 we captured 750 prisoners, including 39 officers, and over a thousand enemy dead were counted.

One interesting feature of the week's fighting in Palestine has been the reported presence of Germans in the Turkish attacks. The Germans do not seem to have done much for their Allies these last few months, except to give them good advice, of which commodity Berlin is, no doubt, prodigal. Perhaps the Turks asked for something more valuable in these difficult days, and they have evidently received some support, rather late in the day. Since the operation in which the Germans were engaged was one for the recapture of Jerusalem, and the Pope had condemned any such movement in advance, the German explanation to the Vatican should be a valuable diplomatic document. The Pope's attitude, indeed, has been roundly condemned by many of the German papers as unneutral—neutrality in Teutonic eyes being that which conduces to the interest of Germany.

That Germany will not be restrained by any such scruples is evident; the only factors she will consider in weighing the advisability of reconquering Jerusalem are whether it is advisable in her own interest, and whether she can do it without unduly reducing her strength elsewhere. As to the first, there can be no doubt of the answer; the year 1917 was a disastrous one for German prestige in Asia, and unless Germany can do better there this year her "world-mighty" plans had better be put in the waste-paper basket with the Kaiser's speeches and the broken treaties. But whether Germany can do it without weakening her position in Europe remains to be seen. She is quite ready to let her allies suffer so long as she can safeguard herself, and the Berlin theory that the war will be won or lost in Europe is merely another way of saying that Germany intends to look after herself first, last, and all the time.

That both the German High Command and the German people are greatly relieved to be rid of the war on two fronts—that bugbear of Bismarck's, in regard to which Von Moltke, early in the present war, remarked that "by God, this is no child's play"—can be well believed. The terms on which they can do it yet remain to be settled, but it is highly improbable that Lenin and Trotsky, at Petrograd, will throw any obstacle in their way. These heads of the Bolsheviks have already welcomed German ambassadors and bagmen, and turned out British and French residents from the hotels to make their new friends comfortable. When the Irish tenant was asked how he murdered the landlord, he replied that this was a pettifogging detail; when Lenin is asked how he dismembered Russia, he will presumably give much the same answer.

The alleged German peace terms had evidently been carefully considered before they were formulated. They are not quite what the Bolsheviks asked for, but no difficulty need be expected on that score. They are furthermore intended to make the West think that Germany believes in no annexations, while she quietly puts the East of Europe into her pocket: they were intended to be used, and they are, in fact, being used, by the professional pacifists here to spread the idea of a converted Germany. That move will fail of its effect. The British public is not very familiar with the names of Eastern European provinces, and not every schoolmaster knows, to misquote Macaulay, the difference between Bessarabia and Bukowina; but everybody instinctively recognises the thimble-rigging trick in diplomacy, although we do not know precisely under which particular thimble the Germans have concealed their pea. And we will not join in that competition, however much we may be bidden to come and examine the terms at Brest-Litovsk.

On the whole the Bulgarians are more to be respected than their masters in this matter. All the world knows what they want, for they cease not crying day or night that the Dobruja is their war aim, or at least the one that can be immediately realised. They have even gone to the length of mimicking democracy in order to get it. A National Assembly has been called into being in the Dobruja—names, dates, and other minor details are not given—and it has unanimously voted that the desire of that province is to belong to Bulgaria. Seeing that there was no question of a Bulgarian majority in the Dobruja before the war, the unanimity of this decision would be somewhat startling, were the whole thing not so obviously a means of throwing dust into the eyes of the innocent West. But the device is so transparent that it would hardly deceive the most confirmed hands-upper. But the Germans are contemplating the same trick in Lithuania and Courland, a *referendum ad absurdum*.

The position in Roumania remains obscure, but the public will do well not to lose sight of these plucky Allies of ours. It will not be a matter for surprise if the event proves that the Russian troops in Roumania have been the least affected by Bolshevik doctrines of the whole of the Russian Army. As far as is known they have held their ground, although compelled, together with the Roumanians, to conclude an armistice. If the report be true that the enemy are moving down troops to this front, the precaution is a tribute to the Russian and Roumanian troops. There is reason to suppose that the French, Roumanian, and Russian triumvirate in the persons of General de Berthelot, General Presan, and General Tcherbatcheff has proved an exceedingly able combination. Sufficient justice has not yet been done to the work accomplished by General de Berthelot's mission. The Roumanians themselves would be the first to admit that he has achieved wonderful results in an incredibly short time. Not only has he reorganised the Roumanian Army as a fighting force, but he has also inspired it with self-respect and confidence. It is this factor that has enabled the Roumanians to come through their terrible ordeal, and, unless we are mistaken, it has not been without its influence upon their Russian comrades-in-arms.

If under the command of General Tcherbatcheff the Russian troops in Roumania can stand firm, they may yet play an important rôle in the march of events in Russia. They protect the flank of the Ukraine, and any determined action on their part would in all probability completely dispose of the Bolshevik army, which so far has shown little inclination for serious fighting. For the moment, therefore, everything depends on the movement in Southern Russia against the tyranny and excesses of the Bolsheviks being placed under organised leadership. The policy of the Ukraine Government is far from clear; but it is possible that the powers that be in Petrograd are deliberately misrepresenting its attitude for their own ends. Sooner or later, however, the uncertainty of the position will be cleared up; for it is difficult to believe that the rest of the South will acquiesce in a Bolshevist régime, even if the Ukraine Rada does. In the interval there should be no room for doubt in the minds of the Roumanian Government and General de Berthelot that the Allies are keeping close watch upon the situation and are accumulating support for them, to be hurried to their relief at the earliest opportunity.

The denunciation of Roumania by M. Trotsky seems to show that the position there and in the South generally is more hopeful than is convenient for the "défaitists" of Petrograd to admit. The "facts" cited by M. Trotsky have probably as much existence in reality as many other of his charges—after his attack on the American Ambassador and the way in which he falsified or, more probably, manufactured charges in order to throw dirt at an Ally, nobody will believe a word he says without independent evidence—but his anger with Roumania is significant. He does not find any occasion for anger with the Germans; for them everything is made smooth, and they are in effect occupying Petrograd before any terms of peace have been notified. But the fact that not everybody in the South will take their ideas of morality or statecraft from the traitor at Petrograd naturally leads to an outburst. Trotsky's threats will be treated by Roumania with the contempt they merit; he has no power to carry them out, his troops will not fight, and his own tenure of power will probably only last so long as his masters in Berlin please.

The agreement with Turkey as to the exchange of prisoners seems satisfactory; we can only hope that it will be honourably carried out, and that the Turks will not in this matter imitate the methods of their German Allies, who have been extremely difficult to deal with after the agreement has been arranged. There remains the question of an exchange with the Bulgars, which we hope may be attended to this year. The numbers involved on either side are small in comparison with those affected by the Turkish and still more, of course, by the German campaigns, but that is no reason why they should be overlooked.

There is, of course, a very considerable disproportion between the number of British prisoners in Turkish hands and of Turkish prisoners in British hands. There are about fifty thousand Turks altogether imprisoned in Egypt, India, and Burma; the British prisoners, who are nearly all in Asia Minor, are understood to be about ten thousand, although the exact number is unknown to the Turks themselves. A large number of our men have unfortunately died, owing to insanitary conditions and other defects in the prison camps; some of the remainder are certainly in very weak health.

An immediate preliminary exchange of 1,000 invalid British and Indian soldiers is to be effected, against 1,500 Turkish prisoners in the same category; subsequent exchanges are to be carried out on the basis of a low schedule of disability. In addition to this, all civilians not of military age are to be repatriated should they so desire: these are probably not a large class, and not all Ottoman subjects, or nominal Ottoman subjects, will desire to return; while civilians of military age are to be exchanged man for man. It is feared that there will be some difficulty in selecting ports for the arrival of ships conveying the prisoners, but the Turks seem to have obtained from Berlin an assurance that the ships engaged in this traffic will not be sunk. It is to be hoped that this assurance is worth more than many other pledges from the same quarter.

The vigour with which Bulgaria is putting forward its claims to annexations may, perhaps, lead British Labour to another modification of its programme. It will be recollected that in that document, which was at least good in parts, it was suggested that the Balkan States should become a federation, with a Customs union. This is a less ambitious and more practical idea than that put forward by Professor Sonnenschein of a European federation—which would include Germany by implication; but it cannot be denied that such a federation of local States would be ideally the best for the Balkans, and a Customs union would be a necessity of that federation, as it has always proved of any federation that is not a rope of sand. Unfortunately a federation implies a certain amount of give and take, and that is precisely what Bulgaria will not have. She wants to be the dominant State in the Balkans, and in order to gain that position, she is quite willing to be subservient to Germany.

The Balkan League is an illustration of the difficulty. Its formation was hailed as a miracle, and miracles seldom repeat themselves. It was thoroughly successful, but Bulgaria destroyed it by overweening ambition and treachery. Moreover, once it was destroyed, the Central Powers were determined not to permit its reconstruction. Had they done so, and had the League held together, the present war might have been avoided, and Germany's aims have been thwarted in the Near East. There can be no stable Balkan League while the King of Bulgaria is on his throne, and while Germany is intriguing to get King Constantine back to Athens; nor can any such League have the least prospect of success so long as one of its members is determined to ally himself with those without at the expense of those within.

On another point the Labour programme seems to show a certain amount of confusion of thought. It advocates the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire, but also the partial dismemberment of the British Empire, since it proposes to put Mesopotamia, Armenia, and the Central African colonies under the administration of a League of Nations. The suggestion that Britain shall give up Northern Rhodesia and British East Africa is, of course, impracticable, and it is no more representative of the British working-man than Dr. Lyttelton's proposal to give up Gibraltar represented the Church of England. But that is not our point at the moment; it is that the proposed League of Nations, so far as we understand it, by no means implies a body charged with the administration of non-European territories.

The regular work of administration is something entirely different from the kind of functions sketched out for the League of Nations. The idea underlying the League of Nations is not that the lion should lie down with the jackal, but that lion and jackal should agree to become non-predatory animals (donkeys, for instance), and that they should agree with each other and only coerce that particular member of the League which showed signs of reverting to predatory instincts. It is not quite clear how it is going to be done, or how the League will be prevented from becoming a merely conservative Holy Alliance; but one thing does seem to be clear. If each member of the League of Nations substitutes, as is hoped rather than expected, the golden rule for the rougher methods that have hitherto prevailed, there will be nothing for the League to do. We are told that the League is to be the political policeman of the world, but it is obvious that, if the world is on its good behaviour, the League will have nothing to do, since policemen will not coerce the just State made perfect.

On the other hand, the authority that administers, say, Armenia, will have a great deal to do in the ordinary course of the day's work. If the League of Nations is to prevent any one of its members from coercing Armenia that will be a relatively simple matter; but if it is to prevent one of its members from intriguing in Armenia for a position of undue favouritism, that will be an excessively difficult matter. Armenia might conceivably be entirely independent and prosperous. But if it is to be governed by the League of Nations, then the League must appoint a governor, and the governor must presumably be of a known nationality. Would Germany acquiesce in an English governor of Armenia, or vice versa? And if the governor were appointed by a small neutral State, then there would be a struggle among the greater States to control that small neutral State. It seems to us that the best way to wreck the League of Nations idea is to give it territories to administer.

A statement of great interest has been issued by M. Chéradame, the authority on the Baghdad Railway, as to the manner in which Germany is profiting by the war. He points out that the value of the territories she has seized is approximately £6,400,000,000—a sum which could be largely increased by their more thorough cultivation. Apart from this she has also secured human material for labour; war material in the shape of rolling stock and transport; horses, cattle, and foodstuffs generally; masses of raw material, such as coal, mineral oils, iron, copper, wool, and cotton. All these have been used, no doubt, to prosecute the war; but in addition there is the looting of works of art, stolen from churches, museums, and private collections; minted money, jewels, and securities; the materials of industry—motors, machine tools, dynamos, and plant of all kinds; and the materials of social and family life—furniture, clothing, and such private loot. The pacifists who advocate that every country involved in this war should contribute to a fund to repair the destruction should be made to read this catalogue; if they had any sense of justice they would abandon their programme for letting the robber get away with the spoils.

Besides these spoils, M. Chéradame notes certain legitimate profits—advances made by Berlin to her allies, which are, in effect, "an immense German mortgage upon them, placing them in absolute financial dependence on Berlin." Austria, having parted with her gold to Berlin, is in an absolutely helpless position; Bulgaria is not less so. Turkey seems to be showing some signs of restiveness, but she is apparently dazed between the desire to get out of the war on any terms and the desire to risk one last bid at Germany's expense. That is probably the true explanation of the announcement that Djavid Bey, the Turkish Finance Minister, is proceeding to Berlin for a conference with the German Government and the leading bankers. If Germany will put up the money, in short, Turkey will have another fling; that, perhaps, is also the motive behind her laboured explanation that she is really rather fond of the Jews, in Palestine and elsewhere. These seems to be nothing else for Germany to do but to finance her remittance man a little longer, although she may possibly try to pay part of the bill with a few Pan-Turanian promissory notes.

The demonstrations in India in favour of Home Rule continue, but Mr. Montagu remains true to his pledge to be seen and not heard. A long memorandum has been drawn up and circulated in favour of reform; it cannot be said that, long as it is, it covers the ground adequately or shows sufficient signs of constructive statecraft. The document in question is attributed to Mrs. Besant, surely the most bizarre figure that ever headed a peaceful revolution. The Western world was not much impressed either by her theosophical or her sociological teaching, and it is not very likely to be impressed by her political teaching. Spiritualists may accept her as a good politician, and politicians take her on trust as a theologian; but in the practical rôle of reformer she is scarcely successful. And it is a serious weakness, as *The Times* has pointed out, that those who advocate Home Rule for India should not have chosen an Indian to lead them, but a European lady. The very essence of a demand for Home Rule rests on the assumption that a country is able to govern itself; if it has to import its spokesman it leads to the assumption that it has nobody of its own able to fill the post. In the present case we believe that assumption, however natural it may be, to be profoundly mistaken; despite a certain negation and imitative tendency in Indian political thought the country is capable, and in the past has often shown itself capable, of producing political leaders. Mrs. Besant may be more Hindu than the Hindus, but for all that she is a European.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

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CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

NEW YORK. Office of "The New Armenia," Flat Iron Building.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 1.

The Financial Advisership.

As the result of the illness of Lord Edward Cecil and his inability to continue to carry out his duties as Financial Adviser, it has been decided to appoint Sir William Brunyate to act for him during his absence, and this decision was approved of by the Council of Ministers at its last sitting. At the same time Mr. Sheldon Amos, who was recently selected by Sir William to assist him with the administrative work connected with the Judicial Advisership, has been chosen to act for him at the Ministry of Justice. Similarly Mr. E. M. Dowson, Director-General of Surveys, who was transferred to the Ministry of Finance when Lord Edward Cecil went to England last spring to act as Under-Secretary while the Hon. Ronald Lindsay acted for the Financial Adviser, is to continue in that position during the absence of Mr. Lindsay in England. The latter left this week for Europe, and will, it is understood, be away for a short time only. Meanwhile, as it is recognised that the Under-Secretary for Finance has too much work on his hands, it has been decided to transfer Mr. W. B. Trelawny, the Controller of the Government Printing Works, to the Ministry of Finance to assist Mr. Dowson. All these appointments have given great satisfaction, especially that of Sir William Brunyate, who is generally recognised as being one of the ablest and strongest officials the Egyptian Government has had in its service for many years past.

Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the American colony by a special service at the American Mission Church, at which Mr. Paul Knabenshue, the American Chargé d'Affaires, and the High Commissioner were present. In the afternoon a reception was held at the American Agency. It was attended by the Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha, representing the Sultan, and by Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate and a crowd of British and foreign residents.

The British Troops in Palestine.

Tidings from Palestine show that the entry of our troops into that region is being hailed with delight by the inhabitants, and that the population of places like Jaffa, where they were driven out by the Turks on Jemal Pasha's orders, are fast returning. General Allenby issued very strict orders to the troops entering Palestine as to the manner in which they were to behave. They were exhorted to remember the high reputation for justice, tolerance, and fair treatment which the British nation enjoys in the East, and in accordance with which the inhabitants of the country would expect them to conduct themselves. He expressed confidence that the Expeditionary Force would maintain the high standard of conduct which it had hitherto shown, and called upon all commanding officers to take care that all known historical and sacred sites and buildings were guarded and preserved, and that the same respect was shown for them as for the persons and property of the inhabitants. The publication of these orders appears to have much impressed the local population, and everything tends to show that our troops are behaving in an exemplary manner. Officers and men who have been invalided up here from the front are all loud in their praises of the Commander-in-Chief, General Allenby. They state that he was extraordinarily ubiquitous during the recent fighting, and evinced incessant concern for the welfare of the wounded. He appears completely to have gained the confidence of the troops, who much appreciate the solicitude which he displays for their comfort, especially when they are resting behind the lines.

The Return of Mr. Storrs.

Amongst the more recent arrivals in Cairo has been Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary at the Residency, who has just returned from England. Mr. Storrs has been absent from his post for about nine months. He was sent on a special mission to Mesopotamia last spring, and on his return thence he proceeded to England for some well-earned leave. During his stay in London Mr. Storrs was engaged for a short time on very important and confidential war work. Much pleasure has been expressed in native circles at his return to Cairo, for he has acquired for an Englishman a unique place in the confidence and esteem of the Egyptians.

The Cairo Racing Season.

On Saturday afternoon last the first race meeting of the season took place at Gezira. It proved to be a great success, and, as is usual with Gezira, was attended by a crowd of racegoers, who, however, do not frequent the other courses. There is not the slightest doubt that the Gezira course is the most attractive in the country, added to which we have the fact that, thanks to its energetic secretary, Mr. Greenwood, the organisation of the meetings leaves nothing to be desired and nothing that can conduce to comfort and good racing is left undone.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Mesopotamia; the Key to the Future," by Canon Parfit. A short account of the past history, present development, and future prospects of Mesopotamia, showing that the settlement of its problems is of vast importance to the progress and prosperity of the world. 41 pp. with map. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 77 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Armenian Atrocities: The Murder of a Nation," by A. J. Toynbee, with speech by Lord Bryce. An account of the atrocities committed by the Turks on the Armenians, with documents 117 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Verdict of India," by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E. The writer describes what England has done and is doing for India, and explains the German delusion as to its internal condition. 57 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Voice from India," address by Maharajah of Bikanir. Speech delivered to Indian delegates at House of Commons. 24 pp. Empire Parliamentary Association, London.

"The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks," by Arnold J. Toynbee, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. A brief sketch of Turkish history to show that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and their confinement to a portion of Asia Minor will be the only adequate requital for their atrocious treatment of subject races during this war and previously. 35 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Justice of Rumania's Cause," by A. W. A. Leeper. An explanation of the international position of Roumania in Europe and of her rights in the war. The author shows that her cause is legitimate, and that she has taken great risks and endured much to deliver her people from Hungary's oppression. 24 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"THE INDIAMAN" INDEX.

INDICES for VOLUME VI.
(November 10, 1916—May 4, 1917),
And for VOLUME VII.
(May 11, 1917—August 2, 1917),
ARE NOW READY, and may be obtained, post free, by readers on application to The MANAGER.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Bolshevik Rising.

Of all Allied countries Roumania is the most seriously affected by the action of the Russian Maximalists. The immediate geographical contact, the unity of front, the fate of the Roumanians in Bessarabia are so many reasons for the Roumanians to follow with anxiety the development of events in Russia; but, above all, there is the fact that, for good or for evil, with or against her will, Roumania will be necessarily involved in any action taken by the new masters of Petrograd. She may well remember that she has other Allies besides Russia, but she cannot communicate with them except through Russia; she may well feel inclined to carry on on her own account, but how can she do that when a large part of her frontier might at any moment be laid bare by the defection of the Russian troops entrusted with its defence?

At first public opinion was but little moved. Hopes and fears alike made the Roumanians hold to the belief that the Bolsheviks were powerless outside Petrograd, and that even there their action was doomed to failure. This expectation was encouraged by the authorities, who imposed silence upon their own organs and heavily censored the papers which they could not control, the main reason being very probably an attempt to reduce in so far as possible the disruptive effect of Bolshevism upon the spirit of the Russian troops in Roumania. The attitude of these troops was very satisfactory in the early part of the rising, and it is interesting to find the explanation in the concerted action of the various organisations and delegates, Maximalists included, with a view to maintaining order and efficiency in the Russian contingent. When news was received of the Bolshevik revolt, the Russian Commissary on the Roumanian front, the delegate of General Headquarters, and the delegates of the two Soviets of Jassy formed themselves at once into a military-revolutionary committee, which, acting in full agreement, decided to arrogate to itself all political power, the supreme decision concerning changes of command on the Roumanian front, as well as with regard to movements of troops other than those required by strategical needs. Secondary military-revolutionary committees were to be created by the various army corps and divisions. Moreover, in order to enforce discipline and oppose any attempt at a counter-revolution, a special division was to be formed, composed of the comrades most devoted to the revolution in the three services. It is not known as yet to what extent the various proposals were carried out, but this energetic action obviously had a salutary effect upon the attitude of the Russian troops in Roumania, who might still be called upon to play an important part in the development of events in Southern Russia.

After the first few days hopes as to Maximalist failure diminished, and anxiety as to their policy concerning peace grew. The Press began to be more outspoken, calling upon the Russians to respect their engagements or hinting to them that a separate peace with Germany would not end their struggle, since it would probably bring them into armed conflict with their former Allies, China, Japan, and America included. Evidently not much was expected from the effect of such hints, as the Press at once adopted the more philosophical attitude of pinning their faith to the final justice which will be procured to them by their Western Allies. "Though some of us may have to face serfdom to the German-Bulgarian master, others the Austro-Hungarian gallows, and all of us Bolshevik abuse, none has the right to doubt of our great future, of the triumph of our cause, as long as a Frenchman, an Englishman, and an American tread upon God's earth."

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THE TURKISH ATTACK ON JERUSALEM.

The news this week from Palestine is magnificent, how much so can be realised partially by a close study of the map, but more completely by a personal knowledge of this extraordinarily intricate ground and the lessons of history. On the night of December 26-27 the Turks—assisted by Germans—made a most determined effort, lasting 26 hours, to drive in our northern line. Had this been successful it is difficult to see how the city could have been held, or if held, how it could have escaped serious damage.

The battle opened with a fierce attack at midnight on Tell el-Ful (Gibeah of Saul) and on the village of Beit Hannina, to the north-west. The attacks were frequently renewed, and gradually the battle extended to the whole front. Four attacks were made that night upon our pickets stationed upon the lofty hill Ras et Tawil, 3½ miles north-east of Jerusalem, on the northern edge of the deep and historic pass of Michmash—now known as Wady es Suweinit, and a similar attack was made east of Bir Nabala, a twin village to el Jib (the two villages lie on neighbouring hillocks), north of Nebi Samuel. Pickets were in places temporarily driven in, but the next morning a great counter-attack was begun, by which the enemy was forced back 2½ miles on a wide front. On the 28th the enemy was dislodged from a commanding point one mile north of the Jericho road—and four miles from Jerusalem—and Anata—the ancient Anathoth—the home of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jer. i. 1; ii. 21-23), less than three miles north-east of the city, was taken. From here a much-used, but very rough, mountain road crosses numerous deep valleys, and runs a course parallel with the Nablus road.

On the high road itself—after the repulse of the enemy at Tell el-Ful—the commanding hill of er Râm, the site of the once powerful frontier fortress of Rameh of Benjamin (1 Kings, 15, 17), was taken. This hill entirely dominates the high road from the east at this part. A little north-west of this Kulundia and Beit Unia, to the west side of the road, were seized. The total advance was two miles upon a front of 13 miles. The Turks seem to have taken the defeat badly. The following day (29th) an advance was made along the rough eastern road referred to above from Anata, and Hezmeh, Jeba, and Burkah were successively captured. Unless the roads have been much altered since the war, progress here must have been most difficult. It is so rough in places that a rider must dismount and lead his horse. Both Hezmeh and Jeba lie upon lofty hill tops. The latter is the site of the frontier fortress of Geba (Is. x., 29); it commands the Pass of Michmash (see 1 Sam., ch. xiv.), and is a place of extraordinary natural strength. Across the Wady es Suweinit lies the little village of Mukhmas, amid a fine grove of ancient olive trees. Though not mentioned, our Army must have passed through this the once famous Michmash to reach the village of Burkah, some two miles to the north-west. This is a very historic district. The Prophet Isaiah pictured the Assyrian host as approaching the city of Jerusalem by this route.

"He is come to Aiath (Khurbet Haiyeh), he is passed through Migron; at Michmash (Mukhmas) he layeth up his baggage; they have gone over the pass (Wady es Suweinit); they have taken up their lodgings at Geba (Jeba); Ramah (er Râm) trembleth; Gibeah of Saul (now Tell el-Ful) is fled. . . . O thou poor Anathoth (Anata)!"

While this advance occurred on our eastern flank, along the carriage road the troops took the large Christian village of Ram Allah—probably the "Hill of God" of 1 Sam. x. 5—the neighbouring Khurbet et Tireh and the Wady el Kelb (the valley of the dog) to the west, while still further west the general alignment of the advance was maintained by the capture of Khurbetha ibn Hareth and Deir el Kuddis.

The advance the same day along the central plateau gave us the very important point of el Bireh. This large Moslem village stands on the site of Beeroth. Its name, meaning "the cistern," refers to its splendid supply of water from an abundant spring. Two large reservoirs occupy the lower ground, and it is possible that once water was brought from here by aqueduct to Jerusalem. There are Crusading remains in the village, including the ruins of a church, erected by the Knights Templar in 1146. By a late ecclesiastical tradition this was the spot where the parents of Jesus missed him when leaving Jerusalem for Nazareth (Luke ii. 43). Beeroth was a town of Benjamin (Josh. ix. 17; 2 Sam. iv. 2, 3).

From Bireh the road branches. The old road runs to Beitin, the ancient and famous sanctuary of Bethel, while the new carriage road runs a little west of this, passing a marshy pool, dry in summer, known as el Balua.

On the 30th these points were occupied, and the left of our extended line advanced through very broken mountain country, and occupied the villages of Janiah and Ras Kerker. Beitin is now but a little village, standing on a hill nearly 2,900 ft. above sea level. It was the site of Jacob's dream (Gen. xxviii., 11-22), and later became one of the chosen sanctuaries of the northern kingdom; it is mentioned many times in the Old Testament (*e.g.*, Amos iv., 4, 7, 13; 1 Kings, xii., 27-33). It was an important frontier city first of Israel against Judah and later of Samaria against Judæa. There is a fine ruined reservoir, and in the present mosque are remains of a Crusading church. Apart from the interest of this historic ground, the scene of scores of battles in the past, this advance is very important, because from this lofty district both these roads now rapidly descend; the carriage road runs along the side of a wide valley to Jifna and Ain Sinia, and the older track to Ain Yebrud, while between the two, crowning a lofty hill, are the extensive remains of a fortress palace of King Baldwin, known to-day as Burj Burdawil.

E. W. G. M.

THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION IN GREECE.

On the subject of the French Military Mission in Greece, the Athens correspondent of *Le Petit Marseillais* writes :—"Our military mission, installed at Athens about two months ago, has entered into a full period of activity. Its principal object is to give material and practical help to Greece, in order that she may put forth her maximum effort on the strength of a scientific and practical reorganisation of the Hellenic Army which will place it in a position to collaborate usefully with its Allies when the time comes for it to participate in the great fight with the whole of its forces. The incontestable value of the Greek Army was proved in 1912 and 1913; but it is none the less true that it still requires to be initiated in the new methods of warfare which a rude experience has taught our troops. With a view to obtaining this result rapidly, two elements of action were necessary: one of a purely military character, and the other of an administrative order. The military mission comprises, under General Braquet, a large number of officers of every rank, several of whom are of the highest grade, doctors, veterinary surgeons, etc., together with all the material necessary for instruction and its application. Without entering into details relative to all the activities of our mission, reference may be made to the special courses embracing the various branches of military science—viz., intelligence, staff work, infantry, machine gun, artillery engineering etc.

All the officers of the Greek Army, including the Generals, follow the teaching with the greatest assiduity. The instruction is given by French officers who have had experience on the various fronts."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A correspondent had something to say a fortnight ago on the subject of the appointment of Colonel Borton Pasha as Military Governor of Jerusalem. All that I have heard since confirms the wisdom of the choice. The former Postmaster-General of Egypt is in many ways a striking personality. A born sportsman, he is still ready, in spite of advancing years, to "take on" many a younger man at half-a-dozen pursuits, and his walk combines the spring of youth with soldierly erectness. His linguistic attainments, as well as his tact, his organizing capacity, and his popularity, mark him as an ideal Military Governor if such a town as Jerusalem. But to many people in Egypt it comes as a matter for surprise that he can be spared indefinitely for this new post.

⁂

The Palestine advance will be productive of many good stories. I have already heard one which will bear repetition as being true, *verbatim et literatim*. A parson in an East London parish, who believes in keeping the young idea *au fait* with contemporary history, was telling a class of young boys about General Allenby's progress and of the British Government's promise to see that the Jews got Palestine after the war. The prompt comment of one member of the class was: "Well, sir, if the Jews do get Palestine, I hope they'll give us back Whitechapel."

⁂

The delicacy of feeling that prompts the Oriental to avoid an unpleasant subject or a dogmatic assertion is well illustrated by the answer of an Egyptian, who, on his return from leave of absence to visit a sick father, could only be induced to reply, in answer to inquiries regarding the latter's health, "My father is as your honour wishes him to be." As a matter of fact, the father had been dead some days, but it was not a statement to be made in his "honour's" hearing. A certain Maltese firm, it appears, is not troubled with the same scruples. From a contemporary I learn that a merchant there, who held various important agencies, was in a bad state of health. A rival firm promptly wrote to this merchant's principals to the effect that Mr. —— "is seriously sick, and, as we hope, will very probably die in a short time." Accordingly they offered to take over the agency in question, promising early information as to Mr. ——'s death, "that as aforesaid, if this case shall occur."

SERBIANS AND MILITARY SERVICE.

The following notice is issued to the Press at the request of the Serbian Military Attaché:—

In pursuance of Article 3 of the new law respecting persons evading military service, published in the Serbian *Official Gazette*, and according to the order of the War Minister, No. 38319, all Serbian subjects must be examined by the Medical Commission, as well as all others under Serbian protectorate, aged between eighteen and fifty-four, who are abroad, irrespective of any previous examination and exemptions. Any who fail to comply with this notice will have the most stringent legal steps taken against them.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ABDUL HAMID.*

The favourite Oriental description of a man that he is *methel esh Shaitan* (lit., "like the Devil") usually conveys a sense of lurking admiration for his clever cunning, despite his wickedness. Sir Edwin Pears will not even give this doubtful compliment to the "Great Assassin." In his opinion Abdul Hamid was so utterly worthless that neither in moral nor mental characteristics was he anything—"an essentially commonplace man, mean, sordid, and cunning." Yet the evil possible to such a man, placed in almost despotic power by a combination of political and religious privilege, is immeasurable. The writer narrates the events of his disastrous reign with such a detached and dispassionate spirit that one would suppose that most of it was penned before the crop of tares which this man sowed had come to full harvest. The intimate knowledge which a lifetime's residence in Constantinople gives the author has engendered in him a broader and kindlier spirit towards the unfortunate people who suffered such misgovernment than many have who can only judge of Turkey from outside. The warm and rapturous reception of the Reform movement throughout Turkey, so glowingly described here—"a wild cry of relief and delight burst from tens of thousands"—shows how many elements of good still survive. That England and France consistently, and eventually to their own loss, strove to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire and to support her rulers, is clearly shown. "They desired a strong Turkey." That this policy failed was due on repeated occasions to utter want of statesmanship on the part of the Sultan. That is notably the case with regard to Egypt, when the Sultan's policy practically forced England, against her will, into a permanent occupation. It was, however, Armenia which finally made British support impossible, as it is now Armenia—and the even more heinous crimes of Enver Pasha with regard to it—which makes a continuance of even Turkey's diminished Empire impossible. Apart from morality and political expediency, the destruction of the Armenians has been "sheer folly" from the economic point of view. They were an essential element among a race quite incapable itself of business developments.

It is impossible to read this life and not feel some pity for this most miserable being. Brought up almost uneducated—"he knew nothing but Turkish"—practically ignorant of the world outside the palace, with no experience of statesmanship or even of military matters, secluded within the double walls of his palace grounds—a self-made prisoner—what chance had he of making a worthy ruler? His chief employment seems to have been reading the contradictory reports of his innumerable spies; he had no recreations or "hobbies"; he was a martyr to dyspepsia and lived in continual fear of assassination—with a revolver ever in his pocket ready to be levelled with unerring aim at any suspected person. The picture of his life is a nightmare. After more than 300 pages we read: "It would be pleasant, but is difficult, to find anything to say in favour of Abdul Hamid. His most agreeable trait was his liking for his cat."

This life, beyond the personal history, is a distinct contribution to Modern History, and tells of many details regarding modern Turkish administration which are of wide interest to-day. The author speaks well of the Ulema, who, he says, have "generally during the last century proved themselves the most enlightened class among the Moslems."

The great work of the Public Debt Department shows how much might be done to save Turkey, had her rulers been willing to accept disinterested foreign assistance. All recent history shows their utter incapacity to carry out unassisted any form of civilised government alone. The Germans know this very well.

On the question of railways in Turkey during the reign of Abdul Hamid Sir Edwin Pears is not quite as fully informed as usual. He makes no mention of the unfortunate fiasco of the British attempt to construct the Haifa-Damascus Railway, an enterprise whose failure certainly did much to destroy British prestige in Turkey. The Beirût-Damascus branch railway does *not* run on "an old French coach road"—nor, on most of its course, even very near it. There is no mention of the prolongation of this line from Damascus to Mezerib, and from Rayak northwards towards Homs. The notable share which Germany took in the construction of the Hejaz Railway is hardly touched upon. First, it was always reported in Syria that it was the bogey of British supposed aggressive intentions against Arabia which induced the Turks to undertake the line's construction. Secondly, German engineers directly—or, in the actual Hejaz, by their Moslem pupils—designed and constructed it, while Germany supplied the rails and rolling stock and controlled the working. The cheapness of construction of this line was due to the employment of soldiers, who were paid the usual mere pittance of military pay, and who would, whether used here or not, have to have been kept embodied in the usual standing army. Their grievances were stifled by the plea that in making this line for the Mecca pilgrimage they were doing an act of piety. Whether this line will really be for the eventual good of Islam is very doubtful.

Abdul Hamid still lives, and perhaps, if he learns anything of current events, finds subject for grim and cynical reflection as he views the logical outcome of his disastrous reign in the present disruption of the once great Empire of his ancestors by those "reformers" who dethroned him.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

King, of the Khyber Rifles. By Talbot Mundy. (London: Constable and Co. 5s. net.)

The Secret of Egyptian Chronology. By H. B. Hannay. (London: Sampson Low and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

From the Nile to the Tigris. By Captain Brereton. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd. 5s. net.)

Unconquered. By Maud Diver. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

A V.A.D. in Salonika. By Bessie Marchant. (London: Blackie and Son. 3s. net.)

Frontiers of Language and Nationality in Europe. By Leon Dominion. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 15s. net.)

The Black Lizard: A Story of Adventure in the Syrian Desert. By Argyll Saxby, M.A. (London: Religious Tract Society. 2s. net.)

Soldiers of Labour. By Bart Kennedy. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

The German Terror in France. By Arnold J. Toynbee. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

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F. W. T. ATTREE, COLONEL (late R.E.), Secretary.
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* "Abdul Hamid," by Sir Edwin Pears ("Makers of the Nineteenth Century" Series). (London: Constable and Co., 6s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. January	1917. December		1336. Rabia I.	5678. Tebet
4	22	Friday	21	20
5	23	Saturday........	22	21
6	24	**Sunday**	23	22
7	25	Monday	24	23
8	26	Tuesday	25	24
9	27	Wednesday	26	25
10	28	Thursday	27	26

The Earl of Bessborough left London on January 2 for Birmingham.

M. Leon Melas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has left London for Paris.

M. Boerescu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has recovered from his illness and resumed his duties.

Mr. Jean l'Hullier, of the Quarantine Board, Alexandria, now in the French Flying Corps, has been mentioned in despatches.

M. Vikelas has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Consulate in Cairo vice M. Colovos, transferred to Sfax as Acting-Consul.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, was received by Signor Orlando, the Italian Prime Minister, in Rome on December 31.

The Egyptian Government has appointed January 6 as a day for the purpose of prayer for victory. The day will be observed as a general holiday.

Sir Montagu Turner has been appointed Chairman of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance, in succession to Sir Richard Pennefather.

Dr. Constantin Angelescu, the Roumanian Minister to the United States, has arrived there at the head of the Roumanian Special War Mission.

Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, Governor of Alexandria, has been appointed Minister of Wakfs (Pious Foundations) in succession to Ibrahim Fathi Pasha.

Kaimakam Stigand Bey, Governor of the Upper Nile Province, who has been on leave in this country, returned to the Sudan at the beginning of last month.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, who has been in England since the beginning of June, has returned to Cairo and resumed his duties.

Goldstein Bey, Secretary of the Postal Department, has been appointed to act for Borton Pasha during his absence on his mission in Palestine, says the *Egyptian Mail*.

Sir William James Herschel, author of the finger-print identity system, formerly Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, and Commissioner of Cooch Behar, left estate of the gross value of £1,132.

Another will just proved is that of the late Mr. Patrick Russel, of Collingham Gardens, a member of the firm of McLeod, Russel, and Co., Indian merchants, Lime Street, E.C., who left £79,394.

A Christmas party for the children of Czech volunteers in the British Army was arranged by the Czech Committee at their premises in Gloucester Road on December 26, when fifty children were entertained.

General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng has become a patron of the Veterans' Association, which is raising a fund to establish the Veterans' Club as a permanent Imperial Memorial to sailors and soldiers who have fallen in the war.

According to a message from Washington, Dr. Mileno Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister in Paris, will address the American Congress to-day, on the demands which Serbia and her Balkan Allies will put forward at the peace table.

The Armenian Church Council in Alexandria has asked the Egyptian Government to approve of the renewal of the election of its members for a new period. The Governor has submitted the demand to the Ministry of the Interior.

Sentences of fifteen years' penal servitude have been passed upon a captain of infantry and a sergeant, and of fifteen years' imprisonment in the case of a corporal, for the murders committed during the disturbances in Athens in December last year.

One room in the present exhibition of the New English Art Club is given up to works, principally water-colours, by Captain Gerard Chowne, who died of wounds in Macedonia.

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Ileana of Roumania. She was born at Bucharest in 1909. Another daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, Princess Marie, will be eighteen years of age next Wednesday.

Among the recipients of New Year Honours are Sir Archdale Earle, Chief Commissioner, Assam, and Mr. F. G. Sly, Commissioner, Central Provinces, who receive the K.C.S.I.; while Mr E. L. Lutyens, the architect of new Delhi, receives a knighthood.

From a cablegram just received at the London office of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund from Bishop McInnes, it is learnt that there is a great scarcity of wheat in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, while other relief besides that in the nature of food is urgently needed.

Under the patronage of Lord and Lady Ronaldshay, it was proposed to hold a Food Products Exhibition in Calcutta during the past week. Its purpose is to help to solve the problem of making the country self-sufficient in regard to food for Indians and Europeans alike.

In a review of the military situation at the beginning of the new year, Mr. Baker, United States Secretary of War, says that "the infantry tactics which led up to the capture of Jerusalem will be held to be examples of the most brilliant operations of their kind in military annals."

The King has given authority to Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Manager of the British Trade Corporation, to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the late Sultan of Egypt on his retirement from the post of Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt.

A Sofia telegram states that a so-called National Congress at Babadagh (Dobruja) has unanimously passed a resolution demanding the union with Bulgaria of the whole of the Dobruja as far as the Danube delta, and declaring that the population of the Dobruja will forcibly oppose any attack on its rights and liberties.

Sir Edward Allenby, replying to a congratulatory message from the Central Committee of Unredeemed Greeks on the occasion of the liberation of Jerusalem from Turkish rule, telegraphed that he and his forces in the Holy Land sent their best wishes for the future welfare of the Unredeemed Greeks, and fully and confidently look forward to their liberation.

General Marshall, commanding the British Army in Mesopotamia, has sent the following message to the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John:—"Please accept heartiest Christmas greetings from Army in Mesopotamia. The excellent work that the Royal Red Cross is doing here is immensely appreciated by all ranks.

News dated September 25 has been received from Smyrna through the Prisoners of War Department of the Foreign Office that the marriage was to take place (D.V.), on October 24, 1917, of Ethel Madeleine, elder daughter of the late Alfred Charles Martin, Esq., of Calcutta, and of Mrs. Martin, 17, The Steyne, Worthing, to Mr. Augustus C. Routh, of the British Consular Service, now temporarily attached to the Consulate-General of the Netherlands.

On their arrival here this morning, says Reuter's Bombay correspondent in a message dated December 24, the Viceroy and Mr. Montagu were received at the military station by Lord Willingdon, Governor of Bombay, and the leading officials. The public were not admitted. During the day a number of deputations from public bodies and political institutions were received, and interviews were granted to representatives of the Home Rule League and the Anjumani-Islam.

The Serbians have a proverb and prayer, "God protect us from the Sultan's affection and the Kaiser's protection," said the Rev. Dr. Nicholas Velimirovitch, writer and preacher, of Belgrade, speaking at the Grafton Gallery recently on "Serbian Ideals." Serbia's three great ideals, he said, were spirituality, constructiveness, and pan-humanity. This was a war of ideals, and the Serbs felt that they were sure to be victorious because their ideals were lofty and right, and the German ideals of materialism and might were wrong.

The attention of officers proceeding to India or Mesopotamia is directed to an Army Order which suspends from January 1 for the duration of the war the existing practice of transferring officers into the payment of the Indian authorities from the date of their embarkation. Officers on receiving orders to prepare for embarkation for India or Mesopotamia should at once communicate with their Army agents in order that the necessary arrangements may be made for the provision of funds during the voyage and at intermediate ports. Failure to do so, it is pointed out, may involve them in serious inconvenience on the voyage, as advances of pay will no longer be obtainable from command paymasters at intermediate ports.

Several new works by Ivan Mestrovitch have just arrived in London and been added to the sculptures and paintings at the exhibition of Serbo-Croat art at the Grafton Galleries. The exhibition will remain open until the 9th inst. inclusive.

According to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, an import syndicate is being organised in Berlin for the purpose of bringing breadstuffs from Russia to Germany. The Government will have a half interest in the undertaking. Similar syndicates, it is said, will be organised in Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

The National Congress met here to-day, says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent in a message dated December 26, 4.000 delegates from all provinces attending. Cheers greeted the arrival of the principal Indian leaders, Mrs. Besant, Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Mr. Surendranath Bannerjee, and Mr. Tilak. Mrs. Besant delivered the presidential address. Mrs. Besant demanded immediate legislation by the British Parliament guaranteeing complete self-government for India on Australian lines, with a preliminary stage not lasting more than ten years, during which the Government would hold a veto and the electorate would have the power of the purse, as well as a substantial majority in the Supreme Council and the Provincial Legislative Councils, and also half all the Executive Councillorships.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Miralai W. D. Kenny Bey, on vacating his appointment as Aide-de-Camp to his Highness the Sultan, has been seconded for Special Service.

Captain H. K. Brooke, South Lancashire Regiment, and Captain A. J. Patron, Bedfordshire Regiment, have been attached to the Egyptian Army, as Special Service Officers with the temporary rank of Bimbashis and attached to the Sudanese for duty.

The following British officers have been attached to the Egyptian Army with the temporary rank of Bimbashi:—Major T. Wilson-Lynch, Cavalry; Captain A. M. McKee, Royal Sussex Regiment; Captain H. Genge-Andrews, Gloucestershire Regiment; Lieutenant N. W. Eastwood, Hussars; and Lieutenant B. Grew, Northumberland Fusiliers.

The Order of the Nile has been conferred on the following officers by H.H. the Sultan of Egypt:—Commander.—Cdr. (Act. Cap.), Arthur G. Warren, R.N.; Lieut.-Cdr. (Act. Cdr.) Thomas J. Linberry, R.N. Officer.—Cdr. Walter P. Koe, R.N.; Lieut.-Cdr. Bolton M. Eyres-Monsell, M.P., R.N.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred at Evian of the Princess Bassaraba de Brancovan. She was Mademoiselle Eugenie Antoniadis, and she married, in 1909, the Prince de Brancovan, a Roumanian nobleman.

Lieutenant E. J. Woodhouse, I.A.R.O., who died on December 18 from wounds received on December 1, was Principal of Sabour Agricultural College and Economic Botanist to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

The death is reported from Florence of Mr. William Neville Sturt, formerly of the India Office, aged 74 years. Mr. Sturt was Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in 1863-4, and from 1868 till 1877, when he was promoted to be senior clerk in the Revenue Department. In 1896 he was appointed Assistant Secretary in the Judicial and Public Department.

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Mr. George Clifford Whitworth, I.C.S., retired, has died at Grasse, Alpes Maritimes, France, aged 71 years. He was appointed in 1893-4 Acting-Secretary in the Political Department, and was confirmed in that appointment in 1898. Subsequently he was Judge and Legal Remembrancer, an additional member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and finally Judge and Sessions Judge.

The Dowager Lady Lawrence, C.I., widow of the first Lord Lawrence, Viceroy of India from 1864 to 1869, died on Friday, at the Hayes, Kenley, in her 98th year. She was Miss Harriette Catherine Hamilton, and was married in 1841. Her first experience of the vicissitudes of an Indian career was during her wedding tour, when news reached the Lawrences at Naples of the destruction of the British Army in Afghanistan. When the Mutiny broke out the Lawrences were on their way to Murree, and Sir John Lawrence, then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, proceeded to Lahore, while his wife went into the hills, where her house became a refuge for families seeking a safe place during the dangers of that time. In 1858 Lady Lawrence returned to England; her husband followed in 1859, and for the next few years was occupied with the work of the India Council, to which he had been appointed. Then, on the death of Lord Elgin, Sir John Lawrence was appointed Viceroy, and sailed for India in 1863, and was joined by Lady Lawrence the following year. On their return to England Lawrence was created a peer, and was appointed Chairman of the newly created School Board, an appointment which failing health eventually compelled him to relinquish. He died in 1879, and with his death Lady Lawrence's active life ended. Lady Lawrence, who retained all her faculties to the last, is survived by five daughters and two sons, the Hon. Charles Lawrence, deputy-chairman of the London and North-Western Railway, and Major-General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., who is on active service abroad.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THE NEAR EAST IN 1917.

It must needs be with mixed feelings that the course of events in the Near East and Middle East during the twelve months now ended is passed in review. The year has been one of light and shade, and at the close of it the incubus of uncertainty weighing upon this part of the world from the North forbids any immediate accession of optimism. If it were possible to dissociate the Asiatic battlefields from the other theatres of war, there would indeed be good reason for satisfaction. But the Allies' effort is one and indivisible; their aims in the East are based on the same principles as those for which they are fighting in the West, and an examination of the progress made in the one is of little worth unless it be brought into its true perspective with reference to the other.

With this *caveat*, however, it may not be unprofitable to try to strike a balance-sheet for the East. By no means the least valuable asset is the marked growth in the interest now displayed by the British public in the affairs of South-Eastern Europe and the regions beyond, and its recognition of the close association existing between these countries and the fortunes of the British Empire—elements in the cause which it has been the province of THE NEAR EAST to promote during the last seven years. Quite apart from the glib assurance with which a Labour Conference is prepared to settle in a few paragraphs the affairs of the nations concerned, there is more substantial evidence that the paramount importance of all that is involved in the Near Eastern Question is at last being more generally appreciated in Great Britain. Since the earliest stages of the struggle regret has been expressed in these pages that the Allies seemed unable to bring the Balkan Peninsula into the war picture, and always insisted upon treating it as a minor excrescence on the business in hand. France was the first of the Allies to press its military significance, and to her belongs the credit for the move that prevented Salonika from becoming the Zeebrugge of the Ægean. But the Balkans remained politically, as well as from a military point of view, a secondary theatre, and at the beginning of 1917 we had occasion to point out the mischief that was being caused in the ranks of the Allies by their failure to come to a clear understanding in regard to their war aims in Near Eastern Europe. Towards the end of July this reproach was removed by the summoning of an Allied Conference to deal primarily with Balkan affairs. The concrete results of that exchange of views have not been officially published, but enough is known from subsequent developments to confirm the belief that a notable advance was made in the direction of removing misunderstandings and of creating the proper atmosphere in the Grand Alliance for a just and permanent settlement of the Balkans. In this connection, moreover, can be cited the definite pledges given by Allied statesmen to the various countries whose future had previously been the subject of somewhat vague assurances. The Eastern problem as a whole is now discussed with knowledge and some measure of conviction. It is no longer necessary to talk with bated breath of the future of Mesopotamia. What will happen to this region, said the British Prime Minister in Glasgow at the end of June, must be left to the Peace Congress when it meets; but, he added, "there is one thing that will never happen to it—it will never be restored to the blasting tyranny of the Turk."

The future historian will, no doubt, be exercised to discover the extent to which this hardening of the Allies' resolve and their fuller appreciation of the issues of the war are to be attributed to the confidence inspired by the entry into the conflict of the United States. Certain it is that the vision of the Grand Alliance has been clarified, its purpose rendered more complete since that event. The one matter for regret is that the change did not take effect in time to bear fruit in Petrograd during the first success of the Russian revolution. If the Allies had been more urgent with their advice when the sober sense of the revolution was trying to find itself amid its strange surroundings, there might have been less opportunity for Germany's dupes or hirelings to take control of the situation. By the time America and the Allies found occasion to speak the mischief was too far gone. Lenin and Trotsky, mouthing the word democracy, with the spirit of which every act of theirs has been in conflict, have thrown the Pact of London among the scraps of paper already accumulated by German militarism, and have started to make a separate peace with the Central Powers. It is too soon to gauge the full effect of this desertion of the Allied cause, for the relief that it has brought to Germany has not yet found its maximum expression in military operations in other theatres. Italy has been attacked, and for some time was sorely pressed, but her own valour and the timely assistance of France and Great Britain checked the invasion. Russia's defection has set free more German troops than have been sent against Italy, and it remains to be seen whether these suffice for an offensive in the Balkans, for the benefit of the unfortunate Turks, or whether they will be used in the West. Ultimately the support of the United States will be found to have provided compensation for Russia's withdrawal; but for the moment their resources in material and man-power are unable to make themselves felt to any great extent in Europe, least of all in the south-east. It may be noted in passing that President Wilson has refused to declare war against Bulgaria and Turkey; and he has not hesitated to allow the reason to be made known. Conditions in these countries, it is held, are ripening for a rupture in the Central Alliance, and if such an event should take place the United States Government may be in a position to render useful services to its Allies by avoiding the formal status of an enemy country. It says something for President Wilson's diagnosis of the situation in Bulgaria and Turkey that neither so far has taken up the unmistakable challenge by declaring war on the United States.

In order to deal with all the shade of the last year before turning to the light, we may note that the year opened with Wallachia over-run by the Austro-German forces, and the Roumanians preparing to make a stand on the Sereth. That line has since been held against all that von Mackensen could do with a view to breaking it. Behind that splendid defence the Roumanians have set their house in order in a way for which all concerned have not yet received their full meed of praise. The army has been reorganised, thanks to the inherent mettle of the troops and to the brilliant work of General de Berthelot and the other officers of the French mission; the nation has been unified as it has never been before as a result of the removal of various political anomalies. When the real test came with the collapse of Russia, both army and nation, nobly led by the Royal House, proved equal to the occasion; although an armistice became inevitable, they have stood their ground, and their example promises to provide a rallying point for the regeneration of Russia, if that consummation is to be achieved.

With Roumania driven back to Moldavia, any feasible goal for the Salonika army was removed, apart from the military difficulties attending an advance in Macedonia, and the uncertainty regarding the attitude of King Constantine in General Sarrail's rear. Subsequent developments showed that the misgivings entertained in regard to the Greek Court were wholly justified. Both King and Queen greedily availed themselves of all the rope that was given them; but it was not until they had been expelled from Greece on June 11, and M. Venizelos's Government was able to disclose their methods and those of the clique whom German gold had bound to them, that the full extent of their villainies was revealed. Whatever may have been the contributory causes, the heterogeneous army of the Allies based on Salonika has registered only slight modifications in the front it holds during the past year. The enemy on his part has been no less quiescent.

More cause for satisfaction in a review of 1917 is to be found in the military operations in Mesopotamia and Palestine. The two expeditions moved forward at about the same time, but, whereas March 11 found Sir Stanley Maude in Baghdad, his colleague, Sir Archibald Murray, a fortnight later experienced a definite check at Gaza. The attack was renewed on April 17; it was again unsuccessful, and the Palestine Expeditionary Force was compelled to abandon any further attempt to advance until it had been adequately reinforced. General Allenby succeeded Sir Archibald Murray as Commander-in-Chief, and at the end of October opened a fresh campaign, which has rapidly taken him to Jerusalem and beyond. In the meantime General Maude had strengthened his position at Baghdad, and the summer was allowed to pass without any further operations on a large scale. In due course, however, the British struck again. A Turkish force at Ramadieh, on the Euphrates, was defeated and compelled to surrender; on November 5 another section of the Turkish army was driven out of Tekrit. Immediately after this success Sir Stanley Maude fell a victim to cholera. He had made a great reputation in a short space of time, and his loss was deeply felt by the Army which he had led to victory and by the whole Empire.

The effect of the British successes in Mesopotamia and Palestine can, perhaps, best be gauged from the fact that six months after the event Turkish soldiers have been taken prisoners who were ignorant of the capture of Baghdad. If the Ottoman authorities were at such pains to prevent their troops in Palestine from learning of what had happened in Mesopotamia, it is evident that they realised that the news was calculated to make a deep impression upon them. The fall of Jerusalem, we may suppose, would be regarded as an even clearer indication of the waning power of Turkey. In these circumstances it is not difficult to imagine that the situation in Turkey has caused even the most ardent supporters of the German alliance to regret the decision of 1914. The Committee of Union and Progress, however, are probably too far involved to draw back now. If they are allowed to have their own way, they will prefer to keep the country fighting up to the last ditch; such a course will at least insure a longer period for German payments. Whether Germany will decide that she cannot allow the Turks to accept their defeats with Oriental fatalism remains to be seen. She has the opportunity of strengthening the Ottoman forces by drafts from the Russian front, provided arrangements can be made in time for their transport. It would be even more in keeping with her methods if she sought to inaugurate a "peace drive" among the Arabs by offering them elaborate concessions.

Little space remains for reference to the other countries that fall within the scope of this Review. Egypt, having thrown the tide of war back from her frontiers, has been able to devote herself undisturbed to economic development, and although she has been drawn within the vortex of the world-shortage of certain commodities, her general prosperity has been most marked. The country experienced a severe loss in the death of Sultan Hussein, who has been succeeded by his younger brother, Sultan Fuad. Persian history during the past year has been written only in faint characters. German intrigue had been to a large extent eliminated, when events in Russia again opened the door in North Persia to it under a fresh disguise. In the first flush of the revolution the Persians—or at least the Nationalist party—imagined that the words Russian and British could be henceforth banished from their political vocabulary. Financial considerations showed that independence in practice presented unexpected difficulties, and in the meantime the situation in Azerbaijan has been complicated by cross-currents which would tend to draw the province now towards Turkey and now towards Russia. In the South, in the absence of reports to the contrary, we may imagine that order has been satisfactorily maintained by means of General Sykes' new constabulary.

For India the year 1917 may well be regarded as having inaugurated a new epoch. The movement for the organic unity of the Empire could not leave her excluded, and a notable advance in India's partnership in the Empire was recorded when her delegates were invited to attend the Imperial Conference in the spring, and in association with the Secretary of State were present at meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet. In August Mr. Montagu, who had succeeded Mr. Austen Chamberlain at the India Office when the latter felt compelled to resign on the publication of the Report of the Mesopotamia Commission, made the formal announcement of the Government's intention that India should eventually govern herself, and that her progress towards the ultimate goal is to be gradual, the time and measure of each advance being determined by the responsible Governments. Before the end of the year Mr. Montagu had arrived in India to acquaint himself at first hand with Indian conditions in consultation with the Viceroy; and as a result of his investigations a detailed scheme for the first steps in the country's political advancement will be submitted to the Government within a few months' time.

PRISON PROBLEMS IN EGYPT.

By COLES PASHA.

I do not know whether questions relating to prison administration are of sufficient importance to warrant my asking for space in The Near East, but, judging from the applications I had annually from tourists in Egypt to visit one or other of the establishments under my control, there must be a considerable number of persons in England who interest themselves in prison problems. Perhaps, therefore, the Editor will be indulgent and grant me a few columns to discuss my experiences during the sixteen years (1897 to 1914) I held the post of Inspector-General of Prisons in Egypt.

Prior to my appointment to the Prisons Department I had served for many years in the police both in India and Egypt, so my association with what I may term the seamy side of life was varied. I trust that this experience enabled me to deal successfully with the many prison questions which arose. I hope, too, that the precedents created in Egypt may in the future be of use to other administrators in the new countries it will assuredly fall to England's lot to develop after the war, even if the prison expert in England finds little to interest him, the conditions in the East being so different from those of the West.

It was with no small misgiving that I accepted the post offered to me by the late Lord Cromer, as for years I had watched my predecessor in office struggling with what appeared an impossible task. In the early days in Egypt there was no money to spare for such luxuries as prisons or the maintenance of prisoners. The financial authorities steadily refused all demands for building, and only granted a subsistence allowance to such prisoners as were starving and unable to provide for themselves. The state of the prisons can, therefore, be better imagined than described, as, of course, without funds very little could be accomplished in the way of prison reform. My predecessor had simply carried on as best he could.

I vividly remember my first interview with the late Sir E. Palmer, who was then Financial Adviser, and his

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DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN.

face when he was told that half a million for building would be required and £150,000 a year over and above the meagre allotment that had hitherto been considered the Prison Department's share of the grants which could be spared for administration generally.

For the first years of my administration I fear that I got myself thoroughly disliked by the authorities as an insatiable beggar, and latterly by my brother heads of departments as the *enfant gâté* of the service, who was getting more than his share of the spoils. As a matter of fact, during my sixteen years' administration, by some means or other, I persuaded the Treasury to grant funds for building amounting to half a million, and my last Budget for maintenance was within a few hundreds of the sum I originally estimated I should require.

The design of a standard prison was the first and possibly the most important problem I had to solve, and I can assure my readers it cost me many sleepless nights to think out a type of building suitable for a rainless country where heat and ventilation play a much more important part than in England. I might have taken the old-fashioned single-storey buildings of India, with which I was acquainted, as my model; but I was prejudiced against the large association wards for many reasons. On the other hand, to construct prisons entirely cellular was out of the question on account of the cost, so eventually I decided on the English type as a standard; but the ground and first floors only were cellular, the upper floors consisting of small association wards capable of being made cellular later, should the prison population drop, or the accommodation be increased by adding extra " blocks." The ordinary English roof over the central hall was replaced by a heavy gridiron, thus providing for plenty of ventilation, but assuring security. The lavatories, too, were not on the English pattern, being cut off from the block with cross ventilation. The offices were in a separate block with hospital above; similarly kitchens, baths, and stores were separate buildings. The central workshop was of a special pattern with such complete ventilation that the prisoners who worked there in association were practically in the open air. This standard type has been followed in all the prisons throughout the country, and I am sure " Locandaat Coles " (Cole's Hotels!) will be associated with my name long after I have been forgotten. The only fault I have ever heard found with these new prisons is that they are too luxurious, as the name some wag has given them implies. In this connection I may repeat a story told me by an Egyptian Governor, who, like some others, confounded extreme cleanliness with luxury, and argued that the old insanitary buildings full of vermin and subject to periodical epidemics of typhus amongst the half-starved prisoners were more deterrent and therefore more suitable as prisons! It is useless to argue with people who hold such views. But to return to the Governor's story, he stated that he overheard a conversation between two peasants, one of whom said to the other, " Come, let us quarrel together in order that we may go and live in this palace " (a new prison). The irony of the story comes now. When next I saw my friend the Governor he was himself a prisoner, undergoing a sentence of a year's imprisonment for fraud as a public servant. It was reported to me by the prison officials that the ex-Governor found the conditions *so severe* that he had not slept for a week, and did nothing but cry! I did not remind him of our conversation, and merely asked if he had any complaints. I must admit that the Governor prisoner had every reason to complain, as a mat and an asphalt floor were all the bedding he enjoyed. This was one of the difficulties in connection with prison administration in Egypt. The well-to-do Egyptian is a European in many ways, whereas the peasants sleep on mats in their mud hovels. One could not provide the ordinary prisoner with bedding, yet sleeping without bedding enhanced the punishment very much to the well-to-do. The difficulty was met to a certain extent by providing bedding (on payment) to those sentenced to simple imprisonment, much the same as allowed to a first-class misdemeanant in England. But when the sentence was " with labour," or as in the case of the ex-Governor, no difference could be made. What troubled me, too, was that I honestly believed my friend to be innocent, but I could do nothing, as the sentence had been duly confirmed on appeal. If the Governor was innocent, and I still hope he was, it was a terribly severe sentence, as in addition to imprisonment he lost a pension which many years' service entitled him to. When he jokingly told me the story of the peasants, how little he imagined the sequel!

I cannot refrain from telling another very exceptional experience of a somewhat similar kind. A well-known society man, who had been in trouble in England, obtained an order to visit an Egyptian prison, being interested as " an expert," as he described himself. The visit was allowed, and resulted in a very complimentary record, " the administration in some respects being an improvement on the English system," or words to that effect. A year or so after I recognised the same gentleman in the shoemakers' shop at Wormwood Scrubbs, where he was again doing time. The recognition was mutual, and of the two I fancy I felt the position the most, although, unlike my friend the Egyptian Governor, on this occasion there was no question of the punishment of an innocent man. I think the story teaches us that imprisonment, whether it be in an English jail or so-called Palace in Egypt, is often of little use as a deterrent.

Prisons are, however, not built in a few weeks or months, and for the first half-dozen years of my administration I was kept fully employed endeavouring to relieve the overcrowded pest houses (epidemics of gaol fever and typhus were constantly occurring), and finding employment for the ever-increasing number of prisoners.

The Indian Standing Prison Camp for extra mural labour on public works was a useful precedent to follow, but the difficulty was that most of the public works in Egypt were in connection with cutting and cleaning canals, which necessitated a frequent change of camp. Security was, therefore, a much more difficult problem than in India.

To erect many badly designed prisons may mean a more lasting record of incompetence, but the escape of all the prisoners from a labour camp would probably be followed by the immediate removal of the head of the department, so personally I was, if anything, more interested in the camps than in the buildings! But I decided to take the risk rather than die of typhus, which sooner or later I felt would be my fate, if I continued to inspect the so-called prisons in their insanitary overcrowded condition.

The handcuffs used in removing batches of prisoners in England helped me to solve the security problem. I had thousands of anklets made of the same pattern, and at night all the prisoners slept in tents linked by one leg in batches of fifty, with two very stout padlocks at either end of the chain, and, of course, sentries.

Labour camps were very soon established in each province, and the system continued for years; in fact, till the new accommodation was provided. I do not pretend that the discipline was ideal; in fact, transfer to a camp for labour was too popular; but the labour paid for by contractors sufficed not only for the prisoners' subsistence, but also to pay for the extra warders especially enlisted to guard them! What would trade unionists say to this in England?

The experience I thus gained helped me considerably later when the late Lord Kitchener returned to Egypt as his Majesty's representative. His lordship was not at all impressed with my new buildings and up-to-date administration (from a scientific prison reformer's point of view) which I had developed before his arrival: in fact, he evidently agreed with the Egyptian Governor mentioned above. One day I was sent for, and after being talked to on the necessity of getting hard labour (not industrial labour) out of prisoners, I was told that a macadamised road for motor traffic, including bridges, from Cairo to Helwan must be completed within six months, the distance being about eighteen miles. I think Lord Kitchener chuckled at what he thought an impossible task, but the road was finished before the time prescribed. I am afraid, however, to mention the number of prisoners I collected from all over the country to complete the task.

I then thought it was my turn to talk to his lordship about the unnecessary trouble and expense the department had been caused for a work of very doubtful utility. Lord Kitchener only laughed, and said that, having shown what could be done, I had better start on another road from Cairo to Alexandria forthwith!

I tell the story as it is very characteristic, and I think accounts for thousands being subscribed for a memorial to Lord Kitchener, whilst hundreds are with difficulty collected for a tablet to Lord Cromer in Westminster Abbey. But if Lord Kitchener's dominant character appealed more to the public, Lord Cromer's greater administrative ability cannot, I think, be denied by anyone who has served under these two very exceptional men.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Pan-Turanian Movement.

In his analysis of the Pan-Turanian movement the writer of the article in the *Round Table* on "Turkey, Russia, and Islam"—extracts from which have appeared in previous issues of THE NEAR EAST—discusses in turn the rise of Turkish nationalism, the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress, Turkish policy in Persia and Afghanistan, and the Mohammedans and Turks in Russia. The prospects of Turkish Irredentism hinge largely on the political attitude of the Russian Mohammedans, and it is in this respect that the future of Russia is of such special importance, quite apart from its military bearing on the war:—

In the days before the war Russia could scarcely be regarded as a very promising field for Pan-Islamic or Pan-Turanian propaganda. In general, the Russian Mohammedans had been loyal, conservative, and somewhat narrow in their political outlook. The "Russian Mohammedan Party" only dates from 1905, and had no more than nine representatives in the last Duma. Nevertheless, the Pan-Islamic propaganda, started by Abdul Hamid and carried on by the Committee of Union and Progress, was not wholly unsuccessful among the Russian Mohammedans, mainly owing to the fact that pilgrims to the Hejaz passed through the Straits, and their visits to Constantinople were exploited by the Ottoman Government. But the war showed how little headway the Pan-Islamic movement had made, inasmuch as only an insignificant Mohammedan tribe of Georgian nationality, the Adshars, joined the Turks when they invaded the Batum district for a moment in the winter of 1914-15.

The whole situation has been transformed by the Russian revolution, and from the eventual outcome the cause of Turkish aggrandisement stands to gain or to lose far more than it could have gained or lost from the war alone. In Russia in 1917, as in Turkey in 1908, the merging of old divisions in a universal sentiment of brotherhood was a transient phase. The various groupings began to think more of their own national or sectional freedom than of the freedom of all Russia, and the Russian Mohammedans, like other bodies, recognised the need of looking after themselves. To that end the first essential was organisation, and a series of conferences were arranged without delay. The Pan-Caucasian Mohammedan Congress met at Baku on April 28, the Mohammedan Women's Conference at Orenburg during the same month, the All-Russian Mohammedan Congress at Moscow on May 14, and the Mohammedan Military Congress at Kazan at the beginning of August. To consolidate and carry on the work of organisation the Moscow Congress appointed an All-Russian Mohammedan Council. It is too early yet to prophesy the failure or success of these efforts; but political organisation is a more difficult task for a group so widespread and so diverse as the Mohammedans than for any other group in Russia.*

A second and no less important tendency has shown itself among the Russian Mohammedans since the Revolution. Together with a quickened sense of internal unity has developed a warmer sympathy with Mohammedans abroad.

The fact that the Mohammedans throughout the world have been falling into political subjection more and more rapidly during the last hundred years was always the chief weapon in the armoury of the Pan-Islamic propagandists. The French protectorate over Morocco and the Anglo-Russian agreement in Persia left Turkey the one really independent Mohammedan State; and, as the fortunes of the war developed, Turkey itself seemed to be threatened with dismemberment. But the Russian Revolution seemed in two respects to mean the turning of the tide. In the first place it gave to the Mohammedans in Russia a potential political equality with their fellow-citizens such as they had never before and nowhere else enjoyed except in a Mohammedan State. And, secondly, the Revolution was regarded as a challenge to "imperialism" all the world over. By contrast with the ideals of the new Russia the precepts and practices of other States containing dependent and particularly Mohammedan peoples were conceived as more or less despotic and corrupt. Thus the Provisional Government's renunciation of the old Russian ambition to annex Constantinople and of the old Russian policy of interference in the internal affairs of Persia was greeted by the Russian Mohammedans as the inauguration of a new era of political freedom for Islam.

The development of these ideas may be illustrated by a few significant examples.

The Moscow Conference in May, 1917, defined the formula of "the self-determination of nationalities" as applying to Europe, Asia, and Africa, and demanded that "all treaties founded on the partition or occupation of any territory in Europe, Asia, or Africa should be cancelled at once."

In the second week of July the Executive Committee of the All-Russian Mohammedan Council published in the Russian Press an open letter to Mr. Tereschenko, protesting against the proclamation by Italy of her protectorate over Albania:

> The fate of Albania is a new illustration of European robbery in the history of imperialism, and again the victim is a mainly Mohammedan people. . . .
>
> Your dubious and indecisive attitude towards the Albanian problem rouses suspicion and doubt among the Mohammedans of Russia, particularly in consequence of those bitter experiences of centuries past during which the Mohammedans all the world over have learnt the meaning of what is called European justice. . . .

Declarations of this nature may have little practical weight, but they reveal the opinions and aspirations of a large body of Russian Mohammedans.

These developments in Russia have doubtless raised the expectations of the exponents of Ottoman aggrandisement. The "liberation" of the Turkish-speaking peoples of Russia has been the frankly confessed ambition of the Pan-Turanian school. The "break-up" of Russia is the pre-supposition of Tekin Alp's irredentist programme; but, writing before the Russian Revolution, he only contemplates its achievement as the result of action from without by the armies of Turkey and the Central Powers. It would seem now to depend mainly on the internal development of Russia whether or not the political reunion of the scattered branches of the Turkish race shall emerge from the realm of dreams and become—what it is not at present—a practical possibility.

The potentialities of the future are different in the different groups; but the determining factor may possibly be the attitude of the Tatars of Kazan. The other Turkish-speaking groups in Russia incline at present to follow their lead. The Kazan Tatars are almost certain to declare for the programme of national autonomy within a federal Russian Republic; for if Russia is successfully reorganised on this basis, they have a brilliant future before them as the possible leaders of the Turkish-speaking element in a democratic State containing a considerable majority of the Turkish-speaking populations of the world.

In this event Ottoman Irredentism will collapse. The rallying point of Pan-Turanianism will be not Constantinople but Kazan, and so far from the Anatolian Turks attracting the Tatars into the Ottoman Empire, the Tatars of Russia will attract the Anatolian Turks.

This very desirable solution is chiefly endangered by the possibility of a Russian reaction. A movement now in Russia for centralised military government and the repression of nationalities, leading in all probability to civil war, might produce among the nationalities a *sauve qui peut*, in which the Tatars would be carried away. They would then turn for support to the Ottoman Empire, and Ottoman Irredentism might gain the day, with disastrous results to the civilised world.

The Tatars of the Crimea and Western Siberia will follow the lead of Kazan. The Tatars of the Caucasus are also under the influence of Kazan, but, on the other hand, they have been under Russian government less than a century; they live close to the Ottoman frontier; they have adopted Ottoman-Turkish as their literary (*i.e.*, newspaper) language; and they have a strong interest in common with the Anatolian Turks in their fear and hatred of the Armenians. In 1905 there was a racial war between the Tatars and Armenians in the Caucasus, and on the whole the Armenians had the best of it.

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* E.g., the delegates to the Congress at Moscow were obliged to conduct their proceedings in the Russian language for want of any common medium of their own.

Since the Russian Revolution the idea of national autonomy for the Caucasus and the occupied districts of Ottoman Armenia has been revived, but this time on the basis of federalism under Russia instead of Turkey. The Tatars of the Caucasus are backward and paralysed by their sectarian division into Shias and Sunnis. If there is a Government in Russia liberal enough to grant national autonomy, and strong enough to do justice between the various national claims, they will remain loyal to Russia; and in that case it may be predicted that Baku will in the end supersede Kazan as a political centre for the Turkish-speaking populations of Russia, and perhaps ultimately for all the Turks in the world. Kazan leads at present in virtue of its old culture, but Baku, with its oilfields, has a greater industrial future; and while Kazan is on the periphery of the Turkish world, Baku lies at its middle point. Round it in a circle and in easy communication with it are Kazan and the Crimea, Anatolia and Azerbaijan, and, linked by the Trans-Caspian railway, the Central Asiatic *bloc*. At the moment, too, the Baku Tatars seem to have produced stronger personalities among their leaders than the Tatars of Kazan. But the prospects of Baku depend upon the achievement of Russian federalism. If there is chaos or repression in Russia, the Tatars of the Caucasus will certainly turn to the Ottoman Empire. They could easily be incorporated in it; for they are almost in touch geographically with the Anatolian Turks, have accepted their literary language, and have not yet out-distanced them in culture. In this event they would vegetate as an outlying province of the Ottoman Empire. nd the brilliant prospects of economic and cultural development at Baku would be abruptly overshadowed and fade steadily away.

What, lastly, are the prospects in Central Asia? The news from that south-eastern corner of the Russian Empire since the Revolution is scanty but bad. If Russia were to fall to pieces Central Asia would be the first fragment to break away. It is part of the Orient, far more aloof in spirit from Western civilisation than the Mohammedan and Turkish-speaking districts of European Russia. Cut the Orenburg-Tashkend and Trans-Caspian railways, and it is isolated from Russia by a difficult belt of steppe and desert. In the nineteenth century it took the Tsardom twenty years to traverse this belt and conquer the provinces beyond it. If in a moment of chaos they were lost, Russia would need to regain all her strength and solidity before she could attempt to recover them.

It is in Central Asia, then, that the uncertainties of Russia's fate open up the widest opportunities for Ottoman Irredentism. The district fits in geographically with those Ottoman designs in Persia and Afghanistan to which reference was made in an earlier part of this article. And Pan-Turanianism and Pan-Islamism do not there conflict with each other as in Persia and Afghanistan. The whole population of Russian Central Asia is Turkish: the whole population is Sunni. If the authority of the Russian Government were to disappear in Central Asia, there can be little doubt that Ottoman diplomacy would strive to create there a powerful Turkish-Islamic State, to be added as a fourth member to the projected alliance of Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan. If, on the other hand, Russia surmounts her present difficulties, preserves her unity, and retains those distant provinces within the Russian Commonwealth, then their religious and national sentiment will gravitate towards Baku and Kazan and away from Constantinople.

Summing up his points, the writer concludes:—

The issue depends chiefly on Russia, for the great experiment she is making is bound to affect the destinies of the world. If she transforms herself from an autocratic empire into a commonwealth of nations, if she secures both liberty and unity for all who live within her borders, she will have solved a problem that confronts us all. And just as in that western fringe of Russia which absorbs so much of our attention a solution in this sense would have a beneficent influence on the Balkans and Central Europe, so, in the Russian hinterland towards the east, the reconciliation of the Turkish-speaking and other Mohammedan populations would inaugurate a better future for Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, and the whole of the Middle East. The British Commonwealth, as a society with a vast Mohammedan membership, would welcome this improvement in the condition of so important a part of the Islamic world, and we should also gain by it as regards our political interests as a State. What better neighbour could we wish for India than a democratic Russian Federation? Or what happier substitute could be found for the ancient rivalry of Russia and Britain in Asia than that we should advance together along the same liberal road?

But if Russia were to break down the outlook would be grave. Unity and reconciliation would break down with her; vast regions between the Indian frontier and Europe would return to chaos: and the initiative there would pass into Ottoman hands. Wielding the weapons of Pan-Turanianism and Pan-Islamism, according to expediency, the Committee of Union and Progress would set religion against religion and race against race. We know their work, for we have seen it during the war in the economic ruin of the Ottoman Empire and the campaign of extermination waged against its Armenian, Greek and Arab inhabitants. With Germany to back them, they would extend their operations into the Russian hinterland and the Middle East, and the British Commonwealth would be left single-handed to stem the devastating tide of their aggression.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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An indication of the variety of openings that will present themselves in Morocco for British exporters after the war is provided by some further notes on trade in the French zone by Mr. Rabino, Acting British Consul at Casablanca. Among the articles for which an opening exists he instances chemists' supplies and aniline dyes, trade in which was formerly almost a German monopoly. Then the establishment of a tannery at Rabat has created a marked demand for tanning materials, which he thinks is likely to increase, owing to the prospect of the erection of further factories. A line in which there is probably even greater scope is electrical plant, the use of electricity having only lately been introduced in Morocco.

⁂

Then there is an opening for such articles as bedsteads, and in this case Mr. Rabino's remark must be noted that Moroccan requirements are for bedsteads four feet wide and of an ornamental character, with heavy brass mountings. In this connection his suggestion that there is an admirable opportunity for opening a furniture emporium at Casablanca is worth the attention of British merchants. As regards glassware, for which there is a good demand, and the trade in which was formerly in Austrian and German hands, he gives some interesting details as to the nature of wares required, and says that the prospects are such that a special endeavour should be made to cultivate this market.

⁂

I am not surprised to learn that the new issue of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's preference shares was three or four times over-subscribed. It is true that there is nothing of the speculative element about the shares, but they promise a yield of 7½ per cent. on the price of issue, and this factor, combined with the position of the company, which doubtless appealed to many investors who, while desiring a satisfactory return, also like to feel that their money is to some extent rendering national service, sufficiently explains the eagerness to secure the shares.

⁂

I see that the Committee on Banking of the British Empire Producers' Organisation has made the interesting recommendation that a State-guaranteed bank should be established for the financing of industry. The idea is to afford readier financial support on sound principles throughout the Empire for producers and manufacturers, and precautions would be taken to allow no opening for Germany to obtain the control of any group of industry. Undoubtedly some departure of this kind is needed if Imperial trade is to develop along lines which will ultimately make the Empire self-sufficient. and I trust that this suggestion will lead to some practical step in this direction.

⁂

There is much to be said for the view expressed by M. Papanicola in a letter in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST that a change is desirable in the nomenclature of Turkish cigarettes. The tobacco that is used to make these cigarettes is principally grown outside Turkish territory, and it seems absurd to continue the use of a description which is only misleading. The change might well have been made after the first Balkan war, and no doubt would have been made but for the fact that Turkey had not then succeeded in setting the greater part of the world against her, and it was probably feared that such a step would have an adverse effect on the sale of the cigarettes. This prospect no longer holds good, and the conditions seem highly propitious for a change to Greek cigarettes. That description would be accurate, euphonious, and a graceful tribute to one of the Allies, and what more could be desired?

⁂

Despite the difficulties of obtaining new plant from abroad, I see from the recent report of the Director of the Department of Industries at Cawnpore that some very useful progress has been made in the establishment of new industries in the United Provinces in 1916-17. A tannin extract factory is now working, and two more extract factories have been started, while two factories are making leather buttons. A bone mill is now being operated in Agra with, it is stated, very satisfactory results, while a starch factory is being started at Farrukhabad. Among other ventures, the manufacture of carboys for acids has been taken up at Allahabad, and has proved highly satisfactory; while a process for refining tallow has been worked out in the laboratory, and a plant for doing this commercially is being erected privately.

⁂

Industrial conditions in general in the United Provinces appear from the report to be eminently satisfactory. The oil pressing industry, which is well established, is regarded as holding forth excellent prospects of development, and as soon as possible works are to be extended and new mills established. It is believed that the market for oil-cake in India will absorb almost all the output of the United Provinces for years to come. As regards the research side of the department it is pointed out that widespread attention has been attracted by notes issued from time to time on the employment of indigenous dye-stuffs, and inquiries have been received from all parts of India. Carpet makers in particular have reaped advantage from the indigenous dyes placed at their disposal, and certain colours for cotton have also been brought into commercial use. Progress has been made in the manufacture of glassware and bangles. As regards the former commodity proposals are being considered for the introduction of bottle-blowing machines, while the bangle-making industry is, it is stated, turning out bangles of greatly improved quality to replace those which formerly came from Austria.

⁂

The Sudan trade returns for the ten months ending October 31 amply justify the optimistic views held as to the prospects of the year's trade. For that period the exports amounted to £E2,939,995, as against £E1,958,932 for the corresponding months in 1916; while the imports in these periods were £E2,293,120 and £E1,994,961. It will be noted that, while there is an increase in both exports and imports, the increase is most marked as regards exports, which are almost 50 per cent. higher than in 1916. This characteristic is maintained in October, when the imports were £E184,180, compared with £E215,564 in October, 1916, while the exports at £E205,606 show an increase of £E84,889 over the corresponding figures in 1916. Evidently, whatever the results in the remaining months, the Sudan is certain to have a highly favourable trade balance for the year.

⁂

The remarkable developments in the price of silver in the past year give an added interest to Messrs. Sharp and Wilkins' annual report, which will be found elsewhere in this issue. Silver being the only metallic currency in use during the war, a rise in price was bound to come sooner or later, and it would probably have occurred much earlier but for the fact that China was able to export large quantities of the metal to India in 1916. The curtailment of this source, coupled with the cessation of the output of Mexico, marked the commencement of a rapid advance in the price of the metal, and in September last silver reached the record figure of 55d. per ounce.

⁂

Since September, however, silver has reacted in price, and at the close of the year it stood at 43½d. per ounce, or exactly 7d. above its price at the commencement of the year. The reasons for this decline are the prohibition by the United States Government of the export of silver to China except under licence, and the restriction by our own Government of imports to Scandinavia, while at the same time asking dealers to discourage speculation.

⁂

The Russian silk industry affords an interesting example of the way in which the war has given Japan an opportunity of increasing her trade. Much of the raw material required for this industry was obtained from Turkey and Western Europe. The war put an end to imports from Turkey, while there have been obvious difficulties in the way of satisfactory supplies from Western Europe. The Japanese Silk Producing Association, therefore, came to the rescue with the offer to supply raw materials.

COMMENTATOR.

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INDIA AND GERMAN TRADE.

Fallacies Regarding Effect of an Economic War.

India is invariably cited in discussions on the practicability of an economic boycott of Germany as an instance of the way in which the adoption of this course would result in injury to ourselves. This view is based on the fact that India's exports to Germany far more than counterbalanced her imports from that country, and the argument is that, if India could not find adequate markets for her produce elsewhere before the war, she will certainly not be able to dispense with this outlet for her trade when peace brings a return of normal competition. *Prima facie* there is much to be said for this idea: it happens, however, that the trade returns are very misleading in this case, and, as will be shown, the real position, far from being so favourable to India as it appears, was actually most disadvantageous for our great dependency.

Trade in 1913-1914.

It will be convenient to base our examination of the question on the trade figures for the year preceding the war. In that year the value of India's exports amounted to £165 millions, and her imports to £127 millions, and of these totals the British Empire's share came to £61.308,972 and £85.376,954 respectively. This adverse balance of, roughly, £24 millions was much greater in the case of trade with the United Kingdom alone, the figures for exports and imports being £38,236,780 and £78,388,149. The position was essentially different as regards direct trade with Germany, for, while India's imports from that country were worth no more than £8,443,862, her exports were £17,570,514. That the latter figure was in no sense abnormal is evident from the fact that the totals for the two previous years were respectively £16,575,543 and £15,058,119. In the year in question there was a balance in favour of India as regards the German trade of some £9 millions. Germany's imports from India were largely composed of four items: cotton, £4,001,628; hides and skins, £2.121,405: jute, £4,499,111; and rice, £2,096,054. Her other imports, worth more than a quarter of a million sterling, were copra, £657,628; linseed, £537,009; mowra, £309,791; rape, £650,734; and til, £270,887. These imports give a total of £15,144,247, leaving a balance of just under two and a half millions to cover all other imports. With few exceptions the figures for the year in question may be accepted as more or less stable. Comparing them with those of the two previous years, only two commodities show a serious decline—barley and gram—and in both cases the 1913-14 totals have a parallel in the figures for 1910-11 and 1909-10. Making allowance, therefore, for the probability that the imports of one or two articles besides hides were swollen in preparation for the coming conflict, we may reasonably assume that the figures for 1913-14 fairly represented the range of Germany's requirements.

Misleading Figures.

Briefly stated, the reason why these figures are misleading is because they include very considerable imports of articles which were not needed by Germany for internal consumption, and were merely imported by her so that she might obtain a middleman's profit, and also large quantities of raw materials which could have been utilised within the Empire. On the latter count we are justified in deducting £2,121,405, the value of the imports of hides, on the supposition that the British control of the export trade in this commodity which has been established since the war will lead to developments in this country, which will result in keeping the trade in raw hides within the Empire. The next point is to determine what deductions must be made for Germany's rôle as middleman between India and Russia. This question, like that of the hides, has already been ventilated in these columns, and it will be unnecessary on that account to do more than summarise the facts. India's direct trade with Russia in 1913-14 amounted to £1,636,000, of which £1,110,000 was accounted for by imports of tea, while the latter country's imports of tropical produce amounted to something like £13¾ millions sterling, of which Germany supplied a little under half. For the same period (*i.e.*, 1913-14) the Russian returns show that the value of goods from India was £3,656,000, imports of tea representing £1,138,000, so that India's trade with Russia during this period was certainly £2,000,000 more than was supposed.

How the process worked may be seen from the figures for one of Russia's principal imports, jute. In 1912-13 Russia received from India 175,000 cwt. of jute, but Russia's total imports of jute in 1912 were 944,000. Of this amount India was credited with a little over 650,000 cwt. and Germany with 132,000 cwt. Germany, however, returned her jute exports to Russia for this period at 524,000 cwts. It seems clear that in this case then Germany was the vehicle for the bulk of Russia's imports. There are valid reasons, as a matter of fact, for thinking that India's actual exports to Russia were much greater than they would appear after the addition of the £2,000,000 already mentioned, as the figures given only take into account consignments in regard to which there was direct evidence of origin, and while the allowance to be made for imports over and above those that we know came from India must remain to some extent doubtful the best informed opinion is inclined to place the figure at another £2,000,000. If we accept that figure as sufficiently accurate for our purpose, it means that we have already reduced Germany's imports by £6,121,405.

Increased Imperial Trade.

That result, substantial as it is, does not represent the end of the process, as the hides trade is not a unique instance of Germany's astute commercial methods. A not very dissimilar story can be told with regard to rice. India produces 40 per cent. of the world's rice, and of this amount Germany imported in 1913-14 almost double the share of the United Kingdom, the explanation being that German competition had inflicted a mortal injury on the rice-milling industry in this country, so that the rice consumed here was largely supplied from abroad. The industry has raised its head again during the war, and it is probable that in the future the demand for rice here will more than compensate India for the loss of her German trade. It is probable also that India will find a much larger market in the Empire after the war for cotton, a principal export to Germany, and for many other articles of her produce. That she would not lack markets outside Germany even in the event of this contingency not being realised is clear from Mr. Chadwick's able survey of the prospects for Indian trade in Russia, France and Italy.

Results of Economic War.

It seems then that India has nothing to lose and everything to gain by the application of a trade boycott to Germany, while the cause of Imperial unity would be greatly furthered by the process. India would be the gainer by obtaining the added profits derived from direct trade which were previously taken by Germany, and this direct trade in turn would mean an increased knowledge of the trade requirements of the countries with which she dealt, while the Empire as a whole would be afforded an excellent opportunity of establishing trade relations which would remove for ever the danger of some Power like Germany obtaining the control of our supplies of some vital raw material.

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THE WORLD'S CROPS IN 1917

Estimated Decrease in Yield of Wheat.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—In Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, India, Japan, Algeria, Egypt, and Tunis the total yield of wheat in 1917 is estimated at 995.638.000 cwts., or 8.9 per cent. below last year's production. The total production of rye in the following countries is estimated at 80,103.000 cwts., or 3.8 per cent. below last year's production: — Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, and United States. The production of barley in the following countries is estimated at 261,728.000 cwts., or 0.1 per cent. above last year's production:—Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Great Britain, Japan, Algeria, Egypt, and Tunis.

The production of oats in the following countries is estimated at 780.463,000 cwts., or 12.1 per cent. above last year's production:—Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Great Britain, Algeria, and Tunis. The production of maize in Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, United States, and Japan is estimated at 1,641,900,000 cwts., or 21.4 per cent. above last year's production. The production of rice in Spain, Italy, United States, Japan, and Egypt is estimated at 190.345.000 cwts., or 19.7 per cent. below last year's production. The production of linseed in Italy, Holland, Canada, United States, and India is estimated at 18.332,000 cwts., or 13.4 per cent. below last year's production. The production of potatoes in England, Wales, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, and Japan is estimated at 599.287.000 cwts., or 36.4 per cent. above last year's production.

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MOROCCAN TRADE.

Openings for British Exporters.

Some further notes by the Acting British Consul at Casablanca, Mr. H. W. Rabino, relative to openings for trade in the French zone in Morocco, were published in the *Board of Trade Journal* of December 27:—

Drugs and Dyes.

There is an opening in Casablanca for chemists' supplies. Climatic and other special conditions naturally exercise a considerable influence in determining the kind of drugs for which there is a demand. Native vegetable dyes are being rapidly replaced by European aniline dyes, the growing market for which deserves careful attention. Aniline dyes are extensively employed in French Morocco for dyeing woollen and cotton yarns for carpets, rugs, etc. Prior to the war, trade in aniline dyes was almost entirely in German hands. The customary terms in this trade are cash on delivery.

A demand for tanning materials has been created in Casablanca by the establishment of a tannery at Rabat, and as the opening of further factories may be expected the demand for these materials is likely to increase. In a country like Morocco, where goats, sheep, bullocks, horses, etc., are abundant, and reared on a considerable scale annually, the tanning industry should become one of importance.

Few farmers have as yet experimented with fertilisers, business in which requires gradual development.

There is a moderate business done in the cheaper kind of disinfectants, such as chloride of lime, etc., these being used in Casablanca and in other towns for the cleansing of streets, etc. The military hospitals also use large quantities of disinfectants. Chemists and druggists deal to a limited extent in other disinfectants for household purposes.

With the advent of railways and the laying down of engineering plant for the purposes of port works and of various industrial concerns, the demand for coal is bound to increase in the course of time. It is proposed to make Casablanca a coaling station for the West African and South American liners, in competition with Teneriffe.

Electrical Plant and Accessories.

The use of electricity is quite a new departure in Morocco. In Casablanca many of the streets and the shops are now lighted by electricity, and there is abundant scope for the development of the electrical industry, both in the coast towns and in the interior of the country.

The import of bedsteads into Casablanca is a rather important trade, and should increase. The native demand is for bedsteads four feet in width, and more or less ornate. As a general rule the requirement is for a good type of bedstead, with fairly heavy brass mounting. The European demand for bedsteads, though of more recent growth, is increasing, the preference in this case being for a cheaper and smaller type. There is a first-class opening in Casablanca for the establishment of a furniture emporium, either directly by a United Kingdom firm or through an agent able to provide a satisfactory showroom. It should be remembered that there is no demand for expensive furniture.

Glass and Chinaware.

There is an excellent opening as regards glassware, especially amongst the natives, who prefer cheap conventional patterns. Small glasses, brilliantly figured and occasionally fitted with nickel holders, are used for tea drinking. Prior to the war, the trade in glassware and china ware was almost entirely in the hands of German and Austrian manufacturers. British manufacturers then seemed unable to compete for this business. There is a decidedly good market for chinaware also, both in common and first-class qualities, and of special patterns and colourings. Business in both lines of goods is largely controlled by native agents. General prospects are such that a special endeavour should be made to retain and develop any hold that United Kingdom firms may be able to establish upon the Moroccan market for these goods.

Window glass is usually imported into Casablanca for own account by British firms, but Mr. Rabino states that no doubt they would act as representatives for home firms desirous of developing their business in that country. For dealing in window glass it is essential to carry stock.

The native demand for cutlery is for the cheapest makes, and up to the present the European demand has been for qualities but little better. A good opening for cheap cutlery certainly exists. Both wire fencing and fencing designed so as to be easily erected, are in good and increasing demand. The general turnover in hardware and ironmongery on the Moroccan market is a large one, hardware being in particular a very extensive trade, but the bulk of imports is already derived from the United Kingdom. All kinds of galvanised goods, such as buckets, kettles, etc., are in great demand, and there is also a good sale for metal-plated goods. The cheaper articles, such as enamelled ware, for which there is an extensive market, were before the war either of Austrian or German origin, since prices for such goods from these countries were lower than any others quoted.

ALGERIAN DATES AND FIGS

Restrictions on Export.

The authorities in Algeria have found it necessary to introduce fresh legislation regarding the export of dates and figs from that colony. Owing to the increased requisition of dates for distillery purposes—purchases which affect, almost exclusively, dates for native consumption—the Governor-General of Algeria (according to a French contemporary) has decided that the export of this fruit will depend on the grant by the Military Commanders of the Biskra, Laghouat, and Ain-Sefra districts of special transport authorisations. This measure, however, does not apply to luxury dates specially produced with a view to export, and shipped in cases or postal packages.

The decree of September 27 regarding the export of dried figs from Algeria did not interfere with consignments by parcels post. Considerable quantities having been despatched in this form, however, it was felt that the measure was insufficient. It has, therefore been revoked as from the 1st ult., and henceforward only packages addressed to private individuals can be sent out of the country.

◆

A limit of £40 is now placed on the amount which may be sent by money order to Aden or India by any one remitter in a week.

TUNIS WAR PROFITS TAX.

To Remain in Force for Twelve Months after the War.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Tunis, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, reports that a Beylical Decree, published in the Tunisian *Journal Officiel*, establishes a tax on war profits in the Regency. The effect of this Decree is to impose an extraordinary tax of 50 per cent. on (a) new or exceptional profits (" bénéfices exceptionnels ") realised in consequence of the war, and (b) profits in excess of the mean net profits realised during the two years preceding the war (" bénéfices supplémentaires "). The first 5,000f. of such profits are exempt in both cases, while, for profits realised after June 1, 1916, 60 per cent. will be levied on the amount above 500,000f. liable to taxation. In the case of mining enterprises whose profits are already taxed, by virtue of a Decree dated December 29, 1913, the old tax will be taken into account as valid payment towards the new one.

Firms and persons affected by the tax are required to furnish, before December 1 next, a declaration giving all necessary particulars from the period August 1, 1914, to December 31, 1916. Similar declarations will have to be furnished during the first quarter of every year, giving the necessary particulars for the preceding year. Should a declaration not be filed by the prescribed date a further month will be allowed, after which the competent authorities will apply the tax upon such figures as they consider adequate.

The task of verifying these declarations and of fixing the figure upon which the tax is to be applied in the case of defaulting persons will be entrusted to a special commission.

Taxpayers are to have the right to appeal from the decision of this commission to a higher commission, whose assessments will be final. The tax is to be collected by instalments, and is to extend over a period terminating twelve months after the cessation of hostilities. A list of occupations exempted from the tax is annexed to the Decree.

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According to a telegram from Vienna, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, the *Wiener Zeitung* publishes an Imperial rescript to Dr. Seidler, the Premier, in which, as an agreement could not be reached between the Parliaments of Austria and Hungary, the Emperor orders that for covering expenditure on joint affairs for the period from January 1 to December 31, 1918, Austria shall contribute 63.6 per cent. and Hungary 36.4 per cent.

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WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
" We cannot speak too highly of it."
Lancet
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—Medical Review.
The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
" It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Cultivation of Flax in Morocco.

The production of flax in Europe has suffered considerably from the war, with the result that at the present time there is a serious scarcity of the fibre as well as of the seed of this plant. In European countries the flax plant is cultivated chiefly for fibre, but in Russia both the seed and the fibre are produced on a large scale. European Russia is one of the largest, if not the largest, flax producer in the world, having under cultivation for that purpose an area of between 3,250,000 and 3,500,000 acres, almost as much as India, but with her Asiatic provinces, in which over 350,000 acres are under flax, she surpasses India, the United States and Argentina, which are the other largest flax-producing countries. Austria-Hungary comes second to Russia in Europe with an area under flax of over 200,000 acres, the United Kingdom (Ireland) has about 60,000 acres, France 70,000, Belgium 56,000, Roumania 45,000, Serbia 6,500, Bulgaria 400, Netherlands 42,000, and Sweden 5,000. Figures for Italy are not available; but in view of the announcement that whereas in 1913 the amount of flax produced in France was 25,000 tons, it is now less than one-third this quantity, and as Italy is not a larger producer than France, it may be assumed that the production in Italy in existing circumstances has been very small. The present serious scarcity of flax, therefore, is easily explained, since, with the exception of the small British, French, and Italian supplies, no other supplies from Europe are available, and imports from distant friendly countries are difficult to obtain, if they are not actually prohibited. A suggestion has been made that flax should be cultivated in nearer and more accessible lands. Morocco, where experiments have shown that flax can be grown under excellent conditions, has been cited as a suitable locality. The objection that the treatment of flax necessitates considerable quantities of water, which do not exist in that region, is met by the introduction of the Peufaillit process, which only needs relatively small quantities of water; and it is hoped that, with the aid of this process and the employment of the most modern flax-working machinery — various British types, which have from time to time been described in these columns—Morocco will become one of the important producers of flax.

Climatic Conditions and Soils.

From a general point of view the flax plant succeeds best when grown in the colder parts of the temperate region, where there are no great extremes of heat and drought. Belts of coast land, subject to cloudy skies and a moisture-laden atmosphere, and possessing soil that is moist and well-drained, are the localities in which the flax-plant attains its greatest perfection. As the flax-plant occupies the land for but a short period, and has a delicate and relatively small root-system, it demands a soil that is moist and rich in organic matter. Such climatic conditions and soils exist in Morocco. In the adjacent country of Algeria the cultivation of flax has proved successful, and so in Tunis, and more so in Upper and Lower Egypt. Expert opinion is that Morocco is more suitable for the production of both linseed and flax than the above-named countries.

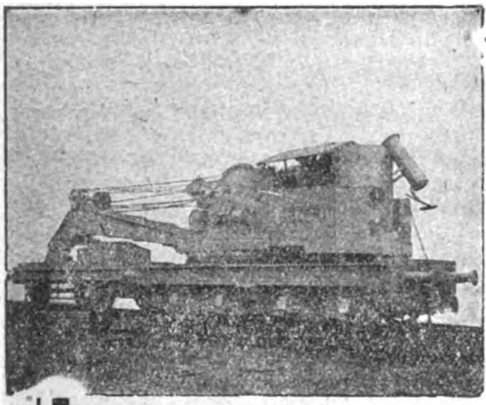
Coke as Motor Fuel.

The efforts of inventors for finding an efficient and practical substitute for petrol are followed with great interest by all motor-car owners and users abroad, especially in the East, where petrol cannot easily be obtained, even at a very high price, and the use of coal (or town) gas, according to recent suggestions and devices, cannot be adopted except in towns where such gas is produced; such towns, of course, are not numerous. The latest suggestion, therefore, of utilising coke as motor fuel will appeal to all for coke can easily be obtained, transported, and stored at very cheap rates even in remote districts. It should appeal particularly to commercial motor users and omnibus companies, some of whose vehicles have had to be laid up owing to the scarcity of the necessary fuel. Experiments have recently been taking place in Chelmsford with a patent coke apparatus for superseding oil for generating steam on the National Car Company's vehicles. The experiments, it is said, proved highly satisfactory from every point of view. A single-decked 'bus has been used, and it has been proved that the quantity of coke required for a 12 hours 'working day is only 3½ cwt. (140 okes). The cost is about 5s. (6.25 frs.) compared with 24s. (30 frs.) for oil. The chief trouble to be overcome is the fumes from the coke, which in the case of a single-decked 'bus would present no difficulty, but in a two-decker would soon clear the top deck of passengers. To meet this difficulty a special method has been devised to take the exhaust from the engine and convey it under the chassis, so that it is discharged at the rear. With coke it takes about 25 minutes to get sufficient steam, but once this is secured a run of fully 40 miles can be made at an average speed of 12 miles an hour without a stop. The boilers needed cost about £70, and the system generally has proved so successful and economical that it may ultimately be introduced on all the London 'buses in the Company's service.

* * *

Woollen manufacturing circles are greatly interested by the announcement that Messrs. Martin Sons and Company, of Huddersfield, the biggest producers in the trade, have decided to sell direct to retailers in future.

Mr. G. Newell, manager and secretary of the Imperial Bank of Persia in London for the past 28 years, has retired, and is succeeded by Mr. S. Rogers, late sub-manager in London.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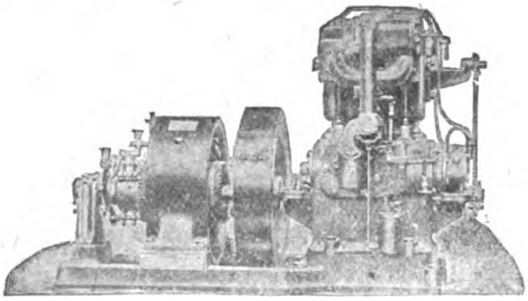
Designed for Paraffin, Petrol, Alcohol, Town, or Producer Gas, &c.



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EGYPT.
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Cairo.

SILVER IN 1917.

Period of Abnormal Conditions.

Messrs. Sharps and Wilkins, in their annual report, say :—In reviewing the silver market for the past year, the most striking feature is the very great rise in value which has taken place, the quotation reaching a figure without a parallel since 1878. The average price for 1917 is 40⅝d. per ounce standard. The primary influence during the whole year has been the continued requirement of silver for Government currencies. The home mint alone has coined even more than last year, and our Allies have also issued very large amounts; the necessity for this in face of the enormous war expenditure is so manifest that further explanation is needless. The entry of America into the struggle has also brought in a further need of the same sort, and large purchases of silver have been made in that quarter, too; in addition to all which the mintage of rupees in India has run into prodigious figures, for not only have they had to provide for the increased cost of Indian produce, but the war expenditure financed from India for the campaigns in Asia has been very great. Some idea of the extent of this may be gathered from the statement of the financial authority that the war expenditure there for the current year may be estimated at 38½ millions sterling.

As a result of all this coinage, the metallic reserve against the note issue in India gained ground, and a smaller denomination of notes may to a certain extent relieve the pressure, but, with a total of 110 crores of rupee notes in circulation, the metallic reserve of 21 crores in silver and 25½ crores in gold cannot be said to be a sufficient percentage for perfect safety.

China's Influence on Prices.

The second most potent influence in the movement of prices has been the action of China. It will be remembered that during 1916 an immense quantity of silver was parted with by China to India, leaving the former country very much denuded of stock, and towards the end of last year trading requirements made it necessary for it to enter the market as a buyer. This movement was not constant, and from time to time in the earlier part of 1917 some further sales were made on China account, the high price of silver making it a tempting proposition to withdraw from China at the higher rate of exchange funds formerly invested there. This did not attain any large proportions, and about the beginning of September the Shanghai exchange rose to a very high figure, and 4s. 10½d. per tael was reached about this time. The exact reason for this high exchange is not clear, and it was doubtless partly due to speculative dealings. A new departure was now made by a regulation in America forbidding the export to China except under licence, which could not be very easily obtained, and this action soon produced a striking effect.

America's Output.

The conditions throughout the year have been abnormal and to some extent artificial. Formerly the silver from the United States, which is the ordinary source of supply, and includes what is produced in Mexico, was offered freely in the market day by day to meet the wants of India, China and the European Continent, but in the early part of this year some arrangement was made by which a large proportion of these supplies was put at the disposal of the Government on terms which are not generally known, but the effect was that the large public needs previously alluded to were more easily bought and power was attained to supply the remaining reduced buying at prices which were more convenient to the authorities, and by this means lower rates have from time to time been brought about than might otherwise have been the case. The public newspapers of December 5 contained the following statement :—"It is announced by the United States Treasury Department that the Government will take over the country's silver output and will fix the price," but no definite information has been available since that date, and it is not at all clear whether this announcement refers really to the total output of the United States or whether it applies to the endeavour which was known to be in progress to secure for the United States and the English Governments a very large amount, described by some as 100,000,000 ounces, by others as 150,000,000 ounces, deliverable during the year 1918, partly for coining into rupees in India, and partly into French currency for the use of American soldiers in France, but in either case it is evident that action of this sort must have a very great influence upon the price of silver next year.

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THE STATE AND SHIPPING.

French Approval of Lord Inchcape's Speech.

Commenting on yesterday's debate in the Chamber of Deputies regarding the French merchant marine and the chartering by the French Government of German vessels interned in Brazil (says Reuter's Paris correspondent in a message dated December 30), the *Journal des Debats* says :—"There is reason to fear that the Socialists will take advantage of the present situation to carry out after the war their doctrines of State Socialism as far as concerns the industry of maritime transport. This question—namely, the future of the maritime industry after the war—also interests our friends and Allies beyond the Channel. In Great Britain the merchant fleet was partly requisitioned by means of chartering vessels on the basis of the average freights before the war. Later, as needs increased and the losses of ships became greater, the vessels remaining free were subjected to the same system. Finally, the State carried its intervention still further. At the general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, held on December 12, Lord Inchcape made a very remarkable speech, in which he explained in every detail the present situation of the British mercantile marine and the conditions under which the Government had been led to interfere more and more with this industry—an interference so extensive that it now causes legitimate anxiety. The speech of Lord Inchcape deserves attention not only in London, but in Paris."

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TREBIZOND-PLATANA TOBACCO CROP.

Considerable Supplies Available

The 1916 crop of tobacco in the Trebizond-Platana district was very small, but on account of the stock left over from previous years there is on hand at present 340,370 lbs. at Trebizond and Platana, 98,700 lbs. at different villages of the district, and 1,438,200 lbs. deposited with the Tobacco Regie, a total of 1,877,270 lbs. of tobacco, says the United States Vice-Consul at Trebizond, Mr. I. Montesanto, in a report dated September 28. Because of the continuance of the war it was generally believed that the crops of 1917 would not be very important, but the latest estimate gives 169,200 lbs. for Trebizond and 4,906,800 lbs. for the Platana district. Although these figures are only estimates, the season is so far advanced that the total given should be a fairly close approximation of the final outturn. The quality of this year's crop is reported to be very good. While the estimate is a great deal below the average crops of years before the war, nevertheless, considering the state of war, the lack of labour, and the high wages demanded, the returns of the Platana district are remarkable. The high prices of tobacco and the liberty to cultivate tobacco whenever the farmers wish, and in any quantity they desire, without being restricted, as formerly, by the Regie, are contributing to this very satisfactory result. Before the war prices of tobacco varied from $0.04 to $0.20 a lb., according to quality. Now prices are 40 to 70 rubles per batman, which equals $0.47 to $0.83 gold per lb.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Outlook Uncertain.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Buyers and sellers in the market have been rather slow in getting to work again after the holidays. Prices have tended to harden, and for anything wanted our customers have had to pay more money than a week or two ago. The outlook is rather uncertain, but spinners and manufacturers derive considerable strength from the extensive contracts on the books. The Egyptian cotton crop continues to do well. The receipts at Alexandria so far this season are 3,584,068 cantars against 3,783,102 cantars this time last year. The stock in Alexandria is 2,495,000 cantars as compared with 1,690,000 cantars twelve months ago. A steady demand continues to be experienced in Egyptian yarns, and late rates are very firmly held. In both carded and combed qualities producers have plenty of work to go on with. The inquiry in piece goods for Egypt continues rather quieter. Goods are badly wanted on the other side, but shipments are irregular. Only miscellaneous sales have occurred in cloth for India, offers for lots of bulk being comparatively scarce. No freer movement for China can be recorded. Buyers for South America are not giving quite so much support as a little time ago. Most manufacturers are indifferent as to booking fresh contracts at the moment. In American yarns for home use a healthy demand continues for quick delivery, and spinners are being pressed by users to send supplies in on a freer scale.

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AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

Conditions Generally Satisfactory.

Despite the obstacles in the way of agricultural progress, such as lack of water, the conservatism of the peasantry, their distrust of modern methods of cultivation, and their reluctance to co-operate, says the White Paper on Cyprus in 1916-17, the Agricultural Department was able to maintain the extension of its influence. Among the activities of the Department may be mentioned the encouragement of fruit tree cultivation, and the introduction of three new varieties of cotton, while new fodder plants were tried, and vineyards were laid out for farmers.

The year's olive crop was a good one, but the production still falls short of local consumption, 198,640 jokes, of the value of £16,035, being imported. It is stated, however, that the area available for the purpose is sufficient, if planted, to enable a large export trade to be built up, and as many thousands of olive plants are being raised in the nursery gardens, the next few years, it is thought, should see a great increase in the olive plantations.

A great extension of potato growing has taken place in Cyprus through the war, and Egypt has become a large buyer of the island's surplus produce. Conditions are generally favourable to this crop, which may develop into a permanent and profitable agricultural industry. Cultivation, it is stated, has been greatly favoured by the application for the first time of chemical manures, and the introduction of new seed potatoes. Before the war the consumption of potatoes was confined to the well-to-do classes in the town, but it has since become general.

The silk industry suffered a temporary setback during the year, a number of mulberry plantations being uprooted to make room for orange and other fruit trees. Five departmental sericultural stations were in operation, and the cocoons produced were satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. It is interesting to note that the colour has been improved, and is becoming more uniform.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.
GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.
Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.
Prices: From 5s. per 100 and upwards.
Ask your tobacconist, or from
J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

STOCKS AND SHARES IN 1917.

Steady Rise in Egyptian Securities.

Despite the fact that the past year was one of considerable vicissitudes, as far as the war was concerned, it cannot be said that Egyptian securities, as a whole, have been adversely affected by the uncertainty of the situation. On the contrary, most of the leading shares have registered a substantial advance in the past twelve months in striking contrast to what has happened in other markets. This happy position is undoubtedly due to the recognition by investors of the prosperity that has come to Egypt through the war. The subjoined table of a number of the principal Egyptian shares will serve to illustrate the upward trend of prices :—

	1916. Dec. 30.	1917. Dec. 31.	Rise or Fall.
Egyptian Unified	78½	84	+5½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17 3/16	+3 7/16
Egyptian Delta Land	9/0	15/0	+6 0
New Egyptian	9/3	16/6	+7/3
Union Fonciere d'Egypte	1¼	2 5/16	+1 1/16
Khedivial Mail	28/6	34	+5/6

Oil Shares.

With the exception of Russian and Roumanian oil shares the year was a satisfactory one for this market, substantial rises having to be recorded in various holdings, as will be seen from the annexed table :—

	1916. Dec. 30.	1917. Dec. 31.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	11/0	27/6	+16/6
Anglo-Persian Pref.	20/6	25/0	+ 4/6
Baku	3/0	1/9	− 1/3
British Burmah	6/7½	11/3	+ 4/7½
Burmah	4 5/16	7⅝	+ 3 5/16
North Caucasian	25/6	17/0	− 8/6
Roumanian Consuls	9/0	9/0	—
Ural Caspian	1½	1 3/16	− 5/16

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"THE BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL."

This week the *Board of Trade Journal* appears in its new form under the editorship of Mr. Kitchin. The new issue is a vast improvement on its predecessor as regards arrangement and subject matter, and the standard of the first issue suggests that the *Journal* will be able to perform a very useful service for British trade and commerce. Among the contents are a number of valuable special articles, notably one on "Commercial Information," trade notes, notices affecting trade, Customs regulations, and tariff changes, and shipping intelligence and commercial returns. The objects of the *Journal* are set out in a foreword by Sir Albert Stanley, in which he says: "While I hope we shall make the *Journal* in its new form of greater interest and value to business men, I do not propose that it should be run on the ordinary commercial lines. After March 31 next all trade advertisements will be excluded from its pages, and its columns will be solely devoted to the object of assisting commercial and industrial interests by giving information as promptly and completely as possible. . . . I hope that this publication, placed at the disposal of our traders and of the whole of the Press, will stimulate interest in our post-war problems, and, more especially, in the stupendous national effort which will be necessary to revive and increase our overseas commerce, now completely distracted or suspended in consequence of the war; to re-establish and expand our industries; and to place upon a sound and permanent basis those particular key industries essential to our national welfare."

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

The Christmas and New Year holidays have interfered very much with business; but to-day the markets have re-opened in a buoyant condition, and there have been active transactions at, generally speaking, higher prices. Egypt continues to send buying orders, and the news from over there is of a very satisfactory nature in every direction. In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have risen ½ to 84½, at which price some business was done to-day; but there were unsatisfied buyers left over. The 3½ per cent. preferences were also ½ up at 72¾, with a certain amount of business doing; but here also there were buyers who have not been able to get the shares they want. City of Alexandrias are about 77 x.d.

In Bank shares, Nationals have been a feature and are half a point up at 17½, on buying from Egypt accompanied by some demand on this side. The note issue is said to have reached well over £E30,000,000. Anglo-Egyptians have also come into demand and are ¼ better at 14¼. Agriculturals are slightly firmer at 6⅛, and Agricultural prefs. are quoted 7 x.d. Land banks are by exception dull, and have receded ⅛ to 6½.

In Railways, Delta Light are 1/16 firmer at 6 3/16.

In Land shares there has been a persistent local demand for Aboukirs, which have improved 1s. 3d. to 22s. 3d. Allotments are 1/16 firmer at 4, but without business, because sellers are lacking. Beheras are 3/16 up at 13 on a renewal of demand from Egypt. Behéra prefs. have come to business at about 4 15-32. Delta Lands have changed hands more freely round 15s. In New Egyptians there have been some fairly big transactions, and the price is a trifle firmer at 16s. 7½d. It is understood that a large block of these shares held by two of the South African companies has now been entirely liquidated, so that any persistent demand should produce a much greater effect on the market than hitherto. In United Egyptian Lands some transactions have taken place round 1s. 6d. There has been a renewal of demand for Union Foncières, but without useful alteration of price.

In miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are somewhat materially lower round 12 x.d., after dealings in a small way at 11¾. Markets continue dull and are 6d. easier at 27s. Salt and Sodas have been a feature of strength, and on persistent purchases for Egypt have improved to about 36s. x.d., a rise of 2s. 9d. Khedivial Mails are closing slightly firmer at 33s. x.d.

In Greek securities Fundings are quoted about ⅝ lower at 53 x.d., while Greek '81 and '84 are about 60½ x.d., and Monopolies almost unchanged at 51 x.d. The 1914 loan stands nominally at 53½, a fall of half a point, while the 1902 loan is rather firmer at 62 x.d.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

East India Tramways.

The accounts for the year ended July 31 show net receipts of £2,751, against £7,696, there being an available sum, including £355 brought forward, of £3,106, which compares with £7,400. The directors announce a further dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, together with a distribution of 2½ per cent. on the deferred shares (paid in May last).

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.
Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 19	Jan. 2, 1918.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	78½	77xd
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	84	84½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	72¼	72¾
Greek 5%, 1881	57	61	60½xd
Do. 5%, 1884	56	61	60½xd
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	52	51xd
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	43	42½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	56xd	56
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	53xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	62xd
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	73½
Do. 5% Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5% Loan	87½	—	
Persia 5%, 1911	91	81	80½
Roumania 4½%, Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	
Do. 3½%, Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾		7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14	14½
Bank of Athens	£2		3½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7 1/16	7 3/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝		4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	6½xd	6⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17	17½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6 3/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	—	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	21/-	22/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	3½	4
Behera Co.	8½	12½	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4 15/32
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	9/-	8/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1¼	1⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/6	16/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	3/16	26/7½	26/7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2¼	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½xd	12xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 7/16	27/-	27/
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 3/16	38/3	36/-xd
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	34/-	35/-xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3½	3½

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The coupons of the undermentioned loans will be paid in gold at the stated percentage of their face value, in accordance with instructions received from the International Financial Commission, Athens:—Greek 5 per cent. loans of 1881 and 1884, 32 per cent.; 4 per cent. Monopoly Loan of 1887, 43 per cent.; 5 per cent. Funding Loan of 1893, 32 per cent.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, have declared a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference stock for the quarter to December 31, and the third quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income-tax, in respect of profits for the year to December 31, payable on January 15.

◆

LIONDA AND CO., LTD.

We learn that Messrs. Lionda and Co., of Fenchurch Street, have established a branch in Athens, as general merchants and financial agents under the style of G. N. Lionda and Co.

◆

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Land and General Trust, Ltd., was held at the company's offices, 344, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on December 31.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	980,000	1,660,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Dec. 31.	1917. Week Dec. 27.
Cattle markets	1,532	488
General markets	512	440
Receipts (£)	2,014	928
Total of year	56,933	54,579

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 349.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There has been little military activity during the week; no report has been received from Mesopotamia, and in Palestine the Turks have made no further attempt to recapture Jerusalem after their recent defeat. The fact that General Allenby is reported to be in Egypt may be read as an indication that he considers the position in Palestine to be secure, and also, perhaps, that no further advance is to be made for the present. But probably it would be as well for the enemy not to make too sure of that.

If there has been little military activity, there has been a vast deal of political and diplomatic activity, Turkey has placed her peace terms before Russia; they are those of a conqueror pure and simple. Russia is to demobilise her troops, to evacuate Armenia and Persia, and to resign all claims to those territories, while Turkey is to retain her army and regain her lost provinces. No pretence is made of liberating the people under her control, but Constantinople protests that it is only too ready to be nice to the Jews, and also makes the point that the Pope would really rather see Jerusalem in the hands of the infidels than the heretics—a matter on which Rome may be excused for knowing its own mind. The Russian reply to the Turkish proposals is that they will withdraw their troops as soon as Turkey withdraws hers, which is obviously not what the Turks want; but we are at least grateful to the enemy for a passable joke in this grave hour. The Philosophical Faculty at Constantinople (is there any philosophy at Constantinople?) has recommended Lenin for the Nobel Peace Prize, by way of reminding the Kaiser that his allies do not take his protest that he is the real pacificator of Europe very seriously.

What the Turks will reply to Russia has yet to be seen. What Russia has said to Germany has amazed the world, but not half so much as the fact that, after accusing the Germans of hypocrisy and a few other of the commoner Teutonic virtues, they have gone on negotiating with the hypocrites as though it was nothing but a lovers' quarrel after all. Whether the protest was made in order to draw the Western Allies into the peace negotiations or to bluff the Germans into a revolution does not appear; in either event the attempt has failed. The German agent in Petrograd has explained that Germany has no use for revolutions at home, and the Allies have proclaimed that they will no more go to Brest-Litovsk than to Canossa. The result has been that the Trotsky organ has turned from its spasmodic abuse of Germany to its regular abuse of England. Mr. Lloyd George is said by the official Leninite organ to be contemplating making peace on the basis that Germany takes what she likes of Russia, while Britain and France take the rest of the world. This obvious lie appears in *Pravda*, the Russian *Truth*. Nobody has less desire to see Russia under Germany, directly or indirectly, than England; but we realise, what Russia apparently does not, that the only way of saving Russia is for Russia to save herself, and that the only way of doing that is to fight the enemy and not to fraternise with him one moment, insult him the next, and then fraternise again. The whole thing has an unpleasant appearance of humbug.

How far the robuster minds of the Entente are from the Russian accusations may be judged from Mr. Lloyd George's speech on war aims, and the admirable general endorsement of them by President Wilson. These are not terms of peace, but war aims, and there is not a man in this country, or France, or America, who does not perceive that they commit us to a continuation of the war for some considerable time. If Germany chose to acknowledge defeat and accept these terms peace could come to-morrow; but Berlin seems as far now from restoration and reparation in East and West as she was a year ago.

As to Turkey, the speech takes up a new attitude. Palestine, Mesopotamia, Armenia, and Syria are to be freed, and Turkey must make up her mind to lose these provinces as completely as she has lost Egypt and Morocco. But she is still to retain Anatolia, the heart of the Ottoman Empire, and Constantinople, its head. The latter announcement has been received with surprise in some quarters, in view of the Allied declaration a year ago; but our policy here has obviously been influenced by the collapse of Russia, an event which, it is now seen, will influence the future history of the world for, perhaps, as long a time, and probably in as profound a manner as the capture of Constantinople by the Turks four centuries ago. But the withdrawal of all claim to Constantinople carries with it also the assertion of a demand for the freeing and internationalisation of the Straits. How far this is from meeting with the present views of Turkey is shown by her demand to Russia that the latter's Black Sea fleet should be disbanded—a policy which would leave Turkey absolute master of the Euxine.

President Wilson's "fourteen points in world-policy," for which the United States are fighting, goes in some details beyond Mr. Lloyd George's statement, and in others falls behind; but on the main lines of settlement the two are almost identical. He stands for the creation of a separate Polish State, with access to the sea—in other words, he supports the Dantzig school—but, as regards the Jugoslavs, he is less definite, merely demanding that "the peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the first opportunity of autonomous development." Autonomy, of course, is not the same thing as independent sovereignty safeguarded by international covenant (which is promised to Poland), and the fact is likely to be commented on with some fulness by the journals of Vienna and the Jugoslav Press.

On the other hand, as regards the Balkans, President Wilson insists that Roumania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated, occupied territories restored, and Serbia secured free access to the sea. That is on the score of restoration; in constructive statesmanship he insists that "the relations of the several Balkan States to one another should be determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality"—a declaration which is so vague that it is susceptible of several interpretations, but which quite conceivably indicates that President Wilson is turning over in his mind the possibility of a Balkans Federation which, with a Customs union, has also been suggested by the British Labour Party. That has, indeed, been recognised as an ideal by many constructive statesmen for some years past, but the main, if not the only obstacle, remains the constant enmity of the Balkan States themselves towards the idea, and until that enmity diminishes a federation recommended or imposed from outside may seem remote. A mediæval English historian once suggested that the Irish question would be settled shortly before the day of Judgment. Some people fear that, unless the Allies use their opportunity aright, the Balkans question will not be settled until shortly afterwards.

On the question of the Ottoman Empire President Wilson is broadly in agreement with Mr. Lloyd George, and it seems clear that on the whole this will be a less difficult matter to settle than the Balkans. Germany has not the least intention of abandoning the Balkans so long as she can by any possibility make herself the master there, but there are small but significant signs that in Turkey she has less and less faith as the weeks pass. Of the Baghdad Railway she speaks less, of the Bokhara and Siberia Railway more, than a year ago; and while the prospect of reconquering Mesopotamia is now seldom alluded to, a significant admission has been made by Herr Naumann, the putative begetter of the "Central Europe" idea, that Germany and Turkey have little chance of retaking Jerusalem.

He covers the admission, of course, by the remark that to leave the Holy City in British hands will be to spoil it, and to barbarise it—he foresees main drainage and sanitation schemes, and all the things which the Germans boast they have done in Poland and elsewhere. The sacred atmosphere of the place, according to Herr Naumann, will be dissipated by the practical English; it will become as commonplace and ordinary as any other city of the Western world, to which it will henceforth belong. We will appeal to Herr Naumann, who is by no means a fervent fire-eater, to dry these tears; he has forgotten that the Jews, as well as the British, will have something to say as to the future in Jerusalem, and a good deal more than the British probably in determining in what way the Holy Land shall be developed. Now the Jew is a hard-headed and practical man in every respect but one, and that is his own country. After all, his ancestors made Jerusalem, and the modern Jew is not more likely to spoil it than the modern Englishman is to run Westminster Abbey as a picture palace.

The statement by Javid Bey that the Turkish national debt has risen during the war from £150 millions sterling to nearly £400 millions sterling does not throw much light on the financial position of Turkey, although, taken in conjunction with Talaat's visit to Berlin, and with the Emperor Carl's visit to Constantinople, it does suggest that Turkey requires encouragement from the Ally, who has no money, and money from the Ally who does not give her, as it seems to us, much encouragement. But Turkey's war debt has not increased at the same rate as that of Austria and Germany—although it is poor consolation to a bankrupt to tell him that his wealthy friend is also living beyond his income—and we are not told whether these figures include the full German advances, which reached nearly a hundred and fifty millions more than six months ago, and are known to have increased considerably since then. The war cannot have cost Turkey less in 1917 than in previous years, but she has obviously had less territory from which to raise her revenue, which, according to official figures published some weeks ago, scarcely makes a pretence any longer of doing more than covering the debt services.

In these circumstances it is easily explicable that German special correspondents at Constantinople should report to their newspapers that the cry heard on all sides is, "Germany must restore us our lost provinces." The cry in itself seems not only a confession of Turkish weakness, but also of diminishing trust in those whom Lord Haldane once called "the very big men in Berlin." Presumably, if Turkey could have foreseen her fate, to lose her provinces to an enemy and her financial and commercial freedom to a friend, she would have remained neutral.

A curious rumour has appeared to the effect that the Dobruja claims of Bulgaria are looked upon with suspicion in Pan-German circles, and that some friction has arisen over this matter between the two schools, if not actually between the two Governments. It is conceivable, of course, that the Pan-Germans are so fully occupied in advocating annexations for themselves that they have no time to help the Bulgars, but it is hardly likely that there is much more in it than that. The Pan-Germans could not annex the Dobruja for themselves, and on that ground there is no particular reason why, according to their ideas, Bulgaria should not have it, nor is it likely that the Russians will put up any particular obstacles, since the retrocession of the Dobruja would weaken Roumania, and that is one of the leading objects of Petrograd policy at the present moment.

The formation of a Moslem League in India to resist Home Rule was not unexpected, and no doubt Mr. Montagu, who still holds to the sphinx-like silence to which he bound himself, will take due note of the fact and of the forces behind it—which are by no means necessarily, as some English papers are too ready to assume, those of "reaction." Moreover, even among the Hindu parties, everything does not seem quite plain sailing; divergences of opinion are becoming manifest, and cross-currents showing themselves. The strength of these various movements will need to be carefully weighed before any irrevocable step is taken.

A statement in the House of Lords clears up any doubt as to British policy infringing on the rights of Afghanistan, which may have been caused by the publication of certain correspondence in the Russian archives by Comrade Trotsky. Russia under the old régime apparently wished to encroach a little in Afghanistan, but Britain neither assented to nor even went into the proposition. Presumably the Petrograd politician published this document to embarrass Britain in Central Asia. It may succeed in discrediting a little further the old régime, but it will have no effect in discrediting Britain, who did nothing to forward the Russian plan. This will be clearly perceived by the shrewd judges at the Court of Afghanistan, where, on various grounds, the present position in Russia may not be unduly mourned.

PERSIA AND THE WAR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tabriz, October.

German Intrigue.

There is a common Persian saying, "*Eshaki sakhlar palan ordooni sakhlar yalan.*" ("As the saddle protects a donkey, so lies protect an army.") Germany would seem to have relied upon this principle in order to maintain the prestige of her army, or rather of her name. The lies have been in the form of false promises—promises which she cannot possibly honour—and they have been scattered broadcast with a view to winning support in this part of the world. The promises have been made separately, and, of course, secretly, Now that the time has come for revelations, some of the recipients are beginning to see how they have been duped. Here are some of the promises made (to be fulfilled presumably when Germany dictates peace terms in London):—1. To Turkey: The possession of that part of Persia lying to the west of a line connecting Busreh with the Caspian Sea, together with the Caucasus, inclusive of Baku. 2. To Persia: Expulsion of the Russians and the British from her territory, the complete independence of the country, the possession of that part of the Caucasus which was at one time incorporated within the Persian Empire (Baku falls within this section). 3. To the Caucasian Moslems: The whole of the Caucasus as an independent State, with a view to a revival of Saladin's Empire, if such be the wish of the Moslems themselves. 4. To the Georgians: An independent Georgia, under a Georgian king.

Now as Georgia is part of the Caucasus, it will be noted that this latter province has been promised to four different people. How Germany proposed to meet these separate promises when the time came to honour them is not known. It can only be surmised that there would be fresh contributions to the heap already formed of "scraps of paper." Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the Persian Kurds received from a German colonel a special promise for themselves of an independent Kurdistan, which would lop off parts of both Turkey and Persia.

It is largely to these comprehensive promises, backed by the activities of German agents, that the marked increase in anti-Russian and anti-British feeling is to be attributed. One of the forms that the movement against foreigners has taken is the assassination of Persians who have been conspicuous in the past for their Anglophil tendencies. Things reached such a pass that a strong protest had to be lodged by the British Minister. In the meantime, however, some prominent officials in the Foreign Office itself, who were known to have British sympathies, were dismissed, and two murders of Anglophil officials were reported at Ispahan and four at Hamadan. It is understood that a "Committee of Terror" was at work, and had drawn up a black list. Some of its would-be victims, however, prepared to meet violence by violence, and a state of affairs bordering upon anarchy threatened. The climax came when Sipahdar Azaam, a former Prime Minister, found himself a marked man. Not satisfied with taking measures to protect himself, he made representations to the Shah. These and the protest of the British Minister compelled the authorities to take action. Numerous arrests followed—a fairly clear indication that the personnel and doings of the so-called "Committee of Terror" were not entirely unknown in official quarters. Among those arrested were Secretaries of the Austrian and German Legations. Little doubt is entertained as to the source from which the whole agitation and the murder campaign were instigated.

Questions of Finance.

Popular indignation also contributed to stir the Government into action in regard to the murders. A further compelling factor was the state of the Persian Treasury. Revenue has barely sufficed for official salaries, leaving the current expenses of the State wholly unprovided for. In the past these have been met out of the advances made by the Russian and British Governments, but this source of supply ceased shortly after the outbreak of the Russian revolution. The present Russian Government believes in no annexations and in no money grants. Persia cannot have it both ways. She stands to benefit from one theory, and must put up with the effect of the other. The Persian Government has been obliged to appeal to Great Britain; but found that the latter naturally insisted upon the suppression of anarchy and anti-British propaganda before there could be any question of a renewal of the monthly grant of £30,000.

The Lot of the Russophil.

Perhaps the most pathetic figure in Persia as a result of the Russian revolution is the Russophil, as distinct from the Persian who became a Russian subject. The latter is able to look after himself. But the Russophil, to whom Russia's "protection" was everything, now finds himself between two stools. The new Russian Government will have nothing to do with him; at best he is a creature of the old hated régime; in any case Russia is now pledged to a policy of non-interference with Persian affairs, and consequently knows nothing about "protection." Among the Persians, both official and non-official, the man enjoying Russian protection was a privileged person, well accustomed to make the most of his position. Now, however, he is a marked man in another sense; for it is possible to pay off old scores, and he finds himself exposed to dismissal, disgrace, imprisonment, and heavy fines.

Persia and Great Britain.

As Persia settles down to the new order created by the course of events in Russia there can be no doubt that, in spite of the regrettable episodes to which I have referred, which were attributable to Austro-German instigation, there is a growing body of public opinion in favour of a good understanding with Great Britain. Of course, it is not a case on the Persian side of all give and no take. The line of thought is for the most part as follows:—British policy towards Persia in the past has been exclusively conditioned by Russia's attitude. The Agreement of 1907 was primarily intended to interpose a bulwark against a Russian advance on India and the Persian Gulf. If new Russia means to adhere to her policy of no annexation, leaving Persia entirely independent, the first country that stands to benefit will be Great Britain. She can introduce a new orientation in her Persian policy, obliterate all spheres of influence, and rely upon making the *whole* of Persia, instead of only a part, a natural buffer against Russia or any other Power. Among the best-informed Persians no doubt is entertained that Great Britain will act on these lines. Their one fear is lest some of their own people make it impossible for her to do so. Any excesses on the part of "Patriots" or "Democrats," or by whatever name they wish to be called, must inevitably have the effect of delaying British action in the desired direction; and not only excesses against British subjects or Anglophil Persians, but any kind of anti-foreign propaganda.

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THE MILITARY OUTLOOK IN THE EAST.

(By a Twenty Years' Resident.)

In its issue of December 28 the military correspondent of *The Times* estimates that the Russian entanglement will release some 750,000 German-Austrian troops for service elsewhere, and suggests the following opportunities for their employment:—"An over-sea attack upon England; a renewal of the German Flanders offensive; an attack on the British front in France; an attack upon the French or Belgians, or upon the Americans when they come into the line; an operation through Switzerland; a decisive campaign in Italy; a thrust at Salonika; or, finally, the recovery of the Turkish losses farther east." The balance of Colonel Repington's able survey reverts to his constant theme that victory can be had only in the West.

The writer, a civilian, presumes to challenge this military premonition on many grounds. In the first place, the Russo-Rumanian front of 1,200 miles, held up, under Tsardom, at least one and a-half divisions, each of 15,000 men, to the ten miles, or a total of Austro-Germans of 2,700,000 men. On the Western front, since mid-1916, a division to the mile has been the accepted standard, for offence or defence, by both belligerents; gradually reduced by Hindenburg as he accepted the defensive and left to the Allies the offensive; the defensive requiring less men.

From the moment that Kerensky was overthrown by the Kühlmann-Lenin-Trotsky combination the Austro-German eastern front began to be depleted. To-day, after the signing of the armistice, and the commencement of the so-called peace negotiations, Germany and Austria, on their 1,200 miles of Russo-Rumanian front, need hardly more than sixty divisions, one to every twenty miles, or 900,000 men —releasing thus at least another 900,000 men. To these we may add, most conservatively, 300,000 German and Austrian prisoners of war, and we reach a total of released enemy troops considerably in excess of Colonel Repington's 750,000.

The question posed by *The Times's* military critic, "What will Hindenburg do with it?" comes back, as the writer has said, to the fetish of the Western front, or, worse still, an invasion of England by sea.

It is curious that so qualified a critic has not digested the fact that for the past eighteen months the German High Command has plumped for the *defensive* on the Western front—that is to say, that it will not sacrifice any more men to effect the impossible, namely, to "break through" Haig's and Petain's lines. The enemy knows he cannot do it; on the contrary, he is chasing time in order to shorten his huge right-angle front by building an impregnable short base—the sea to the Meuse—and any troops he bluffingly proclaims to bring from Russia are immediately engaged in building that impregnable base—20, 30 or 50 miles behind his present rectangular salient, which now extends from the sea to St. Quentin, from St. Quentin to Verdun. He rightly considers that the mechanics of modern infantry attack, even supported next spring by a million American bayonets, are futile against the mechanics of modern machine-gun defence. In a word, he has before him three months of winter on the Western front, and the writer is of opinion that he will elect not to attack, but to dig—and suddenly retire to his Euclidian fortified base, against which the heroism of France, Britain, and America is expected to dash itself in vain. As regards the "invasion of England," that also he cannot manage until the German Admiralty gives him invulnerable floating forts which can beach and continue their inland barrage while they are landing men and all the paraphernalia of modern war, and destroying the forts on shore. After all, it is perhaps not odd that a military critic should suggest a German invasion of England, and not a British invasion of Germany. The German coast is there, however; forty miles of it is only forty miles from Kent.

The present writer, therefore, assumes that the enemy cannot attempt in 1918 any serious invasion of the British Isles; that he cannot break through on the Western front; and that he has at his disposal 1,200,000 "new" men. If it should suit his purpose he can, with an hour's ultimatum, supported by 500 airplanes, "eat Holland for breakfast." Switzerland, on the other hand, is a buttress for him as well as a buttress for France, and does not present the defenceless character of Holland. But the strategic prize of Venice, Milan, Genoa, all Northern Italy, would seem to tempt the most satiated of hogs or Huns, diverting at the same time, in its defence, British, French, and American man-power. To Italy the writer allots 500,000 of Hindenburg's "new" men. She is the strategic front in Europe.

The strategic front in Asia is now pivoted on Baghdad, and the following questions will not be hard to answer. With at least 300,000 men able to be spared for the Near East, will the German High Command sit down under the loss of Palestine and Mesopotamia? Will it lose the excellent opportunity, given by Russian disintegration, to drive into Persia, into the Caucasus, and into Turkestan? Is the dream of Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad-Busreh-Bombay, to which may now be added the loop-line Byzantium-Bokhara, likely to influence German strategy less in 1918 than in 1913? Why not, then, for Germany the defensive in the West, and the offensive, military *and* political, in the South-East?

The writer estimates that the Turkish Army is distributed as follows:—To oppose Allenby, 90,000, or six divisions; to oppose Marshall, 90,000; Erzerum-Van, 90,000; Europe and Anatolia, 180,000. If Germany should elect to throw now only five German divisions against each of the first two British fronts, and deploy another five to round up Russian Armenia and Northern Persia, she would be sparing only 225,000 of her 1,200,000 "new" men, and be mightily stiffening and tightening her grip on Turkey. The reconquest of Baghdad and Jerusalem is so obvious a desire of the Hunnish heart, the Russian débâcle so absolute, that there is only one answer to it. It is this. This war was always an Anglo-German war; it is still so in 1918; its strategic land-frontier has shifted to, or still is, the Near and Middle East; and if we do not advance west and north from our positions there we must at least stand unshakable as a rock.

A great effort is necessary for Germany, owing to limited railroad facilities in Asiatic Turkey, if she wishes to utilise the next few months of favourable winter weather; but of her present activity at Aleppo there can be no manner of doubt. On the other hand, although it is a long way from San Francisco and Melbourne to Busreh and Suez, no submarines as yet infect the Indian Ocean.

There is, finally, that other great bastion of our far-flung cordon, the Vallona, Monastir, Doiran, Salonika grip, to tempt the enemy. The recapture, for that is what it would spell, of Albania and Epirus, Thessaly and Salonika would do more than redeem a puffed-up War-Lord's pledge to a dethroned sister. It would shake the enemy free of an ever-present menace against Constantinople and his plans for the conquest of the Black Sea; and, thanks to his submarine arm, would practically close up the Eastern Mediterranean, driving us ever more to seek victory in the West alone. More than ever, it seems to the writer, is the capture of Constantinople, with all it entails, a necessity for an Allied victory.

There is, however, one over-ruling element of war to-day discounting the Russian betrayal, and calling caution to the enemy. We see now, even as when Russia was our sworn Ally, five mechanical nations in battle against two: Japan, the British Empire, Italy, France, and the United States arrayed against Germany and Austria. As, after man-power, this war is nothing but a mechanics' war, and as the typical embodiment of modern mechanical genius is man's mastery of the air, so the Central Powers may lay many plans of imperial aggrandisement, but the Nemesis from the air overshadows all. Stand we but firm and prescient!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Past Year.

The year 1917 has been one of contentment and tranquillity, for which Cyprus should be profoundly thankful. Large numbers of the people have continued to enjoy the benefits which the war has brought, as stated in the High Commissioner's report for the past financial year. Cypriots have seen and heard many strange things undreamed of in their philosophy. The news respecting the campaign in Palestine causes intense excitement throughout the island. There is hardly a village that does not send its pilgrims to the Holy Places in normal times. The Greek papers are looked for with avidity in every locality, Greek or Turkish.

The Carob Tree.

The letters of G. L. H. in THE NEAR EAST regarding the carob tree have aroused considerable discussion in urban centres. There are but few district tree owners who give serious attention to the formidable disease which is attacking so many trees. In other "colonies," e.g., in South Africa, as in Egypt, on the first appearance of any disease or trouble, for instance, in cotton, or any important field of agriculture, experts are at once sent to investigate, and the evil is dealt with by a trained staff. This cannot, of course, be expected in Cyprus, where the Agricultural Department is by no means adequately equipped. But it is felt that some valuable time has been lost. The Government reports state that the treatment prescribed by law has been in the main carried out with good results in the Kyrenia district, which is the area declared to be affected. G. L. H. holds that a remedy "can only be obtained if the Government take the matter in hand themselves, instead of vainly trying to induce peasants to do what they are disinclined to do." It would not at any rate be fair to blame the Agricultural Department, which is probably not provided with funds to carry out this and many other useful things which it would like to undertake. Examples could be easily given to show that various modest proposals of successive Directors have met with a prompt veto from those who hold the purse strings. A very substantial sum could undoubtedly now be applied from the available surplus to check any serious pest, especially now that the plague of locusts has been so successfully reduced. G. L. H. has, at all events, suggested one practical step, viz., the creation of an experimental carob orchard, which could easily be carried out at moderate cost, and should lead to good results. If the situation is rightly understood, the carob disease is already a very serious menace to one of the principal industries of Cyprus. The Agricultural Department deserves full credit for doing what it could so far, on the data hitherto available, and in fighting its own battles. Meanwhile there is a strong difference of opinion as to what course should be followed. G. L. H. considers it "doubtful whether all is yet known about the disease and its proper treatment." It will be interesting to see at what conclusions the collective wisdom of the Legislative Council arrives. It is to be hoped that whatever method of procedure is ultimately settled will be made compulsory in all carob areas; otherwise there is little chance of its becoming general, in view of the prevailing ignorance and apathy on which annual reports still comment. That, at least, is the experience of those who have dealt much with Cypriot agriculturists. The peasants think that the Government should destroy all pests, or pay for the work, as in the case of locusts. The Director of Agriculture, by the way, reports that a new insect has made its appearance, which causes the same kind of damage as the one under discussion.

Public Education.

One of the signs of renewed prosperity mentioned in the report, is that more pupils attend the schools. The praiseworthy efforts of the Government to include elementary lessons in agriculture in the schooling are continued, and it would be wise policy to do even more in this direction. Village boys take naturally to all kinds of farm work; they are very keen to learn useful things, and would be proud to know more of agriculture. Many boys should be able to proceed to serve an apprenticeship to higher agricultural training. It would be a great pity if there were any increased tendency to take boys to town shops and offices. In late annual reports a picture was drawn of many youths who became too fine gentlemen to take up practical farm industry and the like, and who idled about in cafés, etc., while their parents worked. One was reminded of Greece, where much education flooded the market with hosts of candidates for clerkships, etc., very many of whom could not find such employment as they desired. There is, perhaps, no fear at present of this in Cyprus; but it is to be hoped that the growing prosperity of villagers will not tend to interfere with the employment of all the boys that will be required on farm work, in which their future should lie.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Perhaps because he must so often have his tongue in it, Talaat Pasha's cheek is indeed remarkable. His recent remarks about the "favour" always shown by the Turkish Government to the Jews are, I admit, not nearly so wide of the mark as many of the statements he has seen fit to make since Turkey joined in the war; for, as a matter of fact, Turkey has usually treated the Jews rather well. Readers of the THE NEAR EAST are familiar with the history of the *Deunmehs;* and we all know what a large part the Salonika Jews played in the Turkish Revolution in its early days. But to suggest gravely that just as we entered Jerusalem the Turkish Parliament had been about to consider a Bill granting a kind of Home Rule to Palestine required magnificent impudence at the present moment. To me the most amazing part of the business is that Talaat should have thought for one moment—as he presumably did!—that such a statement would carry any weight at all with a clever people like the Jews. Such a move might succeed with the simple Anatolian, but with the Jew—!

⁂

But Talaat is not alone in his strange belief that the Jew can be caught in a snare that is set in his sight, so to say. Baron von dem Bussche, the German Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been working—or endeavouring to work—the same idea for all it is worth. He has been telling some distinguished callers how he and his friends welcome the statements of the Grand Vizier, and how Jewish aspirations meet with the "full sympathy" of Germany, under certain conditions. Germany, indeed, is ready to give her "benevolent support" to efforts in this direction, under the afore-mentioned conditions. The conditions, of course, are typical of Berlin. Upon the whole, I am inclined to think, the Baron's support of the Grand Vizier might well have been more effective. And, from the Turco-German point of view, that is deplorable. A good wine may need no bush, but Talaat's very thin stuff required all the help that Bussche could give it, if it was to have any chance of intoxicating those for whose benefit it was uncorked.

⁂

But the twaddle of Talaat and the bosh of Bussche is quite eclipsed by the brazen effrontery of Javid Bey, who is credited with saying: "It will be one of the first peace tasks of the Turkish Government to find ways and means of making the Armenians forget the sufferings of the war." In the past the Turk has done wonders in making some nations forget—or seem to forget—many things, but not Abdul Hamid himself could work the miracle of which Javid talks so glibly. The only way of making the Armenians "forget" what they have suffered at the hands of the Turco-Germans would be to complete the ghastly work of which the Young Turks seemed so proud a little while ago. Just as the Jews will take Talaat's fair promises at their real worth, so will the Armenians take Javid's.

⁂

Against the fine talk of the two Turks and the Prussian we may set certain facts regarding Turkish conduct in Palestine that are set out by the National War Aims Committee. The arrest of the Latin Patriarch, the deportation of the Armenian and Greek Patriarchs, and the wholesale execution of Arab notables, all bear witness to the "benevolence" of the Turco-German allies. No wonder that the Sheikh in charge of the beautiful Dome of the Rock should have praised God when the British entered the city. Let us hope that his satisfied expression, "All our sufferings are now at an end," will prove truly prophetic. At least, we have made an excellent beginning. I hope the fanatics will not receive too much attention from the authorities.

⁂

Although happily belated, I must be allowed to add my voice to the chorus of protest against the proposal to "take over" the British Museum for any purpose whatever except that for which it is now used? I am not a bloodthirsty individual, but it seems to me that whoever is responsible for the proposal really does merit some ultra-horrible fate. "Something with boiling oil in it" would be far too mild; and I suggest that inquiries should be set on foot in the internment camps to ascertain whether any Hunnish Professor of Frightfulness can be found to deal adequately with the criminal. Seriously, it seems to me that the difficulties of carrying out the proposal can never have been properly estimated. I happen to have packed and unpacked a very fair number of Egyptian and Babylonian antiquities in my time—one of the statues in the B.M. itself travelled to England wrapped in old suits of mine!—and I have, therefore, some idea of the labour involved in the process. Of the care that is necessary in handling—let alone in moving—antiques of the more delicate kind, it would be impossible to convey any correct idea to those who have not done the work or seen it done. But I am tolerably safe in saying that the Museum could not be cleared, as it should be cleared, in less than a year, under the most favourable conditions. With things as they are, I am sure it could not be done before the coming of peace—and I am not exactly optimistic about that event either! No; the proposal to use the B.M. for the Air Service is just about as ill-considered as it could be; and it seems to show that someone has lost his (or her) head pretty badly.

⁂

In describing Colonel Borton Pasha's appointment to the post of Military Governor of Jerusalem as a particularly happy one, I expressed surprise that it should have been possible to spare him from the Egyptian Administration for any length of time. Some such consideration, it must be supposed, has helped to curtail his tenure of the office, as well as the plea of health, officially given. His place at the head of the Post Office devolved upon his "No. 2," who is, from all accounts, an admirable official. His name, however, was held to be against him, and no small commotion arose in certain circles when Borton Pasha refused to allow him to be penalised in the Egyptian Government's service on account of his Austrian origin. Certainly, there will be considerable satisfaction in Egypt, if only on personal grounds, that Borton Pasha should return to take up his work again as Postmaster-General. The new Military Governor of Jerusalem, Mr. Ronald Storrs, is also a well-known figure in Egyptian public life. He became Oriental Secretary to the British Agency in 1909, and his attainments have long since marked him out for a brilliant career.

⁂

The question has been raised as to the interpretation to be placed on Mr. Lloyd George's use of the expression "homelands of the Turks." Some people have sought to see in the word a strictly historical application; but I fear we must just put it down to the Prime Minister's desire, not unknown to "journalese," to introduce the picturesque touch. The real homeland of the Turks is presumably Central Asia, the country of their origin. The territory where they form at this moment the majority of the population is Anatolia, or that part of Asia Minor lying between the coast region of the Mediterranean and the six Armenian vilayets. They have certainly not been normally in a majority in Constantinople, nor in any of the part of Europe they now occupy, with the exception of the Chatalja district. I cannot help thinking that any Government in the Turkey that is to be, having the interests of its people at heart and being of a progressive turn of mind, will find it an embarrassing anomaly to have its capital, as it were, on an island in a remote corner of its wide dominions. For that will be the position of Constantinople *vis-à-vis* Anatolia. Of course, "face," or prestige, must be taken into consideration. But it would be of splendid augury for the future of the country if a man were to arise far-sighted and bold enough to say that, if the Turks are to be limited to such a narrow strip of Europe as the land east of Chatalja, they will withdraw altogether, set up a new capital at Brussa or elsewhere, and have a compact stretch of territory, unbroken by an internationalised or neutralised portion.

CORSAIR.

On January 14 Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, the well-known authority on the geography of Palestine, will lecture before the Royal Geographical Society, at 8.30 p.m., on "The Jordan Valley and its Lakes." Dr. Masterman is also giving University Extension lectures for the University of London. Beginning on January 9, he will give ten lectures on succeeding Wednesdays, at 5.15 p.m., on "The Historical Geography and Archæology of Palestine" at the Tottenham Polytechnic. He is also giving a course of six lectures on Tuesday afternoons, at 3 p.m., at the Jehangier Hall, London University. This course begins on February 5 and lasts until March 12.

The following letter, dated Buckingham Palace, December 17, has been sent by Lord Cromer to Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., Secretary-General of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England:—"I am commanded by the King, Sovereign Head of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in England, to request you to convey to the Chapter-General of the Order an expression of his Majesty's thanks and appreciation of the resolution passed on December 14, 1917, expressing the loyal felicitations of the Order upon the capture by his Majesty's armed forces of the city of Jerusalem, without injury to any of the Holy Places. The King joins with his people throughout the British Empire in welcoming the joyous tidings of this memorable feat of British arms."

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Russia and Persia.

Viscount BRYCE asked the Under-Secretary for India whether the Imperial Russian Government made proposals to his Majesty's Government in 1915 to include within the Russian zone in Persia a wedge of territory lying between the Russian and Afghan frontiers; whether the Russian Government raised at the same time the question of solving certain problems in the districts of Northern Afghanistan adjoining Russian territory; what was the nature of those problems; and whether the integrity of the Amir's territories was in any way affected.

Lord ISLINGTON: I am glad of the opportunity afforded me to make a brief statement, which will enable me to allay and to remove any misunderstanding that may have arisen from the publication of the papers alluded to in the question. I may explain that a memorandum addressed to his Majesty's Government by the Russian Ambassador on March 22, 1915, in connection with the ultimate terms of peace, suggested, among other matters, that the Russian zone in Persia—that is, the sphere defined in Article 1 of the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, in which, as noble lords will remember, the predominance of Russian interests was recognised—should be slightly readjusted so as to transfer from the neutral to the Russian zone a small area in the neighbourhood of the Russian and Afghan frontiers. This proposal, had it been carried out, would not have affected Afghan territorial interests. But, in fact, his Majesty's Government never found occasion to reply to the Russian memorandum, nor were the proposals contained in it discussed between the two Governments. An opportunity was subsequently taken in the course of correspondence with the Amir of Afghanistan to give him a formal assurance that no proposal affecting the interests of his country would be made or agreed to at the Peace Conference. To that undertaking his Majesty's Government have always adhered, and intend to adhere. This memorandum of the Russian Government also suggested a settlement of certain proposals for improving the irrigation of Russian territory adjoining Afghanistan, which had been made by the Russian Government before the war. These proposals never came to a head, and could not have been carried into effect without the Amir's consent. No proposal affecting the territorial integrity of Afghanistan has been made either in the memorandum or elsewhere.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF PALESTINE.

Speaking on January 8 at the London County School of Building, Clapham, Professor Beresford Pite said that the ancient Hebrews had no native architecture. Egyptian traces could be found, and the architect of Solomon's Temple was Hiram of Tyre—a Phœnician. The builders of the New Testament era were wholly Roman. Herod the Great was a great builder, but the cities he built through Palestine were Roman cities. With the advent of Christianity the Roman character of the architecture became modified to some extent, and from the time of the founding of Constantinople the architecture of Palestine must be considered Christian. It was then that great churches began to be erected upon Scriptural sites, such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the building known as the Dome of the Rock. The rule of the Eastern Empire ceased in the sixth century, and from that period onward there was a magnificent era of Arab art. This art was erratic and predatory. It would take buildings, pull them down, and rebuild them. It had a few particular forms, such as the dome and pointed arch, but these arches were most commonly built of stones taken from other buildings and adapted This period had continued through the Middle Ages down to our own day, but there was a great break in it due to the Crusades. Wherever the Crusader went he built a stone castle and church, and it was one of the surprises of Palestine to-day to find on top of the Arab art the most glorious exposition of English and French Gothic. The 125 years of Christian rule had produced churches charming beyond words to architects trained in the traditions of the West. The upper part and the embattlements of the walls of Jerusalem represented English art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Of modern Jerusalem, the lecturer said that twenty-five years ago the city was beginning to grow outside its walls, and suburbs of modern buildings were springing up; while within the city European Governments and churches were building hospices—i.e., monastic establishments—in which pilgrims were received. Consequently, in Jerusalem to-day we got a conspectus of English, French, Russian, and German buildings, the architect in every case being imported.

The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. One of these showed the lower part of the city wall This dated back to the time of Solomon, and it could be seen that the huge stones of which it was composed were from 11 to 15 ft. in length. Another slide showed the so-called tomb of Absalom—really the remnant of a fine Crusading church, over which a Moslem dome had been put, and in the courtyard a minaret. The Mosque of Omar (or Dome of the Rock) was also shown. The lecturer said it probably occupied the site of the High Altar in front of the Temple of Solomon. It was an octagon building, supporting a drum built round the rock, the whole building being crowned by a modern dome of iron covered with lead

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ARMY OF ALL THE TALENTS.*

With the Censor looking over his shoulder, and the Chiefs of Staff of the German, Austrian, Bulgarian and Turkish armies looking over the Censor's, Mr. Ward Price manages to give us here a fascinating bird's-eye view of the doings of the Army of All the Talents, and leaves us still peering wistfully into the Balkan mist, greedily anxious to hang somebody, but certainly not Mr. Ward Price or his hero, General Sarrail. Nor is the outstanding villain of this tragi-comedy Tino, though he is black enough; the Allied Councils that tolerated him so long, and the submarine that we will not tolerate, appear as the real criminals. As the author is the official correspondent of the Salonika campaign, and throughout the volume preaches patience, we note his remark that a single torpedo sinking a ship that carries a cargo of "spare parts" can hold up the operations of an army when it is separated by long sea distances from the home workshops of the Allies. Such is the position at Salonika, and in a less degree, thanks to immunity from the submarine in the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, the position of our Palestine and Mesopotamia armies, by whom everything mechanical must be imported. The M.T. and the A.S.C., the railroad chief and the road-builder, stand out in this graphic story as the master scene-shifters, without whose tireless and often thankless labours the play could not proceed.

Mr. Ward Price takes the reader so surely by the hand over the whole ground from Lake Prespa in the West to the Struma River and Seres in the East, that through his skilful pen you feel yourself an eye-witness of each struggle, victory, failure, or impasse; he shows you the British, French, Italian, Russian and Serbian forces advancing, retiring, fighting or entrenching, but ever cursing the almost invincible mud and the nearly invincible fly. Intentionally, we may suppose, he leaves the impression that grander troops were never collected, and that none ever had so good a right to profanity of language. Self-sacrifice of this and that unit comes to all in turn for tactical or strategic purposes of the day or moment, and if it is an army of all the talents, it is certainly one of all the valours. In this kaleidoscopic medley of uniform and race, the 100,000 Serbians ("all that was left of them") recapturing their beloved Monastir from the jaws of the Hun and the Bulgar are rightly given pride of place.

What is to be the end of it all? What is the next move? One of these questions the author partly answers in his narrative of the last two years—"nothing doing" on either side in a Balkan winter! In fact, salaaming to the high gods who sit at Versailles, he ventures on no other message to this great expeditionary force than might be summed up in the words: Sit tight, hang on, and hope—the enemy hates to see you there. Incidentally he pays a tribute to Bulgarian chivalry towards our stretcher-bearers.

There is one fault in the book, and a bad one: the illustrations are meagre and the maps irritatingly inadequate; but even so the author has made a valuable contribution to current war-news reading, and has let out some facts that have hitherto been veiled. What the Censor has not allowed him to say we now very much want to know.

THE CHURCH IN THE FURNACE.†

This book is a collection of seventeen essays written by a number of the most able of the present-day Anglican clergy, from actual experience gained more especially under the strain and in the danger of war. It is full of the deepest interest for all thoughtful minds, is relieved by touches of humour, and never loses its great object of awakening activity in all who have the welfare of mankind at heart. It goes further to answer the vexed question "What's wrong with the Church?" than any book yet published on present-day religious needs. It is refreshing, sincere, and thoughtful. The writers' chief merits lie in an honest endeavour to get away from stereotyped formalities and respectable antiquity. The book is full of startling suggestions for more modern methods and more thorough adaptation to the needs of the present day. It states that, unless the Church at home is preparing for drastic changes in the light of the great weight of opinion gathered together from all ranks of the armies abroad, she will lose her hold on the nation perhaps for ever.

The authors show that this is the hour of trial in the furnace of reality, but also the hour of opportunity. It is a sign of great hopefulness for the future to note with what boldness they would face the issue. The underlying note of anxiety is clearly shown by the undoubted call to the Church at home to be alive to what has come, and to be preparing at once for the changes that must be wrought, if the Church is to come forth purified from the furnace. The book is an excellent collection of valuable and most readable essays for both laity and clergy alike.

EGYPTIAN COLLOQUIAL ARABIC.*

There should be considerable demand for a book of this sort just now. The author has had so much experience in teaching the subject that he has quite unusual claims to publish such a work. As he points out, the final form here put forward is the result of considerable experience in actual teaching and continually revised methods. The orthography is, in the main, based on the international phonetic alphabet, but with some curious and original modifications. It is not intended for, and could be of little or no use for, self-instruction, but in the hands of a trained native Arabic teacher it should form the basis of a most useful course. As in the Berlitz and other modern systems, the grammar is learnt here by use in conversation. The book is quite the best thing of its kind.

A NEW MAP OF PALESTINE.

Those wishing to follow the military operations in Palestine cannot do better than purchase a copy of the new Map of Palestine just issued to the public—by permission of the War Office—by the Palestine Exploration Fund. It contains the whole of Western Palestine on the scale of three-eighths of an inch to the mile; all the names are in their modern Arabic form, historic and Biblical names being omitted for the sake of clearness. The whole advance from Wady el Ghuzzeh northwards can be followed on this map, scarcely any name figuring in the official despatches being absent. Unmounted the map costs 7s. 6d. It may be had mounted on linen with rollers for hanging up or made to fold up in book form with a stiff cloth cover—either style 15s. Applications for copies may be made to the Secretary, Palestine Exploration Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., where samples of the various styles may be seen.

ANNUALS.

The British Engineers' Association (32, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1) has issued its *Official Directory* of members for 1917. Its wide membership makes a publication of this nature a valuable book of reference. In addition to an alphabetical list of firms there is a classified list of manufactures, with the names of the firms supplying the different articles. The book is written in three languages, English, French, and Russian. Applications for copies (5s. each) are invited from consulting and managing engineers, municipal engineers, and all important users of engineering plant and materials.

The International Mercantile Diary and Year Book for 1918, issued by "Syren and Shipping," is a volume full of useful information of all sorts, financial, statistical, and commercial. The money tables and ready-reckoner are wonderfully complete, and at the end of the Diary there is in a small compass an encyclopædia of information of the chief countries of the world.

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* "The Story of the Salonika Army." By G. Ward Price. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

† "The Church in the Furnace." Edited by F. B. McNutt S.C.F., Canon of Southwark. (Messrs. Macmillan and Co. 5s. net.)

* "Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: A Conversational Grammar." By W. H. Gairdner. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.). 12s. 6d. net.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1917.		1336.	5678.
January	December		Rabia I.	Tebet
11	29	Friday	28	27
12	30	Saturday........	29	28
13	31	**Sunday**	30	29
	January.		Rabia II.	Shebat.
14	1	Monday	1	1
15	2	Tuesday	2	2
16	3	Wednesday	3	3
17	4	Thursday	4	4

The Persian Minister called at the Foreign Office on January 4.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, has left Corfu for Salonika.

The Y.M.C.A. now occupies what was formerly the German Consulate in Jaffa.

The Roumanian Minister was among the diplomatic callers at the Foreign Office on January 3.

The French Ambassador was visited by the Serbian Minister at the Embassy on January 9.

The collections in Bombay in connection with the "Our Day" celebrations amounted to Rs.7½ lakhs.

Dr. Stijkovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Board of Agriculture, left London on January 4 for Paris.

The Earl and Countess of Yarborough have returned to Brocklesby Park, their residence in Lincolnshire.

The Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch entertained the personnel of the Legation at luncheon on January 7.

The announcement is made of the birth of a son to Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

Mr. Albert Porral, C.M.G., I.S.O., Russian Consul at Gibraltar, died on January 7, aged seventy-one.

Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, arrived on January 4 in Berlin, where he had an interview with the Imperial Chancellor.

More than 400 officers have been dismissed from the Greek Army and removed from Athens as opposed to the present régime.

Javid Bey, Turkish Finance Minister, is reported to have said in Vienna that he was going to Berlin to get a new loan from the German Government.

Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., has been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French authorities for his work as a seaplane observer while attached to the Division de Syrie.

A thanksgiving service has been held in the Anglican Church in Athens to celebrate the liberation of Jerusalem. The congregation included the King of the Hellenes and Cabinet Ministers.

M. Venizelos, who returned to Athens on January 2, had a long audience of the King of the Hellenes on January 4, and gave an account to his Majesty of the result of his visit to the Allied countries.

An agitation has been set on foot throughout South Africa by Asiatic subjects against the new railway regulations, which allow them to travel only by certain routes except with special permission.

The King of Roumania has conferred the Order of Commander of the Crown of Roumania with Swords on Major Ernest Goldschmidt, who was assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London.

All priests and members of religious orders who had returned from the Holy Land have been ordered by the Holy See to return thither immediately, as it is now perfectly safe there under British occupation .

In celebration of the taking of Jerusalem the ladies of the Allied colonies in Seville are giving dinners to 100 women and children in the soup kitchens of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul in the poor quarter.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Basil Drewe, M.C., R.G.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Drewe, Wadhurst Hall, Sussex, and Drewsteignton, Devon, and Ruth, only daughter of the late Frank Haselden and Mrs. Haselden, Alexandria, Egypt, and Ticehurst, Sussex.

Mr. Montagu, accompanied by Lord and Lady Willingdon, left Bombay on January 2 for Gwalior, while the Viceroy left for Delhi, says Reuter's Bombay correspondent.

Lieut.-General H.H. Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh had the honour of being received by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on January 9, when the King invested him with the Insignia of the G.C.B.

In connection with the Y.M.C.A.'s appeals to the trades and industries, the Kent millers have undertaken to raise £1,000 for a Y.M.C.A. hut in Jerusalem. Most of the money has already been subscribed.

Captain Rodocanachi, Miss Rodocanachi, and Miss Helen Rodocanachi have left 58, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, and have taken The Hill, Broadway, Worcestershire, to which address all communications should be sent.

According to the *Vossische Zeitung*, news has been received from Vienna that the Emperor Charles will visit the Turkish capital, on the invitation of the Sultan, very shortly. The visit is said to have exceptional political importance.

A Constantinople telegram states that the philosophical faculty there has proposed Lenin for a Nobel peace prize as the representative of the Russian people, "which announces to the world the ideal of peace, harmony, justice, and fraternity so dear to the Turkish people."

The Times Athens correspondent states that Lukas Roufos, who was Governor-General of Crete after the first Balkan war and formerly a prominent partisan of M. Venizelos, but who went over to the Royalist faction in 1915, was arrested by order of a Court-martial on December 31.

In an interview with the *Vossische Zeitung* the Turkish Heir to the Throne said:—"We demand territorial integrity and the religious freedom of our Khalifate. We also demand complete liberty for our economic development and a guarantee for the safety of our national religions and *Kultur.*"

The Indian National Congress ended with a unanimous resolution urging the necessity of a Parliamentary statute to introduce full responsible government within a certain time limit, the National Congress and Moslem League's scheme meanwhile to operate as an instalment.

Sunday, January 6, was observed throughout Egypt as a day of prayer and thanksgiving, services being held in all the Western and Eastern churches. At the service in the morning at All Saints' Church, Cairo, the Bishop of Jerusalem officiated, and the High Commissioner and his staff were present.

January 7 was Christmas Day according to the Greek and Russian calendars, and special services were held in London at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, where the service was conducted by the Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, and also at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street, where the Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, Priest to the Russian Embassy, officiated.

Mails for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force containing letters and newspapers, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between midnight on November 30 (newspapers 3.30 p.m., November 28) and 7.30 p.m. on December 5, have been lost at sea through enemy action. There were no parcels in the lost mails.

M. Venizelos has informed the Rome correspondent of *Hestia* that he has obtained from the Allies everything he asked for on behalf of Greece, both foodstuffs and financial aid. "We shall lack nothing in the future," he said, "and prices will be forced down to a reasonable level by the sternest measures against profiteers, whose shameful conduct is tantamount to high treason, and against whom I am inclined not to exclude the death penalty."

Borton Pasha, Postmaster-General of Egypt, who was appointed Governor of Jerusalem on the surrender of the city to General Allenby on December 9, has been prevented by ill-health from retaining the post of Governor. Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., has been appointed Governor of Jerusalem, with the rank of Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel, in succession to Borton Pasha. Mr. Ronald Storrs entered the Egyptian Civil Service in 1904, and five years later was appointed acting Oriental Secretary to the British Agency, Cairo.

A Requiem Mass for M. Bora Nicolaievitch, artillery sergeant-major in the Serbian Army, son of Colonel J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, who died in France on December 27, was celebrated at the Russian Chapel, Welbeck Street. on Saturday morning, in the presence of a large congregation. The principal mourners were Colonel J. Nicolaievitch, Mlle. Vouka Nicolaievitch, Mlle. Zora Nicolaievitch, Mlle. Olga Nicolaievitch, and M. Alexander Nicolaievitch; while others present included the Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch, the Roumanian Minister, Mme. Misu and Mlle. Misu, and General Vicomte de la Panouse, Military Attaché to the French Embassy.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The list of appointments to the Order of the British Empire, issued this week, contained a number of names of Near Eastern and Indian interest. General Sir Francis Wingate, High Commissioned for Egypt, is appointed a G.B.E., while Major-General Stack, Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, receives the honour of K.B.E.

The Indian honours include as Commanders Jeanie Lady Meston, head of the branch of the Red Cross in Allahabad; Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Popham Young, C.I.E., Indian Army, Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division, Punjab; Sir Robert Swan Highet, Agent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta; Nawab Sir Faridoon Daula Bahadur, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Assistant Political Minister to his Highness the Nizam's Government; Montague de Pomeroy Webb, C.I.E., Manager, Forbes, Forbes, Campbell and Co., Karachi, Bombay Presidency; the Egyptian and Sudan honours, Mr. Ernest Macleod Dowson, Director-General of Survey Department; Mr. Cecil Gordon Crawley, Mr. Wasey Sterry, Chief Justice in the Sudan; and Mr. George Eustace Burnett-Stuart.

Egypt and the Sudan between them have twelve appointments to the Fourth Class of the Order, the recipients being:—Mr. Arthur Thomas Lloyd, War Trade Department; Mr. James Francis Gordon Hopkins, Chief Inspector, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Arthur Ferguson MacAllan, F.R.C.S., Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals; Mr. Albert William Hazel, Inspector of Interior; Mr. Edward Harry Grogan, Chief Inspector of Marine, Ports, and Lights Administration; Mr. Lindsay Edward Bury, Inspector of Irrigation; Mr. Frank Pears Watson, Inspector of State Buildings, Department of Public Works; Mr. Harold Preece Hewins, Secretary of Sudan Economic Board; Mr. George Ehret Iles, Governor of Blue Nile Province; Mr. Clement Gaukroger Hodgson, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Sudan Railways; Mr. William Crothers Hornblower, Organiser of the Refugee Camps at Alexandria and Port Said; and Mr. Norman Macnaghten, Inspector, Ministry of Interior.

Finally, among the Members of the Order are the following:—Mr. Edward Oliver Heywood Fulford, Works Manager, Blue Nile Irrigation; Mr. John Ball, D.Sc., Chief Inspector of Geological Survey; Mr. John McIntosh, Works Manager, Locomotive Shops, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. George Douglas, Superintendent, Photographic Office, Survey Department; Mr. Burton Pearson, Divisional Traffic Superintendent, Egyptian State Railways; Mr. George Burnett Middleton, Mechanical Service, Public Works Department; Mr. Henry Wilfrid Skelly, Works Manager, Government Press; Mr. Percy Weaver, Assistant Divisional Traffic Superintendent; Mr. Herbert Mason, Inspector in Vet. Service of Minister of Agriculture; Miss Pye Moore, Nursing Sister, Khartoum Civilian Hospital; Mr. George Boxall, Dockyard Engineer, Port Sudan; Mr. Allen Calder, Potts, Works Manager, Sudan Steamers Department; and Mr. Sydney Dennett, Superintending Engineer, Sudan Posts and Telegraphs Department.

◆

OBITUARY.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT BAKER.

Lieutenant Cyril Percival Baker, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, who is now reported to have died of wounds on the Doiran front on May 8-9, 1917, in his twenty-ninth year, was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Baker, of Ivydene, Bexley, Kent, and was educated at Mr. Kilby's, Blackheath, and Wellington College, where he was a scholar and sergeant in the O.T.C. Destined for commerce, he entered the London branch of a large corporation of Oriental carpet manufacturers, and in due course resided for a time at the company's agencies in Turkey, India, Kashmir, and Persia. At the outbreak of the war he was in charge of the agency at Meshed, and, coming home, was gazetted to the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in November, 1914, and left for the front in September, 1915. He was slightly wounded in August, 1916, but remained with his battalion, serving with them continuously during the whole period they were at the front.

In the action on the night of May 8-9, 1917, on the Doiran front, Macedonia, his company having successfully gained their objective on the second line of enemy trenches, he was returning for reinforcements, when a trench mortar bomb exploding wounded him in the body. He called to his men to tell a fellow-officer to carry on, as he was "knocked out." Taken to a shell-hole, he refused to allow his men to dress his wounds, saying that every man was wanted in the firing line, and ordering them back again. It would appear that the counter-attacks of the enemy compelled a withdrawal of our troops, and with it the impossibility to recover many of the wounded, and, although inquiries have been instituted through friendly Bulgarians, no trace of Lieutenant Baker has been forthcoming.

A fellow-officer, in writing of the action, says:—"He was perfectly splendid on the top before he was hit, and whenever I saw him he was quite cool and calm, and seemed quite pleased with life, though it was absolutely hell up there. He set a most splendid example to everyone. The thing I remember most vividly is this: there was a wretched old Bulgar, who lay in front of the trench and sniped us; Cyril shouted to me, 'Come on. I'll race you for him!' I believe I got there first, but missed him and fell into the trench, and Cyril must have done for him just behind me." Cyril Baker's death has removed a young life full of promise and usefulness. He had acquired a unique position in the industry with which he was associated, for no single person has hitherto been granted the opportunity of studying the technical features and peculiarities of so many districts in the Orient. Lieutenant Douglas Baker, R.E., a younger brother, died of wounds July, 1916, whilst three other brothers are serving in the Army and Navy.

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WAR AIMS AND PEACE TERMS.

War aims and peace conditions are not necessarily synonymous terms. There exists, however, a common tendency to confuse the two, and although the British Prime Minister and the Cabinet for which he spoke on January 5 may be credited with keeping the distinction clear in their own minds, it is by no means as certain that all those who heard or have read the speech have done so as well. At one point, indeed Mr. Lloyd George's words may have contributed to some confusion of thought; for, after enumerating the discussions which had preceded his declaration, he stated that "although the Government are alone responsible for the actual language I propose using, there is national agreement as to the character and purpose of our war aims and peace conditions." From the unbroken chorus of approval which has greeted the utterance, which has even pacified the pacifist, it is evident that some people have jumped to the conclusion that an enunciation of war aims constitutes the formal text of terms of peace. There should be no room for misunderstanding on this point. By placing the two expressions in juxtaposition the Prime Minister can only have intended to suggest a distinction between them. His purpose was to state British or Allied war aims. "When men by the million are being called upon to suffer and die . . . . they are entitled to know for what cause or causes they are making the sacrifice." Clearly, in a war in which the interests involved are of so complex a character, it would be almost impossible, as well as rash, to attempt to memorize for the purposes of a public speech the terms that will embody the final and comprehensive settlement at the end of the war. (In a written message to Congress President Wilson has felt justified in giving a more definite form to America's war aims.) It was, we believe, far from Mr. Lloyd George's intention to attempt such a task, and the important statement that he made to the Trades Union delegates, and through them to the world, must be regarded as an unequivocal declaration of war aims. In some particulars, no doubt, the two will overlap. The crucial distinction, however, between them is well brought out, if we imagine for one moment the Prime Minister's speech as being the document on which alone it is open to Germany to declare the war at an end. The thing is, of course, unthinkable. No reference is made to the German Fleet; Prussian militarism would remain as aggressive as ever, and peace would be precisely that patched-up affair which the pacifist has been so anxious to bring about and which has been so roundly repudiated by the Allied Governments and the good sense of all the Allied nations.

As a statement of war aims the speech certainly carries the Allies beyond any point they had reached before. For this reason it is to be welcomed, for we have never wavered in the belief that the Allies have nothing to lose and probably much to gain by a clear avowal of the ends for which they are fighting. Indeed, we would go further, and would contemplate the publication of the actual conditions of peace that the Allies are resolved to enforce, in so far as those who still remain loyal to the Alliance are concerned. The situation, unfortunately, is complicated by the action of Russia, and part of the settlement in the Near and Middle East would have to be left undetermined. Thus there may be valid objections to a public recital of peace terms at this stage; but it has to be borne in mind that sooner or later those terms will have to stand the world's scrutiny, and will be judged on their merits, in the light of the principles for which the conflict has been waged. No small part of the strength of the Allies' position lies in the fact that they have been able at any time to lay their cards upon the table. Circumstances have combined hitherto to deter them from an enunciation of war aims other than in general terms; but now that a more definite exposition has been wrung from them as a result of events in Russia, it is at least open to argument—and the point was made a month ago by President Wilson—whether an earlier avowal would not have saved the powers that be in Petrograd from the fatal step which they would like to cancel on finding that their estimate of the honesty of their Allies and of that of the Central Powers has been sadly at fault. Much of the ground traversed by the British Prime Minister is familiar to all who have kept in touch with the utterances of the Allied statesmen. The paramount war aim remains the complete restoration, political, territorial, and economic, of the independence of Belgium, and such reparation as can be made for the devastation of its towns and provinces. "Next comes the restoration of Serbia, Montenegro, and the occupied parts of France, Italy, and Roumania. The complete withdrawal of the alien armies, and the reparation for injustice done, is a fundamental condition of permanent peace. . . . We regard as vital the satisfaction of the legitimate claims of the Italians for union with those of their own race and tongue. We also mean to press that justice be done to men of Roumanian blood and speech in their legitimate aspirations." Only in one particular did Mr. Lloyd George make any marked deviation from former official statements. He declared that the British are not fighting "to deprive Turkey of its capital or of the rich and renowned lands of Asia Minor and Thrace, which are predominantly Turkish in race." Further on he added: "While we do not challenge the maintenance of the Turkish Empire in the homelands of the Turkish race, with its capital at Constantinople—the passage between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea being internationalised and neutralised—Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine, are, in our judgment, entitled to a recognition of their separate national conditions. What the exact form of that recognition in each particular case should be need not here be discussed, beyond stating that it would be impossible to restore to their former sovereignty the territories to which I have already referred."

A year ago the Allies pledged themselves to "the setting free of the populations subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks, and the turning out of Europe of the Ottoman Empire as decidedly foreign to Western civilization." It is obvious from Mr. Lloyd George's statement that they have now receded from the position they took up in the reply to President Wilson's Note as far as the future of Constantinople is concerned. The reason was given by the Prime Minister in the following words: "I can only say that, as new circumstances, like the Russian collapse and the separate Russian negotiations, have changed the conditions under which these arrangements were made, we are, and always have been, perfectly ready to discuss them with our Allies." Even before the Bolsheviks carried the doctrine of "no annexations" to unrecognisable lengths, the first Provisional Government of Russia had abandoned the claim to Constantinople. There was still a chance that when the country settled down to more normal conditions other views would prevail; but the difficulties of finding a suitable substitute for a Russian occupation, and the professed determination of new Russia to discountenance the ejection of the Turks, would seem to have been held to leave the Allies no alternative to the abandonment of this item in their original war aims. Judgment on the wisdom of the step must be withheld until the arrangements to be made for the internationalisation of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus and for an effective wedge in the Central European *bloc* are known. We are inclined to believe that the interests of the Turks will be far better served if their future can be confined entirely to Asia Minor. A Turkish Government in Constantinople will always be under the temptation to cultivate a European policy instead of devoting itself exclusively to the well-being of its people in the sphere of material progress. But the statement has been made, and for the moment stands as an offer to Turkey. Here, again, it may be necessary to differentiate between war aims and peace terms. It is only when victory has been achieved that the war aims now enunciated will be able to be carried into application. Victory entails the defeat of Prussian militarism and of the militarist régime of the Committee of Union and Progress. Whether the autocratic constitution of Germany will survive that defeat remains to be seen. It is a question for the German people to decide; but they are likely to have a clearer appreciation of the position if they understand that, before war aims can be translated into peace terms, the military and commercial autocracy which now, in President Wilson's phrase, exercises its "impudent dominion" must give place to properly accredited representatives of the German nation. The same principle, we imagine, applies to Turkey.

PRISON PROBLEMS IN EGYPT.*

(*Concluded.*)

By COLES PASHA.

But to return to prison problems, I found that although by these prison labour camp expedients I had succeeded in relieving the overcrowding to a certain extent, still something more was required to stop the over-increasing number of committals to prison. Of course, as a Prison Official I was not really called on to initiate legislation in this respect, but it was clear that, if I did not, no one else would. The Ministry of Justice after some demur agreed to my proposals, and eventually Acts relating to "First Offenders," "Release on conditional liberty," and "Labour in lieu of imprisonment" were in turn passed.

I had hoped for great results from the First Offenders' Act, but the Ministry of Justice was very nervous that the power would be abused by the Egyptian Courts, and, I imagine, must have issued special instructions to the judges not to make any great use of the Act. At all events, it was practically a dead-letter, as not more than fifty persons were treated as first offenders in any one year whilst I remained in Egypt. Yet how many thousands are annually thus dealt with in England!

The police, too, strongly opposed release on conditional liberty as a danger to public security. It was, therefore, deemed advisable to make a provision that the Governors should be consulted before allowing any release, and also to allow the Administrative Authority the right to reincarcerate without a second conviction any released prisoners who broke the police supervision regulations. These qualifications of the English law made it very difficult for the Prisons Department, and constant appeals had to be made to the Minister of Interior to modify the Governors' decisions. Nevertheless, the Act was the means of releasing hundreds of prisoners annually, and helped considerably with the mark system to maintain discipline in the prisons. I find that in my last annual report I show that some 2,000 had been released in that particular year, and only nineteen of all who were on conditional liberty reincarcerated.

Labour in lieu of imprisonment is, I think, an experiment which has not been tried in any country other than Egypt, and I may, therefore, be allowed to explain more fully the working of the scheme. Anyone who has studied penology will tell you that a short term of imprisonment is the least satisfactory of any form of legal punishment that can be inflicted. Apart from the impossibility of finding any lucrative employment within prison walls for a prisoner sentenced to a short period of imprisonment and consequent greater expense to the State, the moral effect on the prisoners themselves is very bad. Even if association with more hardened offenders can be avoided, familiarity with prison surroundings tends to lessen the deterrent effect, and the "Black Maria" and prison cells are no longer dreaded as before. In fact, a short term of imprisonment in England is amongst certain classes now spoken of as a "wash and brush up."

In Egypt the population had for generations been accustomed to be called up for forced unpaid labour at certain seasons, and it struck me that this would be a much more satisfactory punishment for the minor offences than either fine or imprisonment. There were difficulties to adding "forced labour" as a punishment to those already provided by the penal code, but to allow an offender sentenced to fine, and unable to pay, to work off his debt to the State by labour in lieu of imprisonment was said to be less objectionable. A short Act was accordingly passed allowing a person sentenced to fine the option of labour in lieu, labour of six hours being equivalent to one day's imprisonment. The idea was that for the remaining eighteen hours the offender might still be able to earn a livelihood, if he felt so inclined. In practice the scheme has worked out quite as well as I expected, as in 1911 (my last report), out of the 15,166 who elected to work 13,985 completed their tasks, 629 failed to complete, and 552 failed to report themselves. The two latter classes were subsequently imprisoned, but 7 per cent. failure is not a large number, and 14,000 persons were kept out of prison.

In the cities the men are employed breaking stones, and in the country mending roads and filling up stagnant pools. I doubt if English offenders would be as amenable as Egyptians, but possibly the experiment might be tried, making use of the union workhouses as labour centres!

I have so far described the endeavours I made to keep the petty offenders out of prison, as the more I saw of prison life the more convinced I became that for at least 50 per cent. of the prison population some punishment other than imprisonment should be found. On the other hand, I quite recognised that there were a very considerable number of old offenders who could never be trusted outside prison walls, irresponsible beings and degenerates like our old friend the Dartmoor shepherd, who are quite incapable of keeping out of trouble, and many of whom are more fit for an asylum than a prison. An endeavour was made to meet such cases by the creation of an adult reformatory, to which persons could be committed on an indeterminate sentence dependent on reform when confined, and, the Ministry of Justice agreeing, a provision for such sentences was made in the Code.

In the space permitted me I cannot deal with all the details of the working of this reformatory, but possibly, if allowed, I may do so in the future. It was my pet hobby; also the reformatory for juveniles which was attached to the Prisons Department. I will only say here that juveniles of late years were never found in an Egyptian prison; they were either whipped or sent to the reformatory.

Such, briefly, were the reforms I endeavoured to carry out during my fifteen years' term of office. Prison experts will tell you, as many have told me, that the progress made has been very remarkable, and that the Egyptian Government has every reason to be satisfied with the results attained for the money expended. On the other hand, Lord Kitchener records in the last annual report he submitted (1913): "All who have hitherto studied criminality in Egypt concur in the opinion confirmed by the increasing percentage of crime committed by old offenders that the prison system as hitherto constituted has been found inadequate as a deterrent to crime." His lordship goes on to say that in virtue of his powers the Minister of the Interior has transferred 1,000 convicts to the Sudan, and implies that some good result may now be expected. This report, which I saw for the first time a few weeks ago, was written after I left Egypt, and although latterly my influence with Lord Kitchener was considerably less than in former years when he was head of the Police, I am, nevertheless, confident that, had I still been Inspector-General of Prisons, this paragraph in his Report would never have been written, and the 1,000 convicts would not have been sent to the Sudan in virtue of any power the Minister of Interior possessed or fancied he possessed.

In the first place, Lord Kitchener was misinformed when he stated that crime committed by old offenders was on the increase. "Crime," I use the word in its French sense, is not, as a rule, committed by old offenders in Egypt, that is to say by offenders who have already undergone a sentence of penal servitude. I find that in the last Prison Report I submitted (1911) the returns show that out of 4,604 convicts undergoing penal servitude only ninety-four had previously undergone a sentence of that description. It would appear, therefore, that one dose of penal servitude was a sufficient deterrent to prevent a repetition of the offence; the fact being that crimes such as brigandage, arson, murders, rape, and robberies with violence, for which penal servitude is usually awarded in Egypt, are not offences as a rule committed by professional criminals. The more serious *délits* (housebreaking, theft, forgery, cheating), what would be termed indictable offences in England, are undoubtedly committed by old offenders and are increasing, and it was probably these offences that the officer who compiled the Report for Lord Kitchener had in his mind. But, unfortunately, it is not these offenders Lord Kitchener transported to the Sudan.

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* The first part of this article appeared in last week's issue.

It was for these old offenders that the Adult Reformatory was created. It was with considerable difficulty that I persuaded Lord Kitchener to visit this reformatory, as the system in no way appealed to him. I had carefully rehearsed the programme, hoping to impress him, and aniously watched his countenance as we proceeded! But it left him quite cold, and the only acknowledgment I got was "very interesting, but a waste of money to attempt to reform, you had much better get them out on one of my roads"! I endeavoured to prove to Lord Kitchener that by establishing this reformatory I not only made a serious attempt to reform those who could be reformed, but I, at the same time, relieved the community of the incorrigibles for a long period. I pointed out that no Court of Justice would sentence offenders repeatedly convicted of these serious *délits* for a long indeterminable sentence to *work on roads*, but the Courts did so to an establishment which was called a reformatory, and where prisoners are taught a means of livelihood on their release. But it was quite useless to argue the point with his lordship, who, from the early days when he was Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, only looked on prisoners in the light of so much free labour for public works!

When I took charge of the Department in 1897 I found that some 1,000 convicts had been transported to the Sudan "administratively" by my predecessor. I pointed out to Lord Cromer that such action really amounted to a sentence of transportation by an administrative authority being tacked on to the sentence of the Court, the Sudan being practically a foreign country with separate laws an an Executive of its own. Further, that transportation was not a sentence prescribed by the Egyptian Code; but if thought necessary, the law might be amended and transportation added and inflicted by the Courts as a punishment in a legal way. Lord Cromer was at first annoyed at my raising the question, but finally agreed to bring the convicts back. I do not think that Lord Kitchener ever quite forgave me for my share in the removal of the convicts from the Sudan. He has now succeeded in getting them sent back there, hoisting me as it were on my own petard, as it is in virtue of certain powers I suggested should be inserted in the Prison Decrees that the transportation bears even a semblance of legality.

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In the early paragraphs of this article I have shown that in the Prison Act provision was made for the establishment of "prison camps" with *the authority of the Minister*. It was certainly never contemplated that this clause would be made use of to add transportation to an ordinary sentence of penal servitude! But this is apparently what has been done, presumably with approval of the Ministry of Justice, and I am curious to hear what the present Judicial Adviser in Egypt has to say on the subject, as he was the legal mind who drafted the Prison Decree in consultation with the Procureur-General and myself. I wonder, too, what the High Court in Bombay would say, if the Governor notified in the "Gazette" that Aden or the Andamans were a "prison camp" and forthwith sent prisoners there who had not been sentenced to *transportation!* Yet in this connection the Egyptian law is a copy of the Indian Act. I do not see how this administrative action can in any way be defended on legal grounds, whatever may be said of the necessity of adding transportation as a punishment to be inflicted by the Courts in a regular way.

To find punishments to fit crimes is the trouble all the world over, and is by no means confined to Egypt. But I do not see that in Egypt we have any exceptional right to complain till we have exhausted all legal punishments. For instance, the infliction of corporal punishment as a sentence of the Courts is the best way of dealing with many offenders, but the Egyptian Ministry of Justice has steadily refused to sanction anything in the shape of a Whipping Act, notwithstanding that soldiers and police are regularly flogged for court martial offences.

Again, if we further examine this report of Lord Kitchener's, we find twenty-seven capital sentences spoken of as something exceptional, yet in the same year (see report) there were upwards of 800 murders! Until all such legal punishments have been tried and found of no use, it seems strange to single out the prison system as faulty and attribute the want of public security[*] to these prisons not being sufficiently deterrent. Neither are we told how the prisons can be made more deterrent on *civilised lines*. I have repeatedly discussed this question with the late Lord Kitchener, and road-making has always been his idea. As a matter of fact, extra-mural labour is the most popular form of imprisonment, and is eagerly sought after by prisoners. Cellular confinement with nothing to do is the most deterrent, but to provide cellular confinement for the thousands committed annually to prison would have meant a cost in building which it was quite hopeless to except the financial authorities to agree to.

I trust that in defending my administration I have not said anything that could be regarded as an attack on Lord Kitchener, who, alas! is no longer with us. I quite recognise that the observations I have taken exception to were not directed against me personally, but against the system of up-to-date prison administration generally which I had endeavoured to introduce into Egypt. Lord Kitchener would not accept my views, but I venture to think that, had Lord Kitchener been as intimately acquainted with prison life in Egypt as I was, he would no longer have looked on extra-mural public works as in any way more deterrent than cellular confinement. Let us leave it at that.

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[*] See a previous article, "Justice in India and Egypt," (THE NEAR EAST November 2 and 9, 1917), for reason of unsatisfactory state of public security.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Future of Austria-Hungary.

In the *Contemporary Review* for January Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., discusses the position in Austria-Hungary, and urges that Allied diplomacy should take the fullest advantage of the desire for peace in the Dual Monarchy to detach it from Germany. He wants to see Federalism substituted for the dismemberment of Austria in the Allies' policy; apart from any advantages such a solution might have *per se*, there is the additional point in its favour, according to the writer's statement of his case, that it would queer the pitch of those whom he calls "Serbophils."

> The encouragement of Austria's desire for peace is one of the most conspicuous problems confronting our diplomacy. The result of a successful solution would be that Austria would bring pressure to bear on Germany in the direction of moderate war aims, and the German Junkers would be forced to modify their objective. The conciliatory policy is opposed by some on the ground that the conditions underlying it are incompatible with the conditions of a decisive settlement. This is a vital consideration. But in reality it is not impossible to find a solution which reconciles the apparently conflicting aims of each side, namely—(1) the defeat of militarism and the safeguarding of the rights of our Allies; and (2) the satisfaction of Austria's claims in such a way that she will be encouraged in her efforts for peace.
>
> The following proposal would seem to offer a solution on these lines:—
>
> The recognition of the Austro-Hungarian frontier, the claims of the nationalities in the Empire being met by internal reforms; the restoration of Serbia, and the incorporation by her of Montenegro, the port of Antivari being made a genuine economic outlet by the purchase of Spizza from Austria; the recognition of Bulgaria's claims to her national frontiers, and, in addition, (1) to the so-called "uncontested zone," (2) to the Bulgarian parts of the recent Greek acquisitions in Macedonia, and (3) to the part of the Dobrudja held by her in 1912; Bulgaria to abandon her present occupation of the contested zone, and of every part of the Kingdom of Serbia; Salonika to be internationalised; Roumania to be restored, and the rights of the Roumanians in Hungary to be met by autonomy for Transylvania.

[In passing, it may be mentioned that, in spite of his hostility to the "Serbophils," Mr. Buxton shows no hesitation in supporting their proposal to "incorporate" Montenegro in Serbia without reference to the wishes of the Montenegrins.]

Mr. Buxton is satisfied that recent events in Austria show clearly how that country is gradually verging away from German control and the sway of German militarism. "A new spirit of liberalism seems to be in the ascendant," and he cites various speeches and newspaper remarks in support of his contention. In Hungary, he considers, the same movement towards liberalism is also evident, though it is in a less advanced stage than in Austria. His estimate of the peace terms so far offered by Count Czernin does not altogether tally with Mr. Lloyd George's. The latter has denounced the pronouncement as deplorably vague. What Mr. Buxton calls a "pro-Austrian policy" would have the further advantage, he points out, of being in harmony with a just and stable settlement of the Balkan problems. Bulgaria, "another ally of Germany who is obviously eager for peace, would be affected immediately by Austrian response to the conciliatory attitude of the Entente. This would lead to corresponding action on her part, which would have an important effect in decreasing Germany's military strength." Here, too, Mr. Buxton holds that the war or annexationist party is manifestly losing ground rapidly. Signs are not wanting that in Bulgaria the public attitude towards Germany is becoming increasingly hostile. Mr. Buxton continues:—

> The Russian revolution and the adoption by the Russian Government of the formula "no annexation" has been the main element in the change of the Bulgarian attitude. Bulgarians no longer need to fear an Imperialist Russia entrenched on the Turkish Straits. The ruling out of Russia as a military force, which was the inevitable result of the revolution, completely changes the situation. One of the main considerations in the peace settlement is that Germany's Berlin-Baghdad line should be severed. The anti-Austrians maintain that the only way to effect this is to create a strong Serbia and a strong Roumania to act as a barrier to German ambitions. Before the elimination of Russia this was a practical scheme, for the two States would have been supported effectively by Russia's vast man-power, but now that this support can no longer be counted upon the whole scheme falls to pieces, unless another factor is introduced, *i.e.*, a friendly Bulgaria. This is the *sine quâ non* of an effective severance of the Berlin-Baghdad line. The Balkan States will be a real barrier only when they can dispose of the military power of Bulgaria.
>
> To the argument of the anti-Austrians that the neutrality of her neighbours would be an advantage to Germany from the economic point of view, it may be replied that it would surely be possible to take effective measures to prevent supplies from reaching her. It is also urged that the conciliation policy would influence our smaller Allies in an adverse sense, and that to compensate them adequately for their losses we must continue to fight until we have so thoroughly beaten Austria that we are able to dismember her. In reply to this contention, it may be pointed out that the Central Powers cannot offer the Balkan States even as much as restoration; that Russia, the natural protector of the Slavs, is unwilling to go on fighting for their ambitious aims; that our great partner, America, has expressly repudiated the dismemberment policy; that the continuation of the war until Austria is at her last gasp involves incalculable loss of life and treasure; and, finally, that we have no conclusive proof that the national units really want independence. This last point is very important. The speeches of the Slav representatives at the first meeting of the Reichsrat were obviously not those of men responsible to an electorate desirous of independence. Their appeal for Habsburg continuity was unnecessarily eloquent if, as it is argued, they forbore to advocate independence only to save their lives, and, moreover, it would have been extremely dangerous for their personal safety had they dared so flagrantly to oppose the aspirations of their followers.
>
> There are the further arguments that an undismembered Austria might remain pro-German, and that the German corridor would be inadequately severed by the mere restoration of Serbia and Roumania. This is the crux of the whole matter. The question of security must be the main consideration. But a dismembered Austria cannot be proved to be compatible with a peaceful Europe. The small States which would be formed from her would not be strong enough to stand alone; difficult problems would arise in regard to safeguarding the rights of minorities and in readjusting the economic system; and there is the further important consideration that partition would involve vast gains to Germany through the incorporation by her of all the German-speaking districts.

Serbians in Corsica.

Not much has been reported in this country about the Serbian refugees who found a temporary home in Corsica at the invitation of the French Government. Miss Royds, in the *Contemporary Review*, tells the story of the interesting experiment in relief work. After a brief stay at Salonika the first group of exiles were conveyed to Ajaccio during the months of December, 1915, and January, 1916. Such housing accommodation as was available in the town was secured for them in hotels, rooms, and Prefecture houses. One of the most pressing needs, especially at the beginning, was the opening of a clinic for out-patients and a small hospital These were supplied by the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit. As the numbers of the refugees grew with the arrival of those who had survived the rigours of the retreat through Albania, the difficulties of the position at Ajaccio increased, and it became necessary to make more permanent provision for those of the Serbians who were not in need of medical treatment. Miss Royds continues:—

> Excellent as the Hostels have proved in Ajaccio, the most important and interesting part of the housing scheme has been the development of Serbian colonies a little way inland. In two villages, under hills snowcapped most of the year, amid scenery not unlike the most beautiful parts of Serbia, rooms have been taken in numerous cottages. In these chiefly families, small groups of single women, and occasionally single men, have been established. Two or three S.R.F. workers stay in each centre, supplying necessities in the way of furniture and a certain definite amount of relief, and looking after the general welfare of the colony. The homely life of a village community is thus open to the refugees, and the centres have acquired quite a Serbian atmosphere. In the village street Serbian weavers may often be seen at work setting up their looms; the children go to the school, where they have their own master for lessons in Serbian in the mornings and French in the afternoons. Besides this a Kindergarten has been started for the babies in each village, and Serbian girls who have been given a short

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training are in charge under the S.R.F. helper. The Serbian children are particularly charming; they have the most natural and taking manners, and are delightfully spontaneous; it is a real pleasure to go into the Kindergartens and hear them sing and recite, or see them at their games. Other features in the villages are reading-rooms open for general use and seldom empty, and churches with Serbian priests.

……

In the village colonies as in the town of Ajaccio, the workrooms are a most important feature of refugee life. They have been started primarily for weavers, and—as a further development—for work of various kinds, particularly that of a specifically national character. They serve two main purposes. They give employment and a regular wage to women who would otherwise be idle, and if not actually in want, at least living with the smallest of margins; and they produce typically Serbian work, which is sent for exhibition and sale to the S.R.F. headquarters in London. Another aim which is now being included is the making of plain garments to serve as the nucleus of a store against the day of return.

……

Besides the workrooms for women, there is a workshop for carpenters, and from time to time a number of men have been employed making the picturesque peasant shoe, the "opanka." A market garden also has been most successfully developed in one of the colonies, and has been able for some months of the year to keep the Hostels supplied with vegetables. An interesting experiment is being made on co-operative lines, with a little supervision by an English worker. The S.R.F. guarantees the labourers a certain wage, and profits beyond that are to be shared amongst them. The ground is all lent by Corsicans, and more has recently been offered to give in allotments to any Serbs who care to take advantage of it. Some men and women are already at work, buying their own seeds, and no doubt more will follow.

In Ajaccio a few *réformés* soldiers are at work on handicrafts —hat and basket-making. The hats are made of a local rush, easily obtained, and the makers are now busy making them for the refugees in the colonies.

The centre of what is more definitely relief work is in Ajaccio, though both villages have a *Magasin* for clothes distribution, and a bureau. On the quay at Ajaccio a large warehouse has been lent by the French naval authorities, and here bales are unpacked, sorted, done up again, and labelled ready for immediate distribution as required. There is a small *Magasin* near by, open on certain days for the giving out of clothes; the ensuring of a fair and, as far as resources allow, an adequate distribution has involved a great deal of systematic organisation. It means no mere handing-out of garments. At the central S.R.F. Bureau in the town there is a case-paper for every refugee who makes any sort of application. On this certain facts which might help in the giving of aid or advice are recorded, and perhaps the most important feature of the whole work is getting to know the individual cases.

MOSLEM REJOICING OVER THE TAKING OF JERUSALEM.

The following is an extract from a letter written by a Moslem belonging to one of the chief Moslem families at Jerusalem; the writer was educated at Bishop Blyth's boys' school at Jerusalem, St. George's. The feeling he expresses is by no means unique:—

"Many things have happened during these two years. Many things have also changed. One thing never did and will never change in me—my sympathy and feeling for the British nation and her Allies. In order to prove it to you, I must confess that at the news of the delivery of Jerusalem by the British troops I was so glad I could not help myself from shedding tears.

"It is not necessary to tell you here (for you know, and you are sure of it, because you lived amongst us) that most of the educated Arabs consider the British and French nations their best friends. On the contrary, the Turks and Germans their greatest enemies. The British and the French nations are loved and honoured by the Arabs; the Turks and the Germans are hated. The victories of the British troops in the East have naturally increased the feelings of the Arabs for the two generous and noble nations. The occupation by British troops of the two ancient towns, Baghdad (the city of the Khalifs) and the Holy City, far from afflicting us, rejoices us over all measure. The British troops who are fighting there against the Turks and Germans are fighting for us. They are, therefore, considered as our liberators and not our oppressors; the defenders of our liberty and our legal claims. We are sure that Great Britain will help us in every way to constitute an Arabian Kingdom. She has already and is helping us in supporting the right claims of the King of the Hejaz, who on his part is helping the British troops in the East with all his might and all his resources. My best wishes and hopes are the victory of the Allies who are fighting for Right, Justice, and Liberty."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The latest reports of the condition of the Egyptian crops are favourable in the extreme, and afford every justification for the belief that the present prosperity of the country will be more than maintained in the coming season. Rice, it is estimated, will give a yield of 21 per cent. above the normal, while the yield of wheat and barley will be above the average, and as a greater area is now under cultivation, excellent crops are anticipated. The only jarring note in the picture is the knowledge that this abundance of foodstuffs will not solve the shortage of commodities from which Egypt in common with the rest of the world is suffering. Only the end of the war is certain to solve that problem, and when that happens the improved position of the fellaheen will be reflected by Egypt's increased purchasing power in the world's markets. I sincerely trust that our exporters are fully alive to this prospect, and that they will be prepared to take advantage of the great opening for trade that Egypt is bound to present in the future.

⁂

The bullion market during the year has been of interest, not only for the record price of silver, but because gold appeared to have depreciated in value owing to the extension of paper currencies. The position as regards the latter metal is dealt with by Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Company in their annual bullion report, in which they point out that some of the statistics relating to gold have ceased to be available during the past three years. At the same time, such details have lost temporarily, to some extent, their importance with regard to currency, owing to the larger place occupied in the world's money by paper issues. In other words, they add, credit has taken the place of metallic reserves now that the expansion of the value of commodities has far exceeded the capacity of the precious metals to adjust the balance of trade. As showing that the value of gold, when normal conditions again obtain, is fully appreciated, it is interesting to note that the employment of gold for jewellery has increased, and that in India some twenty million sovereigns have been melted down during the war.

⁂

As soon as the war ends, the question of gold production will assume immense importance, for the credit of the belligerent countries will depend on the extent to which their note issues are supported by metallic reserves. In this respect the British Empire is in a highly satisfactory position. The figures quoted by Messrs. Montagu show that while the world's production in 1916 was £96,847,000, the British percentage of it was 61.24, as against percentages of 60.21 and 61.28 in 1915 and 1914 respectively. The Transvaal is, of course, the Empire's main source of supply, its output in 1916 being no less than £39,485,000.

⁂

Considerable interest attaches to the declaration of a 20 per cent. dividend by the Ceylon Cocoa and Rubber Company for the two years ended June 30, 1916, for its 10 per cent. preference shares, since it marks a satisfactory step towards clearing up the arrears of dividend. The company now only produces rubber, and until the present time the returns had been far from good. There has never been a dividend on the ordinary shares, but evidently there is now a very fair prospect of one this year.

⁂

There is little question that the chief reason why Germany's economic hardships have so far failed to produce results corresponding to the hopes of the Allies is because of the extraordinary ingenuity of the enemy in devising substitutes for the more important articles of common use. Comment in the hostile Press makes it clear that the value of many of these substitutes is extremely doubtful, but, on the other hand, there seems little doubt that some useful discoveries may have been made whose utility may be sufficient to enable them to survive the war. If so, another important factor will have to be taken into account in the general reconstruction of the world's economic life, and one which might, in certain circumstances, have incalculable results. It is conceivable, for instance, that a country whose economic welfare largely rested on the production of some particular article of commerce might find itself, owing to the production of a substitute, in the unfortunate position of having a greatly diminished market, or even, perhaps, of having no market at all for its produce.

⁂

While any such striking result from the discovery of substitutes is naturally unlikely, it would be unwise on that account to ignore what the Germans have done, and are doing, in this way. In this connection last week's issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* contained a most interesting account of German experiments with stinging-nettle fibre as raw material for the textile industry. The Germans, hoping to make Germany independent of foreign cotton, have adopted it as a war necessity after extensive experiments, and it seems that "they also claim to have discovered a new process for its utilisation, which opens up a great future for the industry even after the war." According to the *Journal*, the German company manufacturing this substitute claimed that the fibre provided a tissue which compared favourably with that manufactured from American cotton. "Mixed with wool, a cloth of soft texture, hardly distinguishable from expensive wool material, much cheaper and easily dyed, is said to be produceable, the cloth being suitable for use in the manufacture of furniture covers, plush, and suitings." Our contemporary adds, however, that there is no confirmation of this claim, though the fibre has certainly been used to make linings for caps, coats, etc.

⁂

Were it possible to make practical use of this substitute cotton-producing countries would, without doubt, be adversely affected; there are, however, grounds for thinking that this is one of the substitutes which will not be used after the war to any great extent, for the *Journal* quotes an adverse report of a German agricultural expert to the effect that "the cost of production rules it (nettle fibre) out for purposes of cultivation, and will stand in the way of its general adoption, notwithstanding the fact that its cultivation is now a national necessity." This authority made various unsatisfactory experiments in the use of fibre instead of cotton, and his conclusion as regards the supply of the raw material was that it was out of the question to look to farmers in this respect, but that something might be done to promote the growth of nettles in lands suitable for them.

⁂

The mission sent by the Egyptian Government to examine the oilfields on the coast of the Red Sea has, I hear, returned with the encouraging news of the discovery of several new springs which promise a good and easily obtainable supply, and I understand that the view is now held that these oilfields will more than meet Egypt's requirements. If that is so, and it is possible to operate the new springs within a reasonable space of time, one of the most pressing of Egypt's problems—the shortage of fuel—will be met. This is, however, very doubtful in my opinion, owing to the difficulties in the way of obtaining machinery at the present time.

⁂

A timely reference to the cry for conscription of capital which has been raised in some quarters is made in the latest monthly circular of the National City Bank of New York. The writer points out that capital does not exist in forms that permit of it being seized, and that on the contrary it exists for the most part in productive property. "The greatest service to the country from these properties," he adds, "is obtained by having them operated with the highest possible efficiency. The Government does not want property in these forms, but the products that come from them. It would be a great boon to have production increased and a disaster to have it generally decreased." This is, of course, obvious, and it is to be hoped that those fundamental facts will penetrate the minds of those who still believe the conscription of capital to be possible.

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MOROCCAN DEVELOPMENT.

Commercial and Industrial Prospects.

To say that from a commercial and industrial point of view Morocco has no past but a future is to state in general but not altogether inaccurate terms the present position with regard to the French Protectorate. The development of the country has been the task of our Ally, and her handling of this responsibility can have no higher praise than to say that under her guidance there is every indication that the country will eventually be as prosperous and contented as are Egypt and the Sudan under the British system. That prospect is still somewhat remote, for the development of a country entailing as it has in this case the building of communications and ports, and in general the application of modern methods to a system ill-adapted to bear it, is not the work of a moment; but in the short period which France has already had for this work progress has been made of a remarkable character—progress which seems to show beyond the possibility of error that the country will develop rapidly when the world once more enjoys settled conditions. The interest that France has shown in this work can be the better understood in the light of a valuable work on the Protectorate by M. Victor Piquet*, well-known for his works on North Africa, and, in particular, the colonisation of Tunis and Algeria. The work in question is divided into three parts, dealing respectively with Morocco's geography, under which head the writer reviews agriculture, forests, cattle breeding, and the industrial possibilities of the country, which will be discussed in the present article; history, with which we are not directly concerned; and administration, covering, *inter alia*, public works, railways, and commerce, which will be dealt with in a subsequent article.

Agriculture.

It need hardly be said that, as is the case with other countries which come within the purview of THE NEAR EAST, the staple industry of Morocco is agriculture, and there is very little doubt that this will always be the case. In M. Piquet's opinion the country has a great agricultural future, and he adds that "the coast zone, influenced by the moist climate of the sea, possesses very rich soils which give rise to the highest expectations." These characteristics are not universal, and he points out that there are regions where the soils are unproductive. As regards cereal cultivation, wheat occupies an important place, though barley is the principal crop, sown, he tells us, "in the less rich lands." Maize, which requires abundant irrigation, is grown successfully in Morocco without it, while sorghum is also cultivated to advantage, and it is the writer's view that these two cereals can be very greatly developed. Indeed, he suggests that the production of sorghum could easily be increased tenfold. In the light of what he says as to agricultural prospects in general, it is interesting to recall the figures for Morocco's export trade in cereals in 1916, which show an extraordinary increase, in regard to some of those he mentions, as compared with the totals for 1914. Barley, for instance, advanced from 168,300 kilos to 121,080,900 kilos, wheat from 400 kilos to 31,043,300 kilos, and maize from 409,400 kilos to 17,124,400; statistics which surely justify even the most optimistic outlook.

Forests.

A word is called for on the forests of Morocco. "All North Africa," says M. Piquet, "is a richly afforested country. We have long neglected this natural source of wealth in Algeria, and we are far from making the fullest use of it. Morocco seems to be still better divided than other parts by reason of the importance of its mountain ranges. But it is not only in the mountains that there are vast forests, in the Atlantic plain itself, near the coast, we find the remains of very important forests which, according to the historians, once covered the whole of Morocco." In the mountain regions the cedar is principally encountered, and M. Piquet tells us that it is not exceptional to find cedars 300 to 400 years old, 110 to 130 feet high, and 16 to 20 feet round. The oak is the most widely spread tree in Morocco, and many varieties of it exist there. Other trees to be found in abundance are the thuja, the carob tree, the gum tree, and the laudanum cactus. Morocco has, however, one tree special to itself, the arga tree, which yields arga oil, and is to be found in the region of Sus.

Among fruit trees, the olive takes first place, and olive oil is a fairly valuable product, there being thirty-eight factories at Fez, while Mogador is another important centre. In certain regions of the south the almond tree is very plentiful, while every garden has its fig tree, and the walnut tree is also very common. Date trees, however, are only satisfactory in Tafilelt. M. Piquet adds that oranges, mandarines, and citrons are cultivated with care in gardens.

Cattle-Breeding.

Stress is laid by M. Piquet on the fact that Morocco possesses all the conditions necessary to form an incomparable breeding ground for cattle. It has vast prairies containing good and nourishing herbage, and watered by streams which are not dried up at any season. According to Van Loo, a Belgian writer on economics, these lands could support forty million sheep, ten million goats, and six million cattle, an estimate which our author regards as exaggerated, though travellers and economists are agreed that the race of cattle that could be produced in the country would be one of the finest in the world. He thinks that there is a very great future for sheep breeding in Morocco. Three strains are reared, and at Berguent, the chief market, 100,000 sheep are sold every year. He adds that it is probable that cross-breeding with strains from Spain and elsewhere would improve the native sheep. This also applies to the strong Moroccan horses, regarding which it is of interest to note that a stud book is already in existence. M. Piquet divides Moroccan mules into two categories, the better type being worth 1,200 to 1,500 francs, while the common mule fetches from 500 to 600 francs. These animals, as well as goats and pigs, could, he points ont, be reared with profit. In his view, it is desirable to cross the native breed of pigs with French and English strains, and he instances two experiments already made: one with pigs from Marseilles, and the other with animals imported from Yorkshire, which yielded excellent results.

Industrial Possibilities.

The Moroccan towns, the writer remarks, have each acquired a reputation in special lines. At Fez beautiful embroideries are made, also the finest gold work, and pottery. The markets for leather and arms are Marrakesh and Tetuan. Rabat and Safi, on the other hand, are centres for the manufacture of carpets and coarse stuffs. Silk and cotton manufactures are carried on at Fez, where, though not a leading leather market, there are no less than 3,000 tanners. M. Piquet adds to these principal industries the building trade, which, he says, is well developed. As regards the future, he divides the industries into two kinds—those which will fall before foreign competition, and those which will be able to resist it successfully. In the first class he places the weaving industry, pointing out that cotton goods from Great Britain have long competed with the home product. Local metal industries he also considers are doomed to disappear, but work in precious metals will always survive if the mining possibilities of the country are realised. The leather industry shows much promise, and he is as hopeful on this score as he is with regard to cattle breeding. Other industries that it is though will hold their own are embroidery and pottery.

Mineral Wealth.

At present there is little to be said on this subject, as so far little is known of the minerals of the country. "However," says M. Piquet, "the impression is that it ought to be a country with a future in this respect, and geologists think that the valleys of the Atlas are full of promise," and he goes on to enumerate some of the known mineral resources of Morocco, notably the iron mines near Tarhilest, the copper deposits at Ait Semmeg and in the Sus, and the gold and silver mines of Tazeroualt, and expresses the view that among other mineral products gypsum and oil ought also to be found. "It can be said," he remarks in conclusion, "that so far Morocco has not justified the great hopes which have been placed in its mineral wealth; but it is necessary not to forget that for the most part the mines of Algeria have been discovered very slowly."

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[*] *Le Marve.* By M. Victor Piquet. (Armand Colin Fr. 6.)

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TURKEY'S NATIONAL DEBT.

A telegram from Berlin (says *Reuter's* Amsterdam correspondent) states that Djavid Bey, the Turkish Minister of Finance, informed the Vienna correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt* that Turkey's National Debt had risen during the war from about £150,000,000 to nearly £400,000,000. In the light ofq recent events the following remark of the Turkish Minister reads strangely:—"It will be one of the first peace tasks of the Turkish Government to find ways and means of making the Armenians to forget the sufferings of the war."

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THE GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

Increased Yield in 1917.

For the following particulars of the condition of the tobacco crop in Greek Macedonia we are indebted to a report of the United States Consul-General at Salonika, Mr. George Horton, dated October 18 :—

The Greek Government has never published any data concerning crop conditions in Macedonia. The following information, relating to the tobacco crop, the principal product in this Consular district, is obtained solely from private sources. Filler leaf tobacco, unstemmed, is the chief article of export from Greek Macedonia, the value purchased in a normal year by American firms alone amounting to about 6,000,000 dollars. Since the more important producing centres—Kavalla, Drama, Seres, etc.—are in the war zone, the export of a large part of the Greek Macedonian tobacco crop is impossible, and no information is available as to its condition and quantity. Ordinarily the quantity of tobacco raised in the districts near Salonika is relatively small. According to general reports of purchasing agents from various points in this district, this condition has been greatly changed. It is estimated that in this region, as far south as the old Greek frontier, there are this year about 2,000,000 okes, which consist of all types of what is known as Turkish tobacco. This is an increase of fully 75 per cent. over the amount of the 1916 crop. Moreover, if there had been more rain, the crop would have been 100 to 150 per cent. larger than that of last year.

A Good Quality Crop.

According to the same reports, the quality of tobacco is, on the whole, fully as good as, if not better than, in 1916. As mentioned above, the crop will consist of all types of Turkish tobacco. This is caused by the fact that many refugees from Samsun, Smyrna, and Thrace, bringing with them small quantities of tobacco seed, have planted in small fields, and, furthermore, on soil which has never before been used for tobacco, thus producing a type concerning which even the oldest and most experienced experts are unable to say whether or not it will improve with age. Prices will probably be at least 100 per cent. over those of last year. This is attributed to the increased competition, caused no doubt by the fact that the various merchants are unable to get their usual stocks from the Kavalla, Samsun, and Smyrna districts. Moreover, shipping facilities are now such that it is almost impossible for the foreign, including American, factories to be supplied with raw material, and local factories have received large orders to supply the Allied forces stationed in this district. It is also learned on good authority that the Egyptian factories have received large orders from the Allies for cigarettes, and that the merchants from that country are strong buyers.

◆

INDIAN BANK DIVIDENDS.

The Bank of Bengal has declared a half-yearly dividend of 12 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent., with a special bonus of 1 per cent. per annum. The amount transferred to the reserve is Rs.4,00,000, and that carried forward Rs.4,41,890.

The Bank of Bombay shows a profit for the half-year of Rs.16,77,470 and has declared a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, with a bonus at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. Four lakhs are transferred to the reserve and half a lakh is transferred to the pension fund. A sum of Rs.3,27,470 is carried forward.

The Bank of Madras has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. The amount carried forward is Rs.4,02,306.

EMPIRE RESOURCES.

Development to Meet War Debt.

Proposals that it is claimed would give the people new opportunities for the investment of their savings were made by Mr. H. Wilson Fox, M.P., at a meeting held on January 9 at Caxton Hall, under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute. The payment of the war debt by the development of the Empire's resources was the speaker's theme, in the exposition of which he outlined the programme of the Empire Resources Development Committee. At least ten million pounds per annum for a period of ten years should be set aside for the development of selected resources of the Empire on such conditions as would give to the State a share of the profits. "If the Statutory Authorities which it is proposed to create to conduct the various enterprises in which the State participates," he added, "are organised upon a share and debenture basis, it will be possible to offer such debentures, guaranteed if necessary by the State, for subscription by the poorer classes. By this and other means the valuable work of the War Savings Committee might be continued and extended after the war, and the growth of thrift which has been practised for the first time by many persons during the war, largely because facilities have been supplied which previously were lacking, will be encouraged and promoted."

Discussing the criticism that intervention or participation by the State in industry would kill individual enterprise, Mr. Wilson-Fox contended that, if the development of the Empire's resources was entrusted to a board of business men, selected for their competency, an immense number of new openings would be created for capitalists and workers. Could it be doubted that, if by State action practically unlimited supplies of cheap power were made available throughout the length and breadth of the land, an almost indefinite expansion of the industry would take place? It would be safe to assume that, on the average, every additional 1,000 kw. installed in a Government generating station of large dimensions would result in the manufacture of at least 500 motors; and that, beyond this, the extensions and ramifications of the new business created would be immense. Nor would the advantage be confined to the electrical trade. It was calculated that in Germany 50,000 men employed in full work at large factories of electric machinery presupposed the full-time employment of at least 500,000 workers in allied and subsidiary industries. It was idle, therefore, to suggest that action by the State upon the lines proposed must necessarily discourage and cripple individual enterprise. The impracticable dreams of one generation, he said, in conclusion, were wont to become the practical commonplaces of the next. Looking into the future, they could visualise the State as the owner of vast herds of cattle overseas raised on lands which were to-day unutilised; as a proprietor of forests and valuable plantations of tropical shrubs and trees grown on areas still virgin; as the harnesser of mighty waterfalls fed by the eternal snows of India and of Africa; as an organiser of great commercial air services; and as the reaper on an immense scale of the manifold harvest of the seas.

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TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department issues a new list of additions to the Statutory List of firms of enemy nationality, or enemy association with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. Copies of this list can be obtained at a trifling cost from the Superintendent of Publications, H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Easier Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Compared with a week ago the market is distinctly dearer, but it is scarcely possible to record any increase in the amount of business passing. Buyers have refused to follow the higher rates, and only miscellaneous lots have been put through. Bullish sentiment in American cotton circles has been very pronounced. A very strong feeling has prevailed in the New York market. The outlook for supplies is no worse, but there continues a heavy demand from the trade. Egyptian cotton prices have been easier and supplies are coming forward rather more freely. Quotations in Egyptian yarns have been well held, but users have purchased from hand to mouth. Some special sales have been mentioned in fine counts for France. Less activity continues to show itself in piece goods for Egypt. Merchants are now centering their attention upon deliveries and shipments. No improvement has taken place in the demand for cloth for India, and very few wires have again been received. A few more attempts have been made at transactions for China, and certain shippers are finding it necessary to keep up assortments in well-known "chops." Although manufacturers of goods are now only meeting with a small amount of fresh business the higher prices have been very firmly held. American yarns have moved off in odd lots, but quotations have been raised quite equal to the advance in the raw material, and spinners remain in a strong position. Export bundles for India remain quiet.

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BIG COTTON SPINNING PROFITS.

Since the beginning of the year numerous cotton-spinning companies in Lancashire have taken stock for the three and six months ending December 31, and the figures announced have shown large profits. Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the returns published by twenty leading companies. The share capital of these concerns amounts to £728,235 and loan capital to £259,796. All the companies have made a profit, and on share capital the average profit works out at nearly 18 per cent. per annum, whilst on share and loan capital combined the profit is over 13 per cent. per annum after allowing interest on loans. It may be said that a similar analysis of the figures reported at the end of last June showed a profit of over 9 per cent. per annum on share capital and a profit of nearly 7 per cent. per annum on share and loan capital combined after allowing interest on loans. The machinery in these mills totals to nearly 2,000,000 spindles. Spinners have long order lists at a healthy margin of profit, and future stock-taking results are expected to be encouraging.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

As it is possible that the new accommodation for the British Industries Fair (Glasgow) may not be entirely completed by February 25, and as it is of great importance that the British Industries Fairs in London and Glasgow should be held simultaneously, the Board of Trade have decided to postpone the opening of both fairs for two weeks. Accordingly the period for which the British Industries Fairs in London and Glasgow will be open will be March 11 to March 22.

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The directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China have appointed Mr. W. E. Preston to be manager in London in conjunction with Mr. T. H. Whitehead and Mr. Thomas Fraser, and Mr. James Semple Bruce has been appointed sub-manager in London.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Electricity in Agriculture.

The utilisation of electricity for agricultural purposes has been steadily increasing in recent years on the Continent, especially in France and Italy. It was partly the result of emigration which created an embarrassing scarcity of labour in the rural districts, and partly of the modern methods of producing electric power by the utilisation of the natural force of water in rivers, waterfalls, etc. The scarcity of labour necessitated the use of machinery, and in the use of machinery it was soon found that very satisfactory economic results could be obtained with the assistance of electricity, especially when this was produced by the utilisation of water power. A variety of methods have been adopted for this purpose on the Continent, where farmers, with the help of electricity, can now do their farming on a large scale, quicker, much cheaper, and with the minimum of human labour or animal power. In several Continental agricultural districts it has proved that great advantages are secured and greater economy obtained by the use of electric power in ploughing or threshing. The cost on a small farm of threshing 100 kgs. of grain with an electric drive is about 1s. 2d., with a steam drive, double that amount and with a horse gear threshing machine four times. With regard to electric ploughing, considerable economy has been effected, and it is asserted that for ploughs cutting a furrow 10 inches deep the cost of tillage by the electric plough is approximately 4s. to 5s., against 6s. to 7s. by oxen, and 6s. 1d. to 8s. 1d. by a steam plough. And where electricity is produced by the utilisation of the natural force of water there is a greater economy in the cost of work done than the above figures show. Such a natural force of water can be obtained in many agricultural districts in Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, the utilisation of which would largely contribute to a speedy restoration and development of the rich agricultural resources of these unhappy lands.

Indian Rice Milled in England.

The report that a scheme is now under consideration for milling all the rice we buy from India in this country instead of the milling being effected before it is shipped, will undoubtedly please British manufacturers of rice-milling machinery and many firms engaged in the rice trade at home. The suggestion is made that the cleaning and finishing processes might be carried on in this country, and thus save money, and also encourage a much larger importation of Indian rice than hitherto. Efforts to this end have already been initiated. It is estimated that in the three years preceding the war German purchases of Indian rice trebled, and if England can possess herself of this trade it will be all to the good, whilst the prospects of British rice-milling machinery engineers, operators, and labour will be greatly benefited.

A Gas Improvement Device.

It is evident that the use of coal-gas for motor vehicles is increasing in the Near East, for we hear that several purchases of the necessary gas equipments have recently been made for that part of the world. As such equipments are, apparently, constantly improved, it may be of interest to users, or would-be users, of such equipments to hear occasionally of any new devices that are being brought out for the purpose. A device which undoubtedly improves the efficiency of gas equipment is a new attachment which is fitted to the existing carburetter of the vehicle and is operated by the accelerator pedal by the driver in the ordinary way. It enables the engine to be run dead slow or full speed at will without affecting the running of the engine on petrol; neither is the engine affected by pressure in the gas-bag. When starting, gas is turned full on and the engine started without any tap twiddling or regulating of valves, and if the journey is too long for the gas container to cover before reaching another gas supply the gas cock is shut off and petrol turned on without any further adjustment.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
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Flying Ambulances.

According to recent reports, it is proposed to use a fleet of Red Cross aeroplanes in the war zone. There are many types of wounds which are likely to prove fatal unless they can be attended to at once, and the congestion of communications during, and for some time after, an action often makes speedy medical relief impossible. If aerial transport could be provided, therefore, many hundreds of lives might be saved and much suffering avoided. In the air there are no obstacles, and it is suggested by a competent correspondent that machines thus employed could fly low and have the Red Cross painted on their sides. The idea of so employing aeroplanes is not new. The late Col. Cody established the possibility of carrying over long distances operators, an operating table, and all the necessary medical equipment. It was also reported some months ago that during the Serbian retreat aeroplanes were used as ambulances for the first time. A number of gravely wounded men needed to be removed at once in order to afford them the bare chance of recovery. The journey over the mountainous roads to the coast hospital was beyond their strength, so it was decided to take them by aeroplane to the port of Valona in Northern Epirus. One of the worst cases travelled over 200 miles in this manner, the pilot making one landing to make sure that the passenger was still alive.

Shipping Enterprise in America.

As technical experts anticipated, the American wooden ship plan has soon been found impracticable. Giving evidence before the Senate at an investigation, Rear-Admiral Bowles admitted that the plan to build a thousand wooden steamers was impracticable, and that there was not enough timber to construct half that number. This news, however, need give the Germans no pleasure, for, according to very reliable information, the American shipyards are working at the fullest pressure to replace lost tonnage; and it is anticipated that about this time next year there will be 1,600 vessels, totalling an aggregate tonnage of 9,200,000 tons. It is officially confirmed in America that the American Merchant Marine consists of 458 ships of more or less 1,500 dead-weight tons, with an aggregate of 2,871,359 tons, engaged in or capable of participating in foreign trade. Of these 117, or 700,285 tons, were German and Austrian. In addition, the Shipping Board has commandeered nearly 400 steel ships of more than 2,500,000 tons, which are being completed or are under contract for construction in American yards. In the meantime remarkable progress has been made by the Atlas Construction Company of Montreal in building a concrete ship. The dimensions of the vessel in question are :—Length 125 feet, beam 22 feet, moulded depth 13 feet, whilst the hull is of varying thickness, from 3 to 5 inches. In three weeks' time this vessel was laid down and almost ready for launching, and by this time is probably in commission. Another proof of Canadian energy and technical capability.

POST-WAR TRADE.

Mr. J. M. Robertson, M.P., lecturing on Wednesday at the Bishopsgate Institute on "Trade and Commerce after the War," said that, whatever views on free trade we might have held hitherto, it was obvious that we could not trade as we used to do with enemy nations. He was in sympathy with the feeling of reluctance to resume trade relationships with the enemy, and if anyone could indicate how we could commercially penalise Germany without penalising ourselves, the plan would have his support, but he could conceive of no trade method by which we could secure the object desired without injuring ourselves. The adoption of a tariff scale with graded terms of priority to the Colonies, Allies and neutrals, and the highest duties of all to the enemy, would have the effect of promoting the trade of Germany. Our Allies, if given less favourable terms than the Colonies, would naturally study their own interests.

NATURAL DYES.

Prospects of Cultivation in the Sudan.

An interesting feature of the current issue of the *Agricultural Journal of Egypt* is an article on "Dyes ,Natural and Artificial," by Mr. W. E. Kingsford, member of the Commission of Agricultural Commerce. Egypt's normal requirements are, he points out, 71 metric tons of natural indigo, 503 metric tons of artificial indigo, and 292 metric tons of aniline dyes, and these extensive requirements naturally make the question of the supply available a matter of considerable importance.

The planting of indigo was encouraged in Egypt by Mohammed Ali, but the industry's life was short "owing to the absence of expert supervision and the indispensable care necessary for the extraction process." It is Mr. Kingsford's opinion that indigo cultivation could not be profitable in Egypt, but the hope is expressed that when the seed is available serious and careful experiments will be carried out in the Sudan, where the adverse conditions that obtain in Egypt are not present.

The success of cultivation in the Sudan, he adds, must largely depend on the continued extensive cultivation, or otherwise in India when the synthetic indigo again becomes available, and on the freight rates ruling Wet and rainy seasons in India have considerable influence on the crop and in the deterioration of colouring matter, and in this respect the Sudan would hold an advantageous position.

Natural v. Synthetic Indigo.

There is a considerable diversity of expert opinion, the writer remarks, as to the possibility of the natural indigo holding its own against the artificial at the termination of the war. Whether this can be effected by a larger yield of plant and colouring matter per acre, improvement in preparation, or protective tariffs, it is evident from the efforts now being made in India that there are many who are hopeful of resuscitating this important industry, which has suffered so severely since 1897, when the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik introduced artificial indigo into the market under the name of "indigo pure."

Prior to the introduction of the artificial product over one and a-half million acres were under indigo cultivation in India, principally in the Bengal and Madras Provinces; but before the outbreak of war the total area under cultivation was reduced to one-tenth of what it was.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Bank of Bengal has increased its rate of discount from 5 to 6 per cent.

America's latest advances to the Allies include the loan of a million dollars to Serbia.

Sir John Godfrey Rogers has resigned his seat on the Board of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company.

A Bill has been introduced by the Turkish Government for the taxation of war profits made by companies.

In Egypt the rice crop is estimated to be 21 per cent. above the normal. Wheat and barley prospects are better than the average. No crops are below the normal.

As a result of arrangements made in December, 1916, when Reuter's, Ltd., took over the business of Reuter's Telegram Company, Ltd., the Hon. E. W. Parker, Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne, and Mr. Gerald W. Williams retired from the board of Reuter's, Ltd., on December 31.

In view of the increasing output of first-class Indian coal, severe restrictions are notified in regard to the railway wagon supply for the collieries working inferior coal, says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent. This action is causing an outcry, but it is defended on the ground that the diverting of labour to the short-handed first-class collieries had the effect also of enabling the railways to convey greater quantities of Admiralty supplies.

THE BOMBAY MINT.

Reasons for its Establishment.

An interesting article appeared in last week's issue of the *Board of Trade Journal* on the decision to establish a branch of the Mint at Bombay. In explanation of the departure the *Journal* says:—"The heavy and continuous demand by the United Kingdom and the Allies for Indian products which are of importance for the prosecution of the war, together with military expenditure in the East debitable to the War Office and involving the indirect remittance of very large sums, has caused an unprecedented expansion in the normally favourable trade balance of India. During the past six months, remittances in liquidation of this trade balance have been partly made by the shipment from debtor countries of gold coin and bullion. The gold held in the Paper Currency Reserve in India rose from £6,623,000 on May 31 to £17,069,000 on December 15. In order that all the gold so imported may be available to maintain the metallic portion of the Government of India's Paper Currency Reserve held for the encashment of currency notes, it was notified on June 29 that all gold imported into India on private account would be subject to license and would be acquired by the Government of India at the rate of Rs.15 equal to £1 or 1 rupee equal to 7.53344 grains troy of fine gold. One September 26, pursuant to the raising of the rate for the sale by the Secretary of State of telegraphic transfers on India from 1s. 4¼d. to 1s. 5d. the rupee. these rates were altered to Rs.14½ equal to £1 or 1 rupee equal to 7.79321 grs. troy of fine gold. The British sovereign is legal tender in India, and sovereigns imported and sold to the Government are therefore immediately available for the purpose mentioned above. But the active trade demand for coin to finance heavy movements of exports and the requirements of Government to make disbursements to troops impose a considerable strain on the Government of India's metallic resources and make it desirable to hold the gold, no less than the silver, in the metallic portion of the Paper Currency Reserve as far as possible in the form of legal tender coin. Since the beginning of the war the Government of India's currency note circulation has expanded from Rs.75,44,00.000 to Rs. 110,83 00,000. It has therefore, been decided to provide facilities for coining into sovereigns the gold bullion and foreign coin coming into the Paper Currency Reserve under the provision mentioned above. The establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint at Bombay was accordingly authorised by Royal Proclamation dated December 21, to take effect from the date of promulgation in India."

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ROUMANIA'S OIL WELLS.

News comes from Bucharest, says a correspondent of the *Morning Post*, to the effect that the damage done to the oil wells in Roumania has almost been repaired and the output of oil increases steadily. The daily output of oil is between 250 and 300 10-ton tanks. Of this, 800 tanks are sent to Hungary per month, but the supply of oil from Galacia has been correspondingly reduced. This is disadvantageous to the paraffin manufacturer and the manufacturer of candles, as the Galician oil is much richer than the Roumanian in paraffin.

COLOURED GLASSES FOR MALTA.

The houses, streets, and roads in Malta are built of nearly white stone, and during the summer months these reflect the sun's rays so strongly that coloured glasses are largely worn by both the native population and foreigners, says the United States Consul at Valetta, Mr. Wilbur Keblinger, in a recent report. Many sizes and forms of frames and many different colours of glass are used. Heretofore goggles have been imported from England and Italy, but there is no reason why American manufacturers should not meet this competition in both quality and price. It is almost impossible to secure freight transportation from the United States to Malta at the present time, but it would be possible to send such goods through the mails, at least in sufficient quantities to build up a demand which could be well supplied when conditions become normal.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION.

Amalgamation Rumour Denied.

The attorneys in London of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company have received the following telegram from the general managers in Hong Kong, dated January 3:—"Board of Directors authorise us instruct you publicly deny rumours regarding contemplated amalgamation interests Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Ltd. Please take necessary steps."

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The Press Bureau states there is no foundation for the statement that has appeared in certain newspapers that the Government are at present considering, or intending to consider, the formation of an all-British oil company.

BRITISH OVERSEAS BANKS ASSOCIATION.

Resolutions were passed at a meeting held on December 17, constituting an association called "The British Overseas Banks Association," having as its object the promotion of the general interests of the banks comprising the association. The following were elected to form the general committee:—C. Cambie, Canadian Bank of Commerce; L. Couper, Bank of British West Africa; Chas. H. Hewett, Colonial Bank; R. J. Hose, Anglo-South American Bank; S. Rogers, Imperial Bank of Persia; F. Shipton, Standard Bank of South Africa; G. H. Soul, Anglo-Egyptian Bank; T. H. Whitehead, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; A. Willis, National Bank of New Zealand; A. C. Willis, Union Bank of Australia. Mr. T. H. Whitehead was appointed chairman and Mr. Francis Shipton hon. secretary and treasurer.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30, 1917, states that there was a net increase of 3.54 miles in the open mileage worked, which was:—Quadruple, 29.62; double, including State lines, 719.37; single, 2,363.59; total, 3,112.58, to which must be added foreign lines over which running powers are exercised, 61.99. Gross receipts were Rs.5,30,56,689; increase on 1916, Rs.41,64,645; per cent., 8.52. Expenditure, Rs.2,80,77,502; increase, Rs.2,20,961; per cent, 0.79. Net revenue, Rs.2,49,79,186; increase, Rs.39,43,683; per cent., 18.75. After deducting from net revenue Rs.16,68,604 due to State lines, and on account of unpaid interest Rs.545, there remains Rs.2,33,10,036, against which has to be set Rs.1,46,86,457 for fixed charges under the contract, leaving a surplus of Rs.86,23,560 to be carried forward to next half-year's account, when the complete statement for the year will be made. up. Coaching receipts increased Rs.23,29,371 or 13.84 per cent., and goods Rs.17,57,194, or 5.59 per cent. Ordinary passenger traffic, excluding season tickets and troops, increased Rs.4,54,099, passengers carried being less by 1,689,657. The increase in amount was under all classes except third class by ordinary trains due to enhancement of fares with effect from June 1, 1917. The decrease in number is partly attributable to the same cause and partly to higher cost of living, which restricted travelling, mainly under third-class ordinary. The decrease under third-class ordinary is also due to mail fares being charged for the Delhi express and to the prohibition of Pandharpur Ashadi Fair. Goods traffic movements include a decrease of Rs.1,88,159 in coal and coke; increases in raw cotton of Rs.31,171, due to larger quantity railed owing to favourable prices, notwithstanding the smaller exports, demand from Japan and China being poor; stocks in Bombay are unusually large; hay, straw and grass of Rs.1,16,330; grain and pulse of Rs.3,94,475 rice of Rs.4,11,446, due to large imports by rail owing to crop in Bombay Presidency and Central Provinces having been damaged by heavy rain and floods in 1916; wheat of Rs.19,49,516, due to greater demand for ex port on Government account; and oils, other than kerosene, of Rs.1,71,393. Metallic ores decreased Rs.8,33,222, there being a poor demand for manganese ore for export owing to scarcity of tonnage and high freights ruling, and jawar and bajra Rs.9,84,963. Oilseeds fell off by Rs.14,35,725, but railway plant and rolling stock advanced Rs.2,85,494, and timber unwrought Rs.2,64,538. There was a decrease of 1,003,220 or 8.02 per cent. in the train mileage. The ratio of expenditure to gross earnings was 52.92 per cent., compared with 56.98 per cent. Meeting, 15th inst, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., 12.30 p.m.

South Behar Railway.

The report of the South Behar Railway Company for the half-year ended December 31, states that after paying the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1916, a balance remained in hand of £7,397 4s. 3d., which with the rental received from the Secretary of State for India for the half-year to June 30, 1917, and other receipts, less interest on debenture stock and sundry outgoings, left a sum of £17,021 2s. 3d. to the credit of revenue account at that date. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was paid on July 15, leaving £7.531 12s. 3d. to carry forward. Adding to this £15.000, the half-yearly rental to December 31, 1917, and other receipts, less interest on debenture stock and sundry outgoings, there remains a balance of £17,180 8s. 8d. to be dealt with. The directors recommend that a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year be paid to the stockholders on the register on December 31. This will absorb the sum of £9.489 10s., and leave £7,690 18s. 8d. to be carried forward to the current half-year. The ordinary general meeting will be held on January 14, at 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, at 2.30 p.m.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The market in Egyptian securities has continued its favourable tendency, and a fair amount of business has been doing in spite of the Greek Christmas holidays in Egypt. In Government stocks Unifieds have risen 1 to 85½, after business round 85, and Egypt 3½ per cent. Preferences are ¼ up at 73.

The rise in National Banks, which began about a fortnight ago, has continued, and the shares are a further ½ up at 18; whilst Agriculturals, after a long period of quietness, have again come into demand and are 3-16 better at 6 5-16. Delta Light Railway Preferences have been dealt in to a slight extent, with the result that the shares have lost ⅛ at 6 1-16.

In land shares, Aboukirs have further improved 6d. to 22s. 9d. Some business has been done in Behéras round current quotations, and also in Delta Lands.

Foreign Trusts have been dealt in to-day to a very fair extent, but the price is unaltered round 9s. New Egyptians have continued to be quietly picked up, and have risen a further 6d. to 17s. 1½d. Sidi Salems have lost 1-32 at 26s. on some trifling transactions. United Egyptian Lands have been in demand for Egypt, and also locally, consequently the price is slightly better at 1s. 7½d., at which there are some good buying orders in the market.

In miscellaneous shares there has been a recovery of ¼ in Alexandria Waters to 12¼. Egyptian markets have continued to sag, and are a further 1s. down at 26s. This weakness is no doubt due to the decline in the published receipts, in consequence of the closing of many of the markets through cattle plague. On the other hand, it is understood that the company's receipts from other sources of revenue which are not published, are of quite a satisfactory character, so that the reduction in revenue is probably not so serious as it appears to be; and, further, there is every probability that, as in the past, the cattle plague will be got under and the shut markets opened again. In Salt and Sodas shares the market has continued a very strong one, and some rather large business has been concluded. The shares close a further 1s. 6d. up at 37s. 6d. Khedivial Mails have again come into favour and have jumped up 2s. 6d. to 35s. 6d.

In Greek securities there is no change in prices to be recorded, but some business has been done in 1914's round 73, at which price there are still unsatisfied buyers.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations were:—Egyptian Unified, 95.60 (96.50); Turkish Unified, 64.95 (66); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 782 (782); Suez Canal Shares, 4.615 (4,620).

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) were unchanged at 26s. 6d.-27s. 6d., and Roumanian Consols at 9s. 3d.-10s. 3d.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
January 1, 2	410,000	350,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended December 10.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E.
Dec. 1-Dec. 10	6,655	10.866
April 1-Dec. 10	141,771	179,920

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances &c.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 2	Jan. 9.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77xd	77xd
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72¾	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60½xd	60½xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60½xd	60½xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51xd	51xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42½	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fng., Ln., 1893	54	53xd	53xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62xd	62xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73½	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	80½	80½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	—
Do 4% Unified	79	—	—
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1898	98	—	70
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	—	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br war.) ..	4½	6½	6³⁄₁₆
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14½	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7⅞	7⁹⁄₁₆
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6¼	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17½	18
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6³⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. .	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72½	—
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1³⁄₁₆	22/3	22/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	4	4
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4¹³⁄₃₂	4¹³⁄₃₂
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	9/-	9/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/7½	17/1½
Sidi Salem Co.	³⁄₁₆	26/7½	26/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2¹⁄₁₆	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¾	12xd	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1³⁄₁₆	27/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	¹⁵⁄₁₆	36/-xc	37/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	33/-xd	35/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Preference stock transfer books of the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway Company, Limited, will be closed from the 14th to the 26th inst., inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Coupon No. 12 of the Four per Cent. bonds of the Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway, due on the 14th inst., will be paid on and after that date at the London office of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

Letters of allotment and regret have been posted in connection with the recent issue of 1,000,000 Preference shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Oil Outputs.

Maikop Orient.—Plot 435a, well 3.—Week ended December 29, 14,150 poods.

European Oilfields.—Week ended December 23, 63,200 poods.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah, production for week 664 tons (last week 21 tons); Hurgada production for the week 3,549 tons (last week 5,391 tons).

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Production for week ended December 2, 41,000 poods (or 662 tons).

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A SERBIAN MISSION.

A party of thirteen Serbian gentlemen, consisting of industrialists and merchants, with several university professors and lawyers, is to visit Manchester from January 27 to 30 under the auspices of the Board of Trade, for the purpose of inspecting the Ship Canal and various works. The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Spoker, will receive them and make the arrangements for the visit. They will probably be accompanied by Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., and Sir William Clark.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 350.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Neither from Palestine nor from Mesopotamia has there been news of any importance this week. Quite obviously the Palestine campaign, in particular, could not be maintained at the rapid pace of last November and December; but the world still awaits the expected offensive by the Turks, assisted or not by their German masters, on either or both of these fronts. Falkenhayn has been the mystery man of the war for some months; and it is always possible that the loudly advertised German plans for an offensive on the Western front conceal a contemplated attack, perhaps on a smaller scale, in Asia Minor.

President Wilson's message to Congress has been unanimously approved by the Press in Bulgaria, alone among the enemy countries. Sternly denounced in Berlin, tearfully lamented in Vienna, sarcastically rebuked in Budapesth, it is praised in Sofia with curious unanimity. At first sight this would seem to be due to gratitude for America not having declared war upon Bulgaria—the little country may yet aspire to play the honest broker between the two sides in a negotiated peace that looks more possible in Sofia than in London—but the favourable attitude would seem to be more directly due to the fact that President Wilson's "fourteen points" do not directly hit Bulgaria in any respect.

Had he elaborated his studiously vague and moderate language as to the future settlement of the Balkans it is possible that the chorus would have been less congratulatory, for there was no hint whatever in the Presidential message that he would approve the cession of the Dobruja, part of Serbia, and the whole of Macedonia to the Bulgarians. Yet their annexationists demand nothing less than this. At the same time, one Sofia newspaper, the Democratic *Preporetz*, agrees that Serbia should have an outlet on the Adriatic—a doctrine that will not be very cordially received in Vienna.

It is very natural that the Jugoslavs should issue a protest against the Lloyd George-Wilson speeches, both of which suggested that Austria need not be dismembered, and that internal autonomy for the various nationalities under the Hapsburgs would adequately fulfil their aspirations. As both speeches were made with obviously carefully chosen phrasing in every word, and were in no sense mere platform rhetoric, this cannot be attributed to any looseness due to the momentary hesitation for the right word that sometimes occurs in an impromptu speech; and, moreover, the expression "autonomy" for the Jugoslavs and other Austrian nationalities was limited still further by the contrasting "independence" put forward as the legitimate destiny of Poland.

These protests have found an echo in Italy, where it is complained that Italian aspirations also are not fully recognised. It is the fact that neither Mr. Lloyd George nor President Wilson defined his attitude towards the Adriatic problem, but it must always be remembered that this particular problem is one of the most complicated in Europe, that the setting forth of a satisfactory solution would in itself take a great deal of space, and that long convention prescribes certain limits to a speech. None of those who advocate or denounce the League of Nations, for instance—a matter of vital interest to the British Empire—would denounce either of the two statesmen because his general approval of the scheme has not resulted in a fully drafted constitution for this promised new world.

But there seems to have been also some disappointment in Italy because Italian claims in the Levant were not more specifically recognised. (The same objection has not yet been heard from Greece, although it may very probably have been made.) Again the defence holds good that the declarations must not be judged altogether by what they omitted. If they were, Britain has the most reason of all to object, for neither our Prime Minister nor the American President thought it necessary to say a single word about the German Fleet—an ignoring of the life-work of Admiral Tirpitz which may partly account for the unusual irritability of that personage's language during the last few days.

It is noteworthy in this connection that some considerable irritation has been expressed in the Austrian newspapers at the fact that Slav units from Austria are fighting with the Entente armies on the Western front. The presence of Czechs and Poles in France will not make any real military difference, according to these pundits, but the moral effect is admitted to be a little difficult to explain to intelligent neutrals. It is.

Despite every temptation and threat, Roumania remains nobly faithful to the Allies. As *The Times* correspondent pertinently remarks, Roumania has been let down three times by Russia—first by the Tsar's Government, then by the Provisional Government, and, lastly, by the Bolsheviks. The latter have indeed done a good deal more, since they have called a Roumanian Socialist to Petrograd to discuss with him the methods of compassing an anti-bourgeois revolution—a project which is not likely to be very successful, the Roumanians being an intelligent people who do not see the dawn of the millennium in the Smolny Institute. The Address from the Throne, which was read by the King in person at the opening of the Parliament at Jassy, once again affirms the fidelity of the Roumanian Government to their engagements with their Allies. The cheers with which this statement was received will echo rather strangely in Petrograd.

The Bolshevik Government, whether incited thereto by the Germans or not, have addressed an ultimatum to Roumania. They lodge a formal complaint that the Roumanian authorities have caused a Russian regiment to be disarmed and have arrested a Russian regimental committee, and threaten war, if satisfaction is not given within twenty-four hours. Most people were under the impression that the Russian regiments had either disarmed themselves or been disarmed by Lenin already as a part of his set policy; in any event, his late dealings with Roumania have shown his steadfast determination to pick a quarrel with his allies while he is discussing peace with his enemies.

Exactly what force the threat of Bolshevik war against Roumania may have is very doubtful; Lenin may do something by means of anarchist excesses, but of disciplinary war he has not a notion, and his many recent threats of war have had about as much effect as a mouse's threat to eat a cat. Presumably his real grievance against the Roumanians is that they have not laid down their arms, disorganised their armies, and walked into the German trap. He has even gone so far as to arrest the Roumanian Minister at Petrograd and the members of the Roumanian staff—the "new diplomacy"—with a vengeance. But this latest development of Bolshevik methods was brought to an abrupt end by the intervention of the American Ambassador.

When most of a man's words tend in one direction and all of his acts in another, it may be a harsh, but it is not necessarily a false, estimate to assume that his words are a kind of camouflage for his acts. M. Trotsky is full of indignant protests against the Germans whom he asked to negotiate with him, he threatens war against them if they do not do what he orders them, and he talks of raising a revolution in Germany against the bourgeois annexationists. But as he continues to discuss the terms of peace with them, his anger is not taken very seriously by anybody. He proposed that the negotiations, for no very evident reason, should be transferred from Brest-Litovsk to Stockholm, which has apparently become a kind of Socialist paradise in these days, not altogether to the content of the Swedish Government; but the Germans refused, and M. Trotsky sat down again at the same table with them. He has now raised numerous other points, which the Germans have treated, sometimes with brutal candour, sometimes with skilful evasion; but on every matter where the Germans make a stand M. Trotsky gives way. It is not altogether to be wondered at that there are those who suspect that the whole of the negotiations are an elaborate farce.

Meanwhile, however, the position of Roumania has been strengthened and that of Russia weakened by the fact that the Ukraine has proclaimed its independence, and that this has been recognised both by Petrograd and Berlin, possibly for different reasons. The possibilities of the Ukraine State to influence the Balkan position and thence indirectly the whole European situation are very considerable, particularly if the new republic is to be flanked by an impotent Russia. A strong Ukraine, based on what the Bolsheviks call bourgeois principles, and controlling the production of one of the richest grain and oil countries in Europe, would become a great factor in the future development of the Near East.

That Russia has, for the moment, given up the attempt to reduce the Ukraine and the south to obedience is clear. Not less clear is the fact that Germany wishes to stand well with the new State, having recognised its independence and invited it to the peace negotiations at the earliest possible moment. But it is being suggested, in quarters that are not usually ill-informed, that the new Ukraine authorities are not so friendly disposed to Berlin and Vienna as was expected. Nothing has been divulged as to the relations between the British Government and the new State, but no doubt communications have already taken place; between the French Government and the Ukraine it is known that there have been dealings. Fortunately there is nothing to show that Kieff entertains the anti-British or anti-French ideas current at Petrograd. It must be remembered that the commercial relations between Odessa and Britain before the war were close and intimate.

No franker admission of the essentially German origin of the war could be desired than the following statement of Prince Lichnowsky: "The dominant position for which we strove on the Bosporus, supported by military missions which were intended to strengthen the power of resistance of the Turks, aroused the displeasure of the Russian Government. Our navy policy and our Morocco policy, on the one hand, and our Serbian and Turkish policy on the other hand, *created the state of feeling out of which the Entente grew.*" In a subsequent passage of this article the late German Ambassador in London admits that Germany helped to create an independent Albania in order to shut Serbia off from the sea, and that Count Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, never really recognised the peace of Bucharest. This illuminating article, which appears to be historically correct, appeared in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, from which it has been translated by *The Times*. One may gather from it a tacit admission that Prince Lichnowsky recognises that his diplomatic career is finally closed.

One of the most curious manifestoes of the war is that in which Lenin recognises the conditional independence of Armenia. He advises the organisation of a temporary government of the people of Turkish Armenia in the form of a Council of Deputies of the Armenian people elected according to democratic principles, and suggests that the "geographical frontiers of Turkish Armenia *must* be fixed by democratic representatives elected by the Armenian people, with the consent of democratic representatives elected in neighbouring countries and of the Commissioner for Caucasian affairs." The word *must* is significant of the impotent autocrat of Petrograd: but has Lenin never heard of the Armenian massacres?

Behind the bald statement that General Veshovitch, formerly Minister for War in Montenegro, has surrendered to the Austrian authorities lies, we may be sure, a tragedy of heroism and patriotism. For more than a year General Veshovitch and a devoted band of followers, continually diminishing in numbers, have held out in an unequal struggle against the conquerors of their land. Much of the story is still obscure. It is said that the general shot the officer who was sent to arrest him, and then fled. A price was put upon his head; but all attempts to run him to earth failed, and the Austrians, to cover their failure, circulated the report that he had fled the country. Before they were driven to this, however, they perpetrated the barbarous outrage that proved them apt colleagues of the murderers of Edith Cavell. General Veshovitch's family were seized as hostages, and a proclamation was issued to the effect that his brother and father would be put to death, unless he surrendered himself within a stated period. The threat was carried out on the brother; but the father was "reprieved as an act of grace on account of his age." The responsibility for this crime rests with the Austrian Governor, General Weber, whose name, it is to be supposed, has been noted by the Allies in accordance with the British Government's pledge that penalties would be enacted for specific crimes where actual responsibility could be attached.

On the merits of General Veshovitch's case it is, of course, impossible to pass judgment. If he was guilty of the murder of an Austrian officer, the Austrian authorities will be within their rights in exacting the extreme penalty. Modern conceptions of justice, however, do not countenance the infliction of vicarious punishment, although the execution of General Veshovitch's brother was not likely to evoke comment in the country with so many judicial murders to its charge. The surrender of General Veshovitch probably marks the final collapse of all attempts on the part of the Montenegrins to hold out against their conquerors, for it may be taken for granted that the general's action was a protest against the excesses of Austrian rule, and served as a rallying point for all who were still continuing the struggle.

In these circumstances it is lamentable to find those of the Montenegrins who were able to escape from the country engaged in a political controversy among themselves. From the pages of a publication entitled "The Montenegrin Bulletin" we gather that a party of six refugees has styled itself the Montenegrin Committee for National Union, and is engaged in propaganda work with a view to bringing about the absorption of Montenegro in Serbia. This aim may be all that is claimed for it—a perfectly legitimate one, and offering the very best policy for Montenegro to adopt. But the question can only be decided by the Montenegrins themselves, and it calls for no propaganda work in Allied countries. The "Bulletin," as far as can be gathered, is inspired primarily by a personal feud, into the rights and wrongs of which there is no need to enter here; but it is one that in its essence is necessarily distasteful to the vast majority of Britons. The Allies have resolved that nations are to have the right of "self-determination" in regard to their future status. They are hardly likely, therefore, to withhold this right from one of their own number—the Montenegrin. But, as we understand the authors of the "Bulletin," the future of Montenegro is to be decided by anybody or everybody rather than by the unfortunate people of Montenegro now suffering under Austrian tyranny. It is to be hoped that this further indignity will not be added to the sufferings of that unhappy country.

On another page a correspondent utters a timely warning in regard to the country and inhabitants of Georgia, in the Caucasus. In recent issues attention has been drawn to Turkish and German propaganda, having for its object the consolidation of a great belt of Moslem peoples stretching from Constantinople across Central Asia. The bulk of the Georgians are Christians; but their incorporation in an aggrandised Ottoman Empire is desired for geographical reasons. As our Tabriz correspondent pointed out last week, the Georgians have been receiving special attention in this connection, and the Germans have been lavish in the most contradictory promises to the different races in this part of the world, with a view to detaching their sympathies from the Allies. The uncertainty of the Russian situation has made the Pan-Turanian movement a dangerous one for the peace of Asia, and it should not be allowed to gain strength for lack of being challenged. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the British Government will appreciate in time the necessity for giving the Georgians the moral and, perhaps, material support required to keep them from being drawn within the Turco-German net. There would seem to be room for an organisation which, without asking anything for Georgia, will undertake to kindle among Britons interest in this near neighbour of Mesopotamia.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by th publishers, at 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 16 (Delayed).

Fuel and Food Questions.

Athens, together with the surrounding country, was visited last week with an exceptionally severe snowstorm, which caused considerable dislocation in the life of the city. One of the principal effects has been the difficulty of bringing in wood from the Tatoi forest, and the electric supply has consequently been on the verge of stopping altogether. Practically the whole of the tramway service has had to be suspended, and the train service between Athens and the Piræus has been reduced from the usual departures of a quarter of an hour to one hour intervals, resulting in great struggles to secure places. The lighting of the city has been further reduced and almost all places of amusement, being without light, have had to close their doors. The public, of course, experience great difficulty in securing fuel, and in addition to a scanty diet they have had the discomfort of being without the means of warming themselves, with the thermometer considerably below the freezing point. The fuel problem appears to be a difficult one to solve. Foodstuffs from abroad such as wheat, rice, etc., are beginning to arrive more regularly, and it is hoped that in a short time the measures which the Allies have taken to provision Greece will bear fruit and that the situation will be considerably alleviated; but local produce is mysteriously scarce, and meat has now disappeared from the market.

General News.

There is a period of calm in politics, but there are rumours of changes in the Ministry when M. Venizelos arrives.

His doings are naturally reported at length by the Venizelist Press, and there appears to be a feeling that his visit to England and France will be productive of much benefit.

The taking of Jerusalem by the British and Allied forces has provoked great enthusiasm and satisfaction. The event was celebrated to-day by a Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral, which was attended by the King, the high officials, and the Diplomatic Body, amidst the ringing of all the church bells.

Another anniversary was celebrated the other day—the taking of the Acropolis by Fabvier in 1826. The ceremony was organised by the Franco-Hellenique League, and was attended by the King and by a number of Greek and French military. It attracted a large gathering of the public at the Acropolis. Speeches were made, and amid much acclamation an event organised to emphasise the ties between France and Greece was successfully commemorated.

The appearance of the King and his aide-de-camp in the uniform of ex-King Constantine's regiment, with

Royal Exchange
ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.
TRUSTEESHIPS AND EXECUTORSHIPS UNDERTAKEN.
Policies issued to cover loss incidental to FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENT, MOTOR-CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, THIRD PARTY, at lowest possible premiums.
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INDIA: 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta. H. L. Bell, Gen. Man.
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CYPRUS (LIMASSOL): AGENTS—NAJEM HOURY.
Head Office: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.3.

a large K on the shoulder-straps, has been much commented upon, and the Press advocate measures being taken to extinguish these smouldering embers.

December 30.

St. Paul's Church at Athens.

A pleasing little function took place to-day after morning service in St. Paul's Church. Lord Granville received on behalf of the Church a safe which had been purchased out of subscriptions given by some of the British refugees from Turkey, as a token of esteem for the Rev. Alan Gardner. The idea originated with Mr. Newman Mumford, and thanks are due to him for the trouble he took in collecting the subscriptions and obtaining the safe. In making the presentation, Mr. Mumford spoke as follows:—

MY LORD,—It is my pleasant duty this morning to ask your lordship to accept, on behalf of St. Paul's Church, this safe, which has been subscribed for by a few of the British refugees from Constantinople and other parts of Turkey.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to say but little about the donors. You, sir, know the facts of our ups and downs and our jumping from pillar to post, scattered far and wide from our homes. Yes, and some have even lost their homes, and others have been separated from their dear ones; but we are here, some of us, thank God! and stronger in our faith in victory over the enemy than ever.

We have had the privilege of worshipping in this church now for over three years, and for two years of that time the Rev. Alan Gardner was the parson. But it is the origin of the safe about which I wish to say a word first.

A story is told of how Mr. Gardner was met by a friend one Sunday morning staggering home from church with the weight of the collection in his pockets that the dutiful and generous worshippers had offered that morning. "Why did you not leave the money in the safe?" the friend inquired. "Well," he replied, "because we do not possess one." And the friend said that he would see to it that one was supplied, and this is the result to-day. The safe is intended also to store the church plate, or, at any rate, a part of it. It was practically ready to be presented more than a year ago, but the troubles of December came and upset the arrangements, and I regret that Mr. Gardner is not with us to-day to see the consummation of that little Sunday morning meeting after church.

Of the reverend gentleman many friends here will have pleasant recollections. He was not only the pastor of the church—he was also the schoolmaster of the young British children of this city. He was a great friend to the children. He had a special and kindly way in handling them, I have been told by some of the parents, and was much liked by the children.

You, my lord, have now under your roof at the Legation pupils of Mr. Gardner who are working for the State. He was pastor for a number of years in this church, and it is thus fitting that we should associate his name with the presentation to-day on the brass plate on the front of the safe. It will remind generations yet unborn who will worship in this church that the Rev. Alan Gardner was pastor during the first two years of the great war, and that there were refugees from Turkey staying in Athens and worshipping in St. Paul's Church who appreciated his work.

This is the last Sunday we shall meet in the old year—a day for silent thought and examination of the past eventful days. Let us spare a few thoughts to our late pastor, who, I venture to say, will think of us.

I trust that all who have met here this morning will be spared, if it so please God, to meet again in this beautiful and sacred edifice on the great morning of victory, when we shall hear the joy bells ringing from the tower above us, and thank and glorify God for our deliverance from the curse of militarism.

And now, my lord, I have to thank you, on behalf of the donors, for your kindness in meeting us so gladly, and undertaking this function I trust that it is only the first of many you will carry out, and that you will be blessed with health in this city to do it.

On receiving the keys, Lord Granville said that he had great pleasure in accepting the safe on behalf of the Church, and although he had not had the privilege of knowing Mr. Gardner, he felt sure that he would greatly value this appreciation of the refugees from Turkey.

The Sunday morning services have been maintained regularly by Mr. Waller, Mr. Rowe and Mr. Satow, who have taken it in turns to read the service; but it is hoped that a clergyman will soon be found to replace Mr. Gardner.

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A SERBIAN PRAYER BOOK.

Father Nicholai Velimorovitch has compiled a soldier's prayer book for the Serbian Army from the authorised manuals of the Eastern Church. The S.P.C.K. has undertaken the publication of it, and has also made itself responsible for the cost of the book, which, beautifully printed, contains reproductions of some well-known icons and pictures. It is stated that the first edition of 10,000 copies will cost about £500. The books will be sent as a free gift to the Serbs at Salonika, Corfu, and other parts of the Mediterranean area. The Serbian Relief Fund has promised to help in the task of redistribution. All who subscribe to the cost of its production will receive a specimen copy of the book.

THE PALESTINE FRONT.

The most interesting news from Palestine is that issued on the 15th inst. regarding the eastern flank of our main advance. This has always seemed very much "in the air." The wilderness of Judæa, which lies between the central plateau—on which Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron stand—and the actual Jordan Valley, should, in the summer months, be a very good protection, as it is a stony, waterless desert. In mid-winter, however, this is by no means the case, and the Turks are no doubt holding their own without much difficulty not far from our lines. These last seem from the report to run from Mar Saba north to Jeba Mukhmas and the N.W. towards Bireh.

Mar Saba is the famous monastry which has been built up in the steep and rugged southern side of Wady en Nar, some eight or nine miles S.E. of Jerusalem. It was founded in the fifth century, and is called after Saba (born in 439), who was a monk here noted for his holiness. In recent years the place has been used as a place of correction for troublesome Greek-Church monks. The irregular mass of buildings, surrounded by high and powerful walls in the midst of a sun-baked wilderness, make an extraordinary picture. If, as it seems, British troops have occupied the place, they should here have comfortable quarters as regards water, etc., but nearly the whole place could be riddled with fire from any hostile force on the opposite side of the valley.

Mukhmas is the ancient Michmas, and was, like Jeba, referred to in a previous article; here our troops made a successful raid, cleared out the village, and brought back prisoners.

It is clear that the eastern flank is still an insecure one, and will remain so until we can extend at least into the Jericho plain itself and secure the fords and bridges of the Jordan.

On the western flank—near the coast—parties of Turks have been shelled near Mezeireh. This is a village close to el Kuleh—mentioned recently; it lies on a low hill, guarding as it were the way inland, some 1½ miles to the east of the railway at Rantieh, which last place is in our possession. Our most northerly point is on the sea coast at Arsuf, a place famous for a great victory of Richard Cœur de Lion over Saladin (1191).

Two important and historic sites have been successfully bombed, viz., Jenin, the ancient Engannim, where the road and railway pass from the mountains into the Plain of Esdraelon—here an aerodrome has been bombed—and Amman, the site of the ancient Rabbath-Ammon, named in the days of the Greeks Philadelphia. This is a most important station on the Hejaz Railway, and from here a recently made military road runs to Jerusalem. The modern town—built among the ruins of the ancient city—is inhabited by Circassians, and it must now be a scene of activity as the railhead for the eastern attack on our advanced line. It lies forty-seven miles E. (and slightly north) of Jerusalem.

E. W. G. M.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

German Propaganda.

An extraordinary document was captured not long ago on the Roumanian Front. Putting to profit the Russian desire for "fraternisation," the German Command applied it to the disorganisation of the Allied forces and to securing information about them. Like everything German, it was thoroughly organised, and the document in question is nothing less than a text-book of the art of fraternisation. It emanates from the headquarters of the 218th Infantry Division, is signed by General Kreynberg, and is headed by the warning: "Secret.—Not to be taken in the first line." The document instructs that greater development should be given to propaganda on the Roumanian Front, for the purpose of "disorganising the Roumanian Army and obtaining information about the enemy, especially such as refers to the new 1st Roumanian Army on the Moldavian Front." The propaganda is to be carried out by means of literature and of verbal contact with the Roumanian troops, and the officers to whom the direction of this work will be entrusted are to find out those points of the line where such contact could be established. But they are to do nothing else than prepare the ground; alone the officer in charge of the Divisional Intelligence Bureau is entitled to negotiate with the enemy, and to him all letters and printed matters which the Roumanian soldiers may bring must be sent "without being opened or touched." The German Command was obviously disturbed lest free contact with the enemy should weaken the patriotic endurance of its soldiers, who are therefore "strictly prohibited from entering into relations with the enemy except at the points mentioned above [each of which was to be in charge of a company commander], in order not to increase the possibilities of spying. The enemy will try in any case to put to profit the kindness of our soldiers."

The officers in question are enjoined to proceed with care and method, and are provided with advice as to the psychology of the work. "The success of such attempts to establish contact with the enemy depends on the ability with which they have been initiated. Loud shouting could only frighten so cowardly an adversary as the Roumanian and would alarm the whole line. Good results will be obtained by quiet appeals, made in a very friendly manner, by the frequent repetition of the attempts at the same point, the promise not to fire, the offer of tobacco, etc. Tobacco is to be demanded from the company commander." The progress of these altruistic activities is to be reported daily to the Divisional Intelligence Bureau, and measures should be taken to preserve the points where propaganda is carried on from artillery fire. The German command were obviously doing their best to make "fraternisation" a success, but were sensible enough not to indulge in too great illusions about the results of their efforts. "The Roumanians," the document concluded, "are distrustful and perfidious, and therefore one will have to count with the fact that they will lay traps to capture or kill our propaganda agents. One should be careful, therefore . . . . For the defence of our soldiers protective units should always, discreetly and unobserved, be organised in our trenches. They are only to fire upon orders from the company commander in charge of the respective post."

Any comment would only impair the charm of that delightful document. One fact may be mentioned, for the sake of the reputation of its author: that it was written on June 17, 1917—that is, before the great German offensive of last autumn. The German general has since had good reasons for modifying his valuation of the Roumanian soldier.

Life in Moldavia.

All the efforts of the authorities and of the population to prevent a recurrence of last winter's calamity have been frustrated by the chaos prevailing on the Russian railways. The American Mission have done splendid work in the short space of time since they have arrived. They are continually conferring with and assisting the authorities concerned for the purpose of mitigating distress, and they were able to secure transport for a certain quantity of goods. Early in November they received from Russia four trucks of flour and oil; shortly afterwards five ships left Odessa carrying goods destined to the American Mission, while a train of fifty-nine trucks, conducted by American engineers, brought 500 barrels with sardines and a quantity of sanitary material from Odessa. All these provisions are destined for the free and sole use of the poor population. But, notwithstanding this welcome help, and the creation in Jassy of a "Directorate of Public Alimentation" to look after the provisioning of the civil population, the situation has grown so bad that a decree had to be issued suppressing altogether the distribution of meat behind the firing line; bread, moreover, is henceforward only to be distributed on five days a week, on the remaining two days the population receiving instead a small quantity of maize flour. Deficiency is not confined to food. There is much complaint about the lack of books, since few are printed and none imported. They are especially missed in hospitals and prisoners' camps—and in schools. Text-books are unobtainable. This difficulty finds to a degree a somewhat sad solution. There is such insufficiency of accommodation in overcrowded Jassy that many secondary schools may find themselves unable to commence work. The authorities are being urged to take over some of the less necessary shops and put them at the disposal of the educational authorities.

Miscellanea.

A decree has been issued calling to arms class 1919.

General Marin Ionescu has been made chief of the General Staff, Sedentary Part.

A new Rumanian publication, *Vestitorul*, is now appearing in Odessa.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Health of the Island.

Every year that passes tends to dispel more surely the idea so generally current for some time after the British occupation that the climate of Cyprus was unhealthy and dangerous. The medical section of the High Commissioner's recent report shows that the public health continues steadily to improve. This is unquestionably due to the medical officers, the excellent hospitals and dispensaries maintained in all districts, the anti-malarial campaign (including drainage works), which is being systematically carried out in compliance with the advice of Sir Ronald Ross, and the increasing enlightenment of the people.

Amongst other signs of improvement, it would seem that leprosy is decreasing. The number of known lepers is now only ninety, the lowest return on record. At Nicosia there is an establishment for the segregation and treatment of these unfortunate sufferers, which is generally called the Leper Farm. It is a peaceful retreat, about one and a half miles south-east of the city, at a secluded spot, in which shady trees have grown up, and which contains several blocks of buildings. In Turkish times the rules regarding lepers were lax here, as elsewhere. At Damascus, for example, visitors to the *Beit Naamán* (House of Naaman), which is the Government leper asylum, found the administration quite *à la Turque*. Often not a single inmate could be found. The patients wandered at will in the streets and bazaars, returning when they thought fit. At most places in Syria lepers sit by the roadside begging, and exposing their terrible deformities and signs of disease. Travellers by road from Jaffa to Jerusalem will not forget the sight.

The Leper Farm.

Needless to say, the British Government promptly adopted suitable rules and regulations. A leper law was passed under which it is the duty of any person who knows of the existence of a supposed leper to report to the village headman, who informs the District Commissioner. If the district medical officer pronounces the case to be one of leprosy, the patient is sent to Nicosia, and if the chief medical officer confirms the view, the High Commissioner orders his or her removal to the farm, on the certificate of two medical officers, of whom the chief medical officer is one. Cypriots have a great dread of contagious diseases (many regard leprosy as of this category), and yet they frequently conceal cases, chiefly owing to certain superstitious ideas which they have respecting them. In this matter, however, a beneficial change is coming over the people. The asylum is under the direction of the chief medical officer, who is responsible for the maintenance of good order, and must visit the farm at least once a week. A secretary keeps books and records, and must pay bi-weekly visits. There is a superintendent, who resides at the farm and answers for its cleanliness, controls the attendants, and pays the lepers the allowances which are granted by the Government. There are several resident guards, who can go off duty in turn, but must not be absent more than four hours without permission from the chief medical officer. Finally, there are several servants who assist lepers that are unable to look after themselves. No inmate can absent himself from the farm, and no one can visit it, without the written permission of the chief medical officer.

There is a chapel, and a priest of the Orthodox Church holds services on Sundays and Saints' days, and performs all religious offices, except marriages, which can only take place by special permission of the High Commissioner. The priest is strictly forbidden to attempt to proselytize. Any leper who absents himself without permission, which sometimes happens, is liable to imprisonment not exceeding three months. The chief medical officer has magisterial powers, and deals with all offences committed by the patients, who have the right to appeal to a higher Court. The prison consists of two rooms in a block facing the chapel, and the superintendent acts as warder. No leper is allowed to keep or use any firearm or dagger-knife. All are required "to conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner." They are required to carry out work for the benefit of the farm, according to their various abilities. There are several married couples. The Government maintains at Nicosia a home for children born in the farm of leper parents. At present there are eleven, of ages from six to seventeen. All are without sign of the disease. Four have been taught a trade, and have been discharged with a grant of £5 to start them in life.

Great attention has been given by the medical authorities to the disease, the cause of which still remains so obscure; but I believe I am right in saying that no contribution to the stock of scientific knowledge respecting the disease has yet been made in Cyprus.

THE LIBERATION OF SYRIA.

(From a Syrian Correspondent.)

Turkish Damage.

Now that the Turks have been driven out of Southern Palestine, practically out of the whole Mutessarifiet of Jerusalem, with its four Cazas (districts)—Gaza, Jaffa, Hebron, and Jerusalem—it is most gratifying to learn from a semi-official statement that previous reports as to the loss of life and property have been somewhat exaggerated. It is also satisfactory to learn from official *communiqués* that the Turks, in their hurried retreat, had no time to drive before them the inhabitants, or remove any of the supplies. Gaza, however, seems to have been a sad and solitary exception, for the writer was told by an eye-witness and a well-known inhabitant of that town that it is now a heap of ruins. Not a soul was left there. The houses have been robbed of all furniture, and even the wooden frames of windows and doors have been torn off to supply fuel for the railway. While young orange and other fruit trees have not suffered to any appreciable extent, being not quite fit for fuel purposes, the estimated proportion of old olive-trees cut down is, according to the same eye-witness, about four-fifths of the olive plantations in the vicinity of Gaza. What makes this wanton destruction all the more deplorable is that many of the trees there are centuries old.

The Egyptian Post Office does not yet accept any correspondence to Palestine, but occasional private letters from the newly-occupied territories, and especially Jaffa, have been allowed into Egypt, presumably with the military mail. Reuter's correspondent states in one of his messages that the town of Jaffa and the orchards around it are intact. Jerusalem, also, according to official reports, has been evacuated without any damage. A private letter received a few days ago from Jaffa states that the inhabitants in general are in a distressful state. Many Christian families of the better class have been deported.

The soldiers, especially the Australians, seem to be delighted with the well-cultivated vineyards and orchards of the Jewish colonies, which are said to be intact. The loss that the people have sustained most is in cattle, and, in considering the problem of supply for the newly-occupied territories, the British authorities' first care will be the replenishing of the exhausted stock of cattle there. Such a step is necessary to save the forthcoming crops, which will have to meet not only the needs of the inhabitants, but also of the Army, especially the cavalry and camel corps.

The Syrians and Great Britain.

There has always existed an undercurrent of feeling amongst Syrians in general that England, by her conservative policy, based on the principle of Turkey's territorial integrity, has, indirectly and unwittingly, been the cause of all their misfortunes at the hands of the Turks. The admirable campaign, however, conducted with such generous sacrifice of men and money, which resulted in the brilliant conquest of Southern Palestine, on the one hand, and the munificent spirit lately displayed in England in connection with the Palestine Relief Fund, on the other hand, have left nothing but an unmixed feeling of gratitude and admiration in the heart of every Syrian for the great nation that is using the greatest military and naval power in the world for affirming the highest principles of justice and the sacred rights of humanity.

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Syrian Relief.

It is appropriate to refer in this connection to the Cairo Committee of the Syrian Relief Fund. Save for about a thousand pounds, which were sent to Syria through an exceptional and indirect channel, it was not found possible to transmit any of the balance of subscriptions, amounting in all to over £12,000, to the victims of famine in Syria, and as this considerable amount has been lying all that long time as a fruitless and impotent effort of charity, it was suggested by some of the members that part of this money should be paid to the families of destitute Syrian refugees in Egypt, and especially those whose heads are away at the front. Opinions were divided, and at one time there was fear of a deadlock, when the liberation of Southern Palestine came to afford a happy solution. As the way was now partially opened for the transmission of relief to at least a section of the Syrian population, the Cairo Committee very rightly joined hands with the Cairo branch of the London Committee of the Palestine Relief Fund, and devoted a part of the subscriptions collected to the sufferers of Palestine. The spiritual heads at Jerusalem of the different creeds and denominations represented in the Cairo Committee are to take charge, in collaboration with the Bishop of Jerusalem, of the distribution of relief. The aim of both organisations is one, in that distribution is meant for all deserving cases, irrespective of creed or denomination. The Cairo Committee, having thus found a new incentive, revived its activities, and is launching fresh appeals. The first has already brought in about £60. It is devoutly hoped that the Syrians in Egypt, realising the magnitude of the catastrophe that has befallen their countrymen at home, and, seeing at last the way of relief opening before them, will not prove behindhand in the race of charity wherein the different nations of the world have been vying with each other in such noble and generous spirit.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Mesopotamia; the Key to the Future," by Canon Parfit. A short account of the past history, present development, and future prospects of Mesopotamia, showing that the settlement of its problems is of vast importance to the progress and prosperity of the world. 41 pp., with map. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 77 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Armenian Atrocities: The Murder of a Nation," by A. J. Toynbee, with speech by Lord Bryce. An account of the atrocities committed by the Turks on the Armenians, with documents. 117 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Verdict of India," by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E. The writer describes what England has done and is doing for India, and explains the German delusion as to its internal condition. 57 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Voice from India," address by Maharajah of Bikanir. Speech delivered to Indian delegates at House of Commons. 24 pp. Empire Parliamentary Association, London.

"The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks," by Arnold J. Toynbee, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. A brief sketch of Turkish history to show that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and their confinement to a portion of Asia Minor will be the only adequate requital for their atrocious treatment of subject races during this war and previously. 35 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Justice of Roumania's Cause," by A. W. A. Leeper. An explanation of the international position of Roumania in Europe and of her rights in the war. The author shows that her cause is legitimate, and that she has taken great risks and endured much to deliver her people from Hungary's oppression. 24 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

THE GEORGIAN QUESTION.

(From a Correspondent.)

Two forces in conjunction—the events in Russia since the Revolution and the recent developments in Palestine—have brought into their proper perspective the country of Georgia, in the Caucasus, and its noble and chivalrous people. Submerged in the Russian Empire since 1801, although preserving their own language, literature, and intellectual development, the Georgians have been obscured by the shadow of that Colossus, and from the nature of things in these circumstances justice has not been done either to their prowess in arms or to their brilliant intellectual attainments. It is the duty of patriotic Englishmen and Englishwomen to make themselves acquainted with the history, economic resources, and aspirations of this little Christian nation, whose troops are within 100 miles of our forces in Mesopotamia, and to strive to extricate the buried treasure of achievement. Since the Russian Revolution decentralisation has brought into existence a spirit of unity in the composite nationalities of which Russia was composed. True, the necessity of establishing local order has, perhaps, been the first impelling force, but under this spur of necessity the self-consciousness of national spirit has gathered itself together. As a country of peasant proprietors, there are practically no Bolsheviks in Georgia. Their leaders have proclaimed their country's autonomy, and—without prejudice to the Georgians joining any practical scheme of federation which economic or other considerations may later dictate—their interests are closely linked with British interests in Asia Minor. It behoves us, therefore, to study this question closely from the political, economic, and military point of view.

The enemy countries have recognised the military and economic importance of Georgia, and have carried on an active propaganda during the war. To appreciate the danger of its effectiveness, it is necessary to indicate some of its features. Germany, first of all, recognises the Georgians as an independent nationality, as the predominant or key race in Transcaucasia, and of the highest military value (*vide* German General Staff publications). She offers to assist them in the development of their resources and to preserve their independence. She further asks from them no military assistance, only neutrality. The subtlety and insidiousness of this propaganda have a great bearing on the future, and need examination at greater length on some future occasion, but in effect it means leaving a free hand to the Turks and Germans in Asia Minor.

The political situation would be made clearer by opening close commercial connection between Great Britain and Georgia, when a mutual need of protecting and safeguarding Georgian and British interests would arise, and, as a natural sequence, bring the military forces of both countries into close contact. It should not be difficult to arouse the interest of British capitalists in developing the vast mineral resources of the country and in establishing key industries in the vicinity of the raw material. The inviolability of Georgian territory and resources is a matter of vital concern to the Allies, and the mutual self-interest of all concerned points to the desirability of an international agreement being arrived at.

The population of Georgia is approximately four millions, consisting of three millions of Greek Orthodox faith, 200,000 Roman Catholics, and the remainder Mohammedans. They have military effectives amounting to about 150,000 men, including 5,000 highly trained officers, and the efforts of the German Headquarters Staff have been directed to detach them. Enemy propaganda must be grappled with without delay, as, if it be allowed to continue without any evidence of interest on the Allied side, we may pay a heavy price for our apathy. The Balkans provide an object lesson of the disasters arising from the lack of appreciation of foreign mentalities and local national aspirations. Each unit in a sphere of interest requires separate individual study and recognition. It is a fatal policy to try to unite them all in accordance with some preconceived idea of an outside party. Racial pride and historical associations demand special treatment, although friendly guidance may be offered after some governing principle has been established in the nature of guarantees. An irreparable mistake may easily be made in the treatment of Asia Minor nationalities, and it is to be hoped that a strong public opinion will be formed in this country without delay that will demand a prompt and enlightened treatment of the Georgian question.

THE JORDAN VALLEY AND ITS LAKES.

Lecturing last Monday before the Royal Geographical Society, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman said that the Jordan Valley was a unique feature of the earth's surface. No other part of the earth uncovered by water sank three hundred feet below the level of the ocean, but here was a rift more than a hundred and sixty miles long and from two to fifteen miles broad which fell 1,293 feet below ocean level at the surface of the Dead Sea, and at the bottom of the latter was 1,300 feet deeper still. The whole history of the country had been profoundly affected by this vast barrier, and that history was by no means finished yet; for through the Jordan Valley ran the slender iron track which was to-day the main source of supply of the Turkish Army from Palestine. In the early glacial period the Jordan Valley was filled by a lake 105 feet above the Mediterranean. This lake had now dried up and become the Valley of the Jordan, but three collections of water remained. In the north was El Huli, nine miles south of this the Lake of Galilee, and again 60 miles further south the Dead Sea. Between El Huli and the Lake of Galilee the river fell 689 feet, a greater fall than took place between the Lake of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The course of the river throughout was filled with rapids. The Dead Sea was the most interesting of all the geographical features of the valley. It was about forty-seven miles long, divided into a northern two-thirds, where the water was deep, and a shallow southern bay by a peninsula known in Arabic as El Lisan, or the tongue. One interesting object beside the Dead Sea was the great rock at Masada, now called Es Sebbe. This stood out with almost precipitous sides 2,000 feet above the sea, and from it a magnificent view of the sea, and especially El Lisan, was visible. It was in this natural fortress, converted nearly 100 years previously by Herod the Great into a walled and munitioned stronghold, that the last wretched remnants of the escaped Jews from Jerusalem held out for many months against the might of Rome, finally preferring to seek self-destruction rather than fall into the enemy's pitiless hands. From the summit of the hill the outline of a Roman camp could be clearly seen, and the wall could be traced which the Romans had built entirely to surround their victims. At the south-west corner of the lake was a mountain of salt, called Jebel Usdum, or the Mountain of Sodom. It was a high hill rising 500 feet above the level of the Dead Sea and running for seven miles along its shores. The great mass of the hill was of a marly substance; but, under this, rising from about the Dead Sea level for about 100 to 150 feet, was a mass of crystallised rock salt. In some places the salt was hidden, but in others furrows and caves had been made by water action; and there were cave grottoes where one found beautiful stalactites and stalagmites of greenish, semi-translucent salt. The waters of the Dead Sea were impregnated with salt to an extraordinary degree. Asphalte was also found floating in its waters. This also was claimed by the Government. It was quite possible that petroleum might be found in the region. Previous to the war the only permanent boat allowed by the Turkish Government to be upon the Dead Sea was a small sailing ship which used to run from the south-east to the north shore with grain from the Kerak district. Now there were a number of boats, including at least one motor boat, brought from Jaffa, engaged in the transport of guns and munitions of war for the use of the Turkish Army. The Dead Sea region was not so entirely desolate as had been imagined. At many spots along its shores there were oases in which acres of reeds and many trees flourished. At such spots animal life was abundant. The most characteristic animal was the coney.

In an interesting discussion that followed, Mr. Israel Zangwill said the siege of Masada was not actually the last effort that the Jewish nation had made against the Romans. Two centuries afterwards another revolt had taken place.

Professor King (of the Palestine Exploration Fund) said that there was great potential water power in the Jordan Valley. This water power might be conveyed by electricity to all parts of Palestine, enormously increasing the number of people that the country could support.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was glad to see the Labour Party taken to task by the British Workers' League over that wonderfully crude suggestion that some international authority should be set up after the war to manage the African colonies of the European Powers. Until the spell was broken, I could hardly trust myself to refer to the subject; but now that the proposal has been challenged in Labour circles one may make some reference to it. But what aspect is to be tackled first? Here is a body of Englishmen who are solemnly prepared to scrap all the good their country has done in Africa, as well as the unique experience Great Britain has gained as a colonising Power, in order to place all her colonial administration on that continent under the control of an International Board on which she will be represented by one out of six or more members. As if such a Board could run the African Continent, or even a single colony, without an infinity of friction. Internationalisation, I fear, bids fair to run riot these days; and yet experience is dead against it, with the one possible exception of the Danube Commission, in the case of which the work is almost entirely technical and involves no jurisdiction over aggregates of population. The Labour Party's proposal, however, is the most fatuous so far, and could only have emanated from the warped brain of a very ignorant pacifist or by direct inspiration from Germany. It would be of interest to discover who originated it in Labour counsels. Both Egypt and Morocco have gone ahead with the elimination of international control, but some worthy or unworthy *quidnunc* who contrives to lead British Labour out of its depth proposes to revert to that pernicious system.

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A most interesting document has reached me, through the kindness of a reader, in the report of the President and Faculty of that great American institution, Robert College, at Constantinople, for the fifty-fourth year, 1916-17. It will be remembered that Turkey severed her relations with the United States on April 20, 1917. Just before that date the American Ambassador, Mr. Elkus, had been taken ill with typhus fever, and it was not until May 29 that he was able to leave Constantinople. This report was written last July, so that it brings the story of the College down to a date two or three months after the severance of diplomatic relations and six or seven weeks after Mr. Elkus left. Apart from the record of work done in trying circumstances, the main interest of the report lies in what is said regarding the attitude of the Turkish authorities. In the first place, there is the outstanding fact that the college was allowed to "carry on"; but the Turks, it will be seen, went further than that. This is what President Gates has to say on the subject, and I shall quote him at some length, because the matter may not be altogether devoid of bearing on future developments.

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"When Turkey actually severed relations with the United States it was universally conceded that now our College would certainly be closed and its buildings devoted to military purposes. The American College at Beirut was closed at that time for two weeks, after which it was allowed to reopen. But in Constantinople we continued our work. Three separate attempts were made by different departments to get possession of our buildings, which by their size and their prominent location constitute a great temptation. Officers and soldiers were sent to the college and placed on guard around the buildings designated, and in one case certain rooms and buildings were placed under the official seal, closing them to our use; but in every case, when representations were made to the Council of Ministers, orders were issued to withdraw the soldiers and to leave us undisturbed. On the day following the severance of relations between our country and Turkey the Turkish Minister of the Interior sent orders to all the provinces that American citizens and American institutions were to be treated just as they had been treated before the severance of relations, only no official relations were to be held with American Consuls."

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The machinery in the Engineering Department of the college was particularly coveted, but the Grand Vizier insisted that the military should not confiscate any of the plant. If any machine were required, it had to be bought or borrowed. Later on the Government found itself in great need of one of these machines. The President was sent for, and told that, although the authorities must have the machine in question, they would pay for it. Subsequently there was consternation in the college when an official appeared to take an inventory of all the machinery, but again the Grand Vizier intervened, and President Gates at the time of writing was able to say that they had suffered no further interference.

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The most picturesque illustration of the relations between Turks and Americans is given in the following anecdote:—

Recently one of our ladies was buying fruit in a little shop kept by an aged Turk, who asked her: "Where do you live?" "At Bebek," she replied. "Are you German?" "No." "What are you, then?" "I am an American." "Oh!" said he, and he reopened the bag of fruit which he was handing to her and added another plum.

"The people generally," adds President Gates, "have been giving us many plums of praise and friendliness, and have openly expressed their joy that our college has not been closed. This is a case where adversity has revealed friends instead of alienating them."

⁂

In the circumstances, I suppose, we must overlook the other side of the picture, which is that the Turks have been benefiting by the education given by Robert College, especially in the Engineering Department, in so far as they have secured well-trained engineers—a class in which they were extremely deficient—and have made full use of them for military purposes! But what of the motives which have prompted the Turks in this attitude? I am quite prepared to give them full credit for a certain amount of disinterested gratitude. Here is Robert College, in the fifty-fourth year of its existence, and for the greater part of that time the only institution in Turkey where university education could be had. Naturally, those who have passed through it, as well as those who are able to appreciate the advantages of education, have reason to be grateful to the Americans for the splendid disinterested work that they have carried out all these years. This view is confirmed by the attitude of Bulgaria, who during the earlier part of the college's existence made more use of it than did the Turks, who were slower in recognising their opportunities. President Gates writes:—"We cannot speak too highly of the consideration shown to us by the Bulgarian Government. In spite of the fact that they have need of all the food which they can produce they have said: 'Yes, we will give food for Robert College.'"

⁂

But, without doubt, considerations of "reinsurance" have not been entirely absent from the Turkish mind, and this is where the testimony of Robert College is of special interest at this stage. Will the present rulers of Turkey go a step further and, realising the mistake they made in 1914, decide to cut their losses and take what the Allies now offer them? By now they know the worst. A speedy decision would apparently stand them a good chance of saving Constantinople For the rest, now that President Wilson has underlined Mr. Lloyd George's declaration, the Turkish Government, in spite of Robert College and its own scrupulously correct attitude towards Americans, cannot hope for better terms.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE FRENCH COLONIES.[*]

It is an old jibe against France that her colonies are unsuccessful, but, whatever truth there may have once been in the taunt, it has ceased to be applicable these last thirty years, since her new colonial empire has been built up. It is one of the most astonishing proofs of the perennial vitality of France that within a generation after the war of 1870 she should have built up a colonial dominion second only to the British. Its material success has been amazing; the figures which M. de Lanessan cites for Tunisian commerce and agriculture could not be surpassed in the rapidity of their growth by Nigeria or a favoured rubber plantation in Malaya. He states, indeed, that Tunis is the most flourishing and successful of the French colonies, but, without making an exhaustive comparative research, we are not altogether convinced that he is right. Indo-China admittedly cannot compete with it, nor probably some of the newer West African districts—which have hardly had sufficient time yet to show their capabilities—but one has an idea that the partisans of Madagascar could put up a good case if they were asked.

The record of Tunis as it stands, however, is sufficient to justify French colonial poplicy. To English colonial students who are familiar enough with the story of advancing exports, order brought out of chaos, and a settled rule superseding a barbaric and, in places, nomadic administration, the political and administrative section, showing how the thing has been done, is the most interesting. One strong point M. de Lanessan makes is that there have been few changes of Governors; the men who have been appointed have usually stayed some years, and thus a continuity of policy has been secured. Long tenure is an excellent thing on the condition that the right man is appointed, and Tunis has clearly been fortunate in this respect. Certainly the fact that on the list of administrators the name of M. Paul Cambon is to be found is, for Englishmen at any rate, a sufficient proof that the best that France can produce is given to her colonies, as well as to her neighbours.

In the sphere of legal administration, which presented considerable difficulties in a country whose law was founded on the Koran, the French followed much the same rule that we ourselves found expedient in India. They respected the ideas of the inhabitants, recognising that the methods of the Courts at Paris would undesignedly lead to injustice in alien soil; but they found it necessary to codify the existing law (which was done with the aid of Mohammedan doctors), and justice was therefore secularised. As it is, however, in order to ensure justice being done, decisions of the Court are referred to a cadi for confirmation.

The general question that arises after studying this exhaustive account of a flourishing French colony is this—Does France, whose material success is undoubted, sufficiently populate her possessions? The figures given are instructive, but not perhaps too reassuring. In 1881, when the Protectorate was formed, there were altogether about 19,000 Europeans in Tunis, nearly all Italians or Maltese; only 708 were French. In 1912 the number of French had risen to 46,000, but the Italians and Maltese were 100,000. The latter are in an inferior position, since, largely owing to lack of capital, they have not become landowners, and have, therefore, not the same grip on the country as the French; but mere weight of numbers tells for something. Certainly we should not ourselves feel that the position was satisfactory if in any of our colonies there were two Frenchmen to every Englishman. The problem comes back, of course, to the population question in France. It is far too large to be discussed here, but it has a very direct bearing on the future of the French colonies, and we may be quite certain that the Germans, who three years ago admitted that they coveted French Africa, have studied the figures carefully. France has carved out a large portion of the outer world for herself, and it is to the interest of the rest of the world (except, perhaps, of her only enemy) that she should be able to develop it; certainly we can learn something from her methods, as well as she from us. But to develop her colonies she must emigrate more, and to emigrate more she must grow more men at home.

A. W. T.

THE IRISH AT GALLIPOLI.[†]

The most forcible of the many impressions conveyed to the reader of this book is that of the almost superhuman difficulties that confronted our men in Gallipoli. That the Irish Division had their full share of these is amply evident throughout the volume, though it may be summed up in Sir Ian Hamilton's remark that they, and others with them, "completely falsified the old German notion that no unit would stand a loss of more than 25 per cent." As a matter of fact, Major Cooper tells us that "the 10th Division lost nearly 75 per cent. of its original strength, and then was hastily filled up with drafts and sent, under-officered and barely rested, to fight a new and arduous campaign single-handed, which it did with credit." Only lately we have heard of notable Irish bravery in Palestine.

But their difficulties are brought more closely home in the descriptions of the actual fighting—the attacks on the Kiretch Tepe Girt, on Hill 60, at Kaba Kuja; the losses in that last engagement among the Connaught Rangers were more severe than anything they ever incurred even in the Peninsular War! And the conditions must have been appalling; they had practically no cover, but at the same time the scrub was so thick and prickly as to break up the lines into little groups and even prevent proper communication between one group and another; and, finally, they were facing an enemy undemoralized and fully prepared with all the devilry of rifle and machine-gun fire, shrapnel and high explosive, so deadly in the case of Hill 60 as to annihilate their attack. And yet, we read, they went on as long as they could stand, and fell still facing the foe.

Major Cooper enhances the value of his story—and incidentally the tragedy (we can see it between the lines) of the whole campaign—by his quiet, matter-of-fact style, his avoidance of exaggeration and "colour," and his adherence to fact. We recommend his book strongly to all who wish to realize, first of all, what Irish fighters can do (if they choose), and, secondly, what tragic loss of lives—and such fine lives!—can be caused by "legitimate gambles" and expert advice withheld.

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[*] "La Tunisie." Par J.-L. de Lanessan. (Paris: Felix Alcan. 5 fcs.)

[†] "The 10th (Irish) Division in Gallipoli." By Major Bryan Cooper. London: Herbert Jenkins. 6s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Le Sionisme Politique et son Fondateur Théodore Herzl, 1860-1904. By Baruch Hagani. (Paris: Librairie Payot and Cie. 4 fr.)

Le Président Wilson: Etude sur la Démocratie Américaine. By Daniel Halevy. (Paris: Librairie Payot and Cie. 4 fr.)

Lettres d'un Américain à un Français. Translated from the English by J. L. Duplan. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4 fr.)

Evelyn Earl of Cromer, G.C.B., O.M. Memoir by Lord Sanderson. From the Proceedings of the British Academy. Vol. VIII. (London: Oxford University Press. 1s. 6d. net.)

The Song of the Stars. By Alec Holmes. (London: Geo. Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Tales that are Told. By Alice Perrin. (London: Skeffington and Son. 6s. net.)

The British Engineers' Association Official Directory, 1917, in English, French, and Russian. (London: British Engineers' Association.)

English-German Guide for the use of British and American Forces at the Front. By Eugène Plumon. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 5 fr.)

The Jewish Child: Its History, Folklore, Biology and Sociology. By W. M. Feldman, M.B., B.S.Lond. With an Introduction by Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., etc. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 10s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. January	1918. January.		1336. Rabia II.	5678. Shebat.
18	5	Friday	5	5
19	6	Saturday........	6	6
20	7	Sunday	7	7
21	8	Monday	8	8
22	9	Tuesday	9	9
23	10	Wednesday	10	10
24	11	Thursday	11	11

The Roumanian Minister called at the Foreign Office on January 10.

It is stated that a life of Dr. Elsie Inglis is to be written by Lady Frances Balfour.

Colonel George Ostvitch has been appointed Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London.

Eight classes of officers belonging to the reserve of Greek cavalry have been called to the colours.

Among the latest wills is that of Lieutenant-Colonel James Levett Kaye, Indian Staff Corps, who left £17,156.

A Constantinople telegram to the *Kreuz Zeitung* records the death of Halil Pasha, Turkish ex-Minister of Marine.

The birth is announced at Gezira, Cairo, on January 8, of a son to Brigadier-General G. F. Clayton, C.B., C.M.G.

Mrs. Lloyd George has received from H.H. the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior a gift of £1,000 for the British and Foreign Sailors' Society.

It is announced that the anniversaries of the birthday and accession of the Sultan of Egypt will be kept on March 26 and October 9 respectively each year.

The Lord Mayor is giving a luncheon to-day at the Mansion House to meet members of the Serbian Industrial Mission now visiting this country.

Next Tuesday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Prince Nicholas of Greece. He is the second eldest brother of the ex-King Constantine, and was born at Athens in 1872.

It is believed that the result of the "Our Day" collections organised in India by Lady Chelmsford and the Provisional Committee in aid of the Red Cross will be over £500,000.

More than half the Czechs resident in France enlisted in the French Army at the outbreak of war, and many have been decorated with French and Russian Orders for bravery.

Mr. G. A. W. Booth, of the English Bar in Egypt, has been appointed to the vacant Judgeship of the Mixed Courts of First Instance.

A request by the Greek Government that a deputation from the Red Cross of Geneva should be permitted to visit Greek prisoners in Bulgaria has been refused by the Bulgarian Government.

The Villa delle Pianore, near Pietrasanta, which was the birthplace of the Empress of Austria and the scene of Ferdinand of Bulgaria's first marriage, has been taken over by the Italian Government as a sanatorium for sick and wounded soldiers.

It is reported that on the occasion of the opening of the Black Sea some days ago Turkish sailing vessels went to Heraclea for coal. A German boat named Stambul accompanied them, and on returning laden with coal sank from some unknown cause.

The Budapest newspapers state that a telegram in French, congratulating the King of England, in the name of a Zionist meeting, on the capture of Jerusalem was handed in there addressed to Switzerland for re-dispatch to England. Attempts to discover the sender have failed.

The Times Athens correspondent states that M. Repoulis, Greek Minister of the Interior, having tendered his resignation owing to ill-health, has been appointed Minister without Portfolio. He is succeeded at the Ministry of the Interior by M. Raktivan, who was Minister of Justice in the Venizelos Cabinet of 1915.

The Lord Mayor of London, as President of the Armenian Refugee Fund, suggests that intercession might be made in the churches on behalf of the Armenian and Assyrian peoples in their dire extremity, and appeals for help either through collection in the churches or by direct gift to Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, hon. treasurer of the fund, 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Colonel Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, was among those present at a Requiem Mass for Count Benckendorff, Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, which was sung at the Russian Church at Welbeck Street on January 11.

The Council of the British Academy has awarded the first Cromer Greek Prize, founded in the British Academy by the late Earl of Cromer, Honorary Fellow of the Academy, to the Rev. Aubrey Gwynn, M.A. (National University of Ireland), of Clongowes Wood College, Salins, for an essay on "The Character of Greek Colonisation."

Among the first batch of gifts contributed as a result of Sir James Barrie's appeal entitled the "Hundred Best Gaps" for the Books, Manuscripts, and Autograph Letters Section of the Red Cross sale at Christie's is a copy of the very rare Madras edition of Fitzgerald's "Omar Khayyam," 1862, which comes from Mrs. Daniel.

General Danglis has been appointed Greek Commander-in-Chief, says Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated January 14. M. Venizelos has assumed the portfolio of War in succession to M. Michalakopoulos, and Colonel Grivas Gardinkiotis has been appointed Under Secretary for War. M. Embirikos, Minister of Food Supplies, has resigned.

A semi-official *communiqué* issued by the Serbian Press Bureau at Corfu declares that the movement of protest against the crimes of the Austrians and Germans is increasing in Socialist circles in neutral countries, especially in Holland, and gives rise to the hope that the Socialists of all countries, including Russia, will soon be united in a movement of general reprobation.

The Lord Mayor has received the following reply to his New Year message on behalf of the City from General Sir Edmund Allenby:—"I and the troops under my command thank the Lord Mayor and the citizens of London for their New Year's greetings, which we cordially reciprocate. We trust that this year may see the final victory of the Allied cause."

The funeral of M. Albert Porral, Russian Consul at Gibraltar, whose death we announced last week, took place at St. Mary Magdalene's Roman Catholic Church, Mortlake, the Bishop of Southwark, Dr. P. E. Amigo, and the Rev. Canon Hogan officiating. The coffin was deposited in the crypt of the church to await removal to Gibraltar on the termination of the war.

General Allenby has issued the following proclamation with regard to the sale of Egyptian vessels:—"Whereas we have reason to believe that Egyptian vessels are being sold for use in foreign waters, no Egyptian vessel in war time shall be sold or transferred to any other country or transferred to a foreign register or leave Egyptian waters without the consent of the Naval Examination Officer at Alexandria."

A special service was held at the Russian Church, in Welbeck Street, on January 14, in celebration of the Russian New Year's Day. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, assisted by the Rev. Vladimir Theokritoff, the Deacon, officiated. A similar service was held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, and the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis, officiated.

According to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, a telegram from the Austrian War Press Quarters says that the Montenegrin Minister of War, General Radomir Veshovitch, and his followers, including the former Montenegrin Minister of Justice, Miloslav Rajsevitch, have reported themselves at the Andrijevitza District Headquarters and surrendered their arms. Having surrendered within the period fixed in the Emperor's birthday amnesty decree, they will receive the benefit of that measure.

Reuter's Jassy correspondent states that the Roumanian Parliament reassembled on December 28, when only some members of the Opposition were present. The Address from the Throne, which was read by the King, affirmed the fidelity of the King and the Government to their engagements with the Allies, which had always been observed, a statement which was received with cheers. Another passage, however, asking for a continuance of confidence in the Government, was received with marked dissent. The sitting was adjourned in the absence of a quorum.

Professor Flinders Petrie, lecturing at the Royal Institution on January 15 on Palestine and Mesopotamia, said that one of our first duties in embarking on the management of such a country as Palestine should be the establishment of an organisation to act quickly in preserving everything of historical interest. With regard to Jerusalem, organised research was necessary, and no scope should be afforded the mere treasure hunter. If Jerusalem was to be kept for the future as a jewel of the past, it must never be allowed to develop into a modern commercial town.

On the occasion of the New Year (o.s.) M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, sent telegrams to the Premiers of Great Britain, France, and Italy, and the President of the United States, expressing his belief that the New Year would bring to the Allies "the well-deserved reward of their efforts and their sacrifices for the victory of justice, equality, and the liberty of all nations, great and small."

On his arrival in Athens M. Venizelos addressed to Mr. Lloyd George a message in reply to the New Year's greetings of the British War Cabinet. In it M. Venizelos says that he fully sympathizes with the sentiments of the War Cabinet on the subject of those who are suffering and laying down their lives in order that future generations may prosper in peace, and adds that he hopes that the present year, in bringing about the victory of the Allies, will put an end to their sacrifices.

The subject of the Royal Geographical Society lecture for young people given by Miss M. Broderick at the Kensington Town Hall on January 11 was "The Old Life in Egypt," The lecturer said that school was compulsory and Egyptian children were rationed, three cakes of bread and two jugs of barley wine being allotted them daily. Everyone was compelled by law to take a dose of medicine once a month, and whilst some of the medical prescriptions were very good, others were not to be commended, especially the beetle boiled in oil. Death was only regarded as an episode in the old Egyptian's life, but he had a strong idea of man's responsibility to God.

The Serbian Press Bureau at Corfu announces that an official reception of the Serbian Mission now at Washington took place in the American Senate on January 6. The President of the Senate welcomed the Mission in a warm speech, and Dr. Vesnitch, head of the Mission, replied, praising America for her efforts to realise the ideal of liberty and justice in humanity. On Christmas Day the Mission, accompanied by the Secretary of State, placed a wreath on Washington's tomb. Mr. Lansing, speaking on this occasion in honour of the memory of the founder of American liberties, compared his work to the work of Karageorge, the Serbian patriot, who delivered Belgrade from the Turks in 1806.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

His Highness the Sultan has made the following appointments to the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile for valuable services rendered in connection with military operations in the field:—El Kaimakam W. McConaghy, M.B., Special Service; El Kaimakam J. H. Pattison Bey, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General; El Kaimakam (temporary Miralai) Abd El Megid Bey Ferid, Special Service; El Bimbashi R. N. Dobson.

The following appointments are announced in the *Sudan Times:*—Mr. A. W. Skrine, 2nd Inspector, Dongola Province, has been transferred to Kassala Province. Mr. E. R. J. Hussey, 2nd Inspector, Sennar Province, has been transferred to Red Sea Province. El Bimbashi T. Wilson-Lynch, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed 2nd Inspector, Mongalla Province. Mr. P. Ball, 3rd Inspector, White Nile Province, has been transferred to Dongola Province. Mr. E. G. Coryton, 3rd Inspector, Kordofan Province, has been transferred to Sennar Province. El Bimbashi A. Capel, 2nd Inspector, Nuba Mountains Province, has been appointed Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure, temporarily. El Bimbashi A. G. Hewitt, Acting Inspector, Tembura, Bahr El Ghazal Province, has been appointed Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Sidney Keyworth Ray, late of the R.A.M.S., who has died in the eighty-second year of his age, served with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, when he was present at Tel-el-Kebir, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

Major-General George Rennie Manderson, C.B., Royal Bengal Artillery, died on January 8 at Fullands, Taunton, Somerset, in his eighty-fourth year. He served in Burma, 1852-3, the Mutiny campaign, the Jowaki campaign, and in the Afghan War, 1878-9, for which he received the C.B.

Mr. Arthur Hedding Hildebrand, C.I.E., late Political Officer of the Southern Shan States, died at Puddletown, Dorset, on the 1st inst., aged seventy-four years. Appointed a Deputy Commissioner, Burma, in 1885, he became Superintendent and Political Officer of the Southern Shan States in 1891.

SAFETY OF THE HOLY PLACES.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent states that General Allenby has sent the following message to the King of the Hejac:—"The enemy having been expelled from Jerusalem, the city is now secure. It gives me great pleasure to inform your Majesty that the Holy Shrines are intact, Moslem guards protecting them. The regular custodians have been retained, and are carrying on their duties as in normal times."

The King replied:—"Your honourable and kindly feelings are responsible for the great care and solicitude shown to the Holy Places of history and for the record of great victories by which you have enhanced the glory of Great Britain. Those who uphold truth and justice at all times and in all places have been truly rewarded with success."

THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

It is just a year since the School of Oriental Studies at Finsbury Circus was opened, and it is gratifying to learn from the report now issued by the governing body that the institution, in spite of the exceptional circumstances prevailing, is completely justifying its existence. The number of students increased from seventy-one to ninety-four in the second term, and special classes have been started for Army officers in various languages. The school at present provides teaching in thirty languages. In a considerable proportion of the spoken languages instruction is given by teachers belonging to the countries where the languages in question are spoken. It is hoped that it may shortly be possible to add instruction in Armenian, Melanesian languages, Panjabi, Pashto, Polynesian languages, Siamese, Somali, and Yoruba. Unfortunately the financial position of the school is not as satisfactory as the scholastic side of the undertaking. Of the annual income of £14,000, the minimum sum which is necessary to ensure for the school the standard of efficiency and influence originally contemplated, only £11,500 is at present assured for the next three years, at the end of which time a number of the annual contributions will abate unless they are renewed. Towards the endowment fund of £150,000 less than £20,000 has so far been collected, and the governing body naturally appeal for further donations.

The Viceroy of India has replied as follows to the New Year message of the War Cabinet:—"On behalf of India I thank you for the inspiring message you have conveyed. It is the firm belief, confidently held by the people of India in spite of all passing difficulties, that the triumph of British ideals is vital to India's future. It is that belief which won us India's prompt and eager support in the dark days of 1914, which has ever since bound her to us a loyal partner in our varying fortunes, and which will carry her with us to the end."

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1918.

THE STREAM OF INDIAN POLITICS.

The external aspect of Indian politics resembles that of the great rivers of the country in the magnitude of the seasonal variations. For months together the volume of the languid stream is so reduced that it seems destined to be finally dissipated in the arid sands through which it wanders; then the scene suddenly changes, the sands are submerged, and the river comes down in full spate, only to subside almost as quickly as it rose. Christmas is the flood-season in Indian politics, not from any historical or sentimental associations, but for the prosaic reason that the courts and public offices are closed for the vacation, and lawyers, like actors, choose to spend their holiday in hearing each other talk. The extent of a flood is, however, determined by causes operating at a distance from the scene of the results, and in the same way the manifestations of what counts as public opinion are conditioned by circumstances of which the public is allowed to know as little as possible. The Indian political world, in itself a minute fraction of the country, consists of a small number of very active men, and a much larger number of passive adherents; the former fashion the programme, which the latter endorse with enthusiasm, and the harvest reaped at Christmas is the result of much patient work carried out during the other part of the year. The busy and astute groups who do this work are not altogether irresponsible; they do not attempt to interpret the popular will, a difficult task in the circumstances of the day, but they decide on their own policy, and then offer it for public endorsement, not all at once, but in such instalments as they think their public will stand. The measure of their success is the absence of formal opposition, and when we read that a particular resolution has been passed unanimously by this league or that congress we should interpret the statement merely as showing that the proposition has been put in a form which does not provoke the active hostility of any section sufficiently powerful to raise its voice.

The pronouncements made last month by the political gatherings at Calcutta can be easily comprehended in the light of these preliminary remarks. The most important body is the National Congress, which claims to represent the entire population, but which consists, in fact, almost entirely of members of the upper strata of Hindu society, whose acceptance of Western political theories has not as yet sufficed to modify to any substantial extent their adherence to the principle of religious ascendancy on which that society is constituted. In 1916 this Congress produced a scheme of political reforms, ill-conceived and unworkable from the practical point of view, but possessing the supreme merit of conciliating all important sections; it pressed this scheme for early adoption, but was careful to abstain from indicating any limit of time within which its demands should be met. The promulgation of this scheme indicated that the more advanced politicians had triumphed over the moderate members in committee, but the absence of a time-limit showed with equal clearness that moderate opinion had been taken into account, since many worthy people would agree to a comprehensive change occurring in the indefinite future who would shrink from contemplating its advent on a given day. The Congress of 1917 has gone further than its predecessor, having demanded that a definite date shall be fixed for the complete introduction of responsible self-government, and we must conclude from this advance that the moderate party has lost ground during the year, a result which is certainly to be regretted, but which has been foreshadowed by the occurrences of the autumn. The true significance of this resolution lies, however, in the fact that, whether through accident or design, it commits the Congress to a definite breach with the policy recently declared on the authority of the British Government. In the memorable announcement of last August the Secretary of State made it clear that that Government, along with the Government of India, must be the judge of the time and measure of each forward step, and that it must be guided by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in the sense of responsibility of the aspirants for power. The most prominent body of aspirants have now countered this declaration with a demand that the period of the advance shall be settled beforehand, so that no scope shall be left for adjustment in the light of experience, and the only conclusion which can be drawn from their action is that the sense of responsibility is still somewhat rudimentary and that the cautious phrases of Mr. Montagu were even more necessary than was apparent at the time when they were used.

The Congress programme has been endorsed in substance by the Moslem League, a body which, as its name implies, claims to represent Indian Moslems, but which has of late years adopted the nationalist standpoint with a fervour by no means welcomed by all the adherents of Islam. In 1916 the endorsement was made practically without reservations; this year it has been accompanied with some provisoes, marking a distinct reversion towards that exclusive or sectarian ideal which was the common ground of the Moslems of the last generation. The use of the Persian, or, strictly speaking, the Arabic, alphabet is to be safeguarded, and guarantees are to be given for the continued freedom of Moslem worship, though the Persian alphabet is nearly as distasteful to enthusiasts for Hindu culture as is the sacrifice of cows to the overwhelming mass of orthodox Hindu opinion. The significance of these reservations is simply that the deplorable disturbances which occurred last autumn, and the popular manifestations to which they gave rise, convinced the managers of the Moslem League that they had gone too far in the direction of nationalism, and that a bid had to be made to secure the support of the community they claimed to represent. While, therefore, the Hindu leaders found it possible to make a substantial advance, the Moslems were forced to draw back, and to insist on some of those obstacles to national unity which they would have preferred to keep out of sight. Whether the object of the Moslem leaders has been attained is still doubtful; as we recorded last week, a rival organisation has now been formed under distinguished auspices, with the definite object of opposing the nationalist policy of Home Rule, and while it is too early to forecast the result of this development we must recognise the possibility that a period of further controversy is at hand, and that the existing cleavage of Moslem opinion may be made manifest to the public by the activities of the competing organisations. In any case, we may assume with some confidence that the lessons of these events will be realised by Mr. Montagu, who has been busily engaged in hearing the views of all parties in India, and is discussing them with some of the ablest men now in the service of the country. The surface-unity of Indian politicians might have deceived a statesman trammelled by the traditions and the outlook of Whitehall; it could in any case scarcely have survived critical examination on the spot. But the politicians themselves have given an apt demonstration of its weakness and its limitations, while from all parts of India we hear of expressions of opinion from prominent men and important classes, who have hitherto taken no part in politics, but who now realise that the exigencies of the situation require them to make their voices heard. With these materials at his disposal, Mr. Montagu can hardly fail to arrive at a correct diagnosis of the case before him, and that is at least the first step towards the accomplishment of the momentous task which he has been called upon to undertake.

POLAND AND THE NEAR EAST.

The problem of Poland, important though it is in the reconstruction of Europe, may seem at first sight to have but a very slight bearing on the tangled maze of Balkan politics. It is true that in the days of Poland's greatness she had a definite Balkan policy and direct connections with the Near East; but history does not necessarily repeat itself. And since the natural outlet of Polish commerce has been fixed for all time by the course of the Vistula, it follows that her main interests must be directed north and not south, to the Baltic rather than the Balkans. Policy in this matter follows economic interest, and Dantzig is more important to Poland than Constantinople.

The direct connection between the future of Poland and the settlement of the Eastern question is, therefore, slight; its indirect connection, however, has become clear and definite since the Russian Revolution. So long as Russia was a Great Power it was almost impossible that German-Austrian policy should completely dominate the Balkans. Even when the doctrine of "no annexations and no indemnities" was formulated, and Petrograd solemnly renounced the ambition for Constantinople, it was still certain that Russia could not become entirely indifferent to Balkan affairs. Even if one put aside racial, religious, and political sympathies or antipathies, it was clear that so long as Russia exported grain and timber from her southern provinces she must concern herself with the politics of the Black Sea, and since the only outlet from the Black Sea is through the Dardanelles, she must in the long run again concern herself with the question of Constantinople. The reasoning was theoretically sound, but practically fallacious, since it presumed that Russia, whatever her internal changes, would still remain a Great Power, as France did during her revolution and England after her civil wars.

The presumption was wrong; Russia has destroyed herself. Siberia has proclaimed its independence, and cut Russia off from the Pacific. Finland has followed suit, and one of the main windows into the Baltic is shut—the other at Riga is lost. The Ukraine has revolted, and Russia has lost her chief outlet into the Black Sea. It has taken centuries to gain access to the sea; a few weeks has destroyed the careful work of generations, and Russia is now almost as remote from the sea as Ecuador or Switzerland. There is no instance in history of a Great Power existing without access to the sea, and Russia will find out that she has gained political freedom (which she is already in a fair way to lose) at the cost of economic slavery. The exchange was hardly worth while, but she will discover her blunder too late.

The loss of the Ukraine cuts Russia off from the Black Sea and from Balkan politics, and consequently strengthens the already strong position of Germany and Austria in the south-east of Europe. If the Ukraine adopted a pro-German policy, their position would seem almost impregnable; but, although the leaders of the Kieff school seem to have accepted aid from Vienna, and perhaps Berlin, in pre-war days, to spite the centralising policy of Petrograd, they seem less inclined to do so now that Petrograd has abandoned government for words and drink. It is quite on the cards that the Ukraine may establish itself as one of the secondary States of Europe.

By itself it would hardly be able to resist German influence; it would be in much the same position as Roumania before the war, which was mainly developed by German capital at the price of a large amount of German control. That is on the assumption, now freely accepted in Berlin, of Germany making a "generous peace" with the Allies in the west (*e.g.*, resigning the occupied districts and the German colonies), and winning the war outright in the East. On that assumption Germany might even be ready to abandon Turkey, to recognise that the British occupation of Palestine foiled her aim in Egypt, and that the British success in Mesopotamia had cut her off from India and rendered the Baghdad Railway of little value. These things Germany could resign—for the present—if she obtained absolute control of the Balkans, and full freedom to exploit Russia and the Siberian Railway. That Russia only needs organisation to develop her wealth is a commonplace of every German traveller; that Siberia is an undeveloped Canada has long been recognised in Berlin. To exchange control of the Turkish Empire for control of what was once the Russian Empire would not be by any means a bad bargain. The Turkish Empire means the Baghdad Railway, and that means the road to India. But the Russian Empire means the Siberian Railway, and that means the road to China, as well as another way into India.

What stands between Germany and this ambitious prospect? In the first place, the determination of the Allies to win. But Berlin knows as well as London and Paris that the most signal victory of the Allies might be unable to restore unity or power to Russia. It would need a miracle to restore Russia, and we cannot work miracles. It needs no miracle, nothing but a little gold and a little intrigue, for Germany to keep Russia impotent. That is precisely the difference between us, and Germany is fully cognisant of her advantage.

There remains Poland. The national revival of Europe, which restored Italy, Greece, and Germany to the map in the middle of last century, also gave back independence to some—not all—of the Balkan peoples. But there it stopped short, it left Poland out, and we are suffering for that omission to-day. The restoration of Poland is not only a necessity of constructive liberalism—it has been that for more than a century—but it is a necessity of European equilibrium. Germany on her side recognises the existence of a Polish problem; she knows that things cannot stay as they were after the war. But she wants a "good" Poland—that is to say, a Poland that will take its orders from Berlin. She is willing, apparently, to concede a good deal of the apparatus of freedom, a constitution, a king, a ministry, and all the non-essentials, so long as she can keep the one essential, the final control. Poland, in a word, can have as many lights in the drawing-room as she wishes—they do not cost much, and they look well—so long as Germany has the control of the meter in the basement, and can turn the current off when it suits her purpose.

That kind of sham will neither solve the Polish problem nor restore equilibrium to Europe. It would leave Germany in control not only of Russia and the Balkans, but also of Poland itself; and the Poles, who might be driven to accept it, would know in their hearts that they had been fooled by fate. But the free Poland to whose establishment the Allies are committed would not only restore one of the greatest and most gifted of European peoples to its proper position, which in itself would be an invaluable asset to the new world; it would restore the equilibrium of the continent, and in time become the guardian of freedom and civilisation in the East, as France is in the West. And in that respect its influence in the Near East and in Russia itself would be incalculable.

A. WYATT TILBY.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
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KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Serbian Soldier.

Miss Flora Sandes, who holds non-commissioned rank in the Serbian Army, in appealing in the *Morning Post* for the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield's fund for providing comforts for Serbian soldiers and prisoners (22, Old Burlington Street, W.), draws a pathetic picture of life at the Macedonian front for the Serbian soldier:—

> On these bare peaks the cold is now intense, and in our shallow, rocky, wind-swept trenches the men are standing knee-deep in snow, and even when they come out of them for a short rest after fifteen days and nights of it they are not much better off, for there is no wood in the country, and sleeping in their stone dug-outs, huddled together for heat—no Serbian soldier carries a blanket—they have no means of warming themselves and no camp fires to sit round.
>
> One naturally pictures such an army, consisting of men who have fought through two wars before the present one was even thought of, men who, almost without exception, bear the scars of three or four wounds, sometimes more, and who have managed, somehow, more or less to outlive the effects of the retreat through Albania, as being at least warmly clothed and fed, and being in receipt of everything that can possibly be given them to alleviate their unavoidable sufferings, in order that a few at least may be saved to go back into Serbia. But no; on the contrary, these men are fighting for the Allies with less shelter than any other army, less rations—such things as sugar, milk, butter, rum are unheard of luxuries—and *no warm clothes*. There is not a single man who has a pair of socks, and hardly any who have more than one shirt—and that a cotton one. I do not know, and do not care, whose fault it is; the facts are there, and it is for us to remedy them.
>
> These men in the trenches would give me anything they had. Our most prized ration—our one and only "luxury"—is a small mug of much-watered wine twice a week! More than once, having drunk mine at midday, I have been handed another mugful at supper by my orderly, and all objections waved aside with "Never mind where it came from; just drink it—you need it more than I do." It was his own ration.
>
> To rescue me when I was wounded and unable to move some of my men risked their lives, and more than their lives (for no one knows better than they do what it means for a Serbian soldier to fall into the hands of the Bulgarians alive); yet they refused pointblank to save themselves unless they could carry me with them.

The Value of the Near East.

It is well not to lose sight of the value of the British successes in the East. From the very beginning of the war there has been a tendency in "high quarters" to suppose that, because the West must be the final battlefield, practically nothing of military importance was to be accomplished in the Near East. Perhaps, if the victories of the late Sir Stanley Maude and General Allenby could be seen in the light in which they strike our enemies, particularly the Turks and Bulgarians, Allied diplomacy might set to work in that part of the world with more confidence and with more chance of success. In an article in the *New Age*, Mr. J. M. Kennedy lays stress on the value of what has been achieved in the Near East.

> In every scheme of "world-power or downfall" drafted by German statesmen, politicians, journalists, and political propagandists generally, he writes, the Baghdad Railway became necessarily a paramount factor. Whatever divergences on points of details existed among the Pan-German factions, it is evident that the North Sea Persian Gulf proposal was common to them all. . . . . Only a few far-sighted and long-headed statesmen saw in it the solution of several more recondite problems—the splitting asunder of the British Empire and the eventual acquirement of Egypt; the assurance (by the exploitation of Asia Minor) of supplies of food and of raw material transportable to Germany by land; and, above all, free access to the open sea unfettered by rival navies. . . . The Persian Gulf scheme cut in two not only Europe and Asia, but also the sea.
>
> For this reason the possession of Baghdad was essential to the German scheme, not as a valuable industrial centre, but as a useful military base. The possibilities of industrial development were not, indeed, forgotten—far from it. . . . But Baghdad, though an essential objective, was not the only objective aimed at. The concessions obtained by the German Government through the Deutsche Bank included not only the nucleus of the Anatolian Railway Company (the short line from Haidar Pasha to Ismidt) and the extension of the railway from Konia to the Gulf (the Baghdad Railway properly so called starts from Konia), but various branches forming a complete network—those, for instance, to Aleppo and Urfa; from the city of Baghdad to the Persian frontier town of Khanikin; the short line to Aintab (with possibilities of industrial exploitation in view); from El Bagj to Hit. Other lines—work on some of which was begun at early stages of the war—were to connect Adana with Mersina (this line is now working), and with Sivas through Ulukishla; and further sections were to join this branch to Angora, and Diarbekr to Ras-el-Ain. But the trump card was to be a railway from some useful strategic base on the coast (probably Haifa, which is already linked to the Hejaz Railways) to a point near the Egyptian frontier.

After discussing the reasons of Germany's failure to give adequate help to the Turks, the writer continues:—

> The British victories in Mesopotamia and in Asia Minor are thus, for two reasons, of much greater importance than has yet been attached to them, except by Mr. Lloyd George in his address to the House of Commons just before the recess. In the first place, the grandiose North Sea to Baghdad scheme, with its ulterior design on Egypt, is shattered; and, in the second place, a large proportion of the territories which the Germans looked upon as exploitable is now lost to them.
>
> It is customary to urge, as only too many of our less-informed organs do, that the German conquests in Western Europe (apart from their conquests in Western Russia) are of infinitely greater value, economically and sentimentally, than the Allied conquests of the German Colonies. This is true only up to a point. The economic and sentimental value attached by the Germans to their Colonies may be witnessed from their obvious anxiety, displayed over the last two years, to get them back. But there is no denying that in Palestine and Mesopotamia we occupy territories of greater political value than the enemy do (while their economic value is considerable); for our possession of them frustrates for ever the execution of the plan for the sake of which the German Government went to war.

India and Great Britain.

The social evolution of India is the subject of an article by Mr. T. Davis in the *Asiatic Review*. After pointing out that India needs the British Empire, no less than the latter needs India, and citing instances of what the British have done for the country, the writer turns to the bonds of empire:—

> It has been said that the bond which unites England and India is political.
>
> As this idea is so very prevalent in India, and consequently the cause of much unrest, it would be well to state that the relationship between the two countries is something stronger than mere politics. There is a stronger link that binds the destiny of the two together: perhaps indefinable, certainly non-political.
>
> It is evidenced by the mutual goodwill and co-operation existing between us in working out the salvation of millions of our fellow-subjects. If the political power of Great Britain were withdrawn from India to-morrow there would still remain a unity of ideals, a common commercial life, great industrial partnerships, many unrealised as yet, philanthropic projects, and a progressive civilisation to be handed on enriched and ennobled to the next generation. Owing to British rule, India has ceased to be an isolated Empire: it is an integral part of the greatest Empire the world has ever known. It would be a retrograde movement for India to be divorced from or deprived of the fuller Imperial life of which she is so glorious a partner.
>
> India is in a period of transition. Behind there is a very old civilisation, which had taken hold of the social life of the people; and now it is being influenced by a new civilisation of such magnitude that it has sapped the very foundation of its national life.
>
> There is unrest; but there is also a strong patriotism, which, if guided aright, will find its ideal in assimilating the best characteristics of the old and the new.
>
> Patriotism is not solely concerned with politics, for, after all, the political life of a nation is but a reflex of its moral life.
>
> If the heart of a people is elevated and enlarged it is certain to lead to noble deeds in the realm of politics.
>
> India has had a succession of great men who have endeavoured to elevate the tone of their age by working out moral and social ideals. They were patriots; they were also politicians. If East and West co-operate on the right lines in producing the highest form of civilisation we shall find its growth and development dependent upon political efficiency, social reform, and moral integrity.

Articles to Note.

"The Fascination of Jerusalem," by Dora M. Jones, in the *Treasury*.

"The Development of Political Zionism," by Israel Cohen, in the *Fortnightly Review*.

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CATALOGUES ON REQUEST. Mention "Near East" when writing.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of January 4, p. 2, you speak of me as having put forward a scheme for a "European federation." That was not exactly what I suggested, though, writing as I did in 1914, when America was not thought of as likely to enter the war, I naturally had a European combination in mind. But my idea would have been more fitly described as that of a "League of Nations" than that of a federation of Europe. "The great hope of the future," I wrote in my war pamphlet entitled "Through German Eyes" (1914), "lies in the recognition of the great truth that the relations which subsist between the individual citizen and his state ought to be reproduced in the family of nations. Each nation must learn to regard itself as a member of a great community, *and be prepared to strike, if necessary, in defence of the common good.*" This sentiment I embodied in some verses which I wrote for the occasion. I think you will agree with me that this idea does not involve any millenial conception of the immediate perfectibility of the human species, nor the establishment of an "international police"—an idea which I have always regarded as impracticable for various reasons. But it does involve the conception that international relations may be moralized in the same sort of way and by essentially the same sanctions as the relations of individuals within a state are moralized. Not that I regard the international problem as an easy one to solve; I have explicitly said the contrary on p. 18 of my pamphlet. There is therefore no danger, in my humble opinion, that a League of Nations will have nothing to do. The less it has to do, the better I should be pleased. But I fear its hands will be full of work. It can never guarantee the abolition of war; but it may, by wise use of its strength, reduce the scope of war in the future. The federation of the British Commonwealth alone would have gone far to produce that result.

On the other hand, I agree with you in thinking that the more responsibilities a League of Nations undertakes (as, for example, the administration of non-European territories), the more difficult will its task become. And I am earnestly desirous of seeing it a great fact and a great success.—I am, etc.,

E. A. Sonnenschein.

The University, Edmund Street,
Birmingham, Jan. 14, 1918.

EGYPTIAN PRISONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The articles you have recently published in The Near East written by Coles Pasha on the Prisons of Egypt recall to my memory an incident which may be worthy of notice in your next issue.

During my wanderings there are two occasions which stand out in my memory above all others when I have been proud of the work of my countrymen.

The first was in India, where, in touring the country, I realised the wonderful work of the Indian Civil Service, where practically a handful of Englishmen control millions of inhabitants. It strikes the traveller with amazement and pride.

The other occasion was at Damascus in 1912. I had been in Cairo, and whilst there visited an exhibition then being held. The native industries of Egypt and the Sudan were well represented at that exhibition; so also various Government departments, such as agriculture, education, and the prisons. This latter was represented by a very varied display of iron castings and workings, also by cabinet and chairmaking, saddlery and leather work. The goods produced by the prisoners were on sale, and I remember a cane chair to which was attached a label, indicating the purchaser to be the late Lord Kitchener.

From Egypt I journeyed to Syria, and in due course found myself in Damascus. Visiting the Military Governor, who was known to my brother—who accompanied me—we asked to be allowed to visit the city prisons. An orderly being provided, we were escorted to the citadel, and from an open prison square faced a low mud building, perhaps 30 ft. high. We viewed the prisoners, who were behind iron-barred window openings. The building all round was two-storied, and through the window openings we were able to see the prisoners in the rooms on the ground floor, quite a large number crowded together, squatting on their bedding, smoking. A woman visitor was interviewing one of the prisoners, and handed in through the window certain bedding and pillows. We were given to understand that these prisoners had nothing to do to occupy their time; those condemned to death and others in solitary confinement occupy other sections of the same building, all communications being from the open square, and through very narrow openings in the outer walls, the convicts were to be seen eking out their miserable existence. Later, when we saw the Governor, we were able to give him an account of all we had seen at the Cairo Exhibition, and I recall how impressed he was when we told him how, under British administration, the inmates of prisons were taught trades as a means of livelihood when released, in contrast to the primitive methods meted out to a similar class in a neighbouring State under Turkish rule.

I am, etc.,

G. P. Baker.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Exchange of Prisoners with Turkey. January 14.

Mr. J. F. Hope stated, in reply to Mr. Hume Williams, that the agreement recently arrived at at Berne between the British and Turkish representatives with reference to the exchange of prisoners of war had not yet been ratified, and it was, therefore, not advisable to give complete details at present. Generally the terms were more satisfactory than was expected. Arrangements had been arrived at for exchange on a substantial scale, inspection of camps, and improvement in the general treatment of prisoners. It was hoped that the agreement would be carried out without delay as soon as it was ratified.

Holy Places in Palestine. January 15.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in consideration for the sentiments of Moslem subjects of the British Empire, it would be provided, under the new régime established or to be established in Palestine, that unrestricted Moslem control was secured of such holy places as the Haram esh-Sherif at Jerusalem and the sanctuary over the cave of Machpelah at Hebron, being places regarded as part of the birthright of the Mohammedan world.

Mr. Balfour said:—In reply to the hon. member's question, I will read out three extracts from the telegram of General Sir E. Allenby, which was read in this House on December 12 by the Prime Minister in answer to a question. Extract 1:—"The Mosque of Omar and the area round it have been placed under Moslem control, and a military cordon, composed of Indian Mahommedan officers and soldiers, has been established round the Mosque. Orders have been issued that no non-Moslem is to pass the cordon without permission of the Military Governor and the Moslem in charge of the Mosque." Extract 2:—"The Tomb at Hebron has been placed under exclusive Moslem control." Extract 3:—"The hereditary custodians of the Wakf at the gates of the Holy Sepulchre have been requested to take up their accustomed duties in remembrance of the magnanimous act of the Khalif Omar, who protected that Church." Further, I would remind the hon. member that the following passage occurs in the proclamation which General Sir E. Allenby caused to be published in Jerusalem, and which was also read out in the House by the Prime Minister:—"I make known to you that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest, or customary place of prayer, of whatsoever form of the three religions, will be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faiths they are sacred."

Sir J. D. Rees: Is there any reason to suppose that Mahommedans attribute to the British Government any disregard of their feelings, such as is suggested in this question?

Mr. Bliss: Have they expressed gratitude for the respect we have shown for their sacred monuments?

Mr. Balfour: Many Mahommedans have expressed gratitude.

The Dardanelles Report.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to a question by Mr. Pringle as to the publication of the final report of the Dardanelles Commission, said:—The War Cabinet, after the most careful consideration, and acting on the advice of the General Staffs, military and naval, have decided that it is not in the public interest that this report should be published for the present.

Mr. Pringle: Is the right hon. gentleman not aware that this report must be published in accordance with the express terms of the Act of Parliament? Is it proposed to amend the Act of Parliament?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: No, we do not propose to amend the Act of Parliament. The Act says the report shall be published as soon as may be, but the Government must have the responsibility of deciding whether or not such publication would give information to the enemy. We have decided that it would.

Sir Tudor Walters: Is it the case that while the motto of the late Government was "Wait and see," the motto of the present Government is "Wait and not see"?

Mr. Pringle: Was this decision arrived at solely on strategic considerations and in the public interest, or was it in deference to the possible effect of publication on the fortunes of certain members of the War Cabinet and certain members of the Naval Staff?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: That is a perfectly legitimate question if the hon. member thinks that any consideration of the kind influenced us. It has not influenced us in the least. We have taken our decision in consequence of written statements by the Naval and Military Staffs that in their opinion the publication of this report now would give invaluable information to the enemy.

SERBIA'S MARTYRDOM.

On January 7 (the Serbian Christmas Day) the Vila Serbo-Croat-Slovene Society of Students, Geneva, issued an appeal to the universities of the world, from which the following are some short extracts:—

We, a mere handful of Serbian students, compelled to witness the annihilation of our race, make our appeal to the sense of justice of the civilised world, for it is unthinkable that in the face of all humanity this terrible work should be allowed to be completed until not even the *débris* of the Serbian nation is left to greet the day of peace and the triumph of justice.

Deportations by the Austrians began with the first moment of retreat. Immediately the Serbian boys were deported in groups and set to forced labour in Germany and Galicia. These deportations were carried out without distinction of sex, age, or social position. Those who were incapable of forced labour were interned in the concentration camps of Heinrichgrün (15,000), Aschach, and other places. And more than 2,500 children of tender age were carried away from Serbia and distributed in different centres of concentration. Thousands of Serbian boys were sent to Asia Minor, and thousands of young girls were despatched to Constantinople for the Turkish harems.

The Bulgarians, worthy pupils of the methods of *Realpolitik*, at once began a systematic deportation of the Serbian population in the Southern and Eastern districts. In Southern Serbia and in the Macedonian districts the deportations were absolute and complete. A large part of the Serbian population in these districts was deported into Bulgaria in order that all traces of Serbian nationality might be blotted out from the towns and villages of Macedonia. The property of the deported was made over to the Mussulmans. The Bulgarians carried away not merely individuals, but entire families. Eastern Serbia suffered no less than Southern; from the Morava region the Bulgarians deported all educated persons—doctors, teachers, priests, and deputies—all those who might offer any obstacle to the Bulgarisation of their localities. It is a fact that in Serbia there is no longer a single Serbian priest, schoolmaster, or doctor.

The Austrians have pursued a persistent policy of denationalisation. Under any pretext priests are deported so that Divine services, according to Orthodox rights, can no longer be celebrated, although they may be authorised in principle. The Julian Calendar, which our people consider is part and parcel of their religion, is annulled; the use of the Cyrillic alphabet is rigorously forbidden. The Serbian popular songs celebrating the age-long struggle of the Serbians against the Turks, as well as the works of all our principal poets, have been equally interdicted.

All the Serbian schools were closed. Those reopened included only an elementary school, with one secondary school, for the whole of Serbia. In these schools the Serbian children were allowed not one single Serbian teacher. *In this unhappy country instruction is given to the Serbian children by reserve Austro-Hungarian officers.* The Ethnographical and National Museums have been plundered and sent to Vienna. All the treasures of Belgrade University, as well as the National Museum in Belgrade, have been destroyed, and there remains only the *débris*.

The Bulgarians have completely suppressed the Serbian Church. All Serbian judicial archives, books, and MS. have been either burnt or removed to Sofia for the manufacture of paper. From Bulgarian newspapers we learn that more than 140,000 volumes have been transferred from Serbia to Sofia.

Like the Austrians, the Bulgarians have also closed all our schools in the territory occupied by them and replaced them by Bulgarian schools, in which the Serbian language is prohibited. The Bulgarians have furiously attacked all the Serbian historical monuments, especially those relating to the glorious past, to the Middle Ages, such as Serbian monastries of Manassya and Ravanitsa, which had been respected even by the Turks. The Bulgarians have destroyed all inscriptions and paintings, works of art from the Middle Ages, in order to efface every trace of Serbian nationality. With small-minded jealousy and malice, the Bulgarians would proclaim everything of national superiority to be Bulgarian. And the characteristic surname termination "itch" has been everywhere changed into "off." The Bulgarians have also abolished all postal communication between the Serbians in their régime and their kindred abroad. Even postal orders addressed to Serbian sufferers, however piteous their need, are not delivered to the addressees.

We come now to the most odious cruelty of all, before which Attila himself might stop in surprise—viz., the forced recruiting by the Bulgarians in the invaded districts of Serbia. Austria-Hungary has spared us the horror of seeing on the Salonika front son fighting against father and father against son, but the Bulgarians have not hesitated in their endeavours to bring this about. With a barbarity unheard of in history, they have invented methods of recruiting most likely to set father against son and brother against brother, and are shooting as rebels all those who refused to go into the ranks of the Bulgarian army.

Bulgaria has trodden under foot Article 23 of the Hague Convention.

But all these iniquities relate only to matter; the Serbian soul our enemies will never destroy.

JUGOSLAV DECLARATION.

The following declaration has been issued by the Jugoslav Committee in London with reference to Mr. Lloyd George's and President Wilson's speech on war aims. It is signed by Dr. Ante Trumbitch, President of the Committee:—

"We feel bound to express our appreciation of the speeches of the British Prime Minister and the President of the United States, as revealing a sincere desire for a just and lasting peace in accordance with the principle that territorial rearrangements must be based upon government with the consent of the governed. Yet we must declare that the Jugoslav people (Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes) cannot be satisfied with those parts of the speeches which refer to them. The causes of the discontent of the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose plight (as the British Prime Minister rightly points out) has long been a danger to the general peace, cannot be removed by the hope of an altogether problematical democratisation of Austria-Hungary on the basis of autonomy alone. There is but one way to remove this danger to peace—completely to liberate the subject nationalities by giving them the right (which Mr. Lloyd George accords even to the native tribes of the German colonies) to have a voice in determining their own future. The principle of government by the consent of the governed in regard to the Jugoslav people was irrevocably sanctioned in the declaration of Corfu of July 20, 1917, signed by the Government of the Kingdom of Serbia, and by the Jugoslav Committee as the authorised representative of the 8,000,000 Southern Slavs of Austria-Hungary and of the Southern Slav Colonies in both Americas and in the British Dominions. This declaration, which constitutes a national programme approved of by our whole people, demands complete separation from Austria-Hungary and union with Serbia and Montenegro in one State on the basis of democratic freedom and equal rights for all citizens. For this idea our whole people is fighting. For it Serbia and Montenegro have suffered terrible disaster. For it the Southern Slav divisions, formed of volunteers from Austria-Hungary, shed their blood on the side of the Allies in the Dobruja. For it, with equal self-sacrifice, our volunteers of the Southern Slav division on the Salonika front are dying. For this idea tens of thousands of our men and women, subjects of Austria-Hungary, have perished on Austrian gallows and in Austrian prisons, mostly without any form of trial. None but a people fighting for complete freedom and unity can endure such wrong. Persuaded that the very force of things and the inexorable requirements of lasting peace will carry their idea to triumph, our people will never forsake it."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The absence of a representative of the Indian banks on the committee appointed to consider the various problems which will arise in currency and foreign exchanges during the period of reconstruction and to report on the steps required to bring about the restoration of normal conditions in due course seems a serious defect in a body otherwise admirably constituted. With the Indian exchange question a matter of such outstanding importance, it is difficult to understand how the direct representation of Indian banking interests can be dispensed with, and if the results of the committee's work are to be as valuable as they should be it would be well for this omission to be rectified.

⁂

Optimism was the dominant note of Sir Charles Armstrong's speech at the half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and not unnaturally so, seeing that the company's surplus earnings for that period amounted to over 86 lacs of rupees. This sum is being carried forward to the next half-year, when, in his view, unless the coal shortage should unduly hamper the operations of the company, there should be a satisfactory final distribution. He warned his hearers, however, that increased taxation was an item to be taken into account in this connection. "Until the position in this respect," he added, "was more clearly defined, it would not be wise or prudent to hazard a guess as to the final result of the year's working."

⁂

As to the post-war prospects of the company Sir Charles was very hopeful, and his remarks on this head are of special interest, as they apply very generally to the Indian industrial outlook. He pointed out that they had had a succession of favourable monsoons, and that if their good fortune in this respect continued Indian exports would increase, and there would be the probability of high prices. "The position at present," he went on, "so far as prices were concerned, was very satisfactory, and for the cotton crop, which was a very important item of traffic for their line, prices were now being realised which before the war were never dreamt of. All this was good for the future of India, and if, as would happen, increased wealth stimulated industry and enterprise, it would be good also for the future welfare of their line."

⁂

The important problem of the reconstruction of the Roumanian oilfields was briefly dealt with by Captain T. S. Masterson, D.S.O., in a lecture before the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. He pointed out that it had been stated in Roumania that the Allied Governments had promised compensation for the damage that had been done, and that the reconstruction would in that case be based on the amount received in compensation, and he laid stress on the necessity for taking every precaution that money expended by the Allies in this way should not find its way to Germany. That this warning is not untimely will be recognised when it is borne in mind that Germany supplied nearly all the requirements of the oilfields before the war. She will, no doubt, attempt to do so again if the Allies are not prepared to supply the materials when they are required.

⁂

Of special interest, in view of the prospects for the expansion of British trade in Morocco, is the action of the Bank of British West Africa in opening new branches there at Fez and Saffi. The bank has throughout taken a leading part in encouraging British trade with the Protectorate, and this latest development provides one more proof of its readiness to do everything possible to enable our traders to compete for the Moroccan market on at least equal conditions with their rivals.

⁂

The visit to this country of a Serbian Commercial Delegation marks a definite stage in the movement towards closer commercial relations between the two countries after the war. The present delegation is to spend a month in visiting the principal industrial and commercial centres in this country, and the impressions the members receive will, no doubt, play a considerable part in the shaping of the new Serbia. From every point of view the tour must be considered an excellent departure, for it will give our business men a unique opportunity of learning at first hand what Serbia's requirements are likely to be in the future. They will then be unable to advance the excuse for any lack of enterprise in the Balkans that they are unacquainted with the conditions there.

⁂

I see that the Washington Chamber of Commerce is taking a referendum of prominent business men in the United States on the question of bringing economic pressure to bear on Germany. Over half a million business men are being asked whether they favour the announcement that commercial relations with Germany will not be re-established after the war unless a Government really responsible to the people is established in Germany. This step has been prompted by the view that it is essential to safeguard America from supplying materials to a nation which might be considering a war of revenge. In the event of the referendum of the Chamber of Commerce meeting with a satisfactory response, as will almost certainly be the case, measures will be taken to communicate the decision to the desired quarter, as it is felt that the realisation of what the verdict means would give a powerful impetus to influences likely to hasten the ends for which the Allies are striving.

⁂

The value of the threat of economic penalties in persuading Germany to mend her ways has been the subject of frequent reference in these columns, and I mention this American departure solely because I am of the opinion that in this case our Allies are giving us a very useful lead, which might with the greatest advantage be followed by our own business men. All British merchants who have suffered by the encroachments of German traders, and by the underhand methods by which they have managed to obtain a commercial footing in various countries, are naturally strongly in favour of our using, if necessary, what is certainly one of the strongest weapons in our armoury. But it is necessary for them to do more than support such a policy: they must make their views heard, and that in no uncertain way.

⁂

I cannot say that Sir Arthur Steel Maitland's reference to the reform of the Consular Service, in his speech on Tuesday at the luncheon given to him by the British Imperial Council of Commerce, is calculated to inspire undue optimism as to the prospects of any great changes being effected in that body by the new Department of Overseas Trade Possibly I may be too critical, but I read into his remarks that he did not believe the Archangel Gabriel was going to reorganise the Consular Service, and that he did not "think that any Government could contribute more than a small percentage towards success in that direction"—an inclination to accept the view that what has been done in the past has been on the right lines. If that reading is correct, I fear we shall have to look in vain for the long-expected improvement in the Service.

⁂

There is very little information to be obtained regarding crop conditions in Greek Macedonia at the present time, and what there is comes mainly through the American Consular reports. Some interesting details were given from this source last week regarding the "Turkish" tobacco crop in that region, from which it appears that the past season has been satisfactory for this crop, and that in more favourable circumstances there would have been an excellent yield. As it is, in the part of Macedonia in Greek occupation the production has been greater than was expected, and the tobacco is of good quality. I am indebted to the same source for particulars regarding the opium crop in the regions of Langaza, north of Salonika, and of the peninsula of Chalcidice. These are, it appears, the only regions that raised the poppy crop in 1917, and their production amounted to 1,000 okes of opium, or about twenty cases. But for the war, this yield would doubtless have been much larger, as the conditions for the sowing of poppy were unusually favourable in the autumn of 1916.

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MOROCCAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

TANGIER, December 24.

Such interest as any British subjects in Morocco can spare for anything but war news has recently been centred on two questions—the weather and the steamer service with England. No old resident in Morocco is ever likely to forget the importance of agriculture to every interest in the country nor its dependence on weather conditions. New-comers, however, engrossed in business, in building development, in speculation not obviously connected with agriculture, are apt to forget that all the progress, the growth of towns, the expansion of revenue, depend for their soundness on agriculture, and that agriculture depends on rain.

Agricultural Expansion.

The products of Morocco have increased greatly in the last few years owing, to a very small extent to European farmers, but chiefly to the conditions, in the fully-controlled provinces, of security. The native farmers are now free to plough to the extent of their ability without fear of the sight of numerous teams exciting the cupidity of their governors, and to look forward to keeping the results of their labours, diminished only by agricultural taxes, which, though heavy, are slight indeed compared with the old endless, pretextless exactions. It should be remembered, for it already almost forgotten, that the surprising agricultural output of Morocco, which has added very appreciably during these war years to the resources of France, is due directly to the work of pacific penetration initiated some fifty years ago and carried on mainly by a few British firms. These firms obtained, by the method of their dealings, the confidence of the natives, supplied an outlet for native products, and then, through an elaborate organisation, carried on through native agents, stimulated agriculture throughout their districts, introduced new crops, and greatly intensified the agricultural industry, which, relieved of the oppression of the kaids, has proved a base for great developments.

Satisfactory Rainfall.

A few days ago the prospects for Morocco's staple industry were very gloomy. The chief agricultural districts had received but an inch of rain since last spring, cattle were dying for want of grass, and ploughing had been scarcely commenced. Reports have now arrived that fair rain has fallen on both the coast and the interior, and there seems at present every reason to hope that ploughing will at last commence in earnest all over the country.

Morocco, though it is rare that a year passes without any rain, has often a very small rainfall. Fortunately very little suffices, and there are instances of crops grown with five inches of rain. Native methods are very wasteful of moisture, and enormous improvement could be made by modest changes in the direction of "dry farming," which was practised with success by an Englishman years ago in the south of Morocco, and is now being used by some European colonists.

Steamship Services.

All trade in Morocco is dependent on rainfall; but British trade, apart from equality of commercial opportunities, is also dependent on the steamer service with Great Britain, and a very short time ago it seemed that this would almost cease. The direct service is maintained by the R.M.S.P. and the Power Line, and for some time has consisted of calls every month or six weeks by R.M.S.P. steamers, which, however, do not, as a rule, accept return freight, and a larger steamer of the Power Line, which generally carries cargo both ways, and is the mainstay of British trade, especially in the southern ports.

A startling rumour arrived a short time ago that the Power steamer, the last one of the line not requisitioned, had also been taken into Government service, a step which would have made the carrying on of a great part of British trade, for the time at least, almost impossible. Fortunately, in this, as in the case of steps which would have severely hit the important trade between Great Britain and Morocco in green tea, the Government departments concerned showed a realisation of the importance of trade matters which before the war would have been surprising. Merchant bodies, and foremost, it seems, amongst them, the newly-formed British Merchants' Association, made representations to the authorities, who have now allowed the steamer to continue in the Moroccan service.

The concession has been rightly viewed as a very hopeful augury of the handling by Government of trade questions after the war. British merchants here, as elsewhere, are at all times ready to sacrifice business for national interests, but it is right that they should be assured that before being called on to make such a sacrifice every care has been taken to make sure that it is necessary, and that the ends to be gained are worth the loss to be inflicted. Many things in Morocco remain to be settled after the war before British trade can set fully to work to make the most of the opportunities the country offers; if the Government, in handling them, takes into full account what British subjects have already, unaided, done for British trade in Morocco, and what a valuable outlet they can, if supported, in the future maintain for that trade, the part which Great Britain will take in the commercial development of Morocco will be a large one.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the last meeting of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, at which Mr. Lionel A. Martin presided, it was reported that arrangements had been made for an address to be delivered to the members of the Chamber and others in the Pillar Hall of the Cannon Street Hotel on January 30, by Mr. Alfred Bigland, M.P., on the aims and objects of the Empire Resources Development Committee. A communication from the Prime Minister promising to receive the Chamber's deputation on Government control of trade as early as possible was reported.

OVERSEAS TRADE DEPARTMENT.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, the head of the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), has appointed Mr. Guy Locock, C.M.G., of the Foreign Office, and Miss Anne B. Page to be his private secretaries. Mr. Locock is for the time being acting as head of the Foreign Section of the Overseas Division of the Department. Sir William Clark, the Comptroller-General of the Department, has appointed Mr. H. W. Wiswould to be his private secretary.

PERFUMERY TRADE OF ADEN

Strong Scents and Low Prices.

A very interesting account of the trade in scents in the Aden district is given by the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report. The value of the various classes of perfumery used, he says, is estimated at £5,000 a year. The bulk of the perfumery sold here is of local origin or preparation, and it makes up probably three-fourths of the total amount used. The remaining one-fourth consists of cheap qualities imported mainly from England, France, and Switzerland. The Arab in this district is very fond of perfumery, but as his purchasing power is generally limited he must have low-priced goods. He and his women are particularly fond of musk and of three flower scents—jasmine, narcissus, and rose. Musk is the most widely used of these four, and is usually the artificial scent imported from Switzerland in the form of liquid, crystals, or powder. The Aden consulate is informed by local native perfumers that they now pay fifty shillings ($12.15) a pound in Switzerland for artificial musk.

Local Preparations.

Next to these artificial scents in favour is the scent of an Indian wood known as aloes wood and by the native name of "ood," although it is generally used in quite a different form. The wood is said to be the inner bark of a tree which grows in the Straits Settlements, Burma, and British India. According to local information these trees are botanically known as *Aquilaria ovata* and *Aquilaria agallocha*. The "ood" used in Aden is imported from Calcutta. Next in favour with the Arabs come the various mixtures made from the locally prepared civet and ambergris. The civet comes from Abyssinia. Ambergris is marketed by fishermen, who get it along the coasts of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the best quality being considered that which comes from Shukra, an Arabian port east of Aden.

Most of the perfumery imported is in the form of chemical musk and artificial narcissus, jasmine, and rose. All of that found in local perfumery shops was of Swiss manufacture, but import returns indicate that some of it is probably bought through English and French sources. These scents are in concentrated form and are very powerful. The Aden perfumers, who are usually Indians, use these concentrated scents in the preparation of toilet waters, ordinary spirit perfumes,

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

and hair oils. An article is prepared which can be sold very cheaply, and which, having a powerful odour, is very satisfactory for the local trade. A two-ounce bottle of perfume can be sold for eight annas, and a two-ounce bottle of hair oil, which is often made by adding only a little scent to coconut oil, sells for the same price. Rose water and other toilet waters locally prepared can be purchased at twelve annas per pint bottle. There are even some cheaper grades, but these prices are the average.

German Perfumes' Ill Success.

The Germans once tried to compete with this locally prepared perfumery, but with little success. In one shop there was found a considerable stock of German perfumes, put up in fancy bottles which appeared to contain about three ounces. These perfumes were in the popular scents of musk, narcissus, and jasmine. The retail price was four rupees, but the shopkeeper said that they were too expensive for the native trade, and that he made only an occasional sale because of the attractive bottle. It is a very evident fact that the native must have a cheap perfume, and that it is not possible under present conditions to develop a demand for imported perfumes unless they are very strong and can be sold at very near the low prices for which the locally prepared article sells.

There is a liquid perfume prepared from the "ood" above mentioned, and it is quite popular on account of its lasting odour. This perfume is called "oodi," and one application will last for some days. It is said that a garment or a handkerchief which has "oodi" on it will retain the scent even after being laundered. "Oodi" is sold in three different grades, the price per tola being 7, 4½, and 2 rupees respectively. The second and third grades have much the largest sale, and although the price would appear to be a little high, this perfume is fairly cheap, considering its lasting qualities.

"Ood" for Incense.

There are two uses for "ood" (the wood itself). In one the pieces of wood are burned in incense pots. The smoke is used to impregnate various garments with the scent. On festive occasions, when many guests are present, the native host will charge his incense pot with "ood" and pass the vessel around to the guests, that they may scent their handkerchiefs, turbans, or tarbushes. The other use for the wood is in the preparation of an incense paste. This paste is made in various ways, but its principal ingredients are sugar and perfumes. Sometimes small pieces of "ood" only are added to the sugar, and sometimes there will be a combination of the sugar, "ood," civet, ambergris, or musk. The paste is dried, cut into cakes, and burned in incense pots to produce smoke with which to impregnate garments held over it with a strong and lasting scent. This method is much used by the Arab, Indian, and Somali women for perfuming the garments which they are about to don. "Ood" is of two qualities—black and brown. The black sells for about thirty rupees per pound, and the brown for about ten rupees. The wood is quite light in weight.

Ambergris.

Ambergris is used both as a medicine and as a perfume. It is employed mainly by local perfumers for mixing with other cheaper scents and as an ingredient in the incense cakes above described. As a medicine it is often taken in coffee or tea. Two of its principal medicinal virtues, according to local belief, are the curing of colds and the strengthening of convalescents.

There is a considerable quantity of ambergris brought into the Aden market, a great deal of which is exported to Europe, though no figures are available as to the amount of this commodity handled here. The Arab fishermen bring it in. They find it along the coast of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden from Hodeidah to Shukra. The Arabs have an interesting way of testing ambergris. A piece will be placed on a sheet of paper and a lighted candle held under the paper. If the ambergris breaks it is considered of inferior quality; if it slips from the paper without sticking it is considered as of first quality. They believe that inferior ambergris is that which has been swallowed by fish and then thrown up. Local experts sort ambergris into five grades, for which the prices per ounce are 75, 50, 20, 12, and 5 rupees respectively.

Another perfume having a small sale in this market is known as barmoomi. It is said to be made from various flowers which grow in East Africa. The local price is from one to three rupees per tola. Very little is known about this perfume by local dealers. It is very powerful in odour.

Attar of Roses.

At times an inconsiderable quantity of attar of roses is said to be obtained from the Turkish Yemen by local perfumers, for use in the various classes of perfumery which they prepare. Usually, however, the chemical rose scent from Switzerland seems to give a stronger and more appreciated odour than the natural product.

The only conclusion to be obtained from a study of the local perfume market is that there is not a favourable chance for prepared imported perfumery to compete. The native perfumers, who control the trade, are skilled in mixing powerful scents, which they can sell very cheaply. The only possible sale for imported prepared perfumes would be to the small European population and to a few wealthy natives. This limited trade is at present supplied with excellent French perfumes, which can be sold at very reasonable prices.

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Die Bank, a German financial journal, says that the Roumanian petroleum wells have been so thoroughly destroyed by the Allies that there is not chance of the company owning them paying any dividend for many years to come.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Electrification of Crops.

In last week's notes we referred to the progress that has been made in the utilisation of electricity in agriculture, and mentioned the economic and technical advantages that are obtained by its employment as a motive power for driving agricultural machinery, for ploughing, threshing, etc. The most remarkable results, however, of the utilisation of electricity in agriculture are those obtained by its application to crops. Electricity has a very beneficial effect on all plants, and it has been proved that by its use an increased yield of from 30 to 50 per cent. in wheat-growing and other cereals can be obtained on land of average fertility. How this electrical influence operates has not yet been defined exactly, but as it has been proved that plants to which electricity has been applied grow far heavier and far more productive than has otherwise been the case, we can safely surmise that under the electric treatment the circulation of the plant juice is hastened, and plants are, therefore, able to "feed" more easily. A similar effect is observed in the human subject when under electrical stimulus. In Italy and France, and especially in Switzerland, the electrification of crops or "electroculture," as it is termed, has been practised for some five or six years now. In this country experiments carried out under the supervision of the Board of Agriculture show that in oats electrification has resulted in an increase of 49 per cent. in grain and 88 per cent. in straw. In other cereals, such as wheat, the increased yield has been 30 to 60 per cent., and even higher. The importance of this may be better realised when it is borne in mind that of the 35 million quarters of wheat which are annually consumed in this country about 20 millions have to be imported.

Electroculture Installations.

The installation system for the electrification of crops adopted in this country, mostly in the Midlands, is undoubtedly superior to those used on the Continent. This British installation is of a most simple and yet most reliable design. The method employed is to stretch a network of extremely fine wires over the field to be treated, barely visible, twelve yards apart, and suspended eighteen feet above the ground from larch poles. A positive continuous current of electricity is supplied to the wires at the extremely high pressure of 60,000 to 100,000 volts, but the quantity of current used is as small as 10 to 30 watts per acre, so that the cost is rather trifling. The necessary dynamo can be driven by a farm oil engine of 2 h.p. Thus, the electrification of crops can be applied anywhere, even in remote districts, and the electrical apparatus is so very simple to control that it is claimed that it can be operated by unskilled labour without difficulty. It is asserted that by the use of this system of electrification the average yield per acre in this country can be increased from the present figure of 32 bushels to 50 or 60 bushels; so that the country's dependence upon imported supplies could be reduced by 80 per cent.

Effect in Gardens.

Better results seem to be obtained when electricity is used in gardening, and for those who would like to try electrification of plants in that direction, and either cannot obtain locally an electric supply, or do not wish to go to the expense of purchasing an electrical plant (of oil engine, dynamo, etc.), as described above, before being assured of the success by experiments, an economic method of experimenting may be mentioned. It is, of course, for experiments conducted on quite a small scale in a garden frame, or in the open garden. A small electric accumulator, such as is used for ignition in motor engines, will supply the battery power; an induction coil intended for more or less continuous running can be bought from almost any scientific instrument maker. When the coil is working one end of its secondary winding, giving chiefly a positive electrical discharge, is applied to a piece of galvanised wire net supported a few feet above the ground; the other end of the winding is attached to a zinc plate buried in the ground. Short thin wires are suspended at frequent spots in the netting, pointing towards the ground, and act as conductors from which the electricity can creep through the air to the tiny hairs or conductors on the leaves of the plants. Of course, some technical skill is required. The serious gardener must, however, have the right type of apparatus, and must take special precautions as to the hours during which the current is applied, and the weather. Electricity is of no use during very hot, dry, sunny weather, nor in heavy rain. It is usually applied early in the morning and in the evening, and certain plants—for example, cabbage—require more watering. The plants themselves must never touch the overhead wires, otherwise the current will be conducted by them directly to the earth. The wires must be isolated by porcelain insulators.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Buyers Cautious.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market has continued generally slow, and no particular development in demand can be reported. There is still that lack of confidence in current rates which results in buyers being very cautious. Raw cotton advices continue strong and prices in the American staple remain firm. Rather easier rates have prevailed in Egyptian cotton owing to the outlook for supplies being somewhat better. Spinners of Egyptian yarns have not sold freely, but engagements remain healthy, and pretty full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted. Producers of doubling wefts are doing particularly well. Most Bolton mills have made large profits during the past half-year. Less activity continues to show itself in piece goods for Egypt. Shipments are improving, and cables and letters from Cairo report a healthy state of affairs there. Standard cloths for India and China have been neglected. A few more sales have been mentioned for Java. The home trade has given steady support. In American yarns resales rather tend to spoil prices in some quarters. According to the Board of Trade returns, last year was a record period, so far as values are concerned, in our foreign trade in yarn and cloth, the amount of business done totalling to nearly £130,000,000.

GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

Quality and Yield Satisfactory.

The excellent prices brought by last year's tobacco crop in Greece caused many experts to predict a vastly increased acreage this year, and this was in part the case, says the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, Mr. C. M. Corafa, in a report dated October 29. The crop, however, is only about 30 per cent. in excess of that of 1916, on account of rather unfavourable climatic conditions during the greater part of 1917. The total production for 1917 is estimated at 102,275,710 lbs., grown in the following districts :—

Districts.	Lbs.
Islands of new Greece—	
Samos	26,804,225
Mitylene	3,833,800
Chios	1,975,050
Lemnos	564,300
Islands of old Greece—	
Amorgos	225,720
Pasos	56,430
Naxos	84,645
Miconos	28,215
Tenos	84,645
Nios	56,430
Argolis	11,286,000
Other Peloponnesus Districts	564,300
Etolo-Carnania (local sale)	8,464,500
Etolo-Acarnania (for exportation)	5,643,000
Attica-Bœotia	282,150
Thessaly-Phthiotis	33,853,800
Epirus Jannina	1,4.0,750
Salonika	7,053,730
	102,275,710

The quality of the crop is said to be excellent. Owing to a great demand, particularly from Egypt, the prices brought by the various brands of tobacco are about double those obtaining last year. The demand exceeds the supply, and the price is not expected to decline during the season. About 8,500,000 lbs. will be consumed in Greece and an equal amount by Italy. Egypt will require nearly 20,000,000 lbs., while an estimate of the needs of other countries is as follows :—United States, about 28,215,000 lbs.; Brazil, Tunis, Spain, France, Holland, Switzerland, 14,107,500 lbs.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES.

The Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd., of Liverpool, announce that Mr. W. J. Sergent, who for eighteen years has been associated with the Allan and Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, is retiring from active duties as chief superintendent engineer, but continues his connection as an official of the company in a consultative capacity. Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, who has been his chief assistant, has now been appointed chief superintendent engineer of all the company's fleets, with headquarters in Liverpool.

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"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
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A SERBIAN MISSION.

Trade with Great Britain.

Representatives of the Serbian Industrial, Commercial, and Trading Guild arrived in London on January 14. They were met at the station by the Serbian Minister in London, M. Jovan Jovanovitch, as well as by representatives of the Board of Trade. The Mission (states Reuter's Agency) is to spend a month in Great Britain visiting the principal commercial and industrial centres. The members of the Mission are M. Costa Riznitch, President of the Chamber of Commerce and President of the Executive Committee of the National Bank of Serbia; M. Milorad Pavlovitch, member of the Chamber of Commerce; M. Malisha Athanaskovitch, member of the Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Kosta Yovanovitch, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Belgrade, and member of the Municipal Council of Belgrade; M. Peter Markovitch, President of Trade Guilds of Belgrade; M. Bogolyub Stokitch, member of the Trade Guilds of Belgrade; Dr. Douritch, Professor in the University of Belgrade.

On January 15 the Mission was introduced by the Serbian Minister to Sir Arthur Steel Maitland at the Foreign Office. Sir Arthur, in welcoming the Mission, expressed the hope that political and commercial relations between Serbia and Great Britain would be greatly strengthened as the result of the war. M. V. Jovanovitch, a member of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, in reply, said that the whole Serbian nation saw in Great Britain the best friend of their race, and he was sure that Sir Arthur Steel Maitland's hopes would be abundantly fulfilled.

The members of the Mission were entertained at luncheon on January 16 in the Connaught Rooms by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, Sir Algernon F. Firth presiding.

The Chairman, in welcoming the representatives, said their visit was intended to help the development of commercial relations between the two countries. Economically and commercially Serbia was isolated, and had before the war been under the commercial domination of Austria, who insisted on preferential treatment, and had vetoed arrangements for a treaty with this country. In 1912, of imports to Serbia 74 per cent. were from Austria and Germany and 64 per cent. of her exports went to those countries. The development of Serbia required release from the servitude under which she had suffered. Serbia needed railways, roads, and ports, and expenditure in these directions would open splendid prospects. Among her industries agriculture stood first; the tobacco growth was of the best in the world; timber and fruit were plentiful. Mineral wealth included gold, copper, silver, antimony, and zinc. One of the great difficulties after the war would be shortage of man-power. The loss of Serbia in men was in proportion greater than that of any of the Allies; only a quarter of the men of military age in her population were left alive. Many Serbian boys were being educated here and in France, and every opportunity should be given for making them acquainted with British trading conditions. The interchange of knowledge should lead to close commercial relations.

Dr. Douritch said Serbia was primarily an agricultural country. They produced more food than they required for their own people, they could produce raw material in abundance, and in her present state of development Serbia imported manufactures. There was therefore reason for close commercial relations with Great Britain, a large importer of food stuffs. So long as Serbia had her present frontiers she would be absolutely under the domination of Austria. After the war he had reason to believe that Serbia would have direct maritime communication with Great Britain. In considering the prospects of greater trade it was evident there must be methods of credit. It was for the commercial delegation to explain how the Serbian markets were organised and how British manufacturers could best find an outlet in Serbia.

ROUMANIA'S OILFIELDS.

Story of their Development.

An interesting paper was read by Captain T. S. Masterson, D.S.O., on "The Petroleum Industry of Roumania" at the meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists on January 15, in the course of which he passed under survey the methods by which the oilfields were developed.

In the early days, he said, the first drilling was done at Draganeasa, on the Cantacuzene property, and in Moldavia at Harsa, on the Negropontes property. Both fields were drilled on the Pennsylvanian system, and the sites of the borings could be seen to-day. At Harsa small 4-in. and 5-in. pipes were sticking out of the ground indicating the old positions, and the same might be seen at Draganeasa. With one notable exception these borings were technical failures. It was found that the Pennsylvanian system, as adopted for the rocks of Pennsylvania, would not work, as the beds would not stand up in the drilling unless the casing followed closely. Next to be used was the Canadian system. At first very slow progress was made on account of the constant need of using the under-reamer, but later, in 1898, with the more general introduction of the eccentric bit, better progress was made, and the Canadian system had lived down to 1916.

Rotary System Introduced.

In 1904 or 1905 the first rotary system was introduced at Apostolache, but, partly because the plant brought out was of too light a pattern, and partly because the rock in that particular region was not of the most suitable, these first efforts were failures. In 1912 the rotary was again introduced, but there was again no success. The following year, however, the rotary was given a fair trial, and in suitable rock it proved a success, and the rotary would very likely be more widely employed in the future. The rotary in Roumania had been a great success in the soft, loose, sandy marls of the Pontic beds between Gura Ocnitei and Tzintea. The use of thick mud-flush had made it possible to drill 1,600 feet of uncased hole, and at Bana-Moreni wells had been drilled to 2,400 ft. at an average progress of 65 ft. per day, including the time needed for the setting of two strings of casing and the exclusion of the water in the upper sands.

Labour and Materials.

The Roumanian peasant, who was superseding the foreign driller, was an intelligent and conscientious worker, but lacked education, which made it difficult for him to grasp mechanics. This was easily understood when it is remembered that Roumania is essentially an agricultural country. The timber for derricks and all buildings was supplied from the large forests in the Carpathians. Cement and refractory materials were also made locally, but all metals and textile manufactures were imported. Germany supplied the entire requirements of casing, tank plates, electric plant and refinery commodities. With a very few exceptions Germany also supplied the pumping and workshop plant. In addition to this Germany supplied the raw materials used by the local workshops for manufacturing rig irons and drilling tools. England's share in these supplies was altogether insignificant, and what English material was used was due to the patriotic impulse of a few Britishers.

After the War.

On reoccupation of her territory, concluded the lecturer, Roumania would be faced with one of two problems:—Either the industry would be more completely destroyed than it was when left in December, 1916, or it would be found with such improvements as might have been effected under the German occupation. In both cases the Roumanian Government would be faced with the problem of reconstruction, and undoubtedly it would avail itself of that opportunity for the purposes of removing many inequities which hampered the industry in the past. It was stated in Roumania that the Allied Governments had promised to compensate Roumania for the damage done. In that case the reconstruction would be based on the amount received as compensation, and it was to be hoped that the necessary safeguards would be taken to ensure that no Allied money found its way into Germany as purchase price for materials needed for the reconstruction. As mentioned above, Germany in the past supplied practically all the materials. Let them be prepared to do so this time.

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COMPANY REPORT.

London County and Westminster.

The report of the London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., for the year ended December 31 last states that after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad debts and contingencies, and allowing £193,215 for rebate on bills not due, the net profit amounts to £1,271,067, which with £182,291 brought forward leaves an available sum of £1,453,358. This the directors have appropriated as follows:—Interim dividend of 9 per cent. (paid in August last), £316,000; a further dividend of 10 per cent. (making 19 per cent. for the year), £350,000; a dividend of two-thirds of 10 per cent. on 127,601 new shares, £42,534; a dividend of two-thirds of 10 per cent. on 2,177 shares issuable in respect of outstanding fractions, £726; contingency fund investments and foreign accounts), £460,500; bank premises account, £100,000; balance carried forward, £184,599. The arrangements for the purchase of the shares of the Ulster Bank have now been carried through. Up to December 31 last a total of 194,666 shares have been received for exchange. The cost of these at the agreed sum of £12 3s. 4d. per share is £2,368,436. Off these has been written the sum of £506,943, reducing the cost in the bank's books to £9 11s. 3d. per share, £1,861,494. Against this have been issued shares and fractions amounting together to 129,778 shares of £20 each, £5 paid. £648,890, which has been passed to capital account. The premium on the shares issued after deduction of the sums written off leaves a balance of £725,949, which has been added to the reserve. Branches have been opened in Spain at Madrid and Barcelona. The dividend (less tax) will be payable on or after 1st proximo. The balance-sheet shows current and deposit accounts, £142,267,949; circular notes, letters of credit and other accounts, including provision for contingencies, £4,394,675; acceptances, £5,375,652; endorsements on bills negotiated, £72,956; cash in hand and at Bank of Eng £25,197,730; money at call and short notice, £26,983,535; bills discounted, £24,288,394; advances to customers and other accounts (including pre-moratorium Stock Exchange loans), £40,800,159. Meeting, 41, Lothbury, E.C., 24th instant, 1 p.m.

◆

SMALL GREEK OLIVE CROP.

Unfortunate climatic conditions in Greece early in the year, combined with an unusually severe drought in the olive-producing districts, seriously cut down the olive crop in 1917, says the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, Mr. C. M. Corafa, in a report dated October 30. The presence of disease in the groves has also affected the situation, so much so that the Ministries of National Economy and Agriculture have made appropriations to combat the dreaded "dakus" and other olive-tree diseases. For these reasons it is estimated that the total crop will not exceed 20 per cent. of that of a normal year.

In the Amphisso district the production is estimated at about one-tenth the normal, not more than 373,000 gallons being anticipated. This strikes a hard blow at consumers of fruit from this, perhaps the best in quality grown in Greece. In a good olive year the production in Old Greece is about 65,000,000 okes (25,000,000 gallons), of which 7,000,000 to 9,250,000 gallons are generally exported. In the provinces of New Greece conditions are brighter, reports from Crete and Mitylene being very encouraging. From Mitylene come estimates of a possible crop of 7,450,000 gallons.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
January 7 …………………	340,000	250,000
January 8 …………………	310,000	230,000

COMPANY MEETING.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

The Surplus Profit.

The 136th half-yearly general meeting of the stockholders of this company was held on January 15 at 48, Copthall Avenue, Sir Charles H. Armstrong (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) read the notice convening the meeting.

The chairman, after expressing regret at the death of Colonel Firebrace, the chairman of the board, said that the company had done well during the six months now under review, but the excess earnings were largely due to the movement of troops and military stores. The surplus profit, which was being carried forward to next half-year, exceeded 86 lacs of rupees, which was a record figure for the September half-year. The excess over the corresponding period of 1916 in coaching and goods was 41 lacs of rupees, but the increase in the coaching was partly accounted for by enhanced fares which took effect from June 1, for the total number of ordinary passengers carried was less by nearly 1¾ millions. This falling off in numbers, which was almost entirely in third-class ordinary, was accounted for by the higher fares, by the increased cost of living, and by the prohibition of the annual Pandharpur Fair, but to a small extent this decline was offset by an increase in the numbers carried by mail trains, which added considerably to the receipts under this head. The total goods traffic exceeded in weight the quantity carried in the corresponding half-year, but the excess tonnage was not in general merchandise, although under this head a higher revenue was earned.

Gross Receipts.

The gross receipts in the half-year were 531 lacs, against 489 lacs, an increase of 42 lacs, or 8½ per cent., and as the expenditure only increased by 2¼ lacs, or about ¾ per cent., as compared with the corresponding half-year, the net revenue showed an increase of 39½ lacs, or 18¾ per cent., which was very satisfactory. Although working expenses, fuel, stores, and wages were higher, the excess under these and other heads was largely counterbalanced by a reduced train mileage of a little over 1,000,000 miles, a war measure (so far as passenger traffic was concerned) which they, in common with other railways, found to be absolutely necessary from the point of view of the upkeep and renewal of their stock. As in recent half-years, it had not been possible to spend freely on renewals, but the line had remained in a state of efficiency and their engines in working order and repair. To have been able to maintain efficiency under the difficult conditions now prevailing was very satisfactory, but when the war was over they would have to spend freely on both renewals and repairs, and the low working percentage now shown of 52.92 per cent. might therefore later on be increased. The percentage this half-year compared with 56.98 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1916, and with an average of about 59½ per cent. in the two corresponding half-years just before the war. Looking back five years, however, he found that in the half-year gross receipts had increased by nearly 1½ crores of rupees, and as their line was now capable of carrying a much larger traffic, a further increase might confidently be looked for in the near future, and more particularly after the war, when India would be drawn upon heavily for raw materials of all descriptions. Recent monsoons had been very favourable, and if after the war their good fortune in this respect continued, India would be able to export freely, and high prices would probably be realised. The position at present, so far as prices were concerned, was very satisfactory, and for the cotton crop, which was a very important item of traffic for their line, prices were now being realised which before the war were never dreamt of. All this was good for the future of India, and if, as would happen, increased wealth stimulated industry and enterprise, it would be good also for the future welfare of their line.

Surplus Earnings.

The surplus earnings, as he had already said, were over 86 lacs of rupees, and if they were not unduly hampered by coal shortage this half-year—and the trouble, he was sorry to say, had already begun, bookings towards Bombay, excepting coal, having had to be stopped in the middle of last month, and the traffic not yet having been resumed—the final distribution ought to be satisfactory, but in this connection increased taxation was an item which might have to be taken into account, and until their position in this respect was more clearly defined it would not be wise or prudent to hazard a guess as to the final result of the year's working.

The chief decreases in the revenue from goods traffic during the half-year fell under a few heads. Coal and coke were less by nearly two lacs of rupees, due to a smaller quantity having been carried, as large supplies were railed to Bombay in the previous half-year in anticipation of an advance in the freight rate of 14 ans. per ton. In jawar and bajra, staple food grains in certain parts of India, there was a heavy falling off of nearly 10 lacs, and the receipts from manganese ore were also down by over eight lacs, due to a large extent to scarcity of tonnage and high freights, also to the fact that supplies nowadays were going more freely to Calcutta. The largest decrease of all was, however, in oilseeds, amounting to over 14 lacs, due to a poor demand for export. On the other hand, grain and pulse showed an increase of nearly four lacs. Wheat was 19½ lacs in excess, due to a greater demand for export on Government account, and rice contributed also over four lacs.

The amount disbursed on capital expenditure during the six months has been small, only 27 lacs, and this was due to scarcity of funds and to the difficulty of obtaining necessary supplies in this country, but, nevertheless, some useful work has been done. Over eight lacs had been spent on remodelling station yards, three lacs in providing house accommodation for officers stationed in Bombay—a very necessary measure for their own protection, as rents had advanced rapidly since the war commenced—over 2½ lacs on the Kargali Colliery, which was money very well spent, and smaller sums on the Itarsi-Nagpur Railway and on doubling the line between Shegaon and Nagpur.

Fuel Supply.

The first consignment of coal from the new colliery at Kargali was despatched on June 18, and by the end of the September quarter over 35,000 tons had been raised, the monthly production being then about 8,000 tons. The estimate for this half-year was from 60,000 to 80,000 tons, and thereafter it was hoped that the monthly output would be about 20,000 tons, which would be a very valuable addition to their stock in these days of uncertain supply. The question of their future fuel supply was constantly before the directors, and, as he had shown, the position at present was far from satisfactory. The bulk of their coal was drawn from the Bengal coalfields, which were 600 miles distant from the nearest point of their line, and the cost of haulage was therefore an item of considerable importance. A large number of wagons had to be employed, which could be much more profitably used in other directions, and it was with the object of releasing some of these wagons that other methods were now being devised to deal with their increasing needs. Oil fuel was now being used to a small extent on some sections near Bombay, and negotiations through the Railway Board were now proceeding for a larger supply of oil, which would be a valuable addition to their fuel supply, but the change would necessitate a considerable expenditure in the conversion of engines, and storage accommodation would also be needed. The question of electrifying certain parts of the line was also under consideration, and if this was found to be feasible it would enable them, he hoped, to utilise some of the inferior coal found on and near their line, and if this could be done they would not only benefit by the electrification, but would save considerably in the haulage of coal from Bengal and a large number of wagons would be released for other purposes. But this scheme was only yet in the stage of inquiry, and even if proceeded with eventually it would be many years before the change could come into full working operation. Some step of a drastic nature was, however, necessary, for the coal supply was too uncertain, and the position so far as could be seen at present was not likely to improve, and would most probably get worse.

Feeder Lines.

Many projects for light feeder lines had been submitted during the half-year, and some were well worth consideration, but nothing in this direction could be done until the war was over. There would then be a great opportunity for the investment of rupee capital in these very necessary extensions, and as India at the present time was rapidly accumulating wealth, she would be able and willing, he hoped, to devote some part of her large profits to the development of railway extension, and light feeder railways were useful in bringing increased traffic to the main lines. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway was in a much better position than it was a few years ago to handle a large traffic, and they could well do with a few more feeders. In this direction there were great opportunities for development, and their directors would be glad to encourage schemes which were likely to show satisfactory results.

As regards extensions, a detailed survey had been sanctioned for a broad-gauge line from Warora to Pisgaon, a distance of about 14 miles, the object being to bring them into touch with an important district for coal. The Harbour Branch extension was held up by the non-receipt of girder-work on account of the war, and work generally on this important addition had been more or less closed down. The Pulgaon-Arvi branch line had, however, been opened for traffic. Two divisions on the Itarsi-Nagpur Railway were open to traffic, but on the remainder of this line work was only proceeding slowly, and it would be some time yet before through connection was complete. Good progress had however, been made on the Pachora-Jamner Railway.

Favourable Prospects.

Prospects, he was glad to say, were encouraging, for the last monsoon was a good one, and, although excessive rains at the end damaged the cotton crop in several districts, and to some extent food grains and oil seeds also, there was every prospect, nevertheless, of a heavy traffic, which, on account of the shortage of coal and for other reasons, he rather feared they might have some difficulty in handling. If, however, the coal supply was assured, they would do their best, but the resources of the railway were sure to be greatly taxed, and it was possible, therefore, that further restrictions of public traffic might be necessary. Progress on works already started had been continued so as to bring them from the unproductive to the productive stage, but the large volume of traffic which the railway had been called upon to deal with had made the need of additional facilities rather badly felt. Financial stringency and a difficulty in obtaining materials had necessitated many works, excepting those of very urgent importance, being held back, and this position must continue to the end of the war. Meanwhile Indian produce was in great demand for this and other markets, and orders were difficult to execute. When the war was over however, this demand would almost certainly revive and increase, for India was a large and important producer of necessary raw materials.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The market in Egyptian securities has again been a fairly active one, and in certain directions a large business has been doing. The general trend of prices has again been upwards, and Egypt has been a persistent buyer of certain shares. In Government stocks City of Alexandria Fours are wanted round the current price of 77, but there are no sellers at the moment. Egyptian Unifieds are unchanged at 85½ after some transactions at a slightly higher level. The 3½ per cent. preferences are again ¼ firmer at 73¼, but here also the lack of sellers stops business.

In Bank shares, Nationals close firmer but unchanged at 18, with some small business at slightly under this price. Land Banks on some small transactions dropped at one time to 6¼, but are closing ⅛ up on last week at 6⅜. Agriculturals have been a feature of strength during the last few days, and the price to-night closes 3-16 higher at 6½ on strong local buying. In Agricultural Preferences some business took place round 6 3-16, but there are further buyers about at this price and no sellers under 7 1-16. In Anglo-Egyptians some fairly large transactions have taken place round 14¼.

In land shares, Aboukirs have been quiet this week, but a fairly large business has again been done in New Egyptians, which are fractionally firmer at 17s. 3d. after some transactions up to about 17s. 6d. Allotments are ⅛ firmer at 4⅛ on buying from Egypt, but no business has been done, as the few remaining sellers here are holding for higher prices. Behéras have been exceptionally dull, and, with some small sellers about, the price has receded ¼ to 12¾. Behéra Preferences are also slightly weaker at 4⅜ x.d. In Delta Lands there has been some support from Egypt at 15s., and the supply of shares here round this level appears to be becoming exhausted. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts remain round 9s., but in view of the appreciation in many of their holdings an improvement in their price is overdue. Gharbieh Lands, after being neglected for some time, have come into demand and are ⅛ up at £2, at which price there is a very fair local demand with few sellers about. Sidi Salems have been quite a feature, and on buying orders from Egypt are closing 3s. up at 29s. In Union Foncieres the market has been rather dull, with some small sellers round current prices. In United Egyptian Lands some business has been done round the current price of 1s. 7½d.

In miscellaneous shares, Salts and Sodas have again been largely dealt in, and on both local and Egyptian buying have improved a further 2s. 6d. to 40s. There has also been a further improvement of 1s. in Khedivial Mails to 36s. 6d.

In Greek securities, both 1881's and 1884's are ½ lower at 60, after some fairly large transactions. Some big dealings have taken place in Monopolies round 51. Otherwise there is nothing of interest to report.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations:—Turkish Unified, 64 (64.50); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 778 (772); Ottoman Bank, 475 (470); Suez Canal Shares, 4,600 (4,600).

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Persian Preferences declined 3d. to 24s.—25s., while Roumanian Consols were also weaker at 9s.—10s.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 9	Jan. 16
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73	73¼
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60½	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	55
Do. 5 % Fn.ig., Ln., 1893	54	53	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62xd	62
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	80½	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	80
Do 4% Unified	79	—	70
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	70	70
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 5/16	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14¼	14¼
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7 9/16	7⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅝	4⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¼	6⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13½	18	18
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6 1/16	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	—	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/9	22/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4	4⅛
Behéra Co.	8½	13	12¾
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4 15/32	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	9/-	9/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1⅞	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/1½	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	26/-	29/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2 11/16	2 11/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	37/6	40/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	35/6	36/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅝	3⅞	3⅞

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures (for two months, viz., September and October, 1917) published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to October 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to November 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Sep. 1917		3,142,015	1,108,000
Do. do. do 1916		3,505,545	2,971,000
Do. do. Oct., 1917		3,648,269	1,060,000
Do. do. do. 1916		3,394,264	2,019,000
Estimated Receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)		24,083,333	8,916,663
Actual do. do., 1917		28,009,521	10,559,000
Do. do. do., 1916		30,015,870	23,175,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months	1917	+ 3,926,188	+ 1,642,333
	1916	+ 5,932,537	+ 14,258,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Ten days ending Dec. 31.		1917. Four days ending Dec. 31.
Cattle markets	1,532	..	332
General markets	512	..	243
Receipts (£)	2,0 4	..	575
Total for year	56,933	..	55,154

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - - £160,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Sabzavar Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busrah.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.
Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.
Prices: From 5s. per 100 and upwards.
Ask your tobacconist, or from
J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIS BROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 351.—Vol. XIV.　FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The one naval incident of the week was utterly unexpected. The Goeben and the Breslau ventured outside the Dardanelles for the first time, so far as is known, since their entry in 1914. Their record as fighting ships had not been particularly brilliant hitherto; they may have thought that the British forces in the Levant had now been sufficiently reduced to render an attack on Imbros reasonably safe. Or they may have hoped to catch us napping. However that may be, it was their first and last offensive cruise in the Mediterranean as nominally Turkish vessels. They sank a British monitor, but, being engaged by destroyers, they turned again home, but failed to cross the bar. The Breslau—one of the last survivors of the "City" class of cruisers that was built to stimulate local interest in the German Navy—struck a mine and sank; the Goeben also struck a mine, listed, and was run ashore in the Narrows. As her stationary mass is now being bombed regularly by British airmen, she is unlikely to appear again.

The survivors of the Breslau were rescued by the British, the Goeben being too much occupied in showing a clean pair of heels to pick up any of the crew of her smaller consort. It is noteworthy that the rescued German crew gave vent to their hatred of the Turks; we imagine that the Turks were not sorry to be rid of such uncomfortable guests—in fact, a dark suspicion may have crossed the German mind that they had been persuaded outside the Dardanelles by their weary hosts precisely in the hope that such an accident as befell them should occur. If that were so, the Turks can hardly have expected that both the parting guests should have been so effectually speeded. It is certain that, however much the German hates the Turk, the Turk hates the German still more.

It was the menacing presence of these vessels before Constantinople in the autumn of 1914 that largely determined Turkey's entry into the war. It is very natural, therefore, that it should be suggested that the removal of the menace should affect Turkey's attitude, and make it less dangerous for her to approach the Allies with proposals for a separate peace. What may be the truth of that supposition we cannot say. Turkey knows the terms of the Allies, and she is anxious to get out of the war. On the other hand, she has borrowed money from Germany, given Germany post-war rights in her territories, and we may be quite sure that the number of Germans in Constantinople will not diminish at this critical moment of the Alliance. Nor will the German Embassy be lacking in arguments, or, if need be, threats, to persuade or bully her weary ally to carry on.

What arguments can Germany employ that will prove effectual? She can threaten revenge on the deserter when she has won the war, but their execution is dependent on her winning, and the Turks may have two opinions about that. In any event Germany could not carry out the threat until she has settled with France, Britain, and America, and the Turks may have a less roseate view of the prospects of German victory than the official assurances of Berlin. In the second place, Germany can promise Turkey relief from Russian pressure in Constantinople—but Turkey will have that relief in any case. In the third, she can dazzle Turkish eyes with the Pan-Turanian dream, with the prospect of expanding her power over the Caucasus and other districts where Russia has resigned her ambitions. It is conceivable that this bribe may have some weight, although it would probably have had more in 1914. But Turkey may reasonably ask her master why he does not give her back her lost provinces instead of offering her new possessions? That question Germany cannot very well answer, except by the despatch of a large expeditionary force to Asia Minor. It remains to be seen whether Falkenhayn, who seems to be still lying *perdu* at Aleppo, can persuade the Kaiser that the war can best be settled in the East.

In the meantime, a slight British advance has been registered in Palestine. The Germans are still talking loudly of the recapture of Jerusalem, possibly to keep the Turks in good heart, and some of the German newspapers have taken to abusing the Pope for condemning such talk in advance. They inform him that Jerusalem is a city like any other city—one wonders they did not point the moral by adding that Berlin is really a greater centre of the arts than Rome—and that if they choose to take it back, they will. It would appear from the denunciations lavished on the Pope and the Jews for their pleasure at the reconquest of Palestine that the German Foreign Office is more rattled than it cares to admit. It is only a few weeks ago that it was explaining that Jerusalem was evacuated because it was of great religious and no military importance.

The position on the Eastern front grows more and more confused. The Trotsky-Kühlmann cross-talk duel continues and is discontinued from time to time, but nothing happens except that the Russian army continues to melt away to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. In Petrograd they murder an ex-Minister or two before breakfast, forcibly dissolve a parliament before lunch, sack a few banks and repudiate their foreign debt before tea, and order a revolution or two in other countries after supper. In the odd moments of ennui between these extensive and exciting programmes they order the trial of the ex-Tsar and the arrest of King Ferdinand of Roumania, while it now appears that the Roumanian Ambassador was arrested in order to force the other Ambassadors to make a personal protest. By so doing, Lenin boasts that they have "recognised" his Government.

How much of this amazing tragi-comedy is sincerely played it is impossible to determine. The robberies may be a subtle jest, too recondite for the grosser taste of Western Europe; the murders are presumably intended as a practical demonstration of universal brotherhood, but they appear in some contradiction to the right of "self-determination." The threatened arrest of the King of Roumania is so nearly like a piece of German bullying that we may be excused for thinking that it was first suggested at Brest-Litovsk. The recalcitrance of Roumania is no doubt extremely inconvenient to both Berlin and Petrograd, but the spirit of the Court of Jassy, surrounded by open and concealed enemies on all sides, is evoking the admiration of the rest of the world.

Roumania's crime in the eyes of Russia is nominally that she has disarmed Russian troops and objected to Russian agitators who are trying to stir up a revolution. With the example of Russia before their eyes, the last thing Roumania is likely to do is to organise a revolution—or any other country either. The past year's events in Petrograd have probably done more to buttress conservatism in every part of the world than anything that has happened since the French Revolution, and a country that is so near to the seat of the disorders, like Roumania, is naturally most profoundly affected by disgust at these excesses.

The Ukraine appears to have concluded peace with the Central Powers, although there is a vagueness about the published terms of the agreement that makes for suspicion. No statement of the boundaries of the new State has been announced, and no details of the pact with Germany except that commerce is to be resumed; but under what restrictions, if any, we are left in ignorance. Until more is known of this matter, it is clear that it is impossible to judge of its effect either on German supplies or its relation to the future of the Balkans, which must in any case be considerable.

Practical steps are already being taken to prepare a way for Jewish colonisation. A conference of Leeds and Bradford Jews has been held under the auspices of the Zionist Committee, and it is announced that the British Government intends shortly to allow a Jewish Commission to go to Palestine to prepare for the establishment there of the Jewish nation. The Commission is to be followed by a staff of technical experts, engineers, architects, agriculturists, and town-planners. The general intention is to place on the land, by purchase, a Jewish proletariat, who, it is hoped, will work in harmony with the Arabs.

Nothing is said—probably it is too early—as to the source from which these immigrants into Palestine are to be drawn. Some, no doubt, will come from the North of England—the most rabid anti-Semite could not quarrel with anybody who preferred Palestine to Bradford—more, perhaps, will go from the East End of London, which has been excessively popular with foreign Jews of late years. But presumably the great bulk of the colonists will be Polish and Russian Jews, and their return can hardly take place until some time after the war. At the same time, there has been a significant indication this last week that the desire to return is by no means universal. A number of Russian-Polish Jews are reported to have agitated for rights which would make them practically a State within a State in Russia and Poland—a proof not merely that the Jewish question in Poland cannot be settled, as some persons think it can, by mere democratic gush, but that the Jewish community there is determined to remain separate from the Christians.

That they would assimilate with their Christian neighbours at the call of some reforming impulse can never have been credited for a moment by anybody who has been in these countries. But it has often been suggested, and this with somewhat more probability, that every Jew would leave Poland for Palestine at the first available opportunity. It is hardly necessary to say that, if that theory were correct, the Jews in the East of Europe would recognise that the question of their future position in Poland and Russia was merely an academic one. It is of very considerable importance, both from the standpoint of Palestine and of Poland, to know what proportion of that people intends to emigrate. The more who return to the Holy Land the better it will be for both Palestine and Jerusalem.

The omissions from the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson on war aims on which we commented shortly last week have provoked, as was anticipated, a considerable reaction. The Italian Press makes the point that Mesopotamia must have been of more importance than it had realised, and the Jugoslav ideals of less; to which the answer might conceivably be that the support of the Jugoslav movement in Italy had not, until recently, been remarkably fervent. Fortunately that attitude has disappeared, both in Rome and Milan, and a better understanding is now the *mot d'ordre*. Nothing could be more satisfactory, for it is clear that both in the local sense of a fulfilment of Italian and Jugoslav aspirations and in the wider sense of the future stability of European peace the independence of the Jugoslavs is a necessary preliminary. It is to be regretted that the language both of London and Washington, was in this matter somewhat vague and equivocal. Not unnaturally the Austrian Government has taken advantage of this unfortunate obscurity, and the Austrian Premier has denied again in the Reichsrath the "right of self-determination."

The full text of the treaty concluded by Great Britain, France, and Russia with Italy in April, 1915, has been published by the Bolshevik administration, and is reproduced in the *New Europe* of January 17. It confirms what had previously been divulged in regard to the general trend of the document, and in some particulars is far more unsatisfactory than the contracting parties have been given credit for, at least in this country. The claims of Italy on the eastern shores of the Adriatic were well known, and it was understood that she had, in common parlance, "opened her mouth" very wide, and that the Entente Powers had been persuaded to undertake the task of filling it. But if the text as now published has to be considered as authentic, she went even further, and obtained promises covering Asia Minor, Libya, and the north-eastern coast of Africa. The British public will note in regard to this treaty that it was negotiated early in 1915. In other words, it was the product of a régime that knew nothing of the Near East and was convinced that it was the one part of the world in which British interests were "nil." The war was still comparatively young, and it was very necessary to bring Italy into the conflict on the side of the Allies.

In April, 1915, the principle of nationality had not been so carefully elaborated as one of the war aims of the Allies as it has been since. It is conceivable that eminent jurists would hold that, in view of all that has happened in the interval, the convention with Italy is no longer a binding agreement. Neither Great Britain nor France, however, is likely to repudiate an undertaking, unless it can be shown—and the fact is recognised by all concerned—that its fulfilment has become a physical impossibility. There is hardly room for two opinions on this point. Italy, too, has lived through the last two years, and does not require to be reminded that the world's outlook on many things has undergone radical changes. Three years ago it seemed a natural course to adopt to pitch imperialistic aims as high as possible. It is realised now how fatal their gratification is apt to be even for the country that stands to profit by them, and the foundations of a new order of statesmanship have been laid. An Italian Government that still insisted upon full possession of all the islands of the Dodecannese at present occupied by Italy would find it difficult to frame an indictment against Pan-Germanism. In these circumstances it is to be expected that the Italians of their own accord will have asked for the cancellation of the treaty of 1915. But we confess that M. Trotsky's amiable action would have been more effectively deprived of its sting, if it had been officially announced that the Allies no longer considered themselves bound by this agreement.

The main part of the treaty concerned the delimitation of Italy's frontier east of the Adriatic, and the line conceded to her will not stand investigation to-day. We have reached a period of evolution when only "legitimate" claims have to be taken into consideration, and territorial settlements have to be based "on the right of self-determination or the consent of the governed." In any case, therefore, the details of the agreement concluded in April, 1915, have been over-ruled by subsequent provisions, to which Italy, in common with her Allies, must be supposed to have subscribed. The complete incongruity between the terms of the Italian treaty and the later declarations of the Allies has made us unwilling to believe the various versions of the convention that have been current. The different conferences that have been held, and in particular the friendly negotiations between the Serbian and Italian Governments, have confirmed the opinion that the treaty of 1915 had become by common consent a dead letter. It would, however, have been a wiser course to pursue to have published an official statement to this effect. Quite apart from the fact that the Southern Slavs would have been spared many misgivings, the cancellation of the treaty would have prevented the Bolsheviks and the Germans from using its terms for their own ends.

Lord Curzon's statement as to British policy in Persia was full and satisfactory, and should do much to dispose of rumours which have been circulated of late. The British Government has no designs on Persia such as have been attributed to it by German agents in Teheran, and repeated by pro-Germans at Westminster. The Anglo-Russian agreement of 1907 was made in order to safeguard Persian independence; now that Russia has abandoned her interest in Persia the agreement, of course, lapses, and the Persian Government have been so informed by the British Government. "We desire," said Lord Curzon, "Persia to remain neutral during the war and to retain its complete independence after the war." That is not, of course, Germany's desire at all, as some of her less cautious publicists have admitted; it has been, and will be, necessary to take steps to counteract her intrigues in that direction, which she regards as an annexe of the Baghdad Railway and a half-way house to India.

The Swedish gendarmerie in Persia was notoriously largely under German influence, and this force had to be dissolved in 1915. But when they left disorders broke out and it became necessary to create a new police. The Persian Government admitted this, but were unable to undertake the task themselves, whereupon the British Government lent a number of officers to organise the new force. The South Persian Rifles were raised under the command of Sir Percy Sykes. Their main duty is to preserve order and to guard the trade routes; the force is "Persian in character, composition, and allegiance, and the first to suffer from its disappearance would be Persia itself."

For all that, Germany is likely to continue to misrepresent the position at Teheran. She is in the position that she has nothing to lose and everything to gain from any intrigue she may indulge in. And people in that position are apt to gamble recklessly. Any disturbance she may contrive to create in Persia might conceivably tend to her advantage, and must in any case militate against the security of the country, and therefore against British trade.

The news of Sir Beauchamp Duff's death inevitably recalls the early failures and disappointments of the campaign in Mesopotamia, but at the moment we prefer to lay stress on the undoubted achievements of his long service with the Indian Army. A master of that drudgery of administrative detail which is as essential to the maintenance of an army as the more spectacular branches of the organisation, he was chosen by Lord Kitchener to work out the scheme of reforms which increased so largely the efficiency of the Indian forces. The weak point of that scheme lay undoubtedly in the design of the headquarters machine, which required for its successful working a Kitchener at its head, and which broke down in the hands of its chief constructor—the closing tragedy of a long and hitherto successful career.

The last stage of Mr. Montagu's momentous visit to India is, we take it, marked by the conference announced for the current week, during which the whole question of political reform is to be discussed with the Viceroy and the heads of the various provincial administrations. A week seems a ridiculously short time for the consideration of such a vast subject, but the members of the conference are nearly all experts, and since all of them are also exceedingly busy men, it is probable that they may succeed in covering the ground. In any case Mr. Montagu can scarcely fail to derive assistance in his task from hearing the clear-cut opinions of responsible administrators on the mass of schemes, suggestions, protests, warnings, and petitions which it has been his duty to assimilate in the few weeks he has spent in India.

In point of fact Mr. Montagu has run a serious risk of mental indigestion, as anyone can see who cares to glance at the political columns of any recent Indian newspaper. He has met nearly all the men who count in India, but he has also met all the busybodies, and the flow of rhetoric has been appalling. Want of time and ignorance of the languages have unfortunately combined to hinder him from learning at first hand the views of the man who ought to count for most of all, the peasant with his plough on his shoulder; and the next best thing is that he should hear about them from experts like Sir Michael O'Dwyer or Sir Benjamin Robertson, whose comments should serve to clear the mental vision and restore a just sense of political perspective.

Taking a general view of the mass of representations on this question of political reform, the outstanding feature is intense distrust of the majority. Each section in turn asks for responsible government, but each section simultaneously presses for adequate safeguards of its own particular interests, and a constitution framed to comply with all these urgent requests would be distinctly Gilbertian in character, seeing that the majority, while supreme on paper, would in practice be unable to do anything whatever without infringing on this reservation or on that. The lawyers would doubtless reap a rich harvest from constitutional litigation, and the Judicial Committee on this side would be kept busy; but the result would be to retard still further the unification of the Indian nationality.

The true lesson to be drawn from all these manifestations is the simple fact that India is not yet a homogeneous nation. Under British rule she has taken a long step in that direction, and while there are powerful forces making for disruption, we believe that the goal of unity is not unattainable, and that a time will come when sectional interests will be subordinated to the general aims of the community. When that time comes the problem of Indian government will be comparatively simple, but for the present it is one to tax the best abilities of British statesmen, and we hope that the results of Mr. Montagu's mission will be such as to justify his claim to inclusion in that not too numerous band.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 23.

(Delayed in transmission.)

The Resignation of the Minister of Wakfs.

A slight change has taken place this week in the constitution of the Cabinet. Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, Minister of Wakfs, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Ahmed Ziwar Pasha. For some time now there have been persistent rumours of a Ministerial crisis; but, although in well-informed circles it was not thought likely that any far-reaching reconstruction would be made, it was known that there was every possibility of the portfolios of the Wakfs and of at least one other administration changing hands. As things have turned out, only one Ministry—the Wakfs—has undergone a change, the difficulties, whatever they were, in the case of the other administrations having been overcome successfully. From Fathy Pasha's letter of resignation it appears that certain accusations were levelled at him in connection with his administration of his Ministry, and that an inquiry was opened by the Prime Minister, but that the investigation proved that those charges were unfounded. The letter by which Rushdi Pasha advised his colleague of the Sultan's acceptance of his resignation confirmed the satisfactory result of the inquiry, and expressed regret that, notwithstanding the assurances he had received from the Prime Minister, Fathy Pasha should have insisted on tendering his resignation.

The retiring Minister of Wakfs had been only a short time in the civil administration, having been appointed Mudir of Assuit some six years ago. He is a soldier by profession, and had a brilliant career in the Egyptian Army, from which he retired with the rank of Ferik (General), to which few Egyptians ever attain. He distinguished himself very much during the Sudan campaigns, gaining the D.S.O.—being, if I am not mistaken, the first Egyptian to receive that honour—and he was one of Lord Kitchener's most trusted native officers. Indeed, Lord Kitchener had a very high opinion of his ability, and soon after his return to Egypt in 1911 he promoted Fathy Pasha Mudir of Gharbia, the most important province in Egypt, and two years later appointed him to the Ministerial position which he has now resigned. Fathy Pasha has throughout been one of our staunchest supporters, and his retirement is very much to be regretted. His successor, Ziwar Pasha, is much esteemed in Egyptian and European circles. He has done very good work as Governor of Alexandria, where he has taken a prominent part in the deliberations of the municipality, and he is well fitted to fill the high and difficult post to which he has now been called.

The Mails.

The question of the European mails is seriously occupying public attention out here. Up to quite recently we had had little to complain about in connection with the mail service from Europe, and with but one exception we had received our letters and papers with what in the circumstances was certainly remarkable regularity. This satisfactory state of affairs has, however, now ceased, and for nearly a month we have had no mail from Europe. Our last letters are dated November 17, and our latest papers November 14, and so far there is no indication as to when we may expect to receive any more. On the other hand, the military mails up to quite a fortnight later have been in the country for a week now. At a time like the present everyone is prepared to put up with the inconveniences inseparable from the waging of a great war, and it is freely recognised that irregularity in the delivery of mails figures necessarily amongst these inconveniences; but if the military mails can be got through, it should surely be possible to deliver the civilian ones more promptly. The commercial community is suffering very much through the non-arrival of the mails, and its annoyance is in the circumstances quite justifiable. It would seem as if something had gone wrong with the postal organisation at home, and it is sincerely to be hoped that steps will at once be taken to rectify the matter and avoid any recurrence of the present delay in the future.

The Passing of a Noted Anglo-Egyptian.

Anglo-Egypt has just lost one of its oldest members in the person of Lady Anne Blunt, who passed away last week in the Anglo-American Hospital at the ripe old age of eighty. Lady Anne, who recently succeeded to the title of Baroness Wentworth, but continued to be known and affectionately referred to under her old name, had been connected with Egypt for over forty years. Accompanied by her husband, Mr. Wilfred Scawen Blunt, she first landed in the country in 1876, when she came up to Cairo from Suez by the old caravan route. She did not, however, stay long on that occasion, being attracted towards Mesopotamia and Arabia, where during the following years she made extended travellings. In 1882 her husband purchased the celebrated garden of Sheikh Obeyd, which had been founded by the illustrious Ibrahim Pasha. From that date she made this country her home, and out at Ain El Shams, where the garden was situated, all her life interests were centred. Her passionate affection for horses soon made itself manifest in the Arabian stud which she founded with her husband, and which quickly became world famous. Of late years the size of the stud was reduced by shipments to their country seat in England and by local sales, but Lady Anne still retained her more famous and favourite horses, and visitors could wish for no more delightful experience than to accompany her on her rounds of the stables, and watch and listen to her as she handled her pets. Lady Anne always astounded everyone by the agility of both her mind and body, an agility which she retained right up to the very last. She was in every respect a most remarkable woman, and with her passes away not only one of the few remaining links with pre-Occupation days, but also one of the most attractive personalities Anglo-Egypt has ever known.

The Administration of Palestine.

I understand that the administration of Palestine is to be entrusted as much as possible to Anglo-Egyptians. As already announced, Borton Pasha has been appointed Governor of Jerusalem. Lieut. Sir Francis Curtis, of the Intelligence Department, has now been promoted lieutenant-colonel, and nominated Governor of Hebron, whilst Major G. H. Malcolm, of the same service, has been appointed Governor of El Arish. Other appointments to the local administration will shortly be made from the Egyptian Civil Service. Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary to the Residency, is at present in Jerusalem on a special mission.

[Since the date of our correspondent's letter Mr. Storrs has succeeded Borton Pasha as Governor of Jerusalem.—Ed.]

The Fuel Question.

The fuel question threatens to become extremely acute. Practically no coal is coming into the country, wood imports are nil, and everyone has now to depend on petroleum for cooking and heating. Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain one's requirements of the latter combustible, and daily fights take place outside the various retail shops between would-be consumers and those entrusted with the sale. It is difficult to ascertain the real cause of the present crisis, which at any rate would appear to call for firmer handling than is evident to-day. It is stated that the petroleum requirements of Egypt have increased by about 40 per cent., owing to the lack of coal and wood, and that the Shipping Controller will only allow the country shipping to bring in 90 per cent. of its normal requirements. If that statement be correct, then it is high time that the responsible authorities took steps to convince the Controller of the need for a more liberal allowance, and that they arrange for a more equitable system of distribution of the available quantity than is carried out at present, when the obtaining of one's requirements depends more on one's relations with the retailers or one's powers of persuasion than on the merits of one's case. The present situation has become aggravated by the fact that we are in the throes of a spell of abnormally cold weather, such as has never before been experienced by the oldest residents.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 30.

The Capture of Jerusalem.

The celebration of Christmas by the British colony in Athens was one of those events in life which take a lasting place in one's memory. It was a happy inspiration to commemorate the taking of Jerusalem on this day, and the arrangements for the ceremony, well conceived, were equally effectively carried out. The time fixed for the service was 10 a.m., and, admittance being by ticket, there was no confusion or overcrowding, but the pretty little Anglican Church was filled to its utmost capacity.

A detachment of about 200 British bluejackets and marines was landed from the men-of-war, and at 9.30 a.m., with rifles and fixed bayonets, they marched up Stadium Street and across Constitution Square to the strains of their band, evoking general admiration by their magnificent appearance. They lined up outside St. Paul's Church, and whilst those invited were arriving selections of music were given. On the arrival of King Alexander the Greek National Anthem was played, and his Majesty was conducted inside the church by the British Minister, Lord Granville. The heads of the Allied Diplomatic Missions, the Cabinet Ministers, military and naval officers of the Allies, together with a large number of British naval and military officers in uniform, made quite a picturesque scene under a blue sky. The members of the colony were present in full force. The hymns and the Te Deum were sung to the music of the band, which played in the porch of the church, and the service was conducted by Chaplain Major Pilly, who had been lent by the military authorities at Salonika for the occasion. The Greek Church was represented by three of their clergy, and a Russian priest also attended.

The usual Christmas matins followed the thanksgiving service.

On the conclusion of the latter, the detachment of bluejackets and marines marched with their band to the Panhellenion Restaurant, where a dinner had been prepared for them, and at 2 p.m. they formed up outside the British Legation and marched off to the Theseum station, preceded by a marine carrying a beautiful wreath of flowers presented to them by a group of Greek admirers.

The band then returned to Constitution Square, and for a couple of hours played selections of music. Before returning to the Piræus they were given tea in the Annexe of the British Legation.

General News.

On Boxing Day Countess Granville was "at home" to the British colony. Needless to say, the reception, which was largely attended, was marked with all the cordiality that characterises the British Minister and Lady Granville.

The following evening the Battle of Arras and other war pictures from the British Front were shown at the Atticon Cinema. King Alexander honoured the performance with his presence, and there were also present the British Minister and Lady Granville, with a large number of the Legation staff and naval and military officers. Every seat in the large Atticon Hall was occupied. On the King's arrival the band played the Greek National Anthem, and then played "God Save the King" and the "Marseillaise," and throughout the performance there was considerable applause for the British troops and the wonderful exploits of the Tanks.

Athens to-day is indulging in a novel experience. All the servants of every description, even chambermaids in the hotels and restaurants, have gone on strike. Hotel proprietors have had to smuggle someone in to do the cooking, but visitors have to make their own beds, fetch their own water, and help themselves in the dining-room! The novelty of the proceeding has not been without its amusing side, but it is hardly a condition of things one would care to see prolonged, especially as several restaurants have been obliged to close altogether.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

Bessarabian Affairs.

A gleam of light has been thrown, in the gloomy hour through which Roumania is now passing, by the national renascence of Bessarabia; the more welcome, since Roumania's intervention on the side of the Allies implied on her part a renunciation of all activity in that direction. Moreover, that the national spirit should have persisted in Bessarabia through five centuries of oppression, and notwithstanding the withering policy of the old Russian *régime*, obviously strengthens the case of the Transylvanians and points to their final success, with or without outside help.

Early in November a congress of all Bessarabian soldiers took place in the reception rooms of the Chishinan Cathedral. The enthusiasm was great, and reached its zenith when a group of Transylvanian soldiers, on their way to the Roumanian front, entered the room. The congress proclaimed the territorial and political autonomy of Bessarabia. The country is to be governed by an Assembly of 120 members, ten places being reserved to the "Moldavians" (as the Bessarabian Roumanians call themselves) beyond the Dniester. It was declared that all the land and its riches belonged to the inhabitants, and that it must pass into the hands of those who work it. Colonization with foreigners was forbidden. All Bessarabian schools, institutions and authorities are to be nationalized, and henceforward Bessarabian soldiers shall serve in special military units, under their own flag and officers. The Assembly is to take steps for the collection of a national fund.

The educational foundation of the movement was laid on November 14, when 400 new Roumanian schools were opened in Bessarabia, in which the children learnt for the first time to read and write in Latin characters. Special courses for the training of teachers have been started at Chishinan, Balta and Soroca. The Zemtsvo of Chishinan opened a Roumanian library, and the late Provisional Government recognised the new situation existing in fact by nominating a Moldavian, Vladimir Gr. Criste, to be Commissary for Bessarabia, and another Moldavian, M. Nigulets, to be his deputy.

As organ of the new movement, a new publication, *Cuvântul Moldovenesc*, has begun to appear in Chishinan.

German Rule in Roumania.

The Secretary of the Greek Legation in Roumania, who remained for a few months in Bucharest after the occupation of the town by the Germans, has now arrived in Jassy and brought with him a number of interesting documents. Among them is a collection of the ordinances issued by the German authorities in the occupied territory, which regulate minutely the life and activities of the native population. It is significant that the first deals with the requisition of supplies. Only absolute necessities are to be kept; the remainder is to "exported, *as in times of peace*, to the Allied countries." Cultivation of the soil is made compulsory and placed under the supervision of a large staff of agricultural experts "made in Germany." Any private deals in corn were prohibited.

Heavy penalties are provided for dealing with the enemy, keeping arms or explosives, giving refuge to enemy soldiers, tampering with the telephone and telegraph lines, and for attempting to intimidate or harm those inclined to adopt a friendly attitude towards the Central Powers. No correspondence was allowed, within and beyond the frontiers, except through the medium of the German Postal Service. Most of the railway lines are closed to civilian traffic; on the rest the Roumanians may not use first and second class carriages nor express trains. All offences were to be dealt with by German courts-martial. One wonders why so many precautions and restrictions with a population which is alleged to have received the Germans with flowers and cheers.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

GENERAL VESHOVITCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your paragraph on Veshovitch brings back to me vividly the month I spent with him in August, 1912, when he was in command of the Andriyevitza frontier of Montenegro and was hard at work arming the Serb populations across the border and trying to force the Turks to declare war. He had already burnt several Turkish blockhouses, and had outposts and guns across the frontier. When he was discussing his plans with me, I adjured him not to precipitate war before the other Balkan peoples were ready, lest Austria should at once enter the Sanjak and occupy Montenegro.

"I ako? (and if so?)," said Veshovitch, jeering, "let her. Nothing can be worse than our present Government!" He and all Andriyevitza were then strongly opposed to King Nikola. Andriyevitza was still mourning the execution of two of her most cherished sons, and their graves were the first thing I was shown. They were shot for supposed complicity in the plot against the King.

Later I heard that Veshovitch aspired to a high post, perhaps head, in a republic. His opposition to Austria was no doubt caused by the fact that the Austrians had entered by invitation of the Petrovitches, and were only likely to confirm them on the throne instead of making the desired change.

As a soldier he had good points, and was the only Balkan commander of whom I heard the conquered speak well.—I am, etc.,

M. EDITH DURHAM.

A HISTORY OF SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—In your issue of December 28 a reviewer criticises my book "Serbia." He mentions that I call Macedonian Slavs South Slavs, whereas Dr. Cvijic in 1909 vaguely called them Macedonian Slavs, distinguishing them thus from Serbo-Croats. Dr. Cvijic probably considered it expedient in 1909 to be vague about Macedonian Slavs, since Macedonia at the time belonged to Turkey, and the question raised international difficulties. I should like to ask your reviewer *what* kind of Slave the Macedonians are, if they are not South Slavs?

Further, your critic says it is not fair to talk of the "pretended tolerance" of the Turk in the fifteenth century. He talks of Hus and Latimer. This is obscuring the issue. They have nothing to do with the point. I was not making comparisons. I explained at some length that the Turks refrained from proselytising, not out of respect for Christianity, but out of contempt for Christians. The word "pretended" was the summing up of these explanations.

It is hard, says your critic, to lay the full blame of Milan's declaration of war against Bulgaria upon Austria. I said that Austria instigated it, which does not seem to me to mean quite the same thing. If someone instigated me to commit a crime, would the judge and jury lay the whole blame on the instigator? Why try to condemn a book by wrenching words out of their natural meanings?

Several *pages* are condemned wholesale. Why not *facts?* It would give me a chance of answering criticisms. I cannot defend whole pages without going beyond the limits of a letter and beyond the limit of your space. May I state, however, that my authority for the main points in those pages was Dr Seton-Watson? To say that is to say that they are true to the best of human knowledge.

I shall be grateful if, in the interests of justice, you will publish this letter in your paper.

I am, yours, etc.,

S. F. WARING.

To this letter our reviewer replies as follows:—

Sir,—My main point was that, while praising some aspects of Miss Waring's book, I wished to point out that the influence of politics was dangerous to history, and that she had not escaped the danger.

Two details I can mention in passing—(1) if Miss Waring had been explicit on Milan's non-Austrian motives, there could have been no ambiguity; (2) if she meant "real" or "contemptuous" tolerance, and not "pretended," would it not have been better to say so?

As to Macedonia, she admits that Cvijic may have been influenced by "international difficulties"—*i.e.*, history may have been influenced by politics. In Mr. Seton-Watson's book on the Southern Slav Question (1911) he distinguished between Serbo-Croats and Macedonian Slavs, and declared the population estimates of Macedonia "almost avowedly based on the wishes of their compilers, *Greek*, Serb, or Bulgar" (p. 11). Also, in his map of 1917 ("Nationality in the Balkans"), he shows numbers of Vlachs and Albanians in Macedonia. Miss Waring prints a map, which does not show them, nor does she use Mr. Seton-Watson's term "Macedonian Slavs," or admit that much of Macedonia is "debatable territory between Serbs and Bulgars." Also, has she reflected on this passage?—"It is by no means easy to form any definite judgment even upon *seemingly first-hand evidence as to the true nationality* of many districts of Macedonia" (Seton-Watson, *Southern Slav Question*, p. 12). The question, indeed, is too unsettled for any *single* authority to resolve it. But, in any case or in any subject, historians who pin their faith to a single authority are likely to err. Politicians can always have a definite view on everything; historians are not so happy.—I am, etc.,

YOUR REVIEWER.

THE JORDAN VALLEY AND ITS LAKES

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in your issue of January 18 of Dr. Masterman's interesting paper read before the Royal Geographical Society. In the summary of the discussion which followed the paper you refer to some remarks of mine on potential water-power in the Jordan Valley, the utilization of which, the report goes on, might have the effect of "enormously increasing the number of people that the country could support." Perhaps the adverb "enormously" is too optimistic, though it may have been suggested by the striking examples I cited of perennial water-power at present allowed to run to waste. "Considerably" would have better conveyed my meaning. With regard to the Jordan Valley, the attitude I urged was one of caution in accepting the estimate, still published in some standard works of reference, of the amount of water daily received by the Dead Sea. Dr. Masterman's observations, undertaken at the suggestion of the Palestine Exploration Fund to ascertain the annual variations in the Dead Sea level, had, I ventured to suggest, a direct bearing on this subject. The important data he obtained, extending over a period of years, have, as he pointed out in his lecture, considerably reduced the average amount of variation which used to be accepted as definitely ascertained.—I am, etc.,

L. W. KING.

Palestine Exploration Fund.

"TURKISH CIGARETTES."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read the interesting and patriotic letter written by Mr. Nicholas Papanicoly on the subject of "Turkish Cigarettes," etc., in your journal of this month's issue. It would appear that this description is quite illegal, as these cigarettes are not manufactured in Turkey, and only contain a very small proportion of leaf tobacco grown in Turkey. It is, moreover, doubtful whether any tobacco which can correctly be described as Turkish is obtainable just now. Tobacco of this class, which is called "String Suluk," "Suluk Basma," or "Dubek Suluk," is grown in the important islands of the Grecian Archipelago—viz., Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Crete, etc. I may mention that by continuing this false trade description we are injuring our Ally in two ways: first, by not giving them the credit of producing this favourite and world-wide known tobacco, and, secondly, deterring a good many people from buying what they consider to be enemy product. Is it not possible, under the existing law, to prohibit the sale of cigarettes by this undesirable name, and to compel the vendors to describe them under their real name—viz., Greek cigarettes—and so do justice to the producer.

Yours, etc.,

F. W. WALKER.

JUGOSLAV AIMS.

A great meeting of the Jugoslav emigrants was held at Geneva yesterday (says Reuter's Corfu correspondent in a message dated January 18), and a resolution was passed demanding the union of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes with Serbia and Montenegro, forming together an independent democratic State, based on the right of the self-determination of peoples. A manifesto was issued which declared that a durable peace in Europe depended upon the equitable solution of the Jugoslav question. The manifesto stated:—"The Serbian, Croatian, and Slovenian emigrants from Austria-Hungary hailed the Russian Revolution with enthusiasm, because it proclaimed the principle of the liberty of all nations. They could not admit even a partial abandonment of this principle by Russian democracy and could not believe that democratic Russia would allow Austria at home to trample on the principles which Russia agrees to respect. In that event the disappointed Slavs would again become the slaves of German militarism, and would soon be employed by the mixed soldiery of Germany to stifle the liberty of the Russian people."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WAR FINANCE.*

It is a very great pity that Mr. Nicholson, who is a hardened author, should not have recognised the elementary fact that a series of good newspaper articles do not necessarily make a good book. A book is like a wife—one settles down with it; but a newspaper article is like the passing flame of one's youth—to be admired for a moment and then forgotten. One does not want to settle down with the ghosts of the old flames; but the Professor has no mercy. He resurrects them all—even the one which declared that the war would be over early in 1915.

Yet it might have been such a good book, had Professor Nicholson forgotten his indiscretions in the *Scotsman* and really set out to justify his title. There are glimpses of what might have been here and there, in the very careful argument as to the amount of inflation caused by the issue, or over-issue, of Treasury notes, and the consequent general depreciation; and again, in an essay on the coinage, with reference mainly to silver. But here there should have been a discussion of the rise in the price of silver, which has been one of the most curious features of recent finance. Again, in the various references to war bonuses and extravagance, we think that Professor Nicholson, while lamenting these bonuses and castigating those who demand them, does not make sufficient allowance for two essential factors—(a) the very narrow margin between wages and prices of a large section of the community, by which any rise in the price of food had to be reflected in the weekly wage; and (b) the rise in the standard of comfort of the working-classes before the war, and their reluctance to abandon that standard after 1914. It is easy to condemn, but have we not all sinned in the direction of unnecessary extravagance? The present reviewer, for instance, is guiltily conscious of a post-war purchase of a volume of Italian romance. That particular purchase would have been rightly condemned by Professor Nicholson; but the romance in question happens to have been written by one J. Shield Nicholson, although it finds no place in the list of publications accredited to the author on the title-page of "War Finance." Is he not an accessory before the fact?

Two other points might be made. It is said that the argument that war necessarily operates in the direction of raising prices is unsound, since wars have occurred which have not raised prices. The argument seems incompletely stated. War must always take men from productive to destructive work; it must therefore tend to diminish production and to increase consumption, and consequently to force up prices; the longer the war the more pronounced the effect, as the present war has shown, when prices rose very slightly during the first few months, and more rapidly as the war spread and more States called men from productive to destructive work. In some few wars, it is true, prices have not risen. Is not the apparent exception to the rule due to the fact that those wars have occurred in a period of generally falling prices, and that the universal tendency of prices to fall has been stronger than the local tendency of prices to rise? This point merits careful examination.

Again, the author makes a brief reference to post-war prices—a subject of incalculable importance, to the discussion of which a whole book might easily be devoted. It would be read with very great interest by statesmen, business men, and Labour leaders, all of whom are directly concerned, not only with the trend of prices after the war, but with the present very definite movement to turn war bonuses into regular increases of permanent wages. This latter, which is the direct opposite of the dilution of trade unionism, since the one strengthens and the other weakens the general position of Labour, will have considerable social consequences, and it ought therefore to be impartially examined by an authority. May we hope that the author will now write a real book, on Post-War Finance? There is room for it.

FIGHTING IN MACEDONIA.†

The battles of the Tcherna and the retreat from the Vardar in the autumn of 1915 are among the least known of the operations of the war. They did not strike the imagination like the national retreat of the Serbians in the same months; they led to nothing save to Salonika, which in itself has not inspired many writers. Yet this minor operation, as it now seems, deserved its historian, and this lively narrative is the first we have seen of the French campaign in Macedonia. It is a pity in some ways that these chapters should be cast in the form of fiction; they seem to lose a little of their verisimilitude, and they are essentially a narration of fact. Indeed, towards the end of the book, so thin is the disguise, that the censor has knocked out a couple of pages which might presumably have conveyed military information to the Bulgarians.

THE BREAK-UP OF RUSSIA.*

This well-informed and closely-knit essay, although anonymous, is the work of one who is thoroughly acquainted with Russia, both in its internal economy and its curious psychology, so remote from the spirit of France and England. The author divides his inquiry into three chief parts—the agrarian position, the political situation, and the religious crisis. As to the first, most of the facts will be new to Englishmen; as to the second, we are better informed superficially, but the exposition of the fundamentals of the situation helps towards an understanding of the confused telegrams we are receiving every day from Petrograd. The religious crisis has been rather overlooked or ignored, but in some way it is not less important than the political question, and here also the essay is full and satisfactory. It may be added that the book, which has already been published some weeks, comes on the whole to a pessimistic conclusion as to the future of Russia; and nothing which has happened since it was written has refuted its main arguments.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Romance of Commerce. By H. Gordon Selfridge. (London: The Bodley Head. 10s. 6d. net.)

Les Turcs ont passé par là! Journal d'une Américaine pendant les massacres d'Arménie. By Helen Davenport Gibbons. (Paris: Berger-Levrault.)

L'Expédition des Dardanelles: Sur le Chemin de Constantinople. By Charles Stiénon. (Paris: Librairie Chapelot.)

Vade-Mecum Medico-Chirurgical Français-Anglais. By Eugène Plumon. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 6 fr.)

Two Years of War, Seen at Constantinople. By Dr. H. Stuermer. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

Crescent and Iron Cross. By E. F. Benson. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. net.)

La Retraite de Serbie (*Octobre-Décembre*, 1915). By Louis L. Thomson, Médecin-Major. Preface by Mr. E. Denis. (Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie. 3fr. 50.)

La Défense Nationale de 1792 *à* 1795. By Pierre Caron. (Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie.)

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* "War Finance." By J. Shield Nicholson. (P. S. King and Son.) 10s. 6d. net

† "Face aux Bulgares." Par Henri Libermann. (Librairie Militaire Berger-Levrault. 3f. 50c.)

* "Les Dangers Mortels de la Révolution Russe." (Payot et Cie. 4f.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. January	1918. January.		1336. Rabia II.	5678. Shebat.
25	12	Friday	12	12
26	13	Saturday........	13	13
27	14	Sunday	14	14
28	15	Monday	15	15
29	16	Tuesday	16	16
30	17	Wednesday	17	17
31	18	Thursday	18	18

"Our Day" collections in India amounted to about £540,000.

General Korakas has been appointed Head of the Military Household at the Greek Court.

General Bordeaux, chief of the French Mission at Athens, has been appointed Inspector-General of the Forces.

A unique and priceless copy of the Koran has been stolen from the Petrograd Public Library by a party of soldiers.

M. Leon Melas, Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, has left for Athens on two months' leave of absence.

M. Embirikos, the Greek Minister of Food Supplies, will remain at his post, as his resignation has not been accepted.

The French Academy of Fine Arts has unanimously elected the Queen of Roumania a corresponding member of the Institute.

Advanced stores depôts of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John have been opened at Jerusalem and Jaffa.

The Greek Minister of War has received special powers for reinstating on active service, when advisable, the officers who were recently retired.

Roumania has made a formal protest to all the Allies against the arrest of the Roumanian Minister and his staff at Petrograd, which is "comparable only with what might have been expected in the Middle Ages."

The Greek Minister, who was confined to his room with a severe cold at the commencement of the week, is now stated to be much better.

It is announced from Stockholm that Serbia has created the new post of Serbian Minister in Sweden. M. Rakitch, Chargé d'Affaires, has been appointed.

The King of Greece has conferred the Grand Cross of the Redeemer on Admiral Condouriotis, and has given a signed portrait of himself to M. Venizelos.

The Egyptian Government has appointed Mr. R. E. Monteith Smith, Assistant Director-General of Public Security, as controller of the distribution of petroleum for the duration of the war.

Prince Antonie Bibescu, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, has contributed an old Wedgwood tea service to the British Red Cross Society's sale, to be held at Messrs. Christie's, in April.

Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., Indian Army, Aide-de-Camp to the King, has been gazetted temporary Major-General whilst specially employed, to date from January 1.

Colonel N. T. Borton, C.M.G., who was obliged to resign his appointment as Military Governor of Jerusalem owing to illness, is now at Alexandria, slightly better, but it will be many weeks before he is convalescent.

Speaking at Rotterdam on January 21, M. Van Vriesland, Secretary of the Dutch Zionist League, said that the favour shown by the British Government to Zionist aspirations in Palestine was a fine victory for the Jewish movement.

Sergeant-Major Flora Sandes, of the Serbian Army, will give a brief description of her experiences in the Serbian trenches with the Serbian Army at a concert which is being organised to be held at the Alhambra on the afternoon of Sunday next.

In our issue last week the Lord Mayor was styled in error President of the Armenian Refugee Fund, instead of the Armenian Relief Fund. The address of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund is 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, and all contributions should be sent to the hon. secretary, Miss Emily J. Robinson, at that address.

Mr. Alexander Vidacovitch, of St. John's College, Oxford, and the Belgrade Gymnasium, has been elected to a scholarship on the Casberd Foundation. Mr. Vidacovitch is one of the students maintained by the Serbian Relief Fund, and was elected in June, 1917, to an open exhibition in English at St. John's.

The *Egyptian Mail* states that Dr. G. A. Reisner, Director of the Harvard-Boston Egyptological Expedition, left Cairo last month for the Sudan, accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Reisner and Mr. W. G. Kemp. Dr. Reisner will continue the excavations upon which he has been engaged for several winters in Dongola.

The Postmaster-General wishes it to be known that the words "Ottoman Red Crescent Society, Constantinople, Turkey," should not in future be included in the address of correspondence, other than parcels, for prisoners of war in Turkey, unless the sender is unable to state the name of the place of internment.

A decree published in Italy provides that subjects of States at war with Italy must reside only in localities determined by the police authorities. Exceptions will be made in the case of Austro-Hungarian subjects of Italian nationality and non-Turkish subjects of the Ottoman Empire if there are no serious grounds for suspicion.

A deputation representing the Poale Zionists of Columbia, Missouri, met Sir Frederick Smith on his arrival there on January 16, and delivered through him the following message to Great Britain:—"We express our deep gratitude to Great Britain for the promise of a Jewish State in Palestine. English conquests have always been for the sake of civilisation, and after two thousand years of wanderings our race welcomes this promise in the cause of humanity."

Among the collections of arms, antiquities, and works of art to be sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their galleries in New Bond Street, on February 5, will be some Eastern arms and armour, Babylonian tablets, Græco-Phœnician glass, the property of Mr. Edwyn Barclay; and Egyptian antiquities, the properties of Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Dr. A. W. Orford, and the late Rev. O. A. W. O'Neill, Chaplain of H.M. Forces in Egypt.

The first lecture of a course of five on "The Feudal State of Ancient Egypt" was delivered by Mr. A. M. Blackman on January 8, at the Rooms of the Royal Society to the members of the Egypt Exploration Fund. The lecturer dealt with "Life on a Feudal Lord's Estate," and the lecture was illustrated on the screen with scenes from the wall paintings in the tombs of great Egyptian noblemen.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, has returned to Egypt from England, where he arrived last summer on urgent business connected with the execution of public works in Egypt and the Sudan. It is understood that his negotiations with the Home Government in which he has been assisted by Colonel Bernard Pasha, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, have been most successful.

Gratifying reports are to hand, says the *Jewish Chronicle*, regarding the conditions of the Jewish colonies in liberated Palestine. The British authorities have supplied seed for new crops, and are helping in every way. A committee of Jews in Palestine has been organised to administer to the needs and the requirements of the Colonies. Local repatriation committees have been formed in Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said under the name of "Shivat Zion" ("Return to Zion") for the purpose of organising the repatriation of Jews as soon as circumstances will permit.

At a meeting of the Anglo-Jewish Association held on the 12th inst. at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, the following educational grants to its schools were voted on the recommendation of the Executive Committee:—(1) £100 to the Bombay School for the first half-year of 1918; (2) the grant of £30 to the school at Ispahan was renewed; (3) the sum of £51 was voted to the Palestine Refugees' School at Larnaka; (4) a special grant of 1,000 francs was voted to the Mogador Girl's School. The sum of £20 was voted for the purchase of materials required at the Palestine Refugees' School in Alexandria, at present managed by Miss Landau (of Jerusalem).

The Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House on January 18 at a meeting of the Council of the Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund, when the Council received a report from the Committee appointed to deal with the proposal for a Kitchener Memorial Chapel in St. Paul's. The Committee stated that the Dean and Chapter had offered a fine site on the ground level of the Cathedral, and the Council accepted the offer with thanks. With regard to the scheme of Overseas Scholarships, Sir Hedley Le Bas, the hon. secretary, stated that twenty scholarships were being provided out of the Memorial Fund, the holders to be men who suspended their University careers in order to join the Colours on the outbreak of war. He added that two scholars had been sent to Cambridge, one each to Oxford and Edinburgh, and two to the Imperial College of Science.

We regret to learn that Archdeacon Potter, who left Cyprus last year with Mrs. Potter, on their return to this country by way of the Far East, has been detained by illness for many months in the United States. They hope to be back in England this spring.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi Blunt, of the Military Works Department, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Kaimakam A. Craufurd Bey, Western Arab Corps, has relinquished the temporary rank of Miralai.

Kaimakam J. J. B. Tapley Bey, D.S.O., Sudan Government, has been appointed to be Principal Veterinary Officer.

El Kaimakam C. H. Stigand Bey, Governor Upper Nile Province, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Kaimakams Russell Bey and Jarvice Bey have been promoted to the local rank of Miralai, which carries with it the title of Pasha.

The Order of the Nile, 3rd Class, has been conferred on Miralai H. Castle Smith Bey, Aide-de-Camp to his Highness the Sultan.

Captain Frederick A. L. Lawrence, Middlesex Regiment, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudanese.

His Highness the Sultan has been most graciously pleased to approve of the following appointments to the Order of the Nile, 4th Class, for valuable services rendered in connection with military operations in the field :—Kaimakam W. McConaghy Bey, M.B., Special Service; Kaimakam J. H. Pattisson Bey, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; Bimbashi R. N. Dobson.

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OBITUARY.

SIR BEAUCHAMP DUFF.

General Sir Beauchamp Duff, whose death has just taken place, was in his sixty-third year, and was the son of the late Garden William Duff, of Hatton Castle, Turriff, Aberdeenshire. He entered the Royal Artillery at the age of nineteen, and saw service in the Afghan War of 1878-80. Following the conclusion of that war, he transferred to the Indian Army and passed through the Bengal Staff College. His subsequent experience of Indian campaigning was seen in the Isazai Expedition of 1892 and in the Waziristan Expedition of 1894. He greatly distinguished himself in these campaigns, and his services in the South African War marked him out as a coming man. Returning to India, he became Deputy Adjutant-General to General Sir Power Palmer, then Commander-in-Chief, and, after holding the Allahabad command, he was appointed Adjutant-General on Lord Kitchener's staff, a position he subsequently exchanged for that of Chief of Staff. After Lord Kitchener left India, Sir Beauchamp Duff went to the India Office as Military Adviser of the Secretary of State, and he retained that appointment until 1914. when he became Commander-in-Chief in India in succession to General Sir O'Moore Creagh. Sir Beauchamp Duff was created C.I.E. in 1897, C.B. (Military) in 1900, K.C.V.O. in 1906, K.C.B. (Military) in 1907, K.C.S.I. in 1910, G.C.B. (Military) in 1911, and G.C.S.I. in 1916. He married in 1877 Grace, daughter of Oswald Wood.

The death has taken place at Calcutta of Dr. William Cardiff Hossack, Port Health Officer.

Mr. Thomas Anderson, A.M.I.C.E., late of the Royal Indian Marine, who has died at Glasgow, was formerly Chief Inspector of Machinery at the Government Dockyards at Bombay and Calcutta.

Mr. Lawrence Graham Cloëte Graham, late of the Consular Service, who has died at Westfield, Sussex, in his fortieth year, was appointed Vice-Consul at Teheran in 1905, and two years later was transferred to Algiers.

Colonel George Fletcher Ottley Boughey, C.S.I., late Royal Engineers, who died on January 17, aged 74, served in the Bhutan Expedition of 1865-6, and in 1869 joined the Public Works Department. He subsequently served continuously in the Railway Branch until his retirement, except for service in the Afghan War of 1878-80. He was manager of the Eastern Bengal Railway for seven years, and afterwards of the North-Western Railway for five years.

The death occurred recently of Mrs. Beynon, widow of Major-General William Howell Beynon, for many years Political Resident of Jeypore, Rajputana. Mrs. Beynon was the third daughter of General Sir George St. Patrick Lawrence, and niece of Lord Lawrence, first Viceroy of India, and of Sir Henry Lawrence, who was killed in the siege of Lucknow. Her three sons, General Sir William Beynon, Brigadier-General Norman Beynon, and Major Patrick Beynon, are all serving.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THE ALLIES AND THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.

In the compass of a single article it was not possible at the time to deal at length with all the points that gave rise to discussion in Mr. Lloyd George's speech of January 5 on British war aims. To meet certain criticisms which were to be expected, emphasis was laid on the fact that war aims are not synonymous with peace terms, and we contented ourselves with adverting to the most notable departure from previous official statements of the objects for which the Allies are fighting, namely, in regard to the future of Constantinople. Elsewhere in the same issue, however, attention was called to the references to Austria-Hungary, both in Mr. Lloyd George's speech and in President Wilson's Message to Congress, which followed it three days later, and the suggestion was hazarded that they would not be likely to escape comment in the Jugoslav Press. As the event proved, the Jugoslav Committee in London lost no time in issuing a memorandum on the subject. While expressing appreciation of the speech of the British Prime Minister and of President Wilson's Message "as revealing a sincere desire for a just and lasting peace in accordance with the principle that territorial rearrangements must be based upon government with the consent of the governed," this document declares that Jugoslav people (Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes) cannot be satisfied with those parts of the speeches which refer to them. The causes of the discontent of the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary, it is pointed out, cannot be removed by the hope of an altogether problematical democratisation of Austria-Hungary on the basis of autonomy alone. The Declaration of Corfu, the Committee claims, constitutes a national programme for all Southern Slavs, who demand, and are fighting for, complete separation from the Dual Monarchy, and union with Serbia and Montenegro in one State on the basis of democratic freedom and equal rights for all citizens.

It is of interest at this stage to examine the actual words used by Mr. Lloyd George. He said:—

> Though we agree with President Wilson that the break-up of Austria-Hungary is no part of our war aims, we feel that, unless genuine self-government on true democratic principles is granted to those Austro-Hungarian nationalities who have long desired it, it is impossible to hope for the removal of those causes of unrest in that part of Europe which have so long threatened its general peace.

Now these words, taken in conjunction with the second of the three conditions subsequently laid down by Mr. Lloyd George as indispensable to permanent peace—"a territorial settlement must be secured based on the right of self-determination or the consent of the governed"—would, of themselves, not have aroused misgivings among the Jugoslavs. They happened, however, to be placed in juxtaposition to some very definite statements in regard to Italy and Roumania, and they were followed, as we have seen, three days later by President Wilson's more formal attempt to elaborate "a programme of the world's peace." To the Italians Mr. Lloyd George promised satisfaction of their legitimate claims for union with those of their own race and tongue. Similarly, in regard to the Roumanians, "We also mean," he said, "to press that justice be done to men of Roumanian blood and speech in their legitimate aspirations." The contrast between these promises and the references to the Southern Slavs would not have been regarded as intentional, if President Wilson's carefully-chosen phraseology had not seemed to justify the worst forebodings. The tenth item in his peace programme read:—

> The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the first opportunity of autonomous development.

Inasmuch as President Wilson has found it necessary to correct the only interpretation that could be placed upon his remarks regarding trade policy after the war, it may be that too much stress ought not to be laid upon the actual wording of this paragraph. As it stands, the expression "autonomous development" points to some form of autonomy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which would clearly not be the same thing for the Southern Slavs as the creation of a federal State of their own in conjunction with their kinsfolk of Serbia and Montenegro.

We feel the liveliest sympathy with the Jugoslavs that they alone of the smaller nationalities should be left in the least doubt regarding the resolve of the Allies to see the war through as much on their behalf as on the behalf of others. There is, however, we are confident, no need to despair at this stage, even if it should be found that the statements made by Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson reflect a somewhat detached attitude on the part of the Allies towards the Southern Slav aspirations. In the first place, the wishes of the governed have to be ascertained, and a stickler for correct procedure may well insist that a self-appointed committee, however representative, can hardly be accepted as the equivalent of a plebiscite of eight million people. Secondly, the whole question of the future Southern Slav State seems still to bristle with so many difficulties that a harassed statesman may be exonerated, if he feels tempted to avoid any chance of getting out of his depth by treading carefully round the edge of it. For our own part, we believe that all such fears are wide of the mark. The Austrian problem cannot, any more than the Italian or the Roumanian problem, fail to respond to the touchstone of the principle of nationality. Anything short of a full understanding of the problem might well argue, in the circumstances, that with an entirely regenerate Austria, from which all Prussianism has been exorcised, life will prove more agreeable to the Southern Slavs, with all the opportunities attaching to partnership in a Great Power, than if it be circumscribed within a Balkan State. To those who have knowledge the idea is foolishness, and in the end, we feel sure, will be demonstrated to be so. Austria-Hungary will not accept of herself to be so bolstered up; further, it is most undesirable in the interests of the peace of Europe that she should be. If the Central Powers remain after the war as strong territorially as they were before the war, they will hold that victory has been theirs. Moreover, they will form as powerful a nucleus as ever for the further hatching of plots against the peace of the world. It is conceivable that Germany and Austria-Hungary should agree to sacrifice the Trentino in order to maintain the Central Europe *bloc* intact, with its lien on the East. But the defeat that is going to crush Prussian militarism and to enforce the assent of the Central Powers to the abandonment of their dreams of Eastern conquest is going to be potent enough to secure a separate existence for the Southern Slavs. Let the latter therefore take heart even when Allied statesmen seem lukewarm towards them, and, avoiding the details of their own complex programme, let them hold firm to "the right of self-determination or the consent of the governed," on which their case rests securely enough. Too ardent propaganda is to be deprecated, nor must an unreasonble attitude be maintained towards a problem which is admittedly of many sides. They have difficulties within that require to be smoothed over; let these receive as much attention as the difficulties without, and in the end the cause of justice and right will triumph.

"JERUSALEM, THE BLESSED."

" *Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem!* "

"Jerusalem has surrendered!"

The news that was flashed across the sea to England on December 10 filled every heart with happiness and gratitude, of which the ringing of the bells and the special thanksgivings in each church were but the outward sign. All the civilized world rejoiced with us—I use the word "civilized" advisedly, as being directly opposed to "*Kultur.*" Jerusalem has ever had a special place in the heart of the West, but there is this special quality in the love of England for Jerusalem: we have loved her as individuals, not politically at all. Many a time, during the years of Turkish rule, English residents have longed that their country should speak as a country, and show the people what British power is. Where every other European Power struck an attitude more or less impressive and made itself felt as a Power, the greatest Empire that the world has seen was content to show herself in Palestine very literally as one that serveth. British work in Palestine has been purely philanthropic; not one building, not one institution, has ever received a farthing of Government aid; on the contrary, each (pursuing its way often in some uncertainty as to where the day after to-morrow's daily bread would come from) is the result of individual beneficence, of individual affection for the Holy Land. Queen Victoria, King Edward VII., Queen Alexandra, gave their gifts to the English Collegiate Church of St. George at Jerusalem in the same quiet, personal way.

This personal, or individual, note appeared very plainly in the manner of our thanksgiving. Every church rang its bells and offered up its thanks and praise for this great mercy, but no public thanksgiving was ordered by our rulers, whether of Church or State. The solemn Te Deum sung at St. Paul's after evensong on December 11 was the expression of the deep feeling stirred in every individual heart by the occasion; the Cathedral was packed from end to end and from side to side with worshippers, many of whom can never have seen Jerusalem, but who were there for love of her. The whole Empire was stirred, the whole Empire was one in thanksgiving. Though Jerusalem must ever mean more to the Christian than to members of any other creed, our Moslem and our Jewish fellow-subjects rejoice with us over her freedom who has borne so long the shackles of a cruel bondage. "*Sursum corda!*"

But now that the first flush of our joy has calmed down a little, we can get a truer idea of the great event as a whole. The campaign itself, up to the present moment, has been unique in interest, compelling our attention and standing out in our minds as a series of clear-cut events, despite the overwhelming magnitude of doings on the Western Front. The long, silent months of preparation, during which a contemptible little English army conquered a very stubborn desert and made it its ally, were followed by sharp, hammer-like blows, each one of which has been a fresh nail in the coffin of Turkish supremacy. I do not forget the checks we have met, but it is, I think, a fact that these very checks have been more to our advantage in the long run than to our discredit. The Eastern mind will be the more impressed by the untiring determination of England, who, checked here and apparently defeated there, simply returns to the same point, achieves where she had failed, and passes on to greater things. This calm intensity of purpose is more terrible to the impulsive Eastern temperament than anything else; and the East has had two stern examples of it lately—after Kut, Baghdad; and after Gaza, Jerusalem.

We need not dwell on the dignified entry into Jerusalem, great as is the temptation to do so, for we have the tale by heart. Jerusalem surrendered willingly, gladly, to the English, for whose help she had yearned so long. General Allenby walked in at the Jaffa Gate, ignoring the unhonoured breach made in the wall for the Kaiser; he entered quietly, as a son might claim his heritage in the mother city of the nations, while the reminders of conquest and of far-off England's might were visible in the guard of soldiers drawn from every part of the Empire for the service of Jerusalem. There was no dissembling of the people's joy; their deliverance had come, and with heart and voice they thanked the God whose arm had wrought it. With the English general walked the representatives of France, America, and Italy, in solemn manifestation of our unity both as Christians and as Allies. Truly, Jerusalem is the mother of us all, here as well as hereafter! And yet, with this fine example of unity, came the one little cloud upon that perfect day. Russia was absent—distracted Russia, suffering as few nations have to suffer in the pangs of her new birth; Russia alone had no part in the freeing of the city that is so dear to every Russian heart. It is sad that there was no son of the Orthodox Church, which is the Church of the land, to enter Jerusalem side by side with the sons of the sister Churches of the West. I think it will be a lasting grief to Russia, when she is able to realise anything outside her own condition, that she had no share in the freeing of Jerusalem.

General Allenby's proclamation strikes us as a real inspiration. Every word breathes the reverence for things sacred, the mercy, the justice, and the vision, that are typical of England's dealing with the conquered. As India and Africa have proved these qualities, and now attest them, even so, please God, is Palestine also to learn the meaning of English rule. All who know their East will appreciate the proclamation. It is perfect, from the opening words of its address—"To the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Blessed"—to the solemn promise that "every building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest, or customary place of prayer, of whatsoever form of the three religions, will be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faith they are sacred." We all rejoice that the Mosque of Omar has been preserved to the Moslems, who have always tended it with such reverence and care.

"*Kilmat Ingliziyé*—the word of an Englishman!" The people of Palestine will learn now by glad experience how sacred is the word which they have trusted and quoted for years with an extraordinary faith. It may be that many of them think it all too wonderful and too good to last. It is true that there is still war in the land. English soldiers are fighting and dying day by day "for the peace of Jerusalem." But in Jerusalem there is rest. The people are working contentedly under a just overseer; roads are being repaired and paid for, and to be paid for roadmaking is surely a unique experience for the Palestinian fellah. Behind the British lines the people are out ploughing and sowing. December is the right month for this, and if only we can get a good harvest in May, half the fears of the country will be allayed. In former days 20 per cent. of the grain raised in Palestine sufficed for its needs, the rest being exported. Knowing this, and knowing that starvation has been abroad in the land, we are shocked by this fresh proof of Germany's guilt in seizing the grain of Palestine for her own use.

We rejoice that there should be peace for the people of the land under the Union Jack; but what of the large and prosperous German colonies planted here and there? These have not failed and starved, though Palestine has, and by their smug prosperity they stand most shamefully convicted. Why should they enjoy the peace and benefit of English rule? The thought is objectionable, and becomes increasingly so when we contrast their quietness with the tragedies of Serbia and Belgium. One longs for these German colonists and settlers in Palestine to be expelled (the natives, as a whole, greatly dislike the Germans, and would not raise a finger in protest), and for their trim colonies to be given over to the Jews. It may be urged that these Germans are merely harmless shopkeepers and agriculturists. No German is harmless; if he is not a fighter, he is a propagandist. During the Boer War the German residents in Palestine manifested such an intense hatred of the English that it was practically impossible for us to go into German shops. Again, at the very time that the first Indian contingent was landing in France, the Germans stuck placards on the walls of Jerusalem saying that India was in open revolt against Great Britain. A high German official at Jerusalem stood at the Jaffa Gate to distribute leaflets printed in German, Arabic and Turkish, describing British "atrocities" in Belgium. That, after three years' active anti-English propaganda by the Germans, the people of Palestine are still whole-heartedly for us, believe in us, and welcome us, is the most convincing proof there could be of the depth and sincerity of their feeling for England. But it does not lessen the German peril. Their hatred of the English has grown in them with time, and will be sharpened by each English success in Palestine. A lying hatred such as Germans have manifested everywhere during the war *is* a force to be reckoned with. "We have one hate—England!"

We turn with relief from a subject so distasteful to the thought of the liberated city. It is hardly a month since the surrender of Jerusalem, but already some of the darkness has lifted—and, we hope, for ever. The people will rise to work in confidence, and lie down to rest with quiet hearts, so long as they feel the protection of England about them. No doubt some stubborn fighting lies ahead of the army in Palestine, but we can face the future without dread. In all the three dark years of war there has been no such *visible* manifestations of the Hand of God as when Jerusalem surrendered herself to the army of liberation. If, as we truly believe, England is destined to guard the city she has been permitted to free, as a trust for the rest of the world, we know very well that it will be no easy task. Jerusalem is served in suffering always; the shadow of the Cross lies upon her still, for judgment and for healing; no crown is worn in her save the crown of thorns. We cannot read the story of Jerusalem in any period without this tremendous fact being brought home to us. We must realise the full significance of the burden that may be laid upon us as a nation; and if the welfare of Jerusalem be entrusted to us, we must accept the burden soberly and willingly. Our English dead of many generations lie scattered throughout the Holy Land; there will be other British graves before the Holy Land is really freed. We have not shrunk from the sharp pains of sacrifice, neither will we shrink from the continuous pain of service.

O City, sorrowful, yet full of grace!
  The sinking sun adorns
With a celestial smile thine altered face
  Beneath its crown of thorns.

The heavy storms of rage and sorrow beat
  Around thy sacred heart:
Thou hast a deadly wound; yet strangely sweet
  And beautiful thou art.

And thou hast drawn from all the colder lands
  Beyond the northern sea,
Hearts burning for thy wrongs, and eager hands
  To fight for God and thee.
("Death at the Goal."—B.M.)

ESTELLE BLYTH.

EARLY MESOPOTAMIAN ART AND CIVILISATION.

Lecturing at the Royal Institution on January 22, Professor Flinders Petrie said that Mesopotamia, like other fertile valleys, had always been the prey of the more hardy peoples around it. The Turk had been the last holder; before him there had been the Arab, the Roman, the Parthian, the Greek, the Persian, the Assyrian, the Kassite, the Semite, and, remotely, the Sumerian. These had descended in turn on the Babylonian plain, but with a kind of Chinese persistency, the civilisation of that plain had dominated each in turn. The art and literature of the Sumerian had been adopted by all his early successors, and the science and business which grew up there was the science and business of the whole world now. Before the domination of Islam there was a long struggle of centuries between Persia and Rome for the great plain that parted them. Our view of the greatness of Persia and its splendid civilisation had unfortunately been clouded by our dependence on its enemies, Rome and Greece, for our accounts; but if we could have as full a record from the Persian side, we should feel that Mesopotamia was the natural appanage of the mountains that towered on its eastern border. When Shapur entered Antioch and appointed a Roman. Cyriades, to rule the border as his satrap, he did the best thing for the country. The attack by the Emperor Valerian, who capitulated at Edessa, and lived a captive ever after, did not mend matters from the Roman point of view. A huge, rock-cut monument showed Valerian kneeling before Shapur. It was excellent work, equal to good Hellenistic carving, and above what Rome could do in that age. We ought to know much more of this age in order to trace the effect of Persian art on the West.

Of the ancient Persian Empire, Professor Flinders Petrie said that it was the first great Aryan dominion, and extended from the heart of Macedonia to beyond the Indus. Through all this extensive region there was the peace of the great king from end to end. In the fields of thought, justice, and religion it gave a higher ideal than that of any previous rule. There was the least possible interference with the various countries included, the twenty satrapies each administering its own affairs very often by the old hereditary ruling family. The result was a general welfare of the world which had, perhaps, only been equalled under the Antonines. The civilisation fostered was worthy of the Persian Empire's position. The care for health was far advanced. At the time when the Greek had reached the improvement of a ledge in his drinking cup to keep back the grit, the Persian was boiling all the water supplies of the court in silver cauldrons when on campaigns. In art, also, Persia led the way. It was the fact that 200,000 of Xerxes' warriors were left behind in Greece to become slaves, and were drafted into the mechanical arts which were despised by the free-born, which explained the sudden burst of advance which Greece made in the fifty years from the Persian to the Peloponnesian wars. This event was to Greece what the sack of Corinth was to Rome.

Subsequently the lecturer traced the development of Mesopotamian civilisation, going back step by step to the most remote ages. The most permanent achievement of the Sumerian, he said, was the establishment of the commercial system and of sexagesimal division. The accounts, partnerships, loans, pledges, partition of profits, credit for goods, and other formulas of modern commerce were all descended from the Sumerian.

Some extremely interesting lantern slides illustrated the lecture. One of these showed the carved ivory handle of a flint knife found in Egypt. This was dated about 6500 B.C. and was of entirely non-Egyptian work. Apparently it came from Elam, whose capital was Susa, on the Tigris. It was an exquisite piece of carving, far in advance of anything produced in Egypt at that age.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Palestine Problems.

Writing in the *Nineteenth Century*, Mr. Walter Sichel utters a timely warning that the problem of Jerusalem delivered has not been settled for all time by General Allenby's tactful proclamation. Some very rude awakenings are likely to be in store for the world, if the more intricate questions of foreign policy are to be decided by the *obiter dicta* of a Labour Conference. Mr. Sichel writes:—

But the British entry raises more mundane problems than the literalisation of prophecy so dear to the parish-heart, and amid just and general rejoicing it may be well to indicate two of them. Great Britain rules over a vast Mussulman population, and in that sense she is a great Moslem Power. How will the Moslems, long jealous of the shrines, accept the change? General Allenby acted like a statesman in appointing Mahommedans to guard these sacred places which by prescription they protect, and he also showed wise insight when he entered on foot the city that he had won. It is said that a soothsayer so predicted, but in any case, if the East loves splendour, nothing more constrains it than modest strength. But it will not always be General Allenby. Downing Street is notoriously imperceptive, and constantly its outlook is coloured by the politics of the hour. It will never do to see Palestine through the spectacles of extreme democracy or of any one Church or Conventicle. If the Turks have been our enemies, it is not all of them that desire to be so, still fewer that relish their present league with Germany, and millions of Moslems look up to us that are not Turks but Indians or Arabs. The way in which Jerusalem is to be the centre of government will require considered and considerate handling. It must not be forgotten that our triumph coincides with prevailing tentatives towards Indian home-rule (misliked by many a loyalist) and forecasts of some eventual Arab administration in Mesopotamia. Mahommedan susceptibilities will thus become doubly sensitive and in divergent directions. The one group will dread sedition, the other interference. What is this but to afford a playing-ground for any foe of the future whose motto is to divide and conquer? Unmitigated, absolute, "democracy" is no ruler of Empire. A sensitive touch, a firm grasp, an intuitive world-mind are requisite. Ask any really impartial and well-versed Anglo-Indian, any of our tried Eastern pro-consuls, and he will confirm this outlook. Let us beware of a House-of-Commons Downing Street in Jerusalem, nor forget that the due apportionment by treaty of the wardship of its shrines afforded the pretext—the apple of discord—for the Crimean War. Let not Jerusalem, the peace-altar, endanger, through "pacifist" doctrinaires, the peace of mankind. The British Empire, if it will only emerge strong, resolute, united, is the safeguard of the world.

Again, how will the "Zionist' hope take shape? Can it prove compatible with conditions immune from political intrigue, quite apart from any and many other considerations? Such, as we have seen, is not the lesson of the past. Will Jerusalem cease to be "the theatre of nations," will, too, the tribes of the Lebanon cease to profit by ferment? To many it will seem that a Jewish State—even were that inherently a likelihood—would be impracticable, if it is to be formed out of a polyglot crowd. the exiles of persecution—as impracticable as it was in the days of the "Dispersion," when the citizens of the world thronged Jerusalem only once a year. It would prove a Babel of tongues and discords, an assemblage of Russian and Polish and Armenian internationalists that, in perhaps forwarding the creed of Lenin and the politics of Geneva, might afford a new centre for those Teutonic machinations which even now are busied in setting the Crescent against the Cross. In such a medley, presided over by mediocrity, the dregs of German Jewry, always industrious, often, vital, might prevail.

Mission Work in the Near East.

The *International Review of Missions* publishes some interesting details in a review of the past year, from which the following extract is taken:—

Notwithstanding the severance of diplomatic relations with Turkey through the entry of America into the war, local Turkish officials have been friendly, and American missionaries are held to be in no danger of violence at their hands. Up to September forty-nine missionaries and ten children were in Asiatic Turkey occupying thirteen stations; at five of these there was only a single brave woman carrying on relief work among thousands of refugees, mostly women and children, in the face of privation and surrounded by dread disease. The fatality among the native pastors, teachers and workers has been terrible; only a small number remain alive. Some have fled to Russia and Persia and others to America. All the district work in central and eastern Turkey has been suspended throughout the year, and very little has been carried on in the large centres. Many of the larger churches and all the hospitals have been taken over for medical purposes by the Government and filled for the most part by the military, among whom disease is rife. The American Board is shaping its

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plans for a reoccupation of Turkey as soon as opportunity is given. There have been manifest conversions of Moslems to Christianity during the year, and in Smyrna and Constantinople the schools have had an unprecedented number of Moslem pupils, in many cases representing the high official clases. There seems to be little persecution of Moslem parents who send their children to Christian schools.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The announcement issued by the War Office about the damage done to the Hejaz Railway by our Arab allies affords me particular satisfaction. For purely sentimental reasons I have always regretted the passing of the Caravan and the substitution of the smoky, rattling Engine for the gurgling Camel and the Mule with its melodious bell; and the idea of a railway in the Arabian Desert has jarred badly on my nerves. So, although the Engine is bound to triumph in the long run, I welcome this check to its advance—especially as it will annoy the Turco-Germs quite a lot! According to the report, the work seems to have been efficiently done. Perhaps the Arabs, who are an imaginative people, as we know, have a corps of Railway Wreckers recruited from muleteers and camel-men who have been robbed of their means of livelihood by Progress?

⁂

The statements made by Talaat Pasha and Baron von dem Bussche, regarding Turco-German "sympathy" with Jewish aspirations in Palestine, have fallen distinctly flat, as I felt sure they would. The leader of the Jewish Socialist World Alliance, M. Kaplansky, has spoken in no uncertain manner on the subject. He refers to "Turkish unfriendliness" and of the "restrictions applied to Jewish colonization in Palestine" during the war as "having assumed the character of a campaign against Zionist intellectuals." He is unkind enough to remind Talaat and his Prussian Brilliant Second that the Hebrew Press and language have been persecuted; that the Zionist intellectuals have been banished to Asia Minor and elsewhere; that they have been forbidden to purchase land; and that "the Jewish population have been evacuated without the slightest reason." In short, the Jews in Palestine have been made to feel that they were strangers in a strange land; and M. Kaplansky points out caustically that, "after these bitter experiences, a great deal more than platonic declarations by a Turkish Minister is needed to reassure the Jewish people." I now await a similar declaration on behalf of the Armenians regarding Javid Bey's announcement!

⁂

Any plain man must surely find it very difficult to understand the working of the Bolshevist mind. Indeed, it is questionable whether the achievement is not entirely beyond mortal man, though it may be within the powers of the German "supermen." But it appears to be tolerably certain that one of the guiding principles of the Bolshevist is to attack your allies and to eat dirt out of your enemy's hand. As to the dirt-eating process, I do not propose to say anything; if Messieurs Lenin and Trotsky have a taste for such a diet, I suppose they will gratify it as long as they have the power to do so. But when it comes to arresting the Roumanian Minister and talking about arresting the King of Roumania, that is another story. If the Bolshevists wish to convince the world that they really are the paid tools of Germany, they have gone the right way to do it. On no other ground can the insult to King Ferdinand and his country be explained. Trotsky and Lenin may seem to be as inconsequent and as irresponsible as a pair of music-hall "knockabouts"; but, like the "knockabouts," they know quite well what they are after.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Great Britain and Persia. Jan. 21.

Earl CURZON, replying to a question by Lord LAMINGTON as to whether any information could be given as to the present position and future prospects of the South Persian Rifles, and whether the Government could inform the House as to the present position of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, said: I think that there has been some misconception about the character and service of the South Persian Rifles, which are under the command of Sir Percy Sykes. For several years there has existed in the southern portions of Persia a police or gendarmerie force, whose main duty was to preserve order and to guard the principal trade routes. Up to, and even after, the beginning of the war this gendarmerie was commanded by Swedish officers. With their disappearance in 1915 the force itself was dissolved, and disorder once again raised its head. The Persian Government recognised the necessity of creating a new force to take the place of the disbanded gendarmerie, but at the time were unable themselves to undertake the task. They therefore formally accepted the offer of his Majesty's Government to place at their disposal a number of British officers for the purpose. A great number of the old gendarmerie were re-enlisted; the force was strengthened, its headquarters were established at Shiraz, and the effect was speedily visible in the return of local security and the revival of trade. But the force continued to be what it was in its inception, what it will, I hope, always remain—namely, a Persian Force. The most assiduous attempts have been made by pro-German elements, with whose devices we are now so familiar, to represent this force as a part of the British or Indian Army, and as engaged on a military occupation of that country. Of course, it is nothing of the sort. It is Persian in character, composition, and allegiance, and the first to suffer from its disappearance would be Persia itself.

This point has been continually placed before the Persian Government by the British Minister at Teheran, and, in spite of much interested misrepresentation, is generally recognised by Persian statesmen. Guarantee of the sincerity of British intentions has been furnished by our willingness to discuss with a friendly Persian Cabinet the future of the South Persian Rifles when the war is over. We desire Persia to remain neutral during the war and to retain its complete independence after the war. There should be no difficulty in finding a solution of the question that will fulfil the triple criterion of satisfying Persian national sentiment, providing for the safety of the roads, and protecting the legitimate interests of trade. Without the existence of such a force the authority of the Persian Government would itself be imperilled. The sole aim of the British Government is to render it an effective unit in the military resources of the country. The matter is one to which, in consultation with our able British Minister at Teheran, Sir Charles Marling, his Majesty's Government have devoted, and are devoting, very earnest and sympathetic considerations.

The Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907 was intended not to impair the integrity or independence of Persia, but to put an end to the long-standing rivalry between the two great outside Powers in Persia. Whether it was a good or bad agreement, it certainly did not fail in its principal object. Nevertheless, there were many who lost no opportunity of representing to the Persian Government that what was in its essence a self-denying instrument was secretly inspired by a hostile purpose, and was aimed at the territorial integrity or political independence of the Persian Kingdom. There was no foundation for these beliefs at the time. I desire most categorically to repudiate and deny them now. Further, the great change in the situation produced by recent events in Russia has given to his Majesty's Government a welcome opportunity of testifying their sincerity in this respect. In the absence of a stable Government in Russia it has not so far been found possible to discuss the matter with that country. But we have informed the Persian Government that we regard the agreement as being henceforward in suspense, and as soon as the conditions to which I have referred are satisfied we shall be ready to reconsider the whole question.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Ex-King Constantine. Jan. 17.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether ex-King Constantine was the centre in Switzerland of a group of pro-German propagandists, which included noted enemies of the Allies, such as the ex-Khedive of Egypt, M. Theotokis, who, while the representative of Greece at Berlin, plotted to bring his country under German domination, and Dr. Streit; whether this group was in constant communication with the ex-Chancellor von Bülow and Prince von Hohenlohe, the chief of the German propaganda in Switzerland, and that to its activities were in part due the reverses of Italy and the defections of Russia, and whether any steps were being taken to counteract these forces?

Mr. BALFOUR: My information is in general agreement with the hon. member's question. All steps are being taken to deal with the matters referred to.

ROMAN REMAINS IN THE NEAR EAST

On January 15, at the London County Council School of Building, Clapham, Professor Beresford Pite delivered his second lecture dealing with architecture, building, and town-planning in Near Eastern countries, speaking chiefly of the Roman remains of Damascus, Palmyrus, Baalbek, Gerasa (the ancient Jabesh Gilead), and other cities. He said that the Roman style of architecture was the same from Britain to the Parthian frontier; there were the Corinthian column and Roman cornice; there was no change in the carving or moulding. So also with the town-planning—the same principles were universally applied. When the Romans founded an entirely new city the ground plan was the same as that of a camp. When they took possession of a city already standing, if well built, they let it alone; but Damascus and most of the cities of the East were not of this type. Damascus was one of the most ancient of cities; Abraham had a steward there. There was no other city in the West or Middle East of which we had cognisance that had for so long had a continuous active life. In Damascus, as in other ancient cities, the centre was a great temple site. The Kaaba at Mecca and the Capitol at Rome were other examples of the same sort of thing. The temple of ancient Damascus was dedicated to Rimmon. The Romans, by their religious system, made a place in their Pantheon for the gods of conquered nations, and Rimmon was without difficulty turned into a phase of Jupiter. A similar thing happened at Baalbek, where the Romans built a great temple to Jupiter Heliopolis to replace the temple of Baal. Of that early temple nothing remained, but a good deal had survived of the temple of Jupiter. Taking, then, a spot near the temple, but not the temple itself, as the centre of the town, the Roman custom was to drive two great streets at right angles through the city. At Palmyra, where the town itself had disappeared, these Roman streets in great part remained. The remains showed that anciently there was a raised central causeway for chariots. This was thirty-seven feet wide, and was flanked by rows of columns fifty feet high. Beside the causeway were the sidewalks, each sixteen feet wide; these were also colonnaded and, moreover, covered in. At each entrance to the town there was a triumphal arch, and at the intersection of the streets in the centre were other triumphal arches. Sometimes, though not at Palmyra, this central area was entirely vaulted in. Passing through a town thus treated, one saw nothing but these magnificent streets. Mud and turf built houses and shops, every kind of architectural irregularity, was concealed behind the colonnades.

Interesting lantern slides illustrated the lecture. One showed a part of the Roman wall of Damascus still standing, and the gate through which Saint Paul was taken into the city. The great gateway had been built in, but one of the smaller gateways through which one of the sidewalks of the ancient street had passed remained, and now served for every kind of traffic. The Roman colonnades had gone; and another slide showed how in quite modern times the main streets of Damascus, and some of the minor ones also, had been entirely covered in. Other slides showed the beautiful Roman church with which the Emperor Theodosius replaced the temple of Jupiter, that had succeeded to the temple of Rimmon. This church had itself, in its turn, been taken by the Moslems, who converted half of it into a mosque.

Of Damascus as it is to-day, the lecturer said that the present architecture of the city was clean internally. The most unpleasant exteriors would present charming courts inside. There was abundance of water; consequently there was always a fountain or well in the court. There was cleanliness and a great deal of up-to-date convenience and charm about the interior life of Damascus, and house rent was exceedingly cheap. It was a highly prosperous commercial city, and a most desirable place of residence from many points of view.

Speaking at the London County Council School of Building, Clapham, on January 22, Professor Beresford Pite said that few subjects had been so important in the history of cities as the shifting of the foundation of the mother city of the Roman Empire in 328 A.D. The site had very many advantages, including that of being a place of extraordinary military strength; and when Constantine selected it there was already existing the nucleus of the city—public offices. an imperial residence, temples, theatres, and baths. The nature of the site, roughly a triangle between the Sea of Marmora and the Golden Horn, made it impossible to carry out the conventional Roman plan of driving two fine streets across the centre of the city at right angles to each other. A great forum was built outside the existing wall. From this a road led to another forum, from which three other roads diverged to the gates in the new wall which defended the city on the landward side.

The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, some of the most beautiful showing the church of Santa Sofia. The architecture of this church, said Professor Beresford Pite, contained nothing Saracenic except the minarets which were no part of the original plan. When rebuilt by Justinian on the site of an earlier church, founded by Constantine, it was an entirely new type of Christian church. An earlier church was that of Saints Sergius and Bacchus, and from this some of the ideas developed in Santa Sofia had been borrowed. In these circular-domed churches the architect was free from any tradition not a Christian one.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I have already referred to the recent outbreak of commercial activity in Turkey, which is designed according to those responsible for this unusual show of enterprise in a country hitherto noted for its lethargy and industrial inefficiency to promote the country's trade activities after the war. It is interesting to learn in this connection that the textile industry is one of those singled out for special attention, and that at least three companies have already been formed for the purpose of starting cotton and woollen mills. The principal company, which has a capital of £T100,000, proposes to erect a cotton-weaving mill at Konia, while another company, with a capital of £T60,000, is to establish a cotton and wool-spinning mill at Angora. These enterprises, it seems, are to be regarded merely as the commencement of a serious attempt to establish this industry, and if that is the case our manufacturers of spinning and weaving machinery may find a fairly profitable market in Turkey after the war. Apart from this aspect there is nothing in this development that need concern us, for it is in the highest degree improbable that Turkey could ever manufacture cotton and woollen goods of a quality that would enable her to compete with British manufactures.

⁂

This week saw the issue of the first report of the British Trade Corporation, whose *raison d'être* is to provide financial facilities for trade after the war. The report, which covers the eight months down to December 31, briefly refers to the initial operations of the institution, which have naturally been very circumscribed. The period has been one of preparation for the future, among the steps taken being the establishment of an information bureau, while arrangements have been made for representation abroad. So far the work of the Corporation has been to render assistance in connection with overseas commerce. There is a net profit on the eight months of £9,700, and it is proposed to devote this sum to writing off most of the preliminary expenses, leaving £400 in suspense, apart from £20,000 stamp duty on unissued capital. The time has not yet come when comment is called for on the work of this institution, and it must suffice to say at this juncture that it may and should be one of the most potent influences on British trade development.

⁂

More satisfactory progress has been made in the House of Commons with the Non-Ferrous Metals Bill than might have been expected, and the measure, which was given its third reading on January 23, is well on its way to passing into law, and if it suffers no more serious alterations in its journey than it has up to the present it should be a fairly satisfactory medium for the purpose for which it is intended. It is my opinion, by the way, that this Bill will be by no means the last of its type, for there are many other equally important industries whose post-war career needs to be safeguarded, notably, the Calcutta hides trade, which, as my readers are aware, proved a particularly fruitful sphere for German operations.

⁂

The improvement that has taken place in the trade of the Sudan during the past year is well brought out by the figures for exports and imports for the eleven months ended November 30. For that period the exports were £E3,271,756, or £E1,198,840 in excess of the corresponding figures for 1916, while the imports at £E2,610,422 show an increase of £E331,819. Exports and imports during the period amounted to £E5,882,178, an increase of £E1,530,659, or, roughly, about 35 per cent. These improved figures are due principally to the great increase that has taken place in the Sudan's trade with Egypt. The extent of the increase will be gathered from the fact that, while the Sudan's exports to Egypt for the eleven months of 1916 amounted to £E908,078, they have now risen to £E2,411,853. Imports from Egypt also show an increase, though not to the same extent, the figures being £E1,668,537, as against £E1,213,307 in 1916.

⁂

My criticisms of Sir Arthur Steel Maitland's speech at the luncheon of the British Imperial Council of Commerce were, I am glad to learn, unnecessary, for Sir Arthur did not make use of the exact expression attributed to him. What he said was that "even if the Archangel Gabriel did reorganise the Consular Service, neither the best service in the world, nor any Government action, could contribute more than a small percentage towards national success in foreign trade." No one can question the soundness of that view, for it is obvious that with the best intentions in the world official action can only make the way plain for traders. That being accomplished, it is up to our merchants and manufacturers and their representatives to take advantage of the facilities afforded them. If they fail to avail themselves of their opportunities the fault obviously lies with them, and not with the Government.

⁂

The idea of arranging for a Serbian Mission to visit the principal commercial centres in this country, with a view to facilitating the desired trade relations between the two countries after the war, is in every way to be commended. The delegates, who, it may be pointed out, are thoroughly representative of Serbian commerce and industry, will be given a unique opportunity of making their needs known to our merchants and manufacturers, which would certainly not have been open to them but for the war. Had this tour been arranged before August, 1914, they would have found British business men more than a little disinclined to enter the Balkans; but that, of course, is a thing of the past, and instead of that attitude they will find a keen desire to ascertain the possibilities of trade in Serbia. That is one aspect of the tour; the other is the necessity for finding out what openings exist for the importation of Serbian produce into this country, and it is hoped that at least as much attention will be paid to this question as to the other, for, unless we are prepared to find a market here for Serbian goods, we can hardly expect to be very successful in increasing our trade with that country.

⁂

The provincial tour of the delegates commenced on January 23, and before that they had been engaged in meeting representative industrial and commercial bodies in London. Of these meetings by far the most important was the luncheon given to them by the British Engineers' Association—important because it touched the first problem with which Serbia will be confronted when the war ends, namely, the question of reconstruction. That is first and foremost the task of engineers, and it is highly satisfactory that those who spoke for the association on that occasion emphasised the determination of British engineers to place their resources at Serbia's disposal for the work of reconstruction. The attitude of this influential gathering is an excellent augury for British trade with Serbia and, indeed, with the Balkans in general in the future.

⁂

The Tata Iron and Steel Company was the subject of an interesting paper read before the Royal Society of Arts last week by Mr. Surtees Tuckwell, M.I.M.E., in the course of which he showed how many unsuccessful attempts had been made to establish the iron and steel industry in India on Western lines before the foundation of this company. The main reason, of course, why it was left to Mr. Jamsetji Nusservanji Tata to demonstrate India's industrial possibilities was that his predecessors in the field lacked adequate resources for the undertaking. True, the Government showed some interest in the question from time to time, but it failed to give adequate support when it was required, otherwise India would probably be far more advanced industrially to-day than is the case.

COMMENTATOR.

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

Increased Imports in November.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 29.

The Customs returns for November show an increase in imports during the month, but a decrease in exports. The former amounted to £E3,272,514, and the latter to £E4,720,099, as against £E2,405,621 and £E6,048,584 respectively during November, 1916. For the eleven months imports total £E27,700,028, and exports £E34,518,255, giving a balance of trade in favour of the country of £E6,818,227. The corresponding figures for 1916 were £E27,199,569 and £E30,064,331, with a balance in favour of the country of £E2,964,762.

Imports and Exports.

The principal imports during the month were: Preserved meat, £E151,421; flour, £E36,484; coffee, £E56,461; liqueurs, £E44,607; stationery, £E49,857; coal, £E275,334 (22,000 tons less, but £E41,653 more than in November, 1916); cotton threads, £E86,543; cotton tissues, £E869,247; wool tissues, £E77,523; sacks, £E97,943; ready-made millinery, £E85,320; worked iron and steel, £E254,335, and tobacco, £E257,566. No sugar, alcohol, petroleum, fuel-wood or chemical manures were imported during the month.

The chief items of export were: Eggs, £E48,270; skins and tanned goods, £E55,486; cotton seed, £E155,997; sugar, £E25,013; wool, £E45,975, and cotton, £E1,208,531. Of cotton seed 44,000 ardebs more were exported during the month than in November, 1916; there was a decrease of 6,700 tons in cotton cake and one of 243,550 cantars in cotton, the falling off in which, for all practical purposes, accounted for the total decrease in exports. Cigarettes valued at £E31,684 and weighing 20,800 kilos were exported.

Larger Imports from Great Britain.

Amongst the countries trading with Egypt Great Britain had a most remarkable increase in imports, her share rising from under 40 per cent. to just 50 per cent. Her chief exports to Egypt were all the mineral oils, coal and wool tissues, 80 per cent. of the cotton tissues, and 96 per cent. of the worked iron and steel. The only other countries which increased in any noticeable manner their sales to this country were Greece, which just doubled her share to £E187,530, Japan which rose to £E109,386 from about a third that amount, and China which increased from £E19,000 to £E87,000. The chief imports from Greece were all the olive oil and 70 per cent. of the tobacco. Japan sent 50 per cent. of the ready-made millinery and linen and 8 per cent. of the tobacco. Under exports Great Britain's share rose from 48 per cent. to 70 per cent., all the eggs, cotton seed and cake, rags, wool and gold bullion, as well as 75 per cent. of the cotton, being taken by her. Every other country except Italy, whose share increased from £E201,636 to £E286,058, showed a drop, the decrease in the case of America being as much as 50 per cent. on the figure for November, 1916, when that country took £E1,516,561.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan flourished during the month, imports from Egypt amounting to £E151,171, and exports from the Sudan to £E157,724, against £E115,847 and £E82,624 respectively a year ago. The principal imports into Egypt were: Livestock, £E84,272; gum, £E31,939, and cereals, £E19,281. Chief exports from Egypt were: Sugar, £E26,689; cotton tissues, £E34,149, and sacks, £E16,196. The other items were small ones.

◆

EGYPTIAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

The Director-General of Egyptian Customs has issued the following notice, dated Alexandria, December 17:—"In the interests of the trade of Egypt this department has decided to require a declaration of the gross weight and value for all goods arriving in Egyptian ports for transit or transhipment; it would probably be found most convenient for this information to be entered in the manifests, and for each lot separately. This information will be required as from July 1, 1918, and is not, of course, called for in respect of goods passing through Egyptian ports or waters without change of ship."

ANGLO-SERBIAN RELATIONS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Commercial relations between England and Serbia date back to the year 1836, when Lord Palmerston sent his British Consul to Belgrade—Colonel Hodges. Prince Milosh, the then ruler of Serbia (which was not at that time independent), in association with Colonel Hodges, projected the construction of a harbour at Drahovo, with the Danube to facilitate the import of British commodities from England via the Black Sea and the Danube. The first Serbian commercial treaty granted preferential treatment to Great Britain in 1880. These two facts show very clearly that the statesmen of the then small principality did everything possible to get to a closer commercial and political understanding with Great Britain.

Meanwhile Austro-Hungary used every means to prevent the commercial and agricultural emancipation of the Serbian people, forcing upon Serbia commercial treaties which preserved to the dual monarchy exclusively the right of importation into Serbia, and crippled, on the other hand, Serbian exports to foreign countries. This state of things continued until the outbreak of the famous tariff war in 1906, when Serbia strove to end this insupportable economic pressure.

The result of this economic struggle was seen in a marked and immediate increase of the imports from Great Britain, which went up with a bound to nearly four times what they had been in the years before the struggle. The amount of imported commodities from Great Britain into Serbia for the period 1884 to 1910 stood at 137 million francs—that is to say, a little short of 10 per cent. of Serbia's total imports. Meanwhile Serbian exports to the British Isles for this same period amounted to only 7,500,000 frs., *i.e.*, 0.38 per cent. of the total exports. There is no doubt that at the close of the present struggle the relations between Great Britain and Serbia—social, commercial, and political—will become much stronger and more intimate. The united kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes which would have an area of over 268,000 square kilometres, with a population of 12½ millions, would become a great market for British commodities and represent also an important field for the production of raw material for British industries.

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SERBIAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION.

Great Britain's Opportunity.

The Serbian Minister and the members of the Serbian Industrial Mission were entertained by the Lord Mayor to luncheon at the Mansion House on January 18, when those present included Lord Desborough, president of the London Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Stanley Machin, chairman of the Associated Chambers of Commerce; Colonel Sir Charles Owens, M. Chedko Miyatovitch, the former Serbian Minister in London; Dr. Trumbitsh, president of the Jugoslav Committee; and Sir William Clark, Comptroller-General of the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade.

The toast of "Success to the Serbian Mission" was proposed by the Lord Mayor, and was replied to by Dr. Douritch, who said that his country was a land peculiarly suited for both agricultural and industrial development. At one time owing to its easy access to the sea Serbia's economic freedom was not less than that of Great Britain. Then followed a period of economic restriction under Austrian and German domination, from which it was Serbia's ambition to escape, and in the realisation of that ambition Serbia looked to Great Britain for help and encouragement. Serbia's fields, forests, and mines had not been sufficiently exploited because of the lack of roads, railways, and capital; but with Great Britain's co-operation these resources could be developed to the mutual advantage of both countries. The Serbian Mission was visiting the various industrial and commercial centres of Great Britain in order to enlist this economic co-operation, and if they were successful he thought the result would be the building up of a Serbian nation which would not only be a source of supply of raw materials to Great Britain and a market for Great Britain's wares, but a nation strong enough to throw off the Austrian and German economic domination of the past.

On January 21 another important function was held in honour of the Mission, this being a luncheon given at the Cannon Street Hotel by the Council of the British Engineers' Association, at which Sir Wilfrid Stokes, of Ransomes and Rapier Ltd., president of the association, presided. Besides the members of the Mission those present included the Serbian Minister, the former Serbian Minister, Sir Adam Block, Foreign Trade Department; Mr. H. H. Lamb, Foreign Office; Mr. E. Donaldson Rawlins, Consular Service; Mr. H. Kershaw and Mr. E. H. Bliss, Department of Overseas Trade, Mr. J. Young, Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd.; Mr. R. S. Rowell, Associated British Manufacturers (Near East), Ltd.; Mr. J. N. Athill, W. and T. Avery, Ltd.; Mr. Cyrus Braby, F. Braby and Co.; Mr. Arthur Jacob, British Aluminium Co., Ltd.; Mr. J. R. Nesbitt, Bruntons; Mr. E. H. F. Reeves, Crompton and Co., Ltd.; Mr. E. M. Malek, Dick, Kerr and Co.; Mr. A. Swingler and Mr. F. Atkinson, Eastwood, Swingler and Co., Ltd.; Mr. George Ellison and Mr. F. B Nathan; Mr. F. Lange, Farringdon Propeller and Engineering Co., Ltd.; Mr. Walter McDermott, Fraser and Chalmers, Ltd.; Colonel Armstrong, D.S.O., Greenwood and Batley, Ltd.; Mr. E. H. Gray, India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Co., Ltd.; Mr. R. Colsell, Irwell and Eastern Rubber Co., Ltd.; Mr. E. H. Lake, Lake and Elliott, Ltd.; Mr. A. L. Pailthorpe, A. Leonard and Co.; Mr. R. R. Stammers, Marshall, Sons and Co., Ltd.; Mr. W. S. Guild, Mather and Platt, Ltd.; Mr. H. Merrin, Matthews and Yates, Ltd.; Mr. James Morton, Morton (Wishawa), Ltd.; Mr. G. Watson, New Destructor Co., Ltd.; Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts, Nobels Explosives Co., Ltd.; Mr. W. A. Walker, Park Gate Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.; Mr. S. H. Hodgkin, Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd.; Mr. G. Moore, Rees Roturbo Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; Mr. J. A. Ross, Ross, Courtney and Co., Ltd.; Mr. A. Shanks, A. Shanks and Son, Ltd.; Mr. F. C. Ratcliff, George Swift and Sons, Ltd.; Mr. Shaw Hopkins, Tilling-Stevens, Ltd.; and Mr. William Brow, Edward Wood and Co., Ltd.

Following the toast of "The King," the Chairman, in proposing "The King of Serbia," commented on the fact that the war was an engineer's war, and pointed out that the reconstruction which would follow the destruction would also be the work of engineers, and they would not be backward in helping Serbia in her task of reconstruction. Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts, chairman of the Russian Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, proposing the toast of "The Serbian Mission," said that if the delegates would tell the engineers what they wanted the engineers would do their best to supply it.

The Serbian Minister said that Serbia was faced by an immense amount of reconstructive work, and looked to England to help her, and now that his country had been brought into contact with England he hoped that the delegation would utilise that contact to the fullest possible extent. Dr. Douritch said that after the war Serbia must be reorganised in many ways, especially in regard to railway and river communications, and her industrial and agricultural resources must be developed. If Great Britain became interested in the development of Serbia he was sure that his country would benefit immensely. If Great Britain did not realise the necessity of improving the economic relations with Serbia, he feared that Germany would do so M. Costa Riznitch, president of the executive committee of the National Bank of Serbia, who spoke in Serbian, said that the aim of the Mission was to visit the industrial works in England to see what was being done there, and to ascertain what prospects there were for a closer connection between the two countries. M. D. Tomich, secretary of the Serbian Industrial Chambers, said that Serbia was rich in raw materials, which had hitherto been exploited by the Central Powers. To develop these raw materials Serbia required machinery, tools, locomotives, electrical apparatus, and other things, and she looked to Great Britain for her supplies after the war. He thought that Englishmen should visit Serbia in order to keep in touch with her requirements and her resources. Some 300 young Serbians had been placed in English professional schools, but he suggested that more ought to be sent over to finish their technical instruction as engineers.

Replying to the toast of his health, proposed by M. Chedko Miyatovitch, the chairman said that after the war Serbia would want railways, and we must be prepared to equip and finance them. Whatever Serbia required in the way of engineering the British Engineers' Association would be proud and pleased to help her to obtain.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

The *London Gazette*, of January 15, contained decisions of the Board of Referees on a number of applications to raise the statutory percentage for the purpose of fixing excess profits duty. Among the decisions were the following:—

Oil Production in the Maikop Oil Field.—Application of the Maikop Combine. Percentage raised to 14 per cent. in the case of a company or private firm, but latter receives additional 1 per cent. for accounting periods prior to January 1, 1917, and additional 2 per cent. for periods ended after December 31, 1916.

Oil Production in the Terek District, North Caucasus.—Application of North Caucasian Oil Fields. Percentage raised to 10½ per cent., with 1 and 2 per cent. additional for accounting periods mentioned above in the case of private firms.

Engineering in Bengal.—Application of Jessop and Co., Ltd., 156, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Percentage fixed at 8 per cent., with 1 and 2 per cent. additional for accounting periods mentioned in the case of private firms.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, has arrived at Berne.

The United States made a further advance to Serbia of two million dollars on January 12.

Mr. Abdallah Gorra, chairman of the board of directors of the Alexandria Water Company, and formerly manager of the Ottoman Bank at Alexandria, died there on December 18.

In reply to an inquiry by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as to the possibility of the early release of soldiers after the war, the India Office has suggested that a register should be compiled of the men whose services are most important.

The unlicensed export of Burma rice has been prohibited, in view of the contemplated Government control of the entire crop. The price for first Europe quality will be 105 rupees per 100 caskets of 46 lb.

A circular has been issued by Tata, Sons, and Co., explaining the purpose of the Tata Industrial Bank. Hopes are entertained of developing existing industries and of nursing into life new ones after a careful examination as to their prospects. In addition, ordinary banking and exchange business will be undertaken.

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1/3, 3/-, 5/-.

Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne' THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ASSOCIATED COTTON GINNERS OF EGYPT.

The following is the report of the directors, with statement of accounts as at August 31, 1917, submitted to the shareholders at the eleventh ordinary general meeting held at Alexandria on December 27, 1917:—

We herewith beg to submit to the shareholders for their consideration and approval our twelfth annual report, together with audited accounts, to August 31 last. The yield of the cotton crop for 1916-17 was very slightly superior to that of the preceding year, having been 51,110,80 kantars, as against 48,063,31 in 1915-16, and on account of the abnormal conditions prevailing during the campaign, the turnover of your customers in your different ginning mills did not attain that development which otherwise you might reasonably have expected. As during last year some of our factories were employed in work for the British Army. The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories during the year 1916-17 was 787,981,11 kantars, against 768,776,74 kantars in 1915-16, and steam-pressed kantars 19,608,89, against 36,923,41 kantars in 1915-16. The following are the results to August 31 last:—

		£E	£E
Profit on the factories			37,406
Less—Sundry alterations			1,418
			35,988
Less—Expenses of management at head office at Alexandria		2,920	
Interest on debentures	£E6,312		
Less—Interest earned	884		
		5,428	
Sundry expenses		1,137	
Insurance		2,813	
			12,298
			23,690
Less—Depreciation on new buildings and machinery		8,800	
Debentures redeemed		3,900	
Expenses on debentures		300	
			13,000
Profit			10,690
Amount brought forward last year			15,896
			26,586
of which we propose to distribute 1s. per share—viz.			17,550
and to carry forward			£E9,036

At the moment of publishing this report the outlook for the crop 1917-18 is better than that of the year that has just closed. We are, therefore, justified in anticipating a better result for 1917-18, and it is in consideration of this that we have thought fit to recommend that part of the amount of the profits carried forward last year should be utilised to complete the amount necessary to pay the above-mentioned dividend. Mr. T. A. F. Critchley retires by rotation, and is eligible for re-election. The retiring auditors are Messrs. Russell, Harris, and Co., and are eligible for re-election.

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscribed capital— 360,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each				360.000	0	0
Debentures issued— £150,000 (part of an authorised issue of £200,000)	150,000	0	0			
Less: Redeemed by purchase	27,280	0	0			
				122,720	0	0
Statutory reserve fund— As per last balance-sheet				20,606	7	3
Sundry creditors				21.328	5	1
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd.				17,190	2	8
Profit and loss Account— Balance as per last balance-sheet	16,304	7	3			
Net profit for the year ended August 31, 1917, before providing for statutory reserve	10,963	8	2			
				27,267	15	5
				£569,112	10	5

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Land, factories, and buildings (at cost)				360,281	10	6
Additional constructions 1905-1915				170,603	6	9
				530,884	17	3
Less — Depreciation written off to Aug. 31, 1916	71,831	0	1			
Depreciation written off for year ended Aug. 31, 1917	9,025	12	10			
Debentures redeemed out of profits to Aug. 31, 1916 £24,000						
For year ended Aug. 31, 1917 £4,000						
	28,000	0	0			
				108,856	12	11
				422,028	4	4
Discount and expenses on debentures issued— As per last balance sheet	5,418	5	4			
Less—Amount written off for year ended Aug. 31, 1917	744	6	0	4,673	19	4
Furniture in Alexandria				104	6	2
Stores at factories at cost price or under as certified by managers				118,020	14	0
Sundry debtors accounts				7,287	7	0
Investments— £19,000 Egyptian Unified 4% Debt. at £80				15,200	0	0
Cash at offices and factories				1,797	19	7
				£569,112	10	5

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries and wages	35,770	14	6
Stores, materials, etc.	51,410	3	9
General expenses, including insurance	8,158	1	4
Expenses of transport	8,736	17	4
Rent and taxes	1,723	15	6
Repairs and renewals	1,454	12	7
Interest on Debentures	6,473	5	6
Balance down	24,296	14	10
	£138,024	5	4
To Depreciation on buildings and machinery	9,025	12	10
Redemption of Debentures	4,000	0	0
Amount written off "Expenses of Debentures Issue"	307	13	10
Balance being net profit for the year ended August 31, 1917, carried to balance sheet	10,963	8	2
	24,296	14	10

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By receipts from ginning, pressing, and sundries	135,951	13	4
Rents received	1,167	0	4
Interest received	905	11	8
	138,024	5	4
By balance brought down	24,296	14	10
	24,296	14	10

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.

The following is a translation of the report of the directors presented at the ordinary general meeting held at Alexandria on December 4:—

During the year ended September 30, 1917, the favourable conditions continued which set in at the close of 1915. While belligerent or neutral countries have suffered in varying degrees from the war which has gone on for more than three years, Egypt, under the government of a Prince whose recent death is the subject of universal regret, and the protectorate of Great Britain, has enjoyed almost her normal economic life. Cotton, the principal export, has reached a record price. The Land Bank of Egypt, in accordance with its functions as a mortgage bank, has carried on during the past year with the prudent foresight demanded by the circumstances, the consideration of new and advantageous business, without neglecting its operations of transferring capital in Europe, which have been the source of satisfactory profits. The transactions (loans on mortgages and sales, with a guarantee of vendor's privilege) amounted to £E3,466,057.132. Thanks to the good economic situation, the amount of annuities in arrears had decreased from £E448,314,438 to £E378,501,032 by September 30 last. The account of "Real property expropriated" has also appreciably decreased, notwithstanding a marked tendency in the direction of expropriation, though the amount was temporarily increased by the acquisition of an important estate which we have disposed of at a profit since the closing of the year's accounts. In the course of the current year we hope to reduce considerably the items under this heading. The total of the year's working is £E323,062.283. Various charges, general expenses, taxation, etc., give a surplus of receipts over expenses of £E144,036.290. Your Board submits for your approval the following provisions and amortizations intended to strengthen the bank's position: (1) Provision for amortization of debentures, premiums and charges, £E13,026.781; (2) amortization of the building of the head office, furniture, and brokerage on mortgages, £E834.820; (3) provision for risks on loans, £E7,500; (4) provision for unforeseen contingencies, £E34,000. The net profit of £E89,274.689, to which is added the balance from the previous year, will allow of the distribution of a dividend of 7s. 6d. per ordinary share, and of £2 1s. on the founders' shares. The wise measures taken by the Government to safeguard home-grown supplies of food will, without doubt, result in the curtailment of cotton production, and we ought to foresee a possible decrease in the financial resources of rural landlords. We have, therefore, increased the provision for unforeseen contingencies to a considerable extent,

BALANCE SHEET AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1917.

		£E	£E
Cash in band at bank			25,944.184
French National Defence Bonds			178,157.500
Four per cent. debentures (fourth series)			190,425.487
Securities held in respect of statutory reserve		55,840.420	
Less amortization		9,795.256	
			46,045.164
Short loans			12,436.803
Loans on mortgages	£E3,197,332.281		
Purchases of property	268,724.851		
Distribution of the price of properties purchased by third parties	202,541.507		
		3,668,598.639	
Annuities in course of encashment:			
Former years	£E198,786.570		
Current year	179,714.462		
		378,501.032	
Interest due by overdue annuities		29,806.993	
			4,076,906.664
Mortgage debtors for interest acquired, but not due			155,688.129
Properties acquired by expropriations			222,974.330
Office premises	£E26,726.929		
Less amortization	770.160		
			25,956.769

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LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.

Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON

Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.

CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI — Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Secondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

ale of properties not yet completed		77,917.484
Sundry securities held in deposit		6,900.261
Advances on mortgages to be collected per account of third parties		26,460.248
Sundry debtors		33,360.446
Amount owing by sequestrator		19,240.634
		£E5,078,444.103

LIABILITIES.

	£E	£E
Capital		975,000.000
Bankers		3,393.387
Long loans		97,839.775
Reserve and provisions—		
Reserve fund	241.312.500	
Statutory reserve	55,653.599	
Provision for redemption of Debentures and expenses	62,249.212	
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	63,188.665	
Provision for redeemable annuities not yet converted	44,831.443	
Provision for sundry risks	84,035.471	
		551,271.890
Debentures—		
Type 3½ per cent.	928,037.350	
Provision for recovery	9,280.383	
Type 4 per cent.	2,816,650.062	
	3,753,967.785	
Less premiums and charges to be recovered	582,318.480	
		3,171,649.305
Sundry deposits		6,879.871
Provisional stoppages on loans		7,210.989
Dividends, coupons, and debentures, but not reclaimed		56,445.545
Sundry creditors		38,813.032
Creditors for mortgaged loans not completed		26,460.248
Interest owing, but not yet due		34,382.573
Interest encashed relating to next year's account		19,050.420
Net balance from profit and loss account		90,047.068
		£E5,078,444.103

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

EXPENSES.

	£E.	£E.
General expenditure	15.858.743	
Directors' fees	1,053.000	
Stamps on shares and debentures and sundry expenses	17,846.470	
Interest on debentures	137,832.863	
Sundry interest	5,834.917	
		178,425.993

LIABILITIES.

	£E.	£E.
Provision for debenture amortisation, premium and charges	13,026.781	
Provision for risks on loans	7,500.000	
Provision for contingencies	34,000.000	
Amortisation of brokerages on mortgage loans	405.650	
Provision for loss on furniture account	184.170	
Provision for loss on premises	245.000	
		55.361.601
Net balance		90,047.068
		£E323,834.662

RECEIPTS.

	£E.
Interest on mortgages, short loans, sundry interests and repayments	291,873.600
Sundries	31.168.683
Balance from year 1915-16	772.379
	£E323,834.662

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

The report of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company for the year ended September 30 last states that the net earnings of the whole system amounted to Rs25,60,939, against Rs23,49,311. The company's share is Rs11,21,639, brought to account at the rate of 1s. 4d., against Rs10,91,584 at the same rate in 1916. After bringing forward the balance, £27,138, providing for interest on Debenture and Preference stocks, interim dividend, contribution to provident fund, appropriating £15,000 to the investment depreciation fund, and making other adjustments, including £4,449 on account of the Secretary of State's share of surplus profits, the amount available for dividend is £35,799. The Board recommend a final dividend of £3 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., on the ordinary capital for the half-year, subject to tax at 3s. 9d. in the £1, leaving £22,799 to be carried forward. The receipts of the joint undertaking were Rs4,19,744 and the working expenses Rs2,08,116 more than those of the previous year, the net earnings showing a gain of Rs2,11,628. Of the total increase in receipts coaching contributed Rs1,12,473 and goods traffic Rs2,55,633. The number of passengers carried increased by 33,301, and occurred chiefly under third class traffic, which rose by 173,791 in the first half of the year, but fell off by 144,441 in the second half. The latter decrease was probably due to a reduction in train services effected in July with a view to saving rolling stock, for which materials are now difficult to obtain. General merchandise increased by 62,040 tons, and arose principally under traffic in wheat, pulses, sleepers and timber, while the chief decreases were under fodder, rape and mustard seed, sugar and salt. In sundries there was an increase of Rs41,519, owing to increased share of receipts due from foreign railways. The cart and tonga service realised net Rs11,038, against Rs23,367. The working expenses of the joint undertaking amounted to Rs19,28,345, or 42.95 per cent. of the gross earnings, against Rs17,20,229, or 42.27 per cent. The principal items of increase were under maintenance of way and works (Rs62,722), locomotive expenses (Rs87,155) and carriage and wagon expenses (Rs52,720). The total capital expenditure on both the original line and extensions was £1,160,431 to September 30 last, which has been reduced temporarily to £1,155,943. On the Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway the expenditure, exclusive of suspense account, resulted in a credit of Rs47,530; Rs57,322 were credited to State funds, and Rs9,791 were provided from funds raised under the agreement for that purpose. The total capital expenditure on the Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway, exclusive of suspense, has been Rs1,91,59,145, or at Rs15 per £, £1,277,270. To meet the depreciation caused by wear and tear of the rolling stock, which cannot be renewed for lack of material, Rs1,50,000 have been charged off to working expenses. The company's share of this charge, amounting to £4,488, has been written temporarily off capital. The position of the provident fund is approximately as follows:—Original cost of securities held, Rs8,11,000; market value on March 31, 1917, Rs6,14,000; depreciation, Rs1,97,000. Of this depreciation about Rs36,000 will be recouped on securities which must be redeemed on fixed dates, and the real depreciation may therefore be taken as Rs1,62,000. The directors have, with the consent of the Secretary of State, authorised the write back of Rs1,50,000, so that the amount drawn from the fund by depositors retiring may not be materially decreased. This will be repaid by a charge of Rs10,000 annually against working expenses of the joint undertaking for the next fifteen years, that is, up to December 31, 1932, when the Government can exercise their right to purchase the line. The sum payable by the company will be approximately Rs5,000 annually. Meeting, 237, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., 29th instant, noon.

Orient Steam Navigation.

The report of the Orient Steam Navigation Company for the year ended June 30 last states that the revenue account, after providing for depreciation, shows a credit balance of £253.021, out of which the dividend on Preferred shares has to be paid. The managers recommend a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on the Deferred shares, that £100,000 be transferred to general reserve account, and that the balance of £112.359 be carried forward. During the year there has been redeemed £83,650 Debentures in anticipation of the requirements of the trust deed. Meeting, 13, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., 28th instant, noon.

British Trade Corporation.

The first report of the British Trade Corporation covers rather more than eight months and shows that during that period a small profit was realised. At December 31 last, the date of the balance-sheet, the amount of capital issued was £2,000,000, the last instalment of which was payable on the final day of 1917. Since the issue of the prospectus in June the management has been principally engaged in making the necessary arrangements for representation in foreign countries and other business details. It has, however, already been able to render some assistance in connection with overseas trade. Evidence given before various Parliamentary Committees pointed to the desirability of making arrangements for the insurance of commercial credits, and the corporation has in hand a scheme for giving effect to this object. An information bureau has been established. The directors recommend that, after making provision for income-tax, the balance standing to the credit of the profit and loss account be applied towards writing off the preliminary expenses. The gross profits amounted to £17,614, of which current expenses, including salaries, rent, rates, office and other charges, absorbed £7,943, leaving a net profit, before providing for income-tax, of £9,671. The meeting will be held at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, Moorgate Street, E.C., on 31st instant, at 3 p.m.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The ordinary transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, Ltd., are closed until February 2, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing dividend warrants for those stockholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—The transfer books of the 1,000,000 cumulative 6 per cent. participating preference shares (issue 1909-1911) are closed until January 30 for the purpose of preparing interim dividend warrants for the half-year ended September 30, 1917, and for the participating dividend of 2 per cent. for the financial year ended March 31, 1917, payable 31st instant.

East Indian Railway Company.—Holders of annuity class "D" are notified that the seventieth half-yearly general meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on 30th instant, at 12.30 p.m.

The transfer books of the ordinary stock of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, will be closed from the 30th inst. to February 13, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the dividend warrants for the half-year to September 30, payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah: Production for week, 446 tons (previous week 21 tons). Hurgada: Production for week, 3,371 tons, against 3.639 tons.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Production for the week ending December 9, 39.553 poods (or 638 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended January 5, 19,348 poods (320 tons).

European.—Week ended January 6, 61.200 poods. Return to December 30 not yet to hand.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended January 5, 24.751 poods (308 tons).

Maikop Orient Oil.—Plot 435a, Well 3.—Production for week ending January 10, 14.000 poods.

Russian Petroleum—Week ended December 1, 41,600 poods; December 8, 44.800 poods; December 15, 45,770 poods; December 22, 46.252 poods; December 29, 47.820 pods.

Ural Caspian.—Week ended January 3, 132.798 poods (2.142 tons); January 10, 133.355 poods (2.151 tons).

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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

The upward movement in Egyptian securities has continued; the market has been active, and many advances in prices have again to be recorded. No change has occurred in Government stocks, but, in banks, Nationals have jumped ½, to 18½, on a strong local demand. Agriculturals are also ⅛ up at 6⅝ after a fairly large business, and Anglo-Egyptians are 1-16 firmer at 14 5-16.

In land shares Behéras are ¼ up at 13, the few hundred shares offering at lower prices having now been absorbed by Egypt; Delta Lands are unchanged, but are beginning to look ripe for an advance. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have jumped 6d., to 9s. 6d., but very few shares are obtainable round the current level, which is decidedly below the intrinsic value as represented by the company's holdings. Gharbieh Lands are wanted at 2, but sellers are scarce. New Egyptians have been a feature, changing hands daily in large numbers at gradually advancing prices, and closing 1s. 9d., up 19s. Sidi Salems have continued in strong demand, and close 3s. up, at 32s., while Union Foncières are 1s. higher to-night, at 54s. 9d., on buying orders from Egypt; but United Lands are exceptionally 1½d. lower, at 1s. 6d.

Among the Miscellaneous group Salt and Sodas changed hands at one time over 41s., but are closing at 40s. 6d., a rise of 6d. since last week.

In Greek securities there has been hardly any business doing, but prices remain firm; Ionian Banks are ⅛ up, at 4¾.

Paris Bourse.

Closing prices included:—Egyptian Unified, 95.50 (95.95); Turkish Unified, 63.05 (62.50); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 770 (770); Suez Canal Shares, 4.595 (4.605).

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 9d., to 28s. 3d.—29s. 3d. Otherwise the market was featureless.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Uncertain Outlook.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

A slack state of affairs continues to show itself throughout the market. The production of the machinery has not nearly been sold during the past week. Buyers seem very determined to act with caution, and as spinners and manufacturers are well sold there is no running after fresh orders. The tone is probably more uncertain than at any time since the beginning of the war, as the feeling is growing that important events are about to take place in European politics. Supplies of Egyptian cotton continue to come forward rather more freely, and prices have rather favoured buyers. There has been no life in Egyptian yarns, but spinners derive considerable strength from the contracts on the books. In piece-goods for Egypt, only a sorting-up business has been done. Rather less satisfactory advices are now being received from Cairo. Buyers are resisting the high prices required by manufacturers. Standard goods for India have been neglected, and only occasional sales have been reported in fancies and specialities. No improvement can be recorded in the offtake for China. Occasional transactions have been healthy. American yarns have moved off slowly, and here and there a little more irregularity in prices has been noticeable. Medium counts are not so strongly situated as a month ago. Most of the offers in export yarns have been impracticable.

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In the process of the extension of His Majesty's Trade Commissioner Service within the British Empire, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., has been appointed as senior Trade Commissioner in India, and will shortly proceed to Calcutta.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 16	Jan. 23
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73¼	73¼
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884..................	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.........	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	62	62
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73½	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	80	80
Do. 4% Unified	79	70	70
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892..........	98	70	70
„ 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6½	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank..............	12	14¼	14 5/16
Bank of Athens....................	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¼	8¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅝	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18	18½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6⅛	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	72¼
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72¼	53
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/9	22/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2¾	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co..........................	8¼	12¾	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh......................	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	9/-	9/6
Gharbieh Land Co................	1¾	2	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	19/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	29/-	32/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	53/9	54/9
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord...........	1 3/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1 1/16	40/-	40/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	36/6	36/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅞	3⅞

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended December 20.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Dec. 11-Dec. 20............	7,106	11,305
April 1-Dec. 20	151,877	191,225

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Eleven days to Jan. 11.	1918. Ten days to Jan. 10.
Cattle markets	1,797	1,054
General markets	697	727
Receipts (£)................	2,494	1,781
Total for year..............	2,494	1,781

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
January 17, 18, 19, 20, 21..	990,000	740,000

◆

Arrangements have been completed by Messrs. Ralli Brothers for the building of new offices in Karachi. The contract is being undertaken by Messrs. Dove Brothers, of London.

Mr. Spiridion Anthony Aeratopulo, who established the firm of S. A. Aeratopulo and Sons, dried fruit merchants, Liverpool, and was president of the Greek Community there, left £33,650.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 352.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The week has been lacking in military activity in both the Eastern and Western theatres of war, and the politicians and diplomatists have had their innings instead. Count Hertling has replied for Germany and Count Czernin for Austria-Hungary to the statements of Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson; and, as was anticipated, Berlin has rattled the sabre while Vienna cooed for peace. Whether the difference in tone was a carefully arranged comedy, or whether it represents a real difference of attitude too pronounced to be concealed is a question which has puzzled the commentators. The question, however, is largely academic, because each declares that the Central Powers and their satellites stand for the full integrity of their dominions.

That means, if it means anything, that Germany will not make peace without Alsace-Lorraine and her colonies—although she would agree to a general redistribution of colonial territories, a phrase which very probably means that Belgium, on which Count Hertling's language was obscure, would be used as a pawn in order to bargain for a German Congo. It means that Austria will not give up the Trentino to Italy, to say nothing of any consideration of the Jugoslav question. It means, further, that neither will cut their losses in Turkey, or allow Turkey to cut her losses either. If that is the attitude of the Central Powers, the war must go on.

There is even evidence, in the German Chancellor's speech, that he wants the war to go on, since he has the kindly thought of suggesting that England should give up Gibraltar, Hongkong, the Falkland Islands, and a few other places—he probably omitted Dover by inadvertence. This is an entirely new suggestion, and we frankly admit that it may be a German joke that has lost its bouquet in the translation. If it is seriously meant, one can only answer that the German Fleet had better come and take these places. It has had one experience of the Falkland Isles which it is not likely to forget.

But while these suggestions are made, either from effrontery or ignorance or a mere wanton determination to continue the war, the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk continue. When Herr Trotsky broke them off with a great flourish of trumpets the world did not greatly believe in his sincerity, and he has now obediently come to heel again. Indeed, it looks as if he had only left Brest-Litovsk for Petrograd in order to arrange to declare war on Roumania, an act which could not fail to ease the position of Germany, and may have been suggested by Baron von Kühlmann. It was the final and logical outcome of several weeks of agitation against Roumania, including the arrest of the Roumanian Minister at Petrograd. The world is told that it is necessary for Bolshevism to be spread in Roumania and in every other country—a doctrine which conflicts strangely with the right of self-determination, on which the Leninite faction are so eloquent, but the policy fits in so completely with Germany's aims that we cannot take all the Trotsky protests literally.

Roumania has accepted the insult with equal fortitude and dignity. It creates a very difficult situation for her, since the Bolsheviks, if they will not fight, have a faculty for creating disorder and annoying their neighbours—so long as these are not Germans—which amounts almost to genius. But Roumania is not entirely alone, although she is cut off from her more faithful Allies. Not very much information has come through from Bessarabia of late, but it appears that that country has been sufficiently impressed by the Bolshevik methods to see the need of declaring its independence, if it is to preserve any trace of civilised order at all, and the Besarabian Republic is now associated with Roumania against Petrograd. In view of the long and intimate ties between the two countries, the alliance is natural, and it will certainly strengthen the position of both against the flood of anarchy with which they have to contend.

Heavy fighting is already reported between the Roumanians and the Bolsheviks in the south, but the details are confused and lacking in detail; and events are becoming almost as difficult to follow as the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary movement in the Ukraine. It must be remembered, of course, that the Bolsheviks are unable to put their full force—whatever that may be, in the absence of discipline in the ranks—in the field against Roumania, since they are at the same time engaged in aiding the social revolutionary movement in Finland, which has evidently assumed rather serious dimensions, and is causing grave anxiety in Sweden. In these circumstances, the threat to Roumania may be less formidable than Lenin imagined, and it is to be noticed that a new tone of pessimism is apparent in Trotsky's latest speech. He has at last discovered what was patent earlier to everybody else—that Germany will not conclude a peace without annexations.

The position of the new Ukraine State, which is also a neighbour of Roumania, remains undefined for the present. The report that peace had already been concluded with the Central Powers was clearly premature—one of those indiscreet anticipations for which the Wolff Bureau is famous. The Ukraine is not merely represented, but doubly represented, at Brest-Litovsk, and its representatives do not agree with each other, to the no small embarrassment of Baron von Kühlmann. Over his difficulties we need waste no tears; all the reports must be accepted with reserve, but it is plain that Count Czernin is trying to barter peace against corn, and it is possible that the Ukraine are trying to obtain Eastern Galicia, with its integral Ruthenian population, as part of the bargain. A suspicious fact is that more details have been received of the negotiations with Turkey than with Austria, although the relations of Kieff with Vienna are much more vital than with Constantinople.

It is stated—and once again the report must be accepted with all reserve—that in discussing its relations with Turkey the Ukraine had declared itself indifferent to the Dardanelles question. If that is so, it is a statement of policy of first-class importance; but it may mean one of two things. It may imply that the local politicians at Kieff take an entirely localised view of their position and future, and that they propose to attempt political existence as a self-contained unit—an attempt which must break down within a very short time, since the Ukraine cannot isolate itself from the Balkans, any more than it can from Poland, with which it has been intimately connected in the remote past, or from Russia, with which it has been intimately connected in the historic present. The second interpretation is that the Ukraine has deliberately considered its economic future, and rejected the idea of using the Dardanelles as an outlet for its grain in favour of selling its entire product to Germany and Austria. It must be admitted that this sounds almost as improbable an hypothesis as the Manichean theory that man was created by Satan instead of God—but then a good number of people were once Manicheans.

In any event, the policy of renunciation is bound to break down in the end. So long as the Ukraine, like Roumania, is one of the great exporting countries of Europe the question of the Dardanelles, the sole exit from the Black Sea, must be of practical importance for its people. It may be, of course, that for the next year or so Germany and Austria will be so hard pressed for food that they will be glad to buy everything the Ukraine produces. But that position will not last; and, in any event, it is bad policy to tie oneself entirely to one customer. The moment the Ukraine finds that out it will curse the day when it forgot the Dardanelles.

If Germany insists on Courland and Lithuania, it is more than probable that Austria will also demand territorial compensation, despite Count Czernin's profession of disinterestedness. It is quite true, of course, that Austria has no direct claim on any purely Russian territory, although she aspires to control Poland and the Ukraine—the latter at least with a steadily diminishing prospect of success—but she has undoubtedly not lost her desire for Albania and Montenegro, with a part of Serbia. These matters, of course, are indifferent to the present authorities at Petrograd.

The escape of the "Goeben" is regrettable. The ship has as many lives as a cat and as great a faculty for eluding pursuit. The capacity to run away is not perhaps the highest test of naval efficiency; if it were, this particular vessel would almost have won the war by itself. Probably, if the truth were known, nobody is more sorry than the Turks that the German crew have refloated the nominally Turkish battleship and brought it back to Constantinople. It makes the chance of a separate peace for Turkey, already difficult enough, still more difficult.

The statements which have appeared in the German Press explaining the visit of Talaat Pasha and other Turkish State officials to Berlin are evidently intended to mislead. Talaat has remarked that various internal political questions in the Ottoman Empire have become of pressing importance, which can readily be believed; but the announcement that he is to visit various German cities "in order to settle certain matters" is rather a *non sequitur*. The first city he will visit is Hamburg, which hitherto has not been particularly interested in Ottoman affairs. It may, however, be well believed that, as the *Lokalanzeiger* remarks, Turkish affairs are now being largely managed from Berlin.

A key to the real nature of the negotiations may probably be found in the presence at the German capital of Javid Bey, the Finance Minister, and Jambolaat Bey, the new Turkish Food Controller. Count Hertling has professed again to stand by his unfortunate ally, but meanwhile Turkey wants money and food to carry on. Germany will hardly be able to spare hungry Constantinople any food, but she may have to grant another loan. Turkish revenue now barely covers debt charges, and the probability of raising more by increased taxation becomes steadily more remote just at the time when Turkey requires more money in order to equip her armies against the double British offensive in Palestine and Mesopotamia. The prospect of seeing Germany win back these two provinces for Turkey by breaking the British line on the western front may seem a little remote to the Turkish vision.

Apart from the political developments in Persia, on which we commented in this column last week, mention may also be made of certain economic developments. The *Birmingham Post* reports an increasing demand from Southern Persia for British goods, particularly for goods made in the Midlands. The demand arises from the fact that conditions in the south are practically normal, and that, while the native demand is increasing, the supplies from Germany have ceased. It is, of course, only within recent years that Germany has had any interest in Persia or the Persian Gulf at all, and her trade there, although increasing year by year, had not acquired much stability when the war broke out, despite the sudden interest taken in the Gulf by one of the great German steamship companies. The war has at least not improved Germany's chances of success, either economic or political, in that region.

The death of Sir William Wedderburn may be regarded as marking the close of an epoch in the development of Indian politics. The committee which he founded in this country nearly thirty years ago, and of which he remained president until his death, did much to keep the National Congress alive during the early years when its Indian supporters were few, and when it often seemed doubtful whether the movement had sufficient energy to survive. In those days the driving-power and the financial support furnished by the British Committee counted for much; but as the movement in India gathered strength the tendency developed to resent anything that could be called interference from this side, and the advanced section of the Congress, which has now apparently secured complete control of its policy, was less and less inclined to take its orders from England. The British Committee will doubtless continue to exist, but it is not likely to regain the influence which at one time it wielded.

Perhaps the opening of a new epoch must be dated from the attempts which are now being made to show that the Congress and similar bodies are acting in the best interests of the Indian masses. Until quite recently few of the leading politicians had anything to say about these masses, but we notice that the Congress deputation to Mr. Montagu was at pains to insist on the democratic side of its policy, and its address stated that "the constitutional, financial, and administrative amelioration of the material condition of the masses, as well as the satisfaction of the political aspirations of the classes, has throughout been the anxious concern of these organisations." Polysyllables are not yet rationed in India, and this statement of the position is nearly as effective as the more familiar phrase that Codlin's the friend, not Short.

Congress has, however, still a long way to go before it produces a programme which shall really appeal to the democracy. It presses for such measures as temperance reform and compulsory education, and it hopes to "ameliorate" the condition of the peasants by these means, thereby manifesting once again its inherent tendency to oligarchical domination. To close the liquor shops and drive the children into school might not perhaps lead to a series of agrarian revolts of the type familiar to students of Indian history, but could scarcely fail to ensure the lasting unpopularity of the authorities responsible for the measures in question. No party dependent on popular support could venture on such a programme, which is, in fact, the lineal successor of those "boons" with which the Moghul Emperors were wont to signalise their accession to the throne.

If Indian peasants had votes, we should hear of very different measures from these. Low rents and low interest, a stringent labour law, any quantity of State aid, but no inspectors to worry busy people in their daily life—it is such prosaic matters that interest the masses, and a programme framed on these lines would sweep the country from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. All things considered, it is perhaps fortunate that no party is as yet under any inducement to start a campaign of this particular type; but to recognise its unsuitability to existing conditions is to admit that India is still very far removed from the stage where "government of the people by the people" could yield even such a modest increase in the welfare of the public as now satisfies the disillusioned democrats of the West.

Meanwhile there is one boon that would be eagerly welcomed, if any party were in a position to offer it, and that is an easy and effective safeguard against the ravages of plague. The sanitary authorities are indeed well on the track of this disease, and they have now reached the point where prediction is possible; they have told us, for instance, that India is probably in for a bad season, and that if the last month has been damp in the northern provinces, we must be prepared for heavy mortality in the early spring. It is something to be forewarned, but there is still a long way to go before the disease is brought under effective control, and the people must learn to help themselves, if the lessons of science are to be turned to good account. Here indeed there is a great opportunity for leadership open to the men who aspire to control the destinies of India, if only they could spare the time from their arduous discussions of the proper constitution of Councils and Departments.

A curious pamphlet has been published in the United States, being the alleged criticisms of Herr Thyssen, a relative of the German industrial magnate, on the Kaiser's war ambitions. According to this document, the German business men were urged to support the war two or three years before it broke out by the promise of plunder. That is probable enough; what is less probable is that Herr Thyssen himself was induced to lend money against the promised gift of a large estate in Australia. That antipodean estate now looks extremely remote; but the Kaiser's real aim was the conquest of India. He is said to have declared that India was an extraordinarily rich country, and that the native princes there could be forced to contribute large sums to the conqueror; indeed, it is evident that he thought rather poorly of the British for not having plundered the Nizam and Maharajas already—another proof, no doubt, of our decadence. The Kaiser has done so many extraordinary things that we hesitate to disbelieve this revelation; possibly his ideas of sacking India were derived from the Crown Prince's tour there. The heir to the Hohenzollerns has proved himself an authority on looting.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 30.

Christmas in Egypt.

Christmas has been kept up in fine style in both camp and hospital here. The Red Cross and all those who work amongst the troops had spent an enormous amount of time and energy in preparing for the festive season, and their efforts were certainly rewarded by the pleasure which the men showed in the entertainment and good cheer provided for them. Not a single camp, hospital, convalescent home, or depot was overlooked; all had their share of the good things, and the various concert parties that have been doing such good work were kept hard at it all through the week, so that no centre should be without its full quota of "shows." The series of entertainments started on Christmas Eve, and will continue without interruption right into the New Year. In spite of the fact that the mails are late and that there are no Christmas puddings from home this year, the men did not have to go without this traditional fare, and through the generosity of the Red Cross arrangements were made so that every hospital and depot should have its plum pudding and mince pies, without which Christmas is no Christmas to the Briton. The men in the front lines were by no means overlooked, and the ingenuity of those responsible for the organisation of the Sinai and Palestine Railway must have been sorely taxed to get all the good things provided by friends and comrades, as well as those ordered by the various messes, out to the units concerned in time for the festive season.

The Muled En Nabi.

Whilst Christendom was celebrating one of the greatest festivals in its calendar, Islam was also preparing for one of its important fixtures—the Muled En Nabi, which fell on the 27th. It is indeed not often that Christmas and the Birthday of the Prophet come so close to one another, and the recent capture of Jerusalem has rendered the coincidence all the more noticeable. The usual festivities took place out at Abbassia, where tents were erected for the upper classes and a sort of fair was held for the masses. His Highness the Sultan, accompanied by his Staff, drove out in the course of the afternoon, in order to be present at the procession of Tarikas (sects) with their banners and to attend the customary reading of the life of the Prophet, which is always carried out. The guests who received the Sultan included the Ministers, the Under-Secretaries, the high religious functionaries, and the leading judges and officials.

General Allenby's Popularity.

Some little while ago I referred to General Allenby's great popularity with his men, and also to the fact that the Egyptians call him Allen Bey. The success which has attended his efforts in Palestine has given him tremendous prestige with the people, a prestige which has been considerably enhanced by the discovery that his name lends itself to some of those playings-on-words so dear to the Oriental, and especially the Arab, heart. Thus it has been found that the word Allenby is really

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Al Nabi (the Prophet), and that written backwards the name reads "Ybn Ella"—Ibn Allah (Oh! Son of Allah). In the popular mind how could a man with such a name fail to be successful in his endeavours to save the City, sacred alike to Moslems, Christians, and Jews, from the devastating and sacrilegious hand of the Neo-Turanians and Germans; and to the superstitious the Arab saying that when the waters of the Nile flow into Palestine then will Jerusalem be rescued by a son of the Prophet appears to have attained realisation!

The Financial Adviser.

I understand that Lord Edward Cecil has made sufficient progress for his doctors to permit him to leave for Switzerland very shortly. He will be accompanied by Mr. J. F. G. Hopkins, senior Inspector of Finance, who has been employed during the past two years on the E.E.F. Local Resources Board. Mr. Hopkins has had no leave for some considerable time, and the Army have agreed to spare his services, in order to enable him to accompany the Financial Adviser to Europe and obtain a much needed change of air. Lord Edward Cecil takes with him the good wishes for a speedy recovery and for his return to Egypt from every element of this country's population.

Relief of Palestine.

The liberation of Palestine from the Turkish sway and the possibility of being at last able to send succour to the population, are infusing the local Syrian community with added energy in the direction of raising funds and sending relief there. Considerable amounts have been subscribed for the Syrian Relief Committee, which will work in Palestine itself, and for a new committee which has been formed for the express purpose of assisting needy Syrian refugees in Egypt. A grand gala show on the lines of the one organised last winter is to be held at the Opera House early next month, under the patronage of the Sultan and of the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate. Local Syrians look with equanimity on the near financial future of Syria, for they consider that the presence of the British troops is bound to bring enormous sums of money into the country. Certainly, if the Expeditionary Force spend but a tenth of what they have done in Egypt, Palestine and Syria will quickly be relieved of the poverty which those provinces have endured since the outbreak of war with Turkey, and with which they are faced at the present moment.

Government Appointments.

H.E. Aly Zoulfikar Pasha, Governor of Cairo, having attained the age limit, has retired from his post, and H.E. Abdel Rehim Sabri Pasha, Mudir of Menufia, has been appointed to succeed him. Zoulfikar Pasha retires from the Governorship of Cairo amid general regret, for he has held that post during a most trying period, whilst Sabri Pasha in coming to Cairo receives well-merited recognition of good administrative work done in one of the most difficult and at the same time most prosperous provinces .The appointment of Ziwer Pasha to the Ministry of Wakfs reported last week, and now of Sabri Pasha to Cairo, will lead to promotions amongst the provincial Mudirs; but it is understood that the Governorship of Alexandria may possibly go to a notable outside the Government Service.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

The final total of the "Our Day" subscription is now made public. The figure is £150,181 sterling, of which £45,000 represents donations, £8,000 was contributed by the Sudan, and £4,000 and £5,000 respectively by Cairo and Alexandria, and the balance of £88,000 came from the provinces. This subscription constitutes a record for this country, and is indeed a most creditable contribution, enabling Egypt, as one of the youngest members of the Empire, to take a high place amongst the contributing British dependencies.

The Paper Shortage.

Once again the question of paper supplies, especially news paper, is assuming serious proportions. The price has risen enormously; in addition, the stock is becoming very restricted, and shipments from abroad are by no means adequate for the local demand. Several local newspapers have doubled their prices with a view to curtailing the demand, and have reduced the size of their issue. It appears highly probable that some of them will have to stop publication altogether, if the position in regard to supplies does not improve. It will perhaps not matter much if certain papers disappear for a time, at any rate, for, as I have remarked before now in this correspondence, there is little doubt that this country has too many papers, considering the small percentage of literates in the population; but it would be a real calamity, if the more serious organs were forced to cease publication, for on them depends the dissemination of correct news and of the propaganda which is so necessary in a country like Egypt. It is surprising that in the course of the past three years no means should have been found for producing news paper locally. One would have thought that with the prospect of an eventual shortage the various proprietors would have combined together to carry out experiments, but as far as can be ascertained none of them have taken any action in this respect. It may be that there is some serious reason why news paper cannot be produced locally, and it would be interesting to hear what the Commission of Commerce and Industry, which presumably has studied this, together with other similar questions, has to say on the matter. In the meantime the position is exceedingly precarious, and drastic measures will have to be taken to avoid a complete cessation of newspaper publication.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 6.

The New Year.

The Countess Granville issued invitations to the members of the Legation Staff and to all British naval and military officers in Athens and the Piræus to see the New Year in, and some four score responded to the invitation. The British Minister and Lady Granville have already endeared themselves to all those who have had the privilege of making their acquaintance, and it was a foregone conclusion that a pleasant evening was in prospect for those invited, and they were not disappointed. Dancing commenced about ten o'clock. On the stroke of midnight greetings for the New Year were exchanged and Auld Lang Syne was sung. The New Year could not have been ushered in under more pleasant conditions, and there was a universal expression of gratitude and appreciation for the kind thoughtfulness of Lord and Lady Granville in entertaining those who are serving their country in one capacity or another, practically all away from their homes and separated from their families.

M. Venizelos's Return.

M. Venizelos had an enthusiastic reception on his return on Wednesday afternoon. As soon as the arrival of the man-of-war conveying the Prime Minister was announced the Cabinet Ministers and Earl Granville proceeded on board to welcome him. Large crowds awaited him on shore, and when he landed there was a great ovation, the church bells were rung and steamers in harbour blew their whistles. M. Venizelos's reception in Athens was equally warm, and not long after his arrival he began to receive his friends. On Friday

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afternoon he addressed a large crowd of several thousands from the balcony of his house, and explained the motives of his journey and the success he had obtained towards an alleviation of the economic situation of the country. He announced the hope that it would soon be possible to make a regular distribution of foodstuffs instead of spasmodically as at present, and the recent regular arrivals of various commodities will probably render this possible. Before dispersing, the crowd proceeded to the British Legation and made a demonstration of sympathy towards Great Britain.

There is already some improvement, thanks to recent arrivals of several ships, and imports from abroad are arriving more or less regularly; but the internal control of local produce and its distribution are problems which have not yet been grappled satisfactorily. Much remains to be done to make the best use of the country's resources. Meat has become exceedingly scarce, and is about to be rationed, the want of sufficient land and water transport rendering it impossible to bring in the necessary requirements from the provinces and the islands. Scarcity of fuel is the root of much of the present trouble here. Electricity has still to be economised, several of the tram services are still suspended, and the electric current is turned off soon after midnight.

ABYSSINIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Political Situation.

Since the report of the establishment of the Empress Zauditu on the throne, with her heir, Ras Taffari, to assist her, there has been very little information from Abyssinia. If the difficulties in front of the new Government are considered, it will be no surprise that there has been no immediate movement. Even when Menelik was at his strongest, the Imperial writ did not run in the remoter parts of the empire, and the period of Lij Yassu did not improve the strength of the Central Government. The removal of Lij Yassu, though a first and necessary step to an amelioration of the situation, had inherent in it the principle that the ruler could be removed, if there was anyone strong enough to do it. It is true that the great rulers of the provinces have all given their allegiance to the new régime with more or less grace; but there is a spirit of unrest abroad. The army that defeated Mikhail had first to be dealt with. There is no system of supplies in Abyssinia, and the retention of a large force in the neighbourhood of Adis Abeba was extremely uncomfortable, as the soldiers were rapidly reduced to stealing their food. The Council of Ministers, which had been to a great degree instrumental in removing Lij Yassu, was inclined to get out of hand and to use its position to extort all that it could out of the people, and to resent any interference on behalf of those whom they oppressed. Moreover, there were not lacking persons to advise them how best to embarrass and hamper the new Government. Further, the officers of the Abyssinian Government have never been paid more than a nominal sum, and they made their profit by receiving a number of villagers of Galla whom they could use as cultivators or soldiers or in any other way to their own profit. There were also endless other means of getting money than the Abyssinians used. Any alteration of this régime would inevitably be a loss to the individuals concerned, which they were not prepared to accept without a struggle. The Abyssinians are more than conservative, and are always ready to resent any interference with what they believe to be their custom. Another source of trouble was the Praetorian Guard, which is the only permanent body of troops in the country. It guards the palace at Adis Abeba, and is rather inclined to imitate its Roman prototype and to take the selection of a ruler into its own hands. In any case the troops have to be placated. A similar state of affairs existed with regard to the rulers of the great provinces, who are more likely to take the opportunity to strengthen their position as semi-independent of the Central Government than to assist in the establishment of a strong administration that would deprive them of much of their power.

The Problem of the Currency.

A noticeable feature of the moment is the considerable advance in the value of the dollar. This is not only due to the rise in the price of silver, but also to the fact that the Maria Theresa dollar is getting scarcer, and that the local unrest has prompted many persons to bury their wealth in the ground. There never has been any small coinage in the country, and lumps of salt are used as a substitute in certain parts, though their appearance after some use amongst the greasy-handed proletariat inspires a hope that the salt is never returned to its normal domestic use. In any case, money is becoming more and more scarce.

Administrative Reform.

There are many difficulties already present, and added to those that have always beset the Abyssinian Government, it is likely that a solution will not be found without some considerable lapse of time. It must not be forgotten that the Shoan aristocracy is only a part of the population. The bulk of the work, as stated above, is done by the Galla, and, as in the later Empire with the freedmen, the Galla are beginning to be a power in the land. Whether there is any personality likely to arise amongst them strong enough to throw off the Shoan yoke is doubtful, but the possibility is always there, and the numbers of the Galla are very great. It is true that some parts of their country have been much depopulated by the marauding bands of slavers or the tyrannical demands of rulers; but this is also a loss to the whole wealth of the country.

What the precise political situation in Abyssinia may be at the moment it is impossible to say, still more how it may develop in the future: but it is reasonable to suppose that the different problems are being dealt with, and of necessity those nearest have to be dealt with first. These would be the Army and the Council of Ministers. The former will have been disbanded, and the latter reduced to submission—that is to say, to the performance of the several functions of the Ministers and no more. The successful performance of this will probably lay the foundations of an administration in the future in which the officers will be paid adequately and the indiscriminate collection of "backshish" will be discountenanced. It is probably at this point that the situation is now held, as the introduction of such a system will be most distasteful to the former office-holders. The internal development of such a policy is not necessarily of public interest, and this may account for the lack of information that has marked the last few weeks.

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F. W. T. ATTREE, Colonel (late R.E.), Secretary.
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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENTENTE AND ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Since the beginning of the war there has been one point at least upon which English people are unanimous, and that is that we are fighting for the cause of freedom, for the rights and liberties of small nations. The Prime Minister, in his latest war-aim speech, expressly recognised the importance of basing the peace settlement on the principles of self-determination and the consent of the governed.

The secret treaty with Italy has now been published by Russia, and so far has received no official contradiction. It is signed by the Foreign Secretaries of France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia, and dated April, 1915. (For full text see the *Manchester Guardian* of January 18.) From it we learn that the four Powers have promised the Adriatic coast as far as the River Drin to Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro, thus cutting off Albania's large capital, Scutari (population 35,000), from the sea. Further, that "Italy shall not resist the possible desire of France, Great Britain, and Russia, to distribute the Northern and Southern districts of Albania among Montenegro, Serbia, and Greece." These districts are inhabited by solid Albanian populations, both Christian and Moslem. They are to be handed over, it would appear, like cattle, in spite of all our promises about self-determination. They have, moreover, more than once been assured by our Foreign Office that they, too, are included among the small nations whose rights are to be recognised. Yet our Foreign Office, it would appear, has already been party to signing away both them and their lands.—I am, etc.,

M. EDITH DURHAM.

THE FUTURE OF MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—As a Montenegrin I regret very much that the Notes of the Week in your issue of January 18 contain a very unfavourable comment upon the *Montenegrin Bulletin*. It seems to me that the very serious and just cause advocated in the *Montenegrin Bulletin* is being judged very harshly and without the necessary preliminary knowledge.

It is not correct to describe the Montenegrin Committee for National Union merely as a party of six refugees who "style themselves" as they please. The committee consists of Montenegrin ex-Ministers, deputies, judges and publicists; its president is Mr. A. Radovic, ex-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, late member of the Montenegrin Council of State. The committee acts in the name of almost all Montenegrins abroad as well as of those who remained in Montenegro under the enemy, and therefore it does represent the rights and aspirations of all Montenegrins in Montenegro, Europe and America.

It is not correct to say that the *Montenegrin Bulletin* is inspired by a personal feud. The *Bulletin* is inspired by a national programme, the same which is embodied in the Declaration of Corfu. We Montenegrins who are abroad consider it our most sacred duty to make it known to the British public that thousands of Montenegro's best sons have sacrificed their lives in the struggle for National Union; that the sole aspiration of all our brothers under the heel of the enemy is to realise the lofty ideal of the Union of all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes; that the realisation of this ideal is not only our right, but is demanded by our political and economic welfare.

It is not correct to represent the Montenegrins as a distinct nation, which is the impression given in your columns. The Montenegrins are not a separate nation. They are simply Serbs. You may ask any Montenegrin you like what nation he belongs to, and he will tell you that he is a Serb.

Nor is it correct to say that, according to the *Montenegrin Bulletin*, "the future of Montenegro is to be decided by anybody and everybody rather than by the unfortunate people of Montenegro now suffering under Austrian tyranny." On the contrary, it is precisely in the name of that people that the *Montenegrin Bulletin* is speaking, and there is no other political factor abroad which is better entitled to speak in their name than the Montenegrin Committee for National Union.—I am, etc.,

London. V. BURIC.

[The remarks to which our correspondent takes exception were prompted by a sincere friendship for the Montenegrin people. If the committee has been elected by or appointed at the expressed wish of that people, there is no need to doubt that its aspirations will be realized in due course, and still less need for propaganda in England, which has no desire to intervene in a purely Montenegrin concern.—ED.]

"THE ENTENTE AND THE ALLIES OF GERMANY."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I shall be greatly obliged if you can spare space for the following:—

In the *Contemporary Review* for January, Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., in a rather contradictory article, urges the Allies to use their diplomatic weapons to detach Austria-Hungary from Germany, and he anticipates that "the result of a successful solution would be that Austria would bring pressure to bear on Germany in the direction of moderate war aims." (Mr. Buxton does not state what compensation he is willing to grant to Germany.)

He also says that Austria desires peace, and that "it is obvious that she recognises that, unless she gets peace quickly, she is doomed."

Will Mr. Buxton be pleased to explain why, if the doom of Austria is approaching, the Allies should save her from it, and save her at the expense of our Allies the heroic Serbians, the oppressed Jugoslavs, and the Roumanians?

If Austria were separated she could rejoin, but if she is doomed, Germany is doomed also. The motto of the Central Powers is "Mit gefangen, mit gehangen" (Caught together, hanged together), and if the Allies have not adopted all the cruel and barbarous methods of warfare from the Central Powers, they ought at least to adopt their motto, which is fair and just. Austria-Hungary—or, as Mr. Lloyd George has in some of his famous speeches called it, "the ramshackle Empire"—is as much the enemy of the Allies as her partners are. She is not the tool of Germany, nor is Bulgaria. They are three in body, but one in soul, and their principal aim is "Conquest."

Can Mr. Buxton imagine with what feelings the homeless, suffering Serbians will read his plea for their deadly enemies, who by wholesale murder are trying to exterminate their race? Can he imagine the feelings of the Serbian Army, that fought so heroically to defend the cause of the Allies? Can he imagine the feelings of hundreds of thousands of Jugoslavs who sacrificed their all by refusing to fight against the Allies and deserted from the Austrian Army to join the Allies and fight for the just cause?

Burning sympathy for Bulgaria must be deeply rooted in the heart of Mr. Buxton, in spite of her treachery toward the Allies by entering the war against them, thereby prolonging the war for a considerable period, during which Great Britain must pay with tens of thousands of the lives of her noblest sons and with milliards of pounds.

Serbia and the Jugoslavs are as much inclined to bargain with Austria and Bulgaria for their rights as England would be to bargain with Germany about Kent. The ardent wish of Serbians and their brother Jugoslavs is to be united and free from all oppression, and for this they are determined to fight with the last drop of their blood. Their motto is "Unity, and Liberty for All," and if they are enslaved, there will be at least one and a-half million more excellent soldiers on the side of Austria and Germany in the next war and an open gate to the East; but if they are united, they will form a blockading gate, a gate of hardest steel, a gate which will be able to resist any force and for ever blockade the Austro-German *Drang nach Osten*, and protect British interests in the East. Do not place a cat to protect a mouse. Still less must you entrust your interest to be guarded by your enemies and traitors. Do not seek friends amongst your enemies, but be sincere to those who *are* your friends.—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

"Polperro," Lyncroft Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.

January 23, 1918.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

*COMRADES TO THE DEATH.

Dedicated by permission to his Majesty the King-Emperor, and published under the authority of his Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, this monumental record of Anglo-Indian blood-fraternity at the gates of Calais amid the sickled lilies of unoffending France and Flanders resounds like some high organ roll of victory, death and glory. No mean intellects, literary or political, have produced this labour of love and State, as every reader will admit, and the statesmanlike clear-thinking which has hastened its publication, at a time when ever-increasing drafts are required from the vast millions of our loyal Indian fellow-subjects, renders its wonderful story very opportune. An idle or unseeing Government would have told Col. Merewether and Sir Frederick Smith to "take their time."

Now, whole passages of European adventure and battle, dangers by sea and land, translated into the languages of Hind, may be recited to students in their colleges, to wondering audiences in the bazaars, while Pathan and Sikh, Jat and Gurkha, Hindoo and Mohammedan, confirm here and there the heroic deeds and sufferings of which the volume tells, and of which they were sharers and eye-witnesses.

The authors have been frank; they put down failure as well as triumph. Throughout the story the reader is not allowed to lose sight of the bold, prompt and wise decision to call a first Indian division to the aid of hard-pressed France and England, nor the high state of efficiency which allowed the British-Indian Government to land the first expeditionary corps at Marseilles on September 26, 1914, in the very nick of time, to be thrown into one of Lord French's many hideous "gaps" around Ypres on October 21. A long year's tale of heroism is the body of the book, during which the first gallant 24,000 were replaced or reinforced by a further 30,000; and when it was finally decided in November, 1915, that India and the Empire had battlefields more urgent and climatically more congenial for Indian troops, the following roll of casualties had to be called:—Killed, British 1,930, Indian 2,602;; wounded, British 8,751, Indian 14,885; missing, British 2,126 Indian 3,247, which, with other deaths, gives a total of 34,252. British officers killed, wounded, and missing numbered 524, and Indian 493. Such was British-India's contribution to the saving of Western Europe, and the British officer's part therein is nobly emphasized, culminating in the subaltern poet's apostrophe to the fathers of his fallen men, "You were only their fathers; I was their officer." Mr. Murray must also be congratulated on this fine volume.

FIGHTING AND FICTION IN THE EAST

Soldier Men. By Yeo. (London: John Lane. 3s. 6d. net.)

These sketches of Oriental campaigning (Egypt is indicated throughout) are distinctly amusing and show an adequate perception of psychology, though there is a certain sameness in the description of the various and recurring sensations. "Second Lieutenant Vereker" is the most interesting and is more developed than the others, which bear the evident mark of the higher journalism, notably "Grumbles" and "The Way of Thomas," which two bear a fraternal resemblance to one another. "Corporal Hardman"—a second cousin, almost, to Thackeray's "Archer"—and "Defaulters" are the most original of these lesser sketches, but we should have preferred more of the Lieutenant Vereker type, where the author does fuller justice to himself.

The Man from Egypt. By Headon Hill. (London: Ward, Lock and Co. 5s. net.)

Mr. Headon Hill's "keen-eyed detective" does not suggest the Egyptian Police Chief either in temperament and methods (that individual merits a better chronicler) or in speech; his Arabic phraseology (and, for that matter, that of his native servant) is of the stage rather than the Nile Valley. The plot, however, is fair of its kind, bristling with the usual complexities and reasonably tardy in suggested solution; and if the hero had been more true to actualities, or, preferably, of the Dr. Nikola type (dabbling in Sphinx mysteries, transmogrifications, Oriental jewels, animals, etc., etc.), Mr. Hill might have made a more convincing, or at least a more impressive, story. As it is, he achieves little more than mediocre sensationalism.

Hawk of the Desert. By G. E. Mitton. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

Miss Mitton is known for a conscientious author who studies her ground and her plan carefully; and her present book is quite worthy of its publisher's imprint. Her story of an English expedition, captured by a German intrigue-emissary, and a long-lost sister, half-English, half-Arab (the latter half is rather of the Hesiod order—greater than the whole!), is rather far-fetched; but the general atmosphere is good, the incidents are stirring and well put together, and the scenic descriptions are excellent and show more than a cursory knowledge of the Nubian desert. After all, she has set herself a difficult task, as Egypt is a most unsatisfactory country for the novelist. Indeed, no one has yet succeeded in writing a really good Egyptian novel. Egypt is at best fitted for short stories (unless a writer chooses to follow Rider Haggard into the Pharaonic mists, which certainly provide ample copy) or else for description pure and simple; and that has been very nearly done to death. Miss Mitton has made the best—and a very good best—of a difficult task.

*A TYRANT IN LOVE.

In refurbishing the historical and traditional records of the love of Nur-ed-Din Jahângir, Emperor of All the Indies, for Nurjahân the Beautiful, Mrs. Steel gives us with skilful pen an historical romance of the Indian Court of the xvi.-xvii. century—that is, a period embracing half the reign of Elizabeth and the reigns of James I. and Charles I. To let the Western reader know that he is not in an unreal world smothered in priceless gems and cashmere shawls, the English Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe, in 1617, with all its conquistadorial shabbiness, is introduced, Portuguese Jesuits looking on and informing the wine-opiated, imperial lover that England is a little principality of no importance in Europe—which is hard but true of James I. But the tale is first and last that of the passionless pearl of beauty, Meru, Mihr-un-nissa, Nurmâhal, Nurjahân, whom the besotted tyrant loved as a boy, who refused him as a prince, and accepted him as her second husband after the first had been murdered at his drunken whim. There is a portly volume in which the Pope, Alexander VI., and his relatives of the House of Borgia are industriously whitewashed by a good English Catholic, and not nearly so convincingly as Mrs. Steel whitewashes The Shadow of God and The Light of the World. Given the proper frame of mind, it should be possible, two hundred and fifty years from now, for a good German to sit down and whitewash the present German Emperor. How hard that would be is a fitting testimony to the skill and charm of this romance.

Sympathy and a wide tolerance give us some sharply drawn characterisations: Dilarâm, the Queen of Women's old nurse, Phusla the Strangler; Ghiyâss-ud-din, father and Grand Vizier; Ali Kul, first husband; and, overshadowing all, Jahânjir and Mihr-un-nissa. Unfortunately, as the most liberal-minded Westerns must admit, there are very few Western Mihr-un-nissas, supremely beautiful, the intellectual equals of all the men of their day. But we are making progress; and Mistress of Men is an eloquent sermon to those fools of parents who think their daughters are fit only to knit and sew, read the *Daily Mirror*, and look around for a husband.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

For the Better Hour. By Princess Alexis Kara-Georgevitch. (London: Constable and Co., Limited.)

My Round of the War: A Personal Narrative of War, Travel, and Adventure. By Basil Clarke. (London: William Heinemann. 6s. net.)

Sheikh Haroun Abdullah: A Turkish Poet and His Poetry. By Henri M. Léon, M.A. (London: Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts. 2s. 6d.)

The Guardians of the Gate: Historical Lectures on the Serbs. By R. G. D. Laffan, C.F. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 5s. net.)

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A little less than a year ago a meeting held at Khartoum, with General Stack in the chair, passed a resolution in favour of the publication of a scientific journal "dealing with Sudan anthropology, antiquities, languages, geography, natural history, and other sciences." The scheme has materialized, and the first number of "Sudan Notes and Records" may be expected shortly. It will be issued quarterly.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes an attractive and valuable map of the Races of Eastern Europe, by Alexander Gross, F.R.G.S. It is well coloured, and conveys a very clear and accurate idea of the problem involved by the multiplicity of nationalities in this part of Europe. The map, which is some 5 ft. by 3 ft., is sold at 4s. 6d. net (on cloth, 8s. 6d. net).

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* "The Indian Corps in France." By Lt.-Col. J. W. B. Merewether, C.I.E. and the Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Smith. (Murray. 10s. 6d.).

* "Mistress of Men." By Flora Annie Steel. (Heinemann. 6s.).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. February.	1918. January.		1336. Rabia II.	5678. Shebat.
1	19	Friday	19	19
2	20	Saturday........	20	20
3	21	**Sunday**	21	21
4	22	Monday	22	22
5	23	Tuesday	23	23
6	24	Wednesday	24	24
7	25	Thursday	25	25

Abdul-Aziz, the ex-Sultan of Morocco, is now at Nice.

The Serbian Minister arrived in London on January 30 from Manchester.

Mr. Garry, the new American Diplomatic Agent for Egypt, has arrived in Cairo.

Greek notables in Bulgaria are being compelled to work as labourers at road-making.

M. Joan Caradja has been appointed First Secretary to the Greek Legation in London.

A telegram from Corfu dated January 25 states that the Serbian Skupshtina has been summoned to meet.

M. Pavlovitch and M. Atanackovitch, members of the Serbian Parliament, left London on January 30 for Paris.

A Greek naval airman named Hambas has been killed while engaged with the British in bombing the Goeben.

The Rev. Dr. Giffin arrived in Khartoum at the beginning of last month, returning from a visit to Atbara and Halfa.

The Greek Minister, who has recovered from his recent illness, was among the diplomatic visitors to the Foreign Office on January 30.

Field-Marshal the Duke of Connaught, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray and Captain P. H. Ashworth, has arrived in Egypt.

The King has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Francesco Azzopardi as an unofficial member of the Executive Council of the Island of Malta.

M. Haidoukovitch, the Montenegrin Minister for War and the Interior, who has been in London during the past week, will be returning shortly to Paris.

Mr. Alfred Oetzmann's gift to the book section of Messrs. Christie's Red Cross sale is a portion of King Theebaw's Buddhist Bible, from the royal palace, Mandalay.

The Times states that Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. D. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, attached Egyptian Army, has been appointed Military Governor of Gaza.

Lieutenant-General H.H. Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh and Colonel H.H. the Raja of Rutlam were received by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House on January 25.

Under the recent arrangement made with Turkey at Berne, two Dutch delegates, MM. E. C. Menten and Groeninx van Zoelen, are going to Turkey to inspect the prisoners' camps.

The christening of the infant son of the Hon. Kenneth Mackay, only son of Lord Inchcape, took place at the Brompton Oratory on January 23. Only a few friends and near relatives were present.

General Corsi, the military critic of the *Tribuna*, believes that there are indications that the Austro-Germans will profit by their security on the Russian front by attempting a big push against Salonika.

Major-General Charles E. Cumberland, C.B., of Manor House, Maidstone, who served with the Royal Engineers in the Crimean and Mutiny campaigns, celebrated his 88th birthday on January 30.

It is estimated by the representative of the Palestine Relief Fund that there are in Jerusalem 20,000 destitute people, for whom there is no work and who have no money. The military authorities have taken over the rationing, but these rations, says the Fund's representative, must be supplemented if many of the aged and children are to survive the winter.

Miss Estelle Blyth will read a paper on "Palestine: Its Past, Present, and Future," at a meeting of the Central Asian Society on February 13.

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the birthday of Prince Andrew of Greece, brother of ex-King Constantine. He was born at Athens in 1882.

Recent wills include that of Sir Thomas Gordon Walker, of Worthing, at one time Commissioner of Delhi, Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, and afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, who left £6,506.

In commemoration of the death of General Gordon at Khartoum in 1885, the council of the Shaftesbury Society, on January 26, placed a wreath of laurel leaves, arum lilies, and cycas leaves on the statue in Trafalgar Square.

M. Venizelos, on his return from Salonika, said : "The Hellenic Army has been rebaptised, and I am more than enthusiastic about it." Greek newspapers state that M. Venizelos will probably go to the United States next April.

H.H. the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior has presented to the King and Queen a New Year's gift of £6,000 for the benefit of naval officers and men whose families require help, and he has also given £1,200 to the Queen of the Belgians in aid of Belgian charities.

At a meeting of the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts to be held on February 14 a paper will be read by Sir Henry Ledgard on the Indian Hide and Leather Trade. The chair will be taken by Lord Islington.

The Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal has been awarded by the Council to Mr. John Evershed, Director of the Solar Physics Observatory at Kodaikanal, India, for his investigations of radial motion in sun-spots and other contributions to astrophysics.

According to a telegram from Sofia, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, Dr. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier, addressing a deputation from the Serbian town and Department of Pirot on January 24, declared that the Morava land in its entirety would remain united to Bulgaria.

In expressing to the Académie des Beaux-Arts her pleasure at her election as corresponding member of the Institut, the Queen of Roumania adds that she likes to see in this act of courtesy the homage which the representatives of art have desired to pay to Roumania and to sufferings so valiantly borne.

The King has granted to Hon. Sec. Lieut. T. H. Balding, Instructor to the Cavalry Squadron of the Shereefian Guard at Rabat, Morocco, licence to wear the Cross of Officer of the Shereefian Order of the Ouissam Alaouite, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Morocco in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The Government of India have decided that Indian income-tax shall not be chargeable on (a) gratuities granted to officers and others in respect of wounds or injuries received in the performance of military duty; (b) gratuities granted to the widows and children of officers and others who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. Any sums deducted by way of income-tax from such gratuities since August 4, 1914, will be refunded.

Writing early in December in a letter which was much delayed in the post, our Cairo correspondent stated that the general committee of the Anglo-American Hospital had recently held a meeting at the Residency, when the report for the past financial year was read, and members to replace those retiring from the Executive Committee were elected. The High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, was in the chair. At the close of the meeting His Excellency made a speech, in the course of which he paid a warm tribute to the assistance rendered by the Ladies' Committee in collecting subscriptions, and in generally bringing the work done by the hospital and its situation before the public. The Anglo-American Hospital, our correspondent adds, is the only institution of its kind in Cairo where the community can go in case of illness. There is, of course, the Deaconesses Hospital; but that is an entirely different kind of hospital, and is certainly not a nursing home such as the "Anglo" is intended to be. It is for this reason that every support should be accorded to it by resident Britons and Americans, and now that it has been placed on a fresh basis, it is to be hoped that its financial position will gradually improve, so that it will be enabled to keep pace with the growing requirements of the local community.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.
PALESTINE.

E. W. G. MASTERMAN, M.D., will deliver a COURSE of SIX LECTURES on Palestine at the University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7, on Tuesdays, at 3 p.m. Opening Lecture, Tuesday, February 5. Admission 2s. 6d.; course ticket, 10s. Tickets and full Syllabus to be obtained from Hon. Sec., U.E.C., care of the Registrar, Extension Board, University of London, S.W.7. Cheques payable to Alfred P. Griffiths.

Speaking at the Royal Institution on January 29, Professor Flinders Petrie urged the necessity for rebuilding Jerusalem on lines entirely different from those that were followed at Athens and Rome. There must, he said, be no building on top of the ancient city. Suburbs should be laid out on either side about two miles from the centre of the city, with which they would be connected by electric trams. People should be prohibited from building in the old city, and the whole population would move to the suburbs in a generation or two.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi L. A. Deane, Sudanese, has been transferred to the Sudan Government, and Bimbashi E. R. V. Panton, Sudanese, has been transferred to the Egyptian Camel Corps and replaced by Bimbashi G. E. S. Woodyatt.

Captain Frederick A. L. Lawrence, the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudanese.

El Kaimakam C. H. Stigand Bey, Governor Upper Nile province, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

OBITUARY.

Major Robert George Anthony Trail, Indian Cavalry, who died at a casualty clearing station on December 1 of wounds received the same day, joined the Indian Cavalry in 1901, the year after he received his commission, and served in the operations in the Mohmand Country in 1908, and subsequently, from 1909 to the beginning of 1914, he was attached to the Khyber Rifles, frequently acting as commandant.

Major Robert Poore, late 8th Hussars, whose death has taken place at Bournemouth in his eighty-fourth year, served in the Mutiny campaign, and was wounded in the charge of the 8th Hussars at Gwalior. He married, in 1863, Julia Benita, daughter of Admiral A. L. Corry. One of his daughters is the Duchess of Hamilton. His eldest son is Brigadier-General Robert Montagu Poore, D.S.O., while his third son, Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Alvin Poore, D.S.O., Yeomanry, was killed in action last September.

General Sir Stanley De Burgh Edwardes, K.C.B., who died on January 24 at Spunden, Sandhurst, Kent, was the son of Captain George Edwardes, of the Bengal Army, and was born in 1840, and entered the Bombay Army in 1857. He served in the Mutiny, the Abyssinian campaign, the Afghan campaign, 1879-80, and commanded the Northern Division of the Bombay Army in 1887-89. He married Adelaide Jane, daughter of General George Alexander Leckie, and had three sons and three daughters.

The burial of Sir Beauchamp Duff took place at Kensal Green Cemetery on January 24 with full military honours. The King was represented by General Sir Ian Hamilton, the Army Council by General Birch, Sir William Robertson by Sir George Arthur, General Sir Edmund Barrow by Lord Islington, and the India Office by Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Cox. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was borne on a gun-carriage drawn by six horses furnished by the R.H.A. An escort and guard of honour at the cemetery was provided by a detachment of the Scots Guards, with the bands and pipers of the regiment. The Rev. Garden L. Duff, Rector of Turriff, Aberdeenshire, and the Rev. B. C. H. Andrews, chaplain to the cemetery, conducted the service. The music included the "Dead March" from *Saul* and funeral marches by Chopin and Beethoven, and the Lament, played by the pipers. Following the three volleys by a firing party of the Scots Guards, the "Last Post" was sounded by buglers of the regiment.

Sir Alexander Meadows Rendel, K.C.I.E., the distinguished engineer, died on January 23 at the age of 89. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. James Meadows Rendel, civil engineer, and was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree as Wrangler. After studying as an engineer under his father, he became engineer to the London Dock Board, the Leith Harbour and Dock Commissioners, and other undertakings. In 1857-8 he began his series of visits to India. Among his principal works were the Shadwell New Basin, the Royal Albert Dock, the Albert and Edinburgh Docks at Leith, the Workington Dock and Harbour, and the Sukker Bridge over the Indus. He was a member of the Commission appointed in 1870 to determine what should be the narrow gauge for India, and four years later became consulting engineer to the India Office and the East Indian and other railways. He married in 1853 Eliza, eldest daughter of the late Captain Hobson, R.N., Governor of New Zealand. Lady Rendel died in 1916.

THE "NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index to Volume XIII. of THE NEAR EAST (*May 4—December 28, 1917*) *is now ready, and may be had by subscribers on application to the Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.*

The funeral of Sir Alexander M. Rendel, K.C.I.E., took place at the Golders Green Crematorium on January 26. The mourners included Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rendel, Major R. M. Rendel, Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Rendel, Mr. W. V. Rendel, Mr. A. W. Rendel, and Miss H. Rendel. Among others present were Sir Stephen Finney, Colonel Gardiner, Mr. F. Palmer, Mr. Seymour B. Tritton, Mr. H. Kelway-Bamber, Mr. C. Kelway-Bamber, Mr. John Mitchell, and Mr. W. A. Lelean.

BYZANTINE ARCHITECTURE IN THE WAR ZONE.

Lecturing at Carpenters' Hall, London, on Wednesday evening, Sir Thos. G. Jackson, Bart., said that nearly all the principal monuments of Byzantine architecture were now within the war zone. When the Roman style of architecture began to melt into new forms in the Eastern Empire, Constantine's buildings were at first built as those in Rome; but the basilicon type soon yielded to another in which the dome was the principal feature. This involved an entire change of construction. In St. Sophia, when rebuilt by Justinian, a problem was set and solved which had never afterwards been attempted—namely, that of erecting on a square base a dome with a diameter exceeding 100 feet. The exterior decoration was little considered in the Byzantine style of architecture, but the interiors had a loveliness all their own. In the case of St. Sophia, the enormous unbroken floor space and the vast height of the dome gave an effect unlike that of any other interior in the world. In the case of the Serbian churches, more attention had been given to exterior design. Following an example set by some churches in Salonika, the churches had been decorated outside with patterns in brickwork. This was only one sign of originality in Serbian architecture at a time when Byzantine art generally was decadent.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1918.

A NEW ORIENTATION IN THE NEAR EAST.

Not the least interesting feature of the visit of the Italian Prime Minister to England last week was the official *communiqué* that marked its termination. This document was a distant echo of the speech delivered on January 5 by Mr. Lloyd George on Great Britain's war aims; but it has also a wider significance. It is satisfactory to know that a most complete understanding prevails between Great Britain, Italy, and their Allies on all matters political, military, naval, and economic connected with the prosecution of the war. Incidentally it may be mentioned that, as the countries have been associated together for two or three years in a life-and-death struggle against a common foe, it would be monstrous if it were not so. But as the admission is made that there was room for "uncertainty" on some points, it will be well to take more careful stock of the whole position in the Near East with regard to the views and interests of the Allies. The *communiqué* is at pains to assure public opinion in Great Britain that the uncertainties which existed were not concerned with any serious question, but were only the result of the different points of view from which one and the same question may be regarded. Many people will incline to the belief that this deft phraseology might serve equally well as a definition of the war between the Central Powers and the Entente; but the official statement fortunately does not end there, for it proceeds to add that "it was at the same time recognised that the perfect solidarity and the mutual confidence which exist among the Allies extend also to the different lines of thought by which a just and durable peace may be reached." Finally, "it goes without saying that the British Government recognized to the full their conventional obligations to Italy, and made clear once again that the historic British sympathy for the idea of the complete unification of the kingdom of Italy remained unimpaired." The reference in the last sentence is to the Italian Convention of April, 1915, some of the clauses of which are in direct conflict with every statement of the Allied war aims made since the entry into the war of the United States. As it is impossible to suppose that either Italy on the one hand or Great Britain and France on the other would now wish to see that treaty carried out *au pied de la lettre* at the end of the war, we must infer that the Italian and the Allied Governments have agreed amongst themselves in regard to the clauses that have to be modified in the light of recent developments.

So far as this analysis of the very elaborate *communiqué* holds good, it is clear that only an Italian version of it was called for, and that it was almost a work of supererogation to publish it in English. The British public does not credit its Government with the intention of repudiating treaties, but it is anxious to know that certain dubious clauses in the Italian Convention, obviously based on profound ignorance of Balkan ethnography and on a false conception of Italy's own interests and those of Europe generally, have been eliminated or modified by agreement in conformity with fuller knowledge of the subject. On this point unfortunately the official statement is silent. The fact that it was issued, however, suggests that there was no lack of goodwill on either side, but that considerations of "saving face" prevented a frank acknowledgment of previous mistakes. From this line of thought we are led to wonder whether the same considerations are paralysing Allied, and particularly British, diplomacy as a whole in regard to the Near East. It is notorious that the British Government has been consistently ill-informed on Near Eastern affairs, or has failed to attach sufficient importance to those affairs or to the information it has received, to influence Allied diplomacy in the right direction. So long as the solidarity of the Grand Alliance was unimpaired it was reasonable to suppose that the Allies would win through more or less comfortably, and a military solution was to be preferred to any other in the Balkans. But the defection of Russia promises to prolong the war beyond the fourth year, and has materially altered the Allied position. Quite apart from the additional burden imposed on the Western front, it must not be overlooked that the situation of our Roumanian Ally is parlous in the extreme, and that there is no hope of her receiving military succour in the immediate future. The Allies owe it to Roumania to leave no stone unturned in order to bring her relief. Every day that passes without a definite attempt to hold out to her a helping hand is a grave reflection upon the Allied Governments. But if here, too, "face" has had to be saved, it is hardly a matter for wonder that two years should have passed with the Allied force in Macedonia inactive and without any practical steps being taken to solve a difficult situation by other means.

There would seem to be an urgent need for a new orientation for British policy in the Near East, and the question arises whether, in order that action may be taken without delay, it may not be better for those who consider themselves particularly identified with previous conventions or policies which stand discredited to-day to divest themselves of responsibility and to hand over the conduct of affairs to others who will feel at liberty to break entirely new ground. Time presses. The Allied cause cannot be subordinated to personal considerations. As far as the Near Eastern situation is concerned the outstanding facts are that a position of stalemate has been acquiesced in for two whole years, that a possible solution has presented itself and has been accorded some recognition, but without leading to action, that further inaction in the face of the dire straits to which Roumania has been brought is a crime or worse, and that the general military situation to-day justifies the Allies, while adhering to the broad principle of nationality, in making some concessions which could not have been contemplated at an earlier stage of the war. Their object should be to detach Bulgaria from the Central Alliance. For a long time we have held that the process would be materially assisted by, and might even require, a military victory; but it may be that the prolongation of the war will have proved an adequate substitute. President Wilson has not hesitated to say publicly that he believes the Bulgarians to be ripe for a break with the Central Powers. From this statement and from other indications it may be inferred that no actual treaty of alliance binds Bulgaria to Germany. Self-interest, as her rulers interpreted it, prompted her to take up arms and throw in her lot with the Central Powers and Turkey, and the same guiding principle will probably prompt her to withdraw from the war. Her first demands will undoubtedly be pitched high. Those that the Sofia Government now publishes to the world are naturally higher still, as Germany is looking on, and the Allies have not yet to be considered. But with tactful handling a point may be reached at which "business" can be done. Certainly Bulgarian psychology must receive attention, and it may be necessary to revise our opinions of the relations subsisting between the people and their ruler. One essential preliminary will be to explain the situation to the Serbian and Greek Governments. There should be no occasion for the expression of misgivings or protests such as have followed Mr. Lloyd George's statement of British war aims. Serbians and Greeks should be confronted with the realities of the situation, and their cordial approval secured for the steps contemplated. A *sine qua non* is that the Allies, one and all, should appreciate the gravity of the position and the need for action. No legitimate interests need suffer, and the advantages to be gained are incalculable. Sir Edward Carson has already severed his connection with Government as a protest against Great Britain's Balkan policy. Is it too much to hope that Irish affairs will now shortly leave him free to carry his championship of British interests in the Near East to its logical conclusion?

THE ANTIQUITY OF ALBANIA.

By MISS M. E. DURHAM.

Nations come and nations go. Race after race has swept Europe. Some that were mighty have disappeared completely. Others, pouring in from unknown and uncharted regions, have supplanted them. And among all the ebb and flow few have shown themselves more tenacious of their ancestral lands than the Albanians. If ancient tenure gives right, few have better claims. Strabo gives us a curiously detailed account of Albania, made the more interesting by the fact that he himself was of mixed Greek and Asiatic blood, and wrote in Greek. For he states emphatically that the early inhabitants of the land were non-Greek. Writing at the very beginning of the Christian era, he tells us that the Adriatic coast was inhabited by the Illyrians in the north and the Epirotes in the south. Illyria begins, he says, in the recesses of the Adriatic. It approaches the Alps which lie between Italy and Germany. Tergestum, now Trieste, was a city of the Illyrians. Its name may tell of them, for the modern Albanian word for commerce is "*tregtim*"; "*tregtue*" is to trade. The Illyrians then, as their descendants now, were divided into tribes, some of whom have given their names to the lands of to-day—the Carni and the Istri. "The present Government," says Strabo, "has advanced the limits of Italy to Pola, a city of Istria." The Iapodes, who dwelt on a termination of the Alps, were a warlike people, poor—for the land was barren—and living largely on millet. Maize, now one of the staple foods of the Balkans, was then still undiscovered on the plains of America, along with potatoes and tobacco, now considered necessaries of existence. Nevertheless, though tobacco-less, the Iapodes were a warlike people "wearing armour after the Keltic fashion and puncturing their bodies after the fashion of the other Illyrian and Thracian peoples." A passage, this, of the highest interest. For the tattooed people of Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Albania are, doubtless, direct descendants of these tribes. No Slav people are recorded as tattooing; but here we find whole districts of Roman Catholic peasants marked with the sun and the crescent moon, signs, it may be, of some early form of nature-worship. Catholic too they are, and not Orthodox. The Illyrians received Christianity from the Romans, and the coincidence is of interest.

From Istria all down the coast Strabo enumerates the various tribes, and their lands, he states, extend inland to Pannonia. Then, as now among the Albanians, the land was common to the tribe. "The Dalmatae," says our historian, "redivided their land every eighth year." Those who have witnessed such a scene will call to mind the tribal meetings of the headmen in the Albanian mountains, and the heated debates over the periodical redistribution of grazing and wood-cutting rights. Seafaring folk, too, were the Illyrians, and famed for piracy. The many islands and harbours were, in fact, greatly apt for the purpose, and the rich vessels of Roman merchandise were robbed and harassed especially by the Ardaei, who dwelt in and around the Bocche di Cattaro. This brought down upon them Roman vengeance, and, says Strabo, they were driven inland "and compelled to cultivate the land. But so rugged and barren was it that the nation was completely ruined and nearly extinguished. Other once powerful tribes were similarly reduced, and are now in the lowest condition." What remains of the pirate tribes now? Probably the Morlachs, or Sea Vlachs, are their direct descendants, Slav-speaking now, it is true. But it is only of recent years that an old Roman dialect died out on the coast. The Morlachs have throughout their history been Roman Catholic, faithful to the Church which first converted their Illyrian ancestors. And it is possibly to the fact that these were pirates that the Austrian navy owes its best seamen.

From the Rhizonic Gulf (Bocche di Cattaro) Strabo takes us on to the mouth of the Drin, near which is Lissus (Alessio). The river is navigable inland as far as the district of the Dardanii, he tells us, "which country is close to the Macedonia and the land of the Pœonians." The name may mean the land of pear-trees; "*Dardhe*" is Albanian for a pear, and in this region we find Slav names denoting pear-tree land—Krushevo and Krushevatz.

Off the coast he tells of the many islands, especially Black Corcyra (now Curzola), "on which is a town founded by the Cnidians." Further south he comes to Dyrrachium (Durazzo), and describes minutely the Egnatian Way passing by Scampis (? Elbassan) to the lake of Lychnidus (Ochrida). "*Licheni*" is modern Albanian for "a lake," be it noted. Of Macedonia Strabo tells us that "it was formerly called Emathia," another interesting name, for "*e madhe*" is Albania for "the great."

But we must pass on to South Albania, the land of the Epirotae. These also, he tells us, are divided into numerous tribes which extend as far south as the Gulf of Arta (Ambracia). "On sailing in on the right hand are the Acarnanians, who are Greeks . . . on the left are the Cassiopoei, a tribe of Epirotae extending as far as the recesses of the gulf." "The greatest part of Greece is, however, at present uninhabited, and the cities especially have been destroyed. Thracians, Illyrians, and Epirotae are settled even at present on the sides of Greece." . . . "The country above Aetolia and Acarnania is occupied by Thesproti, Molotti, etc., Epirote tribes. . . . Theopompus says that there are fourteen Epirotic nations, the most celebrated of which are the Chaones and the Molotti (or Molossi), because the whole of Epirus was once subject to them." "Mol" may indeed be the same word as "*mal*," a mountain, and Molossi a form of the modern "Maltsori," meaning mountain men. Of Epirote coast towns he mentions Onchesmus—on the site of the modern Santa Quaranta—Posidium, Buthrotum, and Panormus. In the Gulf of Valone is the port of Oricum; and inland in the territory of Apollonia he describes "what is called a nymphaeum, a rock which emits fire; below it are springs flowing with hot water and asphalte. Asphaltum is dug out of the neighbouring hill." This is evidently the Selenitza mine, worked until the war broke out by a French company. The long strings of donkeys, each with a couple of cakes of asphalte slung on its packsaddle, were a familiar sight to all visitors to Valona.

Finally, Strabo tells us of the famous oracle of Dodona, founded, he says, by the Pelasgi. "Homer clearly intimates that the people who lived about the mountain were barbarians . . . persons who do not wash their feet and who sleep on the ground. . . . Dodona was formerly subject to the Thesproti and in later times, it is said, to the Molossi. The first prophets were men. Afterwards three old women were appointed. . . . The oracular answers were conveyed not by words, but by certain signs. Probably the doves made a peculiar flight which suggested the answer to the priestesses. *Some say that in the language of the Molotti and Thesproti old women are called 'pellaei' and old men 'pelii,' so that the celebrated doves were not birds, but old women who passed an idle time in the temple.*" He adds, "Persons who hold office are called *peligones* as among the Macedonians." Albanian for

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

"old" is "*pelak*" or "*plak*," and the members of the council of headmen are the "*peleknit*" or "*pleknit*." To the aged wisdom is attributed, and many an old man to this day is a famed reader of the future in the breastbones of birds. Grimly truthful, too, are some of these prophecies. The writer vividly remembers a hot day on the quay at Durazzo in the early summer of 1914, when a ragged Maltsor held a fowl's breastbone against the sun's glare and said gravely that he saw nothing but blood. His comrade jeered at him, and said he did not understand the bones; but the seer stared hard again, and said, sadly and earnestly, "It is true, I tell you; blood, blood, and blood everywhere, and nothing but blood." Did the oracle of Dodona ever foresee so truly?

Thus we see in Strabo's day the Albanians' ancestors occupying the whole of the western side of the Balkan peninsula. For these tribes of Illyrians and Epirotae in "the mode of cutting the hair, their language, and their use of the chlamys resembled also the Macedonians." The mountain men of to-day—and women, too—all shave their heads in patches, each locality having its own head-shave. And the big sheeps' wool cloak, or *talagan*, is a characteristic dress of the land. The Slavs had not in Strabo's time been even heard of. The Greeks, though they had made trading colonies along the coast in earlier days, had long ago retired. Nor did they ever again firmly establish themselves, though they have tried peaceful, and other, penetration since. In the heyday of Byzantium Greek influence probably spread northwards, but only to ebb again. Brerewood in 1625 tells us that "at this day the Greeke language is very much decayed, not only as touching the largnesse and vulgarity of it, but also in purenesses and elegance. *For the naturall languages of the Countries* have usurped upon it so that the parts in which the Greeke language is spoken at this daye are but these. . . . Greece itself, *excepting Epirus and West Macedon*." Turk, Greek, and Slav alike have striven to kill that language spoken of the Macedonians, Illyrians, and Epirotes, but so far striven in vain. In recent years it in fact extended and re-took a large part of Macedonia. And its speakers to day are printing newspapers in it in far away America—a land unknown in Strabo's time. And as in Strabo's time, they still regard, and with considerable justice, the Gulf of Arta as their southern frontier. Northwards, where recently much of their land has fallen into the hands of the Slavs, their true frontier needs redrawing. But not all the efforts of King Nikola, who forbade the teaching, printing, and selling of Albanian in Montenegro, could prevent a large number of his land's inhabitants speaking it.

One thing seems certain, and that is that a people that has shown in the past such endurance and such a capacity for surviving all foreign influence must have a future, although Mr. Lloyd George has omitted them from his last war-aim speech. Somewhat unkindly, too, for he is a man of a little mountain land himself. And it is even yet possible that in the future an Albanian Lloyd George may sway the Balkans.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

In a letter recently received in England, a surgeon serving with our forces at Salonika refers to an entertainment given in the camp, apparently by a "travelling company" recruited from our fighting men. As soon as the first visit was announced, there was a rush for seats; and the younger officers made a point of inviting the nurses. But, alas! the "jokes" proved to be so strong-flavoured and the fun in general was so *very* fast and furious that the luckless hosts were horribly embarrassed. According to the letter, they sat in solemn silence, with set faces, not daring to smile; and they were, presumably, very thankful when the ordeal came to an end. But, says the writer, the next entertainment given by the same party was a great success. The officers attended, but they took care not to invite the ladies.

⁂

This reminds me somehow of the experience of two travellers who found themselves stranded in Alexandretta several years ago, waiting for a boat that came not. Two residents invited them to a cinematograph exhibition, to be given in a café, and they accepted. The show was a travelling one, of course, and was, I think, the first to find its way to Alexandretta. It was owned by an Italian, and, all things considered, was quite as good as could be expected. During the entertainment the two hosts informed their guests that on the previous evening (the first night of the show) certain films that were decidedly "risky" had been shown; that they had protested, as they had ladies with them; and that the showman had been very surprised. He was, however, to be still more surprised that evening, for at the end of the programme one of the two residents calmly asked him to show the films to which objection had been raised overnight. He was perplexed, and showed it; and when he was told that it would be all right to show them then, as the ladies were not present, his perplexity only increased. But he scored off his puzzling patrons—he declined resolutely to show the "objectionable" films at all.

⁂

A few days ago I was reading some Serbian proverbs —copied, I think, from M. Miyatovitch's "Serbia and the Serbians"—when I came across some which seemed extraordinarily adapted to the present state of affairs. The Germans, for instance, with their admiration of "shining armour" and "bright swords," should be interested in the proverb, "The victory is won not by the shining arms, but by the brave hearts"; and their victims in Belgium and elsewhere may find some explanation of their sufferings in the saying, "Where there is no fear of God there is no shame of men." I suspect that Belgians, Serbians, and Roumanians alike would find it hard to agree with another of the proverbs, which says: "It is better to suffer injustice than to commit it"; but they and their Allies alike are none the less determined to act up to the proverb: "It is better not to commence than not to finish." The Bolshevists might do worse than remember that "Who does not take care of the goods of other people will never have his own." Austrians as well as Germans should bear in mind that "What is taken by force is cursed." And finally, to come nearer home, ardent supporters of a certain measure recently before Parliament may find food for reflection in: "When the devil cannot cause a mischief, there he sends an old woman, and she does it." But this cavalier saying belongs, I suspect, to the days when Turkish influence was strongest in Serbia!

⁂

It is not often that I am tempted to break into verse, but the heroic (?) wish expressed by the new Maid of Athen's that M. Venizelos's head may be cut off and that she and her friends may dance round it, has stirred me so deeply that mere prose will not express my feelings. So, let me place the epoch-making event on record thus:

A young party in Athens said: "Oh my,
'Twould make things so comfy and homey,
If the Cretan were dead,
And I danced round his head
In the style of a modern Salomé."

The moral grandeur of the poem seems to me to place it on a level with the beauty of the thought expressed by 'Tino's enthusiastic admirer.

⁂

Perhaps, as a result of their alliance with the Turks, the Germans appear to be developing an unconscious humour which may yet render their official utterances and diplomatic despatches quite amusing. The idea of our old friend Count Bernstorff recommending that M. Caillaux should (in the event of his capture) "be treated with courtesy and consideration," was truly German; but the advice that this should be done in "an unobtrusive way" was surely worthy of an Old Turk at his best! "Courtesy" and "consideration" of the German brand have thus far been so utterly unobtrusive that the world has never suspected their existence.

⁂

According to an Amsterdam message, Dr. Solf, the German Colonial Minister, has been telling his countrymen that "whoever supports missions in the German Protectorates confers a double blessing, for he not only serves his faith but also advances Germany's overseas position." I should imagine that the outlook both for the German Protectorates and for Germany's overseas position is far from bright at the present moment, thanks to the unsympathetic attitude of the British Navy. But that is by the way. My sole object in referring to Dr. Solf's statement is to point out how entirely it bears out what THE NEAR EAST has declared time after time regarding Germans abroad. In this connection this paper has been concerned chiefly with the political activities of German archæologists; but German missionaries are usually just as keen "carpet-baggers" as the antiquarian enthusiasts. Dr. Solf certainly has not overstated the case!

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Leave for the Indian Army. January 23.

Colonel **YATE** asked the Secretary of State for India whether it would now be possible to give Indian soldiers who had served for three years in East Africa leave to return to their homes in India.

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. **HERBERT FISHER**): It is hoped that under present military arrangements effect will be given to the suggestion made by the hon. and gallant member.

Colonel **YATE** asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether, considering that many officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps had been detained on garrison duty in India beyond the regulation term of five years, he could now state by what date arrangements will be made to relieve those officers and give them a chance of service in France or elsewhere.

Mr. **MACPHERSON**: I would refer my hon. and gallant friend to the answer given on December 3 last to my hon. and learned friend the member for York. Steps are being taken to relieve as many as possible of the medical officers who have been a long time in India, but in view of the transport and other difficulties, such as the loss of time and services involved in carrying out reliefs, I regret it is quite impossible to give a date in connection with this or even to promise that all such officers will be relieved.

The Dardanelles Action. January 30.

Mr. **GEORGE LAMBERT** asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he would state what were the British casualties in the recent action near the Dardanelles; and why slow-moving monitors were left in positions that enabled them to be sunk by fast warships like the Goeben and Breslau?

Dr. **MACNAMARA**, in reply, said: Six officers and 127 men were killed, and twenty-seven men were wounded. The monitors were stationed in their positions as being the most suitable vessels to support patrols and to prevent enemy mine-sweeping. The probability of an attack by submarine prevented the heavy ships being kept in close proximity to the Dardanelles, as there were no suitable protective harbours. The minefields, though they did not prevent the exit of Turkish vessels, had fulfilled their functions in that one ship was sunk and the other damaged.

Invalided Indian Army Officers.

Answering Mr. **JOYNSON HICKS**, Mr. **FISHER** (on behalf of the India Office) said that it was possible there were certain cases where senior officers of the Indian Army invalided from the front or otherwise unemployed were drawing less pay than the pensions to which they were already entitled. The officers concerned had in ordinary times the option of retiring on pension due to their service or of remaining on the unemployed list and counting their service on it for increased pension. In almost every case they preferred to remain unemployed and earn the higher pension. During the war the officer was obliged by regulation to remain on the active list, but the maximum pension was issued in lieu of unemployed pay as soon as it had been earned. He did not think, therefore, the refusal to allow them to retire during the war involved any hardship.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Great Britain and Persia.

Discussing Lord Curzon's recent statement in the House of Lords on Persia, Professor Edward G. Browne, in the *Manchester Guardian*, points out that, as the Anglo-Russian Agreement, always hateful to the Persians, has now been repudiated alike by the present rulers of Russia and by their immediate predecessors, the field is clear for a new and more sympathetic British policy in Persia. The requirements of such a policy, he adds, would seem to be as follow:—

1. The complete abolition of the "zones of influence" created by the Anglo-Russian Agreement, which will always be fraught with painful memories if not with potential dangers.
2. Generous financial help on reasonable terms, unaccompanied by humiliating or alarming political or commercial conditions.
3. Abolition of the dual control of the British and Indian Governments in Persian affairs, which not only in recent years but for a century past has led to much confusion and inconsistency in our policy, which should be directed entirely from England.
4. In choosing such European advisers, financial or other, as it may require, the Persian Government should be allowed the utmost possible freedom. The one foreign financial adviser who succeeded in entirely winning their confidence was Mr. Morgan Shuster, and it would be a graceful concession to Persian sentiment, an eloquent announcement of a new and wholly friendly policy, and a compliment to our American Allies if he or one like him could be induced to take up the work of financial reform where he left it more than six years ago.
5. Last, and most important, every effort should be made to ensure that Great Britain shall be represented in Persia by diplomatic and consular officers who are known to be friendly and sympathetic to the Persian people—a people so singularly responsive to sympathy and appreciation. The names of several of these who have been moved to other countries will occur to all students of Persian affairs, and their return to Persia, where possible, would create an excellent impression, and would more than anything else convince the Persians that the new policy outlined by Lord Curzon is seriously meant and commands the warm approval of the great majority of the people of Great Britain.

The Geography of the Balkans.

The Foreign Office is taken severely to task by Professor L. W. Lyde in the *Morning Post* for having acquiesced in any pretended settlement of the Balkan question which ignored the geography of the Peninsula. It is to be feared that the trouble went deeper than a knowledge of geography. But the theme supplies the writer with an occasion for some interesting remarks on this old Roman province. He writes:—

> A glance at even a political map shows that this Dinaric area lies in three sections, the northern and southern sections running N.W.—S.E., while the central section runs N.—S., between two great rivers which work out to sea above ground—in spite of the karst limestone—thus creating the Albanian and Epirot "Gaps." The change of direction on the coast attracted the attention of the Romans, and investigation proved that it was associated with a change in the direction of the feature-lines inland, and the Romans proceeded to drive two main roads up the valleys of the Drin and the Skumbi. They also drove one up the Narenta valley, roughly along the line of the Austrian (rack and pinion!) railway, but they considered it much the least important of the three, and no great traffic ever went by it, while its neighbour to the south—in the Drin valley—was used for centuries by ox-wagons carrying hides and iron-ore. What is the class of intelligence that believes that modern engineers cannot build a railway where the Romans built a road for ox-wagons?
>
> But, of course, for Serbia to have secured economic access to the Adriatic here would not only have freed her from the

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economic tyranny of both Austria and Greece, but also have removed the great economic causes of trouble between Serbia and Bulgaria. At the same time it did not suit German plans for Bulgaria to be too strong, for the Bulgars, as well as the Serbs, once held empire over the whole area, and traditions of that empire are as strong in Bulgaria as in Serbia. Besides, Greece was ruled by a Prussian queen. Therefore, Kavalla—the Roman Philippi—was given to Greece, not to Bulgaria, though it is the natural port of the *only* direct route from the Sofia basin to the sea, *i.e.*, the Struma valley, and though the position of the article (*after* its noun) in the peasants' speech shows that the fundamental strain here and as far west as the Vardar is Bulgar.

The obvious causes of unrest in this area, therefore, could have been largely removed by a settlement based on quite a moderate knowledge of the physical and economic geography, even if for the present we ignore the more intricate historical (mediæval) and political geography. Serbia would have had direct access to the Adriatic at S. Giovanni di Medua, and Bulgaria to the Ægean at Kavalla. The trading Greek would have received the coastland as far east as the west bank of the Struma, and far enough north to control the railway route between the Lower Struma and the Lower Vardar; and the Bulgars would have had the rest of "Macedonia" east of the Vardar. The Serb and the Bulgar are contemptible as traders, but admirable as farmers, and exactly the contrary is true of the Greek. And the most stable guarantee of peace will be to give each type the geographic environment to which it is naturally suited. But this must not be interpreted as justifying the coastal type of people in blocking the continental type from free access to the outside world.

The Ordeal in Russia.

The close bearing that events in Russia have on the Near East will perhaps justify the inclusion in this column of extracts from a private letter from a Russian lady well known in the Near East, who now finds herself a virtual prisoner, with her husband, on their estate:—

The summer is over—a cold, rainy summer that ruined nearly all our crops. Few of us got back our seed potatoes. Vegetables failed, and our neighbours relieved us of the most of the little we had. Worst of all, the rye is a failure, and famine stares us in the face at very close quarters. We, personally, have not enough to carry us through, and of the little there was we were made to give up a considerable portion at far less than cost price, and 1-3rd of market value. We are being steadily squeezed in the cold, relentless coils of a well-organised agrarian campaign that in many places is ending in bloody excesses and fires, and I think the same will soon be here.

We are practically ruined now. We have only ten cows and seven horses left, and I doubt if we can keep them. Pasture land and hay land have been taken, and our poor beasts driven from pillar to post for food. Our next year's rye fields, now tender young, green, are being ploughed up by the feet of large herds of cattle, sheep, and pigs—turned in not so much to eat as to ruin—for the ground is wet. We tried to sell timber for Government use, but, though the contract was made out in June, local conditions have made work impossible, so we cannot sell anything.

All our neighbours, and our friends and relatives in Petrograd and in this part of the country, have gone south in hope of finding safety and bread.

But what we bear, and even what may be before us, is nothing to what our boys and their class are enduring! German money and fiendish cleverness have cultivated such class hatred—making the soldiers believe their officers to be their worst enemies, and that to end the war and have peace, and bread, can only be realised by wiping out the intelligent class.

There was a fine leading article in one of the papers this week paying such a tribute to our officers. It began by saying that some had compared the state of the officers to that of a man waiting his death sentence. But the writer went on to say that the lot of the latter was easier, as he knew for what, and when and how he was to be punished; whereas the officer in the front, sharing the danger, privations, fatigues, and food equally with the privates, had, in addition to the natural danger and risk of battle, the knowledge that death in the most humiliating and often most torturing form was hanging over him every moment.

Bread forms such a large part of our diet now that I have to eat a good deal of it. Our winter supply of vegetables is very small. Half a sack each of carrots and beets, a small keg of sour cabbage, and by giving out potatoes by weight, we hope to make them last until Christmas. We have no groceries—no rice, maccaroni, white flour, anything. We get on our card one pound of sugar per month each, and ¼ lb. of tea for the family. This month 5 lb of lentil flour was added, and I am making experiments as to how to cook it, for I never saw lentils in the form of flour before. Meat, also, we do not have now, but we can get fish at a very high price. But we are well off as to bread; yet we fully expect bread riots, and the peasants have told me frankly that as soon as their supply gives out they will take ours. We are making cereals of oats and buckwheat, and if we are not looted we can get on.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The accounts of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt for the year 1916-17 show that the improvement recorded in 1915-16 has not been altogether maintained. The cotton crop yield was very slightly superior to that of the earlier period, and the quantity ginned also showed an increase, but there was a marked decrease in the total of steam-pressed cantars. The profit on the factories amounted to £E37,400, against £E50,000, and the net profit to £E10,700, against £E18,600. The dividend is again 1s. per share, but there is a substantial reduction in the carry-forward at £E9,000, against £E15,900. It is stated that on account of the abnormal conditions the turnover in the various ginning mills did not attain the development which otherwise might reasonably have been expected, but that the outlook for the current season is better than that of the year just closed.

⁂

Colonel Gardener, presiding at the half-yearly general meeting of the East Indian Railway Company, was able to give a very satisfactory account of the company's progress. The gross and net earnings for the half-year, he pointed out, established another record, the gross earnings being £3,958,826, an increase of 5.68 per cent., and the net earnings £2,613,029, an increase of 7.52 per cent. This increase was mainly due to coaching earnings, which increased by 12.15 per cent., owing to the higher fares which took effect from May, 1917. On the other hand, the working expenditure showed an increase of 2.19 per cent., though there was a reduced ratio of expenses to gross earnings, this being due to the impossibility of carrying out the renewal programme.

⁂

As to the outlook in general, Colonel Gardener's remark is worth noting that one effect of the war, and one which would no doubt be lasting, was the impetus it had given to Indian industries and their development in new directions. "The great success which the Indian iron and steel industry has obtained in the Tata Iron and Steel Works," he said, "is pretty certain to have wide effects, and possibly lead our capitalists and manufacturers to direct their attention to utilising India's great reserves, to which they were slow to turn their attention in the past. There are doubtless also many other directions in which the working up of India's indigenous productions can and will be developed." Regarding the current half-year's working, Colonel Gardener indicated that the position was satisfactory. The monsoon had been good, but prolonged to a rather late date, while the coal outlook was believed to be better. He added, however, that expenses would be increased by an important war bonus that was being given to the whole of the staff in India.

⁂

The annual report of the Association to Protest against the duplication of Income-Tax Within the Empire is a most satisfactory record of progress, and one on which the Association is to be heartily congratulated. There are, as yet, no signs, it is true, that the authorities have yet been made to realise the full force of the injustice of paying income-tax twice on the same income, particularly in a time like the present, when the tax is at an unprecedented figure, but there are indications of a definite nature which suggest the growth of influences before which Whitehall may feel itself compelled, sooner or later, to adopt a new orientation of thought in dealing with the subject. In 1916, for instance, only thirty-four votes were given in support of amendments to the Finance Bill designed to remedy this grievance, but in 1917 this number had increased to eighty-eight, and on this occasion the Government majority was only fifty-five. Then, in 1917, also, Mr. Bonar Law was responsible for the insertion of a clause intended to avoid the incidence of double taxation on excess profits, thus following in the steps of his predecessor, Mr. McKenna, who in 1916 made an allowance of 1s. 6d. to payers of double income-tax. These are straws which show the trend of events.

⁂

At the annual general meeting of the London County and Westminster Bank, Mr. Walter Leaf referred to the conscription of wealth rumours, and said that fears had been expressed in some quarters that the great increase in bank resources might form a strong temptation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to help himself in some emergency by commandeering bank balances. That was not a risk which deserved any attention. The Chancellor could gain nothing by such an operation, because he had got the whole increase already by a voluntary process. Mr. Leaf also touched on the Government control of trade, and criticised the policy which aimed at the extinction of the merchant. It looked to him, he said, rather like a return to primitive conditions of trade unsuited to modern requirements, and he added the warning that to strike at the merchant was to aim a blow at the world-wide pre-eminence of London.

⁂

The death of Sir Alexander Rendel removes from the ranks of "Indiamen" one of the small band of men who had most to do with the development of the Indian railway system, and it is in that connection that his name will always be remembered. From 1857 onwards he was a constant visitor to India, and was responsible for the designs of many important works, among them sixty bridges which crossed waterways from 1,000 to 10,000 feet wide. Among these may be mentioned the Lansdowne Bridge over the Indus at Sukker, which was opened in 1889, and the Hardinge Bridge over the Ganges at Sara, which was completed in 1915. It was in his capacity as adviser to most of the Indian railways, and as adviser in this country to the India Office, that he was able to play so great a rôle in Indian railway history, and his influence made itself felt not only in his special province of engineering, but also as regards the administration of the lines.

⁂

A circular letter was recently sent by the Government of India to Chambers of Commerce there regarding the question of adulteration. It is the Government's view that, while improvement has been effected in some respects, the reverse is more often the case. Cotton and jute, it is stated, are still watered, and ground nuts, indigo, hides, and oils continue to be adulterated. This state of things is greatly to be deplored, and renders the adequate expansion of India's trade out of the question until it is remedied. India may, and no doubt will, secure wider outlets for her produce in the period of reconstruction following the war, but in present circumstances the only effect of that will be to give a wider advertisement to her shortcomings, and to make it certain that some markets will be subsequently closed to her goods. To avoid this fatal outcome, the problem of adulteration needs to be firmly handled at once, and it is to be hoped that no considerations of any kind will deter the Government from taking steps to put an end to the practice.

⁂

India is beginning to feel the effects of the war very acutely as regards the prices of commodities. This factor has become specially marked in Bombay, where foodstuffs and clothing, in particular, have greatly increased in price, and there the situation has been made worse, I believe, by rack-renting. It is satisfactory to learn that the authorities have been prompt to realise the necessity of taking measures to alleviate the position, such as the appointment of a controller, the fixing of prices, the opening of cheap grain shops, and the supervision of rents.

⁂

There must naturally be a certain amount of anxiety in view of the conditions that have obtained in Russia during the past few months as to the safety of the securities and other valuables that were removed to that country from Roumania for safe keeping when the Germans and Austrians began to invade the territory of our Ally. The announcement that certain moneys deposited in Moscow are to be "held in trust" for the Roumanian people will deceive no one. There would seem to be nothing for the Roumanians to do but to wait until they can appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober.

COMMENTATOR.

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CALCUTTA HIDES TRADE.

Elimination of Foreign Control.

Attention was called to the crucial situation with regard to the Calcutta hides trade in an article in these columns on November 30, in which it was pointed out that the hopes that the trade would never again be allowed to drift into hostile hands depended on the retention of the Buying Committee as at present constituted as an instrument for tiding over the transition period required for the proper organisation of the trade under British control. It would scarcely be possible to lay too much stress on the necessity for the adoption of this course, for the hides trade is one of the key industries of the Empire, and its control is a matter of considerable importance. In the present war the Empire has paid, and is paying, a heavy price for neglecting to safeguard its resources of raw hides, and if the same process is not to be repeated at some future date, non-British control of the trade must be rendered impossible from now onwards. It is not enough merely to assure British control during the war, for it is quite certain that the firms who were members of the old German "ring" would soon make their presence known again on the return of normal conditions, if no hindrance was placed in their way. From their reappearance to their renewed predominance in the trade would not be a long stride, thanks to the influence of the external support that would again be theirs, and once more tanners here would try in vain to obtain their supplies of raw materials from India, while in due course Germany would be in a position to place on British markets leather manufactured with British hides and priced, no doubt, so as to cripple home manufactures. That prospect ought to be sufficient to impress even the most reluctant individual with the necessity for preventive measures.. Really what is required is action of the most drastic character —legislation, perhaps, on the lines of the Non-Ferrous Metals Bill—but whatever step be taken it must be calculated to prevent German firms in any way and under any guise from obtaining any share of the trade. Action of this kind is not remotely concerned with an economic war, nor does it come under the category of penalising Germany. It entails purely and solely the application of the right of a country to dispose of its own produce in its own way.

Equipping the Enemy Armies.

Nothing has done so much to bring this question to the fore as the knowledge that the position of German firms in the trade made it an easy matter for Germany and her Ally to obtain the hides they needed to equip their armies for the coming war. Even now, outside the trade it is but faintly realised to what an extent these countries drew on India's supplies for this purpose. The individual who at election times is referred to as "the man in the street" knows how thoroughly prepared Germany's army was for the struggle, but the Empire's share in this preparedness has still to be brought home to him, and he must be impressed with it in this and similar cases, if the Government is to feel that measures like the Non-Ferrous Metals Bill are not only in accord with, but are demanded by, public opinion. As regards the share taken by the enemy Powers of India's hides in the years just preceding the struggle, the facts are singularly clear, and place the matter beyond dispute. The normal export of cow hides to Bremen and Hamburg in 1911, 1912, and 1913 was about three and a half millions annually, but in the first six months of 1914 these ports took over two and a third million hides. Besides these exports, India sent almost a million and a half annually to Trieste, and Austria received through this port in the first six months of 1914 no fewer than 1,178,466 hides. In the three and a half years the three enemy ports received 19,385,905 hides from India. Each hide, it may be mentioned, yields five pairs of army boot uppers, and if Germany and her Ally only retained half their imports during that period, it would have been sufficient to give them 48½ million pairs of army boot uppers, or well over thirteen million pairs a year. Separate statistics are not available for the exports of buffalo hides from India to these ports, but it is known that during the three and a half years almost three and a half million hides were exported to the Continent, and it is to be presumed that they went the same way as the cow hides. Each buffalo hide is good for about fifteen pairs of soles, etc., so that in the three and a half years Germany and Austria had leather at their disposal for 49½ million pairs of boot soles, or over fourteen million pairs a year.

Growth of German Influence.

That the German control of the trade was so complete before the war that it was possible for the enemy Powers to use our resources in this way makes it almost unbelievable that the trade was ever a British monopoly. Yet this was the case as late as the 'seventies. In 1872, for instance, the United Kingdom imported seven million hides from India, none going to the Continent or to America. Ten years later the effect of German competition began to be felt, and in that year, while the United Kingdom took five million hides, one million went to the Continent. From that time onwards there was an almost steady decrease in the exports of hides to the United Kingdom and a corresponding increase in the exports to the Continent. Thus in 1890, the last year in which the United Kingdom's total was larger than that of the Continent's the figures were 2.694,554 and 2.440,315 respectively. In the following year the United Kingdom's imports dropped to 2.444.148 hides, while the Continent's figures were 4,301.734. From 1896 onwards the gap between the totals became much more marked, the figures for that year being 681.164 hides for the United Kingdom and 5,315.952 for the Continent, and in 1902 the United Kingdom's imports sank to 90,070, and from that year to 1915 on only two occasions were more than 200.000 hides imported into this country from India.

We have already dealt with the strength of the German firms in Calcutta, which contributed to the result disclosed by these figures, showing how they formed a "ring," and by various means gradually drew the bulk of the export trade into their own hands. That was, however, only one factor, albeit the all-important one, in directing the trade into German channels, for these firms, without definite support in Germany, could not possibly have diverted the trade from Great Britain to the Continent to the extent they did. They were, as a matter of fact, aided in every way—by steamer facilities, by a system of Customs dues arranged so as to attract the hides to German ports, and by a variety of other means common to German penetration in other parts of the world. So it happened that British tanners had to look elsewhere for their hides, while Germany was able to place leather made with Indian hides on the British market to compete with the leather from native tanneries. It may possibly be argued that the leather industry here was wanting in initiative in not fighting Germany on her own ground, and continuing to compete at all costs for Indian hides. In actual fact it was out of the question for the industry to do so with any real chance of success. Germany has always been an adept at the art of killing competition, and her methods under our fiscal system were almost unassailable. Having obtained a market for her manufactures, it was her practice gradually to raise prices, and if, when they reached a point which suggested the possibility of competition, any steps were taken in the direction of building new factories or otherwise preparing for an increased output, she would forthwith dump large quantities of goods at prices which would put competition out of the question. Then, when the field was once more clear, Germany would raise her prices again to a level which admitted of satisfactory profits.

No measure short of an economic war can prevent Germany from acting in this way in future, but, without recourse to that measure, we can make it certain that her imports of leather to this country are not made of hides produced within the Empire; and the first step to ensure that result is, as we have shown, to place the control of the export trade at Calcutta in British hands. In this respect the war has given us a great opportunity, and it will be our fault if we fail to make proper use of it. Henceforward we must make it impossible for non-British firms to participate in the trade; and the sooner definite action is taken the better, for the war will not last for ever, and if it should, unfortunately, end before arrangements had been made for the control of the trade, there might be a reversion to the old state of things. And that in any circumstances would be unthinkable.

MARKET FOR SCALES IN GREECE.

Pointing out that a large amount of daily household marketing in Greece is done in the streets of the cities, and that donkeys laden with fruit, vegetables, and other commodities in huge baskets are driven from house to house and goods are weighed out in small quantities with antiquated steelyards, Mr. A. W. Weddell, American Consul-General at Athens, says that it is thought that there exists an excellent potential market for cheap scales, operated by a spring and showing on a graduated scale the weight suspended below. It would not be necessary, it is thought, to have a pan or other receptacle attached, as a hook at the end of the spring could engage the chains or cords fastened to the receptacles now in use. It is essential that the scales be graduated in okes and drams, inasmuch as the oke is the unit of weight in the country. Such scales to be popular must not be expensive.

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COTTON AND SCIENCE.

New Strains of Cotton.

Mr. John W. McConnel, of McConnel and Co.; Limited, of Ancoats, Manchester, makes some interesting criticisms, from which we give the following extracts, in a letter in the "Textile Mercury" on the report of the Botanist to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, published in the current issue of the "Agricultural Journal of Egypt," on his work on cotton during the year 1915, and on the editorial notes on the subject.

"The Botanist speaks," he says, "of work previous to 1915 being conducted 'solely on Mendelian principles,' with unsatisfactory results. It is difficult to know what this means. Again, the Botanist raises a curious kind of issue between the introduction of new strains and the improvement of existing ones. He does not explain what is meant by a new strain of cotton, nor yet how an old strain can be improved. Is the Mendelian theory to be taken as the basis, or is it to be ignored? It seems hardly possible at this time of day to ignore it. Surely in an attempt to develop plants for the practical service of man, some system of scientific law must be followed. It would be interesting to know at what point the Botanist thinks Mendel's law to be incapable of application to cotton. There are two other matters, or, perhaps, other aspects of the matter, on which I desire to say something, because of their importance to the proper understanding of the need for research in raw cotton.

1. What do spinners really want?

2. Are the reports on samples made by spinners of any value to the grower?

"As regards the first question, it must be remembered that there are many different branches of cotton spinning. Not only are there wide differences in counts, but there are other differences, such as those between twists and wefts. Sometimes colour is important; sometimes everything else may be sacrificed to strength; sometimes cleanliness is the main requisite. Therefore, that the editor should speak as he does, of Sakellaridis as meeting all requirements in Egypt is itself a grave danger to the industry. It is true, of course, that Sakellaridis has many features which are attractive to the grower, but what follows from this is that any cotton which is also wanted by the trade must also be attractive to the grower. Cottons which will only command a lower price than that of Sakellaridis will have to be better in yield, better in lint percentage, as good or better in earliness. Is it not the proper function of the Agricultural Department to find out how to produce these results? On the other hand, it is obvious to any student of the economics of cotton that there is just now an urgent need for some new supply of really fine stapled cotton to take the place of the American Sea Island when the boll weevil has destroyed them. For this purpose Balls' 310 was at any rate so promising as to deserve further investigation and perhaps further development.

Sakellaridis not sufficient.

"In this connection it will be remembered that when the Sakellaridis cotton first came into general cultivation on a large scale strong recommendations were made by spinners and other authorities that it should not be grown so extensively as to crowd out all other cottons. It is a cotton with many and great merits, but it is undoubtedly not the cotton that the Bolton mills want as the sole product of Egypt. If, then, it is desirable that Egypt should grow some other cottons as well as Sakellaridis, is it necessary that these should be new strains? This cannot be answered without defining what is meant by a new strain. It is clear that when a different kind of cotton is introduced as an exotic into any country this may be spoken of as a new strain. Thus the American Uplands and some Egyptian types have been introduced experimentally into India and into different places in Africa. Also the Egyptian Mitafifi has been introduced into Arizona, and there developed into a cotton equal to or better than Sakellaridis. These are all obviously called new strains. But this is not the kind of thing that has been done in Egypt. The history of cotton in Egypt during the last half century is broadly that one kind or several closely kindred kinds have been for a time satisfactory, that each in turn has gradually or rapidly become poor, and that the general good quality of Egyptian cotton has been maintained or raised only by the more or less accidental discovery of a special plant which has bred true and has yielded an improved stock for general use. Thus spinners of mature years will remember the great attractions presented when they first appeared by Gallini, Mitafifi, Joannovich, Nubari, and finally by Sakellaridis, not to mention Abassi and Voltos. Now if these are what the present Botanist calls new strains, it is quite clear that Egypt in the past has absolutely depended on the finding of a new strain just in time to replace the deteriorated cotton of the moment. If, on the other hand, these are what he speaks of as improvements of existing strains, then it seems that he and the editor might well have refrained from speaking of Dr. Balls' varieties as if they had been something strange and therefore an abhorrence to spinners. Dr. Balls' varieties are all four true-born children of the Egyptian family; 310 is so much finer that it may claim a more secluded walk in life, but the other three—77, 95, 111—do not differ from the usual type in any other way than did the various new or improved types named above. The claim made for Dr. Balls' varieties was that they were pure, and therefore if kept pure would supply for all time cottons of a regular and trustworthy character.

Examination of Samples.

"It is true that in examining small samples of cotton we have many difficulties. First there is inaccuracy. Samples are sometimes labelled badly even by the scientific people. . . . Again, much judgment is required. Machinery has to be set to suit the cotton in use. It is a delicate matter to set correctly for a small sample, and incorrect setting may falsify the result. Such a cotton as 310, for example, requires to be worked among its equals, the Sea Islands; and if put through machines set for Mitafifi or other robust but short cottons would be condemned, as in fact it has been sometimes.

"What is wanted in the future is to elaborate the organisation for testing small samples. It is at present impossible to make these tests anywhere else than in ordinary mills. But the control of the sampling must be in scientific hands. It must, of course, be absolutely impartial, but besides this it must be accompanied by accurate examination of single fibre characteristics. Of Dr. Balls' three cottons 95 is generally judged to be shorter than 77 or 111, yet it has invariably made the strongest yarn. The reason for this is not known; it will be one of the duties of the Cotton Research Association to ascertain why some cottons make stronger yarn than do others, of greater length. It is proper to add here that many tests have been made of these three cottons grown in different places and under different conditions. The results have not been, as the editor thinks, contradictory, but quite extraordinarily uniform."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Industrialism in Serbia.

The fact that in spite of the present sorry plight of Serbia, a Serbian industrial mission arrived in England to visit the principal industrial and commercial centres for the purpose of promoting the development of better economic and commercial relations between the two countries, is a proof of the initiative which has characterised the Serbians among the Balkan peoples. If the country has not as yet had the opportunity of being fully developed, the reason is the stifling policy of Serbia's north-western neighbours, who had a traditional interest in stifling any efforts of Serbia which might be conducive to her economic independence. And now that the restoration, and with it a perfect independence, is approaching, the Serbians are assuming a timely and well-directed energy which, with their instinctive industrialism, will undoubtedly enable them to secure the regeneration of their country. At a luncheon given to the members of the Serbian Industrial Mission by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, it was mentioned that one of the great difficulties after the war would be the shortage of men, only a quarter of the men of military age in her population being left alive! This fact requires the greatest consideration before any other subject is touched. An agricultural country ravaged by the enemy, and with a largely depleted manhood, cannot make much progress. The problem is how to cope with the great scarcity of labour, and the immediate need of draught animals and agricultural implements, which, undoubtedly, the Bulgarians will not leave behind. The only solution is the employment of modern machinery on a large scale, and on satisfactory economic conditions, which can become possible only with the assistance of electricity when this is produced by the utilisation of the natural force of water in rivers and waterfalls. Such force is available in Serbia. From the Danube, the Morava, the Vardar, the Drin, and other smaller rivers, Serbia can obtain electricity of many thousand horse-power, which can be carried to any of her agricultural districts by the electric wires. Heavy or light ploughs, sowing, harvesting, and threshing machines, and all kinds of indoor or outdoor agricultural machinery can be driven by this electric power at a very low cost. By this means a speedy reconstruction of Serbia's agriculture can be effected; whilst with the same electric power other industries may be developed.

Serbian Rivers.

Apart from the utilization of water power for electric power, Serbia can obtain greater benefits by the use of the same rivers for transport. Water, as a means of transport, is fully admitted to be the cheapest means yet suggested, and, being so, has the power of adding to the value of all the products of a country which have to find a distant market. Railways are of incalculable importance where speed is requisite for the movement of troops and other passengers and valuable goods, or for anything where time is a consideration, and that is wherever there is affluence and prosperity. But railways are not, and cannot, be a cheap means of carriage. Speed is expensive, and there cannot be cheapness and high speed by any means of carriage. None of the Balkan States can say that the results of its railways, from an economic or commercial point of view, have been as satisfactory as anticipated. For that reason we have given our opinion that in the present circumstances of Serbia the construction of new railways is of no immediate importance. Whatever sea ports are allotted to Serbia, the dredging of her rivers and the construction of certain canals will be found more beneficial to her economic progress than the construction of new railways. We believe that a scheme for the construction of a navigable canal from the Danube to the Ægean Sea was suggested by a prominent Serbian engineer. According to this scheme the Morava river would be dredged from its junction with the Danube to the Leskovatz. A canal would have to be built from there, viâ Kumanovo, to Uskub, and the Morava thus connected with the Vardar river, which, in its turn, would have to be made navigable to the sea. It was stated at the time that funds for the above purpose would be easily forthcoming, as, if realised, the canal would make Serbia independent of Austria. Of this scheme, as well as of another for diverting the Drin River to its original bed, and the dredging of the Boyana river we will write on a subsequent occasion.

The Cultivation of Sorghum.

In previous Engineering Notes we alluded to the value of sorghum, or Indian millet, as a sugar producing plant. Its cultivation is now seriously advocated by eminent botanists and scientists, who claim that this plant is capable of producing a very large part of the country's needs in sugar and paper pulp, and even colouring ingredients; while its flour can compare very favourably with wheat flour. The sorghum plant contains from 10 to 15 per cent. of sugar, compared with 16 to 18 per cent. in beet, but as a crop it is much more economical and requires far less attention. In addition to sugar, sorghum will produce paper pulp representing something like two tons per acre.

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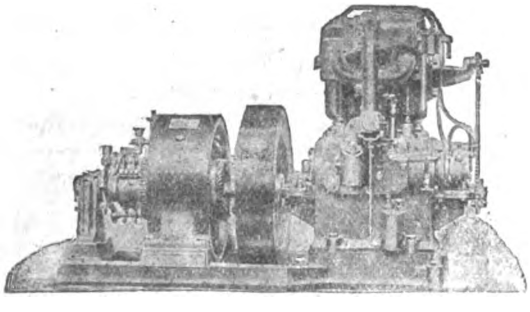

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Dull Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

On the whole no increased activity in the market can be recorded, and the tone has continued dull. Buyers have been in no mood to place orders freely. There are fears of developments, both political and military, during the next few months, which have some effect upon the level of values. The weight of Egyptian cotton now coming forward is having some influence upon prices, and rates are distinctly lower on the week. It is announced that importers must provide the committee in Alexandria with the names of spinners, and unless these particulars are given shipments will be stopped. Ordinary qualities in Egyptian yarns have been slow of sale, and prices when tested have favoured buyers. Some special transactions have been put through in the superior markets for the manufacture of cloth for aircraft purposes, substantial contracts having been arranged by the Government. Exporters of cloth in Egypt continue to adopt a more cautious policy, and only a sorting-up business has been done. Rather earlier delivery is now possible in certain kinds of printing cloths. Piece goods for India have attracted very little attention, and only isolated sales have occurred for China. American yarns have moved off quietly at rather more irregular rates. There is still a good deal of pressure for deliveries of certain kinds and qualities. It is reported that the firm of Messrs. Richard Harwood and Son, Limited, cotton spinners, Bolton, has been absorbed by the Fine Spinners' Association.

COMPANY MEETING.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Record Gross and Net Earnings.

The seventieth half-yearly general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, under the presidency of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Gardiner, R.E.

The Chairman, before proceeding with the business, spoke of the heavy loss which the company sustained last week in the death of the eminent engineer Sir Alexander Rendel, the senior member of the firm who were their consulting engineers. Proceeding to deal with the working of the railway, the Chairman stated that the gross and net earnings for the half-year established another record, the gross earnings being, say, £3,958,826, an increase of 5.68 per cent. over the corresponding period, and the net earnings, say, £2,613,029, an increase of 7.53 per cent. The working expenses, though somewhat above those of the first half of 1916-17, showed a less percentage to gross earnings, 33.52 against 34.67, omitting in both cases the contribution to the provident fund. The increase in gross receipts was mainly due to coaching earnings, which improved by 12.35 per cent., and this despite the efforts being made to discourage all unnecessary travelling. Of the total earnings from coaching traffic, say, £1,258,317, Government traffic only accounted for £72,756, relatively a small proportion of the total business transacted. In goods traffic there was an improvement of 1.80 per cent. in the gross earnings. In general merchandise there was a reduction of 68,817 tons in weight, with an increase of earnings of, say, £50,000, the improvements in the receipts being due to certain adjustments in rates carried out in April 1917. The general merchandise traffic had been very much upset by war conditions and by the reduction in shipping facilities; it represented in earnings on the half-year, say, 43 per cent. of the total goods earnings, the coal traffic being about 55 per cent.

With regard to the surplus earnings results, he said it would be seen from the report that, after making the necessary provision for excess profits tax liabilities, not yet finally determined, and for the £1,000 of charitable contributions to which their assent was requested, the board were able to recommend a record distribution of £1 9s. per cent., which, with the guaranteed interest, brought up the payment to the deferred annuitants to £3 9s. for the half-year (less income-tax, which for the half-year in respect of the dividend was deductable at 3s. 9d. in the pound).

The chairman, continuing, said:—In respect to the very important question of the possibility of the Secretary of State deciding to enter into a new contract with the East Indian Railway Company to replace that of which formal notice of determination at the end of next year, 1919, has been received and is recorded in the correspondence printed with the report, I have nothing to add to the information there given. The position of the deferred annuitants in the event of the present contract being finally determined next year is that which was most carefully set forth for you by the late Mr. Colvin and Sir David Barbour when the revision of the then current contract was accepted by you at the meeting held in this place on June 28, 1899. If and when the deferred annuitants' contract for the working of the East Indian Railway is determined, the deferred annuitants will revert to their position of "A" annuitants, which has for the time being been in abeyance, receiving a 4½ per cent. annuity which terminates finally in 1953. The deferred class "D" enter into a similar position, but their annuity is subject to the sinking fund deduction of 2s. 6d. in the pound to which they assented when the sinking fund was established in 1892, and which was then calculated to reproduce, as near as may be, their capital in 1953. The whole annuity in all classes is subject to a small management charge of 1d. in the pound of annuity, and is, of course, liable to income-tax. You will please understand that the facts which I have set forth imply there is no change whatever in the position of the deferred annuitants, who have always been liable to have to resume their position as ordinary annui-

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tants should the contract for the working of the East India Railway, in which they were interested, be at any time determined under the conditions laid down therein, and this position may be presumed to have been well known to all parties concerned.

It was usual, he remarked in conclusion, to give some forecast of the probable results of the current half-year's working. The approximate gross receipts from all traffic up to the 19th inst., the latest date for which returns were to hand, showed an increase of Rs.16.61 lakhs, say £110,000, as compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, which was quite satisfactory. The monsoon was good, but prolonged to a rather late date. The coal outlook was believed to be on the whole satisfactory. Expenses would, however, be increased by an important war bonus that was being given with the concurrence of the Government to the whole of the staff in India, in the subordinate grade and below. He added that the Secretary of State had now authorised a war bonus for such of the home permanent staff as drew salaries not exceeding £500 per annum. He afterwards moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Deputy-Chairman (Sir David M. Barbour) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Lord Kilbracken, the proposed dividend out of the surplus profits was also agreed to.

◆

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a very active and interesting market this week in Egyptian securities, and prices have gone ahead practically all along the line. Investors both in Egypt and this country have been buying, and the market looks in a very healthy condition, as a great deal of profit-taking has been going on, and new buyers are constantly coming forward.

In Government stocks some rather large transactions took place in Egyptian Unifieds between 85 and 85½, and to-day there were buyers about near the latter price, but sellers were scarce. Egypt Three and a Half per Cents. are fractionally harder at 73; but the lack of sellers renders business practically impossible. City of Alexandrias are a point higher, at 78.

In the bank section Nationals have improved 3-16 to 18 11-16, on a moderate demand in a market bare of shares, and a good many transactions have been taking place in Agriculturals round last week's figure of 6⅝. Some Agricultural Preferences were done slightly under 7, but only for a small amount. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have further improved ⅛, to 14 7-16. In railways, Delta Light are ⅛ up, at 6¼, and in view of the satisfactory traffic receipts and the very favourable prospects for this concern when normal times return, a smart rise would appear to be probable at any time.

In land shares, Aboukirs are 1s. 3d. up, at 24s., on good local buying, and Beheras have advanced ½, to 13½, also on buying from Egypt. Delta Lands have returned to favour, and on a persistent local demand rose at one time to 17s. 3d., and finish 1s. 9d. up, at 16s. 9d. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have gained 1s., at 10s. 6d., on a tardy recognition of the improvement in their holdings. Gharbieh Lands began to move, and are closing 5-16 higher, at 2 5-16. New Egyptians have been subjected to a great deal of profit-taking, which caused them to recede at one time to 18s. 4½d., but the shares on offer have now been absorbed, and the price has recovered to-night to 18s. 9d. Sidi Salems have been the feature, and, on well-informed buying, have jumped 8s., to 40s. In Union Foncières there has been some fairly large buying for Egyptian account, with the result that the shares are 3s. 9d. up, at 58s. 6d. United Lands are again exceptionally 1½d. easier, at 1s. 4½d.

In miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters have risen ⅛, to 12⅜; Egyptian Markets are fractionally harder at 26s. 3d., while Salts and Sodas remain firm but unchanged, at 40s. 6d., after a very fair amount of business. Khedivial Mails are slightly quieter at 36s. 3d.

In Greek securities, business has been again on a very small scale, and, with the exception of Fundings and 1902's, which are ½ higher, at 53½ and 62½ respectively, there is no change in prices to record.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 23	Jan. 30
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	80	80
Do 4% Unified	79	70	70
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	70	73
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14 5/16	14 7/16
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4¼	4⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	18½	18 11/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6⅛	6¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¼	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/9	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	9/6	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2	2 5/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/-	18/9
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	32/-	40/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	54/9	58/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/-	26/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	40/6	40/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	36/6	36/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Jan. 18.	1918. Week ended Jan. 17.
Cattle markets	1,350	840
General markets	431	511
Receipts (£)	1,781	1,351
Total for year	4,275	3,132

◆

The Serbian Mission have been visiting Manchester during the past few days, where they have inspected the Ship Canal and other undertakings.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No, 353.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There has been little military activity on either of the main fronts, East or West, during the week, and only a few isolated events of outstanding importance elsewhere. In the attempts to destroy the *Goeben*, which must now be adjudged definitely to have failed, a British submarine has unfortunately been lost in the Dardanelles. The Turkish claim to have disposed of a second is unfounded. The German vessel will presumably now return to anchor and repair at Constantinople.

The suggestion has been made from German sources that the *Goeben* and the *Breslau* had seized the first opportunity that presented itself of emerging from the Dardanelles to attack the Entente in the Mediterranean; hitherto they have been too busily engaged in defending the Bosphorus against the Russian Black Sea Fleet, but the latter being now *hors de combat*, the ships were set free for work in the Mediterranean—where the German submarine is still a pest to be reckoned with. One is loth to accuse the enemy of telling the truth, but there may be something in this statement.

It is certain, for instance, that at this moment Turkey is supreme in the Black Sea. The Russian Fleet has murdered its officers—it is now reported in remorse to be asking its priests to pray for their souls—dissipated its discipline as completely as the Army, and sold most of its munitions. The main article of its creed is that in no circumstances will it ever fight again; and although it has seized a few Roumanian ships lately, it seems to have no serious difficulty in keeping the peace, in the new sense of the word. It is clear that Turkey is beginning to take advantage of the opportunity; indeed, she would be foolish not to do so.

She has begun by telegraphing a grim jest throughout the world, stating that "the Russian troops, having been withdrawn from Armenia, the Armenians have begun to persecute the Turk." When the infuriated hare attacks the trembling sportsman that tale will be believed, but not before. It looks very much as though this announcement is to prelude another Armenian massacre, which would be justified as "reprisals"; the wretched Armenians, or, at least, those that are left of them, are helpless now that Russia has collapsed, and Trotsky will soon see how much attention the Turks pay to his recent order convoking Soviets, self-determination, and the rest of it, in Armenia. How entirely Russia has disembarrassed herself of the position in the south may be judged by the remark of a Russian officer, reported by a correspondent in *The Times* this week, who hoped that Britain would establish a protectorate over the Caucasus.

His aspiration is, of course, impossible of achievement. England has certain commercial interests in the Caucasus, but her political influence there is nil; nor is she likely to obtain any. It lies far beyond the range of Western Europe, and, for the moment, it looks as though Turkey, or, rather, Germany through Turkey, will have it all her own way. That condition may not endure; but for the time being the abdication of Russia has turned the Black Sea into a *mare clausum* for Turkey, as it has made the Baltic the same for Germany, and nothing is gained by ignoring this unpleasant fact. If Berlin-Bagdad is doomed, Berlin-Batum has become conceivable.

News from this part of the world is sparse and often contradictory, and the announcement that another Republic has been proclaimed in the Crimea by the Tartars, coupled as it is by the not very surprising intelligence of an outbreak of plague in the same region, does not carry us far. In so far as the bald statement can be judged, it is further evidence of the break-up of Russia. The whole of the south of the Russian Empire is now in as complete a state of revolution as the north, with the result that the Central Asian question is reopened. It is conceivable that Germany will suggest to Turkey that she prepares to write off her losses in Mesopotamia and Palestine, and to recoup herself in the near future in the Caucasus and Turkestan.

While this great revolutionary movement sweeps round the Black Sea, the position of Roumania and Bulgaria tends to be overlooked. But the Roumanian troops have been welcomed in Bessarabia, a province which appears to have suffered even more than others from Bolshevik destructiveness, and they seem to have put up a successful fight against the fomenters of anarchy. Certainly the example of Russia is not likely to tempt Roumania to indulge in a class-war. Another interesting indication of Bolshevik policy is the curt announcement that the Roumanian gold reserve of twelve millions sterling, which had been sent to Moscow for safety, has been impounded by the People's Commissioners and stored in the Kremlin. It is to be hoped that it remains there intact; its good fortune in that event will be almost unique, in a country where they repudiate their foreign debt and ransack their own banks.

Incidentally, as a proof of the difficulty of distinguishing truth from falsehood in the reports that come from the Near East *viâ* Berlin, or from Berlin *viâ* the Near East, as sometimes happens, we may note that last week a circumstantial report was spread to the effect that the Roumanian Cabinet had resigned. The report may have been sent out by enemy propagandists in order to persuade the world that Roumania was weakening in face of the Bolshevik threat of war. Several similar messages have lately been received, all suggesting more or less subtly that Roumania was considering a German peace and throwing up the sponge. Nothing could be further from the fact; the Roumanian Government has not resigned, and the spirit of the country, so far from being broken, was never higher.

Bulgaria has given many signs that she does not trust Germany to stand by her annexationist aims, and her latest grievance has elicited an authoritative answer from Berlin. In his speech on war aims, Count Hertling judiciously forgot to mention Bulgaria, and Count Czernin was equally reticent. Bulgaria's protest against this silence has elicited the response that, as the German Chancellor was in effect replying to President Wilson's programme, it would not have been proper to mention Bulgaria, since the United States is not at war with Bulgaria. The official apologist should have thought again, for it so happens that in the same speech Count Hertling mentioned Turkey's war aims very definitely. Yet Turkey is no more at war with the United States than Bulgaria. What is sauce for the goose is, therefore, not sauce for the gander. In the *mariage de convenance* between Berlin and Sofia, it looks as though the latter might yet lodge a plea for restitution of conjugal rights as a prelude perhaps to further action.

Lord Lansdowne's reply to the quaint deputation which presented him with a vote of thanks for his *Daily Telegraph* letter has received almost as frozen a welcome in Germany as in England, or even as the pacifists who were reluctantly admitted by a dubious butler into Lansdowne House. The ex Minister's speech, like his letter, ignored the difficult problems of the Near and Middle East, although it must be evident to one who has been Foreign Secretary that no peace can be permanent or satisfactory which does not provide a settlement of these matters. It was, in short, a plea for peace by negotiation combined with a regretful admission at the end that Count Hertling had made a peace by negotiation impossible. If that is what the pacifists wanted, that is what they got.

It is worth notice that, in addition to Count Hertling's rejection of the British peace terms—a rejection which has had its natural sequel in the announcement of the Versailles Conference decision—Dr. Wekerle, the Hungarian Prime Minister, has also rejected them. He states that Hungary desires to maintain her alliance with Germany, and that she is determined that the only condition on which she will make peace is " the integrity of our territory and the unimpaired liberty to regulate our internal affairs." The integrity of Hungarian territory is tantamount to a refusal to emancipate the Roumaine population; the internal liberty is, as past experience shows, tantamount to a refusal to give them ordinary civil rights.

An interesting statement has been made by Mr. Roberts, Minister for Labour, to the effect that there are " the very best reasons " for believing that a secret treaty, ratified before the war, existed between Germany and Bulgaria; and also that as a result of the German Emperor's visit to Constantinople, a further secret treaty has been agreed between the four Central Powers. The terms of this treaty are: (a) That Turkey retains all the territories which were in her hands before the war, and that she remains an absolutely free State; (b) that Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria do their best to recover the lost Ottoman provinces for Turkey; (c) that the Sultan retains the title of Khalif, and (d) that Arabia and Armenia shall be dealt with in whatever manner the Turkish Government thinks fit.

If this statement is accurate—we confess to feeling somewhat sceptical with regard to Bulgaria's adhesion to any written undertaking—it is quite clear that it commits Germany to an indefinite prolongation of the war. How and in what manner the Khalifate can be restored to the Sultan is a matter upon which the treaty may be judiciously silent; the permission to deal with Armenia as Turkey does deal with Armenia is a natural piece of German policy—although it is not explained how Arabia also is to be restored. The recapture of Palestine and Mesopotamia can only be contemplated by direct German aid; it is fairly evident that Turkey is unable to regain those territories herself, it is certain that Austria cannot and Bulgaria will not help her to that end.

Germany may plan the recapture of Jerusalem, but it is clear that the Jews in England, who are usually shrewd judges of a situation, have no belief in her power to do so; nor are the Jews in Germany, one would imagine, more confident. The plans for a Jewish settlement, on the lines suggested in the British Government's declaration, are already being formulated, and a hopeful tone pervades the details given in the *Zionist Review*. It appears that a number of British Jews who have hitherto held aloof from the Zionist movement are now ready to co-operate, although not themselves to emigrate. Stress is laid on the fact that time presses, that there is no need to await the close of hostilities to take the first steps, and that even the plans for a Hebrew University at Jerusalem, which was already thought of before the war, can be pushed forward now.

The mutiny in the Greek Army, which has now been quelled, might have been a serious matter had prompt steps not been taken. It is evident that pro-German propaganda continues among the adherents of the late King Constantine, who is now living luxuriously in Switzerland with a large body of secretaries and other followers and a fleet of motor-cars, on the largesse of the German Emperor. No doubt he still maintains subterranean relations with Greece, and perhaps he discusses the possibility of restoration with that other exile, the ex-Khedive, who has made himself useful to his employers in Berlin in his dealings with the cosmopolitan Bolo. As to the situation in Greece itself, the activities of the pro-Germans have been assisted by the general shortage of food, which was used to discredit M. Venizelos—although it was largely due to King Constantine's own policy—but that trouble has now fortunately been relieved. It seems likely that M. Venizelos will have to institute a more drastic purge than he has hitherto resorted to. A correspondent of the *Morning Post* at Athens even suggests that the recent emergence of the *Goeben* and the *Breslau* was with the object of making a dash for the Piræus to support a rising of royalists there.

The idea seems a crazy one, but the correspondent remarks that it is not more ludicrous than the prevalent rumour that King Constantine is to return by submarine—his reinstatement is predicted by Easter. After this, it is not very astonishing that the Greeks are regaled occasionally with the story of the sinking of the British Navy—a tale which must lose a little of its probability after each repetition.

Some surprise has been expressed in this country that anyone should have thought it necessary to cable the message, published last week, insisting that no new Constitution should be granted to India until the Secretary of State should have returned to England and reported on his mission to the Cabinet. On the face of it, no such assurance was needed, but the fact that it was given throws an important light on the abnormal and, as we think, unhealthy state of feeling among certain classes of Indian politicians. These gentlemen started by setting up Mr. Montagu on a pedestal of their own imagining, and exalted him to a position whence he overshadowed not merely the Viceroy, but the Cabinet and Parliament itself. Two months ago the quidnuncs, who are as numerous in

India as elsewhere, were already speculating on the probabilities of a grand Durbar at which their newly found Colossus should declare his will, and we may assume that this fantastic idea had gained such currency that a final contradiction was deemed to be advisable.

We call this state of mind unhealthy, because it means that the politicians are still very far from grasping the realities of the position. India, in fact, has lived for so many centuries under an autocratic régime that even men who may be called enlightened find it hard to realise that those days have passed away, and that the foundations of popular government must be laid in the fashion accepted by democracies—with much bickering, with many compromises which leave almost everyone dissatisfied, and with a vast outpouring of more or less unprofitable oratory. In the present case most of these processes have to be gone through twice over. India's share will probably be finished in the course of the present month, but England also has to do her part, and, as matters stand, that part is likely to take some time.

Let us assume that, as we sincerely hope, Mr. Montagu will arrive at a substantial agreement with Lord Chelmsford and his Council during the discussions which are now drawing to a close. He has then to find his way home, thresh out the subject with the Council at Whitehall, and convince the Cabinet of the soundness of his proposals. There will be the Bills to be drafted, and it is not a simple matter to fit a Constitution for India into the precise phrases of the statute-book; and when the Bills are ready, time has to be found for the detailed criticisms of the Commons, and the more dangerous discussions in the House of Lords. It is a big business from any point of view, and we fancy Mr. Montagu at least will be thoroughly tired of the subject by the time he has seen it through. Meanwhile people in India will be getting more and more impatient, and, if present conditions continue, are as likely as not to condemn their Constitution as out of date before it actually comes into operation. The position is, as we have said, unhealthy, but the obvious remedies—patience and good will—are more easily prescribed than assimilated.

Sir James Meston's often-postponed departure from the United Provinces is due to take place in the course of the next few days, when Sir Harcourt Butler will succeed him in what is undoubtedly the heaviest charge in the Indian Empire. The post of a provincial Governor requires a combination of the statesman and the administrator in proportions very rarely to be found: we have not yet met with our ideal in this respect, and we have seen several cases where the men who could best get things done were apt to make serious mistakes in deciding on the policy to be adopted. In Sir James Meston's case, the element of statesmanship undoubtedly predominates, and his most conspicuous triumphs were gained outside his jurisdiction, when he represented India so worthily at last year's gatherings of the statesmen of the Empire.

Rumour continues to designate Sir James for the charge of the finances of India, in succession to Sir William Meyer, who in the ordinary course would vacate his appointment this year. Of Sir James's financial abilities there is, of course, no question, but we confess we would rather see him in some position where there is less tedious administrative detail and a wider scope for the display of his exceptional gifts. His successor in the United Provinces is so far known to the public chiefly as a vigorous administrator, who is accustomed to getting his own way, and people are wondering whether he will show himself possessed of those higher qualities required for the solution of the complex and pressing problems of his new charge. Prophecy on such matters is futile, and we prefer merely to express a cordial hope that our ideal Governor is at last in sight.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 6.

The Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In accordance with the proclamation of his Majesty the King, to-day has been kept as a day of prayer and thanksgiving. The proclamation was published broadcast out here, together with two eloquent appeals addressed to the British community by the High Commissioner and by Bishop MacInnes. As soon as the terms of the King's pronouncement were known, the Sultan ordered the day appointed to be regarded as an official holiday and for all Government offices to be closed, whilst all the local religious communities spontaneously decided to co-operate in the response to the call to prayer. As a result services have to-day been held by all the Eastern as well as the Western churches in Egypt. The service at All Saints' Church this morning was conducted by Bishop MacInnes, who preached the sermon. The congregation, which was an exceedingly large one, included the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, the Residency staff, the Acting American Agent and representatives of the Archbishop of Sinai. All the services at the various churches were very well attended, and it is satisfactory to note how generally this day of prayer and thanksgiving has been observed in this country.

Further Government Appointments.

Judge W. H. Hill has been promoted from the Mixed Court of First Instance to the Native Court of Appeal, and his place in the former jurisdiction is to be taken by Mr. G. A. W. Booth. Both of these appointments have been well received, especially that of Mr. Booth. He has done excellent work out here in connection with the Prize Court and in the office of the Public Custodian, and is regarded as eminently qualified for a position on the Egyptian Bench. The post of Governor of Alexandria, left vacant by the promotion of Ziwar Pasha to the Ministry of Wakfs, has been filled by the appointment of Ahmed Midhat Yeghen Pasha. The new Governor, who is a distant relation by marriage to the Sultania family, is a newcomer in the Civil Service. He has had no previous experience of administrative work, and his appointment has come greatly as a surprise.

The New Year's Honours.

The bestowal of an honorary K.C.M.G. on H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha and of a K.B.E. on General Stack Pasha has been very well received. Yeghen Pasha is Minister of Education, and next to the Prime Minister is certainly one of the ablest and most useful members of the present Cabinet. The other members of the Ministry who hold British honours are Rushdi Pasha, who possesses the G.C.M.G., and Sirri Pasha, who has the same grade as has now been bestowed on Yeghen Pasha. General Stack's distinction has been thoroughly well deserved. He did excellent work as Sudan Agent and, until Sir Reginald Wingate's appointment to the High Commissionership of Egypt, as Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government. When Sir Reginald came to Cairo

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Colonel Stack, as he then was, was appointed Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, and all the reports I have received tend to show that he is filling that post most ably. Various other honours have been bestowed on Anglo-Egyptian officials, amongst them the C.B.E. on Mr. E. M. Dowson, the Acting Under-Secretary of State for Finance, and on Mr. Cecil Crawley, Director-General of the Mechanical Service.

The Mails.

After a wait of over five weeks we have at last received a mail from Europe. One came in two days ago, but only brought letters and papers from December 18 to the 22nd. The last mail we had received reached here on November 29, and brought correspondence up to the 15th of that month. There is, therefore, five weeks' mail missing, and absolutely no information can be obtained as to what has happened to it or when it may be expected. The military mails have in the meantime continued to arrive regularly, and the most fantastic rumours are in circulation as to the reasons why the civilian mails have been delayed in this manner. There appears to be no doubt that something has gone wrong with the postal organisation at Home and on the Continent, and the local communities, especially the commercial one, have every reason to feel indignant at the manner in which they are being treated. It should surely have been possible, when it was found that mails could not be delivered out here within a reasonable time, to issue some advice, so that the banks and business houses could make their own arrangements and thus avoid the serious inconvenience, not to say financial loss, which many of them are incurring owing to the delay and lack of information as to the fate of these missing mails. I understand that the leading business men have made representations to the local British authorities, and it is to be hoped that their action will result in the adoption of some system which, without divulging any military or naval information, will enable the commercial community to be kept better informed of the movement of mails to and from Europe.

The Cairo Racing Season.

Yesterday was a gala day at Gezira, for the Sultan made his first appearance at a race meeting since his accession. There was a record attendance, and the Grand Stand presented a memorable appearance when his Highness drove up with the Prime Minister by his side, and preceded and followed by his picturesque bodyguard. He was received by the Ministers, the member of his household, and the stewards of the Racing Club, by whom he was conducted to the new pavilion, which had been erected for him alongside the Judge's box. The entries were above the normal, and an excellent afternoon's racing resulted, whilst, as usual, all the arrangements were a credit to the organising secretary.

Death of an Anglo-Egyptian Journalist.

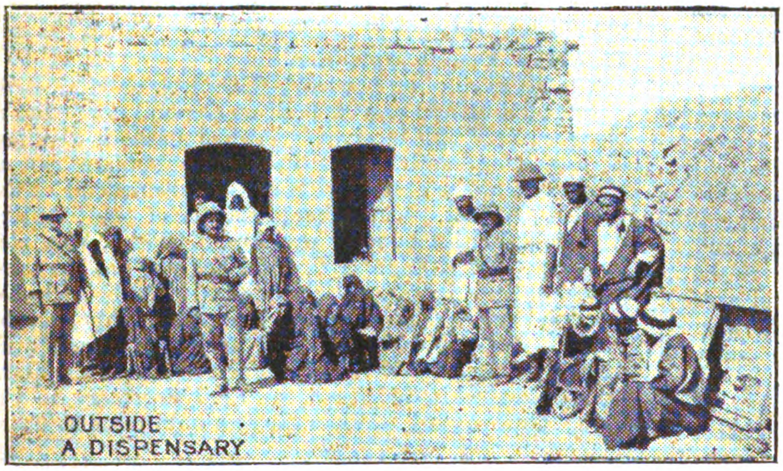
Anglo-Egyptian journalism has just lost one of its best-known members in the person of Miss N. Griffiths, who died as the result of a stroke last Sunday afternoon. Miss Griffiths had acted as special correspondent to the *Egyptian Gazette* and the *Egyptian Mail*, and had been editress of the *Sphinx* for the past thirteen years. In addition, until the war broke out, she had been season correspondent of several of the best-known English social weeklies. She had a style peculiarly her own, and worked most indefatigably and conscientiously. Miss Griffiths was a familiar figure at every social gathering, and will be very much missed.

THE KING AND "OUR DAY" IN INDIA.

The King has sent the following telegram to the Viceroy of India :—

I have just learnt with pleasure and satisfaction that the appeal for funds on "Our Day" met with so hearty a response throughout India, resulting in the collection of a sum amounting to nearly a crore.

It is especially gratifying that in this effort all classes and creeds united in thus testifying to their feelings of admiration and sympathy towards those who have been stricken while fighting for the honour and security of the Empire.—GEORGE R.I.



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Hear the cry of the Lebanon mother: "God leave you your loved ones! Listen to the wail of my little one!—a mouthful—a fill of the hand—would still the pain."

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THE PALESTINE FRONT.

There has been practically no official news from the West Palestine front since the last advance from the neighbourhood of Beitin (Bethel) to that of Dûrah—between Jifna in the west and Ain Yabrud in the east. Our allied irregulars, the Arab followers of the King of the Hejaz, have, however, towards the east shown considerable activity along the railway line. This latter can now be of little value to the Turks south of El Maan, where it traverses an almost waterless sandstone desert, and is quite at the mercy of the Arabs. El Maan itself is a town divided into two separate parts, Maan el Kebîr (Great Maan) and Maan esh Shamîyeh (Northern Maan), and occupying the centre of a very fruitful oasis. The Turks have established here a Kaimmakam, or under-Governor, and a garrison. The Arab forces have evidently so far been unable to capture this very important centre, from which the Turks endeavoured on January 26 to recapture El Tafileh. El Tafileh lies more than 40 miles north-west of Maan, and to the west of the railway, and has been likewise the seat of a Kaimmakam. It is the capital of the district El Jebâl, and before the war a garrison of over 500 was maintained there. Probably this has been increased, and, if so, the news that the entire garrison has been captured (January 14) is very satisfactory. Like El Maan, this is an important centre, both for its fruitfulness—amidst so much that is almost desert—and as a place of traffic with the Bedouin. The Turkish effort to recapture the place from El Kerak (the ancient Kir of Moab) led to their defeat at the half way to Wady el Hesy, the Turkish force being driven back in disorder, with the loss of many prisoners, a mountain gun and seven machine guns. The significance of these events is great. It means that our extreme right flank is being protected. Between us and our Arab allies lies the wild and deep Arabah—the continuance of the Jordan cleft south of the Dead Sea. No army of any size could cross this desolate region, but continual activity along the line of the Hejaz Railway and Pilgrim Road is most useful at this moment. Should the Arab forces be able to push their way northwards along this line east of the Dead Sea as far as Amman they might afford us most welcome assistance, as Amman (the ancient Rabbath Ammon) is at present the great centre from which the Turks can threaten our whole right flank and our security in Jerusalem itself.

El Kerak, the probable goal of the next advance of the Hejaz forces, is a place of great strength which the Turks themselves only a few years acquired from the local Arabs by means of a ruse, and shortly afterwards, through a great uprising of the Arabs, many hundreds of Turkish soldiers were massacred and the Turks were almost expelled. It is probable that the position of any Turkish garrison here at this time is by no means secure, as the Arabs of the district have a hereditary hatred of the Turk and are likely to look upon the advance of the forces of their kinsmen from Arabia as an army of deliverance. El Kerak is situated upon a lofty hill isolated on all sides by deep gorges; to the south the separation from the hills around is by means of a deep artificial fosse. The mighty ruins of the Crusading Castle which occupies the southern part of the hill are some of the most impressive Crusading remains in the land. There is no sight more convincing of the greatness of the effort made by these Crusaders to hold for Christendom the land which they had won. The town itself shows remains of the walls which once encompassed it, and at one time was approached only by rock-cut tunnels—probably Roman work. In earlier times the army which was secure in El Kerak could dominate the whole district; to-day this town is the capital of the Liwa called after it, which is the southernmost division of the vilayet of Syria.

E.W.G.M.

NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

Great uncertainty still appears to hover round the condition of things in Jerusalem and the neighbourhood. It seems clear that the speed with which the British Army occupied the city was of great importance to the residents, as it prevented the Teuto-Turks from deporting most of them. British property, although put, apparently, in many cases, to improper use, does not appear to have been very extensively damaged. St. George's Collegiate Church, though used as a Red Crescent hospital for a time, is structurally intact. Christ Church, rumour states, was used by the Turkish garrison as a disinfecting place for the soldiers. The English Mission hospital, which during the Turkish régime was a Red Crescent hospital, is now the headquarters of one of our divisions; while the British Ophthalmic Hospital—between the railway station and the city—was used as a store for ammunition. This blew up, apparently by design, when the first British soldier entered the premises. The full extent of the damage done is not yet known.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"MESOPOTAMIA; THE KEY TO THE FUTURE," by Canon Parfit. A short account of the past history, present development, and future prospects of Mesopotamia, showing that the settlement of its problems is of vast importance to the progress and prosperity of the world. 41 pp., with map. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 77 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"ARMENIAN ATROCITIES: THE MURDER OF A NATION," by A. J. Toynbee, with speech by Lord Bryce. An account of the atrocities committed by the Turks on the Armenians, with documents. 117 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"THE VERDICT OF INDIA," by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E. The writer describes what England has done and is doing for India, and explains the German delusion as to its internal condition. 57 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"VOICE FROM INDIA," address by Maharajah of Bikanir. Speech delivered to Indian delegates at House of Commons. 24 pp. Empire Parliamentary Association, London.

"THE MURDEROUS TYRANNY OF THE TURKS," by Arnold J. Toynbee, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. A brief sketch of Turkish history to show that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and their confinement to a portion of Asia Minor will be the only adequate requital for their atrocious treatment of subject races during this war and previously. 35 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"THE JUSTICE OF ROUMANIA'S CAUSE," by A. W. A. Leeper. An explanation of the international position of Roumania in Europe and of her rights in the war. The author shows that her cause is legitimate, and that she has taken great risks and endured much to deliver her people from Hungary's oppression. 24 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On September 18 (October 1), 1917, the Montenegrins in Paris, exiles from their land, signed a declaration against the so-called "Pact of Corfu," in which neither they, their Government, nor their Sovereign had any part, and protested strongly against the so-called "Comité Monténégrin pour l'Union Nationale," which does not represent the Montenegrin people. To quote from their protest:—. . . "*En conséquence, les soussignés condamnent avec indignation l'œuvre imposante, anti-patriotique et néfaste aux interêts nationaux les plus larges du* "Comité Monténégrin pour l'Union Nationale," *dont les Membres se sont enlevés le droit de parler au nom du peuple Monténégrin, malgré que celui-ci, pas la voie de ses reprêsentants actuels ait fait preuve de la meilleure volonté pour une entente fraternelle en vue de la solution de notre problème national.*"

The people *in* Montenegro have no voice; neither have the thousands who are interned prisoners of war in enemy hands.

When the country has been restored to her dynasty and people, and when it has had time to recover from its terrible experience, then the Montenegrin people will arrange their own destiny as a sovereign independent State on equal terms with all their neighbours.

The King of Montenegro during his long and remarkable reign of fifty-seven or fifty-eight years has never ceased to preach the unity of all the Serb people, as he is doing to this day. By his plays and poems he has sought to instil that idea into his people and the whole Serb race; but it never meant, nor does it mean now, that Montenegro should give up her hardly-won and nobly-maintained independence. The King and Queen of Montenegro are actual Montenegrins, related in and out to their people, both members of prominent clans, with an indissoluble right in their own country.

On September 25 (October 6), 1917, the King, at Paris, made a formal declaration of his policy and his sentiments to the large number of loyal Montenegrins assembled to do him honour. From it I quote these words:—

"Vous avez peut-être ouï-dire des propos intrigants tenus par des dissidents, qui essayent de troubler les saines idées de concorde, d'amour, de fraternité et de foi commune en notre droit. Ces intrigues ne leur seront pas profitables. Ils ne réussiront pas à ensemencer la mauvaise graine de la discorde et à nuire à leur patrie. *Le Monténégro n'est propriété exclusive de personne.* Il n'est pas là-dedans question seulement de Mon Droit, mais aussi de Mon Devoir de conserver ce qui m'a été confié par le peuple. *Le Monténégro appartient à un peuple de héros qui se sont battus avec honneur pour les idées les plus élevees. Ce peuple ne permettra pas que quiconque se fasse le jeu, de mettre sur le marché ce pays qui reste exclusivement propriété nationale. Serbe et Youguslave, voilà ce que fut toujours mon pays.* Voilà la seule tradition qu'il a toujours suivie, en prenant pour guide ma personne et ma maison, qui avons toujours, comme nos ancêtres, vécu en lui et pour lui, ainsi senti, pensé et agi. La Tzrna Gora s'est, avec moi, qui suis *Roi National*, toujours ainsi comportée, car là est la seule voie qui puisse nous amener à la réalisation de notre idée sacrée: l'Unité nationale. Celle-ci ne peut être ni sans, ni contre le Monténégro. Pendant tout le temps que dura mon long règne, j'ai toujours agi suivant les désirs du peuple et pour le bien de la Nation Serbe entière."

Your correspondent M. Buric says that he is a Montenegrin. Absolute loyalty to King and country is, especially under the circumstances of the war, the duty of every Montenegrin. We do not all love our Governments, but we place King and country first, else there would be no country to govern. The Montenegrins call themselves Serbs, just as the English, Irish, and Scots call themselves British; but they do not call themselves Serbians, a term applied to the people of Serbia. The Scot is a Scot, as the Montenegrin will be a Montenegrin, and as little as the Scot will subordinate himself to another nationality within the Empire, as little will the Montenegrin; and, as a Montenegrin, M. Buric has a nobler heritage than he can have as a mere Serb; and I, a foreigner, who know and love his people and his land, cannot believe that, if his be a true Montenegrin heart, he is not able to sink his personal ideas, as we all have to do, and place the restoration of his country to its dynasty and people first. In days of peace he can make his views heard. If there is one day to be a great Empire in the Balkans, does M. Buric not understand that the greater and stronger the component parts—the independent States devoting their resources to themselves—the greater and stronger the whole when, in their own time, and own way, by the freewill of their peoples, they enter on a scheme of federation? His King reigned long ere M. Buric was born, and among the Sovereigns of Europe is, perhaps, the most remarkable personality, and the ruler of widest experience. No one knows better than he does what his country needs; and it is not the carping ones of to-day, who ignore the great work he has done in gradually—and so wisely—leading his people out of a primitive past into modern conditions, with no great upheaval in their cherished customs, who can criticise him. The people after the restoration of their land will decide their own destiny. Does M. Buric forget that Montenegro is our Ally in this war, and that we are bound in honour to see her restored to her dynasty and people?

Why, then, seek to promote disunion and bitterness among those who wish to be brothers? Does M. Buric speak for the voiceless starving people in Montenegro—for the voiceless thousands of prisoners of war in enemy hands? I know he does not. Does he speak for the Volunteers who fought in the war under the Montenegrin flag? And, because they would fight under no other, many of them are deprived of their liberty. Yet these were men from the Banat in Hungary, from Croatia, Slavonia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and the Bocche di Cattaro. Does he speak for those brave sons of Montenegro who made the great sacrifice: who are lying with the sods upon their faces under Tarabosh and Bardanjolt, dying so willingly that Montenegro might live. I know he does not, for many of these men I knew. Does he ignore the words of our King to his King:—" . . . I present to your Majesty my best and most cordial wishes for your prosperity and happiness, and I hope that the final triumph over our adversaries—a triumph which I do not doubt of—will not be delayed much longer, and will afford your Majesty's people reparation for the wrong it has suffered, and security against aggression in the future."

Before me lie letters from Montenegrins fighting in our armies, and in other armies, breathing devotion to their King and country. No one need speak for them—they speak for themselves. The soul of Montenegro, as I know it, is not as M. Buric would have it appear. Some day he himself will return into the fold—and be glad of it. *I know.*—I am, etc.

C. D. MacKellar.

"JUSTICE TO THE GRECIAN NATION."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It was pleasing to me, as a Grecian born and Briton bred, to read the letter in the *Westminster Gazette* of the 17th ult. from the Hon. W. R Reeves, Ph.D., Director and Chairman of the University of London, setting forth very clearly the simple justice that is due to the "Hellenic nation" and its present Government for all the good and useful work they have performed for the Allies under circumstances of peculiar delicacy and difficulty.

As Mr. Reeves says: "Loyalty, justice, and consistency are not small things, and M. Venizelos (a great friend of England) and his Government and country merit their share in British fair play, and it is up to our Government here that they get it."

Bearing in mind the sanctuary that was given to so many British and Allied subjects by Greece at the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey and Bulgaria and to the great number of Greeks who have already given their lives for the Allied cause, one cannot help thinking and wishing that a second Byron, Cochrane, or Gladstone might arise to make very plain to Europe the true position of "Hellas" amongst the modern nations, and the great debt we owe her for her ancient art, culture, and eloquence, also to their successors, the Byzantines, for our Christian religion, etc.

May I venture to suggest that you should, through your journal, be good enough to remind the people of beloved England of their old standing and connection with Greece, and point out the valuable assistance that the Grecian people, with a little encouragement, could give in all parts of the Near East, owing to their extensive connection and influence.—I am, etc.,

Nicholas Papanicoly.

Primrose Club,
Park Place, St. James's,
February 1.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE REAL BENGALI.*

Lord Macaulay's reputation as a historian is decidedly on the wane. He wrote with a strong Whiggish bias, and was not over-scrupulous in marshalling facts to suit his basic assumption that the Revolution of 1688 had proved an unmixed blessing for the people of these islands. So with the famous Essays which he contributed to the *Edinburgh Review* during four years spent in Calcutta as Legal Member of the Governor-General's Council. The glamour of an incomparable style and the brilliant antitheses which adorn it blinded his contemporaries to the unsoundness of many judgments which are now recognised as having been formed on insufficient evidence. Among them are the aspersions cast on the Bengali character in his essays on Clive and Warren Hastings. If, like Sir William Jones, their author had studied the noble vernacular and mingled freely with the better elements in native society, he would have dealt more sympathetically with fifty million fellow-creatures who were, after all, men of like passions with himself. But Macaulay's life in Calcutta was that of a recluse, and the Indians with whom he came into personal contact belonged to the parasite class, which battens on officials of high degree. Mr. D. Neogi has amply vindicated the reputation of his fellow-countrymen by compiling a series of thumbnail biographies which exhibit their traits of character in a truthful and engaging light. He proves that the once-despised Bengali is capable of honesty, altruism, charity and public spirit. "True Tales of Indian Life" will interest English readers, and may well be made a text-book in the schools of the province to which their author belongs.

F. H. S.

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.†

There is a consensus of opinion throughout the civilised world that resort to force is a clumsy and barbarous method of deciding international quarrels; but all attempts to supersede it have been fraught with failure. Mr. A. J. Jacobs has made a life-study of this all-important subject, and in a little book of 128 pages he propounds a scheme which seems eminently practical. Starting from the assumption that nations must automatically follow the lines of evolution governing the human unit, he pertinently asks what would happen if every individual looked on with folded arms while his neighbour's home was being attacked by armed burglars? It is demonstrable that Society exists because men have entered into a tacit convention—on which the entire mechanism of law is founded—for *mutual* protection against assailants. Pursuing the analogy, Mr. Jacobs urges that the instinct of self-preservation should forbid a nation to preserve neutrality while another is subjected to unjust aggression. His inference is that all self-governing communities ought to join a league for the mutual protection of their territory against unprovoked invasion. He rejects the conception of a tribunal for settling international disputes on the score of its dilatory and complex procedure; he fears, with justice, that civilization is not sufficiently advanced for mutual disarmament. The system which Mr. Jacobs champions has the merit of simplicity, but it cannot materialise until predatory States such as Sparta in ancient Hellas, and Prussia in our day, shall have been deprived of the power to work evil.

LANGUAGES SELF-TAUGHT.

Although the foreigner who tries to carry on a conversation with the help of a dictionary or phrase-book is a legitimate object of cheap humour, he is often apt to find himself more fortunately placed than one who is absolutely tongue-tied in the language of the country. In any case a start must be made somehow in learning a language, and most people will hold that adults are well advised to combine as much book work as possible with conversational practice. So it comes about that every language contains much that, in schoolboy parlance, has to be "mugged up." The more clearly this information is presented the better, and in this respect the Self-taught Series of Languages published by Messrs. Marlborough and Co. is invaluable. It covers more than thirty languages, among those coming within the scope of these pages being Arabic (Syrian), Egyptian (Arabic), Modern Greek, Hindustani, Persian, Sanskrit, Tamil and Turkish. Although assistance in framing every-day sentences is the chief aim, there is just sufficient space given to grammar to extend the general usefulness of each book. The series is to be recommended.

THE FASCINATION OF PALESTINE.

On February 5 Dr. E. W. G. Masterman commenced, at the University of London, South Kensington, a course of lectures on Palestine, the first one dealing with the general features of the country. He said that no country had such a diversity of scenery in such a small area. It was a land absolutely unique, especially wonderful when we considered the great rift which divided Eastern from Western Palestine. The country was a sort of bridge between Asia and Africa, and this had given it a peculiar and unfortunate history, for across this bridge lay the high road of the nations of antiquity, and to-day the railways connecting Asia Minor and Mesopotamia with Egypt took the same route. Thus it had always been, and was still, a land of war.

Physically the country was really part of Arabia, a little fertile fringe to the Great Desert. Consequently Palestine had always received the overflowings of the Arabian population. Whenever there was a bad rainy season the desert tribes were driven in from the East. Thus, from certainly as early as 3000 B.C., it had been a Semitic land. It had also been the land from which the Semites had gone westwards, first the Phœnicians and later the Mohammedans. It was a sacred land alike for Jew, Christian, and Moslem.

Wherein, asked Dr. Masterman, lay the fascination of Palestine? Was it a beautiful land? On this point there was great difference of opinion. Artists went there and saw beauty of colour unseen by ordinary people. On the other hand, it had been called, though very unfairly, "The land that was desolate." In the spring the land was undoubtedly beautiful everywhere. He thought the characteristic that made it so attractive from the artistic point of view was the existence of many high mountain peaks. A traveller through the country was always making for one of these points, and when he reached it he saw from it a vista of other mountains and hills. The atmosphere was pure and clear—there were no fogs. Then there were many beautiful places, such as the Lake of Galilee and the Dead Sea, and many little wayside springs were very beautiful. There was less attraction from the artistic point of view in the dry season, when the green disappeared and the colour of the country assumed a more or less uniform tint; but even then one could not help mentioning the glorious nights, when the wonderful moonlight bathed everything in beauty.

Greater than the fascination due to the beauty of the land was that which came from seeing every part of the Bible illustrated; as one went about and watched the primitive agriculture, saw the vines and the fig trees, heard the shepherd pipe, or looked on at the fishing in the Lake of Galilee. Lastly, there was the fascination due to the country's history. All the great nations of antiquity had fought there—Babylonians, Assyrians, Greeks, the Hebrews of old time, the Jews in the time of the Maccabees, Byzantines, Moslems, Crusaders. One would enjoy Palestine just in so far as he was a student of history, and it gained a new interest now in the campaign being carried on there to-day.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Wanderer on a Thousand Hills. By Edith Wherry. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. net.)

Who Was Responsible for the War?: The Verdict of History. By Senator Tomasso Tittoni. (Paris: Blond and Gay.)

Jérusalem Délivrée. By Mgr. A. Baudrillart. (Paris: Gabriel Beauchesne. 75c.)

A Dying Empire. By Bogumil Vosnjak, LL.D. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

A War-Time Voyage. By J. E. Patterson. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Constantinople et Byzance. By Léon Bloy. (Paris: Editions Georges Crès et Cie.)

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* "True Tales of Indian Life" By Dwijendranath Neogi, B.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1917. Price 2s. net.)

† "Neutrality versus Justice," by A. J. Jacobs. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1917. Price 1s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. February.	1918. January.		1336. Rabia II.	5678. Shebat.
8	26	Friday	26	26
9	27	Saturday........	27	27
10	28	Sunday	28	28
11	29	Monday	29	29
12	30	Tuesday	Jomada I. 1	30
13	31	Wednesday	2	Adar 1
14	February 1	Thursday	3	2

The "Our Day" fund in India has reached £614,000.

Sir William Garstin has left London for the Continent.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, is at Brest-Litovsk.

The Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office on February 6

All officers of the Greek Medical Service Reserve have been called to the Colours.

M. Stanazkovitch, a member of the Serbian Parliament, left London on February 4 for Corfu.

Dr. Voyislav Marinkovitch, formerly Serbian Minister of Commerce, has left London for France.

Lady Barclay had the honour of being received by their Majesties at Buckingham Palace on February 6.

Princess Irène of Greece, the fifth child of the ex-King, will celebrate her fourteenth birthday on February 13.

The award of a Gallipoli "Star" is the subject of negotiations between Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

A decree has been signed by the Sultan of Egypt renewing the powers of the Mixed Tribunals for a further year from February 1.

The King of the Hellenes, according to present arrangements, is about to leave for the Macedonian front, where he will spend several days.

Colonel Nicolaievich, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, has been appointed Military Attaché to the Legation at Havre.

M. Diomedes, a former Greek Minister of Finance, has been appointed a Joint Governor of the Greek National Bank. M. Zaimis remains Governor of the bank.

Sunday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Eugénie of Greece. She is a daughter of Prince George, brother of ex-King Constantine, and was born in Paris in 1910.

Professor E. G. Browne gave a lecture on the Persian Constitutional Movement at a meeting of the British Academy in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on February 6.

Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, and Lady Chelmsford, Mr. Montagu, the Commander-in-Chief, and Lady Monro, attended a memorial service for Sir Beauchamp Duff in Delhi on January 28.

An address has been presented on behalf of the University of Paris to M. Antonescu, the Roumanian Minister in Paris, expressing the sympathy felt by the University for the Universities of Jassy and Bucharest.

As no Greek candidate for the post of Food Controller, vacated by M. Embirikos, has come forward, General Bonnier has consented to act in that capacity. General Bonnier has been Director of the French Commissariat in Macedonia.

In announcing, on January 29, new drainage projects of several hundred square miles in the fever-stricken districts of Bengal (says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent), Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, said that the grim tragedy of malaria was causing annually 350,000 deaths and 200,000,000 days of sickness in that Presidency alone. The present schemes, he added, were mainly anti-malarial, but they were also expected to increase the crops. One of these schemes had already been completed, and was now yielding an annual profit of more than a hundredfold.

The King has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Attilio Critien, M.A., M.D. (Chief Government Medical Officer and Superintendent of Public Health), to be an Official Member of the Executive Council and of the Council of Government of Malta.

A Serbian communiqué reports that in the occupied territories of Serbia all Serbian books and manuscripts, whether in public or private collections, have been taken away and burnt, and the use of the Serbian language is strictly forbidden, even in private letters.

The marriage took place on January 26, in Cairo, of Brigadier-General Goland V. Clarke, D.S.O., of Chilworth Court, Hants, seventh son of the late Stephenson Clarke, of Croydon Lodge, Croydon, and Brook House, West Hoathly, to Yvonne, only child of M. Defrance, French Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Egypt.

Mr. W. Pember Reeves, chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, has received a telegram from M. Kyriakides, president of the Central Committee of Unredeemed Hellenes, which is now sitting in Athens, thanking him for his recent speech "in defence of the rights of the oppressed Greeks of Thrace and Asia Minor."

Two Greek ex-Judges and a journalist, the alleged authors of a forged letter said to have been written by M. Venizelos and circulated in Athens in December, 1916, at the time of the attack on the Allied troops by the supporters of King Constantine, have been committed for trial. The forged letter attributed to M. Venizelos anti-dynastic views.

On January 31 the Duke of Connaught, accompanied by Sir Reginald Wingate, the High Commissioner of Egypt, and General Allenby, visited the Sultan at Abdin Palace and presented the Insignia of the G.C.B., which was bestowed on his Highness at his accession. The Sultan conferred the Grand Cordon of Mohamed Ali on the Duke, and later returned the visit at the Residency. In the evening the Duke left for the Sudan.

Dr. Frank G. Clemow, C.M.G., at one time Physician to the British Embassy, Constantinople, whose experience in the Near East includes service on various International Commissions to inquire into the sanitary defences of the coasts of Asia Minor, Syria, and Arabia, has left for Salonika to take charge of the Serbian Relief Fund's hospitals and ambulances on the Macedonian front. Dr. Clemow, it will be remembered, was in charge last year of a British Red Cross Hospital in Russia.

The *Gazette* announces the mobilisation of officers and men of the 1907 to 1917 classes who are not already serving, says Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated January 30. The mobilisation decree applies to specified Macedonian districts. Another decree calls to arms the officers and men of the 1911 to 1916 classes who are not already serving. This decree applies to several specified districts in Old Greece and Epirus. Ottoman Greeks and refugees from Macedonia are also mobilised. The mobilisation to-day decreed must be completed by February 18.

The Earl of Derby, who is President of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, in a letter apologising for inability to receive the Serbian Industrial Mission which visited Liverpool last week, wrote: "Serbia has played the most gallant rôle in the war, and has suffered perhaps more than any other nation except Belgium, and anything that we can do to show honour to representatives of that country is in itself an honour to ourselves. I sincerely hope their visit to Liverpool will prove a success, and that when, happily, peace comes we shall find them as closely allied in commerce as we are now in war."

Reuter's Salonika correspondent in a message dated February 2, says:—The ribbon of the "1914 Star" was yesterday distributed to a number of officers, N.C.O.'s, and privates. The recipients belonged to the Old Army which valiantly upheld the honour of the country in the early fighting in France and Flanders and are now serving with the Salonika force. Lieut.-General Sir G. F. Milne, the British Commander-in-Chief, after an appropriate address, pinned the ribbon on each man, and at the conclusion delivered another speech, congratulating the men and exhorting them to further efforts for King and country. Many officers and men from the Salonika base were present, and also a number of Red Cross sisters, one of whom likewise received the same distinction.

Lieut.-General H.H. Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh and Colonel H.H. the Raja of Ratlam were present at an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on February 6, when Dafadar Gobind Singh was invested by the King with the Victoria Cross. Following the Investiture Dafadar Gobind Singh and a number of Indian cavalry officers now visiting London were given a reception at 21, Cromwell Road by the National Indian Association. General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., late Commander-in-Chief in India, presided, and among those present were H.H. Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh, Lady Sydenham, Lady Lamington, Lady Hardwicke, Sir James Dunlop Smith, Sir John and Lady Stanley, Lady Holderness, Lady Jenkins, Sahibzada Akab Khan, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Mrs. Alice Perrin, and General and Mrs. Watson.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi A. B. James, Second Inspector, Berber Province, has been re-transferred to the Army.

El Kaimakam, H. Castle Smith Bey, Senior Inspector, Mongalla Province, has been transferred to the Army.

The Council of Ministers has approved of the appointment of Mr. William Henry Hill, Judge of the Cairo Mixed Court, as Judge of the Native Court of Appeal.

El Bimbashi L. A. Deane, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Second Inspector, Nuba Mountains Province.

It has been decided to extend the limits of the maximum age fixed for the service of Judges of the Native Court of Appeal to sixty-five years.

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OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Port Said, on January 8, of Valley Bey, formerly the Director of the Cairo Post Office.

Surgeon-General Sir Adam Scott Reid, K.C.B., I.M.S., retired, died in London on February 2, at the age of sixty-nine. He became an Assistant Surgeon in 1872, and saw service in the Afghan War, 1879-80, the Chin-Lushai Expedition, 1889-90, and in the operations on the North-West Frontier, 1897-8., He was promoted Surgeon-General in 1902, and was subsequently P.M.O., Punjab Command.

The death is reported from Paris of Professor Istarti, a former Roumanian Minister, and President of the Roumanian Academy. He was one of the leading Roumanian chemists, and his text book on chemistry was in use throughout the country. Professor Istarti was one of the earliest advocates of the policy of intervention, and was a member of the mission to France in 1915 to announce Roumania's coming participation in the war.

Dr. Jechiel Tchlenow, whose death took place in London on January 31, was a prominent figure in the Zionist movement, and was regarded as virtually the head of the International Zionist Organisation. Five years ago he relinquished a large medical practice in Russia on his acceptance of the office of second President of the organisation, in order to be absolutely free to devote himself to Zionist work. . He had only recently arrived in England from Russia.

Captain A. H. M. Wilson, Indian Cavalry, who was accidentally killed on service, was the eldest son of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry F. M. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., and Lady Wilson, and was born in 1885. He entered the Indian Army in 1904, and was appointed Adjutant of the Bombay Bodyguard in 1910. He became A.D.C. to his father at the Front in November, 1914, was promoted Staff Captain in July, 1915, and Brigade Major in the following November.

The Dowager Countess of Mayo, C.I., who died on February 1 at her residence, 10, Manchester Square, aged ninety-one, was the Hon. Blanche Julia Wyndham, fourth daughter of the first Baron Leconfield, and married in 1848 the sixth Earl of Mayo, who, after being Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1852, 1858, and 1866, was appointed in 1868 Viceroy of India, and was assassinated four years later while making a tour of inspection in the Andaman Islands. From 1874 to 1901 the Dowager Countess was Extra Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND MONTENEGRO.

On the occasion of the "Orthodox" New Year the following telegrams were exchanged between King George and King Nicholas of Montenegro :—

At the beginning of a New Year I present to your Majesty my best and most cordial wishes for your prosperity and happiness, and I hope that the final triumph over our adversaries, a triumph which I do not doubt of, will not be delayed much longer, and will afford your Majesty's people reparation for the wrong it has suffered, and security against aggression in the future.—George *R.I.*

It is with pleasing emotion that I read the good wishes for happiness and prosperity that your Majesty has graciously sent to me, and I pray your Majesty to accept my most cordial thanks, as also for the thoughts of comforting hope that you have, Sire, addressed to my unfortunate people, which has always had confidence in its noble friends during its sufferings, and does not doubt that Great Britain and her Allies will know, at the time of the final victory, how to heal its wounds and make it forget its sufferings and ensure its future.—Nicholas R.

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The Indian Art and Dramatic Society are giving a special performance of "Sacrifice," by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, tomorrow at 3, in King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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ITALY AND THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.

A strong belief that the aims of the Allied Powers are just, and that, therefore, by the time they have issued from the crucible of the world-war they will ring true, however much dross may have been thrown in with them from one quarter or another, has prevented us from taking too tragically the agreement drawn up between Britain, France, and Russia on the one hand, and Italy on the other, in connection with the latter's entry into the war. The letter of this document has remained, but a truer conception of the issues at stake in the conflict has been reached since April, 1915. In these circumstances, it might be thought, the Powers concerned would have been well advised to have admitted the changed conditions, and to have announced *urbi et orbi* that it was proposed to modify the terms of the original understanding. A variety of reasons, potent enough in the eyes of stereotyped diplomacy, may have militated against this course; but the result of the omission has been prejudicial to the interests of the Allies. For nearly three years the antagonism between Italians and Southern Slavs (carefully fostered for fifty years by the Austro-Hungarian Government) has been aggravated by the extremists on both sides, under the conviction on the part of the Slavs that they stood to gain by challenging an unjust convention, and on the part of the Italians that the best method of repelling these attacks was to exaggerate their claims upon the territory in dispute. As there can be no settlement which does not leave some Slavs under Italian jurisdiction, and some Italians within the the Southern Slav State, this exacerbation of peoples who should be preparing to live in amity with one another, after dispelling the misunderstandings of former days, is to be regretted; but it was bound to continue so long as the Convention of April, 1915, had to be regarded as valid. Even now, although there is good reason to suppose that the signatory Governments realise that the agreement has to be modified in important particulars, no definite statement to this effect has been issued. Only vague assurances—mostly of a negative character—have been given, and these have, in the main, encouraged the protagonists in the controversy to redouble their efforts, and to call to their aid equally violent partisans belonging to Allied countries. It is to be hoped that the more recent conferences that have been held between the various Allied Governments will have advanced the Italo-Jugoslav question to a stage at which a definite pronouncement can be made, and that the unmistakable justice of the compromise will commend itself to both parties.

The intricate character of the question has played into the hands of the extremists, as it has always been difficult to check the data on which they have based their claims. English readers, therefore, who have been convinced that, given the necessary good will, a workable solution was to be found, have the more reason to be grateful to the *Quarterly Review* for what is probably the most dispassionate study of the whole subject that has yet appeared. The author of the article is an Italian who is by no means inclined to sacrifice his country's interests; but a sense of strict fairness enables him to realise just where Italy must take a firm stand on her rights and where she can waive her claims for the sake of a broader issue. All his conclusions may not find ready acceptance, but there can be little doubt that he offers a solution of the problem as a whole that may well form the basis of the final agreement between the two States, due consideration being given to their future interests as neighbours in a Europe whose general peace is essential to their own well-being. Professor Salvemini starts from the premise that the proposed Serbo-Slovene-Croatian State will prove a natural ally of Italy against Germany, and that together they will be needed to defend the southern routes against every new attempt at German conquest. He admits that the task of drawing a frontier line which, while respecting the legitimate claims of both nations, would create friendly relations between the neighbouring inhabitants, is not an easy one. "There does not exist in the eastern Adriatic region any clear national division between the parts inhabited by Italians and those inhabited by Slavs, for the two nations are almost everywhere mixed up together. The physical confines that might be satisfactory, from a military point of view, to both States, do not everywhere coincide with the line that, from the exclusively ethnical point of view, would be the fairest; while the local hatred between the Italians and Slavs, perfidiously fomented in the last half-century by the Austrian Government, makes all reasonable discussion well-nigh impossible."

The arguments by which Professor Salvemini reaches his conclusions are no less interesting than the details of his solution; but it is only possible to touch briefly upon the latter. He would incorporate in Italy the Julian Veneto, which is an Italo-Slav region, while stipulating for international guarantees of cultural liberty and equality before the law for the Slav population included in the new Italian frontier, and for the right to commercial transit, free from Customs duties, through the port of Trieste for all the inhabitants of the back-country. Fiume is to be an autonomous city—a Republic of San Marino for Croatia—and the legitimate interests of Trieste and Fiume are to be conciliated by a railway and Customs agreement annexed to the Peace Treaty, according to which the railway lines which connect the two ports with their respective back-countries would be put under a joint control with a view to excluding any artificial rivalry. The only fair and equitable solution of the Dalmatian problem, we are told, is that Italy should recognise the right of the enormous Slav majority in this region to join itself to the Southern Slav nation. Italy would require the new State to assure to the Italian minority its cultural liberty and legal equality with international guarantees analagous to those which would be granted by Italy to the Slav population in the Julian Veneto, and the municipality of Zara might receive an autonomous constitution analogous to that guaranteed to Fiume. But inasmuch as the Italian coast of the middle Adriatic is, in respect to Dalmatia, "in a much worse position than that of the East Coast of England in respect to the Kiel Canal," Italy must take steps to safeguard her position in the Adriatic. The claims of the Italian Nationalists are dismissed as "not only iniquitous from the point of view of national rights, but unjustifiable even from the military point of view." The occupation of the whole of Dalmatia by Italy would certainly make the Adriatic an Italian lake, but it would also create a further formidable problem—the defence of a frontier of five hundred kilometres on the other side of the water. With Pola in the north, and Valona in the south, Italy, it is held, requires at the most one or more of the outer islands as bases necessary for the security of her eastern coast, and for the movement of her navy from the lower to the upper Adriatic. Dalmatia, it will be remembered, is one of the stumbling-blocks in the terms of the Convention of April, 1915, and its transfer to Italy could never stand the test of the principle of self-determination. If the more moderate views advanced by Professor Salvemini can form the basis of a discussion between the Italian and Serbian Governments, it should not be long before the reproach of friction between the Italians and the Jugoslavs is removed from the Grand Alliance.

THE ARABS.

I.—THE ARABS OF ARABIA.

A few years ago the writer of these notes had the privilege of spending some weeks in the neighbourhood of the Kordofan-Darfur border as the guest of the Sheikh of the Kababish, the strongest and wealthiest of the nomad Arab tribes of the Sudan. One result of this visit was a series of measurements which later led to an examination of the physical characters of the Arabs generally. Before going further it is necessary to point out that anthropologists are agreed that, besides such obvious characters as stature, skin colour, and texture of hair, the form of the head constitutes one of the most important of the criteria of race. The broadest classification of head form is into long and short or round heads, a head being considered long, or dolichocephalic, when its breadth is less than three-quarters (75 per cent.) of its length, and broad or round (brachycephalic) when its breadth is 80 per cent. or more of its length. A race in which the heads are predominantly of one form is provisionally regarded as more or less pure. Conversely, the existence of a considerable number of round and long heads in the same people would be taken to indicate race mixture.

Now a brief glance at the measurements of Arabs, natives of Arabia, that have been taken in recent years shows that there are as many round heads as long heads or perhaps even more of the former, while both types occur among the skulls in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. Moreover, if the head measurements of skulls and of the living be tabulated, it is noticed that, while very few of the short or broad heads occur in Northern Arabia, the majority (about 60 per cent.) of the measurements from Southern Arabia are of men with short or broad skulls. There is then a very decided change as we pass from the northern to the southern Arabs, a change which is also found in another important character, viz., stature, the northern Arab being generally taller than the inhabitants of Southern Arabia. It will be asked, who, then, is the true Arab and how far is the difference between north and south due to or connected with differences in the surroundings and mode of life of the two groups, or is it to be regarded as the result of an immigration of long-heads into Northern Arabia or of round-heads into Southern Arabia? It is yet too early to give satisfactory answers to these questions, but it seems possible to indicate the direction in which they must be sought.

The greater part of the interior of Arabia consists of immense lava tracts called *harrah*, and of high dune regions of wasted sandstone (*nafud* or *dahna*). North and south, these sand regions are of great width, extending almost across the Peninsula. The northern Nafud can be crossed only with great labour and difficulty, and, as pointed out by Hogarth, has, in fact, been crossed by not more than half a score of Europeans. The southern sand desert, known as the Rub' el Khali—the empty quarter—is a name of terror throughout Arabia, and has yet to be tried by a stranger. "These two fearful tracts are joined on the east by a desert belt, narrowest on the north-east, where, owing to the intrusion of granites and basalts in Jebel Shammar, the supply of sand fails for a brief space, and the caravans may pass to Koweit and Busreh over ill-watered but comparatively firm ground."

Following this description and ignoring the Teheyma, the western coastal plain, the map shows that the country falls naturally into three main divisions, a northern, a southern, and a third less well-characterised central area between the Midian coast on the west and the head of the Persian Gulf on the east. The northern division extends to the edge of the Syrian desert, and, apart from its oases, is inhabited by nomad tribes, the traditional desert Arabs. Though for a great part stony, so that it resembles the better-known desert bounding the valley of the Egyptian Nile, yet parts furnish not inadequate pasturage at certain seasons. Its southern portion is predominantly sandy, and includes the Great Nafud. The southern division contains the highlands of Yemen and Asir in the west, which, with the Hadramut, including the almost unknown Sheher district, form a habitable zone round the great southern desert, continued to the east by Oman and Jebel Akhdar, north of which lies the practically unknown country behind the coastal area of the Persian Gulf. The Yemen and Asir highlands enjoy a temperate climate, due to their considerable elevation and their proximity to the sea. Their population consists largely of agriculturists, whose terraced hills form one of the most characteristic features of the landscape. The central zone, less well characterised than the other two, may be considered to extend from the neighbourhood of Kheybar, north of Medina, to somewhat to the south of Mecca. It includes the Hejaz, Nejd, and El Hasa. For the most part it is a dry stony steppe, sparsely occupied by nomad tribes; yet it contains the holy cities, and the great wadys which intersect it hold many fertile stretches of alluvial soil, where cultivation is possible, and which support a considerable settled population.

The data already given indicate that both the northern and southern divisions have their characteristic population; in the north longheads, in the south round-heads. No statement comparable with this can be made with regard to the central area, for we are almost entirely ignorant of the physical characters of its inhabitants. Culturally and historically this area is more closely related to the Beduin north than to the settled south, and it seems probable that its ancient inhabitants were one with their northern neighbours. To what extent Islam and the events of the few centuries preceding its advent may have influenced the people we can only surmise, but we know that there was an influx of foreign elements, and that one result of the Abyssinian conquest of the Yemen was an immigration of Jews into Mecca, while it may be conjectured that the failure of irrigation in the south in the sixth century A.D., traditionally associated with the breaking of the dam at Ma'rib, led to migrations northwards from the remains of the southern kingdoms.

The geogaphical position of Southern Arabia between Africa, Syria, and India could scarcely fail to bring about connections with these countries. Moreover, South Arabia, as the great incense-producing country, has from the earliest known times played a definite part in the civilisations which have grown up round the eastern Mediterranean coast lands, and, though we know little of the monuments of Southern Arabia, there is direct evidence of Mesopotamian influence at Teyma and in the neighbourhood of Medain Saleh, on the old incense route. The Teyma stone—now in the Louvre—records the introduction of a Aramæan cult served by a priest having a name of Egyptian origin, while Euting discovered at Teyma part of a stone carving in Mesopotamian style, which he attributed to the sixth century B.C. Again, the extraordinary rock-hewn, lion-like (?) monsters from near Medain Saleh, sketches of which are given by Doughty and by Euting, can only be due to Mesopotamian influence. Moreover, there are Mesopotamian references to the Saba, the ancient kingdom of the Yemenites. A certain Ithamar, the Sabæan, no doubt identical with one of the kings of that name, mentioned in Sabæan inscriptions, is referred to in a cuneiform text (*Annals of Sargon*, 715 B.C.). It may well be that the contact began much earlier than this, and indeed the general tendency among Semitic scholars is to carry the relationship very much further back. Now the hills north of the Mesopotamian plain and the hills behind the Syrian coast are the home of a round-headed population, of which the Armenians and the sectaries of the Syrian highlands (Maronites, Tahtaji, and so forth) are the best known representatives. So that both geographical proximity and physical characters suggest that South Arabia was early subjected to Mesopotamian influence, which later spread north along the incense route.

A glance at the map shows that not only was there no efficient geographical obstacle to the early spread of Mesopotamian influence into Southern Arabia, but that it must almost certainly have occurred. In mediæval times there are two outstanding instances. About A.D. 570 the Yemen was conquered by the Persians under Khosroes I., who installed a governor, whose successors continued to rule the country until Badhan, the last governor, accepted Islam early in the seventh century. The other instance which shows that it was easy for a considerable body of men to pass from Arabia to Mesopotamia is offered by the march of Khalid ibn Walid. At this time the frontier of the Persian Empire was in the neighbourhood of the modern Koweit, and near here the Persians were defeated in the "Battle of the Chains." Khalid was not again opposed until he reached the neighbourhood of the Tigris canal, where he gained a new victory, whence, pushing on, he fought his next battle at Walaja, near the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates.

With regard to actual knowledge of Mesopotamian influence at an early date, the evidence for the most part is inferential rather than direct. Yet within the last few months Mr. G. F. Hill, Keeper of the Numismatic Department of the British Museum, has drawn attention to a sign found on those South Arabian coins of the second and first centuries B.C., which imitate the older Attic types. There seems to be every reason to believe that this sign is derived from the Babylonian twin-dragon sceptre, or rather twin-serpent-sceptre motif, of which the earliest example is found on a steatite vase in the Louvre, dating from about the middle of the third millennium B.C. Moreover, the fact that at one time South Arabia was a country of a thriving civilisation with an agriculture so advanced that irrigation works on a considerable scale existed and were kept in repair for hundreds of years itself suggests Mesopotamian influence.

To sum up, a number of lines of argument seem to indicate that Southern Arabia with its round-headed population has affinities with Mesopotamia. There is no such evidence with regard to the far better known north, where indeed the physical evidence, which cannot be discussed here, suggests that there was a more or less homogeneous long-headed population two thousand years ago as there is at the present day.

C. G. S.

MAILS LOST AT SEA.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea through enemy action of parcel mails for Malta (Civil Post Office, Fleet and hospitals) containing parcels posted during the month of December; and also of mails from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force containing letters posted between January 21 and 26 approximately.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss, through enemy action, of mails despatched on January 24 for Salonika, Egypt, the Mediterranean and British troops in Italy, containing letters, etc., for the Italian Expeditionary Force, Salonika Force, Corfu, Malta Hospitals and the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between midnight, January 21, and midnight, January 23; letters, etc., for the Greek Post Office, Salonika, Malta Civil Post Office, the fleet at Malta, and in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Egyptian Civil Post Office, which reached the General Post Office, London, between 10 a.m., January 22, and 10 a.m., January 24; also parcels for the Hospitals and Fleet at Malta and the fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean, which were received in London for despatch between January 21 and 24.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Presiding at the meeting of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Society, held at Claridge's Hotel on February 5, Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington said that the activities of the Fund had practically been devoted to supplying the Paris, Marseilles, Rome, and Geneva Committees with the money necessary for carrying on their work. That work was of the greatest importance, and had justified every effort made. The Paris Committee dealt particularly with Montenegrins interned in the Central Empires, and the demand was for food and clothing. Through that committee alone the Fund was helping to feed 7,000 interned Montenegrins, for which purpose £100 were needed daily. Recently it had sent £2,000 to the Marseilles Committee, where there were large numbers of refugees in bad health, as a rule, and greatly in need of clothing and rest. In Rome it had thirty-two cases to deal with monthly; at Geneva there were only a few in receipt of relief. The Fund had been successful—on one occasion only—in getting a little money into Montenegro to help two families in a desperate condition.

From the above account it will be seen that the demands on the finances of the Montenegrin Relief Fund are very heavy indeed, and in order that all cases of need may instantly be helped, and further that the work entered upon may be successfully continued, a big campaign for funds has just been initiated, which it is to be hoped will prove most successful.

SERBIA'S MARTYRDOM

Read and learn what Serbia suffers:—

It is difficult for Britons to conceive the piteous plight of the stricken Serbians. Yet now and then light is thrown on their sad situation, and then we give generous play to our natural benevolence.

The following extracts from a memorandum issued by the Serbian Legation serve to show Serbia's dire straits and how vital is the call for aid that Serbia sends forth to her more fortunate ally, Britain.

¶ "The first act of the authorities in occupation consisted in interning in Austria and Hungary more than 150,000 civilians. Serbia was thus stripped of her last reserves of labour, and countless families lost their last resources. Hundreds of thousands of children, women, and old men were in this fashion condemned to die of starvation."

¶ "The fact of being interned in Austria-Hungary or in Bulgaria is in reality equivalent to being indirectly sentenced to death. About 30 per cent. of these unfortunate people have already died."

¶ "There are concentration camps where one-half of the inmates have died. And this is not a case of an epidemic which has claimed countless victims. *They die there of cold and hunger.*"

¶ "The plight of the population will be terrible this winter if they are left without assistance. The last grain of their crops is now being exported. Swift and extensive help is necessary, both in money and in food."

¶ You who read these things will not hold back what assistance you can render, whether in cash or in kind. It only remains to point out the channel. The Serbian Relief Fund is the officially recognised committee for the dispensing of private British aid to Serbia. It has been doing this work ever since the need became apparent, and all the time warm-hearted Britons have responded to the call. Serbia needs Food, Clothing and Medical Aid, needs them badly, and needs them NOW. Every day's delay in sending assistance to Serbia means that opportunities for saving life and creating happiness have been missed.

You can help to save the Serbs.

Parcels of warm clothing, new or cast-off shirts, underclothing, body-belts, cardigans, mufflers, warm slippers, stout boots and shoes, tinned foods—these are some of the things that Serbia needs and that you can supply. Remember that the bare needs of existence are called for. Contrast your own sense of security and comfort with the pitiful plight of this terrorised people and send a gift in thankfulness to the Serbian Relief Fund for Serbia's immediate use. All gifts in kind should be sent to: Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund.

To carry on the vital work of feeding and clothing Serbian Refugees, saving the remnants of the youth of this broken nation, maintaining hospitals, dispensaries, and succouring prisoners of war and civilians in internment, money is needed in a continuous stream.

The people of Britain have responded generously to Serbia's appeal, but the needs of this little nation outrun the resources available. Help the Serbian Relief Fund to continue to repay Serbia for her colossal sacrifices by sending a donation according to your ability to:

The Hon. Treasurer,
The Right Hon.
The EARL OF PLYMOUTH,
Serbian Relief Fund.

Only Address—
5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

When Jerusalem fell into our hands, Talaat Pasha and Baron von dem Bussche hastened to tell a mildly amused world of their earnest desire to see Jewish aspirations realized, and the Grand Vizier even sought to suggest to his interviewers that a wonderful project for the benefit of the Jews had been on the very point of being launched, when the clumsy British prevented it. This was quite in accordance with the best Turkish tradition: in such circumstances, any Grand Vizier would seek to draw the Veil of Confusion before the Picture of Defeat. Nevertheless, I ventured at the time to hint that Talaat and his German friend would be wise not to expect too much from their manœuvres; and I have already called attention to certain facts that have justified my prophecy. Now I can offer further evidence. The Board of the Dutch Zionist Federation has, I see, published a protest against the neglect to provide for the representation of Jewish interests at the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations (so-called). What interests me in the statement is the passage: "The hushing-up of the Jewish question by the German delegation throws a peculiar light on the value of the declarations which were made not long ago by the German Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Baron von dem Bussche. . . ." This obviously refers to the Baron's twaddle when he pretended to back up Talaat. It almost looks as if the Jews had been clever enough to find out that fine words butter no parsnips. Poor Baron!

⁂

This reminds me that I have never referred to Talaat's impudent claim (advanced in a statement made to a representative of the *Lokalanzeiger*) that it would be found necessary for the Turks to be retained in Jerusalem in order to keep the various Christian sects from flying at one another's throats, so to say. The optimistic Pasha first declared that the Turks were perfectly certain that "the whole of Palestine, even the portions to-day occupied by the English, will remain under our sovereignty." He then went on to say: "The Pope himself will one day realize that, even from the standpoint of Christian interests, the sovereignty of a neutral Power of another faith is most desirable. Friction amongst Christian sects would otherwise lead to the greatest inconveniences."

⁂

Now, I am not going to deny for one moment that in the past there has been friction amongst the Christian sects in the Holy City. It is notorious that they have on many occasions come to blows, often in places which ought to have been too sacred for brawling—even on the part of a religious bigot. For these reasons it proved necessary to have guards posted in certain places; and these guards—"unspeakable Turks"—usually did their work quite well. So much for the past. What of the future? Will it be found necessary to keep up guards to prevent brawling? I should not be surprised if such proved to be the case. But, even so, I suspect that Talaat and his fezzed warriors will not be given the job. If "neutral" guards are required, India will be able to supply them. And, though I have not a word to say against the Turkish soldier, I am tolerably certain that the Pope and everybody else would infinitely prefer Indian guards, under British control, to Turkish guards under Turco-Germ. orders.

⁂

It would be idle to deny that the escape of the "Goeben" is a bad disappointment for most of us, but I should not be surprised if Constantinople shed more tears over it than London. For the infamous vessel, which has apparently specialized in running away from small craft, is now free once more to train her guns upon her dear allies. The prisoners from the "Breslau" are reported to have expressed their dislike for the Turks as soon as they were captured; I wonder what the Turks will say about the "Goeben" and her companion when they are free to speak out. Judging by the memorandum presented recently by Dr. Barton to Senator Lodge—and summarized in *The Times*—there are still competent judges who believe that Turkey would drop out of the war to-morrow if she were not terrorized by her "ally." That she was bluffed and tricked into it originally seems (to me) almost certain, and the two German warships played a large part in keeping her up to the mark, so to say. Therefore the escape of the bigger bully is all the more deplorable.

⁂

A correspondent writes: The Cairo correspondent of THE NEAR EAST gave us last week the cheerful reversal of the name of the Liberator of Jerusalem—Ybn Ella—as, "O, Son of God!" thus supplementing the misrenderings Allah Bey, Al Nebbi and Allah Nebbi. But why stop here? There are many old Mid-Victorian cronies who will like to examine the following points extracted from a careful perusal of the General's despatch:—

Allenby initiated his campaign from Gaza on 31-10-17. Add these units and the total is 13—that so unlucky number! He entered Jerusalem on foot on 11-12-17—again 13. A Turkish parlementaire came out to surrender the city formally on 9-12-17—that is, one day in October, thirty days in November, and nine in December—altogether forty days, "In the Wilderness." We will assume that the General, like Moses (for the Censor is looking at us) had 12 tribes, or divisions, at his command. Also there are 13 letters in the two names, Gaza—Jerusalem; and Allenby has 7 letters, the sacred number. The ingenuity of your readers may perhaps supply other "proofs" that the hero of the East was no Laodicean.

CORSAIR.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Future of Turkey.

On the ground that it is unlikely that Great Britain will be able, or even willing, to wash her hands of Turkey permanently or completely after the war, Sir William Ramsay raises in the current issue of the *Quarterly Review* the question—What will be the condition of the Moslem peasant population after the war? Not merely must the scanty remnants of the Christian and the Jewish populations be cared for and helped to recover their position and their economic ability; an equally pressing and even a bigger matter will be to set the Moslem population of Anatolia and Syria on their feet. After drawing an interesting picture of the Anatolian peasant in his natural condition and describing the deterioration, both moral and economic, that has accompanied the reorganisation carried out by Mahmud and his successors, Sir William Ramsay points out the inherent rottenness of Turkish administration, and continues:—

> My conclusion is that Turkey must be taken in tutelage by the Western Powers, and that everything will depend upon the personal character and the knowledge of the men into whose hands the task of regenerating Turkey will be put. Foremost among those who are fit to be entrusted with this duty are certain American missionaries in the country—not by any means all of them, for I have known one who said to me with fervour that he had never been inside a Turkish mosque. Such as he may be eliminated at once, but many missionaries whom I have known are well fitted to be guides, as in their life they are ensamples, of economic management and moral vigour, and of living on a high standard. It is, however, not the purpose of this paper to do more than point out the urgent need for the application of knowledge and study and preparation for this revivification of Western Asia. The knowledge is wanting, the facts have never been collected, and it is of the first importance that they should be collected and tabulated now, before the need for applying the knowledge presses upon us. To benefit a class like the Anatolian peasant it is necessary to have regard in the first place to his present condition, education, and circumstances, and in the second place to the historical process which has brought him to the situation which he now occupies. A cure which would be useful to one class of peasantry having certain racial characteristics would be useless, and perhaps even harmful, to peasants of a different type. The Anatolian peasant is obedient, contented and easily governed, in a way that is almost unique in the case of a race possessing such a courageous, and in some ways trustworthy, basis of nature.
>
> No amount of knowledge, however, and no collecting and tabulating of facts or statistics will be of any avail without the

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will and the skill to use them in practice. Our diplomatists in Turkey have usually been strenuously opposed to doing anything to aid the people except in the way of sending armies and doctors and nurses, the last two elements almost entirely through private initiative and at private expense, but cordially supported on most occasions by the Embassy. To improve the economic situation of the people lay wholly outside the interest and wish of diplomacy. In this respect all that has been done by Britain has been done by private persons and trading enterprise, in spite of the systematic neglect and sometimes the contempt and opposition of the official world.

Jewish Colonization in Palestine.

The reasons of the success achieved by Jewish colonization in Palestine within a comparatively short time are the subject of an article in the February number of the *Zionist Review*. Elsewhere in the same issue the interesting fact is recorded that a group of workers known as the "Hecholuz" have asked the Council of the English Zionist Federation to obtain permission from the British Government for their immediate departure for Palestine.

We thus see that the Jewish colonization in Palestine, unlike the colonization of other peoples, is not a movement of expansion of the nation, but a movement of reunion, not a centrifugal but a centripetal force, which entails not a dispersion, but a concentration of energy—a concentration, in fact, of all the living forces in Jewry on one single and central purpose. That explains why those who during the last thirty odd years have gone out to Palestine as pioneers are really in a certain sense an *élite* from among the Jewish people, and why they have been able in such a comparatively short time to achieve at least as great results and as notable successes in their colonizing work as any other, even the most experienced, colonizing peoples of ancient times or of to-day, have ever achieved, and that notwithstanding the special difficulties in their way. Whereas the British, French, and German settlers who have gone abroad had at their disposal the support and protection of the most powerful nations of the world, the Jews in Palestine have constantly laboured under the greatest disadvantages, the policy of the Turkish Government with regard to the Jewish colonization having consistently been one of systematic obstruction. Yet they persevered in their efforts, and by demonstrating that both the country—Palestine—and the people—the Jewish settlers—are possessed of the attributes which are essential for the successful reconstitution of our national home, they have convinced the world of the practicability of our objects, and have thus contributed more than any other agency to winning recognition and practical support for our national aspirations.

The Enemy of Islam.

Under the above heading a correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* calls attention to the beneficial effects of British rule on the administration of the Wakfs, or religious foundations, in Egypt. When honest government comes to be introduced into Turkey it will probably be found that the similar institutions in that country are capable of exercising a much wider influence for good than the lax administration to which they are probably subjected to-day allows. The letter runs as follows:—

Sir,—As German agents in Moslem countries have, for many years past, carried on a mendacious campaign against British rule in Egypt, alleging the robbery of religious trusts by Britain "as the enemy of Islam," I have taken the opportunity, whilst here on a short visit, to ascertain, by the kindness of Ahmed Zeki Pasha, Minister of Wakfs, the figures from the records of the Ministry showing the material benefits which have accrued to religious trusts by the more efficient management of estates. For brevity I have selected twenty years as sufficient for comparison. The period is 1895 to 1915. The figures are well worthy of publication as an absolute contradiction of German lies. As in India so in Egypt, the trusts of Islam are scrupulously devoted to the uses of mosques, schools, etc., as ordered by decree of the Speri Court or designated in the wills of pious founders :—

	1895. £E.	1900. £E.	1905. £E.	1910. £E.	1915. £E.
REVENUE from estates administered by the Ministry of Wakfs, Cairo, for religious, etc., uses ..	229,719	237,301	361,376	524,151	536,759
REVENUE from Aply Wakfs	142,377	153,579	165,142	325,779	432,661
EXPENDITURE on Mosques, El-Azhar University, hospitals, schools of theology and law, orphanages, tombs of venerated men, farm improvements, house property, repairs and building, payments to beneficiaries under wills.	339,273	371,876	501,625	814,161	839,597
ESTABLISHMENT: Imams, Professors, Readers, Muezzims, teachers, guardians of tombs, sextons, lamp trimmers, etc. ..	893	7,426	8,286	9,618	9,967

Comment is needless.—Your faithful servant, EDWARD ATKIN.
Alexandria, Egypt, January 20.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The issue of one rupee notes by the Government of India, to meet the situation that had arisen through the continued decrease in the Indian Treasury holding of silver and the impossibility of increasing the supplies of silver sufficiently to meet the demand, seems to have been accorded a most gratifying reception. According to Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Company there was an immediate response on the part of the public, the stock at the Bank of Bombay being exhausted very early in the day, while there was a similar rush in Calcutta. Provided the demand finds an echo outside the large towns, the issue will solve the silver difficulty so far as India is concerned, while by reducing the demand for silver it may have the indirect result of rendering unnecessary the 5s. notes which have been printed for circulation here.

⁂

Some interesting deductions as to the present relations between Germany and Turkey may be drawn from the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Baghdad Railway Company which was held at Berlin on February 1. It appears that a loss of £60,000 resulted in 1916, while the report leaves unmentioned the accounts in 1917, and also says nothing of the prospects of the company. The chairman, Herr von Gwinner, made a most gloomy speech at the meeting, saying that the position of the company was bad. He also stated that the concern was in urgent need of money, as the Turkish Government (as is the way with the authorities at the Sublime Porte) had not met all its obligations. From these remarks I think the conclusion justified that our successes in Mesopotamia and Palestine have had a greater effect on the Turco-German alliance than is apparent, and that the pessimism underlying von Gwinner's speech was due to the knowledge that there was no possibility of Germany having any influence worth speaking of in Turkey after the war.

⁂

The action of the Government of Egypt in acquiring the Egyptian telephone service was far from unexpected, as it was known that negotiations had been in progress for a considerable period. This step was bound to be taken sooner or later, since the telephone naturally comes under the heading of those services which should be under direct Government control. The purchase price is £E755,000. The capital of the Telephone Company of Egypt is £E180,000 in fully paid preferred shares, with no priority as to capital, and £E20,000 in fully paid preferred shares. It may be added that 10 per cent. has been paid on the shares for each of the ten years to 1916. There is also £E180,500 of outstanding 4½ per cent. Egyptian stock. The Oriental Telephone and Electric Company holds nearly all the share capital, and will be entitled to practically the whole of the net proceeds of the transaction after the debentures have been repaid and other claims have been met.

⁂

Since my comments last week certain developments have been reported as regards Russia's attitude—or, rather, that of those people who at present claim to speak in Russia's name—towards the property of Roumania in that country. The Roumanian gold reserve of 300,000,000 francs at Moscow is stated to have been definitely impounded by the People's Commissioners, and to have been stored in the Kremlin, while the Revolutionary Committee in the Black Sea are understood to have decided to confiscate the means of transport belonging to the Roumanian Government, and in pursuance of this decision to have seized some forty steamers lying in Black Sea harbours. Much as these incidents are to be deplored, there is obviously nothing to be done at the present time, and one can only hope that in the end this new philosophy of Socialism, which regards as right and proper the seizure of property entrusted to a country for safe keeping, will lead to a reaction, when a better sense of he obligations of honour will obtain.

⁂

It is always a case of "Heads I win, tails you lose" with the Germans. Thus, while they have been simulating indignation at what they term a breach of international law on the part of two airmen who did nothing more serious than drop a few leaflets in the "Fatherland" in which the truth was set out rather too clearly for the delicate Teutonic digestion, their new ardour for legality has not prevented them from trying to revive their insidious propaganda in Morocco by means of incendiary literature smuggled into the country. The literature, if the leaflets deserve that name, appears to have been printed in Damascus, and in substance is exactly what the Germans have led the Allies to expect from them—it contains, among other things, an incitement to murder all Frenchmen in Morocco. Happily, the Moors know the Germans, and so far from being influenced by this propaganda, are stedfast on the side of France, whose arduous work in the development of the country they have come to realize and appreciate. The only effect the propaganda is likely to have is to make it more difficult for Germans to regain their business footing in the country after the war, for the Moors will naturally be reluctant to resume dealings with people whose methods of warfare include practices of this kind.

⁂

Stress has constantly been laid in these columns on the necessity for the Government of India to take definite steps to secure to British firms interested in the Calcutta hides trade a period in which they can be free to reorganize the trade and so make it certain that the export of hides will henceforth be in British hands, and that this country receives all the hides that the tanners require. Why so little should have been done in this direction up to the present time is a mystery, unless it is due to doubt on the part of the Government of India whether British firms will be equal to retaining the control of the trade once it is in their hands. On this point the British Government can give India several useful precedents, notably with regard to the margarine trade. Before the war the manufacture of margarine here was a most unprofitable undertaking owing to foreign enterprise and competition; but under the strain of war and with Government encouragement the industry is now in a strong position, and in the opinion of Sir George Watson, who is well able to judge, it is so firmly established that there will be no danger when the war ends of a return to the former state of things.

⁂

The report of the Bengal and North-Western Railway for the year ended September 30 last shows a satisfactory increase in the net earnings of the railway, the company's share coming to Rs. 72,15,700, as against Rs. 68,70,400 for the previous twelve months. As a result, there is an interim distribution, and the dividend and bonus is brought up to 8 per cent., the highest rate since 1913-14. £35,000 is allotted to the sinking fund for redemption of capital, and £17,000 to the investment depreciation fund, while £113,100 is carried forward, an increase of £19,900. It should be noted that it was in the first half of the year that the position showed improvement; after July, as a matter of fact, the coaching traffic showed a decline owing to a reduction of train services, and this factor will have to be reckoned with in the following report.

⁂

The extraordinary popularity of the inematograph in Great Britain and elsewhere throughout the Empire makes the future of the film industry here a matter considerable importance, for there is no oubt that the "pictures" have at least as much influence with the masses of the population as the Press, and were the industry to fail to maintain its ground the influx of foreign films would have quite as bad an effect as if an important group of newspapers was in foreign hands. That there is need for prevision is shown by the intimation of the British Empire Producers' Organisation that German financial groups (including the Deutsche and the Dresden banks) are making extensive preparations for controlling foreign film markets. Evidently the intention is to promote "Kultur" by the screen, a course which might prove distinctly dangerous in countries like India, if we were so foolish as to allow the Germans such a priceless opportunity of stirring up mischief.

COMMENTATOR.

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AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

Effects of the War.

The report of the Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan for 1916-17 is of no little interest, since not only does the bulk of the population live from the soil, but agriculture is a field in which, by common consent, lies the main hope of restoring the lost prosperity of the island. The war appears to have affected Cyprus in two distinct ways. On the one hand it has greatly benefited producers owing to the increased prices obtained for all agricultural produce. On the other, it has not only increased the cost of living, but has arrested the promised expansion of the Agricultural Department inaugurated by Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, and caused a setback in several industries which are under its wing. The policy of the Department appears to have been to assist husbandry in all its branches, and not to concentrate in any particular direction.

The obstacles to progress are mentioned. The principal are lack of water, the indebtedness of the peasantry, and their habitual apathy. To these may be added the impossibility of importing various articles required by the Department, which has hampered several operations. Many plans have been, "owing to dislocation of business, impossible of fulfilment."

As regards lack of water, it may be said that nothing on a large scale can be accomplished in Cyprus until the supply is artificially increased, and this means large expenditure. Take cereals alone. In the time of Strabo it has been calculated that the island supported at least 1,100,000 inhabitants (the present population is under 300,000), and grew 10,000,000 bushels of wheat, or nearly five times the quantity grown at present. Almost every part of the report alludes to the serious trouble caused by local drought. As to indebtedness, again no great progress can be expected as long as the agricultural classes remain in the hands of the money-lenders and merchants, who advance money on ruinous terms regarding the disposal of their produce. The peasants must be enabled to obtain cheap credit. Little seems to have been effected so far by the "Co-operative Credit Society Law" of 1914, which raised hopes in some quarters.

Cereals and Vine Products.

It would seem that all the Department can do at present is to experiment with imported seeds. Native methods from seed-time to harvest are still antiquated. One imagines that more might be done if the Government were to introduce up-to-date machines and appliances for selected areas, and loans, repayable by instalments, were made to farmers.

Vine cultivation engages a large section of the people in the higher lands. For two or three years wine manufacturers have received good prices owing to the increased demand in Egypt. During a pre-war period of depression they had been so unremunerative that "growers not infrequently," says the report, "used wine as an ingredient in making mud bricks, or for repairing their houses." Perhaps we may presume that grape skins were so applied after the wine and spirit had been extracted! Vineyards were neglected, "vines became a prey to pests, and not a few were uprooted." Now, again growers are elated. But the Director warns them that, although war prices may obtain for some time after the cessation of hostilities, "it is only too likely that they will fall eventually more or less to the pre-war level." This is practically certain. After the boom in wine manufacture which followed the phylloxera ravages in France, M. Gennadius, in 1880, gave a similar warning to all vine-growers in the East; and when afterwards Director of Agriculture in Cyprus he not only discouraged any extension of vine-planting, but even advocated the imposition of a special tax on new plantations. He was fully justified in his prediction of a succeeding crisis. The fact is that unless and until wine manufacture is revolutionised in Cyprus, its wines cannot compete in European markets. Cultivators are now again advised "not to put," as they so often do, "all their eggs in one basket." As regards raisins, for which a largely extended market could be found if they were properly prepared, little advance has been made. But sultana raisins, only recently introduced, are doing well and should soon be in the market in fair quantities. Grapes for the table could be greatly improved for neighbouring markets. The English varieties introduced two years ago are so far doing well.

Olives and Olive Oil.

There are immense tracts suitable for the cultivation of the much-neglected olive tree. Cyprus, instead of largely importing both olives and oil, should be carrying on a large export trade. No industry is at present more deplorably backward. In the year under review 198,640 okes (246 tons) of olives, valued at £16,035, were imported. The cultivation of the tree is injurious in the extreme, and the process of extracting oil primitive and insanitary. The Agricultural Department raises large numbers of trees for issue to villagers, and hopes to obtain grafts of Italian and Spanish varieties. It is also endeavouring to improve the methods of oil pressing. Much remains to be done, as in the case of carobs, in the grafting of wild trees, as well as the raising of new ones.

Sericulture.

This industry again is admirably suited to Cyprus, and is one in which women and girls can largely participate. Much remains to be done for its development in spite of the risks that have to be met in rearing silkworms. Unfortunately, the report states that the industry has received a temporary setback, and many mulberry trees have been uprooted "to make way for orange and other fruit trees." Here again rearers are generally at the mercy of the merchants who, when they supply the eggs, make a cash advance to meet working expenses, on condition that the cocoons are brought to them. The prices are fixed by the merchants, and this often means a loss instead of a profit to the hapless producers.

In potato growing there has been a great extension of cultivation in the last two years, and this should, it is anticipated, become a leading industry, as there is much suitable land available at almost all altitudes. The application for the first time of chemical manures and the introduction of new seed potatoes has greatly favoured production. Before the war, says the report, consumption of potatoes was confined to the well-to-do classes, but it has now become general.

Tobacco.

It is strange that there should be no mention of tobacco cultivation, the revival of which has been recently noteworthy and hopeful. The situation is somewhat as follows. Syrian refugees in the Larnaca district having introduced a Latakia variety, a considerable number of growers made large profits last year. The consequence has been that a great many agriculturists have desired to put land under tobacco. Meantime, however, in order to promote food production, the Government has prohibited cultivation except under licence. Hence it would appear that a setback is imminent, or already imposed, in this newly developed industry, which may, however, very probably become a prosperous one when peace is restored.

Dairy work remains as it was. There are, in fact, no dairies in our sense of the word in Cyprus. Native cheese is made from the milk of goats and sheep. Cattle are raised for agricultural and draught purposes only. Cheese-making, however, on European principles is being taught to an enterprising few. In bee-keeping some progress is being made. Cyprus honey is excellent, and the output could be immensely increased in quantity and quality.

Destruction of Pests.

The combating of numerous pests which kept the Department busy is referred to at some length. The measures taken against the carob disease have lately been the subject of some discussion in THE NEAR EAST. No allusion is made to the war against locusts. presumably because it is not under the direction of the Agricultural Department. All that is said is that in the Famagusta district native locusts were attacked by parasitic red mites. Some information as to the results of the year's campaign would have been interesting. This brings one to the subject of what is still a fatal scourge alike to agriculture and the forests. The impression derived from all recent reports is that more should be done to eradicate the plague of goats; that the evil should be met with more drastic if not ruthless action. The efforts made by the Agricultural Department to encourage the growing of fruit trees, which could be made so profitable, are frustrated to a great extent by the depredations of goats, with the result that there is only "an appreciable survival." Again, the report of the Principal Forest Officer for 1914-15 estimated the annual loss to the island from goats at £125,000, or more than the value of the goats; and the annual damage to the forests by the eating down of forest growth at £25.000. These figures alone are surely a forcible argument against further compromise.

The Government Farm.

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tained. Something is done annually to improve native breeds of ponies, donkeys, cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry by cross-breeding and distribution of stock reared on the farm. Shows held in different parts of the island have no doubt furnished an incentive to peasants.

Agricultural lectures in village schools have been kept up, as well as the summer course of study for both Turkish and Greek schoolmasters. Good work has been done in the agricultural school at Nicosia. The *Cyprus Agricultural Journal* finds its way to all parts of the island.

Clearly the task in Cyprus is exceptionally difficult, greatly owing to lack of funds. No Agricultural Department can do much unless it has a strong Government backing, and in Cyprus this is needed in a peculiar degree. War conditions and perhaps the political outlook conspire to retard progress. Nothing can in any case be effected in the island by leaps and bounds, or until the circumstances already referred to are radically altered. But progress is disappointingly slow. As the Director of Agriculture says, "the work of the Department should be measured not by the immediate tangible results. It is preparing the soil which should bear fruit in the more or less distant future." Nevertheless, the Department marches manfully forward in the face of formidable impediments, and is doing excellent all-round work. It is gaining year by year the confidence of the people who, when the hopeless burden of indebtedness is relieved, should be able to pass through the disappointing mirage of the present to an increasingly prosperous future.

ADEN MARKET FOR SOAP.

Opening or Musk Soap.

There is a good market in Aden for laundry soaps, but for toilet soaps the demand is far-less promising, says the American Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report. Where soap is used for toilet purposes the average native finds the laundry class of soaps quite satisfactory. The small European population and a small class of natives do, however, demand a proper toilet soap. Most of the toilet soaps imported come from the United Kingdom. A minor quantity of perfumed toilet soaps comes from the United Kingdom and France. An investigation made of the toilet soap market reveals the possibility of building up a limited trade in cheap soap perfumed with musk. The local native, and more particularly the Arab, is very fond of strong perfumes, and he is more than partial to musk. One Aden dealer is enthusiastic over the possibility of musk soap, which he could sell at a price within reach of the limited purchasing power of the mass of the native population. He thinks that a 2-ounce cake, strongly scented with musk, would best suit the trade. The shape of the cake should be oval, and it should be made to retail at an average price of 3d. The price could be a little more.

The leading native perfume dealer in Aden estimates that he alone could sell from fifty to 100 gross of such soap each month. As to packing, he thinks that it should come three cakes in the usual cardboard box, as do most toilet soaps. The class of trade to be served would buy this soap by the single cake, but it is considered that packing the soap as suggested would meet the idea of the customer that all regular toilet soaps are so packed. Inasmuch as the soap would be sold by the cake, an attractive paper wrapper would be desirable, unless it added materially to the cost of the soap. A soap of this sort should find a sale among the Arab populations of other countries, and the labels or descriptions to be placed upon the box and wrappers should be at least partly in Arabic.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Balkan Fruit Farming.

British engineer-manufacturers were interested to hear that considerable quantities of horticultural and agricultural machinery will have to be supplied from British works to Northern France, Belgium, Poland, Serbia and Roumania to replace the devastation which has been wrought by the Central Powers. Already a War Horticultural Relief Fund has been started in this country on behalf of the lands named, and it is stated that the aim is to raise at once £1,000,000 to restore the orchards, fruit farms, and nursery gardens.

Road-Making Machinery.

Road-making forms an essential element in the general advancement of a country. In the Near East all countries are anxious to extend and improve their communications by the construction of new roads. It is a question which interests all classes; a fact which is not overlooked by politicians, who in electioneering campaigns never omit to mention in their programmes "the construction of new roads" in their respective constituencies, as their foremost object in being returned to Parliament. Unfortunately, the result of such promises is, as a rule, a spasmodic outburst of road-making in all directions, satisfying local demands, but disorganising and delaying the carrying out of a proper system of roads that would benefit the whole country. At the same time this procedure is an expensive method of road-making. Estimates are based on the employment of inexperienced local labour, using, as a rule, archaic implements.

The demand for road-making in the Near East in the near future will be unprecedented, as, apparently, all the responsible authorities there recognise that the economic recovery and progress of their respective countries depend to a very great extent on the improvement of their means of communications.

In carrying out these improvements it is to be hoped that modern methods will be adopted, expert engineers and modern machinery employed, and political influence barred.

New Machines.

In view of this prospect, it may be of interest to the authorities and contractors to know that among the types of new machinery for the construction of up-to-date roads and highways there is a new road-making machine which is of remarkable efficiency. This machine is designed for the use of contractors, or country authorities desiring to build long stretches of roads at the minimum cost. It has a blade of 12 ft. in width, and if attached to an engine of sufficient power, will handle the earth to any desired depth. It is especially suitable for building long roads in places where the land is uneven, because its great capacity enables it to fill up considerable hollows with remarkable rapidity, and at slight expense.

There is also another new machine of this class, but smaller in size, which is designed to meet the requirements of those who desire a small, moderate-priced machine for road repairing, ditch cleaning, levelling, etc. This machine has a five-foot mould-board, and can be drawn by two or four horses. It is extremely useful for its size, and very strongly built and durable. For roads that are badly worn and full of holes and ruts there is another new machine, a scarifier, which is provided with a number of powerful teeth that rip up the uneven surface. The road is afterwards gone over and levelled with an ordinary road machine. This scarifier possesses the merit of being able to rip off the hard spots, even in macadam or asphalte, that otherwise would have to be done by manual labour.

For road building in districts where the grades are heavy and there are big ditches on the sides, or where it is necessary to make large cuts and fills calling for the removal of considerable quantities of earth, there is a machine which does the work very economically. This machine, or grader, loads the wagons automatically while working, and the wagons are emptied by means of a lever. Machines such as these are needed for the speedy and economic construction of good roads.

From the Elbe to the Danube.

The internal waterways of Germany and Austria-Hungary are, apparently, to be developed on a large scale. At the Congress of German and Austrian Economic Unions recently held in Hamburg, which was attended by representatives of the various Imperial, State and Municipal authorities, a resolution was adopted to the effect that after the war immediate steps should be taken to establish effective internal waterway connection between Germany and Austria-Hungary, the most important and most urgently needed connections being the Elbe-Oder-Danube and the Rhine-Main-Danube canals. The resolution also expressed the view that the canal from Pardubitz (Bohemia) to Preran (Moravia) in connection with the Oder-Danube canal offered the best solution of the problem of a route for large ships from the Elbe to the Danube. Particulars of the schemes for the construction of the above mentioned canals were given in these columns some time ago; and the effect that such a waterway would have on British trade was also pointed out.

Morava-Vardar Waterway.

The union of the Morava River with the Vardar River, by the building of a canal from Ristowal, via Kumanovo, to Uskub, will give Serbia a most valuable waterway running through the whole country from the Danube to Gevgheli, and out to the Gulf of Salonika. The river Vardar takes its rise in the Balkan mountains, north-west of Uskub, and after draining a large extent of upland country, flows through an extensive valley, falling into the Gulf of Salonika. The entire valley is under cultivation, and not far from it are situate the important towns of Yenidje, Vardar, Niautsa, Karaferia, and Vodena. The river, especially during the spring months, brings down so large a volume of water from the uplands that its channel through the lower portions of the valley is totally insufficient to carry off these waters, with the result that a very extensive area of country is constantly submerged, causing great damage and heavy loss to the proprietors and cultivators. In addition, a very large tract of country has from this cause been converted into marshland, and no crops are grown on it. Another large tract was submerged centuries ago, and has since developed into a lake with a length of about eleven and a half miles and a breadth of about twelve miles, known as the Lake of Yenidge. According to the survey and plans of a British hydraulic engineer, the floodings can be prevented by making a cutting, about nine miles in length, at the lower portion of the Vardar, and embanking both sides of the river for about twenty-four miles. An outlet would be dredged for the draining of Lake Yenidge. Channels would be opened for the irrigation of some 50,000 acres of agricultural land, situated partly on the eastern and partly on the western side of the Vardar River, and other works for navigation for transport of agricultural and other produce from the inland to the port of Salonika. As the entire drainage and reclamation of the land, as also the irrigation, would be effected by gravitation, no pumping station whatever is needed; and, owing to this, it is estimated that the cost of all the works would not exceed the sum of £250,000. By the Morava-Vardar waterway, Serbia could export her produce either via the Danube or the Ægean Sea at very cheap rates of transport.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

The Role of the Institution.

The first ordinary general meeting of the British Trade Corporation was held on January 31 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., Lord Faringdon (the Governor) presiding. The secretary (Mr. G. de B. Brounlie) read the notice and the auditors' report.

The Governor said that the extremely liquid state of the assets showed that the corporation had not yet got seriously to work upon the problems it was created to deal with. Their Royal Charter was granted as the result of the report of a Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade, over which he had the honour of presiding, and the terms of their reference were "to consider the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the war as regards financial facilities for trade." That date might yet be far off, but the Government, in calling the corporation into being, naturally realised that there were many preliminaries to be arranged in advance of actual business, and it was in connection with these preliminaries that the executive had been mainly occupied during the past few months. His attention had been drawn to the activity displayed by some concerns not dissimilar to their own, who had invested large sums in various directions, and a contrast had been drawn between what they had done and the corporation's apparent want of enterprise. It could not be too clearly understood that the business of the corporation was not so much to take up undertakings on their own account as to assist with finance those who were launching out in various directions where it was clearly demonstrated that such launching out would be for the benefit of British trade. They would, of course, have investments from time to time, but these would be of a temporary character, and would only be held until they had been built up and developed and were suitable for the general public. The directors mentioned in their report that they had set up an information bureau, but it would be more correct to call this an index department. The Government had taken steps for the development of their own Information Department, and the corporation, instead of having the actual information upon a multiplicity of subjects in their own possession, were keeping a register which would show at a glance where information was readily obtainable. This, when further developed, would enable their staff quickly to prepare memoranda upon any subject calling for special consideration. They would naturally keep in their possession statistics dealing with resources, methods of trading, and commercial statistics of overseas markets. It having been brought to their notice, from evidence given before several Departmental Committees, that there was a strongly expressed opinion that arrangements should be made for the insurance of commercial bills, the corporation had decided to create a separate company, which would be entirely under its control, for doing that class of business, and they had made an agreement with the Excess Insurance Company to transfer to the new concern that part of its business which was of this character.

Some little time since he was looking forward to the occasion that the present gathering would afford of meeting certain criticisms which were levelled against the corporation at the time of its inception, and he had made somewhat copious notes of speeches in the House of Commons and comments in the Press which, it struck him at the time they were uttered or written, called for a reply. He had, however, come to the conclusion that many of the exaggerated comments which were made had been answered by what had since been demonstrated—namely, that the corporation was not out to capture the trade or finance of any existing institution, and that, even if they had the power to do evil things, there was no intention to exercise that power. They were genuinely desirous of assisting the export trade of the country by providing financial assistance as far as their means would permit; they were anxious to provide the commercial community with information which might come into their possession and which might not be readily available from other directions, and they hoped that they might, when business revived, be made the pivot upon which important syndicates for great industrial developments at home and abroad might revolve. Their measure of usefulness must not be judged by their present issued share capital, but rather by the parties by whom that capital was held, and the conviction of those who had the management of the corporation's affairs that—given success with the moneys now entrusted to them—there would be no difficulty in getting more when the necessity arose. He trusted that the scheme of cooperation which had made the German banks so great a power in the past would be followed by our own institutions, and that this corporation might be made the medium for carrying through operations of magnitude. He thought there was reason to suppose that the British Trade Corporation would quickly justify its creation, always provided that trade was freed at the earliest moment possible from the harassing Government restrictions which now surrounded it.

The report was unanimously adopted.

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

Mr. Walter Leaf, who presided at the annual general meeting of the London County and Westminster Bank, held on January 24 at 41, Lothbury, E.C., said that the shareholders had probably heard fears expressed in some quarters that the great increase in bank resources might form a strong temptation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to help himself in some emergency by commandeering bank balances. That was not, in his opinion, a risk which deserved any attention, and that for a very good reason. The Chancellor could gain nothing by such an operation, because he had got the whole increase already by a voluntary process. When they considered the figures he had given and reflected that the increase in cash at call and short notice was mainly lent to the Government through the Bank of England; that the great increase in bills discounted had gone direct into the Chancellor's hands in the form of Treasury bills, and that the increase in advances had done so indirectly through the bank's customers' investments in War Loan, the shareholders would see—and the Chancellor knew this as

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MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.
Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. **Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000**
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. **Reserve - - - - - £220,000**
Directors:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.
Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.
BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.
CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.
The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business beween Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

well as anyone—that if he attempted to call upon the bank for anything in the way of a forced loan, it would not be possible for it to meet such a requisition except by taking from him with one hand what he was asking the bank to give with the other. Their gross profits were a record—nearly a million more than last year and over two millions more than two years ago. But against this the interest paid to customers showed an increase of considerably more than half a million. There was also a heavy increase of just £200,000 in expenses. That was not a feature which they liked to see, but it was wholly due to war bonus to their staff at home and to allowances to those on active service. The board could not but feel serious doubts about the point at which their expenses might permanently stand after the war. That was a matter which must be always taken into consideration in any discussion of the future rate of dividend. They were, however, still able, after providing for this heavy increase, to show a record net profit of £1,271.000. After remarking that while the board felt justified on the results of the year in recognising the strong claims of the shareholders to a better return, the board were making no promise for the future, but only expressing a good hope that the dividend could be maintained at 19 per cent. in the future.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF TRADE.

With regard to Government control of trade, he said they must all recognise that such control was in the present emergency inevitable, but they could not view without some alarm the probably permanent results of some steps which were being taken, perhaps with the idea of retracing them in the period of reconstruction. If so, he feared that the idea was short-sighted and fallacious. He would mention two instances. The whole future of the labour question was in the melting pot, and on the solution would depend the prosperity of the country and therefore of the banks after the war. It could hardly be said, he feared, that the recent action of the Government in the wages question was of good augury, or promised anything in the way of real settlement in the near future. Another direction in which Government Departments had been active caused the directors much apprehension. He alluded to what appeared to have been adopted as a deliberate policy—the extinction of the merchant, with the view of bringing directly together the producer and the customer. That was an object which might commend itself at first sight to the amateur; it looked like an economy and a simplification. To him it looked rather like a return to primitive conditions of trade unsuited to our modern requirements. To strike at the merchant was to aim a blow at the world-wide pre-eminence of London. The Government was asking at present, and wisely asking, not for a great and dramatic loan, but for what was perhaps harder, but much more wanted—a strong, sustained effort to keep up a steady supply of funds. The banks as such had done and were doing their share to the very utmost of their ability, and he appealed to them all to do the like and to put into National War Bonds every penny they could spare. Let them buy War Bonds, not only now, but to-morrow and next week and next month and every month till the war had at last reached the end which they meant to gain.

The report was adopted unanimously.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
January 31, February 1, 2	540,000	560,000
February 3, 4	380,000	460,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Jan. 25.	1918. Week ended Jan. 24.
Cattle markets	1,264	899
General markets	388	474
Receipts (£)	1,652	1,373
Total for year	5,927	4,505

◆

The export of ground nuts from the Sudan to countries other than Egypt is prohibited except by special permit.

Owing to ill-health, Mr. Arthur Hutton has resigned the chairmanship of the British Cotton-Growing Association, which he has held since the association was formed.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Unsatisfactory Market Conditions

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER Wednesday.

Producers in the market have experienced another disappointing week, and demand in all quarters remains flat. Conditions at the moment are not at all favourable to a large turnover, and buyers seem more determined than ever to act with caution. Supplies of Egyptian cotton are rather more plentiful, especially in Alexandria, but some Lancashire spinners are complaining of the poor quality. Buying at the moment is at a low ebb, and it is understood that most users are fairly well bought. In Egyptian yarns fine combed qualities are very scare, and in certain numbers it seems quite impossible to obtain delivery in less than two to three months. The production of fine cloths for aircraft purposes is being hampered owing to the short supply of suitable yarn. The recent fall in raw material rates has had very little effect upon spinners' quotations. In cloth for Egypt stock lots have been in request, but shippers have been in no mood to purchase for forward delivery. There has been rather increased anxiety with regard to shipping facilities, and it is feared that the Government is about to put further restrictions upon our industry as regards exports. No improvement can be recorded in the inquiry in piece goods for India, and advices from the other side are discouraging. Some necessary buying has transpired for China in well-known makes, and occasional lots have been put through for Java and the Straits Settlements. The home trade remains busy. Prices in American yarns are showing rather more irregularity, especially in wefts, coarse counts being in larger supply. Operations have been of a hand-to-mouth character. Very little activity has prevailed in shipping yarns.

◆

The death took place recently at Liverpool, in his 83rd year, of Mr. Dashper Edward Glynn, who was, until May last, a partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. John Glynn and Son, of Liverpool, whose steamers have been engaged in the Mediterranean trade since 1850.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for eleven days ended December 31.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Dec. 21-Dec. 31	7,193	11,570
April 1-Dec. 31	159,070	202,795

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

Improvement Maintained.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 19.

The October accounts of the Egyptian Government, published this week, show a continued improvement in the State finances. Revenue during the month amounted to £E3,219,583, as against £E2,880,356 a year ago, and expenditure to £E1,789,986, as against £E1,702,573. The total revenue to date comes to £E12,304,911, and expenditure to £E10,371,149, as compared with £E11,197,064 and £E9,819,567 respectively at the end of October, 1916. There are thus increases of £E1,107,847 in revenue and of £E551,582 in expenditure.

During the month the principal items of revenue were land tax, £E1,505,495; customs, £E214,076; tobacco dues, £E212,991; railways, £E500,260; domains, £E178,734; ghaffir cess, £E103,842; and interest on funds, £E93,369. The chief items of expenditure were £E126,567; irrigation, £E194,254; railways, £E60,767; ghaffirs, War Office, £E83,423; public debt, £E709,567; war gratuities, £E45,049; and pensions, £E46,425.

Chief Increases.

The principals heads of revenue which show an improvement during the seven months compared with the corresponding period of 1915 are:—Land tax, £E24,386; customs £E23,790; legal fees, £E121,576; railways, £E140,543; ghaffirs, £E510,819; interest on funds, £E53,887; and extraordinary receipts, £E300,795. Tobacco dues have fallen off by £E173,344, and port dues by £E37,040. Expenditure on irrigation increased by £E143,763, on main roads by £E12,899, on agriculture by £E20,958, on War Office by £E36,353, whilst ghaffirs (£E410,945) and war gratuities (£E89,594) appear for the first time. The main item of decrease under expenditure was £E369,371 on railways.

The net result of the seven months is an improvement in the position by £E556,265, the surplus this year being £E1,933,762, as compared with one of £E1,377,497 at the end of October, 1916. Since we are in the heaviest part of the year as regards revenue collection, it would not be at all surprising if the current year were to close with a surplus approximating double that of 1916-1917.

◆

Up to January 26 Indian Treasury bills have been sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value Rs.4,66,80,000; six months' bills, face value Rs.16,61,10,000; nine months' bills, face value Rs.4,97,50,000; twelve months' bills, face value Rs.74,00,000—total, Rs.26,99.40.000, equal at 1s. 5d. the rupee to £19,120,800.

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SARSAPARILLA
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Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
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Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
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"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
The late LORD CLYDE said:—I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
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A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a certain amount of irregularity in our market for Egyptian securities this week. Bank shares have been subject to profit-taking; Nationals are 3/16 down at 18½ and Agriculturals 3/32 lower at 6 17/32. On the other hand, Anglo-Egyptian Banks are again 1/16 firmer at 14½, after some transactions at an even higher figure. Land Banks are unchanged, but are looking a better market, and a certain amount of business has been transacted in them. Delta Light Railway preferences are 1/16 up at 6 5/16, but sellers are very scarce.

In Land shares there has again been a very active market, and some pretty large transactions have taken place Buying orders have been coming in both from Egypt and locally, with the result that prices are generally higher all along the line. Aboukirs have advanced 9d. to 24s. 9d., some business has been done in Allotments at 4⅛, and Behéras have been persistently inquired for for Egyptian account, finishing ¼ up at 13¾. There has also been a demand for Daira shares, which are 6d. up at 3s. 6d.; but in the absence of sellers no business has been possible. Delta Lands are unchanged, although a fair amount of business has been passing in them. Some fair lines of Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have changed hands round 10s. 6d., at which level the shares should prove an excellent lock-up in view of the appreciation of many of their holdings. Gharbieh Lands have been exceptionally dull, some profit-taking on the recent rise causing them to recede 3/16 to 2⅛.

In New Egyptians a large business has continued to be done, and the price is 3d. firmer to-night at 19s. on buying orders from Egypt. Sidi Salems and Union Foncières have again been features of strength. The former has risen a further 6s. to 46s., with a good many unsatisfied buyers still abo [illegible] scarce. The demand for this share is not surprising in view of the very low valuation per acre, which the present price represents, and a further sharp upward movement appears exceedingly probable. Union Foncières are 6s. 6d. up at 65s.; the buying during the early part of the week was for Egypt, but the final support to the present level was caused by local buying. Some transactions have taken place in United Lands round the current price.

In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are ⅛ down at 12¼, at which some business was done, and Salts and Sodas have been rather a dull spot, closing 1s. 6d. lower at 39s. In Egyptian Markets some business has been going on, and also in Khedivial Mails, but prices are practically unchanged. In both Egyptian and Greek Government stocks the market is firm, but there is very little business passing. Egypt 3½ per Cent. preferences are wanted in several quarters, but sellers are few and far between. Greek Currant Bonds are rather firmer at 92 xd., but there are only buyers. Piræus, Athens, etc., 4½ per Cent. Bonds have been dealt in to a small extent, and are about half a point up at 72¾.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations included Egyptian Unified, 96; Turkish Unified, 64.35; Credit Foncier Egyptian, 780; Ottoman Bank, 481; Suez Canal shares, 4,600.

Oil Shares.

The market was practically devoid of movement. Anglo-Egyptians (B) were unchanged at 32s. 3d.—33s. 3d., and Roumanian Consols also marked time at 13-32—15-32.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Jan. 30	Feb. 6
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85½	85½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73¼
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	73½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	92xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	80½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	80	80
Do. 4% Unified	79	70	70
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	70
,, 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅝	6 17/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14 7/16	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4¾	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18 11/16	18½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6¼	6 5/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¼	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	24/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13½	13¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/-	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2 5/16	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/9	19/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	40/-	46/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	58/6	65/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/4½	1/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅜	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/3	26/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	40/6	39/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	36/3	36/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at October 31, 1917, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,298,069
Special Reserve		78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		9,833,212
Mixed Tribunals		2,215,358
Egyptian Government		5,721,139
Bankers' Accounts		710,227
Cheques and Bills payable		270,288
Sundry other Accounts		878,563
		£E.23,929,856
		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		10,383,268
Sundry Securities		224,250
Advances on Merchandise		2,856,078
Advances on Securities		1,418,265
Advances otherwise Secured		1,290,179
Sundry other Advances		272,769
Bills of Exchange		2,180,405
Local Bills Discounted		135,226
Buildings and Furniture		226,438
Money at call and at short notice		1,530,750
Bankers' Accounts		994,120
Sudan Government		192,922
Sundry other Accounts		328,153
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,758,819	
Gold	33,827	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	104,387	
		1,897,033
		£E.23,929,856

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	26,200,000
	£E.26,200,000
	£E.
Gold	4,050,409
* British Treasury Bills	9,049,591
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,486
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	9,668,264
	£E.26,200,000

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* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital	500,000
Reserve	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£160,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 354.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Apart from the Western front, where the solemn hush of preparation for the great events of the spring campaign impresses every observer, one short *communiqué* from Palestine has sufficed to summarise the not very important military happenings of the week. Rumour has, as usual, taken the place of news, and a journalistic attempt has been made to draw the veil from the Versailles Conference—a Conference which, by the way, seems to have stirred the small band of pacifists and "their German friends" to an unusual fury. It is unfortunate that those who are criticising the Prime Minister's action on patriotic grounds should find themselves associated indirectly with the pacifists. Mr. Lloyd George is far too astute a politician not to turn the unhappy conjunction to his advantage, if the attack gets too warm.

If the "side-show" is the unforgivable sin in strategy, at least the enemy have committed it as well as ourselves. Most of the fighting away from the Western front since the Marne has been, strictly speaking, in the nature of German "side-shows." As the war goes on one is apt to lose one's sense of perspective and memory. It is always worth while to remember that the Germans set out to occupy Paris in order to seize the French colonies. There could be no more extraordinary illustration of the proverb that "war does not go according to programme" than the fact that the decisive battle in the West, timed for the last week of August, 1914, has still to be fought in February, 1918, or later; while the war is already practically over—at least for the present—on the Eastern front.

For the moment the plans of the Central Powers have triumphed in the East. Peace has been made with the Ukraine; the rest of Russia—if M. Trotsky may be taken at his own estimation, as representing the rest of Russia—has declared the state of war at an end, although the Bolsheviks, after breaking the Pact of London, have some unexplained scruples against an actual treaty of peace. Germany, having her hands freed by the official demobilisation of Russia's already disappearing army, has transferred most of her available troops to the West, and has meanwhile sent an ultimatum to Roumania.

The position of Roumania is of quite extraordinary difficulty. She is deserted by the only ally who could have helped her; the Bolsheviks have, indeed, declared war on her. But that threat, like their other threats—except their confiscation of other people's money—remains inoperative, in view of their demobilisation. The idea that the Ukraine might help Roumania is, of course, out of the question, as that would mean an act of war against Germany; Roumainia is, therefore, definitely isolated. In this extremity the King has done wisely in accepting the resignation of the Government, and appointing as Prime Minister General Avarescu, who is of no party. The situation has been too delicate for any official, or even semi-official, comment from Roumania.

It is said that Germany has offered peace to Roumania on certain terms. Those terms are stated to be that Roumania resigns the Dobruja to Bulgaria and obtains in return Bessarabia as compensation. But it is well to remember that this report comes from German sources, and is suspect on that ground alone. German offers of peace usually have a trap in them. Further, although the Dobruja part of the offer is presumably correct, as Bulgaria demands this, the Bessarabia detail is not quite so convincing. Roumania certainly desired this territory, and that so recently as three years ago; moreover, her armies have quite lately been active there, assisting the people of the province to root out Bolshevism. But Bessarabia, as it happens, is intimately connected with the Ukraine, and it would have been assumed, had Roumania not been in the war, that this rich province would naturally form part of the Ukraine. There is not a word in the Peace of Brest-Litovsk on the matter: the boundaries of the Ukraine are settled west and north, but not to the south and east.

Another very doubtful point emerges from this report of peace terms to Roumania. To whom is Germany offering them? If to the few Roumanian politicians who stayed behind in Bucharest, and have since fraternised with the Teuton, they would be ineffective. They could only be effective if offered to, and ratified by, King Ferdinand's Government. But King Ferdinand has been publicly branded by the German Government as "a traitor Hohenzollern," and presumably the authorities at Berlin do not deal with "traitors." Unfortunately for them, the "traitor" has an indomitable army, and has given no sign of surrendering. Germany has princes enough and to spare to set up a pretender on a new throne at Bucharest, but he would be a pretender and nothing more, and would not be recognised.

But the more the position is examined, the more does it become clear that the Peace of Brest-Litovsk is of a provisional character. It recognises the independence of the Ukraine, and the Germans have, therefore, presumably satisfied themselves that the administration at Kieff has in it the elements of permanence; undoubtedly the Germans will do their best to support it, since they hope to utilise the country for trade and to obtain food. But they have not given the Ukraine the Ruthenian territory of Eastern Galicia, although it was there that Ruthenian nationalist sentiment first became strong; yet it has always been understood that the offer of this territory was the inducement held out to Russia to make a separate peace in the autumn of 1916. On the other hand, the Ukraine is compensated by the inclusion of a part of Volhynia and Poland: this was probably designed to set Poland and the Ukraine by the ears—a very excellent thing from the German point of view—but the immediate result has been to infuriate the Poles with Germany. *Realpolitik* has once more overreached itself.

The failure to fix the southern and eastern boundaries of the Ukraine matters a great deal to Bulgaria and more particularly to Turkey, as well as to Roumania. On this question depends very largely the way in which Euxine politics shape. For the time being all is nebulous here, and the fog that hangs over the Caucasus and the Crimea has not been dissipated. But no calm judge of the present position can possibly believe that it holds the elements of permanence. Even less stable, if that is possible, is the situation in Russia, and it is quite impossible to understand the state of mind of a man who declares the war at an end but refuses to sign peace. The actual effect is to leave Germany in possession of everything; she could not have obtained more had Russia surrendered unconditionally. M. Litvinoff, the Bolshevik representative in this country, has denied that Lenin and Trotsky ever took German money. If that is so—and we are bound to say that he has not disposed of the suspicions—then Lenin and Trotsky have played Germany's game for nothing. But even M. Litvinoff has not ventured to defend their declaration of war against Roumania.

The lively discussion as to the Jugoslav programme and the British attitude towards it continues in Italy, and it is likely to be stimulated by Mr. Balfour's cautious reference in the House of Commons to certain negotiations which took place recently in Switzerland. Fortunately the disposition to suggest that England had abandoned the Jugoslavs—a conclusion which was drawn from Mr. Lloyd George's speech—is now less confidently advanced; there was never, of course, any suggestion that Britain would abandon Italy, nor could there be, in face of the British army's presence in Italy. The discussion has naturally turned on the 1915 treaty between Britain and Italy, and one cannot but agree with the *Secolo* that the omission of Serbia from this instrument was unfortunate, as also the admission of the same journal that Italy's attitude towards Greece three years ago, which has left its marks on the treaty, was a mistake of policy; although it must, in fairness, be remembered that at that time a different régime was in power in Athens, and that the position of Serbia itself was very different.

All this is merely to admit that a great deal has happened since 1915. At that time few Italians would consider the Jugoslav claims for a moment, and it is notorious that Downing Street for its part was not particularly enthusiastic over the question. Both sides have learnt much since then; Italy has modified, if not entirely changed, her attitude towards the proposed Jugoslav State in the Adriatic, and our own Foreign Office has unrolled the map of Europe. The contradiction, however, in the Prime Minister's statement as to the maintenance of Austria and the establishment of a new Serbia suggests that our studies of that interesting document have not yet progressed very far.

Another manifestation of Bolshevik mentality has been disclosed by the announcement that orders were given by Trotsky that M. Diamandi, late Roumanian Minister at Petrograd, was to be shot, and the other members of the Legation arrested and sent back to Petrograd. This nefarious plot miscarried, but it is understood that a large number of Roumanian Deputies, officers, and journalists have been arrested at Odessa. It is difficult to find words to express one's condemnation of this outrage; common decency, to say nothing of the age-long respect in which ambassadors, even those of enemy States, have always been held, should have dictated courteous treatment of M. Diamandi.

The report has been spread from Stockholm, a city on which many German lies have been fathered, that a Serbian Crown Council has been held at Salonika, with the view of entering into negotiations with Austria-Hungary to secure Serbia an outlet to the sea. The report scarcely required the indignant denial which it has evoked from the Serbian Press Bureau. It is known that both Bulgaria and Austria are claiming Serbian territory; and in these circumstances, and in view of the actual military situation, it is certain that the last thing in the world which Austria contemplates is to give Serbia an outlet on the Adriatic. Even before the war that idea was always denounced in Vienna as utterly impossible; it is entirely unlikely that Austria is more accommodating now, when she holds Montenegro.

To satisfy Serbia in this respect would be to defeat the whole object with which Austria went to war, for it would allow a greater Serbia to emerge. It would more or less indirectly go some way towards the fulfilment of Jugoslav desires. Nothing in the language of any Austrian statesman has given the slightest indication of any such intention; on the contrary, while fair words have been spoken about disarmament, the integrity of Austria has always been put in the forefront of Austrian peace terms. And in view of Germany's anticipated annexation of the Baltic Provinces, Austria is even more likely than before to look for "compensation."

The pro-German intrigue in Greece seems definitely to have failed—for the time. M. Venizelos has acted vigorously: the meeting at Lamia has been suppressed, and it has not been followed by any similar outbreaks. The mutineers are to be tried, and it is understood that an example will be made of them. In addition, sixteen pro-German professors from Athens University are dismissed; and a certain number of Greeks whose minds are too persistently orientated towards Berlin are to be deported to various islands.

Probably the Germans are representing these things as a tyrannical suppression of Greek democracy. The answer to that allegation was given in an enthusiastic meeting which assembled under the windows of M. Venizelos, and which gave him an ovation when he appeared. It is interesting to note that *The Times* states that no pension or allowance is paid to King Constantine by the Greek Government; he receives the rents of his own estates in Greece, as is his due, but not a penny more. Otherwise he is dependent, and presumably not unhappily dependent, on the bounty of Berlin.

Lord Curzon's reference, in the House of Lords, to the Palestine "sideshow," as every subsidiary campaign now seems to be designated, was happy. He remarked that, however much these subsidiary operations might be criticised, they achieved in fact certain results which could never be obtained by a strict adherence to the extreme Western school—Jerusalem, for instance, could never have been emancipated in Flanders. His further statement that the military operations would be much facilitated by the opening of direct railway communication between Egypt and Jerusalem during the last few days was rather unexpected. The real truth about "side-shows" seems to be that, if we win the war, they are so much more on the right side, but that we must win the war to prove it. If it had not been for the illegitimate gamble at Gallipoli, we should probably not have heard so much debate on a rather fruitless topic.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 13.

General Allenby's Visit to Cairo.

On Monday last General Sir Edmund Allenby came up to Cairo and was given a great reception at the station. It was not only his first appearance here since his victorious advance in Palestine, but also his first official visit to the capital since his appointment to the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. There was, therefore, more than one very good reason why Cairenes should give him the rousing reception which they accorded him. When his special train arrived there was an enormous crowd assembled on the platform. It included the High Commissioner, Lady Wingate, and the Residency Staff, Lady Allenby, the representative of H.H. the Sultan, the Ministers, the Advisers, Under-Secretaries, and a large representative body of British and Egyptian officials, residents, and notables. The General was cheered as, accompanied by the Premier, he made his way down the platform, and he was again acclaimed as he drove along the unusually crowded streets to Abdin Palace, where he was received by the Sultan, who retained him and his staff to luncheon, to which the Ministers were also invited. General Allenby, who has spent all his spare time visiting the wounded in the hospitals, will not stay long in Cairo; in fact, he will most probably leave again this coming week for the front.

H.H. the Sultan.

The Sultan gave this week his first official banquet since his accession. On this occasion the guests of honour were the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate. Amongst those who also received invitations were Prince Youssef Kamal, General Sir Edmund and Lady Allenby, the Ministers, the Advisers, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, the Under-Secretaries of State, Bishop and Lady McInnes, Sir Alexander and Miss Baird, Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes, Sir John and Lady Rogers, Sir William and Lady Willcocks, Captain and Mrs. Westropp, Blunt Pasha and Mrs. Blunt, and the members of the Headquarters and Residency Staffs.

Military Administration of Egypt.

I understand that in view of the great advance which has been made in Palestine a decentralisation of authority has been decided upon, and that the Command in Egypt will be resuscitated very shortly. There is no doubt that it must in the long run become more and more difficult to carry on the administration of Egypt from General Headquarters in Palestine, and the decision to separate the military administration of Egypt from the conduct of operations 200 miles to the east of the Canal is in the circumstances a very wise one. I further understand that Major-General Watson, who did such good work on the Canal, will be given the Command of the British Forces in Egypt, and that he will depend from General Allenby, to whom he will refer in case of need.

The Palestine Expedition.

The troops in Palestine are all receiving as much leave as it is possible to give them, and Cairo is full of khaki. All are in good spirits, and delighted with the situation. From stories which I have heard there is no doubt that our troops had very stiff fighting in many parts, and that the enemy did not by any means play fair on more than one occasion. I have read somewhat carefully most of the accounts of the operations, but I have not seen any reference to the work done by the stretcher-bearers. This branch of the service performed acts of veritable heroism under fire, and often under fire which it was plainly evident was especially directed at them. No words can render adequate homage to the self-sacrificing manner in which these men stuck to their work.

The Military Governorship of Jerusalem.

It is with much regret that we have all learnt that Borton Pasha has had to resign from the post of Military Governor of Jerusalem, to which he was but recently appointed. Ill-health is the cause, and the Postmaster-General is now in Alexandria, where I understand his doctors have ordered him to take a long rest. His successor in the post is Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., who has been given the temporary rank of Lieut.-Colonel, and who happened to be in Palestine on a special political mission at the time when Borton Pasha's health broke down, and so was able at once to take up the reins of this highly intricate post. Mr. Storrs is, of course, the Oriental Secretary at the Residency, who was prominently connected with the negotiations which preceded the change in the political status of this country, and who has during the past year successfully carried out important missions to Mesopotamia and elsewhere. His appointment has come as no surprise to those who have followed his work at all closely, for his experience of Oriental affairs, his intimate knowledge of the languages and the people, and his undeniable ability have long marked him out for preferment. His new post is one that will call for the exercise of just those qualities which he possesses in such a marked degree.

The Day for Prayer and Thanksgiving.

In addition to the services in the various churches on the 6th inst., a great meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. hut in the Ebekia Gardens in connection with the mission in Cairo of that well-known divine the Rev. John McNeill. The Bishop of Jerusalem presided, and the congregation, which was an enormous one, included not only military, for whom the meeting was primarily held, but also a large number of civilians, amongst whom were the High Commissioner and numerous high officials. The meeting was a tremendous success, and the Rev. J. McNeill held his audience from the beginning to end of his forty-five minutes' address, during which he spoke with stirring eloquence and convincing power. It was a truly remarkable episode in a memorable day, and from the effect of this address on the audience one can quite understand the success with which this extraordinary man has met during his mission to the troops at the front.

The European Mails.

The long lost mails have at last arrived. Since Monday the Post Office has been struggling with several thousand bags which contain the post of November 13 to December 14, and which it has taken more than half the week to distribute. It is a great relief to everyone to receive all their mail at last, but there is still considerable feeling at the manner in which the civilian community has been treated. The pity of the whole thing is that, seeing the difficulty which is encountered in providing shipping space for the most necessary articles of daily life, so much should have had to be taken up by postal matter which has now become useless for its recipients. A good part of the mail just

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received consists of newspapers and periodicals, which few will have the time or the inclination to read. Normally, owing to the news sent ahead telegraphically by the various agencies, most of the topical contents of the European newspapers are already out of date when they reach here. This is all the more the case when, as this week, papers for a period of over a month are delivered all together. For all the use the newspaper mail now received here has been it might just as well have consisted of blank sheets; in fact, it would in that case have been more useful, for it would, at any rate, have somewhat alleviated the shortage of printing paper, which is at present making itself very acutely felt.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 20.

Political Changes.

There has been more activity in politics since M. Venizelos returned, and several changes have been made in the Cabinet and other departments. M. Venizelos has himself once more become Minister of War, but a new position of Under-Secretary at the War Office has been created, and M. Grivas, an officer of the Reserve, has been appointed to the post. M. Repoulis has retired from the Ministry of the Interior, and has been given a seat in the Cabinet as a Minister without portfolio; his place has been taken by M. Ractivan. General d'Anglis has been named Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and it is proposed to form a War Council, to consist of a few members of the Cabinet and others.

Court Appointments.

Important changes have also been made at the Court. M. Mercatis, Marshal of the Court; M. Ipsilantis, Master of Horse; M. Rhoides, Private Secretary; and MM. Pallis, Pappadiamantopoulo, and Callinsky, Aides-de-Camp, have all been relieved of their offices. They have been replaced by General Korakas as Chief of the King's Military Household, and MM. Manetas, Dellagrammaticos, Melas, and Gerontis have been appointed Aides-de-Camp to his Majesty.

General News.

New Year's Day (old style) was celebrated with, perhaps, even more pomp than formerly. The usual service took place in the Cathedral, and was attended by the King and his Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and numerous officials, naval, military, and civil. There was a good muster of troops, and the large crowds which lined the streets heartily cheered the King, and especially M. Venizelos. The usual reception was held at the Palace, and on M. Venizelos's return to his residence he received the good wishes of his many friends and admirers. The King on this occasion conferred the following decorations:—

The Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour to Admiral Condouriotis; MM. Repoulis, Politis, Michalakopoulos, Tsirimokos, and Sophoulis were made Grand Officers of the Order; MM. Spyridis, Papastassiou, and Dingas were named Officers of the Order, and M. Diamantidis Commander of the same Order. MM. Simos, Embiricos, Benakis, and Patsis were also decorated. The King sent his portrait to M. Venizelos.

It is proposed to convoke the Chamber soon for a short session. In the meantime the Premier has gone to Salonika and for a tour in Thessaly.

Changes have been made in the Ministry of Supplies, but M. Embiricos's resignation has not been accepted. His task is a heavy one, and his organisation has outgrown the means he had at his disposal to carry on the work, as at the present time practically all foodstuffs are rationed by the Government to the trade and distributed from time to time by ticket. There is now very little meat, and it has become a rationed article. It is proposed to take another census of the population of Athens and the Piræus soon. All imports into Greece are controlled by an Allied Board, on which a Greek delegate has now been given a seat, and M. Venizelos presided at one of the meetings last week. Every effort is being made to supply Greece with all she needs from the most convenient markets, with the view to economising tonnage.

Greeks of Asia Minor are greatly perturbed at the idea of having to continue to live under Turkish rule, and an association has been formed to take up their case; but, although the Greeks in Turkey have suffered, and are still suffering, great hardships at the hands of the Turks, the scattered colonies in Asia Minor make it difficult to establish any autonomous administration such as it is hoped will be given to Armenia, Palestine, Mesopotamia, etc.

The President of the Greek Tribunals has authorised the sequestration of properties belonging to MM. Lambros and Skouloudis, to cover their responsibilities during their term of office as Prime Ministers. The sequestration on M. Skouloudis is for 6,000,000 drachmæ and on M. Lambros for 4,000,000.

A decree has also been issued sequestrating the properties of enemy subjects in Greece, and another decree prohibits trading between Greece and enemy countries.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Sufferings of Transylvania.

Magyar intolerance towards the Roumanians of Hungary seems to grow apace with the hopelessness of their situation. While in another part of Europe, in Bessarabia, Roumanian nationality unexpectedly gained full freedom of development, the policy of Magyarisation finds renewed and vigorous application in the land of Kossuth. Early in August Count Apponyi sent the Metropolitan Mangra an order prohibiting until further dispositions the opening of the Greek Orthodox training colleges of Sibiu, Arad, and Caransebesh. A similar order was received by the Uniate Metropolitan of Blaj as referring to the Uniate training colleges of Oradea-Mare, Blaj, and Gherla. The measure was grounded on the unpatriotic attitude of the Roumanians during the war, which must be traced to the education they receive. Hence a strict control of Roumanian educational institutions imposes itself for the future, and will be exercised either through special commissaries of the Government or by the direct nomination of professors. As the question needs careful investigation, the schools will remain closed for the time being, since it would be a danger for the State to allow them to continue their activity without "severe" control. Another order informed all the Greek-Orthodox and Uniate consistories that it had been decided, in the interests of the State and of the Magyar nation, to transform all the primary Roumanian schools into State schools, beginning with those in the frontier districts. The step had been taken because many of the priests and lay teachers displayed an unpatriotic attitude at the time of the Roumanian invasion of Transylvania. The order will first be applied in those communes where the teachers allied themselves with the enemy, for which action they are now being prosecuted. The teaching staff of the State schools are to understand the language of the population, but with the exception of religion all subjects are to be taught in Hungarian. The local authorities have been charged with finding accommodation for these schools; wherever possible the buildings of the old Roumanian schools will be acquired for the purpose.

Since the withdrawal of the Roumanian troops from Transylvania five tribunals have been dealing exclusively with offences alleged to have been committed by Transylvanians during the invasion. Hardly anyone escapes this national Inquisition. An eighty years old priest was sentenced to two and a-half years' imprisonment for having said that "only gypsies and Roumanians are made to dig trenches." The old fortress at Cluj is filled with Roumanian "traitors." A Transylvanian who escaped across the Russian lines declared that last summer the population of Sibiu revolted, demanding "bread and peace." Shops were destroyed and looted. The 21st Honved Regiment, com-

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posed mainly of Roumanians, refused to fire on the crowd. The commandant of a Bosnian regiment having undertaken to restore order, the revolters appealed to the other troops in the town, with the result that the 21st Honved Regiment turned out with machine-guns and inflicted many casualties on the Bosnians. The military authorities took, nevertheless, no steps to punish the 21st Regiment.

The Occupation of Bucharest.

The return to Jassy of M. Vopicka, the American Minister, who remained for a short time in Bucharest after the occupation of that town by the Germans, but was then requested to leave, has made available for the first time authentic information concerning the way in which the town passed into the hands of the Germans. On the eve of the occupation the Mayor, M. Emil Petrescu, received notification that the town would be bombarded unless it surrendered within twenty-four hours. There was, of course, no intention to defend the capital, all the troops and material having been already withdrawn. The act of capitulation was, therefore, signed at the Town Hall on the following day, a delegation of six captains from Falkenhayn's Army, headed by Prince von Schomburg-Lippe, formerly attached to the German Legation at Bucharest, having arrived early in the afternoon for the purpose. Immediately afterwards about 300 German soldiers entered the town from the north. They marched down the Calea Victoriei, an uninteresting looking lot of men between eighteen and sixty; they were singing, but were obviously very tired. About 4 p.m. on the same day Mackensen entered the town at the head of about 4,000 German soldiers; the remainder of the corps of occupation arrived the next day, about 15.000 Germans, Bulgarians, and Turks. The alleged enthusiasm displayed by the population M. Vopicka declares to be a deliberate falsehood. Cigarettes and sweets, it is true, were offered to the German soldiers; but that was done by the three hundred foreign women who had been interned until the previous day, and then took up their abode at the Grand Hotel. An order was at once issued demanding that all houses should be kept at the disposal of the German command; but on account of the sufficiency of barracks only officers were billeted in private houses.

As "reprisals" against the measures taken by the Roumanian Government with regard to subjects of the Central Powers the German authorities lost no time in arresting a number of persons of standing, amongst others M. Duca, President of the Court of Cassation, the Presidents of the Courts of Appeal, the Mayor, M. Baicoianu, Director of the National Bank, as well as various people connected with the papers which had not sufficiently appreciated the value of the alliance with Germany.

All private telephones were removed in order to be used by the army of occupation. The house of M. Camarashescu, Prefect of the district of Durostor (in Southern Dobrudja), was devastated by Bulgarian soldiers on the pretext that the owner was a violent enemy of the Bulgarian nation. The Military Club was turned into a prison. The Bulgarians; having taken possession of Capsha (a small hotel with the finest restaurant in the town), laid hands upon all the wines contained in the cellars of that renowned establishment. The Royal Palace was destined to lodge Mackensen; the Palace of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was offered as lodgings to Nazim Pasha, who preferred, however, a small house on the elegant Boulevard Coltsea.

The wholesale commandeering of supplies made it very difficult for the poorer classes of the population to secure the necessaries of life. The American Embassy intervened with the German authorities and obtained certain concessions, but M. Vopicka fears that the sufferings of the population much increased after his departure from Bucharest.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. MacKellar says that "the Montenegrins call themselves Serbs . . . but they do not call themselves Serbians, a term applied to the people of Serbia." As they do not speak English as their mother tongue, perhaps Mr. MacKellar will give the Serb substantives formed from the root *Srb* which correspond to his distinction. So far as I know, that distinction is merely made by some English writers for the sake of convenience. To fit his argument we want two nouns from the root Srb, one of which is used for the inhabitants of the kingdom of Serbia and the other of general import.

The analogy of English and Scots breaks down, for the Scots, excepting the people of the Lothians, are predominantly of different racial stock to the English.

Mr. MacKellar says that the greater and stronger the component parts of a future Balkan Empire (apparently of the Southern Slavs), the stronger will the empire be. On analogy we must suppose that, if Hesse absorbed the Rhineland; Oldenburg, Hanover and Westphalia, Saxony, the province of Saxony, etc., the result of the increased strength of the component parts would be a strengthening of the German Empire; yet such a scheme was proposed in order to weaken it. It all depends on whether the increased strength is drawn from extraneous sources or from the leading State. Mr. MacKellar's argument seems to be: the weaker Serbia is the stronger Jugoslavia will be.

I am, etc.,

A. H. E. TAYLOR.

Canterbury, February 9.

"THE ENTENTE AND THE ALLIES OF GERMANY."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Please allow me to make a few remarks on Mr. Noel Buxton's article in the *Contemporary Review* for January, 1918.

As Mr. Janitch already pointed out, Mr. Buxton's flirtation with Vienna can produce only bitterness among the Austrian Slavs who have made and are making such tremendous sacrifices for the sake of the Allied cause. Yet I do not think that Mr. Buxton's views can be taken seriously by any clear-thinking British politician. It seems absurd that Mr. Buxton should openly preach "a pro-Austrian policy" on the ground that a policy of moderation "has had the desired effect of strengthening the pro-Entente elements in Austria."

The really pro-Entente elements in Austria are to be found among the Slavs, not among the Germans. A moderate policy towards Austria can only weaken, not strengthen, the pro-Entente elements, the Austrian Slavs.

Austria will never be willing, or indeed able, to become reorganised in accordance with the principles of justice and equality of nations. Professor Masaryk clearly demonstrated in the *Nation Supplement* for June, 1917, that the Habsburg ideas are incompatible with the realization of a just and democratic federalism. The Habsburgs, Germans and Magyars are determined to leave the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs divided between the two halves of the monarchy, and to continue their oppression and exploitation, whatever concessions they may be willing to concede

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in the way of sham autonomy within the boundaries of Dualism.

The most absurd and malicious of all, however, is the suggestion that "there is no positive proof that the national units really want independence." Apart from the fact that at least half a million Austrian Slavs have voluntarily surrendered to Rússia, that thousands of them have been bravely fighting for the Allies since the outbreak of the war, and that to-day there is a Bohemian Army on the Western Front, I will only point to Dr. Seidler's speech in the Reichsrat on January 22 on a resolution which was unanimously passed by all the Czech deputies in Prague on January 6, and which has been suppressed by the Censor. Dr. Seidler declared that—

"This resolution, in which we in vain look for a distant echo of dynastic or State allegiance, adopts an international standpoint and is ready to accept international support with a view to obtaining the recognition of foreign States.

"The resolution demands the right of self-determination in order to dissolve the existing unity of the State and to assure full independence and sovereignty. The resolution gives the impression of having been conceived in a sense absolutely hostile to the State, and must be indignantly rejected by every Austrian and resisted by every Austrian Government with all the means in its power."

This, I think, is explicit enough to prove that the Czecho-Slovaks are absolutely united in their determination to obtain full independence from Berlin, Vienna and Budapest.—I am, etc.,

VLADIMIR NOSEK.

Czech Press Bureau, London.

A HISTORY OF SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your reviewer of my "Serbia" has not brought home a single inaccuracy on the pages which he condemned.

As to the question of Macedonia (which did not arise out of those pages), if he looks again at my map he will see that that part of Macedonia which is predominatingly Greek is not included in the territory given as ethnologically South Slav. The part that is claimed as South Slav because it is predominatingly South Slav occupies about a square inch on my map. It would have been impossible, therefore, to indicate the variety of racial groups that are interspersed among the Slavs. Ample justice is done to this variety in the text. I will content myself with quoting one passage of many that illustrate this point: "This province (*i.e.*, Macedonia) is inhabited by such a mixture of races that the French have given the name of *macédoine* to a dish of which it is difficult to analyse the ingredients."

As for saying that I have not admitted that much of Macedonia is "debatable territory between Serbs and Bulgars," may I refer to page 203, where I say: "There was a debatable area running along a line from Ohrid, through Bitoly and Shtip to the Bulgarian frontier near Kriva Palanka."

It is not fair to me to suggest inaccuracies and omissions that do not exist, so may I again ask for the hospitality of your columns to clear up these points?—Yours, etc.,

L. F. WARING.

February 7.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I notice in your issue of February 8 a paragraph stating that St. George's Church, Jerusalem, although used for a time by the Turks as a Red Crescent Hospital, "is structurally intact." I feel sure that this will give a wrong impression, and I hope that you will be able to insert the following information in your next issue.

A layman who was kindly allowed by the military authorities to proceed to Jerusalem, and who arrived three hours after General Allenby's entry, wrote to Bishop MacInnes: "An hour after reaching Jerusalem I was inside the Bishop's Palace, and was delighted to find that the Governor had been in residence until a few days before, and everything was in perfect order. He spent £9 a few months ago on painting and colour washing it. To me it looked as though the Bishop had been living there all the time. The seals on the doors of the Cathedral had only been broken the day before, and no one had been inside since the few days after the outbreak of war. I found the hole in St. George's Chapel where the Turks had dug for the canon!" (cannon).

This speaks well for the Turkish authorities, and also shows the respect in which they held the late Bishop Blyth.—Yours faithfully,

Church House, Westminster, E. M. BICKERSTETH.
February 11.

KAFIR KAISER.[*]

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We are told that the Kaiser has sent a telegram to his Court preacher, in which, after thanking him for his birthday wishes, he continues:—

"With deep thankfulness I commemorate on this day the great deeds of God for the German people. He gave historical successes to our colours. . . . My special sympathy belongs to the great tasks which will be set equally before the State and the Church in the reconstruction of family life and the education of a God-fearing and healthy young generation worthy of their fathers."

I beg to submit to the German nation that no god known to Europe or Asia can have had anything to do with these German successes so far, and that for the following cogent reasons:—

The Germans are in innocent Belgium, which is a small country, not by historical success to their colours, but by historical bad faith, dishonour to their treaty obligations, and their remaining in Belgium for three years and a-half after perpetrating therein the most hideous crimes against honour, humane feeling, and probity, and their continuing to strangle the bulk of its civilian population by the privations and hardships of a besieged and enemy-occupied country are deeds for which Satan himself and the lowest coward would blush, if they could. That is the first of the true historical German successes!

Their next success in the North of France arises simply from the one in Belgium, France not being fortified on that side. Consequently this is no historical feat of valour, but a treacherous, dark deed, intended to crush France, but which has failed, and has cost, and is costing, Germany a hundred times more in treasure and blood than the value of that temporary occupation, except perhaps German satisfaction at the misery of that portion of French population. This is how this historical success is to be written for the benefit of future generations who make treaties with the German nation!

The only other success of which the Germans boast is their sinking at sight of merchant and passenger ships without warning, option to surrender, or thought of saving life, all of which the old international law had adequately provided for among honourable and conscientious fighters. The fact that Germany has no fleet on the water to enable it to do what its enemies are able to do with their powerful and honourable fleets is no excuse for resorting to her indiscriminate use of submarines, which were expected only to be used against men-o'-war, and presumably in conjunction with floating crafts, capable of giving assistance to drowning men of both sides. A savage war of extermination was never present to the mind of European nations. This also consequently must be put down as a breach of faith and a disgraceful and brutal disregard of law for a people who claim an equal rank among their fellow-creatures.

I come now to the Kaiser's reference to the Church and to a God-fearing education for the young generation, such as would make it worthy of its fathers! Shades of Louvain, of the "Lusitania," answer!

The Church indeed! If there was a true Church in Germany its doors and book should have been shut long ago in protest against those German deeds of atrocity. But there is no Church of God there. There is a guilty and pusillanimous, lip-worshipping crowd, who fear the Kaiser and not God, and love gold, and not righteousness.

As to the education of the young generation as a God-fearing one, it is to be hoped for, but if we are to say worthy of its fathers, we tremble at the result and pity the temerity, the stupidity, the callousness, the blasphemy, the madness of the Hohenzollerns and the wooden-heads who listen to them!

"En avant" high-minded and honourable company of nations against the remnant of savages, of Germans and Turks, brutes whose prey even from among their own people is struggling and bleeding within their claws, and is appealing to Christ and Mohammed to deliver it, as were delivered and are smiling Africa, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Arabia! These are historical, honourable, and happiness-bringing conquests, not the Germans'! These are deeds of valour by land and sea which history will record to the undying glory of British and American spirit and co-operation, of glorious and honourable France and Italy, and *their* future generations!—Yours, etc.,

ANGLO-SYRIAN.

London, January 28, 1918.

Under the auspices of the Linguistic Section of the Russian Society of King's College a lecture was delivered recently on "Armenia" by M. Arshak Raffi, lecturer in King's College University of London. Brigadier-General A. W. F. Knox, C.B., presided. The lecturer gave an interesting outline of Armenia's relations with Russia from Peter the Great up to the present time, dealing with Armenian life, culture and politics.

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[*] Kafir is Arabic for heathen.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE REAL ARMENIA.[*]

It is the fate of small nations to suffer obloquy from neighbours who wish to absorb their territory. Until August, 1914, Belgians bore an indifferent reputation as fighting men; and the persistent aspersions cast on the people of Serbia by Austrian newspapers were not without effect on Western opinion. Far worse is the plight of the luckless natives of Armenia. Their habitat is a plateau larger than Austria-Hungary, in the upper valleys of the Tigris, Euphrates, Aras and Kur. It has a severe winter climate, but the soil in lower altitudes is very fertile and the mineral wealth practically inexhaustible. In prehistoric ages Armenia was peopled by an Iranian race, exhibiting the same characteristics as their kinsmen the Parsis. They are now excellent craftsmen and agriculturists, with a strong bent for commerce. Their military valour has never been questioned, and the worst that can be urged against them is a love of intrigue. This defect arises from the geographical position of their country, which lies in the highway of eastern invasion, and has ever been a bone of contention between mighty empires. From the end of the ninth until the middle of the thirteenth century of our era Armenia enjoyed autonomy under a native dynasty; but her golden age was ended by the great Mongol invasion. For 450 years her people have groaned under the despotism of Turkey and Russia. But persecution and organised massacre are powerless to break their national spirit. The remnant that survives has high inherited culture, with aptitude for civil life which, under good government, would give them a leading place among the nations of Hither Asia. Mr. E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts has done well to reprint his letters to the *Daily Graphic*, which sent him to Armenia as special correspondent in 1895. Although official jealousy forbade him to penetrate the Turkish territory, his journalistic acumen enabled him to learn a good deal about this interesting race, and his book is eminently readable from cover to cover. It is devoutly to be hoped that the pledges given by Great Britain at the Berlin Congress of 1878 will at length be redeemed, and that, in the approaching re-settlement of the world, Armenians will be vouchsafed a substantial measure of autonomy under the ægis of the Western Powers.

F. H. S.

THE STORY OF FREEDOM.[†]

It seems rather late in the twentieth century to beg the reader's attention to a little book on the war-effort of Marat, Danton, and Robespierre, champions of the guillotine; but, "better late than never," in a good cause! How Revolutionary France raised, equipped, fed, munitioned, and inspired 750,000 soldiers to hurl themselves into Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain under the Kerensky trick of elected lieutenants, captains, colonels, and generals—comrade Brusiloff and citoyen Alexeieff, for instance—against the Hindenburgs and Mackensens of 1792-1795, is fully worth the telling, documented as the story is throughout from the weird, uncanny, and glorious archives of France. The little book mentions the star-shell about to burst upon an astonished world only in a foot-note. The modest author resolutely banishes "le petit caporal" from his purview. Writing in 1912 he gives us Russia in 1918—or so we hope. As man moves faster now and communicates *instanter* at greater distances than was dreamt of in the philosophy of Danton, so modern democracy may hope that the Trotski cesspool will give place to great, still, health-giving waters more rapidly than Revolutionary France recovered her equipoise. Some sane Napoleon may arise or some Jeanne d'Arc who can read and write; "some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood." Nobody can read this sternly impartial, cold-blooded record of the "sans-culottes," of what they did and could not do, and misunderstand the magnificent outpourings of the soul, of the sense, of the valour of the France of La Revanche. No wonder France is the Drawing-room of Civilisation!—as England is the Breakfast-room and Italy the Art Gallery! And, one asks, has America read this pathetic picture of freedom and heroism not knowing exactly what they wanted? Surely, if we rightly appraise the present attitude of America's workmen, as led by the high judgment of a Gompers, we might conclude that our author's little tribute to right thinking is an everyday school primer in the United States.

AROUND THE WAR.[*]

Perhaps as good a title as the one Mr. Basil Clarke has chosen; for we cannot but notice from the aggressive portrait of the author on the outer paper cover that he is short-sighted, and he himself tells us how he hopped out of Serbia on finding that typhus was around. We are also forced to the conclusion that that portion of his book where he describes his six-months' mission to Greece and the Balkans—"to find out the national feeling in those countries about the war and what prospects there were of any of them becoming participants—especially Roumania"—shows him as very much out of his Fleet Street element. It leaves the impression that he might just as profitably have been sent to China to report to an ignorant Anglo-Saxon world the national feelings of the Chinese. The same sense of contracted vision presses upon us, but in a less degree, in those parts of the book dealing with France and Flanders.

But, having had our snarl (entirely for the author's own good) it must be said that his final narrative, Via Dolorosa, which tells of the handling of a wounded Tommy from the front trench, back through the several R.A.M.C. stations and hospitals to England, is a first-class journalistic contribution to Great War literature, and does not allow any reader ever again to think lightly, or, worse, not at all, of Red Cross work in the British Armies.

Mr. Basil Clarke gives us many good stories and vivid sketches, and retains the reader's interest throughout.

TORTOISES.[†]

In a modest pamphlet, entitled "The Chelonia, or 'Shield Reptiles,' of Palestine," Dr. Henri M. Léon has contrived to embody a vast amount of information on the whole subject of tortoises, terrapins, and turtles the world over. He traces their history from early geological periods, and reminds his readers of the wide diffusion of the species. Turning to the Palestinian members of the kindred families, Dr. Léon is able to enrich his description with personal touches. The pamphlet is both interesting and instructive, its utility being enhanced by a glossary of technical terms.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Czech Folk Tales. By Dr. Josef Baudis. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

The Staple Trades of the Empire. Edited by Arthur Percival Newton, M.A., etc. (*The Imperial Studies Series.* London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

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[*] "Round About Armenia." By E. A. Brayley-Hodgetts. (Sampson, Low, Marston and Co. 2s. net.)

[†] "La Défense Nationale: De 1792 à 1795." By Pierre Caron. (Hachette et Cie.)

[*] "My Round of the War." By Basil Clarke. (Wm. Heinemann. 6s. net.)

[†] "The Chelonia or 'Shield Reptiles' of Palestine." By Henri M. Léon M.A., LL.D., Ph.D., F.S.P. (Published by La Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux Arts, London. 1s.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. February.	1918. February.		1336. Jomada I.	5678. Adar.
15	2	Friday	4	3
16	3	Saturday........	5	4
17	4	Sunday	6	5
18	5	Monday	7	6
19	6	Tuesday	8	7
20	7	Wednesday	9	8
21	8	Thursday	10	9

The Earl of Bessborough has returned to London from Birmingham.

M. Nincitch, Serbian Minister for Public Works, has left London for Corfu.

Earl Curzon has accepted the presidentship of the Central Asian Society.

M. Diamand, the Roumanian Minister in Petrograd, arrived in Stockholm on February 9.

Among Queen Alexandra's contributions to the Children's Jewel Fund is a gold Indian bracelet.

The King has appointed Sir Anton Bertram, K.C. (Attorney-General), to be Chief Justice of Ceylon.

The distribution of bread and other food cards has been carried out without a hitch in Athens and Piræus.

Captain E. H. Keeling, I.A.R.O., had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on February 9.

Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Roper Parkington have arrived at Claridge's Hotel, W.

King Nicholas of Montenegro has appointed Mr. Charles Cary-Elwes Montenegrin Vice-Consul in London, at 21, Mincing Lane, E.C.

M. Jonnart, the new French Governor-General of Algeria, has appointed as chief of his Cabinet M. Robert David, ex-Deputy for Perigueux.

Madame Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, has resumed her work at the Serbian Red Cross Headquarters, 9, Ennismore Gardens.

M. Boerescu, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, who has been absent through illness, has now recovered, and resumed his duties at the beginning of the week.

Dr. Walter Yeld has returned to Welbeck Street from Russia, where he has been for the past eight months in charge of the Anglo-Russian Hospital in Petrograd.

The Military Attachés of the Roumanian and Serbian Legations were among those who lunched with representatives of the War Office on February 7 at the United Service Club.

Sir Elliot Colvin had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on February 8 upon relinquishing his appointment as Agent to the Governor-General of Rajputana.

General Callaris, who was Minister of War in the Gounaris Cabinet, and General Mathaiopoulos have addressed the Greek nation through the Press, urging it to take up arms against the enemy.

Among those present at the Investiture held by the King at Buckingham Palace on February 9 was Viscount Bryce, who was among the recipients of the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order in the list of New Year's Honours.

Sir Francis Younghusband, speaking at Exeter on February 9 on India and the Empire, said that he believed that Britain's best policy in relation to India was very actively to train the Indians in the responsible work of governing themselves.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir James Meston, K.C.S.I., as Financial Member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Sir William Meyer, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. In order to enable Sir James Meston to take a short period of leave before assuming charge, it has been arranged that a change of office should take place at the end of August next.

General Sir George MacMunn was installed as Master of the first Masonic Lodge to be established in Mesopotamia, at Busreh, on February 2.

The health of the Countess of Ronaldshay, wife of the Earl of Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, is unsatisfactory, and a Reuter telegram from Calcutta states that the doctors advise an early return to England.

A military mission representative of the engineering, artillery and infantry sections of the Serbian Army, arrived in London this week. The Serbian officers have recently been the guests of the British Headquarters Staff in France.

At Buckingham Palace on February 13 Lieutenant-General George Georgescu, of the Roumanian Army, was received by the Prince of Wales, and, on behalf of the King of Roumania, handed to the Prince the Order of Michael the Brave.

A memorial tablet to Colonel Sir David Barr will be unveiled in the Brompton Parish Church to-day at three o'clock. Colonel Sir Donald Robertson will be glad to send a photograph of the tablet to any subscriber who applies for one at 3, The Grove, Boltons, S.W.10.

It is stated that M. Pichon has informed Mr. Sokolow, as representative of the Zionist organisations, that there is complete agreement between the French and British Governments in respect to the question of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jews.

The marriage took place at St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool, on February 12, of Mr. Andrea Basil Malandrinos, Vice-Consul for Greece, son of Mr. Basil Andrea Malandrinos, Consul-General for Greece in Liverpool, and Miss Kathleen House, daughter of the late Mr. Frederick House.

The Viceroy of India, accompanied by General Sir Charles Monro, the Commander-in-Chief, and a full Staff, presented war decorations and medals to 238 officers and men at a full parade of the Delhi garrison in front of the Fort on January 31. The ceremony lasted over two hours, and was witnessed by an enormous crowd.

The King has sent two pictures for Messrs. Christie's art sale which is to be held in April on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John. One of the pictures is a water-colour by Edmund Dulac, "Abu-el-Hasan orders that the Sheikhs of the district should be taken to be impaled on the back of a mangy camel."

An Association of Greek refugees from the Prefecture of Drama has addressed to the International Socialist Congress, at Stockholm, a telegram in the name of 50,000 refugees from Eastern Macedonia, energetically protesting against "the Imperialist demand" of Bulgarian Socialists in favour of the cession to Bulgaria of Eastern Macedonia.

A correspondent calls our attention to the note in last week's issue stating that no Greek candidate had come forward for the post of Controller of Food for Greece, and points out that, according to a Reuter message, M. Panos Burlumi, Deputy for Patras, and a member of the well-known firm of Burlumi and Co., of London and Patras, has accepted the office. The message adds that his appointment has created an excellent impression.

The *Hestia*, in its issue of February 7, confirms the report previously circulated in the Athens Press that ten officers of the Fourth Greek Army Corps, which surrendered to the Bulgarians and Germans at Kavala in 1916 and who have since been interned in Germany, have been sent to Constantinople by the German Government with the object of organising a Greek contingent to fight for Turkey. The *Hestia* adds that they were entertained at dinner at Sofia, and exchanged toasts with the Bulgars, "thus adding fresh shame to their renegade conduct of 1916."

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Among the latest wills is that of Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, whose death occurred from fever on November 18 while commanding the British Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, who left property of the value of £1,532. The testator left his father's decorations and trophies, and his own, together with his diaries, silver cups, and the gold cigarette case given to him by King George V., to his son to be treated as heirlooms, or, at his discretion, to be given to the Buffs or the Coldstream Guards.

The insecurity of the Spanish zone of Morocco, even in parts supposed to be most pacified, causes considerable anxiety with regard to communication between Tangier and the French Protectorate, says the Tangier correspondent of *The Times*. A short time ago the camp of a contractor engaged on the Tangier-Laraiche road, near Arzila, was pillaged, and the man in charge of the transport killed, and now a camp of the Tangier-Fez Railway Company between Arzila and Alcazar has suffered, the engineer being murdered and mules and horses carried off. In both cases the camps were in the country occupied by the Spaniards, and in the vicinity of Spanish military posts.

The Serbian Press Bureau at Corfu has issued the following statement:—According to news received from Stockholm, the report is again being circulated from Vienna that a Serbian Crown Council was held in Salonika at which it was decided to enter into negotiations with Austria-Hungary with a view to obtaining an outlet to the sea. We are authorised to describe this story as ridiculous. The attitude of Serbia cannot be misinterpreted. Attacked in a cowardly fashion according to a premeditated plan; ruined, depopulated and martyred, Serbia no longer fights for such and such a territorial agreement with the enemy, but to obtain justice, which she will continue to claim, weapons in hand, before the entire universe.

OBITUARY.

THE LATE ABDUL HAMID.

The ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid died at Constantinople on February 10 from inflammation of the lungs. Born in 1842, the second son of Sultan Abdul Medjid, he succeeded to the throne in 1876 on the deposition of Sultan Murad. The times were marked by grave internal trouble, as the many nationalities then united in the Turkish Empire were struggling for freedom, and as a conciliatory measure a Constitution was proclaimed. This expedient, so in keeping with the character of the Sultan, was short-lived, for the declaration of war by Russia led to the proclamation of martial law and the suspension of the Constitution. The Russians reached San Stefano, a suburb of Constantinople, and were only prevented from entering the capital by the presence of the British Fleet, and the subsequent treaty of peace imposed humiliating terms on Turkey. Not long afterwards Egypt passed under British control, following the revolt of Arabi Pasha. One of the main threads of the Sultan's policy was the recovery of Turkey's position in Europe, and this may be taken as the keynote of many of the events of the reign. He desired to find support to balance the influence of Russia, and could have obtained it from Great Britain but for the fact that he would not pay the price of internal reforms, and so he turned to Germany, and was eminently successful in his endeavours to gain the friendship of that country. Germans were given valuable concessions in the country, and German officers were appointed to reorganise the Turkish Army. The Emperor William visited the Sultan twice, the second visit being particularly welcome, coming as it did two years after the Armenian massacres had made his name an object of detestation throughout the world. His internal policy was marked by the suppression of prominent men, but his ideal of autocratic government was doomed to failure from the outset, and by the end of 1905 it became clear that the Hamidian *régime* was nearing its end, when a committee was formed at Salonika which embraced the partisans of the earlier anti-Hamidian movements, and gradually built up a strong organisation which embraced many officers and men of the army. The storm broke in 1908, and as the result of the outbreak the Sultan accepted the committee's terms, and subsequently had to act what must have been to him the extremely irksome rôle of a constitutional ruler. This phase was short-lived. In 1909 Hilmi Pasha's Ministry and the C.U.P. were overthrown by a mutiny of the Constantinople garrison. The triumph of the counter-revolution was, however, brief. The Sultan's party was again overcome, and this time he was deposed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Robert Burton, Indian Infantry, who has died on service, received his commission in 1892 in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and three years later transferred to the Indian Staff Corps. He saw service in the Tirah Campaign, 1897-8.

The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, whose death took place on February 7 from pneumonia, was the second son of the first Marquess, some time Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of India, whom he succeeded in the Marquisate in 1902, his elder brother having been killed in the South African war. He was nominated an Attaché in 1890, and in 1891 was appointed to Constantinople, subsequently going to Paris, where he later became a Third Secretary. After becoming Second Secretary, he exchanged into the Foreign Office, and was promoted in 1909 to a Senior Clerkship there. He is succeeded by his brother, Lord Frederick Temple Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, D.S.O., Grenadier Guards, late 9th Lancers.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1918.

POLITICS AND POVERTY.

The flood of political disquisition in India has for the time being abated, and while the responsible authorities are engaged in estimating its immediate and direct effects, the public at large has a welcome opportunity of taking a more extended view of the situation and of considering the probable reaction of impending reforms on the various sides of the national life. Of these sides none is more important than the economic, for it should never be forgotten that, while India has untold possibilities of wealth, the present national income is deplorably and dangerously low: we welcome unreservedly the prospect of an early advance in the direction of self-government, but at the same time we are bound to ask what is likely to be the immediate result in the economic sphere. Will political progress be followed by a rise or by a fall in the supply of the necessaries and comforts of life, which is now so inadequate to meet the demands of the population? The necessity for asking this question is increased by the language recently used by the dominant group of politicians, language which, if it be taken at the foot of the letter, undoubtedly constitutes a serious menace to the future of industry and commerce, and which has been construed in this sense by an influential section of the Anglo-Indian Press. The deputation which placed before Mr. Montagu the views of the National Congress and the Moslem League spoke of "what is at best the doubtful advantage" of the "foreign enterprise" to which India has afforded "hospitality," and hinted not obscurely that foreigners, or, in other words, the citizens of the British Empire, could expect to enjoy in the new India only the status of financial Helots. There can be no doubt that, if that attitude should be maintained and translated into concrete measures, the menace to capital and industry—in other words, to the livelihood of the poorest classes—would be very real, and we have no hesitation in saying that in that case the British Government, as the trustee of the interests of the Indian masses, would be bound to reconsider the whole position, and take steps to ensure that vital economic interests should be entirely withdrawn for the time being from the cognisance of the nascent political institutions. Fortunately for the future of India, we believe that the position is not so serious as it looks, and we are inclined to attribute the attitude of this school of politicians more to the exigencies of the moment than to any permanent hostility to traders and producers. The outburst to which we have referred was, in fact, a controversial rejoinder: a short while previously the representatives of British capital and industry had, as we recorded at the time, broken a silence which had lasted too long, and in firm but temperate language had claimed a hearing for those great interests; the lawyer-politicians, disconcerted by the appearance of a new party, and unable to contest the claim upon its merits, resorted to a device familiar in the Law Courts, and abused the adversaries whose arguments they could not counter. Of the wisdom of these tactics we need say little; Mr. Montagu's antecedents and connections in this country make it reasonably certain that he will appreciate such statements at their true value, and it is perhaps as well that they were formally put before him.

We do not then consider that British capital and industry have serious grounds for apprehending a systematic display of malevolence on the part of Indian politicians, but even so the position is by no means free from anxiety. The malevolence is, we trust, a passing phase: the real danger lies in the unconscious or complacent ignorance which characterises the great majority of India's public men. This ignorance is the almost inevitable result of the conditions which prevail. The life of the people is not yet unified, but is carried on to a great extent on the system of water-tight compartments; city and country meet too rarely; merchants and manufacturers know too little of politics or of administration, while officials and politicians have but small concern with trade or industry. Even lawyers have a narrower outlook in India than elsewhere; litigation is more concerned with questions of status than of contract, with inheritance, adoption, partition and the like, and but little insight into commercial questions can be obtained in the course of even an extensive and remunerative practice. The prospects are, therefore, that for some time to come Indian legislators and administrators will remain ignorant of the facts and principles underlying the country's economic life, and while we are confident that they will learn by experience, the period of their education will undoubtedly be an anxious time, during which rash and ill-considered measures may operate to the detriment of trade and industry in a variety of directions, of which the most important is finance. Indian politicians are deeply committed to a definite programme of financial reform. They are determined on large additions to expenditure on most branches of the public service; their hopes of countervailing economies are chimerical; and they have promised their supporters large reductions of taxation, in particular the abolition of the salt-tax and the limitation of the land-revenue, now as always the backbone of the Indian Budget. They have promised, too, a "popular" administration of the railways, "concessions" in the management of the forests, and sundry other measures of which the only certain result is that more money will go out of the Treasury, and less money will come in. Large additions to taxation are, therefore, an inevitable feature of political reform, and since the villages are to pay less, it follows necessarily that the towns and cities, the merchants and the manufacturers, will have to pay more. Now it is precisely in the increase and readjustment of taxation that ignorance is likely to do most harm; people who are guided by the very best intentions may easily destroy a particular class of business merely because they have failed to grasp the conditions on which its success depends, and may with not less facility undermine the sense of security so essential to the progress of every kind of enterprise. To take the most obvious illustration, it is quite certain that a strongly protective tariff would be almost the first constructive undertaking of a really popular administration. Opinions may differ as to the wisdom of such a measure, but no one who has the slightest acquaintance with the subject will deny that to prepare and to work a tariff is a difficult and delicate operation, and even the most ardent supporters of the principle may well shrink from the prospect of schedules framed and interpreted by legislators of the type now prominent in India. Even if we assume that the tariff will at the outset be withheld from the cognisance of the new institutions, there will still remain almost infinite possibilities in connection with mercantile and philanthropic legislation, the two branches of the art in which well-meaning ignorance may produce the most dangerous results.

In face of this menace the duty of the British merchant or producer is plain. The cure for ignorance is knowledge; the fog in India is already lifting, and vigorous and combined effort can do much to quicken its final disappearance. The universities and the Press have of late done something, and can assuredly be induced to do much more, while the scope for individual initiative is almost unlimited. The younger generation of Indians is already experiencing the appetite for economic knowledge; let those who possess this knowledge see to it that the appetite is neither cloyed with sweets nor destroyed by dangerous drugs, but is satisfied with wholesome and sustaining food. By exerting themselves to supply this need, merchants and producers can at once safeguard their own interests and contribute material aid to the great enterprise of nation-building in which the credit of Britain is so deeply involved.

AFGHANISTAN AND THE WAR.

In normal times Afghanistan is apt to be a land of mystery to the outside world, and there has been little attempt to withdraw the veil during the war. A single Government statement has disclosed the fact that a German Mission had made its way into the country, and had experienced considerable difficulty in finding its way out again. For the rest, the Afghans have contrived to maintain the secrecy regarding their internal affairs which is second nature to them, and which springs from the troubled conditions that have characterised Afghanistan in the past. It would be a mistake to attribute the secretiveness of the Afghan entirely to an inherited frame of mind; rather has it to be attributed to the fact that over a long period of history the people have either been at war with one or other of their neighbours, or among themselves. In each case there was good reason for preventing news from leaking beyond the borders. Thus staunch secrecy has come to be associated in the public mind directly with national integrity; and from this habit it has gradually permeated every phase of life, until it has come to be practised and gloried in by the remotest of the Ameer's subjects.

Afghanistan is a buffer state, and consequently its position in the political development of Central Asia is a precarious one. As it is sandwiched between independent kingdoms which are not strangers to territorial expansion, its ruler has been obliged to exercise extreme care in regard to his diplomatic relations. Prior to the peaceful reign of the illustrious Ameer Abdur Rahman, Anglo-Afghan relations rested on a very slender thread, nor were the Afghans specially friendly with the Russians. The saying of Ameer Shair Ali, "Friendship with the Feringhees is written on ice," may be cited in this connection as typical of the attitude of Afghans towards foreigners. The father of the present Ameer, however, introduced friendly relationships with the British Government, and this was cemented by Ameer Habibullah Khan in the Treaty of 1905. The British Government acknowledged the Ameer as an independent ruler, addressing him as His Majesty, and giving him full facilities in the matter of the importation of arms from British India, as well as providing him with a subsidy of £120,000 annually. The Ameer agreed to have no diplomatic relations with any country other than Great Britain.

In any consideration of Afghanistan it is necessary to bear in mind that the country must not be judged purely by Western standards. Public opinion is of modern growth, and may be said to have been recognised only since the reign of Ameer Abdur Rahman: but, while considerable latitude is allowed in the discussion of matters of State, that opinion is, as a matter of fact, controlled in a great measure by the voice of the Ameer. Political questions are certainly debated in open Durbars at which the members present are allowed their free say, but limitations are recognised. Not that the opinion of individual Afghans count as nil. Perhaps the correct way to describe the situation would be to state that, while whatever the Ameer proposes is sure to be adopted, yet he has to exercise great discernment in embodying in his decisions the trend of popular opinion. In regard to the present conflict, it is certainly the case that the Ameer did not want war, and at the same time the policy of neutrality was entirely in keeping with the public mind. On the one hand, the fact that Great Britain and Russia were Allies had a moral effect on the attitude of Afghanistan. In any case, treaties between Afghanistan and Great Britain imposed neutrality. But it is only right that the determining factor from the Afghan point of view should also be recorded. The Afghans are essentially a fighting race, and they are also Moslems, and there can hardly be any doubt that, if they considered the faith of Islam threatened in some way, they would be sorely tempted to set aside all other considerations. No danger would be regarded as too great if they were given to understand that they were called upon to safeguard their faith. It could probably be shown that throughout their history the constant fighting has been connected in one way or another with their religious zeal. Even in the case of internecine feuds, where they have known that they were fighting against their own kith and kin, they have been prepared to fight to the last because each side has held that those opposed to them have either not been acceptable to the strict canon of Islam or have been liable to bring outsiders into their country. To the Afghan religion comes first and last, and regulates not only his internal affairs, but also his diplomatic relations with other countries. In these circumstances it will be understood that at the outbreak of the war it was a burning question in Afghanistan whether it was or was not a religious war. Great Britain was fighting against the Turks, who are Moslems, and there was, therefore, *a priori* evidence that a Jehad was involved. But at a general meeting of the Ulemas it was resolved that the war could not be regarded as a religious one, and that there was no obligation on Afghanistan to uphold the cause of the Central Powers. The truth is: the Afghans remained quiet because they had a very poor opinion of the religion of modern Turkey, the Turks being regarded as indifferent Moslems, degenerate followers of the Prophet, who no longer set store on the rigid essentials of their faith. This attitude towards Turkey manifested itself in the Turco-Italian war, when bands of sympathisers set out from India with the intention of succouring in one way or another their co-religionists in Turkey. The Afghans, however, showed no such solicitude. It is probable that at the beginning of the present war some anxiety prevailed in India with regard to the Afghan attitude. Therefore, it must be all the more satisfactory that the Ameer's decision should have been confirmed by the views of the whole people of Afghanistan after deliberate consideration of the position from a religious and political point of view.

Reference must also be made in any discussion of Afghanistan's attitude towards the war to the commercial relations of the country. The Afghans are dependent on imports, if not for the actual necessaries of life, at least for a number of articles of general consumption. The bulk of the foreign trade has, for some time past, been with Russia. Not only was she, so to speak, on the spot, but there has been something like a consistent attempt on the part of the Russians to foster the trade. The late Ameer reduced the tax on imports by one-half, and the Trans-Caspian Railways in the past carried goods to Merv on reduced terms, with a view to encouraging trade with Afghanistan. It was not so much a case of specially favoured terms for the Russians, which were denied to others, but the country was in need of goods, and the Ameer Abdur Rahman found that the Russians were the only people who made any attempt to meet him in this matter. To-day the chief Russian imports are cloth (cotton and silk), lace, paper, sugar, glassware and brass materials. The trade flourishes not only in the north, but Russian agents can also be seen as far south as Kandahar. In recent years India has made a more systematic attempt to push her trade in the country. Green tea has now a good sale, and other imports are cotton and silk fabrics. In return Afghanistan exports most of her dried fruits to India, as well as goat skins. The ratio of exports to imports is 5 : 7. It is the great aim of the Ameer to secure a balance on the right side. Thus it will be seen that

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE.
KING OF SPAIN

Afghan dependence on foreign trade also has its influence on the attitude of the country. In the past Russians have been anxious, in view of their commercial relations with the country, to obtain a definite political link with Afghanistan. But there is no reason to suppose that the overtures have been reciprocated. There is, indeed, an incident recorded during the reign of the present Ameer bearing on this subject. A Russian Commissioner arrived at Kabul with a view to negotiating an agreement with the Afghan Government. The letter that he brought was read in open Durbar, and one of the members rose and said "Let this Turki dog who carries messages for infidels be beaten on the head with shoes till his hair fall off. That ought to be our answer to the Russians." The speaker was taken severely to task by the Ameer, who replied that, if there were to be any shoe-beating, if would be performed on the head of him who suggested it, and that a statement so derogatory to Afghan prestige should never have been uttered. Even if the suggestion did not represent public opinion, the episode reflects the freedom of speech that finds expression even before a monarch whose word is law. But the speaker would not have said what he did if there had been any close friendship among the Afghans for people beyond the Oxus. It may be well if India bears this fact in mind, with a view to the potentialities of the Afghan market.

IKBAL ALI SHAH.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

Speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute on "The Future of Palestine," on February 7, Mr. A. Montefiore said that the fact that General Allenby had entered on foot, bareheaded, had deeply impressed the inhabitants, who gave him and the troops under his command a great welcome. Had the victor been, by a sad fate, the Kaiser, Mr. Montefiore declared the taking possession of the city would have taken place under very different conditions. Palestine occupied a central position in the map of the world; at the junction of Europe, Asia, and Africa, it must become an important centre in the development of the East. As inheritors of a great past, the Jews should be entrusted with the task of carrying out the rehabilitation of the country and enabling the Holy Land to play a fitting and worthy part in the reconstructed future. He told how, in spite of great difficulties and hardships, the Zionists had already achieved considerable success. They had established forty-five flourishing colonies, which were engaged chiefly in agriculture and vine-growing. The Germans, with all their boasted thoroughness, had failed in their endeavour to cultivate successfully the soil of Palestine. Having failed, they endeavoured to bribe and browbeat the Zionist Colonists into adopting German as the national language. In this, too, they failed, and when war broke out the famous Zionist Mule Corps was formed, which fought for Great Britain. He referred also to the death of eminent Jews in Palestine during the war, notably Mr. Leopold de Rothschild and the Hon. Neil Primrose, son of Lord Rosebery, and whose mother was Miss de Rothschild. Palestine would not hold all the Jews now scattered far and wide in the world, but Mr. Montefiore expressed the earnest hope that those who returned to their ancient land would be determined to work with zeal and devotion for its prosperity, and that Jerusalem would become a truly international stronghold, the city of peace.

DESTITUTE MONTENEGRINS.

The following appeal is made by the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, of which the Queen of Montenegro is president. We would warmly commend the cause to our readers :—

"It is some time since we ventured to trespass on your space and present an appeal to our fellow-countrymen on behalf of sorely distressed Montenegro and her heroic men now languishing in Austrian camps—camps which are little better than prisons. The news from all sides of the lack of food now being experienced by the civilian population of the Central Empires, a shortage which must react upon the thousands of interned prisoners, compels us again to solicit the sympathy and practical aid which in the past has been so steadily and unstintingly given.

"As the people of Montenegro are at the mercy of such a relentless foe, we have no alternative but to appeal on their behalf to that public in the United Kingdom so deeply interested in the welfare of small nations, and particularly in those whose sacrifices have been so great. Montenegro is not only the smallest, but the very poorest, of our Allies, bereft of rich connections and entirely dependent on the help which we can so well bestow.

"Donations should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Lady Roper Parkington, Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1, who will personally and gratefully acknowledge all subscriptions, large and small.

"Yours faithfully,

"VIOLET RUTLAND.
"M. YARBOROUGH
"MARIE LOUISE PARKINGTON."

If you could follow your cheque . . . .

That cheque you are sending—or have sent—to assist Serbia, is the symbol of your sympathy for those who cannot help themselves. If you could follow your cheque and see it transformed by an efficient organisation into bread for starving Serbs, or hospitals and medical aid for those laid low by wounds and disease, or artificial limbs for dismembered fighters, or food and clothing for poor little, wan-faced Serbian children—if you could realise the gratitude of those you help, you would give thanks for your power to help them so easily.

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Britain has pledged herself to restore Serbia to the Serbians. Of what use will it be to wrest Serbia from the invader if the people of Serbia are wasted away through famine, disease and terrorisation? It is for you to do your part in helping to succour the homeless, helpless Serbs.

The needs of the Serbs are elemental in simplicity. They need Food, Clothing and Medical Aid. One hundred and fifty thousand Serbs are interned in Austria-Hungary—30% have already died. They die of cold and hunger.

Thousands of innocent Serbs have been executed on inadequate pretexts. The remnants of the nation are scattered abroad far from their homes and all that they hold dear. A nation in exile! Contrast your own position of comfort and security with the misery and want of these poor refugees — most of them old men and women and young, innocent children. The flower of the Serbian nation has perished. Shall she ask your aid in vain?

Serbia deserves well of us all, for she rendered invaluable service to the Allied cause in the early critical months of the war by heroically holding Austria at bay. She poured out her greatest treasure—the flower of her manhood—that she might be true to her trust. Now, what remains of the Serbian nation is looking to the protectors of little nations for the bare necessities of life. She needs help in personal service, in cash and in kind. What is *your* answer to the call?

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The officially authorised channel of private British aid to Serbia is the Serbian Relief Fund. This Committee has shouldered the responsibility of being Britain's trustee to Serbia. To carry on the vital work of feeding and clothing Serbian Prisoners of War and Refugees, saving the remnant of the youth of the broken nation, maintaining hospitals, dispensaries, and founding orphanages, the Serbian Relief Fund appeals for immediate help. Parcels of warm clothing, underclothing, boots, tinned goods will also be welcome, and should be addressed to Mrs. Carrington Wilde. One address for all donations: Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

Send a donation, large or small, to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Plymouth, C.B., the Honorary Treasurer, to whom all cheques and postal orders should be made payable.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A correspondent in Egypt sends me an interesting item of news, and though, as he is careful to add, "official confirmation is lacking," I hasten to pass it on. According to the statement "three battalions are to be raised for garrison duty in Jerusalem. They are to be called the 'Jordan Highlanders,' their badge is to be 'three balls,' and their motto 'No advance without further security.'" These battalions, if and when raised, should prove a formidable lot to tackle, and their charges could no doubt be—excessive. But, after all, unless all the hotel proprietors and shopkeepers have been deported by the Turks, Jerusalem and the Holy Land would hardly seem to stand in need of any assistance in that respect from the new "Gay Jordans."

⁂

Turkish Ministers are obviously making valiant endeavours to live up to the tradition left them by their predecessors—the tradition that made it necessary for any self-respecting Grand Vizier from time to time to make the most outrageous statements with an appearance of positively owlish solemnity. The Old Turk was a pastmaster in this art, but the Young Turk only does well at it when he is not consciously making an effort, I suspect. Halil Bey, the new Foreign Minister, has not done so badly in his reply (so-called) to Mr. Wilson. The idea of his "replying" at all is in itself humorous. Presumably the valiant Halil would oppose a ha'penny squirt to the guns of a super-dreadnought! But that is by the way. In the effort referred to he is reported by Reuter's Agency as eulogising the Turkish Constitution, "which, he maintained, dealt equally with all," and as resolutely rejecting "all proposals, from whatever quarter, which would mean any interference in the internal affairs of the country."

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For sheer effrontery it would be hard to beat these Ministerial utterances. The idea of the Turkish Constitution "dealing equally with all" is superb. How it must tickle the Armenians, the Jews, the Syrians, and even the Arabs. These "national groups," whose fate, it seems, is still to be settled by the handful of international free-thinkers who control the "Young Turk" policy, must have heard the Minister's statement with very mixed feelings. But the touch about "interference in the internal affairs" of poor old Turkey was even more impudent. In view of German management of everything and everybody in Turkey, Halil Bey must have a front of brass to stand up and make such statements. Talaat must look to his laurels!

⁂

Hunger-striking on the part of prisoners, whether political or otherwise, always seems to me a particularly foolish proceeding, or, rather, it seems that it would be so, if only the authorities met it the right way—i.e., by a policy of masterly inaction. But neither the prisoners nor the authorities appear to be blessed with any strong sense of humour. I see by the Indian papers that a number of prisoners at Alipore Gaol have started a hunger strike as a protest against their detention. As the charge against them is the trifling one of being revolutionary conspirators, it may seem strange—in Bolshevist circles, at any rate—that these martyrs should still be detained in these days of "liberty" (for the hot-air merchants). Be that as it may, the "strikers" are dissatisfied, not, they expressly state, with their treatment by the prison authorities, nor with their food or clothing, but with their detention! If only the authorities will rise to the occasion! We can get along quite nicely without any "revolutionary conspirators" either in India or in this country.

⁂

So Abdul Hamid has at last passed beyond the Veil; and there is, one hopes, an end to the Terror that apparently haunted him for years and drove him into unspeakable cruelties at times. For I take it that sheer terror was responsible for his Armenian policy, as it was responsible for his treatment of many individuals; and it was because I felt this to be the explanation of his conduct that I was never able to deny him a certain amount of sympathy. Moreover, those who met him usually admitted that he had a charm which it was very difficult to resist, and I have more than once heard him spoken of with something like affection by such people. Upon the whole, I believe, most Englishmen who gave the matter a thought had a kind of sneaking regard for Abdul, until he put himself out of court, so to say, in 1895. This was due to the fact that they recognised what a supremely difficult game he had to play against the Powers, and to their admiration for the matchless skill with which he played it.

⁂

The latter years of his reign certainly put a severe strain on his well-wishers in this country. But during his period of exile we have begun to think more kindly of him again. We have felt that he has supported his misfortunes not without a certain amount of dignity, and we have seen that his disappearance has undoubtedly been a bad thing for his country since it handed over power to low-born adventurers. As *The Times* well says: "Though he wrought much evil, the conspirators who have since seized power in Turkey have made his offences seem light." What, I wonder, did he think of the latest developments—the loss of Jerusalem and an occupation of Baghdad, for instance? And what of his old "friend" the Kaiser and his protestations of friendship! Truly Turkey has fallen far since the days of the famous visits. Abdul Hamid may be fortunate in having been spared the witnessing of her final degradation.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Great Britain and Cyprus.

In the article on the Turkish peasantry of Anatolia quoted in these columns last week from the *Quarterly Review*, Sir William Ramsay is led, by the reflection that, if Great Britain is to have a hand in the tutelage of Turkey, she must modify her official attitude towards the economic development of the country, to a consideration of the British administration of Cyprus. There follows this powerful indictment:—

The story of the British administration of Cyprus will stand out in history as a memorial of incapacity. Cyprus was occupied in 1878 in order to be a basis from which the Protectorate of Asiatic Turkey could be exercised. It lies off the south coast of Asia Minor and the west coast of northern Syria. Taken for this military purpose, and governed thirty-seven years, the island proved to be absolutely useless when war with Turkey broke out in 1915. It has not played any part, and could not serve any purpose, in the war. Why? It had never been developed industrially, or commercially, or as a naval or military station. British officialism went and stayed, and for long did practically nothing, though in recent time the Department of Public Works has been actively and usefully employing resources too limited. Now look at another picture. One of our ablest statesmen, who was at Berlin in 1878, bartered Heligoland to Germany about ten years later. That barren tiny stretch of sand and rock, which was rapidly being washed away by the sea, was transformed into a great fortress which has been the crown of German sea-defences. If Britain had spent on harbours in Cyprus and their needed defences, or on developing agriculture and trade, one-fifth of the money that Germany spent on Heligoland, it might have been of incalculable service in this war.

Moreover, Cyprus is a large island, and was once rich and fertile; but, like all the Mediterranean lands, it depends for its productivity on the energy and labour and skill of the population. Under Turkish rule it had deteriorated seriously. In 1878 it needed roads, railways, bridges, harbours, and all the many devices for conducting trade and communication, as well as improved agriculture, which depends on the supply of water to the soil. It has mineral wealth, and gave its name to the copper with which formerly it supplied the world. Its trees are valuable, and its general agricultural possibilities are great. It might be made once more a garden of the Mediterranean. The complaints which were made, about 1878, that it was too unhealthy for the troops, arose out of the action of a military authority who placed the camp low down in the most malarious part. In reality Cyprus is well fitted to serve as a sanatorium. The one purpose which, so far as I know, it has served during the war is to receive and recuperate wounded or sick soldiers; and its one small railway has been extended a few miles to facilitate the transport of the sick. If, in the future, we continue to do so little for the improvement and restoration to prosperity of an island like this, it will furnish a conclusive proof that we are unfit to be entrusted with the charge of the neglected parts of the Levant. Even in Egypt, where we have improved so greatly the economic condition, the question will be asked whether this would have been possible had it not been, in the first place, for the absolute necessity that our stay in Egypt must be justified, lest the Empire should break in twain; and in the second place, for the fortunate chance that two great men, Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener, were put in authority there. The short interval between them was a period of disintegration and shame.

Islam in Egyptian Schools.

The current issue of the *Moslem World* reproduces the printed syllabus of the Primary Course of Studies in the Mohammedan religion published by the Ministry of Education in Egypt. It deserves to be studied by any Moslems who may have wondered whether there was any foundation for the statements made at Germany's behest in Turkey that British rule was a menace to Islam. The following introductory remarks preface a more detailed summary of the teaching for each of the four years of the course.

ISLAM IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF EGYPT.

A Syllabus of the Primary Course of Study.

General Remarks.

I. The object aimed at in the reading of the Koran, and in committing parts of it to memory is twofold:—

(1) Dissemination of the spirit of religion in the hearts of the pupils by what they are able to understand when they read really easy passages, and by what remains in their memory, the result of which is that, in after times, they attain to a full knowledge of the truth.

(2) Training of the pupils in correct speech, owing to their being habituated to clear articulation and to producing the various sounds from the right parts of the vocal cavity.

The teacher should take the greatest pains to secure correct memorising and perfect reading. He should see that each word is clearly spoken, each letter receiving its due pronunciation and proceeding from the right place. Special attention should be paid to the correct pronunciation of the letters.

II. The object aimed at in the teaching of religion is likewise twofold:—

(1) The gradual implanting in the hearts of the pupils of a firm religious belief, and the inculcation of the fact that religion is a defence against evil passions, and a means of diverting the heart from wicked desires, inasmuch as it subdues evil thoughts and exercises a restraining power upon the conscience. It furthermore controls man in his hours of solitude, prevents him from falling into error, and secures harmony and mutual help between them. Lastly, religion is the spirit of righteousness in this world and the world to come, for the love of God and His prophets is thereby rooted in the hearts of men.

(2) Habituation of the pupils from their earliest years to the performance of their religious duties and the acquirement of religious virtues so that the practice of these becomes a habit with them from childhood upwards until religion becomes blended into their hearts and united with their souls.

The following points should be attended to:—

(a) The principle on which the teaching of religion should be based is the presentation of it to the pupils in such a manner that they shall be drawn towards it by a feeling of love and a yearning for it, in which case it will become firmly established in their hearts. This end can only be attained by making the teaching strictly progressive, adapted to the intellectual capacity of the pupils, and a source of pleasure to them, all severity and harshness being avoided.

(b) The ritual of the ceremonial ablutions and prayers must, in the First Year, be taught in a practical manner, without attempting to explain the essential and unessential parts of the ritual and details of a similar nature, all of which are beyond the comprehension of the pupils. The latter must always be encouraged to perform the stated prayers, and one of the teachers should lead them in the afternoon and evening prayers at the school prayer station.

(c) An abbreviated account of the life of the Prophet should be given, sufficient to implant a love of him in the hearts of the pupils, and in a form that they can understand and appreciate, *e.g.*, the story of his youth should be given and his virtuous qualities enumerated. Such an account should be cast in a simple mould and expressed in easy sentences so as to facilitate its comprehension by the pupils, who are not expected to learn the account by heart. Short stories illustrative of the Prophet's virtues should also be given to the pupils.

(d) The Koran should be the source of authority in the teaching of doctrines, ritual, and religious virtues in the classes of the Third and Fourth years. This end may be attained by the thorough committal to memory on the part of the pupils of the Koranic verses, and an explanation on the part of the teacher, in terms suited to the intellectual powers of the pupils, of the truths that are intended to be brought to light by the verses learnt.

With regard to the work prescribed for the Third and Fourth years it is sufficient to cause to be learnt by heart the verses quoted hereafter, and to refer to the authenticated sayings of the Prophet, together with suitable prose or poetical pieces and historical events bearing upon the subject.

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We regret that, owing to pressure upon our space, a report of the lecture on Palestine given by Miss Estelle Blyth, daughter of the late Bishop of Jerusalem, at a meeting of the Central Asian Society on February 13, is held over.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The Turkish Budget estimate for the year commencing March 1, which is now to hand, is of interest only in so far as it indicates the extent to which the authorities at the Sublime Porte feel justified in revealing the perilous condition of the country's finances. The receipts are estimated at £T37,016,698, and the ordinary expenditure at £T51,402,327, giving a deficit of £T14,385,629. Were these figures anything like accurate Turkey's position would be comparatively serious, for, including the war expenditure, the country would be faced with a formidable deficit. But they are worse than they appear, for the simple reason that the lands from which Turkey derived the greater part of her revenue before the war are either in the occupation of the Allies or are so ravaged as to be useless for revenue purposes. It is a justifiable assumption that the normal deficit will be at least double the estimate, and this deficit is unlikely to disappear with the coming of peace, or, indeed, for many years after it.

⁂

I noticed some days ago a letter in a contemporary referring to the insistence on increased production by this country to meet the financial responsibilities entailed by the war, and asking where the markets are to be found to take this increased production. The Serbian Mission, which is now bringing its tour of the industrial centres of this country to a close, ought to have suggested one answer to the writer. Let us hope, at any rate, that it has to the merchants and manufacturers of the towns that have been visited, for it is certain that one of the best trade openings after the war is to be found in the Allied countries in the Balkans. Serbia, Roumania, and Greece, as I have pointed out from time to time, are all young countries as far as development is concerned, and their needs will grow apace when settled conditions return. Their pre-war trade returns are nothing to go by, for the purchasing power of most of the Balkan countries has hitherto been strictly limited, and if matters develop after the war in accordance with expectations a very different state of things will obtain.

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I have not referred to the immediate post-war prospects in the Balkans because it is obvious that there, as in other belligerent lands, there will be a demand for all manner of goods, and, in particular, for machinery of all kinds, to reconstruct the life of these countries. Unlike other countries, however, the demand will be permanent, and it is worth while laying stress on the fact that those firms who are first in the field in the period of reconstruction are likely to find themselves in a much better position as regards the retention of the trade than firms who wait to see what is going to happen. It is impossible to reiterate this moral too frequently, and it is to be hoped that British firms whose attention has been attracted to the opportunities afforded in the Balkans will keep it constantly before them, and will make their preparations now so that they will be ready to enter the market immediately peace is declared.

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Possibly it may be asked what I mean when I urge British firms to make their preparations now. It will be said, perhaps, that it is difficult to see what preparations can be made at the present juncture. To me it seems obvious that there are two ways in which firms can get ready now to enter the Balkan market. They can learn all there is to learn about the probable market requirements from official sources, and they can embark now on a judicious advertising campaign. I can imagine firms disagreeing with the latter suggestion; but I am sure, all the same, that it is the only proper course to adopt. In no circumstances can advertising in the right manner be regarded as other than a paying investment, and the fact that a great war is in progress will not prevent potential purchasers from noting and remembering telling descriptions of machinery or goods they will want when it is over. Firms must, however, be careful to choose their medium for advertisements, and they must make sure that they select papers that reach the people they want to attract.

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The incidence of Egypt's coal shortage can best be realized in the light of the extraordinary decline that has taken place in her imports of coal since the war commenced. In 1917 Egypt's total imports of coal amounted to 168,040 tons, as against 489,662 tons in 1916, and 675,210 tons in 1915. Even the 1915 figures, however, are far below the average, which works out for the seven years from 1908 to 1914 inclusive at, roughly, 1,275,000 tons. So that last year the country only received something like one-eighth of its requirements.

⁂

If the Indian Government require any further reasons why action of a decided character is called for with regard to the Calcutta hide trade, they will find them in Sir Henry Ledgard's exposition of the grounds that exist for the belief that proper organisation is alone needed for this country to take the hides which formerly went to Germany and her Ally in his paper before the Royal Society of Arts, which is given on page 140. He points out that the committee formed at the Imperial Institute to consider the future of the trade in Indian "kips," the most important part of the hides trade, established the fact that British firms in Calcutta were willing to take up the export trade, and that tanners in this country expressed their readiness to tan the kips on an increasing scale, but both laid down the condition that the export trade in India must be in the hands of British firms.

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That is the policy which THE NEAR EAST has consistently set out, and, in view of the importance of the trade to the Empire, it is difficult to see why no definite action has so far been taken. On this point Sir Henry's view may be noted that it would not be unfair to say that the Government of India had so far done little. The post-war policy he advocates is simple and effective. He urges that no German firm or firms of German antecedents should remain in the trade, that no concern or individual should be permitted in the trade without a licence granted on conditions, one of which would be that all partners, directors, or managers should be British and without German connection, and the careful consideration of the fiscal policy outlined by the Tanners' Federation.

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Considerable interest attaches to the return issued by the Austro-Hungarian Bank showing its note circulation and gold stocks at the end of each of the four past years, because it is the first statement issued by the bank for three and a-half years. The position disclosed is unfavourable in the extreme, so much so, indeed, that I am inclined to speculate as to the motive underlying the return. The only effect of its issue is to throw into bold relief the precarious finances of the Dual Monarchy, and that can but mean a further movement against the country in the foreign exchanges. The note circulation of the bank had risen from £89,990,000 at the end of 1914 to £739,300,000 at the end of last year, while the ratio of gold to notes has decreased from 22.9 to 1.6 per cent. The decline in gold coin from £51,600,000 to £11,000,000 is specially interesting, for it proves beyond doubt the surmise that Germany's increased gold deposits were due to drafts on her ally. This great increase in notes and the decreased reserve coincides, it may be noted, with an extraordinary expansion in the loans by the bank to the Austrian and Hungarian Governments, which now represent 76.1 of the note circulation, as against 8.7 per cent. at the end of 1915.

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An excellent position is disclosed in the report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30. The crops handled at the ginning factories from the three stations amounted to 5,019 bales, as against 4,777 bales in 1916, and the prices realised were highly satisfactory. There was a net profit on the year of £14,837 14s. 6d., and the total credit amounted to £24,514 0s. 7d. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. and to carry forward the balance of £11,014 0s. 7d.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE INDIAN HIDES TRADE.

History and Present Position.

The Indian hides trade, to which so much attention has been directed of late owing to the anxiety here and in India lest the trade should once again be lost to the Empire when peace brings with it the removal of artificial conditions of commerce, was discussed in an important paper read by Sir Henry Ledgard before the Royal Society of Arts on February 14, in which, after dealing with the history and the pre-war position of the trade, he reviewed its situation during the war, and made a number of valuable suggestions for its future development under British auspices. He pointed out that India was not only the greatest producer of light hides but that they produced the most suitable and economical leather in the world for the upper parts of Army boots and strong boots for agricultural labourers, miners, railway and postal employees, etc. The German realised this years ago, but the Home Government until recently held a different view. To-day the Government had commandeered these hides in India, were shipping them here, and were begging English tanners to use them and to build new tanneries and produce all the leather they could for Army boots. Was it too much to hope that they would, before it was too late, go further and take steps to preserve this industry to the British Empire? This Indian hide export trade was not a small one. It ranked fifth in value of the products of India. It actually came before tea, that magnificent industry, of which they heard so much; moreover, were they not all interested in tea nowadays? Why was it that so little was known of the Indian hides trade? It was because the business was to all intents and purposes a German monopoly.

Decrease in World's Cattle.

He referred to the result of a recent investigation by the American Government, which showed that the world's meat producing animals had decreased in cattle by 28,080,000, in sheep by 54,500,000, and in hogs by 32,425,000, and pointed out that before the war the world's supply of hides and skins was barely equal to the demand, and prices were steadily rising. The figures he had quoted indicated a very serious shortage after the war. What would be their position when all the nations were replenishing their depleted stocks if their Indian resources were again in alien hands?

Effect of the War.

Before the war about three millions of cow, ox, and calf hides were yearly tanned in India and exported; but since the outbreak of war the enormous and increasing demand had entailed special effort, and a splendid result had been obtained, as the present production of tanned ox and cow hides was fully double that of the pre-war outturn. The industry was of such value to India, that he trusted a further expansion might be seen, and the development maintained.

The tanning material chiefly used in Madras and Bombay was the bark of the Cassia auriculata shrub, commonly known as Tarwad. In addition to the Madras and Bombay tanning centres, there were some large and up-to-date tanneries and leather factories at Cawnpore. The first was erected over fifty years ago by the Indian Government. Later, the firm of Messrs. Cooper, Allen and Co. erected a similar factory for tanning and currying cow and buffalo hides, and the manufacture of boots for British and Indian Armies. The North-West tannery was another large and important manufacturing concern devoted to war work.

The tanning materials chiefly used by the Cawnpore tanneries were the *acacia arabica* or babul, and *terminalia chebula* (the myrobalan nut). Neither of the tanning agents were systematically cultivated. He trusted the Government of India would realise the importance of the tanning industry, and assure to it an ample supply of tannin. India could produce the bark, but its exploitation should not be left to private enterprise.

Exports.

Of goatskins, India, prior to the war, exported annually some 20 million pieces in the raw state and 7,500,000 tanned. The United Kingdom took the greater part of the tanned skins. About half the skins were re-exported to the Continent, and America took about one-third of the remainder. The handling of the raw skins was on a different footing. America imported direct about 75 per cent., England 10 per cent., France 7 per cent., Holland and Belgium 5 per cent., Germany an insignificant quantity. Since the war America's imports had risen to 88½ per cent., and theirs dropped to 8 per cent. or less. The very large quantities taken by America were turned into glacé kid, and of these England took annually from America, for her own use, a considerable proportion, valued at £1,500,000. Of sheepskins the export in the raw state, previous to the war, amounted to 2,200,000, and about nine millions tanned. Of these raw skins America took in 1913-14 87 per cent., and in 1915-16 96½ per cent. In face of these American figures he did not think it necessary to tell them what England imported. The treatment of the tanned skins was rather more favourable. The following were the figures :—

	1913-14. %		1915-16. %
United Kingdom......	58·9	..	64
The United States....	20·9	..	19·8
Japan	15	..	11·8

As with tanned goatskins, a considerable percentage was re-exported to America and to Austria. and then came back in various forms of useful and fancy manufactured articles. Of buffalo hides about 16,000 cwt., or 160,000 pieces, were exported to England in the tanned state. Unlike sheep and goat skins, they were nearly all absorbed in the country. Of the 345,000 cwt. raw hides, representing about two million pieces, the position was fairly summarised when he said that half the number went to the countries now at war with them, one-third to the United States, the remainder to the United Kingdom, Holland, and Italy.

Post-War Prospects.

Efforts were being made to increase the manufacture of glacé kid in this country, and the chrome tanners were prepared to extend their factories and deal with an additional five million goatskins per annum, provided the Government gave them some security for the capital involved. The Tanners' Federation considered this would be provided by an export duty in India on raw goatskins, with a rebate of the full amount if the skins were tanned within the Empire. The Federation estimated that the value of the increased production in this country would, within three years of the termination of the war, fully equal the cost of the Indian goatskins treated in America and imported into this country in the form of glacé kid. A similar fiscal policy was suggested in regard to sheepskins. The Federation had also considered buffalo hides. and, in view of the fact that all imported tanned hides had so far been absorbed in this country, expressed the view that a very much greater number of Indian buffaloes could be handled here if the trade were established with the certainty of supplies in the future.

Trade in Kips.

He now came to ox and cow hides, by far the most important branch of the hide and skin exports of India. Covering a period of some years before the war, the exports had been approximately 11 millions, of which about three millions of hides had been exported in the tanned state, and the remaining eight millions in the raw. Broadly speaking, the tanned hides came to this country, and the eight millions raw hides went to the Continent. At one time all the hides came here, and kip tanning was a most important industry. From the Leeds district alone the outturn was about three millions per annum. In 1872 the shipments to the United Kingdom were seven millions. To other countries none. Ten years later, in 1882, five millions came here, and one million went to the Continent. By 1892 the figures were almost reversed. for 1,038,417 came to this country and 4,423,159 went to the Continent. For about three years longer their imports held up, and they averaged about one and a quarter millions against five millions to the Continent. In 1896 they dropped to 681,000. Imports continued to dwindle, until in 1 they imported only 17,530, as against 6,981,947 to the Continent, and 261,000 to America.

German Control.

The figures showed that the trade had passed from them when war broke out. What the trade meant to the enemy might best be expressed by indicating what those hides would produce. The ox and cow hides that went to Hamburg, Bremen, and Trieste in the three and a half years before the war, after making the liberal deduction of 50 per cent. for hides unsuitable for military requirements, yielded sufficient leather to make 48 millions of Army boot uppers, while the buffalo hides exported to the Continent would supply forty-nine millions of Army boot soles. Of the remainder fully half were suitable for making civilian upper leather (of which a large quantity was returned to them in the form of finished box calf), and for making soles for light boots and shoes or the inner soles of heavier boots How this complete capture of trade had been accomplished was of interest. In 1876-77 the German Government imposed an export duty on leather of 6s. 1d. per cwt., equivalent to about 6 per cent. ad valorem. In 1878 they increased it to 10 per cent. ad valorem, and in 1906 the tariff was revised and increased, raising the duties to from 1⅝d. to 2¾d. per lb according to the weights of the tanned hides.

Position at Calcutta.

Concurrently with these fiscal measures in Germany there arose in Calcutta German firms devoting themselves exclusively to the export hide trade. Before long they had banded themselves into an association or ring almost exclusively German. In case this description of the ring might be questioned he gave them the grounds for his assertion. In 1913 the firms composing this association contained thirty German or Austrian directors, partners or managers, and four naturalised or not German. Of assistants other than Indian clerks, hide sorters, or coolies employed, there were fifty-five German and Austrian and only twelve naturalised or not German. In addition to the association of German hide merchants in Calcutta, a Tanners' Association existed in Germany and a Dealers' Association in Hamburg. The latter worked with the Calcutta ring, and any outsider attempting to do business found himself against the Calcutta association or its counter-part in Hamburg. The Calcutta firms very naturally cultivated intimate relations with their Continental customers, and drew their assistants from Germany or Austria. The hide classifications were made to suit the German tanners, a German line of steamers carried the hides direct from India to the German or Austrian ports. It was true the ring would sell to English tanners or anybody else, but in all essentials it was Germanic in its origin, in its organisation, in its sympathies and ramifications. There was one exception in this co-operative system, and that was in finance, where the German houses apparently found the English banks sufficiently cosmopolitan and wealthy to serve their purpose.

During the War.

If he had wearied them with those details it was from a strong desire that they might understand how completely the trade was dominated by Germany, and the very poor outlook if nothing was done to free them from the German incubus. It was not, he thought, unfair to say that the Government of India had so far done little with the weapon in their hands in the shape of the "Hostile Foreign Trader's Order." Shortly after the outbreak of war they ordered the liquidation of four German firms out of those comprising the ring, but soon—and he took it with the knowledge of Government—other concerns started. How the firms affected regard the changes might, he suggested, be inferred from the following extract from a circular of one of them ordered to be wound up under a Hostile Trader's Order :—

"There will be no change in the management, and we trust the new company will receive the same measure of confidence and support hitherto enjoyed by ourselves."

The remaining firms composing the German ring had been allowed to trade, some with, some without, supervision. Possibly, in the early days of the war, to have entirely shut down the European hide merchants in Calcutta might have caused serious dislocation before new markets had been found and new organisations formed, but that reason no longer existed.

Inquiry into Trade's Future.

In February, 1916, with the concurrence of the India Office, an influential and representative committee was formed at the Imperial Institute, and at a conference at the India Office, presided over by Lord Islington, it was settled that this committee should ascertain whether British firms would be prepared to take up the raw hide trade in India, and purchase the kips for export, and whether tanners in the United Kingdom would be prepared to take up the tanning of the Indian hides on the large scale required. The results of the committee's inquiries on these two points were entirely satisfactory, and had been embodied in an important report and recommendations presented to the Secretary of State for India, which so far had not been published. British firms in Calcutta of undoubted reputation informed the committee that they would take up the export trade, and stated their views as to the best methods of securing that in future the East India hide business should be an all-British industry. At the same time they made it quite clear that their entrance and continuance in the business would be contingent upon the complete removal from the trade of German firms, or firms whose antecedents and connections and membership of the German hide ring set them apart from British firms. Tanners in this country expressed their readiness to tan these kips on an increasing scale under certain conditions, the most important of which was that the purchasing trade in India should be in the hands of entirely British firms free from previous or present German connections.

The United Tanners' Federation of Great Britain and Ireland expressed themselves able to handle increasing quantities up to four millions in the third year after the conclusion of the war, subject to (1) the imposition in India of an export duty on raw hides which should be remitted if they were tanned within the Empire; (2) confining the export of raw Indian hides to British firms free from any German or Austrian connections. (The term "British firms" includes Indian.) (3) The granting, where necessary and advisable, of financial assistance to tanners. Since the committee's recommendations were submitted, the Government of India had employed only British and Indian firms as their agents in the purchase of hides on the Government account. In the background there were, however, still the old ring firms or their successors resenting their exclusion, agitating for recognition, bringing pressure upon Government, trading with neutrals, and ready to pounce upon the trade (of which they had the monopoly) directly peace was declared and the Continental market reopened.

A Suggested Policy.

Outlining a policy which would give at least a measure of that control so long exercised by the enemy, Sir Henry Ledgard urged that no German firm, or firm of German antecedents and connections, should be permitted to remain in this trade. In defining what he meant, he said he could not do better than quote from a speech of Lord Islington on July 18, 1916, in the House of Lords, when dealing with the case of a German firm in Calcutta that had been engaged in supplying manganese ore to Krupps for the manufacture of steel. He then said: "The Government of India had long prevented hostile firms carrying on business in India for the benefit of enemy interests, but for the purpose of determining what was a hostile firm, they were taking as a criterion whether a firm's business was carried on before the war for the benefit of an alien interest and was likely to be resumed on similar lines after the war."

Secondly, he recommended that no concern or individual should be permitted to be in this trade in India without a licence, and the conditions attaching to a licence should be: (a) That the capital of the licensed company, firm, or individual, should be entirely British. (The term "British," of course, to include Indian.) (b) That all partners, directors, or managers of such licensed company or firm should be British, and without German connection. (c) That no British subject being under direct or indirect control, financial or otherwise, of foreign interests, should be allowed to have any share of the capital, or be a partner, director, or manager of such licensed company or firm. (d) That no license to trade in Indian raw hides should be granted to a company, firm, or individual who before the war carried on, or was engaged in the business for the benefit of foreign countries taking part in the war against the Allies.'

He might point out that, apart from the main object they had in confining the trade to licensed firms, other advantages were likely to accrue. There would, for instance, probably arise an association not existing for the purpose of maintaining a monopoly, but instead, devoted to the development and improvement of the industry in the interests of all concerned, as existed in the tea industry.

Thirdly, a careful consideration of the fiscal policy outlined by the Tanners' Federation as essential to the revival of the light leather tanning industry in England and its expansion in India. Finally (and in this he had in mind the trade of India as a whole), there should be closer commercial union, some preference or privilege that would render them more self-supporting and self-contained, more independent, and, let him add, more alive to enemy machinations than they had been in the past.

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INDIA AND THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

According to a Batavia telegram to the Dutch Press (says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent), an agreement has been concluded whereby Dutch East Indian ships engage to carry 12,000 ton of coal per month from Calcutta to Colombo, India, in return permitting the export of 12,000 tons of rice to the Dutch East Indies. The telegram adds that negotiations are in progress regarding the transport of 25,000 tons of coal from Calcutta to Bombay and Karachi, in exchange for the export of 25,000 tons of Rangoon rice.

Cairo cigarette-makers have struck work to enforce their demand for a 25 per cent. increase of wages.

MYSORE GOLD PRODUCTION.

Lower Grade Ores to be Milled.

A circular issued by the Secretary of the Mysore Gold Mining Company states:—"In the annual report issued to the shareholders under date March 14, 1917, it was stated that the amount of development work accomplished during the year 1916 compared unfavourably with that of the preceding year, owing to the necessity for economy in the use of explosives and to the shortage of skilled machine men. These conditions have not materially changed for the better, and the opening up of fresh ore ground has not been keeping pace with the ore extraction; consequently, to maintain the average milling grade of the year 1917, it would be necessary to encroach upon the richer sections of the mine to an extent which would seem undesirable.

"Until more favourable conditions again prevail, it is deemed expedient, while maintaining the tonnage of ore crushed monthly at about the present figure, that a larger proportion of lower-grade quartz shall be treated, and it will have been noticed that the return of gold for January (just published) was less by some 1,000 ounces than the average monthly output for 1917. Notwithstanding the limited scale of operations, some very promising points are being actively prosecuted in the lower levels of Ribblesdale's mine, and it is satisfactory to note that the improvements in this important and deepest section of the property are being well maintained. Further allusion to this, and to all matters relating to the position of the company, will be made in the directors' report, which it is hoped may be issued next month. The lessened profit consequent upon the reduced output of gold should be, in a large measure, offset by the reduction in capital expenditure which is now practicable and will be in evidence during the current year's operations."

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INDIA'S TRADE IN OIL-SEEDS.

The current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* contains a series of reports and articles of great interest, one of the most important being that on India's trade in oil-seeds. It appears that India's production of oil-seeds is worth annually about £50,000,000, and the exports of oil-seeds, oils and oil cakes about £16,500,000. Great Britain is India's best customer for these articles, though before the war Germany secured almost a monopoly of certain classes of oil-seeds produced in India. This was due to the fact that her specially-protected market enabled her to buy the most valuable seeds, the produce from which was in some cases eventually exported to England in the form of margarine and other edible fats. The recent great extension of margarine manufacture in England may be expected to alter that state of things permanently, and to result in a better British market for oil-seeds from India and other parts of the Empire. The article is replete with information regarding India's oil-seed resources, the world's production and demand for oil-seeds, and the important part which India plays as a source of supply.

Another article gives an account of the work of the Institute on mineral resources. There are also reports on cotton, tobacco, cereals, and spices from Cyprus, and the produce of other parts of the Empire.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

An Austrian Combine.

The Austrian Minister of Trade, in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture, has recently made an order under which all undertakings manufacturing agricultural machines or part of them in Austria are to be combined, with the designation of the "Economic Combine of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery in Austria," which will have its head office in Vienna. The objects of the combine are to supervise factory arrangements and the number and employment of workmen, and to carry out all necessary inquiries as to stocks, production, and sales; to assist in the acquisition and distribution of raw materials, the settling of prices and condition of sale; to consult with the central offices on the placing of orders; to advise and co-operate in all questions relating to the control of production, import, and export, conditions of work and transition economy. The members of the combine are divided into three groups:—Manufacturers of machinery for working the land, manufacturers of harvesting machinery, and manufacturers of machines for the preparation of fodder and utilisation of milk, fruit, and wine. The combine is under State supervision, which is exercised by Government commissaries nominated by the Ministries concerned. Decisions of the combine are subject to the approval of the Minister of Trade.

In Germany, similar combines and engineering trade organisations in connection with the future production and export of machinery and implements, were established at an early stage of the war. The latest development of this policy, attributed to Krupps—the formation of two new companies, one to deal with foreign telegraphic news and the other with a view to concentrating all trade advertising in a central authority—show clearly the thoroughness with which they are preparing for the commercial campaign that will follow the present conflict.

Utilisation of Serbia's Rivers.

By the utilisation of the rivers Morava and Vardar, as stated in the previous notes, Serbia could obtain an immense and inexhaustible motive power, which would be distributed to all her eastern and central districts from north to south, for agricultural and industrial purposes. She would also possess an invaluable waterway running the length of the country, which, with its outlets on the Danube and the Ægean Sea, would afford the cheapest possible means of inland transport. Similar benefits and facilities for transport could be obtained by the utilisation of the rivers Ibar and Drin. These two rivers could be made to serve the western districts of Serbia as usefully as the Morava and Vardar the eastern and central districts. They would also conduce to the realisation of an important scheme for the construction of a route with an outlet on the Adriatic. This route, which is regarded as the only natural way from Serbia to the Adriatic, would start from Kralyevo, in the West Morava Valley, where is the line of the railway from Stalatz to Uzhitza, and proceed along the valley of the river Ibar to Rashka, and thence to Mitrovitza, the present terminus of the railway from Uskub and Salonika. From Mitrovitza the Ibar Valley line would have to be extended over a somewhat difficult watershed to the valley of the River Drin, which it could follow to Alessio and San Giovani di Medua, upon the Adriatic. The assistance which these two rivers can be made to contribute to the success of this route is obvious. By their utilisation the country will benefit by an increased production. In Germany no water power is wasted, and waterways are carefully fostered despite the cheap railway rates, as is shown by the recent efforts to connect the Rhine and the Elbe and the Elbe and the Danube.

The River Drin will play a very important part in the development of Serbia's commercial, industrial, and agricultural resources. An engineering scheme is in view which if carried out (and it must be carried out), will make the Drin Bay in time, according to the sponsors of the scheme, the Mersey of the Adriatic. The idea is to divert the Drin river to its original bed, and to dredge the Boyana river, in order to reclaim the barren marsh lands round Lake Scutari. The Drin, through negligence, has gradually forced a new course for itself from the sea into Lake Scutari, which is now twelve metres higher than the Adriatic. It is proposed to lower the level of the lake by five metres by means of a huge barrage. This would help to reclaim the low-lying and once fertile lands surrounding the lake, extending over some 75,000 acres. It is also proposed to dredge the Boyana to make it navigable for coasting vessels right up to Scutari from Palai, a small town at the mouth of the Boyana.

BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Hutton's Retirement.

The following resolution was passed unanimously at the meeting of the council of the British Cotton Growing Association, held at Manchester on February 5:—"That the council has learned with profound regret of the resignation of Mr. J. Arthur Hutton from the chairmanship of the council, and desires to place upon record its most grateful thanks for his whole-hearted and unremitting devotion to the best interests of the Association since its inception. It recalls with gratitude the ability with which he has guided the association's policy and work through many difficulties, until it has attained its present recognised position as an Empire institution, with every promise that its work and example will ultimately result in a large increase of British Empire-grown cotton. The council earnestly hopes that Mr. Hutton will, as one of its members, continue to give its deliberations the benefit of his experience and advice."

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"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Stagnant Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

There has not been any increased activity in the market during the past week, and demand in all quarters continues very disappointing. There are no indications at the moment of any change of attitude on the part of buyers, and the determination to hold aloof is still very pronounced. Order lists, therefore, in both yarn and cloth have tended to run down. Sentiment with regard to prices in Egyptian cotton continues rather bearish, there being a distinct improvement during the last few weeks in stocks both in Liverpool and in Alexandria. In Egyptian yarns the general demand has continued slow. Most of the buying has been in the better qualities of the finer numbers, chiefly in combed descriptions. Producers generally in this section are not experiencing any difficulty in clearing the output, but in coarse carded counts engagements are not quite so extensive as at the beginning of the year. Piece goods for Egypt have not attracted much attention. There have been rumours of the Government making some change in war risk insurance rates, and if the flat rate is abolished and changes based upon the different routes, then it is feared that exporters to Egypt will be handicapped severely. Very few cloth offers have come through for India, and leading buyers continue to adopt a waiting policy. News from China has not been at all encouraging. Much earlier delivery can now be obtained in narrow printing cloths, and some makers are pressing for fresh orders. Fancies and specialities have moved off fairly well for the home trade. American yarns have been slow and rather more irregular in price when tested. Producers, of course, are somewhat disturbed by the decision of the Government to fix prices for war contracts, and the system now to be adopted appears likely to result in the margin of profit being reduced by about 2d. per lb. There has been very little fresh business in export yarns.

EGYPTIAN COTTON STOCKS IN LANCASHIRE.

The Cotton Control Board has this week published statistics relating to cotton stocks in this country. It is pointed out that with reference to Egyptian and Peruvian descriptions the supplies held by spinners at the mills and warehouses at the beginning of this month amounted to 81,762 bales, against 48,457 bales at the end of last October. The stocks held by dealers at Liverpool and Manchester sold and unsold to spinners now amount to 50,419 bales, against 50,788 bales three months previously. The Egyptian and Peruvian cotton on the quay at Liverpool and other ports is now given as 26,081 bales, against only 5,864 bales at the end of last October. The large amount of 119,160 bales is at sea, against 32,000 bales when the last census was taken. It is, therefore, found that the visible supply of these kinds of raw cotton now totals to 277,422 bales, as compared with 137,109 bales three months previously. It is of interest to note, however, that the weekly consumption of Egyptian and Peruvian in Lancashire is now 7,40 bales, as compared with 6,545 bales at the end of last October.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30, 1917, states that the issued share capital remains at £135,000, and the debenture capital is likewise unchanged at £57,000. The crops handled at the ginning factories from the three stations, compared with the previous year, were as follows:—Barakat, 1917, 1,956 bales; 1916, 1,687; Tayibá, 1917, 1,432 bales; 1916, 1,010 bales; Zeidab, 1917, 1,631 bales; 1916, 2,080 bales. The prices realised were highly satisfactory. The supply of irrigation to natives in the Zeidab district shows a further increase as compared with the preceding year. The Government agricultural station at Tayiba continues to be worked by the syndicate on behalf of the Sudan Government. Shareholders will be glad to learn that delegates from the Sudan Government were present in London last summer in order to resume the discussion upon the Gezireh scheme. The directors are pleased to state that the question of the development by the syndicate of the Gezireh Plain has now assumed practical shape, all preliminaries having been arranged and the main points definitely settled. Under an agreement entered into with the British Cotton Growing Association, 2,050 bales were purchased in Tokar and sold in this country at satisfactory prices. The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £14,837 14s. 6d.; which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £10,276 6s. 1d., less directors' fees, since paid, £600—£9,676 6s. 1d.—brings the total credit to £24,514 0s. 7d. It is proposed to deal with this sum as follows:—To recommend the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent., equal to 2s. per share (less income tax), payable to shareholders registered on February 13, 1918, absorbing £13,500; to carry forward the balance of £11,014 0s. 7d.—£24,514 0s. 7d. The usual depreciation under the various headings has been provided for, but it is proposed in addition to write off the sum of £24,131 19s. 5d. from the Zeidab account. This figure represents amounts advanced to natives during a number of years, and which, owing to a succession of bad crops, are considered irrecoverable. The directors regret to say that Mr. H. S. Smiley has resigned from the board of the syndicate. Sir Lionel Phillips and Lord Lovat, directors of the syndicate, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The adjourned ordinary general meeting will be held at 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C., 2, on February 20, at 12 o'clock.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

The report of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Limited, for the year ended December 31, 1917, states that the year's working had resulted in a net profit of £4,587 1s.; this has been placed to the credit of profit and loss account, bringing the credit balance (after making sundry adjustments amounting to £2 4s. 1d.) to £5,431 4s. 10d., which it is proposed to carry forward. Having regard to prevailing conditions, the directors have again refrained from making a valuation of the company's securities. The ordinary general meeting will be held at Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, E.C.2, on February 18, at 1 p.m.

INDIA'S SALT CONTROLLED.

The Government has issued a special *Gazette* taking power under the Defence of India Rules for the maintenance of the supply of commodities of general use (says a Reuter message from Delhi) and has accordingly commenced with the controlling of the salt supply.

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Owing to the shortage of copper in Bulgaria all trading therewith has been forbidden by royal decree.

The Turkish Government has introduced a Bill asking for a credit for the examination of the question of the construction of a bridge and tunnel connecting Europe with Asia.

Mr. Edward Wauhope, of Goldings Manor, Loughton, Essex, chairman of the British India Tea Company and a director of other tea companies, who died on October 5, left estate of the value of £64,046.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to November 30, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to December 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Nov. 1917		3,108,836	2,146,000
Do. do. do 1916		2,698,816	1,727,000
Estimated Receipts for 11 months (Law of Control)		26,491,666	9,808,333
Actual do. do., 1917..		31,118,358	12,705,000
Do. do. do., 1916..		32,714,686	24,902,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months	1917	+ 4,626,691	+ 2,896,666
	1916	+ 6,223,020	+ 15,093,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for eleven days ended December 31.

	1916. £E.		1917. £E.
Dec. 21-Dec. 31	7,193	..	11,570
April 1-Dec. 31	159,070	..	202,795

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
February 5	250,000	340,000
February 6	230,000	200,000
February 7, 8, 9, 10	630,000	1,070,000

CEYLON'S EXPORT DUTIES.

A notification has been published in the *Ceylon Government Gazette* to the effect that, as from December 1, 1917, the export duties on copra and coconut oil will be removed for a period of six months, provided that in each case the exporter can show to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs that he has not charged the seller with export duty, or, in the case of coconut oil, that the oil has been manufactured from copra, the seller of which has not been charged with the export duty.

INDIA'S WHEAT CROP.

The first official all-India wheat forecast for the current season shows that the area sown is the largest recorded, being 34,000,000 acres, or 1,000,000 acres more than last year's final area (says a Reuter message from Calcutta dated January 30). The sowing season is favourable. The present condition of the crop is good, but the Central Provinces and the Delhi district need rain.

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The liquidation of the Bank of Egypt was to be completed at the end of January.

M. Evangelos Panas, a Greek merchant of Khartoum, whose death took place recently, left his fortune to the special treasury of the Greek National Fleet.

Mr. T. H. Marsden has been appointed a director of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt in the place of Mr. R. A. Huri, deceased.

Holders of debentures, bonds to bearer, of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, amounting to £785,500, falling due on February 18, are notified that the debentures will be paid off at Lloyds Bank, 72, Lombard Street, E.C.2. The debentures should be left at the bank three clear days for examination prior to payment.

A paper on "A New British Oil Industry" is to be read to the Institution of Petroleum Technologists on February 19. Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, Mr. A. G. V. Berry, and Dr. A. E. Dunstan, have each written a section of the paper. Mr. Charles Greenway, president of the Institution, and chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., will preside at the meeting.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Speaking generally, our market this week for Egyptian shares has again been an active and rising one. Interest has been daily broadening, and a large business has been transacted, although here and there a certain amount of irregularity in prices has been manifest. Reports from Egypt are all of a very bullish character. The prosperity over there appears to be unprecedented, and large sales of land are constantly being made. Government stocks again show a rise of half a point to 86 for Egyptian Unifieds, whilst the 3½ per cent. prefs. continue in strong demand, but with practically no sellers. There has also been a rise of a point to 81 and 71 respectively for Turkish 4 per cent. 1891's and 3½ per cents., both of which loans are secured on the Egyptian tribute, and have really nothing to do with Turkey. The drawings at par render these bonds attractive, and there is a steady demand for them from the English public.

In Bank shares, Nationals are 1-16 firmer at 18 9-16, and Land Banks are ⅛ up at 6¾, both being in demand for Egyptian account, whilst Agriculturals are exceptionally 1-16 down at 6 15-32. Amongst railways, Delta Lights, on a market bare of sellers, have improved 3-16 to 6½. In the Land department a fairly steady inquiry has continued for Aboukirs without altering the price. Allotments have improved ⅛ to 4¼ on buying from Egypt, whilst Delta Lands are, by exception, fractionally easier at 16s. 7½d. There has been an insistent demand for Behéras, and a very fair business has been transacted, the price closing 5-16 higher at 14 1-16. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have improved 3d. to 10s. 9d. Gharbieh Lands have remained a dull market at 2⅛.

In New Egyptians a very large business has been doing, the buying coming both from Egypt and from local sources, and the shares are closing 3d. higher to-night at 19s. 3d., after dealings as high as 19s. 6d. There has been a great deal of profit-taking in these shares, but the market is in a very sound and healthy condition. There are rumours that the company is now getting very much higher prices than it has ever realised before for its lands—such as to justify a very considerable further advance in the price of the shares. The upward movement in Sidi Salems has again made further progress, and the shares close to-night 2s. 9d. up, at 48s. 9d. Union Foncières, which were somewhat neglected early in the week, have also picked up again, and are 1-16 higher to-night, at 3 5-16. In United Egyptian Lands there has been a fairly strong inquiry from Egypt, and the price has improved 3d. to 1s. 7½d., with a fair number of transactions.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are looking a firmer market, and Egyptian Markets are fractionally firmer at 26s. 6d. Salts and Sodas have remained quiet round 39s., but there has been a spurt in Khedivial Mails, which are closing 2s. 3d. higher, at 38s. 6d., on buying orders from Egypt.

In Greek securities there has been again practically nothing doing this week. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are quoted nominally a point lower at 59. There is some inquiry for current bonds for replacing bonds recently drawn, and the price looks like hardening, as sellers are exceedingly scarce.

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The Postmaster-General announces that the mails for Algiers despatched from London during the period from January 20 to 25 are reported to have been lost.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb. 6	Feb. 13
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85½	86
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	73⅛
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92xd	92xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	80½	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	80	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	70	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	70	73
,, 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 17/32	6 15/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14½	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7⅝	7¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4¾	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18½	18 9/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 5/16	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/9	24/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13¾	14 1/16
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	16/7½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/-	19/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	46/-	48/9
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	65/-	3 5/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/4½	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/3	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	39/-	39/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	36/3	38/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

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ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 19.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	17 13/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 11/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
,, priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	98
,, Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	94
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3¼
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	88¼
Privilégiée		76
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 11/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6½
,, Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
,, Ord.	£	36/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		15½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	106
,, Jouissance	Frs.	166
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	370
,, Div.	Frs.	280
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	260
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	43/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	730
,, Fondateur	Frs.	875
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	380
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	290
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	284
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		9/16

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Feb. 1.		1918. Week ended Jan. 31.
Cattle markets	1,365	..	827
General markets	404	..	467
Receipts (£)	1,769	..	1,294
Total for year	7,696	..	5,799

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No, 355.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Two slight advances have been reported during the week in Palestine, the British line being pushed forward on a front of several miles to an average depth of two miles north-east and east of Jerusalem. The Turks made little opposition, although the move can hardly have been unexpected. A small Turkish attack, on the other hand, failed completely, and left a few prisoners in British hands. It remains to be seen whether the withdrawal of Russia from the Caucasus makes any difference to the Turkish defence either in this district or in Mesopotamia; in any event, it must have released a certain number of men. But the Turks cannot have felt much anxiety as regards their Russian front for the better part of a year, and they are already advancing through their lost territory on the southern Black Sea littoral. The reoccupation of Trebizond may be expected within a few days at the most.

A report has been received from a Dutch source, which may be accepted for what it is worth, that thirty thousand Turks and Bulgarians have arrived at Verviers, on the western front. If that should be true, it would indicate that Germany is following the policy of claiming hostages from her allies as well as from the enemy. Bulgaria could probably spare a contingent without difficulty, having nothing to fear from Russia and little at the moment from Roumania; her one military task at present is the holding of her southern front, where the mobilisation of the Greek Army will compel her attention. But Turkey is in a very different position, and her interest in the western front can hardly be great at a time when she is losing mile after mile of her own territory.

It is announced, however, by the Turks themselves that they are proceeding to reoccupy Armenia, now abandoned by the Russians, and we shall look with apprehension for more detailed accounts of their proceedings in that unhappy country. They are not likely to meet with much resistance after the massacre of two years ago, and unfortunately it is out of the power of the Allies to do anything, although it is true that the British occupation of Palestine and Mesopotamia may serve to distract the Turks from the congenial task of exterminating the Armenians. Germany, of course, will do nothing to hinder that policy, which could not have been carried out had Russia stuck to her guns. The renewed persecution of Armenia is a singular commentary on the humanitarian pretensions of the internationalists at Petrograd.

While these things are preparing Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, has been airing his opinions in the *Neue Freie Presse*. He professes himself in some ways appreciative of President Wilson's speeches. But he declares that Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia must be restored, since "it cannot be doubted that these regions are vital component parts of Turkey." This declaration, which is nominally addressed to Downing Street, is more probably an appeal to Berlin to "come over and help us," and it reads a little as though the Central Powers had been unkind enough to suggest that Turkey, like many another bird, might be shorn of some of her component parts and still lead a tolerably comfortable life.

But it will be noticed that Talaat did not remark that, if these lost provinces are to be restored, the Pope's expressed wish regarding the destiny of Jerusalem would have to be violated. Possibly in the severely Catholic atmosphere of Vienna he felt that the reference would be a little dangerous; moreover, the large and influential body of Viennese Jews might have disagreed with his conclusion. The *Neue Freie Presse*, as is well known, is owned, edited, and staffed by Jews, who certainly have their own opinion as to the character of Turkish rule in Palestine.

The farcical tragedy of the Germano-Bolshevik negotiations seems for the moment at an end. The threat of renewed war has been too much for M. Trotsky, who appears more than ever like a character out of Aristophanes, and he now declares himself ready to sign peace. The peace terms apparently are to include the resignation of the Baltic Provinces and the payment of a large indemnity—a curious commentary on the "no annexations, no indemnities" movement in Russia and the "reasonable peace which Germany is longing for," imagined by our own pacifists. But Baron von Kühlmann is apparently not even yet quite sure of his ground, if his speech to the Reichstag is to be read as a sincere expression of opinion, and the German army is advancing, confident that it will meet with no resistance. It may yet decide to occupy Petrograd.

The position in Roumania has not yet become clear. It is again stated, from German sources, that Roumania can keep Bessarabia in exchange for the Dobruja; but another clause in the proposed agreement has now been mentioned—one to the effect that for a period of years the produce of Roumania should be at the disposal of the Central Powers. This clause, which was not altogether unexpected—opinion in Germany has been carefully prepared for it—is, of course, designed to relieve the immediate necessities of Germany in food and raw materials. But it is something much more than that. It is clearly intended to keep Roumania in a state of permanent economic vassalage, and is of a piece with the lately elaborated policy of the German banks which have opened branches throughout the Near East. Germany proposes to reap advantages from this policy at both ends—she will buy goods at her own terms and lend money at her own terms, and not only make a profit out of both transactions, but hold the country which is so treated in the hollow of her hand.

An application has been received from Jassy for the prolongation of the armistice for a few days pending further consideration. The request is eminently reasonable, since the Roumanian Government is in a peculiar difficulty, owing to so many of its politicians having been arrested in Odessa, where street fighting between Bolsheviks and the Ukraine has been almost continuous. The Germans have granted the request, but an intimation is said to have been received from Marshal Mackensen, who is apparently conducting the negotiations, that the Germans will not allow any member of the old Cabinet to negotiate. This is a claim that was not put forward even by Bismarck or Moltke after the Franco-German War.

If the report is true, it means that Mackensen will only negotiate with General Averescu. And it is by no means certain, if and when the latter enters into negotiations, that he will not find the real German terms are as different from those that have been sedulously circulated as the Bolsheviks did at Brest-Litovsk. It has been suggested, for example, in the German Press that King Ferdinand should be compelled to resign the throne as a preliminary to the negotiations, on the ground that he is a "traitor," that the Central Powers could not trust his word, and that the country would become a hotbed of intrigue after the peace, if he were left on the throne. Moreover, the territorial arrangements which Germany is prepared to sanction may be by no means so moderate as those which have been proclaimed unofficially.

It must frankly be recognised that Roumania is in a position of extraordinary difficulty. Her armies have fought very gallantly, and there was every prospect that they would have achieved their aim, had it not been for the treachery of the Bolsheviks, who were not content with deserting an ally, but, having done so, did their best to foment a revolution in Roumania and, when that failed, declared war on her. Attacked both from rear and front, the situation has become impossible, and the Western Allies can give no help to their hard-pressed comrade. No blame whatever will attach to Roumania, if she is forced to put her hand to a treaty of peace in these circumstances, but the fact that such a treaty would stultify her legitimate national ambitions is itself a proof that the peace in the Near East would not be permanent.

It is announced that the Black Sea Fleet is, after all, to be under the control of the Ukraine. Its fighting value is problematical, and it is more likely to be a danger to navigation than to any possible enemy. In the meanwhile the Ukraine itself has been proffered any number of German professors it cares to absorb, and that particular form of export, which was a thriving industry in Germany four years ago, will now be resumed. Everything is in train for the subjugation of the Ukraine, including a German army of protection against the Bolsheviks, whose activities, it must be admitted, have afforded the Prussians a ready pretext for invasion. The Russian stocks of wheat in the Ukraine have been largely destroyed by the Bolsheviks, and German anxiety to save the remainder is intelligible.

It is stated by one of the more incautious German papers that an unpublished clause in the Peace of Brest-Litovsk stipulates that Germany guarantees the independence of the Ukraine. There would be nothing surprising in such a clause. The Ukraine is far more valuable to Germany than Northern Russia, both immediately and ultimately. For the present she is looking to the Ukraine for supplies of food, which may or may not materialise—a clause in the treaty clearly indicates her desire to buy Ukraine produce as soon as possible; but in the future she will look further east. Through the Ukraine runs the direct railway to Odessa, the Black Sea, and beyond; and German economists and politicians are already mouthing the words Berlin-Batoum-Baku as an alternative to Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad. The success of the latter project has become more than a little dubious since the British occupation of Mesopotamia, but the Teutonic mind is adaptable.

Germany is convinced that rail-power can be utilised against sea-power with success, and as the prospect of regaining her colonies, which can only be held by sea-power, becomes more remote, she is taking more and more seriously the idea of expanding her influence by rail-power in Central Asia. It is argued that rail-power can operate where sea-power does not—on the Caspian, for example, which is a land-locked mass of water; and that even if the Baghdad Railway fails, there is an alternative route into Persia by way of Southern Russia. It is suggested that Germany should inherit the opportunities which Russia failed to profit by. To that end she will have to guarantee the stability of the Ukraine, for it lies athwart the road to the East which she hopes to utilise. It must be borne in mind that such a guarantee, signed by only one State, is in effect an admission by the Ukraine of the disguised suzerainty of Berlin.

The answer to this grandiose project is simple. The creation of a Jugoslav State would cut the Berlin-Baghdad line at a vital point; the creation of an independent Poland would strangle the Berlin-Baku project. The Germans have been playing with the idea of a new Poland for the last two years, but they have stipulated that a Hapsburg or a Hohenzollern nominee should occupy the throne of Poland, and their idea of a Polish Government is that the Poles should nominate the Minister of Fine Art and similar offices, while Germany should nominate the Polish Foreign Secretary and Finance Minister. That was enough to show their hand, but they have taken care to put themselves finally wrong with the Poles by giving Polish territory to the Ruthenes. In these circumstances, it can hardly be doubted that the Allies will see their way to a definite Polish policy as a counterpart to their Jugoslav policy.

An interesting question affecting the working of the Indian Constitution is raised by the appointment of Sir James Meston as Financial Member of the Governor-General's Council. Nobody doubts Sir James's fitness for the post, though, as we recently mentioned, a substantial body of opinion would prefer to see his abilities displayed on an even wider stage; but the departure from precedent involved in the appointment inevitably prompts the inquiry whether the Council should consist of aspirants for further promotion, or should stand out as the final goal of an Indian official career. Nor is the question one of merely theoretical interest. The Council is the authority charged by law with the governance of India: its duties and responsibilities will be more onerous during the next few years than at any period since its original institution, and the interests of the whole Empire imperatively demand that its members should be in every way qualified to bear this burden.

Hitherto a civilian member of Council has, as a rule, hoped to succeed, almost as a matter of course, to the position of Lieutenant-Governor, while, with the rarest exceptions, a Lieutenant-Governor has known that India has nothing further to offer him. The arrangement worked well enough in the old easy-going days of bureaucracy, and its inherent defects became apparent only with the rise of new Constitutional doctrines which occurred in the past decade. The legal position of the Council was a serious obstacle to the realisation of Lord Morley's theory that the seat of authority was in Whitehall, and that the Viceroy held the position of an agent; for if the agent should be outvoted by his Council he would be unable to carry out his orders. To avoid the danger of a deadlock a subservient, or at least complacent, Council thus became a practical necessity.

This ideal was very nearly realised a few years ago, when candid critics used to divide the members of Council into two classes, mediocrities content to run their own departments and leave high politics to the Viceroy, and ambitious men who regarded their position as a stepping-stone to higher office, and were not likely to push their objections beyond a certain point. The result was by no means satisfactory, and informed opinion in India, while realising the defects in *personnel*, inclined definitely in the direction of a change of system, so that a member of Council should have nothing further to expect, and should be free to perform the duties of his high office without being tempted to consider his own position. Sir James Meston's appointment will be welcomed by this school of thought: he has already administered the largest province of India, and he will now be able to devote the last years of his service to the great problems affecting the future of the whole country.

We have not yet been informed whether the appointment indicates a change of system, or whether it is merely an isolated departure from precedent, but we hope the former is the case. Lord Morley's theory of agency, never very fruitful, is bound to become less and less applicable to the conditions as time goes on: the centre of political gravity must be located in India, and interference from Whitehall must be progressively limited until it is confined to those fundamental matters in which Parliament must have its say. The Governor-General's Council is already much stronger than it was, partly through recent appointments and partly, we suspect, through the attitude of Lord Chelmsford, and what is wanted now is to build it up and strengthen it so that it shall be adequate to the task before it, the task of setting India's feet firmly on the road that leads to responsible self-government.

In regard to this question, and a multitude of others, the point of interest just now is the view taken by Mr. Montagu, who is maintaining admirably the uncongenial attitude of reticence imposed on him by circumstances, and who has been compared, in consequence, to such widely different characters as Brer Rabbit and the Sphinx. He has met nearly everyone who counts in India: has he arrived at a formula by which their relative importance can be estimated? What equation serves to connect, say, the Maharaja of Gwalior, the Editor of the *Bengalee*, Mr. X., of the Home Department, and Pachkauri Chamar? In the calculus of democracy Pachkauri counts for most, though his individual worth may be no greater than his name implies; but India has not yet adopted that mode of reckoning, and all that can be hoped for is that Mr. Montagu will be successful in devising a reasonably accurate first approximation.

Everybody justly respects Dr. Burrows, but his views on world politics are perhaps less instructed than on other subjects with which his proper studies have made him more familiar. He has stated in a contemporary that, whatever may be the destiny of Palestine, Mesopotamia, and the German colonies, those territories must not be incorporated in the British Empire. One can hardly believe that a man of Dr. Burrows's general intelligence would advocate the return of Palestine and Mesopotamia to Turkey, or even of the German colonies to Germany, after the evidence as to German methods. We can, therefore, only assume that, in his opinion, the British method of rule is only less disastrous than that of Turkey or Germany, a view which argues a singular lack of historical, or even of current, knowledge of the world. We doubt whether anybody in the occupied territories will be found to agree with him.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 20, 1918.

The New Year's Honours.

Prominent among the recipients of New Year's Honours are the High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, who receives further recognition of his invaluable services to the Empire, and Major-General Stack, his successor at Khartum, to whose good record I referred last week. Other Anglo-Egyptians figuring prominently in the list of appointments to the Order of the British Empire are Messrs. Dowson and Crawley—I also mentioned these officials last week—Messrs. Burnett Stuart, A. W. Hazel, and Norman MacNaghton, of the Interior, who have all rendered assistance to the military authorities: Messrs. A. T. Lloyd and J. F. Hopkins, of the Ministry of Finance—the former has been entrusted with the direction of the import and export section of the War Trade Department and the latter has been attached to the Local Resources Board at G.H.Q. since its creation; Dr. A. F. MacCallan, director of the Ophthalmic Hospital; Mr. F. P. Watson, who has acted as Secretary of the Arbitration Commission; and Mr. W. C. Hornblower, who has done extraordinarily good work in connection with the Syrian and Armenian refugees.

Public Works on the Upper Nile.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, the Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, left last week for Khartum, together with some of the staff, who are carrying out preliminary work in connection with the Egyptian and Sudan irrigation schemes. He has been followed this week by Colonel Bernard Pasha, the Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, who has been kept in Cairo in connection with the Sudan Budget for the coming financial year. Both these officials, as reported in this correspondence, have recently returned from London, where they discussed with the powers that be the question of the undertaking in the near future of irrigation works on the upper reaches of the Nile. Sir Murdoch will spend some time in the Sudan in order to study on the spot the various phases of the works and the manner in which the further spade work can be done, with a view to the time when the more important part can be undertaken—i.e., after the war, when the requisite machinery can be obtained from home. I have reason to believe that it will be found possible to overcome locally some of the difficulties in regard to material and construction, which have hitherto stood in the way of public works in the Sudan. If the experiments which are being investigated, in particular with regard to the manufacture of cement, prove as successful as the authorities expect, then not only will a considerable economy be effected in the cost of the proposed irrigation works, but the whole situation as regards construction work will be revolutionised in the Sudan. That country will then be in a position to come to the assistance of and build up a profitable export trade with Egypt, which in pre-war times imported annually 60-70,000 tons of cement.

Egyptian Decorations.

H.H. the Sultan has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on Sir William Brunyate, the Acting Financial Adviser, and also the Third Class of the same Order on Mr. Henry Ballou, Entomologist, in the service of the Colonial Office, who has been temporarily attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Ballou came here from Barbados about eighteen months ago at the special request of the Egyptian Government to investigate the question of the pink boll worm and to report on the measures taken, or that ought to be taken, to eradicate it and prevent the damage which its ravages are doing to the cotton crop. Mr. Ballou has carried out a thorough investigation of the agricultural situation, and has visited well nigh every part of the country. He has submitted his report, which is a very extensive one, dealing not only with the actual subject on which he was asked to report, but also with other aspects which are closely connected with the question of the alleged falling off in the cotton crop of Egypt. It is not known whether his report will be published *in* *extenso*, but it is to be hoped that parts of it will be made public; for I understand that he has arrived at some most interesting conclusions.

War Films in Egypt.

An excellent war film is being shown now in Cairo under the auspices of H.M. Government. It depicts the incidents of the Battle of Coucelette Morval from the arrival of troops in France right up to the capture of the enemy positions and the subsequent clearing up of the battlefield. This film, which is being taken round the world by Mr. Maurice Bandman, is preceded by a series of pictures showing the power of India and the loyalty of the Indian States. All the pictures are most realistic, and should bring home to all who see them the reality of war, the work done by the British troops in France, and the power of the Indian Empire. They are drawing very large European and Egyptian audiences, and the Government war charities, in aid of which they are being exhibited, should benefit substantially from the result of the tour in Egypt.

The Petroleum Crisis.

The Government has at last intervened in the matter of the fuel crisis, and has appointed Mr. R. E. Monteith Smith, Assistant Director-General of Public Security, to act as Controller for the distribution of refined petroleum for the duration of the war. He is at present studying the situation with a view to introducing as simple and at the same time as efficient a control as possible. The present idea is to limit the maximum daily consumption to three litres a day per household, and to use the grocers as a channel of distribution, the town being divided up into sections for that purpose, and consumers being allotted to each grocer through a committee consisting of members of each section. To induce the grocers to co-operate the price of petroleum has had to be raised, and it now stands at 17 milliemes, or 7d., per litre, as against 7 milliemes, or about 1¾d., before the war.

It appears that for the time being at any rate the supply of petroleum available and in sight is sufficient for the country's present requirements, and the problem is how to regulate the distribution so that nobody gets more than he or she should take. Of course, the high price of other fuels, such as coal, alcohol, oilcake, and wood and of gas and electric light makes the problem all the more difficult to solve, for, apart from the organisation of the distribution on the basis of size of households, account has also to be taken of the ability of the different classes of the population to use the higher-priced fuels. An effort is being made to reduce the price of oilcake, and it is hoped that some relief will be afforded thereby. At the best of times and under the most favourable conditions it is exceedingly difficult to assume the equitable distribution of any commodity in a country like this, and Mr. Monteith Smith, whose task is by no means an easy or an enviable one, will require all the goodwill and whole-hearted collaboration of the public, if his efforts are to meet with any success.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY.

We are indebted to Lady Lowther for the following extracts from a letter written from Constantinople and dated January 19:

"It was very nice, having all the prisoners at church on Christmas Day; the officers all came to the Crimean Memorial Church and the men went to Dr. Frew's church. Frew has now been moved to Broussi, but here the writer says he trusts the British who have been sent into Asia Minor, such as Dr. McClean, Dr. Wigram, Mr. Guest, Dr. Mizzi, etc., etc., will be able to be exchanged and return) . . . ." and goes on to say: "We collected over a thousand pounds (Turkish) for the prisoners of all nationalities at Christmas, and made up 800 parcels; each parcel contained a pair of woollen socks, a piece of cheese, a piece of cake, a packet of figs, a piece of soap, two packets of tobacco, a packet of cigarette papers, a box of matches, and a present of some description, and at two of the places where there were most prisoners together we arranged for Christmas trees. Of course, this was only for those in and around Constantinople. . . ."

"Meat is 120 piastres the oke; tea, £T34 the oke; sugar, 260 piastres the oke; common soap, 160 piastres the oke; figs, 100 piastres the oke; butter, 400 piastres the oke; petrol, £T20 a tin; eggs, 5 piastres each. Coffee is not to be had at all.

"Hoping these details may be of interest to your readers.—Yours, very truly,

ALICE LOWTHER.

A PILGRIMAGE TO NICÆA.

THE CITY OF THE CREED AND THE CRUSADERS.

(Continued.)

The situation of Nicæa, with its pretty lake harbour, reminds one of the "Concha d'Oro," the harbour of Palmero. And not in its mountain-girt harbour does this Italian likeness end. The west line of the walls runs parallel with and close to the lake. The site of the imperial palace, where Texier and other authorities say the first great Council of the Church must have been held, is now pretty definitely located on the little promontory to the north-west, just outside the walls, where the placid waves of Lake Ascanius advance and recede, bearing no longer galleys on errands of peace or war, and where now even the shadow of a white sail is rarely cast. Hardly one stone is left upon another of this historic palace. Near by a great plane tree offers shade, and the whole surroundings are of such vital historical interest that one is tempted to lose sight of the present in contemplation of the past.

On the plain of Nicæa, particularly the plain on the right of the lake, where the column of Cassius Asclepiodotus stands (a solitary monument of first century erection), there are plane trees that may not rival, but surely approach in majesty of proportion the red woods of California. Over the gnarled old growth of trunk and branch spring spreads a fresh young canopy of green, so that in May it is difficult to associate the idea of age with these ancient dwellers of the plain. And everywhere here there are springs, waters seeming to come through natural rock aqueducts to encourage the land when the cloud fountains are dry. There seems to be little inclination on the part of the natives to avail themselves of these natural means of irrigation; the water is allowed to remain in the lowlands, and consequently in summer malaria is rife in that neighbourhood. Only very recently has a "board of health," consisting of the *vali* (governor) of that region, done anything toward draining the swamps and freeing modern Nicæa from the depressing fetters of fever. It is said that under certain conditions man goes readily back to barbarism, and it is singular in this respect how closely he follows the example of the soil. From a high state of cultivation a land can in a few centuries become almost uninhabitable for man, and, when abandoned by civilisation, once rich and populous cities—as, for example, Nicæa and Ephesus—become unwholesome and impossible as places of residence.

Said our historian, on the afternoon of that first day, "To-morrow will be Whit Sunday. We must attend the service in the Greek church, and, for association's sake, hear the priest repeat the Nicene creed."

Very shortly after sunrise on that Whit Sunday morning word came to us from the village priest that the service was about to begin. It seemed that all the Christians of the town were up and abroad earlier than we, for when we had made our hasty preparations and entered the church we found it filled with worshippers, the nave occupied by the men and the women standing in the outer aisles and up in the gynacæum, or women's gallery. Our historian with the ladies of his party were given seats, no standing places in the deacons' stalls, in the main body of the church—an unusual privilege accorded to women. The service at once began; a serious, simple, yet impressive service. The church, built before the twelfth century, and on a foundation quite below the level of the present town, lent itself to historical meditation; its pavement was inlaid with old mosaics and old pictures in mosaics ornamented the dome; on the wall was a marble tablet with the inscription "Tower of Michael the Great King, Emperor in Christ." On another wall was the interesting picture of the first great Council in which was the resplendent figure of Constantine with his 318 bishops: poor Arius, the heritic, all in black, being expelled with a few followers, protesting, from the company; the Father and Son looking on from the clouds and Lake Ascanius a bright blue in the fore-

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The first part of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of October 19.

ground—a picture crude in conception, but suggestive and of great historical value. Who knows but its original was a product of the very period it represents! Dean Stanley, in his notable book, "The Eastern Church," refers to this picture, and speaks of it as "commemorating the one event which, amidst all the vicissitudes of Nicæa, has secured for it an immortal name."

Amid such a setting the reading, the responses, and the chanting of our little service went on; then the priest withdrew behind the holy gates of the screen of the high altar and a slow, clear voice on the right began to intone the Creed. It was one of the great and privileged moments of a life-time thus to listen, in the one church left to Nicæa, to the Creed in the city of its origin and to hear the old, debated "homoousion" brought out with such thrilling and solemn emphasis. This closed the service, and we passed out of the church and into the sunshine of the churchyard in silence.

Outside another service awaited us. It was a petition for rain. For more than a month the skies had been almost cloudless, and the fields were beginning to suffer from the drought. The people gathered in the churchyard for this second service and made a picturesque company—the priest in his embroidered scarlet robes, the men and women in their native costumes warm with colour, and nearly all with the serious, earnest faces so characteristic of the Orient. Instead of using the Greek tongue the priest at this service spoke in Turkish, the language in which the peasants could most readily follow him. It was a quaint and poetic petition to Allah, telling him how the flowers were drooping, how the cattle were thirsting, and how the grain was looking up appealingly to the heavens for rain. The old women, standing bowed and reverent amid the tall grasses, sighed often "It is true! It is true!" adding a soft "Kyrie Eleison" in the language of their forefathers.

Mary A. Poynter.

(To be concluded.)

THE SERBIAN MISSION.

Received by the King.

The King received at Buckingham Palace on February 18 the members of the Serbian Economic and Industrial Mission. The Serbian Minister, Sir A. Steel Maitland, M.P., Sir Edward Boyle, Secretary of the Serbian Relief Fund, and Mr. Guy Locock, Acting Head of the Foreign Section, Department of Overseas Trade, were present.

His Majesty, in a speech delivered in French, said :—Gentlemen, I wish to express to you the great pleasure it gives me to receive here to-day the members of the Serbian Industrial Mission. We have not forgotten, and we shall never forget, the heroic resistance of the Serbian nation, and we appreciate to the full the action of your gallant troops who are now fighting side by side with our own upon the Macedonian front. But that is not the only reason for which we welcome you here to-day. The national life of our two nations is based upon the same principles of liberty and justice, and it is this which makes us certain that after the war we can count upon the closest commercial relations between Serbia and Great Britain. These relations will certainly be to our common advantage. On our side they will be entirely free from the ulterior motives which have inspired the commercial relations of the Central Empires with their weaker neighbours. We are confident that before long Serbia will be re-established. You will then be faced with the task of making good the devastation caused by the enemy, and however formidable that task may be you may count upon the cordial co-operation of all classes of my people. The industry of your people, your agricultural resources, the natural riches of your country, make the same claim upon our admiration and our confidence as your national aspirations have made to our political sympathy. I have the fullest confidence that after the war Anglo-Serbian trade will develop greatly, and that every effort will be made to facilitate to the utmost degree possible the exchange of goods and produce between our two countries. During your visit here you have seen the activities of our principal industries, and I hope that the warm welcome that you have received in my country has proved to you that my people are fully alive to the needs of Serbia. I trust that the personal relations into which you have entered with my subjects will not fail to continue, and to become still closer after the war, and that the results of your visit will be to the permanent advantage of our two countries.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is reported that 30,000 Turks and Bulgarians have arrived at Verviers. The statement may be true as far as the Turks are concerned, but I shall await confirmation of it before I believe it to be true in regard to the Bulgarians. King Ferdinand and his people are a hard-headed lot, and I am fairly confident that the Germans have found them a tough nut to crack. They have, of course, played into Germany's hands in playing their own game; but more must have happened recently than the outside world has any inkling of, if Bulgarian troops in any number have been despatched to the Western front. Perhaps the Turks stipulated for Bulgarian co-operation, and it was, therefore, necessary to spread the report about to encourage the Turks, and, it may be, the German public as well. We shall see. But not very long ago the Bulgarians were pluming themselves on the fact that they had every Bulgarian soldier within their own borders (the enlarged ones, that is to say), and had no intention of sending any out at Germany's bidding.

⁂

What a contrast in personality is afforded by the ex-Tsar and ex-King Constantine. It was to be expected from what one knew of the two men. Nicholas II. of Russia had his faults; he was, no doubt, weak, and grievously has he paid for it. But there is nothing in any of the reports that have reached us since his dethronement to lead one to suppose that he has abdicated the position of "the first gentleman" in Russia. How different is his late colleague on the Greek throne! His squeals and protestations to the foreign Press nauseated me at the time; even when one had little idea of the real extent of his duplicity. Now in exile he seems up to every type of low game. Almost simultaneously with the request of the ex-Tsar's family to be allowed to leave Russia and of their repudiation of all plots for the restoration of the dynasty comes the story of the Lamia mutiny in Greece, capping ex-King Constantine's intrigues to get back to Greece regardless of the price the Greek people may have to pay for the luxury. If he had not proved himself unworthy to rule while still on the throne, he has certainly proved it since he was removed.

⁂

I wish to tell a little story which has nothing to do with the Near East and may conceivably be of interest to the enemy. Nevertheless, I hope the Censor will pass it; for it shows that even a U-boat may do a service to the hated English, and for that reason it will probably annoy the Germs. For its truth I vouch. A certain old sailor was fishing peacefully close to some rocks off the mouth of a small harbour, while out at sea two large steamers were making their way towards the south. It was a summer-like day, with a shimmering sea and a sky almost cloudless. But suddenly the surface of the water was slightly disturbed, and the next moment came an appalling explosion, and a mass of water was flung up close to the rocks, rising, perhaps, forty or fifty feet. A German submarine had fired a torpedo at one of the steamers, and missed her. The old fisherman took in the situation at once, and rowed, as if for dear life, straight to the spot where the explosion had occurred. There he began picking up the fish that had met their death at the hands of the Hun; and ere long he was joined by half-a-dozen other boats. That afternoon the little town sent off a record consignment of fish to the London market, where it fetched good prices, fish being scarce at the time. And I am pleased to say that the plucky old fellow who was first on the scene made a good thing out of it. For all that, I was thankful to be on the shore.

⁂

The compliment paid to the Prince of Wales by the King of Roumania, who has conferred on H.R.H. the Order of Michael the Brave, will certainly give pleasure to many people in this country. Before the war very few Englishmen knew anything of Roumania; but there has been a great rubbing-up of geography since August, 1914, and I have been agreeably surprised lately to find how widespread is the sympathy with King Ferdinand and his subjects; how painfully the position is realized of the little country surrounded by open foes and false friends. At the moment of writing it is impossible to see what the immediate future has in store for the sorely-tried Roumanians; but, come what may, nothing can alter the fact that they have played a gallant part, and a splendid one, so far in the war. Englishmen have watched the struggle with admiration, and, as I said before, when King Ferdinand and Queen Marie visit this country they will be sure of an enthusiastic welcome.

Corsair.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"MESOPOTAMIA; THE KEY TO THE FUTURE," by Canon Parfit. A short account of the past history, present development, and future prospects of Mesopotamia, showing that the settlement of its problems is of vast importance to the progress and prosperity of the world. 41 pp., with map. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 77 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"ARMENIAN ATROCITIES: THE MURDER OF A NATION," by A. Toynbee, with speech by Lord Bryce. An account of the atrocities committed by the Turks on the Armenians, with documents. 117 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"THE VERDICT OF INDIA," by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E. The writer describes what England has done and is doing for India, and explains the German delusion as [illegible] internal condition. 57 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"VOICE FROM INDIA," address by Maharajah of Bikanir. Speech delivered to Indian delegates at House of Commons. 24 pp. Empire Parliamentary Association, London.

"THE MURDEROUS TYRANNY OF THE TURKS," by Arnold J. Toynbee, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. A brief sketch of Turkish history to show that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and their confinement to a portion of Asia Minor will be the only adequate requital for their atrocious treatment of subject races during this war and previously. 35 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"THE JUSTICE OF ROUMANIA'S CAUSE," by A. W. A. Leeper. An explanation of the international position of Roumania in Europe and of her rights in the war. The author shows that her cause is legitimate, and that she has taken great risks and endured much to deliver her people from Hungary's oppression. 24 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

At the special general meeting of the Central Asian Society on February 14, Colonel Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., presiding, Miss Estelle Blyth, a daughter of the late Bishop in Jerusalem, read a paper on "Palestine, Past, Present, and Future." She described the geographical peculiarities and conditions of the country, and their effect upon its history and present political position, and spoke of the extraordinary richness and fertility of Palestine, despite the dead hand of Turkey upon her. Though everything grew out in the open, with practically no care, Palestinian vegetables would demoralize an English market, while the fruit and flowers grew with a luxuriance that could hardly be described.

Dealing with the question how best the country could be raised to its rightful place in a cleansed and liberated world, the speaker told of what the Jews had done for Palestine by their colonies, several of which had already been freed through the advance of the British forces. Before the war the only rivals to the Jews as colonising agents were the Germans, whose influence with the Turks had procured for them many fine tracts of arable land. Happily, this dangerous growth would now be checked, allowing a larger scope to the Jewish nationalists. Every signpost seemed to point, and every argument to lead, to the conclusion that Palestine should come under England's protection, and so experience those benefits of British rule which the people had so long desired, while Syria proper passed into French keeping. Latterly, even the Moslems in Palestine, under the ever-increasing burden of Turkish oppression and injustice, had cried out for English rule. England was greatly trusted in Palestine, for the people had come to understand that all her institutions out there were wholly for their benefit, and masked no political aim. English prestige had suffered a temporary eclipse in recent years, owing, perhaps, to a restrained line of policy that was misunderstood by those to whom power must be shown in concrete form, but it had never been destroyed; it was to England that the people looked for help and protection. Turkish misrule had driven abroad the youth of the country, but these exiles would certainly return to Palestine with the dawn of better days under British rule. In the Sudan and Egypt the Syrians in Government employ had shown a good capacity for work under wise and sympathetic English direction. The welcome accorded to General Allenby's forces was a remarkable proof of the feeling of the people for the English, and specially so after three years of active anti-English propaganda by the Germans in Palestine.

SERBIA'S VITAL NEEDS

FOOD

Do you know what it is to starve—to be without even a crumb of bread? *The Serb does.* Do you realise what it means to famish until typhus grips you in its dread embrace? *The Serb does.* Can you picture yourself exiled in a strange land, your children wailing piteously for sustenance? *The Serb can;* for the Serbians have endured all this and more also To-day what once was the Serbian nation, if we exclude those still gallantly fighting, is split into two categories—those in servitude and those in exile. All are vitally in need of FOOD.

COVERING

COVERING — clothing and shelter—is a prime necessity of healthy life. The Serbs are dependent upon outside aid for the provision of the clothes on their backs and the roofs above their heads. Their homes are despoiled by our enemies. They are strangers in strange lands. They have given the flower of their manhood in the crusade for liberty, and now all that is left of the Serbs—old folks, children, sick and wounded—look to our benevolence for their proper preservation.

MEDICAL AID

Medical Aid is the third prime need of Serbia. Hard on the heels of Famine and Exposure comes dread disease. The Serbs have been ravaged by Typhus. Phthisis too has claimed its countless victims. Bravely as devoted workers have fought to succour the suffering and conserve life, the medical needs are still greater than the resources available. More lives can be saved if the means to save them continue to grow—if more doctors and nurses are sent out, more hospitals and dispensaries established. The Serbs are clinging tenaciously to life, trusting in our pledge to restore to them their country; but, if they are to live in health to enjoy the return from exile which is their high hope, THEY MUST HAVE MEDICAL AID.

You can provide what Serbia lacks

The Serbs look with confidence to British benevolence to generously give the help it can render. Do your part. ***You*** can help to maintain hospitals and dispensaries, assist in succouring Serbian Prisoners of War, and feeding and clothing refugees. The way lies plain before you. The officially recognised channel of private British assistance to Serbia is the Serbian Relief Fund. That Committee is the trustee of the warm-hearted people of Britain. Help the Serbian Relief Fund to repay Serbia for her awful sacrifices by sending a donation to

The Hon. Treas.: The Rt. Hon. the EARL of PLYMOUTH, C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

Only Address: 5, Cromwell Road, LONDON, S.W. 7.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE AGONY.*

The diary of a French Army doctor, taking the reader, foot by foot, through the terrible, nay, pitiable, *bejania* (retreat) of the Serbian Army and populace between mid-October, 1915, and January, 1916. Here we have no style to criticise, no literary flourishing to like or dislike; merely a plain, unvarnished tale by a participant of one of those awful horrors which have littered and continue to litter the paths of the bloody Hun, Bulgar, and Turk, and, let us add, of the bloody Bolshevik. But we do not at any moment in the story see Serbia's foes trampling upon her; this calm, dispassionate, and obviously heroic doctor is running from before the tornado. There it is in the rear, coming, racing remorselessly, from crag to crag,. from pass to pass, from winter torrent to winter torrent, now from the north, now from east and west, and you can hear the howl of savagery shrieking on to slaughter. A nation in retreat in a Balkan winter; as brave an army as ever lived, simply over-run, almost overwhelmed, the pity of it! One closes down this graphic, simple story cheered only by the knowledge that to-day, along a front which includes reconquered Monastir, a hundred thousand Serbians are awaiting "la revanche." Major Thomson—we note his "Entente Cordiale" origin—joined the French Medical Mission in Serbia in April, 1915, from Salonika, and was finally posted at Tchabats, on the north-western frontier, at the junction of the Drina and the Save. He and his wife were, literally, the last to leave Tchabats. This leaving, which was a "bejania," and began on October 17, endured until their arrival by a 350 miles zig-zag course, at San Giovanni di Medua on December 26. The pace is *about* six miles a day, when everybody wished to make sixty. That spells the agony. Everyone who desires to know more of Serbia, Albania, and Montenegro, physically and ethnographically, should read this little volume. There is a graphic map, though small. The reviewer will not be satisfied until he has met this French master of literary modesty. Enough, this earth is spread with heroes!

DODGING U-BOATS.†

The narrative of the voyage of a confessed hypochondriac, as "Purser," on a tramp steamer from London to Philadelphia, thence to Gibraltar and Castellamare, thence to Algiers, Montevideo and Rosario, and so home to London, during the height of the U-boat rage—written with the introspective literary skill of a practised author, and a sea-writer at that. Quite an interesting contribution to the times, if we reflect that the Censor is about. The subject is good, and the reader's interest is held; and, this admission made, we are now "going for" the author. There are a personal portrait as frontispiece and a preface, both of which almost constrained us to refuse to review the book. But we were resolute, and are now satisfied to have read it through. "There is no fool like a travelled fool," is a good adage; for, if a man has travelled widely, like most merchant skippers or real pursers, and returns a fool, he must be a fool indeed. The sea captain may have voyaged the world, but, with very few exceptions, his knowledge of the countries and peoples he has visited is limited to the docks, the quays and the ship-chandler. Having ourselves visited all the ports touched at by Mr. Patterson in this wide-flung itinerary, his reference to, or description of, each one leaves us wondering if he ever took his peevish egotism beyond the quayside. "Parley Anglais?" (*sic*) in Algiers, and "No! Inglice!" (*sic*) in Castellamare make for despair, and we never will like self-styled psychologists who can be guilty of such lapses, and at the same time bring into their prose unnecessary references to the Eumenides. Poor old Captain Dash, dodging submarines—and successfully, we are glad to say—no wonder he frequently got ratty with his know-all, superficial supercargo! Then, again, one asks when will Mr. Patterson write fluid English and cease from his ugly and perpetual bracketings? We are feeling better, thank you! and are glad to have read "A War-Time Voyage." Having made three ourselves, and carelessly without keeping a diary, we close this one, sensible that we are a crusted hero, if not exactly a psychologist.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD.†

To commend a Grammar because it is a Grammar is a most reprehensible proceeding, but common enough. We have had in the Near East and the Far West to tie our tongue into so many knots that we refuse so to proceed. But we like this one. It has its faults. Could one produce a Grammar without? And so we heartily commend it to the "boys" in Mesopotamia, who are learning their way up, not down, the Tigris and Euphrates. It gives the verbs their properly important place; better still, it is a grammar for that only too prevalent Englishman and American who will afford only two hours a day for a month to the mere grammarizing of any "foreign lingo." Who of us readers of THE NEAR EAST has not been terrified by the mere appearance of the Arabic alphabet in its triplicate form? This book avoids that terror, for it gives the exercises in English, in transliterated pronunciation, and in the classic Arabic script, thus enabling him who would profoundly learn, to learn, and him who would impetuously haste, to hasten. Here the British officer in Egypt will find that what he calls *eysh* in Kantara is *khubz* in Kut-el-Amara, as it is crug* in Christ's Hospital, where some have learned too much Greek and Latin; that *dee, ey dee,* what is this? is *shinû hàdha*; that I want—a common Mesopotamian failing—is *ana auz* in Egypt, but is classical *ureed* about those mounds where now the lion of Britain instead of the wild ass stamps o'er the head of Bahram. Without a glimmer of facetiousness we trust Mr. van Ess' timely and scholarly work will have a rapid and continuing sale.

* Crug—see Charles Lamb's "Slang Vocabulary of Christ's Hospital"—looks formidable enough, but is merely ancient English for the Staff of Life which we understand is the equivalent of Seal's Blubber among the Esquimaux.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Navy in Mesopotamia, 1914 *to* 1917. By "Conrad Cato." (Messrs. Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)

Le Monde Slave. Edited by Ernest Denis and Robert de Caix. Nos. 1—5. (Paris: 19-21, Rue Cassette (6e). 3 francs each.)

◆

BRITISH WOMEN IN SERBIA.

By the courtesy of Lady Llangattock a meeting of the British Women's Patriotic League was held at South Lodge, Rutland Gate, S.W., on February 17. Mrs. Aldridge and Mrs. Carrington Wilde were the speakers, and M. Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, presided. In opening the proceedings the latter paid a high tribute to the work of British women in Serbia. He said this work might be divided into three periods—the first was when the epidemic of typhus was raging, and they were there as doctors and nurses, establishing and controlling hospitals and dispensaries to combat the disease; the second period was when they were with the Serbian army, giving medical assistance while it was fighting, first the Austrians, and afterwards the Austrians, Germans, and Bulgarians; and the third period was during the great retreat. Throughout they had shown admirable courage and extraordinary self-abnegation.

Mrs. Aldridge described her experiences in Serbia. She said that when she and her party had first established themselves there the peasantry of the country round came, not only from illness, but also from curiosity, and never tired of examining the clothes of the English ladies, almost forgetting sometimes that there were people inside the clothes. They were equally curious as to what was inside the pots and pans in which dinner was being cooked. Speaking of the contrasts she had noticed between Serbia and Great Britain, she said that 90 per cent. of the Serbian population was agricultural. The women were great knitters, and they always commenced a stocking at the toe. Endless complications arose from the fact that the Serbs shook their heads for "Yes" and nodded for "No." The people were hospitable to a degree, always ready to give. Sometimes she and her friends did not like taking the things that were offered, but they could not refuse for fear of hurting the feelings of the donor. The Serbs had a most delightful, natural, unaffected politeness of manner. Speaking of more important matters, Mrs. Aldridge described the courage and fortitude displayed by the Serbs under conditions of almost incredible hardship. She said that she had learned to love and admire them during the time she was with them. If heroism alone could have prevailed they would not have been beaten.

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* "La Retraite de Serbie" (Octobre-Decembre, 1915). By Louis L. Thomson, Médecin-Major (Hachette and Cie.).

† "A War Time Voyage." By J. E. Patterson. (J. M. Dent and Sons, Limited. 6s. net.)

†The Spoken Arabic of Mesopotamia. By Rev. John van Ess, M.A (Oxford University Press.)

HINDŪSTĀNĪ SELF-TAUGHT
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By Captain C. A. THIMM.
Hindustani Text Revised by J. F. BLUMHARDT, M.A., M.R.A.S. Grammar Revised by SHAMS'UL 'ULAMA SAYYID ALI BILGRAMI, M.A. (Cantab).
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1336.	5678.
February.	February.		Jomada I.	Adar.
22	9	Friday	11	10
23	10	Saturday..........	12	11
24	11	Sunday	13	12
25	12	Monday	14	13
26	13	Tuesday	15	14
27	14	Wednesday	16	15
28	15	Thursday	17	16

The Greek Minister called at the Foreign Office on February 19.

The French Ambassador was visited on February 19 by the Roumanian Minister.

Mrs. Noel Buxton gave birth to a son on February 18 at 9, Linton Road, Oxford.

It is stated that all Germans in Siam, men and women, have been deported to India.

Next Monday Princess Alice, wife of Prince André of Greece, will celebrate her birthday.

Lord Lamington is to preside at a meeting of the Persia Society to-day at 4.30 p.m., at 22, Albemarle Street, W.

A telegram from Sofia to the German Press states that the Bulgarian Government has resumed diplomatic relations with Russia.

Mr. J. D. Bourchier has returned to England after an absence of nearly four years. During this period he has been in Bulgaria, Roumania, and Russia.

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Vera, daughter of King Nicholas of Montenegro. She was born at Riëcka in 1887.

Speaking with M. Venizelos on his return to Athens from Salonika, King Alexander expressed his admiration of the excellent *moral* of the Allied and Greek troops on the Balkan front.

At his lecture on Palestine at London University on February 19, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman showed views illustrating General Allenby's advance, including his entry into Jerusalem.

The Liverpool Geographical Society announce that Canon J. T. Parfit, M.A., will deliver a lecture in St. George's Hall, there, on "Sunny Syria and Snow-Capped Lebanon," on March 6.

A telegram from Prague published in the *Rheinisch Westfälische Zeitung* says that the *Narodni Listy*, the organ of Dr. Kramarcz, the Czech leader, has been suspended for a fortnight.

The War Office announces the names of one officer and a number of soldiers who were prisoners of war in Turkey, who are now reported as having passed through Switzerland en route for England.

A stained glass window is to be erected in St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Lower Edmonton, to the memory of the late Father Kavanagh, who died outside Jerusalem while serving as an Army chaplain.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, went to Berlin after the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk to "discuss various political questions with the Imperial Chancellor and other leading political personages."

It is reported that by order of the Revolutionary Tribunal, the Chief of the Roumanian Mission in Russia, M. Pantasi, and the military agents, have been arrested. It is proposed to confiscate Roumanian property.

H. A. Schroeder, ex-secretary to the German Consulate at Honolulu, having pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiring to create a revolution in India, has been fined £200, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment.

The Press Bureau is authorised to say that a telegram has been received from Roumania that all British officers serving there are well. While postal communications are interrupted it is proposed to make a weekly announcement on the subject.

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius were among the guests at a dinner party at the Mansion House on February 15, given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, to meet Sir George Buchanan, Lady Georgina Buchanan, and Miss Buchanan.

M. Jonnart, Governor-General of Algeria, and the ex-High Commissioner of the Entente to Greece, has been elected a member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques.

At a meeting of the Senate of the London University held on February 20, the School of Oriental Studies was admitted for a period of three years as a school of the University in the Faculty of Arts for the purpose of research and the cultivation of learning in Oriental subjects.

Among the latest wills is that of Mr. William Ernest Gordon Leith, of Clarges Street, W., and the New University Club, St. James's Street, late Chief Magistrate of Calcutta and Legal Remembrancer of the High Court of Judicature, Fort William, Bengal, who left £20,131.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Miss Grace Eleanor Soltau, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services to the Serbian sick and wounded in the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Commander R. W. Oldham, R.N., and Miss Ethel Marion Berry, daughter of the late F. C. Berry, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. Macdonald, Blarour, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, to-morrow, the exigencies of the Services permitting.

The Jewish community of Manchester has raised the sum of £3,100 for the building of three Y.M.C.A. huts for soldiers in Palestine. Two are in memory of the Hon. Neil Primrose and Mr. Evelyn de Rothschild, and the third is to commemorate the services rendered by Sir Daniel McCabe during the two years of his mayoralty.

The British members of the Zionist Commission to Palestine, in addition to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who will be chairman, are Mr. Joseph Cowen and Mr. Leon Simon. Dr. M. D. Eder will represent the Jewish Territorial Organisation. The Russian members of the Commission will be M. M. Ussyshkin, M. Isaac L. Goldberg, and M. Rosoff.

It is stated that an attempt is being made to denationalise Serbian children by sending them to Bulgarian schools. Every means is being employed to this end, and Bulgarian priests and teachers go so far as to compel Serbian children to make the sign of the Cross while reciting :—"I am a Bulgarian; my mother is a Bulgarian; my father is a Bulgarian; we are all Bulgarians."

A great demonstration in approval of the British Government's declaration concerning the Jews and Palestine marked the closing meeting on Februry 17 of the Jewish Congress in Amsterdam. The Chief Rabbi said that it was with the Jews a question of now or never. At the close of the sitting the members marched through the streets bearing Zionist flags and singing Jewish national hymns.

Among those present at the unveiling of the memorial tablet to Colonel Sir David William K. Barr at the Brompton Parish Church on February 15 were Lady Barr, Lady Wylie, Mrs. Gough, and Colonel Sir Donald Robertson. The vicar, Prebendary A. W. Gough, gave an address, and the musical portion of the service was rendered by the choir. As a further memorial to Sir David Barr, new choir stalls are to be provided.

The inscription on the memorial tablet was written by Lord Curzon, and is worded as follows :—"This tablet is erected by some of his friends and colleagues in affectionate memory of Sir David William Keith Barr, K.C.S.I., of the Indian Political Service, a Member of the Council of India; born 21st November, 1846, died November 22, 1916. Simple-minded, courageous, gentle, just, he was the example of what a British political officer should be, teaching the Indian Princes and Peoples the inspiring lesson that East and West may be one."

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)

needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON.
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, of Clandeboye, Co. Down, has received the following messages:—"The Queen and I are grieved to hear of the fresh loss which you are called upon to bear in the death of Lord Dufferin and we desire to assure you and your family of our true sympathy in your sorrow.—GEORGE R.I." "My heartfelt sympathy with you in your loss, in the so sudden and unexpected death of your dear son.—ALEXANDRA."

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that, according to a Constantinople telegram to the *Rheinisch -Westfälische Zeitung*, women are being admitted to the Turkish army. The Ottoman association for women's work publishes a call to all women between eighteen and thirty to join the recently created Women Workers' Battalion. The battalion will be attached to the First Army Corps, and will work eight hours daily behind the front. The officers and overseers will first be men, but will gradually be replaced by women.

A correspondent has forwarded to us the following extract from a letter recently received from Jerusalem:— "Another one has to be added to the long list of crimes perpetrated by the Young Turks. Sultan Murat's son came to Jerusalem about July of 1917. He was received by Jemal with all the honours due to a royal prince. Soon afterwards he went to the Bir Sheba front, and was never heard of again. Austrian officers assured me that he was killed by a Turkish bullet. No communiqué has ever been issued about his death."

The following officers of the Serbian Military Mission had the honour of being received by the King on February 21:—Colonel Ristitch, Lieut.-Colonel Deroc, Lieut.-Colonel Zagortchitch, Lient.-Colonel Tersitch, Lieut.-Colonel Kossitch, Lieut.-Colonel Dounitch, Lieut.-Colonel Joakimovitch, Lieut.-Colonel Todorevitch, Captain Givanovitch, and Second Lieutenant Miletitch. Lieut.-Colonel E. M. Dunne (specially attached to the Mission) was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting wetre in attendance upon his Majesty.

The King and Queen inspected, on February 18, in the garden of Buckingham Palace, the Elsie Inglis Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service attached to the Jugo-slav Division of the Serbian Army. The six executive officers presented to their Majesties were Miss E. Palliser, chairman; Mrs. Kinnell, vice-chairman; Viscountess Cowdray, honorary treasurer; and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Flinders Petrie, the honorary secretary, and the secretary, Mrs. Finch. The chief medical officer is Miss Annette Benson, and the assistant medical officer Miss L. M. Chesney. Dr. Annette Benson is successor in office to Dr. Elsie Inglis. The King expressed appreciation of the excellent work which was being performed by the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and wished the unit success on going out to resume duty abroad.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Adis Abeba on February 12 of Taitou, Dowager Empress of Abyssinia.

Mr. James Hall Rea, J.P., Gatehouse, Eskdale, Cumberland, who died on February 6, at the age of sixty-six, was the owner of one of the best collections of Egyptian antiquities in the country.

The death has occurred at Ealing of Mr. Victor Edgar de Broe, late Superintendent Engineer of the North-Western Railway, Lahore. Mr. de Broe joined the Indian Public Works Department as an assistant engineer, and was promoted to be an executive engineer in 1892, afterwards becoming deputy manager of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railways and of the North-Western Railway.

Commander Charles Rathbone Law, F.R.G.S., formerly of the Indian Navy, died at his residence at Kensington on February 7, aged 80 years. He went to sea in 1853, and served in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and other waters in the suppression of pirates and the slave trade. After retiring from the Indian Navy, Commander Law was Librarian and Assistant Secretary of the Royal United Service Institution from 1865 to 1868. He was the author of a number of works mainly on naval and military subjects, among them being a "History of the Indian Navy" and "The First Afghan War, 1879."

The death of Sir Cecil Spring Rice, British Ambassador to the United States, occurred suddenly at Ottawa on February 13. Born in 1859, he was educated at Eton and Oxford, and was appointed Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Granville in 1884, and in the following year Précis Writer to his successor, Lord Rosebery. Subsequently he was appointed Secretary of the Legation at Teheran, and spent nearly three years in Persia. From Teheran he proceeded to Cairo, where he was seconded for the post of British Commissioner for the Egyptian Debt. He went to Russia early in 1903 as Secretary, and subsequently Councillor of Embassy. He returned to Persia as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and was transferred in 1908 in the same capacity to Stockholm, where he remained until 1913, when he was appointed British Ambassador to the United States. Sir Cecil Spring Rice was married to Florence, only daughter of Sir Frank Lascelles, at one time British Ambassador in Berlin, where Sir Cecil (then Mr.) Spring Rice was Second Secretary.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1918.

PEACE AIMS.

Mr. Lloyd George has declared that there is no half-way house between victory and defeat. At no time does the warning need to be taken more to heart than at this moment, when the defection of Russia is pressing heavily on the Allies, and the United States have not yet been able to throw their whole strength into the war. It so happens that this stage of the conflict has coincided with a more detailed declaration of war aims than the Allies have felt called upon to make before. A variety of circumstances had made such a declaration necessary—the unpractical doctrines put forward with so much unctuous rectitude by the Bolshevik Government, the misrepresentations of pacifists in the Allied countries, and the desirability of contrasting for the benefit of the public in the enemy States the reticence of their own Governments with the readiness of the Allies to submit their terms to the scrutiny of all concerned. One effect, however, of this statement of war aims is the tendency on the part of those who are feeling the strain of the long war more than they may be inclined to admit to regard these aims as identical in every respect with peace terms, and to endeavour to rearrange the clauses in order of relative importance. The next step in this well-meant attempt to simplify the issue is to subject the different items on the list to the arbitrary test as to whether they are individually worth an indefinite, or even limited, prolongation of the war. In each case the restricted knowledge of the investigator supplies the criterion. By this method of procedure it is not difficult to understand how people in Great Britain might decide that the fate of a portion of Croatia, or of a district in Macedonia, must not be allowed to stand in the way of a peace which in other respects is satisfactory; or how the French would hold that, provided they secured Alsace-Lorraine, it would matter little whether the relations between the Armenians and the Turks were regulated in a definitive manner or left to subsequent adjustment, mainly, it might be, at the dictation of the Turk. If this process were to be carried to its logical conclusion it might be possible to find that towards every item in the Allies' war aims one country or another held that, provided its own aims were satisfied, it would not wish to go on fighting indefinitely for the attainment of an object which appealed almost exclusively to an Allied nation. In the face of this *reductio ad absurdum* it is necessary to get back to first principles. The Allies are fighting for the establishment of peace in Europe on lines which offer the greatest promise of permanency, and these include the defeat and elimination of German militarism and the right of self-determination for small nations.

When from broad principles the discussion turns to details affecting distant frontiers, it is plain that the knowledge of the man in the street is unequal to the task of determining in regard to every single point what is or what is not essential to the achievement of the Allies' fundamental war aims. It may be well, therefore, to review from time to time all that the Allies have yet to attain before their purpose is fulfilled in those regions which are more remote from the everyday thoughts of the average Englishman. Only within the last few months have the first steps been taken towards a settlement of the Near Eastern question by the efforts made to bring about an understanding between Italians and Southern Slavs. Here, indeed, is a point that does not depend on the course of events in the field. As Germany's designs in the Near East and beyond have been one of the underlying causes of the war, and as her action during the struggle has been directed towards consolidating her power in these parts, it must be an axiom of the Allies' policy that some barrier has to be interposed between the Central Powers and the expansion of empire on which they rely for the attainment of world-domination. This barrier is to be formed preferably by a federated Balkan Peninsula, but an indispensable nucleus has to be provided by Roumania and the future Southern Slav State. The function of resisting German pressure from the north can only be performed by States that promote their own material development, free from the necessity of having to defend their national interests against aggression from without. But until the Southern Slav State has been carved out of Austria and its relations and boundaries with the new Italy duly regulated, South-Eastern Europe will only have changed one source of friction for another. For nearly three years this question has been allowed to prejudice the well-being of the Alliance, but there is reason at last to suppose that something in the nature of an agreement is being reached by the two parties. If there is no half-way house for the Allies between victory and defeat, what hope is there of finding a mean for the subject Slav peoples in Austria between freedom and a subjection intensified by the war and rendered the more intolerable by the recollection of hopes raised and dashed to the ground? It is impossible that Serbs, Croats, and Czecho-Slovaks should be left permanently at the mercy of the Austro-Hungarian authorities. But their fate will not be worse than that of the Roumanes in Hungary, for whom also the failure of the Allies to achieve victory means defeat with all its penalties. In other words, the very causes that fired the present conflagration will remain in the heart of Europe, biding their time when they will be able to plunge the Continent once more into a disastrous struggle for the vindication of the rights for which the Allies have declared that they are fighting.

It is the duty of everyone to reject any narrow interpretation that limited knowledge or war-weariness would tempt him to impose on the Allies' war aims. Let all realise that, while some claims may lend themselves to adjustment in the light of higher considerations, they cannot, in the interest of the peace of Europe as a whole, affect to ignore any claim because it appears at first sight to have no monetary equivalent to bring it into relation with the weekly or daily cost of the war. The removal of any cause of friction that is capable of plunging Europe once more into war is well worth the prolongation of the struggle. For this reason as much attention must be paid to Jugoslav-Italian relations, to the questions at issue between Bulgaria and Serbia, and to the attitude of the British Dominions on the subject of the German colonies, as to the restoration of Belgium or to the integrity of France. Apart from the justice of this point of view we may commend the more material consideration that a people free to work out its own salvation, and inspired by a national instinct, is going to play a far more useful part in the world's progress than one which is condemned to labour under a sense of injustice and repression. Not only will the Great Powers of the Alliance have to secure the political settlement of the Near East, but they will also have to ensure that the different States are in a position financially to carry out the work of reconstruction, with some prospect of paying their way in a short space of time. Let war aims or peace terms, then, serve their purpose in enemy countries, but the Allies must hold fast to first principles and refuse to sheathe the sword until they have secured for the world a reasonable basis for a lasting peace.

AN EGYPTIAN REFORMATORY.

BY COLES PASHA.

Prior to the war penalogists throughout the world were devoting a good deal of attention to the question of habitual offenders, endeavouring to find some more rational treatment than that afforded by the ordinary procedure of criminal courts and repeated sentences of imprisonment. The International Prison Association, which was formed in Switzerland, collected a vast amount of literature on the subject, and papers were read and discussed at every Prison Congress without apparently coming to any very definite conclusion. The American reformatory treatment, as exemplified in the Elmira establishment, near New York, found many enthusiastic admirers, but there were not a few, especially amongst the general public, who argued that since the days of the prison reformer Howard the swing of the pendulum had already carried us too far on humanitarian lines, and repression was what was required, not reformation.

As head of the Prisons Department in Egypt the problem was ever before me, and, owing to a very efficient "Bureau of Antecedents of Criminals," assisted by finger prints, the data at my disposal was very complete, and enabled me without difficulty to classify and segregate on admission any old offender. For these prisoners there was a distinctive dress, cellular confinement, harder labour, fewer visits, a longer period of imprisonment before release on conditional liberty, and, generally, prison life was made as irksome as possible. But I found that, notwithstanding all my endeavours, the number of prisoners with previous convictions steadily increased, and it became evident that some other form of treatment must be devised to cope with the evil. I may here state that I was not very sanguine as to the efficiency of reformatory treatment when dealing with hardened adult offenders, but my frequent inspections of the Black Gang (habituals were dressed in black) showed me that amongst these offenders were included the physically incapable, the mentally deficient, others who were clearly addicted to drugs, and possibly some who had lapsed into criminal ways for want of sufficient moral and material equipment to keep straight. I felt that some of these might respond to reformatory treatment. It seemed, therefore, that a further classification was required, and some means must be found for earmarking those who were professionals by choice and not of necessity. The majority of the professional class were, in my opinion, incorrigible, irrespective of whether their treatment took the form of reformation or repression. For those whom civilisation did not allow to be quietly removed from the face of the earth, "Detention during his Highness's pleasure" appeared to be the only alternative, if the community was to be protected from their depredations. But although this was the conclusion I had arrived at, it was no easy matter to persuade the Egyptian Government to make the necessary provision in the Code. The Judiciary, too, had to be convinced, as anything in the shape of an indeterminate sentence does not, as a rule, find many advocates amongst Judges, and the Egyptian Bench was no exception. Benevolent neutrality was all I could expect even from my personal friends, and I saw that, if my proposal was to be accepted, I must create a more favourable atmosphere all round.

I made up my mind, therefore, to commence operations with ordinary sentenced prisoners. If afterwards I found that the scheme was likely to prove a success, I should be in a stronger position to satisfy the Judges and get the Ministry of Justice to make the necessary change in the law. I accordingly collected in one of the prisons a number of old offenders who had been sentenced to two years and upwards, and subjected them to a reformatory treatment on the lines I had worked out for application later, should I succeed in getting the necessary modification in the Code accepted. As far as one could judge the experiment proved entirely successful, although there was no special inducement to offer the prisoners, I mean as regards early release; all I could do was to relax discipline and grant other amenities to induce them to make a special effort and benefit by the teaching offered.

After the second year of treatment on these lines I found that I was in a position to give the Judicial Bench an object-lesson, and accordingly invited some twenty of the Assize Judges to visit the establishment and see for themselves what had been accomplished. The happy thought also struck me to provide a lunch in the train on the way down! Whether it was the lunch or my powers of persuasion I cannot say, but from that visit there was no longer any opposition on the part of the Bench. The necessary modification in the law was made, and the only difficulty I afterwards experienced was to find accommodation for the steady flow of habituals each Court of Assize sent to the establishment.

I will now proceed to describe the scheme as accepted and the result attained up to the date when I left Egypt in 1913. In the first place, it was necessary to define an "habitual" who could be sent to the establishment on an indeterminate sentence. It was decided that an offender who had undergone two sentences of imprisonment of one year or upwards or three or more terms of less than a year for certain offences was an habitual, qualified for an indeterinate period of detention, should the Courts think fit, the sentence not to exceed six years or, in case of reconviction, ten years; release within that period to rest with the Minister of Justice on reports as to conduct and proficiency in any handicraft taught at the establishment, the said reports to be made by a Board of Visitors, the idea being that the average habitual by good conduct and aptitude would be in a position to claim release after four years.

It was considered that within this period, with the special treatment which the habitual would receive, the authorities would have ample opportunities of reforming certain individuals and classifying others as mentally or physically incapable or incorrigible, as the case might be. The question of the future treatment of the mentally or physically incapable was left for consideration later. The further detention for another period of ten years, if reconvicted after release, was a special provision for the incorrigibles. In their case there would be no further attempt to reform; should they be reconvicted, they would simply be detained, and as they would have acquired a handicraft during their first incarceration, they would be in a position to earn their subsistence, an undoubted consideration for the State.

For each of the "habituals" committed to the establishment, in addition to the criminal antecedent furnished by the police, a special dossier was prepared. In this dossier an endeavour was made to get a complete life-history of each individual prior to his committal. He was also thoroughly overhauled by both the medical officer of the establishment and principal medical officer of the Department, to ascertain what physical and mental ailments (if any) existed. The "habitual's" "reformatory history" then commenced by his being kept in cellular confinement for a period of probation, one year or nine months, dependent on his conduct and progress as a craftsman. The utility of this period of probation was not recognised by some of the "visitors," and may also be questioned by the readers of this article; but personally I attached great importance to this period of cellular confinement. In the first place, on account of its repressive character as a punishment, and again on account of the opportunities it gave the officials of the establishment of studying the habitual's character and aptitude. It was, too, so cordially disliked by the inmates; thus it encouraged them to make a special effort to reach the association stage.

Whilst in cellular confinement the habituals were

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constantly visited by their instructors, and spent also one hour in school. There was also one hour of exercise, which consisted in working the capstans of one of the many pumps required for water or draining. Their time was, therefore, fully occupied. Each individual received a small weekly stipend, which was increased at each stage of advancement; good conduct and school proficiency also carried with it pecuniary reward. Stars on the "Libdahs" (caps) indicated the class reached in the school, and stripes on either arm, conduct and proficiency in their respective crafts. Stripes on the breast denoted the number of years spent in the establishment. There were also black, blue, and white cotton garments worn by each class. It was, therefore, easy to distinguish the progress made and to what extent each individual was working out his own salvation. But the dossiers showed the official record, and the result of the half-yearly examinations made by inspectors who were not connected with the establishment.

If desired, half of the weekly wage was paid in tokens and half was banked pending release. These tokens were accepted at the canteen, where small luxuries could be purchased by certain classes to vary the monotony of the regular prison ration.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

SERBS AND SERBIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A correspondent in your issue of to-day asks for sustantives formed from the root *Srb* which differentiate between "the inhabitants of Serbia" and the Serb race in general. A man of Serb race is a *Srbin*, or *Srbljin*. A Serb who is a native of Serbia is a *Srbijanatz*. The term *Srbin* includes also anyone of the Serb Orthodox Church. Thus an Orthodox Slav peasant of the Sanjak of Novi Bazar, while it was still Turkish, would say, *Ja sam Srbin*. A Moslem peasant of the same race would say that he was a Turk. The Montenegrins call themselves habitually *Srbin*. Never *Srbjanin* or *Srbijanatz*.

That ever since I have known the two lands (and my acquaintance dates from 1900, including long terms of residence) there was increasing friction between the two Serb States is unfortunately true. The root of the whole was that while each was in favour of the union of the Serb people in one State, each intended to be "top-dog." In Montenegro there were three parties: one in favour of a Great Serbia ruled by the Petrovitches; one in favour of an alliance with Austria; and one in favour of a Great Serbia, either as a republic or ruled by the Karageorgevitch dynasty. As Montenegro is but a small State and was further weakened in 1913 by the inclusion of many alien and inimical elements, this diversity of opinion did not make for strength. From long experience I would suggest that it is useless for any outsiders to attempt to meddle with matters which are purely internal affairs of the South Slavs. Of one thing only can we be certain, and that is that the inclusion in a South Slav State of any inimical elements, whether they be Macedonian Bulgars, Albanians, Moslem Slavs, or recalcitrant Montenegrins, will not make either for peace or stability. Frontier drawers, please take note.—I am, etc.,

February 15, 1918. M. EDITH DURHAM.

"THE ENTENTE AND THE ALLIES OF GERMANY."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In a letter attacking an article of mine in last month's *Contemporary Review* your correspondent, Mr. D. Janitsch, accuses me of disloyalty to Serbia. I must once more protest that the course I advocated was exactly the opposite. The cause of Serbia, where I have made countless friends and spent happy holidays, is probably dearer to me than it is to her newest and noisiest advocates.

Bulgaria's co-operation was a matter of sheer military necessity. It would have secured what Serbia desires, and cannot otherwise get. It embodied, therefore, the true loyalty to Serbia and to all Germany's enemies through the effective barring of Germany's gangway to the East. That policy, alas! has been vindicated by events. Its adoption was prevented by the would-be friends of Serbia, who thought more of pleasing the Serbians than of ultimately benefiting them. I felt the same desire to please all the more keenly because I was with the Serbians at Kragujevatz at the moment of their glorious triumph in December, 1914. But that sentiment seemed to me shallow and disloyal. Since the great disaster of 1915 the Great Serbia became impossible of realisation. But the "Easternist" school of amateur strategists, in their excited (or cynical) desire for Serbian aid, misled the Serbs and their warmest friends. Serbia's army was then sacrificed when the possibility of realising its dreams had already been lost. It is a question not of honour *versus* disloyalty, but of true honour expressed in deeds *versus* the false honour of fruitless words.—I am, etc.,

NOEL BUXTON.

House of Commons,
February 20.

"THE NEED FOR SELF-RENUNCIATION."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Under the above heading, in the issue of the *New Europe* of February 7, Dr. Ronald M. Burrows, intentionally or unintentionally, holds British war motives and war aims up to ridicule. Through an amazing appreciation of Messrs. Chicherin and Trotski he denounces the British Government as having made itself the sneer of the Bolsheviks and of the Allied and neutral Press for having departed from the principle of a war of disinterestedness to that of a war of conquest, as shown by the secret treaties with Tsarist Russia and Italy in 1915, and, presumably, by the Salonika, Gallipoli, Palestine, and Mesopotamia offensives. "It made us a willing party to the looting of Asiatic Turkey." . . . "We entered the war with no standing grievance, with no wrong to redress," . . . and so on, to the injunction that whatever happens no territory must be added to the British Empire.

The confusion of cause and effect, the belittling of the honour of his own country in the process, seem to call for some protest.

We can overlook Dr. Burrows' anxious solicitude for a personality like Trotski, whose part seemes to be to enable Germany to force Russia to declare war on the Allies, and especially on the British Empire. But his accusation that the Anglo-Russian and Anglo-Italian secret treaties on the subject of Constantinople and Dalmatia initiated a greedy war of conquest is an untruth. At worst they were actions dictated by self-preservation, and this fact is brought out by the readiness since shown to reconsider the terms. One asks, Was the British Government, militarily unprepared, to confine its defensive to the reconquest of Belgium and North-Eastern France, and to let Serbia, Egypt, and India be trampled under the heel of the Hun? Had the British Government obligations and duties of honour to no one but a Trotski or a Lenin yet unearthed? If the whole gamut of British statesmanship at the end of 1914 was in error, can any honourable critic affirm the errors to have been born of greed and loot? What becomes of the Allies' chief war aim, the achievement of lasting peace for the world? How overjoyed will be that remnant of Armenian blood which yet flows in living veins, how delighted Jewry, the stricken Syrians, the Asiatic Greeks in their caves and cellar-holes! Further, what of Dr. Burrows' own fellow-countrymen, who doubtless know quite as much about Germany's activities in the Pacific and in Africa as he does of conditions in Dalmatia? And all this, why? Because "We ought to have known that Mr. Trotski was already an important person before the revolution."

Is this banality or worse?—I am, etc.,

A BRITON.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

A New Orientation in the Near East.

The *Manchester Guardian* echoes the views which were put forward a fortnight ago in these pages that the time has come for a concentration of effort in the Near East. It confines its attention to Turkey on the ground that an offensive against that country may conceivably lead to the Turks making a separate peace. It would be better to have to two strings for the Allied bow, and to see that diplomacy is called in to reinforce military measures. The war would never have reached its fourth year, if the Allies at the outset had realised the importance of attacking Germany from the Balkans and with the help of the Balkan States. The *Manchester Guardian* considers that the most fruitful offensive that we can deliver this year will be in the East, and that to this end "all the troops that we can spare, over and above what are necessary for the defence of the positions we must obtain elsewhere, should go to the East." Unfortunately, such a movement predicates a superabundance of shipping. The paper continues:—

> In a sentence, we would do this year what the Germans did in 1915 when, after their double defeat on the Marne and at Ypres, they fell back on the defensive in France and turned East. These are questions of high strategy which perhaps do not lend themselves to detailed argument at this juncture, and it is sufficient for the present to register a view of the war which at least deserves consideration. But there is still amongst English people an insufficient appreciation of the greatness of the issues that are being decided in Palestine. This campaign is not being fought at the back door of European ghettos. It is the imposing façade of a new East which we build in order that Liberty may have her matins as well as her vespers.
>
> Palestine is to Asia what Serbia is to Europe—the one the bridgehead between Europe and Asia, and the other between Asia and Africa. The main political object of Germany in this war is the projection of her influence across the Dardanelles to the Persian Gulf. She aspires to the creation of a Germanic Empire or Confederation uniting the new Germany with the ancient Byzantine Empire. At last, after long delay, our alternative policy to this grandiose scheme of conquest has been outlined. It aims at reviving two ancient civilizations, the Arab and the Jewish, and giving them a worthy territorial frame. It is not part of our policy (as it is of Germany's ambitions) to impose our culture on these regions, still less to develop them in the interest of our Imperialism. We are content, and should prefer, to act as the executors of an international will alike in Mesopotamia and in Palestine—the will to freedom, to peaceful and unaggressive development of a great and sadly neglected estate, to a manifold diversity of political progress. If these ideals fit in with our hopes for the future of India, that is not a sign of selfishness, but a testimony to the genuinely liberal and defensive character of our aims in Asia. Our new policy in Asia by reviving the political civilization of the Arab, by bringing to a close the long exile of the Jewish people from nationhood, and opening up a new vista of hope for Persia, may justly claim to be continuing our championship of liberty, law, and the rights of small nationalities in Europe. In some ways our advocacy of these causes in Asia has an even greater efficacy, so many are the echoes that it awakens down the empty corridors of history. The Jewish nation began out of a migration from Mesopotamia into Egypt, and back again by way of Sinai over the Jordan. It is returning to life by the same well-trodden roads. For the first time in history Egypt and Chaldœa are in alliance against the military tyranny of Assyria.

Germany and World Domination.

It is impossible that too much stress should be laid on the importance of the Near East and Hither Asia in the scheme of the world's affairs, and the increased attention now being paid to these regions is to be welcomed in the wake of pacifist endeavours, which, as in the case of Lord Lansdowne's letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, ignored the Near Eastern question. Unless Germany's aims in regard to the Balkans and the Ottoman Empire are kept in mind by Allied politicians, there is bound to be a tendency to emphasise the importance of the right kind of settlement in the West at the expense of the East, which plays an equally weighty part with relation to a permanent peace. The subject is treated from another point of view by a writer in the *Yorkshire Evening Post*, under the heading "Germany and World Domination":—

> This war is primarily a struggle for railway systems. Asia and Africa have the beginnings of vast railway systems which want linking up with the European system. Constantinople, Baghdad, Calcutta, and Peking eastward, and Constantinople, Aleppo, Cairo, and Cape Town southward—these are on the main lines or arteries which, when the gaps are filled in, and the subsidiary branches completed, will tap the resources of the whole of the Asiatic and African continents. In Germany their vast importance has long been foreseen. Along these routes the Kaiser, in his dreams, saw his legions advancing step by step to complete world-conquest. This was to be their path of glory, their place in the sun, which they, with their Allies, were to occupy—to the exclusion of all other peoples. This gives the clue to his Balkan and Turkish policies—the formation of the Central European block, in which the German element is predominant, the gradual and irresistible movement southward and eastward through the Balkans, and the permeation of Turkey, which together have been for decades the most disturbing feature of European politics. This explains the financing of the Baghdad Railway, the Kaiser's tour in Palestine, the visit of the Crown Prince to India, and the East African Colonial adventure, which cuts the line from Cairo to the Cape, and has always been the Kaiser's favourite colony. This gives the scope and range of their vast military effort, which, obviously, to achieve success, had to be on a scale sufficient to challenge successfully any possible rival or combination of rivals. Constantinople stands at the point of junction with the European system. Geographically, strategically, and economically, it is the key position, the very corner stone of the Pan-German edifice. Given possession of Constantinople, all roads in the Eastern Hemisphere could be made to lead to Berlin.

The Anglo-Russian Agreement.

An echo of this aggressive railway policy is to be found in the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* of February 7, which devotes a leading article to the subject of the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907:—

> After noting that the Russian Bolshevists now declare that the Convention is null and void as far as Russia is concerned, the German paper asks: "But what of England?" and concludes its article as follows:—"It must also be asked what German interests are involved? When in 1910 the Tsar Nicholas stayed at Potsdam with his Hessian wife on the journey back from her country to Petersburg in order that an interview might take place between himself and the German Emperor, an understanding concerning the mutual interests of Germany and Russia in Persia was also arrived at, having reference to the above-mentioned Anglo-Russian Convention. The result was a definite agreement signed on August 19, 1911, at St. Petersburg. If now the Bolsheviks declare null and void on their part the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, German interests as regulated by the above agreement cannot so lightly be put aside. If peace should, after all, be signed with Bolsheviks, it would not be amiss if this point were clearly defined. The chief German interest involved is that of the Teheran-Khanikin railway which was to link up with the Baghdad Railway at Sudidfeh."

Missions in the East.

In the course of a review of the past year the *International Review of Missions* makes the following remarks on conditions in Arabia and Persia:—

> The modernisation of Mecca, which is taking place under the new régime, seems to indicate that the isolation of that city from the rest of the world is passing. According to an Arabic journal, 12,000 pilgrims visited the city under greatly improved conditions, and on its return the pilgrimage was pronounced to be free of disease. Notwithstanding the war, work has been steadily carried on in the mission stations of the Reformed Church of America on the east coast, though the work in outlying districts has been hindered. Tolerance towards representatives of western nations, whether political, mercantile, or missionary, has markedly increased, and though no spiritual movement is discernible there is a gradual growth in certain quarters in the small number of sincere inquirers.
>
> In Persia conditions are still very unsettled, and a flood of revolutionary ideas has been let loose. One of the three C.M.S. stations, Kerman, is still closed, but Yezd and Isfahan have been reopened. The native workers have been developed by the time of severe testing through which they have passed. In Persia, as in Arabia, there are encouraging tokens of greater tolerance and wider outlook among the people. In western Persia the food problem is acute. It is estimated that 40,000 persons have been driven from their homes by the war. Relief is being largely distributed by missionaries of the Presbyterian Board (U.S.A.). In eastern Persia the same mission has begun medical work in Khorasan.

Tragedy of Roumania.

To the thinking Englishman the fate of Roumania is almost too tragic to allow him to express his thoughts upon the subject. It requires a robust faith in the righteousness of the Allied cause to feel confident that all will yet be well with this unhappy country. But no purpose is served by shutting our eyes to the conditions under which the Roumanians are existing to-day. Their Allies cannot fail to be impressed with the splendid fight that they are making against the direst conspiracy of circumstances. The *Observer* recently contained a moving article from the pen of Madame Take Jonescu, from which the following extract is taken:—

> Roumania's situation is so hopelessly tragic that she may envy even suffering Serbia, who, though at the cost of infinite misery and losses, did succeed in saving a certain number of divisions, to enable her to continue the defence of her cause by the side of the Entente armies. Bolshevik hostility closes the one opening through which Roumania could withdraw her troops, and will also try to involve her in a dishonourable peace. Her 500,000 splendid troops are panting for the moment when they may be free to attack the Austro-Germans. Both King and Government declare their intention to resist all efforts to force them into a separate peace. Complete annihilation may be the only alternative. All sacrifices will, nevertheless, be cheerfully accepted if they finally secure the accomplishment of Roumanian unity. Without that the nation would eventually disappear.
>
> In the agony of their suffering, Serbia and Roumania alike turn their imploring gaze towards the west. Their ears are strained to catch words of encouragement in the speeches of Allied statesmen. With what dismay do they listen to increasingly vague pronouncements as to their ultimate fate, followed by phrases breathing tenderness towards the Austro-Hungarian State! What conclusions can be drawn from the contradictory utterances recently heard? We are assured that "the peoples of Austria-Hungary are to be accorded the first opportunity of autonomous development." Italy's frontier is to be "readjusted" along recognisable lines of nationality. Serbia is "to have access to the sea." "Roumania's national aspirations" are to be fulfilled. But—on no account is Austria-Hungary territory to be interfered with! How is this miracle to be performed? And wherefore this solicitude for the Empire which is responsible above all others for the present world war? The right of "self-determination" extended to the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary would be as empty an offer as in the case of the Russian conquered provinces under German military occupation.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Roumania. Feb. 14.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Mr. King, said that the treaty entered into by this country on August 18, 1916, whereby the entry of Roumania into the war was secured, was still operative; and subsequent events or understandings had not altered its effect.

A Zionist Commission. Feb. 18.

Mr. Richard Lambert asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was intended to send a Zionist Commission to Palestine shortly; if so, what were the objects; and who were the persons appointed.

Mr. Balfour: His Majesty's Government have acceded to the request of the London Zionist Central Organization to permit a Zionist Commission to proceed to Palestine at an early date. The functions of the Commission are to investigate the present condition of Jewish colonies in Palestine, to organize relief work, and supervize reparation of damage done to Zionist colonies during the war in as far as circumstances will permit. The London Central Zionist Organization has already submitted the names of Dr. Weizman, Mr. J. Cowen, and Mr. Simon. It is probable that other names will be added to the list, but the matter is still under consideration.

The Future of Albania.

Mr. Richard Lambert asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Albania was, in 1913, recognized by the Great Powers as an independent State and declared neutral and taken under protection; whether Albania was still regarded as an independent neutral State; whether any undertaking given by, or agreement made between, any of the Allies must be construed subject to Albanian independence and integrity; and whether the doctrine of the self-determination of peoples was applicable to Albania.

Mr. Balfour informed Mr. R. Lambert that the arrangement come to in 1913, to which Albania was not a party, had ceased to have a binding force, as all the signatory powers were now engaged in war. As regarded the future, he could say no more than that his Majesty's Government would be glad to see the principle of nationality applied as far as possible to this and to other countries, which would have to be considered at the Peace Conference. The greater part of Albania was now in the occupation of the enemy.

RED CROSS FINANCE.

Two facts stand out in the annual report of the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John for the year ended October 20, 1917, which was published this week. One is that the administration and management of the great work of the Red Cross at home and abroad, during the twelve months under review, involved no direct charge upon the funds subscribed by the public for the benefit of the sick and wounded. The other is that for the first time since the war began the income of the Red Cross during those twelve months showed a deficiency as compared with the expenditure. Thus, while in 1916 the income was £3,064,232 7s. 1d., and the expenditure £1,815,353 0s. 7d., giving a surplus of £1,248,879 6s. 6d., in 1917 the income was £3,474,564 1s. 1½d., and the expenditure £3,672,355 12s. 2½d., leaving a deficit of £197,792 11s. 1d. For the three years ended October 20 the receipts were £8,451,790 17s. 0½d., and the expenditure £7,178,939 4s. 0½d., giving a surplus of £1,272,851 13s.

Last year the management expenses of the Red Cross at Headquarters amounted to £59,190, equivalent to 3.86d., or 1.61 per cent., in the £ of expenditure; in 1916 administration cost £53,064, equivalent to 7d., or 2.92 per cent., in the £ spent.

Administrative costs have, therefore, decreased by, roughly, one-half on the percentage basis in 1917 as compared with 1916, a result largely due to the enormous growth of the societies' expenditure. In dealing with the interest earned by placing temporary surplus moneys on deposit, and their investment in Treasury Bills the Committee state that the amount received exceeds the total sum received during the two years to October 20, 1916, by £40,000. They add: "It is pleasant to be able to record that (with the addition of a special grant by the War Office towards the administration expenses of the Central Prisoners' of War Department) the whole of our management expenses at Headquarters and at our Commissions abroad have been paid out of the interest which has thus been earned, and that every penny of money which the public has subscribed during the year has been spent on the direct succour of the sick and wounded."

With regard to the present and prospective position of the Red Cross funds the Finance Committee say: "At the time of writing this report we are experiencing for the second time considerable anxiety as to the sufficiency of funds to carry on our work. . . . The estimates of expenditure to the end of the current financial year, without allowing for special grants or the inevitable development of certain branches of our work, amount to £2,600,000."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 shows a very satisfactory position, the net surplus being £85,000, as against £54,200 for the previous twelve months. The directors propose to place £30,000 to reserve, as against £10,000 last year, and to transfer £10,000 to bank premises account, for which no provision was made out of the profits of 1915-16. The dividend, which was 6s. for 1914-15, and 7s. for 1915-16, has been raised to 8s., and the carry forward is practically the same as before at £24,239 13s. 1d., as against £24,277 6s. 10d.

⁂

Presiding at the general meeting of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Sir Alexander Roger pointed out that last year's credit balance—the first since the collapse of the Egyptian land boom—had been improved by £688. He did not, however, venture on any forecast of the future, beyond saying that the company had two or three large holdings in Egypt, one of them being in Sidi Salems. These had been rapidly increasing in value, but he said he dared not prophesy whether this increase in value would be maintained. He remarked, however, that Egypt was probably more prosperous to-day than it had ever been before, and a continuance of this prosperity will doubtless place the company in a much more satisfactory position.

⁂

With regard to the future of the country, his view is worth noting that the visit to Egypt of so many business men among the troops is bound to have its effect. No doubt this will be the case, since the men will come home from Egypt and elsewhere with an enlarged outlook and a first-hand knowledge of external trade requirements, and it is to this quarter as much as to any other that we must look for the energy and enterprise that will be required if our trade is to expand sufficiently to enable us to meet our post-war obligations.

⁂

In his notes this week, our Morocco correspondent pays a well-deserved tribute to the civilizing influence of British firms in Morocco before the establishment of the French Protectorate. In addition to doing much to develop agriculture in the country, and to make the natives acquainted with the extent of the foreign market for their produce, he points out that their methods of business "made Englishmen trusted and respected, and awakened at least a doubt whether the old, deep-rooted distrust of intercourse with Europeans as a whole was fully justified." In this respect the firms have merely kept up the traditions that have almost universally been observed since the beginnings of this country's overseas commerce, and the reason why so little reference has been made to this factor in the development of Morocco is no doubt, as our correspondent suggests to be attributed to the innate national dislike for advertisement. But there are cases when this attitude of self-abnegation is not advisable, and Morocco, I think, comes under this category.

⁂

Emphasis has frequently been laid in these columns on the widely different conditions that obtain in various parts of Morocco, and this aspect is fully borne out by our correspondent, who points out that while Fez, for instance, was almost untouched by civilizing influences before the Protectorate, in other parts of the country excellent order was kept, and it was quite safe for Europeans to travel alone and unarmed. Business in these regions could be conducted without inconvenience, and so settled were the conditions that it was a regular practice to send specie by unescorted caravans from Marrakesh to the coast. The explanation was to be found in the intercourse of the natives with Europeans in the persons of British traders, which led them to understand the necessity for security if commerce was to pursue its normal course, and made them determined to have it at all costs.

⁂

One of the objects which the British Merchants' Morocco Association has constantly had before it has been to arrange for the registration of British trade-marks in Morocco. Arrangements have now been made with the French authorities by which this can be done in future, and elsewhere in this issue will be found particulars of the procedure to be followed in registering trade-marks in that country. I need hardly say that in achieving this result the Association has secured a great advantage for British traders with Morocco, and one which will mean that they will compete with the representatives of other countries on an equal footing after the war. And that is surely all that is to be desired, for in a fair field British goods may be trusted to hold their own.

⁂

At the general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate Mr. Eckstein was able to give a very satisfactory outline of the company's position. Referring to the past season's cotton crop, he said that the results in the Gezireh would have been better but for a shortage of water at the end of the season. The syndicate benefited by the high prices obtainable for cotton; but, on the other hand, shipping facilities had been difficult and rates high. The strength of the cash position of the company is worth noting, the figures, after paying all outgoings since the beginning of the financial year, being approximately £120,000. In view of the uncertainty of the shipping situation, Mr. Eckstein emphasised the need for a strong cash position, owing to the doubt as to how long it would be necessary to hold the cotton in the Sudan.

⁂

As to the prospects of the current season, Mr. Eckstein stated that the Zeidab cotton area is 3,000 feddans, as against 3,100 feddans the previous year, but with an increased area under cultivation by irrigation from the company's pumping stations. At Tayiba the cotton area is 1,700 feddans, as against 1,800 feddans, and from this station a considerably increased yield is expected. Finally, at Barakat 2,156 feddans are being cultivated, against 2,500 feddans in the previous season, the reason for this reduction being the anticipation of water difficulties similar to those experienced last year. The situation was summarised in the statement that a general survey of the prospects of the present year point to a larger crop, notwithstanding a decreased area under cultivation.

⁂

Besides making strenuous efforts to establish intimate trade relations with Switzerland, I understand that the Turks are also actively engaged in preparing for increased trade with the Central Powers after the war, no doubt because they are under the impression that it may be wise to have alternative markets at hand in case the Allies are not unduly anxious to resume commercial relations with them. Among the measures under consideration is the establishment of a series of chambers of commerce. So far it is proposed to establish them at Vienna, Berlin, and Budapest, and the scheme will probably be extended to include other leading cities in Germany and Austria. The Turks also have in view a chamber of commerce in Sofia, and a club there for the use of Turkish subjects. This show of enterprise on the part of Turkey is as interesting as it is unusual. Can it be that the Turks have come to the conclusion that the only thing necessary for the revival of their trade is to copy the institutions of other countries?

⁂

I see that it is reported that the Turks have found coal near the left bank of the Tigris, some considerable distance north-east of Baghdad, and that the coal has been used as fuel for vessels on that river with excellent results. If the report is true, and there is no reason for doubting it, the discovery may be regarded as another instance of traditional Turkish kindness in thus providing our forces with a convenient supply of fuel if and when the time comes for a further advance.

COMMENTATOR.

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MOROCCO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER.

Morocco has of late been brought to the notice of the public in England with some frequency, and its present situation and prospects have become fairly well known. It is perhaps due to an acknowledged peculiarity of national character that in describing the work of development of the French zone by the Protectorate Government comparatively few references have been made to the part played by our countrymen in preparing the ground for such development or to the readiness of a great part of the most important regions of Morocco to welcome order and progress even though these were to be obtained only through European hands. Typical instances of this treatment of the subject have been furnished by the addresses given to various bodies in England by Mr. J. M. Macleod, His Majesty's Consul at Fez.

In this case the fact may have been partly due to the nature of the speaker's personal experience of Morocco which, though very long, has been mainly confined to Fez. Fez is the chief city of Morocco, and carries on, chiefly through native firms with native agents or partners resident in Manchester, an important trade with Great Britain. It has, however, always been a very conservative, even fanatical city, set, until the district between it and the coast was occupied by French troops, in the midst of very turbulent tribes. When that happened it had so far been very slightly affected by the civilising influence of European firms.

British Influence.

No one would wish to criticise Mr. Macleod's enthusiasm at the steps which, wherever the country has been effectually occupied, have put an end to the old form of government which existed for and by the most grinding, all-embracing oppression, or wonder at the pleasure with which he testifies to the great energy shown and the success achieved in giving medical assistance to and improving the conditions of life for the native population, but he does something less than justice to the civilising influences at work long before European intervention, to the native's own learning, wherever it was given a chance, towards peace and order, and to the ready assistance given by the British colonies to the work of the French Protectorate.

He does indeed mention with warm approval the medical and other work done by British ladies in Fez; all who know of them and their record will more than endorse what he says. But he lays little stress on the fact that it was not only in Fez that similar work has been carried on by British hands for the last twenty years or more in Morocco. Private societies, dependent entirely on their own funds, have for all these years maintained missionary and medical efforts combined in nearly all West Morocco towns.

Mention has already been made in these notes of the part taken by British merchants in developing agriculture and in opening the natives' eyes to the fact that the bulk of the demand for their products was not Morocco's but the world's needs; their influence did much more than that. Few though the number of British merchants was, it can fairly be said that there was not a village in all those districts which to this day produce almost the whole of Morocco's grain output to which their influence did not extend; where their methods of business dealing, their reputation for straightness, kindliness, and respect for Moorish sentiments and traditions had not made Englishmen trusted and respected, and awakened at least a doubt whether the old, deep-rooted distrust of intercourse with Europeans as a whole was fully justified.

Permanent Establishments.

In a minor but still important way British merchants prepared the way for European colonisation by the standard of living and comfort which they showed to be attainable in Morocco. They settled like true colonists to make homes and show that life in Morocco need not mean the sacrifice of comfort, pleasing surroundings, or most of those things which make an English home. To this day the best houses on the coast are British, and it is the gardens and plantations, still unequalled, which the owners of these houses planted and tended, that chiefly give the relief of greenery to the outskirts of the coast towns, and furnish the only convincing proof of what the care and taste of individuals can accomplish in this direction in even the most unpromising sites in Morocco.

Before the Protectorate.

Another point on which Mr. Macleod did not dwell was the extraordinary peacefulness of many parts of Morocco, even when means of keeping order were of the slightest. Between the coast and the southern capital, some hundred miles inland it was, for very many years before European occupation and with rare exception, perfectly safe for Europeans' even when alone and unarmed, to travel by day or night.

It is a fact, though it still seems incredible, that every few days a caravan of camels laden with specie left Marrakesh for the coast, and, except on one occasion (which was due to no ordinary robbery but was the accompaniment of an intrigue which led to a change of Sultan) was not interfered with. Everyone knew when the caravan was to leave, and it was perfectly easy to find out what each camel was carrying. There was no escort, the camel drivers were unarmed, there were no patrols or guards of any sort on the roads, and any two armed men could have robbed it in safety and in a few hours have had their booty where no authority could touch them. But no, apparently there was a general feeling that these caravans were necessary to business, that all were more or less, as producers or buyers, interested in maintaining safety for commerce, and no band of robbers ventured to seize the rich prize which passed so often through the country. A great part of the inhabitants of Morocco wanted peace and commerce with Europeans, whom, largely in the shape of British merchants, they knew and trusted, and when their Kaids and agitators would leave them alone they did their best to maintain tranquillity. Potential traders to a man, they knew that law and order was necessary for the pursuit of their chief interest in life, and were more than half ready to accept those blessings from Europeans if their own countrymen failed to secure them.

The Future.

With regard to the attitude of the British colonies towards the new administration Mr. Macleod was content to be frankly critical. Every step taken to improve the lot of the natives, to make the conditions of life better for Européans and natives alike has been welcomed by all British colonies, and their assistance has been given wherever that has been acceptable and could prove useful. No colony has been readier to fall in with new regulations properly affecting them, to give most liberally money, land, or facilities, whenever appealed to for local improvements, charities, even for objects from participation in which they were excluded, in a word, to play the part of good citizens. Such behaviour is not uncommon on the part of British colonies wherever they may be found. It was perhaps for that reason that Mr. Macleod did not mention it, and instead urged on all British subjects to state their aims with more clearness, abandon their reserve and to strive, if they wished to achieve anything in Morocco, to obtain the goodwill of the French population and administrators, and educate French colonial opinion, which was formed in French colonies and was naturally coloured by that fact.

With respect to the aims of British subjects in Morocco, as these are entirely confined to the quiet continuance of their business lives under the conditions of trade equality which have been the base of all Anglo-French understandings with regard to Morocco, and are sufficiently well known, there would seem no reason for their further discussion.

◆

TRADE MARKS IN MOROCCO.

Arrangements have now been made by which British firms may register their trade-marks in Morocco, whether domiciled there or not, provided they engage duly empowered attorneys to pay fees and sign the "procès verbal de dépôt." The application may be made either by a firm or its attorney in the form of a letter of petition addressed to "M. le Résident Général de la République Française au Maroc." The attorney may be anyone in Morocco—the consular officer, for instance, if he consents to be so—and he must be furnished with (1) the power of attorney, (2) a certificate of registration of the trade mark or marks in Great Britain (visé by the French Consulate), (4) a block of the trade-mark to be registered, and (5) two copies of the trade-mark.

The application must give the full name, business, and address of the firm, and the name and address of the attorney who will act as the representative of the firm for the purpose of registration. As regards copies of the trade-marks, while the colour and texture of the paper are immaterial, the paper must not be less than 18 cm. square, and a margin of at least 5 or 6 cm. must be left for remarks, the space on the left-hand side being for statements by the applicants regarding the goods on which the mark is to be placed, etc., and that on the opposite side for the use of the Registry Office.

The trade-mark can be placed on any number of classes of goods, but the description of the goods or articles on which it appears must be inscribed on the two copies. The fee for registering each trade-mark is five francs. A separate petition it not necessary for each trade-mark registered.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND SERBIA.

Future Commercial Relations.

Presiding at a luncheon given at the Ritz Hotel on February 19, to the members of the Serbian Economic and Industrial Mission on the conclusion of their tour by the Federation of British Industries, Sir Richard Vassar Smith, the President, said that general questions of reconstruction ought to be dealt with officially by the British and Serbian Governments, but he suggested the formation of an unofficial Committee, comprising members of the Mission and the Federation, to maintain close touch between Serbian and British business communities with a view to the encouragement of trade between the two countries. They did not forget that before the war Serbia was self-supporting, and there was no doubt that, with the assistance we might be able to give in finance, shipping, and trade, and with her proved industry, intelligence, and perseverance, Serbia would acquire renewed strength and prosperity.

The Serbian Minister, M. Yovanovitch, expressed his thanks for the hospitality accorded to the Mission during its visit. They had come to make known their desires and views and to take counsel with the people of Great Britain and advantage of their experience of industry and commerce, which was the first in the world.

Dr. Djouritch said they had come into direct touch with the most important industries and manufactures of Great Britain, and had seen over fifty different factories. He believed it was known in England that their ideas as to the future of Serbian trade were sound and possible, and that it was realised that they ought to have strong commercial relations with this country. Serbia was able to produce the kind of article England required, and she wanted all the manufactured articles which England could supply better than most countries which supplied her before the war. They wanted an influential British bank to devote its activities to the East, and especially to Serbia, and also maritime communication and transport organisation to carry English goods into Serbia and Serbian goods to Great Britain. He wanted an organisation of British people who would devote their activities to propagating trade between Great Britain and Serbia, including representatives of British trades and manufactures all over the country, with headquarters in London and smaller societies in centres all over England. By this means Serbian commercial aspirations could be developed and her industries, which were ruined by the war, reorganised. The formation of such an organisation would be the best result of the visit of the Mission to Great Britain.

On the proposal of the chairman, it was decided to form a British Committee to work in touch with a similar Serbian Committee to promote active commercial relations between the two countries, and it was announced that Admiral Sir Charles Dundas had promised to be secretary of the British Committee.

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

Improvement in November.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 26.

The State accounts for the month of November, just published, reveal a remarkable improvement in the financial position of the Egyptian Government. Revenue during the month amounted to £E2,713,866 as compared with £E2,251,669 in November 1916, and the respective figures for expenditure were £E2,215,770 and £E2,039,787. For the eight months the total revenue is £E15,018,777 and the total expenditure £E12,586,919 as against £E13,448,733 and £E11,859,354 at the end of the corresponding period last year. There is, therefore, a surplus of £E2,431,858 compared with one of £E1,589,379. To compare properly the two years, allowance must be made for the profits on the ghaffir cess and the excise on sugar, neither of which were included in the corresponding accounts of the 1916-17 financial year. Even deducting those amounts the improvement in the current year amounts to nearly £E600,000.

Revenue Increases.

The following are the main increases in revenue up to the end of November: customs, £E49,296; mixed courts fees, £E105,148; railway receipts, £E190,372; domains, £E114,567; military exemption fees, £E41,440; interest on funds, £E80,138; miscellaneous receipts, £E49,124; extraordinary receipts, £E311,558; and post office, £E23,678. The sole decreases of any note were £E170,017 in tobacco dues and £E41,877 in ports and lights dues. Excise on sugar appears for the first time in the November accounts with £E130,291 and ghaffir tax has brought in £E589,598. It is to be noted that the total amount estimated for the entire year under divers headings is already exceeded in the case of sale of land, domains receipts, assay fees and military exemption fees; the two last named items reflect the great prosperity of the fellahin.

The principal increases in expenditure during the eight months have been Mecca and Medina caravan, £E34,603; domains, £E18,693; the new frontiers administration, £E60,951; education, £E25,733; prisons, £E41,351; irrigation, £E165,285; war office, £E61,819; pensions, £E21,506; agriculture, £E22,733; mechanical service, £E28,274; Cairo Tanzim, £E27,238. Ghaffirs appear for the first time with £E471,362, whilst special war gratuities which are being granted this year stand for £E137,183. Decreases of £E468,281 are recorded in railway, and £E30,264 in provincial administrative expenditure.

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It is announced that the consent of H.M. Treasury has been obtained to the issue of the new capital required for the amalgamation of the London County and Westminster Bank with Parr's Bank.

Mr. Jameson Alers Hankey, late of the I.C.S. and of the firm of Messrs. Gellatly, Hankey and Co., ship and insurance brokers, left estate of the gross value of £48,048.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Better Market Conditions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has not shown any distinct change; but towards the close the tone has been a little better. After a very slack state of affairs for a couple of months there are indications of buyers being rather more prepared to place orders. The anticipated fall in values has not taken place and there now seems to be a possibility of still higher rates. Of course, much uncertainty exists as to the future course of events, and our customers are nervous as to committing themselves to deliveries a long way ahead. The prospects for supplies of Egyptian cotton do not show much alteration. Users seem to hold rather bearish views, and the spot demand in Liverpool remains poor. An increased business has recently been done in Egyptian yarns for India and certain producers have strengthened their position. A healthy demand is also being met with in fine qualities for Government cloths. The Bolton spinning trade is certainly in a strong position and full rates have to be paid for anything wanted. Shippers of piece goods to Egypt have not been inclined to place orders for distant delivery, but stock lots have been in request. Instances have been mentioned, however, of the re-sale of goods bought for Egypt. An increased inquiry has come through in light fabrics for India with occasional sales in dhooties at comparatively low figures. The China market remains in a poor way; but there are hopes of more activity now the new year is entered. Engagements of manufacturers are getting much more irregular. Quite early delivery can now be given in narrow printing cloths. Home trade continues to do very well, and substantial contracts have again been given out in strong and heavy materials for the Government. American yarns have rather tended to harden in quotation during the last day or two with some increase of business. Export buying in coarse and medium counts has been on a small scale.

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EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company will be held on February 27 at the company's office, 5, Rue Adib, Alexandria, at 4 p.m., to appoint a director to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir John Rogers, to appoint two directors to fill the vacancies caused by the deaths of Messrs. Rees and Henriques, and to pass a resolution that article 92 of the articles of association, as modified by the special resolution passed at the meeting on January 12, reads so that the remuneration of the directors shall be £E3,000 per annum, divided as they shall agree, or in default of agreement, equally. A confirmatory meeting will be held on March 15.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Mines and Forests in Albania.

Albania is at present the only region in the Balkan peninsula with insignificant industrial potentialities. The country is mountainous, and the only sources of livelihood for its inhabitants are cattle-breeding and agriculture carried on on most primitive lines. There is a story which the Albanians humorously relate to travellers who happen to express astonishment at the craggy appearance of their country, that when the "building" of the world was accomplished a great surplus of stones remained, which had to be thrown away somewhere, and as chance would have it they were allotted to Albania. However, in spite of this bad luck, the inhabitants make the most of it, and manage to export annually a good number of horses, oxen, sheep, and goats, as well as hides and wool. Italian and Austrian ports in the Adriatic are their best markets. Poultry-farming is carried on with better success, the income from eggs sent to Trieste alone—before the short-lived reign of the German Mpret—amounting to £20,000 annually. There are however, other natural resources, which, if properly exploited, might transform Albania into a rich State. There are mines of iron, the exploitation of which has never been attempted owing to the lack of public security, and the lignite mines are most important. Some of them are situated twenty to thirty miles from the sea, and a railway could be constructed without much difficulty. But the vast forests afford a ready and easier source of wealth. With very few exceptions, all are quite unexplored, and the transport of wood in logs, etc., from the forests to the sea would be facilitated by the utilisation of the rivers and rivulets which Albania possesses. Some years ago a French and two Italian companies obtained concessions for the exploitation of certain forests in the district of Durazzo and Scutari, but owing to the disturbed political conditions none of them attempted to commence work. And later, just before the Balkan war began, an English company arranged the lease of certain forests in Northern Albania, from which great quantities of railway sleepers could be obtained and brought to Liverpool or London at much less cost than those brought from other countries. So that there is ample evidence of rich resources in Albania.

Anglo-Serbian Trade.

If Anglo-Serbian trade relations have hitherto been comparatively restricted, this may be attributed to a very great extent to the political as well as commercial intrigues and so-called treaties by which Serbia was fettered by her north-western neighbours. Her geographical position, of course, helped these designs, but it must be also admitted that the Serbians have not shown the necessary energy and desire to approach British manufacturers, and thus enable them to see and realise the value of the Serbian market. Consular reports and spasmodic efforts to promote better commercial relations could not secure the desired effect, and thus British manufacturers knew as much of the "ground for business" in Serbia as of any other remote country in the East. THE NEAR EAST from the beginning of its existence has been advocating the promotion of Anglo-Serbian commercial relations, and sent a special representative to Serbia for that purpose, but, unfortunately, the present war broke out suddenly and he had to return. Its efforts for the promotion of such relations have, if anything, increased ever since; and in these columns, in which matters of interest to enterprising engineers, manufacturers, and contractors are dealt with, every effort is being made to give to such firms correct and detailed information concerning the prospects in Serbia.

The Question of Credit.

The question of credit has often been used by Germans as a "bogie" to keep away their competitors from markets in which they were interested, and nowhere has been used so much as in the Near East, as it has often been pointed out in these columns. Unfortunately, British manufacturers have not troubled themselves to find out if the allegations regarding the risks of giving credit in the Near East were true, and how and why the Germans were giving credit in those markets as freely as the native buyers were saying. The result was that the Germans secured the Near Eastern markets to the detriment of their British competitors. It will be, therefore, advisable for the Serbian Industrial Mission to explain the methods of credit that prevail in Serbia for the guidance of British manufacturers. Agricultural machinery will be mostly needed, and if the reorganisation of the Serbian co-operative agricultural societies could be effected as soon as peace was concluded, the difficulty of supplying Serbian farmers with the needed machinery on easy terms would be overcome. It is not, perhaps, well known that Serbia is the only country in the Balkan Peninsula where agricultural co-operative societies were established; they have been, as a matter of fact, in successful operation since 1883. In 1903 there were 228 agricultural credit and savings banks, which in addition to granting loans, bought agricultural necessaries for the agriculturists and farmers. If these banks and societies were reformed, as they undoubtedly will be, British manufacturers will find the secret of the Austrian and German success in the Serbian markets, and the exceptional value of Serbia as a market for agricultural machinery.

Aeroplane Passenger Service.

Aeroplane mail and passenger services are being projected in different countries, and it is considered certain that very soon after the war ends there will be a big development in the use of aircraft for the rapid conveyance of mails. According to reports from the Near East, a scheme for an aeroplane passenger service is being discussed there by an enterprising group of enthusiasts. The idea is for a regular air traffic between the Eastern Mediterranean coast and the Ægean Islands. The scheme is very attractive, since with the liberation of the Holy Land, "a flight to Jerusalem" will be the dream of every native Christian in the Levant. But as regards the financial success of the enterprise there are doubts which its promoters should seriously consider before attempting to carry out the scheme. The island Ikaria, which is the place where Ikaros, "the first airman," came to grief on his flight from Crete, owing to "bad calculations," etc, will be on the line of the proposed air traffic.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EGYPTIAN AND FOREIGN TRUST.

Future of Egypt.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., was held on February 18, at Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, E.C., Sir Alexander Roger (the Chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. H. O. King, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice and the auditors' report,

The chairman proposed "that the directors' report and the annual statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1917, be adopted." Last year, he said, they would recollect, for the first time in ten years they had a credit balance in the profit and loss account. This had been maintained and improved by £088. They were entirely dependent for their revenue in this company nowadays on interest and dividends. There were no commissions or underwriting fees in these days, so that the increase was a pure increase in interest yield. As in former years since the war commenced, the auditors' fee had been reduced, and there simply remained in the profit and loss account £4,587, which they proposed to carry forward. As regards the balance-sheet itself, among the inheritances they had from their predecessors on the Board were two or three large holdings in Egypt, one of them being the Sidi Salem land shares, which they would notice had been rapidly increasing in value recently. Whether this increase in value would be maintained he dared not prophesy, but it was perfectly clear that Egypt to-day was probably more prosperous than it had ever been before.

Another reason for its prosperity at present was the presence of British troops there, but he thought there was a feature in that connection which had escaped attention. Among those British troops was a very large number of business men. Prior to the war Egypt was simply and solely a land for tourists and a few business men. To-day it was being invaded by the largest number of business men that ever came to any country, and that was bound to have a very great effect on the country after the war. There was a great deal of talk nowadays of trade organisation, especially in connection with production. There was no use in talking of production unless they had outlets for their productions, and it seemed to him that Egypt should be encouraged and looked after by the business men of the Empire, because, with enormous resources absolutely unscratched, it represented a field second to none in the Dominions. More than ever the future of this country depended on its commercial strength, and in this connection one of the great political aims of the Empire must be to place for ever an impassable barrier between Germany and its aspirations in the East. Standing as it did on the gateway of the East a strong, prosperous British Egypt was essential to the maintenance of the integrity of the British Empire. It was vital to Australia as well as to India, and no effort should be spared by those Dominions, in conjunction with the home countries, to encourage and foster trade with Egypt in every way.

Mr. A. T. Cruickshank seconded the motion submitted by the chairman.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the retiring director and auditors were re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. Reginald Taylor, seconded by Dr. Gerald T. Moody, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors, and the proceedings then terminated.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Current Year's Prospects.

The adjourned ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on February 20 at the registered office, 1, London Wall Buildings, Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman) presiding.

The Acting Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Our annual report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account having been circulated and sent to all shareholders, we will, with your permission, follow the usual course of taking them as read.

The directors' report gives the number of bales of cotton forwarded from our stations in the Sudan, and, on the whole, the yield was satisfactory. The result in the Gezireh would have been better if the crop had not suffered at the end of the season through a shortage of water due to lack of spares for the pumping stations. The total amount of cotton produced in the Zeidab district was 6,450 cantars, as against 8,362 cantars the previous year. The average yield at Barakat was 3.2 cantars per feddan, and at Tayiba 3.47 cantars, representing a total of cotton produced at the former of 8,008 cantars and 6,237 at the latter station, including Scarto. As you are aware, the prices of cotton have been extremely high during the past season, and your syndicate benefited thereby. On the other hand, shipping facilities have been correspondingly difficult and rates very high.

Dealing now with the balance-sheet, our share capital remains the same as last year, and our debenture capital is also unchanged at £57,000. As mentioned to you last year, our debentures had been extended for repayment to July 1, 1923, but in view of our strong cash position, your board is of opinion that we should now commence gradually to redeem them either by purchase in the open market or by regular drawings. My view is that you should allow us to set aside for this purpose a sum not exceeding £20,000 for this year. The Gezireh reserve account has been increased from £12,000 to £16,000. Creditors in London (£3,016) represents drafts drawn on the London office in June and not presented in the old year. The Sudan figure of £23,906 is represented by £18,430 due to tenants, £795 deposits of our staff, and £4,680 outstanding accounts. On the other side of the balance-sheet you will observe concession and land account has been reduced by about £3,000, being expenses incurred on a land concession we held from the Sudan Government, and which we have now released. General development.—The Zeidab figure again remains unaltered. On the other hand, the Gezireh figure is increased by £3,633, of which £3,070 has been expended at Barakat, chiefly in connection with the pumping installation, and £562 2s. 5d. at Tayiba for canalisation and irrigation. Buildings and furniture, canalisation, and pumping installation remain at the same figure as last year. Agricultural implements are less by £1,000. Ginning factories have been further enlarged at a capital cost of about £1,000. Tug, barges, and boat account is unchanged. All the cotton and seed from our two ginning factories has been sold and realised at the figure shown in the balance-sheet. As mentioned in the directors' report, your syndicate purchased, in joint account with our friends, the British Cotton-Growing Association, Manchester, 2,050 bales of Tokar cotton.

The Financial Position.

Debtors in the Sudan, you will observe, are considerably less than last year. At the end of last year the Zeidab tenants owed the syndicate about £25,000. The amount in previous years was very much higher, and was being gradually reduced every year. We adopted a new system at our three stations in the Sudan three years ago, by which all tenants' accounts debtor at June 30 are being written off annual revenue, any recovery later being placed to the following year's profit. A large proportion of the amount appearing as tenants' loans at Zeidab was incurred several years ago, but in order to put our tenants at Zeidab on a similar footing to those in the Gezireh we have decided to take drastic measures and now write off the whole amount, and by doing so anticipate that we shall get better returns from our Zeidab property. Cash is at the figure shown in the balance-sheet, but you will be pleased to hear that our cash position, after payment of all outgoings since the beginning of our financial year, stands approximately at £120,000 at to-day's date, which you will agree is highly satisfactory. It is difficult to say what shipping arrangements may be possible for this season's crop and how long we may have to hold our cotton in the Sudan, and for this reason a strong cash position is a necessity.

Profit and loss account shows receipts from all sources amounting to £77,420, or £35,400 more than last year. Expenses in London and the Sudan are £26,200, and debenture interest £3,400. Including the amount written off for Zeidab debtors, we have written off the sum of £28,934, as per details shown in the profit and loss account, and have put aside the sum of £4,000 as reserve for Barakat. The final results therefore show a profit of £14,837, which is £11,560 better than last year. From this we propose to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. for the past year, which, after payment, will enable us to bring forward a balance of about £11,000 to the new accounts.

The Outlook.

As regards our prospects for the coming year, the managing director has just cabled us that the Zeidab cotton area is 3,000 feddans, against 3,100 feddans the previous year, but with an increased area under cultivation by irrigation supplied to natives from our pumping stations. Picking at Zeidab is in full swing, and already 3,700 cantars have been received at our ginning works from our tenants, whilst 1,000 cantars have been bought by us from the native growers. At Tayiba the cotton area is 1,700 feddans, against 1,800 feddans, thus showing a slight reduction. Picking has also started, and 2,000 cantars are in hand. We expect a considerable increase of yield from this station this year, probably amounting to about 1,500 cantars. At Barakat 2,156 feddans have been cultivated this year, against 2,500 feddans in the previous season. The reason for this reduction in the area is that in the previous year we were short of irrigation water at the end of the cotton season owing chiefly to difficulties in procuring the necessary spares for the pumping station, and anticipating similar difficulties this year we reduced the area under cotton cultivation. At this station 700 cantars have been picked so far. The yield per cantar promises to be better than last year, and would have been very much better if we had not suffered from a shortage of water at the very beginning of the planting season. A general survey of the prospects of the present year thus points to a larger crop compared with the previous year, and this notwithstanding a decreased area under cultivation. Preparations for the 1918-19 crop are, I understand, well in hand.

During the past summer, as indicated in the directors' report, the Sudan Government sent to this country eminent delegates for the purpose of bringing our agreement with them up to date and also for finding the necessary means for the continuation of the irrigation works in the Gezireh district. I am happy to

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say that all our negotiations—and there were a great many meetings—were conducted in a mutually satisfactory and cordial manner, and that both objects were achieved, so that the Sudan Government is in the position of continuing the irrigation works, which, as you know, were commenced some time ago. As a matter of fact, a large body of men are working now at the excavations of the dam at Sennar.

It now only remains for me to state that our valued colleague, Brigadier-General Lord Lovat, is still on active service in France, which prevents him from being present to-day. Our managing director, Mr. MacGillivray, is in the Sudan looking after our interests, which likewise explains his absence to-day. Both Mr. Hannay and Mr. Hutton have again been of the greatest assistance to me during the past year, when important decisions had to be taken. I must also put on record the board's appreciation of the loyal and faithful services rendered during difficult times by our manager and entire staff in the Sudan. I now move "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts at June 30, 1917, now laid before the meeting, be, and the same are hereby, received and adopted."

Mr. D. M. Hannay seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Our market in Egyptian securities was very active during the early part of last week, but has been rather quieter during the last two days, and in a general way there is not much change in prices to report. In Government securities a biggish business has been done in Egyptian Unifieds round 86, and Egyptian 3½ per cent. Prefs have continued to be wanted.

In Bank shares some trifling transactions have taken place in Nationals, which are 1-16 easier at 18½, whilst a fair amount of business has been transacted in Agriculturals, which also record a drop of 1-32 at 6 7-16. There has been some demand for Agricultural Bank Founders round 500, but the absence of sellers has prevented any business being transacted.

Delta Light Railway Prefs have been in persistent demand, and are closing at 6⅝.

In Land shares Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 24s. 3d. Allotments have continued to be wanted round 4¼, but there have been no sellers. In Behéras there has been a good demand for Egyptian accounts up to 14¼, but the price remained unaltered at the close at 14 1-16. Behéras Prefs have improved ¼ to 4½. Delta Lands have continued a dull spot, receding further 7½d. to 16s. on profit-taking. In Egyptian and Foreign Trusts some very fair transactions have been concluded round the unchanged price of 10s. 9d. New Egyptians have again been the centre of a very large business, but are closing unchanged at 19s. 3d. after business as high as 19s. 7½d. Sidi Salems have continued a very firm spot, and are closing fractionally firmer again at 49s. Union Foncières, after some steady absorption for Egyptian accounts, have relapsed 3-16 to 3¼. In United Egyptian Lands some fairly large transactions were done chiefly at 1s. 9d.

In Miscellaneous shares Salts have again improved 1s. 3d. to 40s. 3d., whilst there was a good deal of excitement in Khedivial Mails in the early part of the week; and, after touching 43s., they close 1s. 9d. up at 40s. 3d.

In Greek securities some small transactions have taken place, but the only change in prices is a further advance of 3 points in Greek 5 per cent. "Currant" bonds to 95 at which price some transactions have taken place.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 last states that the profits, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges, income-tax, and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £85,066, which, added to £24,277 brought forward, makes a total of £109,344. From this £6,104, the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, leaving £104,240 which the directors have dealt with as follows:—Interim dividend for the year at the rate of 3s. per share, paid in June, free of tax, £15,000; transfer to reserve account, £30,000; bank premises account, £10,000; final dividend at the rate of 5s. per share, paid January 2, free of tax, £25,000; carrying forward £24,240. The balance-sheet shows:—Reserve account, £190,000; notes in circulation, £552,008; deposits, £1,187,774; bills payable, endorsements and adjustments, £1,711,315; cash in hand, at bankers and in transit, £1,175,078; money lent in London at call and short notice, £31,800; Treasury bills, £1,000,000; investments in British and Colonial Government and other securities taken at or under prices ruling on September 20, 1917, £568,346; bills discounted, loans and advances, including adjustments and past due bills and loans, £1,209,787; bills receivable, £336,132. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., February 25, 12.30 p.m.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		Feb. 20
	July 27 1914	Feb. 13	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86	86
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	73½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92xd	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	80	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	73
„ 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4¾	6 15/32	6 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14½	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7¾	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4¾	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18 9/16	18½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6½	6⅝
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72⅜
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/9	24/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14 1/16	14 1/16
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4¼xd	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/7½	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/9	10/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/3	19/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	48/9	49/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 7/16	3¼
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	[illegible]	39/-	40/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	38/6	40/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Feb. 8.		1918. Week ended Feb. 7.
Cattle markets	1,385	..	763
General markets	432	..	455
Receipts (£)	1,817	..	1,218
Total for year	9,513	..	7,017

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
February 14, 15, 16, 17	970,000	630,000
February 18	280,000	360,000

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

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Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
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RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £160,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

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Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Sabzavar Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

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The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 356.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The past week has been rather unusually crowded with events in the Near East, even for these crowded days. First in military importance must be reckoned the capture of Jericho by the British troops. General Allenby's new advance, of which last week's bulletins supplied the first intimation, bids fair to be as successful as his autumn campaign; the enemy appear to have made little real resistance, and, since nobody would suggest that they are demoralised, it would seem that they have planned, or are planning, their defences further to the north. How that may be the future alone can show. But it is curious at this moment to read an extract, published this week, from Mr. Gerard's diary, kept when American Ambassador in Berlin, under date October, 1915: " There is talk now of marching to Egypt."

That particular kind of talk is probably at a discount now, as is also the idea " that Persia will come in under Germany and attack India," which Mr. Gerard notes in August, 1915. Persia still presents many problems, but the British propose that Persia shall be allowed to settle them free of German intrigues. And, incidentally, one means of effecting that has been the Mesopotamian campaign—where we are glad to notice a further advance up the Euphrates this week—which drives a solid wedge between Germany and Persia. Each successive advance by the British weakens German prestige in Asia. Count Hertling appears to show himself rather uneasily conscious of this fact in his speech this week.

Against these two British successes have to be set something gained by the Turks. Their occupation of Trebizond, anticipated last week in these columns, has been duly announced. For two years that ancient city, famous in Greek history and as the dying ember of the Byzantine Empire, had been held by Russia; but the collapse of our Ally and the withdrawal of her troops left its recapture an easy matter for the Turks to achieve. With the Black Sea again open to their ships, and Trebizond in their hands, the munitionment of their armies on the Mesopotamian front will be facilitated. Moreover, it has to be admitted that there is no chance of turning the Turk out of Trebizond at present.

Russia, or rather Petrograd, has provided an amazing spectacle during the last few days, whose ultimate consequences for Eastern Europe it would be idle to appraise. No more abject surrender has ever been made than by Messrs. Lenin and Trotsky; it has been almost too much for British Bolsheviks, although it has found a champion in the *New Europe*. But the surrender has been useless, for the German armies have marched steadily forward. The Russian troops, which were told to resist to the last proclamation, seem to have fled incontinently; there has been talk of resistance in Petrograd, but it is not more likely to materialise than any other of the Leninite promises.

Lenin has advocated unconditional surrender and has carried his point. The negotiations, if that is the right word for dictated terms, which Trotsky will not dare to dispute, even by " a magnificent gesture," are to begin again; the Berlin terms make it clear that Germany intends to annex, directly or indirectly, the Baltic Provinces, to make the Baltic a *mare clausum*—Russia keeps only Petrograd as a port—to suffocate Poland by the creation of German-controlled protectorates on her eastern frontier, and to control the Ukraine. Those persuasive agents of self-determination, the German police, are to remain in the conquered provinces to supervise the freeing of the people from the Russian yoke.

Two other items in the conditions of peace are worth more than passing attention. Russia is to agree to the abolition of the Turkish Capitulations—a matter which obviously does not interest the Bolsheviks in the least, although it has been a vital point in Russian statecraft in the past; and she is further to consent to the restoration of commercial intercourse with Germany, on the terms laid down by Berlin—a matter which may conceivably interest the heads of those Russian businesses which still survive, as well as those who advocate full freedom of trade for Germany. Russia, of course, must accept; if Germany told Petrograd that the procession of the equinox was to be abolished Petrograd would have to agree.

Constantinople will, no doubt, be duly grateful for the penultimate item in these terms, or she would be were it not that Germany is a far greater danger to the Ottoman Empire than ever Russia would have been. But Turkey is a mere satellite at the moment. Already a German paper is discussing far greater schemes, and the domination of the Baghdad Railway is now exchanged for the prospect of dominating the Siberian Railway and so constructing a " Continental League " from Hamburg to Vladivostok, with China the milch-cow of Germany. The scheme is, of course, merely a new and larger edition of Napoleon's great scheme for crushing sea-power by land-power—and the German historians seem to have forgotten their history when they lend countenance to the idea.

This scheme for the domination of Asia—for it is nothing less—is obviously far beyond the ambit of Turkey. It presupposes the control of Northern Asia through the Siberian Railway, and the control of Southern Asia through the Ukraine gate into the Middle East. But that in itself implies control of both those great countries, and that control at the present moment implies the restoration of order. It must by no means be taken for granted that this is beyond the power of Germany, even though Austria has rather ostentatiously stood aside. The Bolsheviks and the Anarchists are incapable of real resistance; and it is quite possible that the propertied classes in Russia, or what remains of them, will acquiesce in the German advance so long as it stamps out anarchy, and the murder and arson which have accompanied the anarchy of the past year. But they will not acquiesce a moment longer, and even the Russian peasant, docile as he is, will not enjoy German rule when he realises its permanent meaning.

In other words, Germany may obtain a transient immediate success and an ultimate and permanent failure. But before she realises her failure, her policy may have become definitely oriented towards the East, and it will be too late for her to withdraw. There are signs already of this new orientation. Count Hertling's speech may be read as a bid to the Entente, on the lines that Germany will make reasonable terms, or what Germany considers reasonable terms—which is not quite the same thing—in return for a free hand in the East. He is even willing to talk about Belgium, provided the Entente forget Russia and Turkey.

This conversion is extraordinarily significant, for it implies that the land-power, or Eastern school, have beaten the sea-power, or Western school. In vain does Admiral Tirpitz declare that Belgium means everything to him, and Dr. Solf give innumerable lectures on "Africa and golden joys"; the shutting-off of Germany for three years and a-half from the outer world by the slow, inexorable might of British sea-power has produced its inevitable effect on her policy. It is not for us to advise the enemy, and it would probably place Admiral Tirpitz in deeper disgrace than ever for an Englishman to suggest that he is more nearly right in his conception of world-policy than Count Hertling. But it does, as a fact, seem a rather elementary proposition that German exclusion from Africa, America, and Australasia is scarcely worth bartering against the very problematic profits of controlling Russia in the hope of conquering Asia—where, as it happens, the British and the Japanese already have some considerable possessions and influence.

More extended reference to the position of Roumania is made elsewhere in this issue. Here it is only necessary to note that, according to reports from Amsterdam and Vienna, which are not necessarily trustworthy, the Central Powers have offered Roumania the three southern districts of Bessarabia—Kahul, Bolgrad, and Ismail. Bulgaria, in return, wants her military frontier extended "at least as far" as the Czernavora-Constanza line, while Hungary requires "military securities" along her Transylvanian frontier—which, in the language of German diplomacy, presumably means that Hungary is to hold forts on Roumanian territory. To these overtures, according to the *Neues Wiener Tagblatt*, General Averescu proved himself not very amenable.

Further than this, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, asking the Sobranje for a war credit of £40,000,000 prior to his departure for Bucharest, stated that he "hoped soon to be in a position to declare that this heavy loan would not be borne by the Bulgarians." No further indication is given as to his meaning, but it would appear that something in the nature of an indemnity from Roumania was hinted at, unless we accept the alternative, that Berlin had again been applied to for an advance.

Berlin, it is officially admitted by the Turkish Government, has also been applied to by Constantinople to relieve its pressing financial necessities; Djavid Bey having stated, in introducing the Budget, that the Ottoman deficit of fourteen millions would have to be covered by financial operations, concerning which he had recently been in negotiation with Germany, who has already financed Turkey to the extent of 200 millions, although the sums actually paid by Germany to Turkey amount only to seventy millions. The balance of 130 millions is no doubt accounted for by the purchase of munitions and other requirements of war in Germany; the terms on which the accommodation has been granted are not stated. But, seeing that Turkey has already given Germany the commercial right to exploit her after the war, she cannot give much more, and it is, of course, becoming increasingly difficult for her to meet her current debt services out of revenue.

Public opinion in Holland appears to be apprehensive as to the possibility of Germany forming an oil monopoly out of the Roumanian supply. That something of the kind is contemplated, which would have serious effects on Dutch interests in petroleum wells in Roumania, seems to be certain. Moreover, it may be remembered that a scheme of this kind was actually in contemplation before the war. Full details are given in Ambassador Gerard's recent book. At that time he managed to defeat the scheme, and somewhat surprised the Germans by his action—they having supposed that the American Government would never put up a fight for the Standard Oil Company, as they ingenuously admitted—but the Berlin monopolists are not likely to take much notice of Dutch opposition. It is suggested by the Dutch that this step makes an economic war inevitable.

England is hearing very little about India just now, and the ordinary newspaper reader is left to conjecture the march of current events from such unsatisfying materials as a report of the Bombay cotton market for the week before last. Let us admit frankly that the ordinary reader takes this deprivation quite calmly. He is much busier than usual, he has many things to think about, and if his morning paper says nothing about India he is not likely to raise the topic, or, if it occurs to him at all, he concludes that there is probably nothing to be said. We are far from blaming this apathy, but it is well that people in India, particularly politicians, should realise its existence, because it marks a change from the conditions prevailing during the last three years, and a change which may have consequences of some practical importance.

After the outbreak of the war India seemed to have come into her own. The timely arrival of Indian troops in the West, and their achievements on this unfamiliar ground, combined with the open-handed loyalty of the Princes to convince home-keeping people that India was a source of strength to the Empire, and, consequently, that India was "all right." This sound, if somewhat vague, impression was strengthened materially by the attitude of India's representatives in the War Cabinet and the Imperial Council. In June last the man in the street was confident that India was "quite all right," and, that being so, he was ready to accept without serious question any proposals which might have been put forward by the Government for constitutional or political reform.

The last few months have witnessed a change in this respect. There is not, we should say, any sign of anxiety on the part of the public; news is sought less keenly than it was, but in its absence the tone of comment is a little less confident than it was. Scarcely anyone took the trouble to study the agitation which broke out so suddenly last summer, but the suggestion of passive resistance has left a bad taste, while in business circles the threat to capital which we noticed recently has not been ignored. The result is that the man in the street is more disposed to be critical; he is not asking for detailed information, he would probably refuse to read it, if it were placed before him, but his attitude at the moment is such that opposition to particular measures of constitutional reform might count on a more patient hearing than it could have hoped for in the summer of 1917.

The blame for this change lies undoubtedly at the doors of some of the Indian political leaders. They have insisted on an immediate hearing for their demands, which after all are but mint, anise, and cummin by the side of the weightier matters in which the Empire is now concerned, and they will have only themselves to thank if demands put forward in this spirit are coldly and critically received. The best thing that can happen for India just now is that the representatives at the impending meetings of the War Cabinet should succeed in recovering the lost ground by placing the true position once more before the people of this country, and this they can easily do, provided men of the right type are chosen—the men who came last year, or others possessed of equal qualifications.

The dormant but still unsettled questions connected with the northern frontier of India are recalled by the announcement of the death of Mr. Claude White, whose twenty years of work in Sikkim and Bhutan did so much to prepare the way for an ultimate solution. Tibet and India must finally be friends, but, human nature being what it is, the possibility that they may first be enemies should not be overlooked, and in any case the establishment of cordial relations with two of the three States on the frontier was a necessary step in the right direction. It is characteristic of the country that the main credit of the achievement belongs, not to professed diplomatic or political officers, but to a Cooper's Hill engineer, who was selected for this particular duty, and performed it with consistent and conspicuous success.

The revised manifesto of the Labour Party on war aims is an altogether more satisfactory document than its predecessors; a few more editions, with accompanying revisions and appropriate excisions, will probably bring it approximately up to date as an expression of what the British workman really thinks. We are here, fortunately, only concerned with the Near Eastern aspect of the programme, which is firm on the question of a German evacuation of Serbia and Montenegro. The German Minority Socialists will approve this, but not, we think, the Majority, who have vacillated and hesitated after their usual manner. The Labour Party also desire a settlement on just national lines in the Balkans—which is irreproachable; and they are still in favour of a Customs Union. Why, exactly, the Balkans should be allowed a Customs Union when the British Empire is implicitly denied it, is an unsolved mystery; but there will probably be no serious dispute over its advantage from the Balkan standpoint. There will also be no serious dissent from the proposition that at the present moment, and apparently for some time to come, the ideal will remain the ideal in this distracted region.

As to the African settlement, the idea of an international government of the tropics—was this not Mr. Morel's scheme?—met with such universal reprobation that it is modified, but not entirely withdrawn; it seems to be suggested that a combination of national and international government should be tried. This appears to be precisely the most efficient method of creating friction between the Powers that has ever been devised; but this section is so obscure that it has evidently been the scene of verbal battle; and the unsatisfactory compromise that results, which is extremely difficult to understand, will evidently not stand the next revision of Labour terms.

It further expresses the opinion that Armenia, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Palestine cannot be handed back to the systematically cruel domination of the Turkish Government—an excellent proposition; but the manifesto proceeds to suggest that, if these countries are unable to settle their own destinies—or rather, "feel themselves unable to do so," which is not quite the same thing —they shall be placed under a Supernational Authority. Frankly, it appears to us that the quickest road to the next war is through the troubles which would arise out of this new super-European Concert, but this is not the place to discuss the very basis of the Labour faith.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 27.

H.H. the Sultan.

This week the Sultan gave another State banquet, his guests on this occasion including the Ministers, the Russian, Belgian, French, Italian, Greek, and American Diplomatic Agents, a number of high Government officials, and some of the leading foreign and Egyptian notables. His Highness is taking a great deal of interest in racing, and has twice been present at race meetings since the first occasion some three weeks ago. He invariably attends in State, driving up the course with his picturesque bodyguard, accompanied by the Prime Minister, and during the meetings holds informal levées in his private tribune. On Thursday evening Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate entertained the Sultan at dinner at the Residency, their other guests including Prince Yusef Kamel, Lady Allenby, the Ministers, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, H.E. Said Zulfikar Pasha, Grand Chamberlain; Miralai Castle Smith, A.D.C. to his Highness; Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Watson, Military Attaché to the High Commissioner, and the Residency staff. British troops accorded the Sultan military honours on his arrival at and departure from the Residency.

Cholera Precautions.

The Ministry of the Interior has issued very strict and clear instructions to all the provincial authorities with regard to the steps that should be taken to prevent any outbreak of cholera. Especially are persons returning from the east bank of the Suez Canal to be closely watched. Any symptoms of the disease are to be reported at once, and the precautionary measures to be taken are very clearly enumerated. This is an exceedingly wise move on the part of the Government, for, of course, the number of persons coming into Egypt from the east side of the Canal is to-day very considerable, and although there is at present no imminent danger of any epidemic the Public Health Authorities are quite right to leave nothing to chance. It was, indeed, entirely through disregard for the most ordinary precautions that the last serious outbreak of cholera took place in 1902. To-day there is a much larger and more efficient medical staff in the provinces than there was then, and the people generally are more sensible, so that there should be little fear of any disease spreading for the same reasons as those which caused it to spread fifteen years ago.

Palestine Trophies.

A most interesting exhibition of Palestine trophies has been held on the Abdin Palace Square. Specimens of every weapon, Turkish as well as Boche, captured during the recent offensive, were shown, including rifles galore, howitzers, machine-guns, anti-aircraft guns, and miscellaneous equipment and artillery appurtenances. The thoroughness of the Boche methods was illustrated by an Austrian field kitchen or coffee-boiler, which had riveted on its front a plate on which were engraved the most minute instructions as to the manner in which it was to be used. Three aeroplanes—an Albatross Scout and two two-seaters of the same make—two of which had been captured and reflown by the R.F.C., as the markings indicated, constituted a great attraction to the majority of the visitors to the exhibition; but the most interesting exhibits, at any rate from an historic point of view, were undoubtedly two 4.7 long-range naval guns. These guns had been made by the Elswick Ordnance Company as part of the armament of the notorious Turkish cruiser "Hamidieh." They had been taken off that ship and transported overland on Turkish gun-carriages to Gaza, where, by the irony of fate, they fell into our hands.

State Purchase of the Telephone System.

After negotiations which have lasted for over four years the Government purchase of the telephone system is about to be carried through. The telephone system is the property of the Telephone Company of Egypt, which works under a series of concessions granted by the Egyptian Government. The price which the company will receive is £E755,000. It will be paid down in a lump sum, and the Government will take over the existing staff. The proposal has now been submitted to the Council of Ministers, who will discuss it, and, it is hoped, approve the purchase at one of its next sittings. It is not anticipated that the shareholders will raise any objections. As soon as they have passed the scheme the date of transfer will be decided upon and the control of the telephone system of Egypt will, it is understood, be entrusted to the State Telegraphs Department, which forms part of the State Railways Administration.

The Coptic Community.

The elections to the Coptic Meglis Milli were held this week. They should have taken place some three weeks ago, but had to be postponed owing to certain irregularities which occurred during the voting. The Meglis Milli is the body which deals with all the questions of personal status in the Coptic Community, directs all its educational institutions, and looks after its Wakfs in Cairo. The members are elected for a period of five years, and their election has to be confirmed by the Government. As has been mentioned on several occasions in this correspondence, the affairs of the Coptic Community have for some time been the subject of internal controversy, and a great deal of feeling has from time to time been shown by the various parties which have been formed. The main point of contention and cause of dissatisfaction have been the autocratic power exercised by the Patriarch and his supporters, and the interest in the elections centred in the possibility that representatives of what may be called the Liberal party might supplant the Patriarchal clique on the Meglis. Owing to the irregularities which occurred the first time the elections were held, and which there is reason to believe were not unintentional, the proceedings had to be annulled. In the meanwhile, great pressure was brought to bear on the Government by interested parties to persuade them to postpone indefinitely the elections which were already overdue and to renew the mandate of the present members, most of whom were partisans of the patriarch. But the Government refused to entertain this suggestion. The elections were ordered to be held this week, and the Ministry of the Interior took very extensive measures to ensure that all the legal forms should be observed. Everything passed off quietly and smoothly, but at the time of writing the result of the voting is not yet known.

A Diplomatic Wedding.

An interesting social event took place on Saturday, when Mlle. Ivonne Defrance was married to Brigadier-General G. D. Clarke, D.S.O. Mlle. Defrance is the charming daughter of M. Defrance, who for several years has ably filled the post of French Diplomatic Agent in Cairo. She has taken great interest in all war work carried out in Cairo on behalf of the Allied troops, and her popularity with all communities has been evident in the pleasure with which the news of her forthcoming marriage was everywhere received. The chapel of the Collège de la Sainte Famille, where the marriage was celebrated, was crowded with prominent European residents and Egyptians, the assembly including the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, Mahmoud Pasha Fakhry representing the Sultan, the Ministers, and the Diplomatic Corps.

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THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

THE CAPTURE OF JERICHO.

The western flank of our Palestine army was secure to the extreme limits of Judæa—the River Aujeh—by the middle of last December. In the successful advance which came as a rebound from the Turks' attack immediately after Christmas General Allenby's position in Jerusalem was made secure to the north. Only on the east the enemy remained near enough to give trouble, and their line of defence appears to have been one of great strength. This has now been all altered to our good by a most successful three days' advance last week through the Wilderness of Judæa—on a front of twelve miles—down over 3,000 feet to Jericho and the Jordan. Not only has the bridgehead been secured, but also the western bank of the Jordan and the line of its tributary from the west, el Aujeh, from its source to the Jordan. This Aujeh must not be confused with the other river of the same name north of Jaffa, the successful crossing of which on December 20-21 is so graphically described by Mr. Massey in the *Daily Telegraph* this week (February 27).

This completes the conquest of what somewhat vaguely we may describe as Judæa, the two Aujeh rivers being, roughly speaking, the dividing lines between Judæa and Samaria on the coast and in the Jordan valley respectively.

It is very satisfactory to learn that, though the Turks appear to have put up desperate rearguard actions, our losses in the advance have been relatively small.

The Wilderness of Judæa.

The district known as the "Wilderness of Judæa," lying between the central mountain plateau and the Dead Sea and Jordan plain, is an extraordinary belt of country which, except along the Jerusalem-Jericho carriage road, is very seldom visited by even residents in Palestine. It is a wild and rugged land, exceedingly dry and barren most of the year, and entirely destitute of any settled villages or towns. No sooner are the cultivated fields of the line of border villages—all but a very few miles off the water-parting—passed than there is a rapid fall to this land of sterility and drought. It is dry because the moisture-laden air, which has yielded its rain as it ascended for the coast, in rolling down these slopes contracts, and so not only gives up no moisture, but actually becomes moisture-absorbing. It is true that, from time to time, when sudden heavy showers fall on the mountain plateau, great floods of water tear down the usually dry torrent beds, sweeping all before them. I have known the water, in endeavouring to pass under the narrow arches of some of the bridges on the Jericho road, to be piled up ten or twelve feet high, and to sweep over the top across the road, carrying the coping-stones with it, and yet in a very short time—less than an hour—all sign of running water had gone. Bedawin and their cattle have been carried away and drowned in these circumstances in wadies in which there is water but a very few *hours* in the whole year. But though the rain is at rare intervals a danger, and when it comes makes the hillsides greasy and slippery, this is a region where normally the want of water is the greatest trouble. The dry heat in the summer months is tremendous when riding in the sunshine; there is no kind of shelter, and the steep-rounded hills afford little or no shade. I well remember one occasion when during our ascent of the steep and rugged road from the Ain Feshkhah Oasis, at the north-west corner of the Dead Sea, our baggage mule rolled over the cliff a considerable distance, so that our water-bottles were broken and the contents spilled. We had one small orange among four, and our lunch consisted of sardines and very dry bread! Perhaps the reader can picture how enjoyable that lunch was, although we had had no food since long before daybreak! After this came hours of riding across the sun-baked plain of El Bukaa and upwards into the mountains. At length, to our joy, we caught the tinkle of bells, and we came across a Bedawin with some goats. Freshly milked goats' milk is good, but never was there such a draught as we had. Thence onwards on all the way until we were close to Jerusalem not a drop of water did we find.

From Jerusalem to Jericho.

The scattered Bedawin pasture their flocks here in spring and early summer when there is a thin coating of herbage on the chalky hillsides. They have made life possible by constructing a few reservoirs—carefully guarded—in places either in the torrent beds or hillsides. Although this district borders all the mountain region of Judæa on the east and presents its wildest and most rugged features further south, the region through which our advance has been made lay between the Wady en Nar in the south and the Wady Kelt. It is a land avoided by the native traveller not only for its drought, but also because it is a well-known haunt of robbers. The parable of the Good Samaritan is rightly located in the district from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road itself has been the scene of frequent robberies annually, while off the road no traveller is safe. An ancient highway runs from the Wady en Nar, that wild gorge which runs from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea, near the Greek Desert convent of Mar Saba, through the plain el Bukaa and enters the Jericho plain through the Wady Kuneitrah. Upon this road lies Jebel el Muntar, 1,725 feet above sea level and 3,000 above the Dead Sea, from the near slopes of which a magnificent view of the whole "wilderness," with the Dea Sea and mountains of Moab beyond, is obtained. This is supposed to be the mountain Zuk, down which the Jewish priests annually threw the unfortunate scapegoat, when once, to their dismay, the victim returned to Jerusalem. From here the path passes an open reservoir, dry in summer but full of thick, chalky water in the spring, and known as Bir Umm el Fas, and a further descent brings us into the Bukaa. This is an open plain some five miles long and two or three wide, now a mere stretch of stony barrenness, but in places showing traces of former habitation, some walls, indeed, suggesting that under happier climatic conditions, there were vineyards there. To the south-west a lofty and very prominent hill rises some 1,000 feet above the plain, on which are ruined fortifications, known as Khubet Mird. Here stood the guardhouse of the high roads in Byzantine and in Crusading times, known then as Mons Mardis. Cisterns and aqueducts remain to testify to former occupation. Our army cleared all this region, advancing from Mar Saba; some troops, doubtless passing from here eastward, must have secured the important Nebk Feshkhah oasis by descending the steep Nebk Feshkhah. Everywhere here the last descent to the Dead Sea is very steep, in places quite precipitous for hundreds of feet. One attack along these routes, made by Australians and New Zealanders, threatened the enemy in the rear, and must have substantially contributed to his hasty retirement.

The British Advance.

The main opposition stretched each side of the Jericho roads. Two roads—one a new carriage road and one a good mountain path—run, south of the old carriage road to Jericho, to the Moslem shrine of Nebi Musa, close to the last descent into the Jericho plain. Nebi Musa is the traditional tomb of Moses. This shrine is visited by thousands of pilgrims at Eastertide, but during most of the year is more or less deserted, and its vaults and reservoirs are visited by lawless bands of Bedawin. The roads mentioned run each side of a lofty mountain known as Jebel Ekteif—nearly 1,000 ft. above sea level. This massive hill, which has an almost precipitous southern side, was defended with desperation. North of this the old Jericho road crosses an equally high ridge, called Talaat ed Dumm. At the highest point of crossing lies the "Inn of the Good Samaritan," a kind of khan, and north of this is a ruined mediæval castle with a deep rock-cut moat. This dominates the country all round; indeed, it was built as a guardhouse for the road. After a heavy preliminary bombardment, our London troops attacked at daybreak on the 19th, and after heavy fighting they captured this dominating point.

North of the Wady Kelt heavy fighting occurred the day before, both about Ain Farah, in the southern tributary of the Wady Kelt, known as Wady Farah, and to the north of the northern tributary, the Wady Suweitat (known as the Pass of Michmash. Here at the lofty Ras el Tawil (mentioned as the scene of a skirmish some weeks back) the Turks were shelled out of their positions, which were occupied by a column of our men from Mukhmas. The same day the high ridge between the Jericho road and the deep Wady Kelt about Arak Ibrahim was occupied after very stiff fighting. All this made possible the successful capture of the main defences to the south along the line Muntar-Ekteif and Talaat ed Dumm on the 19th.

Jericho.

The next day (the 20th) mounted troops entered the "City" (as some newspapers call it) of Jericho. This is not the Jericho of the Canaanites and of Joshua, which lay to the north-west, nor the site of the magnificent city of Herod the Great, which lay due west, but the present squalid village of Eriha—on the north bank of the Wady Kelt—is on the site of the Jericho of the Crusades. It consists of four second-rate hotels, a Russian hospice, a mosque, a few native shops and some hovels. Nevertheless, there is beauty in beautiful watered gardens and cornfields around, and the wide view of plain and mountain; and the whole region is one of the greatest latent fertility. The Jericho of early days occupied a "tell" or low hill near the great fountain Ain es Sultan (Elisha's fountain), near the Western Mountains. The site has recently been excavated and the foundations of its once powerful walls exposed. This city guarded the ancient high road into the mountains, up which Joshua led the Israelites, by the fertile oasis land around Ain Duk. This copious fountain is one of the sources of the little river Aujeh. The district is one of rare fertility, and the schoolboys I knew in Jerusalem used to consider it one of their greatest pleasures to be allowed to go fishing in the little stream. Doubtless many of our men will be doing the same. After the cold and rain of Jerusalem, and the misery of the wilderness, they and their fellow soldiers at Jericho and on the Jordan will be luxuriating in the warmth, sunshine and green verdure around them.

We have now a secure right flank, and there lies before us the level western side of the Ghor, up which progress should be far easier than along the rough mountain plateau in our further conquest of Samaria. In clearing out of this district the Turks have had to abandon their organisation for the supply of their army by boat by way of the Dead Sea. Their pier at Rejum el Bahr—where some years ago there was a small island which is now quite submerged—they have destroyed, also one or more of their boats, and they have had to burn a good accumulation of stores.

E. W. G. M.

CZECH POLITICAL PARTIES.

The Czech Press Bureau states that four Czech nationalist parties (the Young Czechs, Realists, Radicals, and Moravian Progressists) have joined as a single party under the name of "The Czech Independence Democracy." The President of its executive is the former Young Czech leader, Dr. Kramarz, who was sentenced to death in 1916, but released in July, 1917. The Executive Committee of the new party includes all the leaders of the former four parties, like Dr. Stransky, Sokol, Dr. Herben, V. Dyk, and others.

In their proclamation published by the *Narodni Listy* of February 10 the Executive declared that "the chief aim of the new party will be to struggle through a common national effort for the creation of an independent Bohemian State, the fundamental territory of which would be composed of the historical and indivisible Crown-lands of Bohemia and of Slovakia. The Bohemian State will be a democratic State. All its power will come from the people. And as it will come from the Czech people it will be just towards all nationalities, towards all citizens and classes." In a speech to the Young Czech party before its dissolution, Dr. Kramarz, formerly the most moderate and opportunist Czech leader, openly declared that "at the moment of the outbreak of the war it became quite clear that, despite all tactics of opportunism, our party remained true to the programme of Czech independence. It became at once clear to all of us that the chapter of the 'loyal' policy was for ever closed for us. We felt with our whole soul that the Czech nation would not go through the sufferings of the world war only to renew the pre-war tactics of a slow progress towards that position to which we have full historical rights as well as the natural rights of a living and strong nation. . . ."

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Bessarabia.

The Roumanians of Bessarabia formally proclaimed on December 19 the autonomy of the province, which is to be known as the "Moldavian Republic." The Act of Proclamation was passed by a Provisional Assembly of 150 deputies, of which 105 are Moldavians (forty-four soldiers, thirty peasants, etc.), fifteen Ukrainians, thirteen Jews, five Bulgarians, one Greek, one Armenian, one Pole, etc., etc. This Assembly is to form the supreme authority of the new Republic until the meeting of the Constituent Assembly, which is to be elected on universal, direct, equal, and secret franchise, with proportional representation.

The Proclamation lays down the fundamental points of the constitution of the Republic. All the land is to pass into the hands of the peasants without compensation to the landlords. Full freedom of the Press, of speech, of creed, of opinion, of association, of meeting, and of strike are assured. The inviolability of the person and of the home are proclaimed, as well as the complete abolition of capital punishment. All the peoples living in the territory of the Moldavian Republic are to enjoy full equality of rights, with cultural, national, and personal autonomy. Education is to be organised on a national and autonomous basis for all the peoples in the Republic. An army composed only of Moldavians is to be organised forthwith. The last paragraph enjoins upon the Assembly "to take steps for the immediate conclusion of peace without annexations or indemnities, and with the right for the peoples to self-determination. Peace should be concluded in agreement with the Allies, and with all the peoples of the Russian Federal Republic."

The Executive, which bears the name of General Directorate, was elected by the Assembly on the recommendation of its President, Professor Inculetz, from the Petrograd University. It is composed of ten members, and is directly and solely responsible to the Provisional Assembly. It is interesting to note that of its two vice-presidents one is a Roumanian and one a Ukrainian; while of the secretaries two are Roumanians, one a Jew, and the fourth a Russian.

Several regiments of Moldavians have already been formed. The Assembly has issued an order for the evacuation of Bessarabia by all the soldiers who are not of Bessarabian origin. They were to leave the country within three days, free transport being provided. An exception was made in favour of Ukrainian soldiers.

Until the creation of a Roumanian University in Chishinan, a chair of Roumanian history and one of Roumanian language and literature have been established in the University of Odessa. Dr. Iancu Nistor, Professor of History in the University of Czernovitz, and Dr. Nicolae Banescu, Director of Studies in the Military School of Jassy, have been appointed to fill the two posts.

The Dobruja.

From a foreign source we hear of the epilogue to an old German dream. About the middle of last century the German authorities made various attempts to extend their influence in south-eastern Europe by establishing agricultural colonies. None of these was able to persist, with the exception of a few established in the then barren Dobruja. They formed curious, isolated communities, which remained almost stationary in number and possessions. We are now informed that a Hungarian financial undertaking is engaged in transplanting these colonists from the Dobruja to Transylvania with a view to repopulating certain districts. It is probably the question of the frontier districts from which the Hungarian authorities propose to expropriate the Roumanian population. 2,500 hectares are said to have been placed at the disposal of these colonists.

Death of Aurel C. Popovici.

The death is announced of the Transylvanian leader, Aurel C. Popovici. At all times prominent among those who upheld Roumanian nationality in Hungary, he aroused general attention with his book "The United States of Austria" (1906), which advocated a federal Austria, comprising sixteen autonomous national provinces. The work is said to have greatly impressed the murdered Archduke. At the outbreak of the war he went to Switzerland, to avoid being entangled in national controversies. But upon him, as upon most other Nationalist leaders, the circumstances of the war forced the conclusion that a thorough solution of the problem now imposed itself. This change of outlook he recorded in a book, written in French, which forms in a way his political testament. Popovici did not live to arrange for the publication of his book, but it is hoped the necessary arrangements will be made by the friend to whom Popovici entrusted the manuscript of his work.

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Conditions in Moldavia.

Strenuous efforts are being made by the authorities to cope with the difficult situation in which Moldavia has been placed by the collapse of Russia. A General Directorate of Public Alimentation has been set up, which is to be the only authority entitled to deal with supplies, and which is to work under the supervision of the Ministries of War and the Interior. According to information received by the Central Authority the surface placed under seed up to November 19 amounted to 215,127 hct., an increase, notwithstanding reduced means, of 6,000 hct. over the previous year.

Meanwhile, the available supplies are diminishing rapidly. On November 26 a decree had to be issued prohibiting altogether the consumption of meat except by the troops at the front. Certain exceptions will be made in favour of children and invalids. In order to dispel unjustified expectations with regard to food supplies from America, the American Red Cross Mission publishes a statement to the effect that the supplies it may receive will be destined exclusively to hospitals and invalid persons.

Everything possible is being done to prevent a recurrence of last year's epidemic of typhus. On the initiative of the British Mission, a number of transportable baths have been created which can be attached to railway trains, for the use of the rural population. These bath-carriages will move during the winter from station to station, the population being informed in time by posters of their arrival and departure.

◆

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE INDIAN CORPS IN FRANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I ask your assistance to correct, before it is too late, certain mistakes which do grave injustice to the gallant regiment to which I have the honour to belong—the 39th Garhwal Rifles—to be found in a book, "The Indian Army Corps in France," recently published under the authority of the India Office.

The mistakes are all in the account of the 1/39th Garhwal Rifles' share in the Festubert action on November 23-24, 1914, pp. 123-132 ibid.

(a) The attack of the 1/39th Garhwal Rifles is confused with a large counter-attack by a number of units which started at 4.30 p.m. on November 23 (p. 120), and had entirely come to an end by 8 p.m. at latest on November 23.

The Garhwalis only reached Festubert village, 1,000 yards behind the scene of action, when this attack, having recaptured two-thirds of the lost line, had shot its bolt. The Garhwali attack on the remaining one-third did not start till 3 a.m. on November 24, and was an entirely one-battalion business. The interval of seven hours was entirely peaceful.

It is true that small portions of the 2nd Leicesters and 107th Pioneers attacked the right of the objective at 4 a.m., when the 1/39th were working up from the left; but this effort admittedly (p. 130) failed, and the whole objective was recaptured by the 1/39th, and by them alone.

(b) The credit of suggesting the attack from a flank along the trench, instead of assaulting it frontally, is assigned to Lieut. Robson, R.E., and Lieut. Robson's share in the proceedings—gallant though it was—is much exaggerated. Lieut. Robson's suggestion was entirely limited to the offer to precede one of two double companies which attacked, by a bombing attack. The method of "bombing along" (since so generally adopted) was Robson's own idea, and he deserves all credit for originating it and carrying it out. But though it killed a lot of the enemy and no doubt gave the attack a good start, it progressed no further than a few bays.

The idea of an attack from a flank from traverse to traverse was adopted by Col. Swiney some hours before he ever met Robson. It was, in fact, Col. Swiney's arrival at the head of the battalion in the 57th Rifles' trench (where Robson was) in order to launch the flank attack he had already planned, that enabled him to meet Robson for the first time. It was not General Egerton's permission to use his own discretion (p. 125) that led Col. Swiney *thereafter* to adopt the flank attack scheme, but his own *previous* representations that the latter was the better way that secured the permission from the General.

I have before me now Capt. Lumb's statement in writing: "I met him (Robson) *coming back* before all Wardell's men had got in, and it was just after that that I got out of the trench with my push and got in ahead of Wardell's, and we took all those endless bays with rifle and bayonet, and never one bomb from our side . . . Robson might have rushed two or three bays. . . . I fancy all his bombs were thrown from one place." It seems, therefore, that bombs were exhausted and bombers returning *before* Lumb took the lead, which was conclusively proved to be when at least four-fifths of the objectives were still unrecovered.

(c) No credit whatever is given to the regiment for its haul of prisoners and booty. The machine-guns, trench mortar, and most of the 100 odd prisoners were captured by the 1/39th. The reference to these on p. 132, if anything, seems to assign credit for these to the artillery! The 1/39th had no artillery assistance.

I may say that I was present at this action in command of the double company held in battalion reserve by Col. Swiney. I was in repeated contact and consultation with him all night. All the above facts, except details of the actual fighting, are within my personal knowledge. Moreover, it was I who a day later drafted Col. Swiney's report, whereby it was my lot to collect and hear all available evidence. I write now in virtue of this and of being the senior surviving officer in the battalion and the only officer of the regiment in England.—I am, etc.,

K. Henderson, Major,
39th Garhwal Rifles.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

At the moment of writing I do not know whether Hit has been captured by our forces, but the chances that it has been certainly look good. It is hardly an attractive spot, and before the war one might have felt tempted to remark that it was not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier, or words to that effect. Nowadays nobody would insult any town by such a remark. But Hit really is one of the most melancholy-looking places on the Lower Euphrates, especially as you approach from the south, when the foreground to it is a dreary, untidy bit of plain, with bitumen wells and streams all discoloured with oil and tarry substances. The town itself is—or was when last I visited it—huddled up on some largish mounds, and it gives you the impression of a walled city; but it is dirty and grimy, as a result of the bitumen working, and does not tempt you to any close investigation.

⁂

The place is generally regarded as having supplied the pitch with which Noah covered the Ark within and without, and, in view of its proximity to the probable scene of the adventure, the tradition may well be a true one. Also it is tolerably sure that Hit was the source whence the builders of Babylonia obtained their material for "damp courses" and waterproofing purposes. Far south of Babylon itself, in the midst of the Lower Mesopotamian plain, I have seen a quay-front, dating back to many centuries B.C., faced with pitch that almost certainly came from Hit; and you find the precious stuff at nearly every Babylonion ruin you examine. In recent years the bitumen springs at Hit have been worked in the most haphazard and inefficient way. But once clear the Turk out of the land, and we shall almost certainly see a thriving industry spring up in the neighbourhood. One hears in Hit tales of "great lakes of bitumen" at certain spots that would make the mouth of any company promoter water. And the beauty of it is that they may quite well be true. No doubt the Germans know all there is to know on the subject. I hope they will never have a chance to turn the knowledge to account.

⁂

I am glad to see that a correspondent has written to *The Times* regarding the iniquitous prices now charged for dates. I referred to the subject a year ago, and I have reason to know that it has given rise to a good deal of indignation. Indeed, how could it be otherwise? We have Busreh and district producing dates in enormous quantities, and to-day there can surely be no shortage of homeward shipping. Why, then, have we to pay 2s. a pound upwards, instead of the pre-war price of, say, 4d. a pound? *The Times* correspondent complains—and I am not surprised—that in Newcastle, though dates are extraordinarily numerous there just now, one has to pay from 4s. up to 7s. 6d. a box for them. "It would be interesting," he thinks, if we were informed "why it is necessary for dates to rise from 4s. to 7s. 6d. per box within less than seven days, always remembering that at 4s. the price was enormously above what it would have been in pre-war times." He suggests that the Food Controller might investigate the case, and I respectfully endorse his suggestion. But if half I have been told be true, I do not feel very sanguine about it being adopted.

⁂

I am just a little puzzled to know why poor Abdul Hamid was followed to his last resting-place by, among others, the ex-Khedive and "members of the Central Committee of Union and Progress." For any member of the C.U.P. to pretend to mourn the death of the ex-Sultan is nauseating hypocrisy. But perhaps they merely wanted to be in the limelight, so to say. They have all the modern politician's liking for that kind of thing. For the ex-Khedive's presence, however, I can find no satisfactory reason. While Abdul Hamid was a power to reckon with, and, nominally, his suzerain, one would expect Bolo's friend to pay him homage. But Abbas Hilmi accepted the new order of things in Constantinople quite quickly, as he would accept anything that did not affect his pursuit of money, and I never heard that he had any great liking for Abdul Hamid, though, doubtless, being an intriguer himself, he admired the ex-Sultan's gifts that way.

⁂

Talaat Pasha's liking for being interviewed does not grow less with the passing of time. He has, I see, been giving a representative of the Vienna *Neue Freie Presse* his opinions of President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George's respective pronouncements. Naturally, he said just what one would expect a tame Grand Vizier to say. What interested me in his remarks was his claim that Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia are "vital component parts of Turkey." What tosh! What have the Turks ever done for any of the three? They, or their ancestors, killed the splendid civilization of the Arabs; and they have never done anything at all to make up for that vandalism. Moreover, what is the language of those three "vital component parts of Turkey"? Arabic; and so little is Turkish understood that on one occasion a dignified Turkish pasha, who got cut off from his suite temporarily while crossing Lower Mesopotamia, had to take to dumb show to make his wants known to the natives. His imitation of a fowl drinking was life-like, so I was told by a certain *khanchi*. But incidents of this kind—and it was by no means a solitary case—do not lead one to think of Mesopotamia as very Turkish in spirit.

⁂

As a matter of fact, the Arabs of Mesopotamia have always hated the Turks with an exceeding bitter hatred, partly, perhaps, because they remember the coming of the Tartars, but more because the Turk has always oppressed them and despised them. If they have any voice in the matter, it is certain that they will never return under Turkish rule. Arabia, too, has shown that it has had enough, and far too much, of the Turks; and, of course, Syria has never made any close secret of her feelings. These three countries undoubtedly refuse to regard themselves as "component parts of Turkey," and, considering the haste lately displayed by the Talaats and the other Young Turks to shed all traces of Arabic influence from the wonderful New Turkey, it seems strange that the Grand Vizier should wish to retain these purely Arab regions for himself and his Hun and Tartar friends.

Corsair.

"THE NEAR EAST."

Bound editions of Volume XII. of The Near East (November 3, 1916—April 27, 1917) are now ready, and can be purchased at The Near East Office, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

The Index to Vol. XIII. (May 4—December 28, 1917) will be supplied to subscribers on application.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. March.	1918. February.		1336. Jomada I.	5678. Adar.
1	16	Friday	18	17
2	17	Saturday........	19	18
3	18	**Sunday**	20	19
4	19	Monday	21	20
5	20	Tuesday	22	21
6	21	Wednesday	23	22
7	22	Thursday	24	23

India's "Our Day" Fund now stands at about £740,000.

M. Beza has been appointed Roumanian Vice-Consul in London.

Colonel Caretas, of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Jassy.

The Gaekwar of Baroda has given the Viceroy of India five lakhs of rupees for war expenses.

M. Routhon, Deputy for Patras, has been charged with high treason and sent before a court martial.

The Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour has been conferred by King Alexander of Greece on General Allenby.

A strong Zionist movement has grown up in Russia as the result of Mr. Balfour's declaration in favour of Palestine for the Jews.

The Press Bureau announces that a telegram has been received from Roumania saying that all officers serving there are well.

On Mount Athos, Southern Greece, the bodies of seventeen officers belonging to the "Breslau" have been washed up by the sea.

Two hundred Jewish volunteers have enlisted in New York for the Jewish battalion recruiting in England for service in Palestine.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, has returned to Sofia from Brest-Litovsk after a short visit *en route* to Berlin and Vienna.

The Islamic Relief Society in Alexandria has received a donation of £E1,000 from Princes Kemal el Din Hussein and Omar Toussoun.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has decorated Miss Donaldson, daughter of the late Canon Donaldson, with the Order of St. Sava, 5th Class.

MM. Lazarevitch and Yoka Bratchinatz, Vice-Presidents of the Serbian Skupshtina, together with six deputies, have arrived at Corfu from abroad.

The members of the Serbian Military Mission and of the Serbian Economic and Industrial Mission left London on February 21 for Corfu.

A club for Australians and New Zealanders, provided from the Church of England Australian Fund for Oversea Soldiers, has been opened in Cairo.

Among recent wills is that of Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence Anthony Murray Graeme, of Shaldon, Teignmouth, a Mutiny veteran, who left £24,921.

The Rev. H. Arnold, of the Sudan United Mission, returned to the Sudan from Australia at the end of last month. He has resumed his work at Melut.

Captain George Soutzu, of the Roumanian Government Committee in London, has recovered from his illness, and left town for Bournemouth to recuperate.

Mr. Hampson Gary, the new American Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General in Cairo, arrived there on January 24, accompanied by Mrs. Gary and their two children.

The King has given unrestricted permission to Lieutenant L. D. Bass-Thomson, R.N.V.R., to wear the Order of the White Eagle, Fourth Class (with swords), conferred on him by the King of Serbia.

£5,000 has been subscribed in Cairo in response to an appeal by Lady Allenby for comforts for the troops.

Austrian Jewish Deputies are appealing to the Vienna Government to secure at the Bucharest negotiations complete emancipation of Jews in Roumania.

A telegram from Bucharest reports the arrival of the Bulgarian representatives at the peace negotiations with Roumania. Nessimy Bey, Turkish Foreign Minister, and Izzet Pasha are also to be present.

The President of the French Republic has made M. Kyriakos Venizelos, Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. M. Venizelos is the son of the Greek Prime Minister.

The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University has received from Mrs. Agnes S. Lewis, of Castle Brae, Chesterton Lane. Cambridge, an offer of upwards of £4,000 towards the foundation of a Readership in Modern Greek.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan gave a garden-party at Khartoum on January 17, the anniversary of the visit of the King and Queen to the Sudan in 1912. All the Government offices were closed on that day.

A general meeting of the Poetry Society will be held at Leighton House on March 6, when Mr. G. C. Ashton Jonson will give a lecture and reading based on the "Rubaiyyat of Omar Khayyam," illustrated by music.

The carrying out of the death sentences on Greek soldiers and civilians in connection with the recent mutiny at Lamia has been postponed until further light is thrown on the conspiracy to overthrow the *régime* and prevent mobilisation.

At a meeting of the Union of Czech Associations in Switzerland approbation was expressed of the declarations by the Constituent Assembly of Czecho-Slav deputies on January 6, demanding the establishment of an autonomous Czecho-Slav State.

On February 25 the 69th regular Session of the National Serbian Skupshtina was opened at Corfu. Greetings were sent to the Serbian army and to the armies of the Allies, and a Bill was read providing for the assistance of the inhabitants of the occupied regions.

Among those present at the resumed Conference of the Labour and Socialist parties in the Allied countries, which reassembled at the Central Hall, Westminster, on February 22, were representatives of Serbia and consultative delegates from Roumania and South Slav organisations.

A number of Russian officers and military employees on the Roumanian front met at Jassy recently, and resolved in favour of supporting the reconstitution of Russia and the action of the new Provisional Government at Novo Tcherkask, composed of Generals Korniloff and Alexeieff.

The Consul-General for Montenegro, referring to a report in *Az Est* that a large sale of forest had been made in Montenegro and the insinuation in the Magyar journal that the Montenegrin Court was interested in a portion of the forest, denies most emphatically that the Austro-Hungarian plans were known to the Royal Court or Government.

To mitigate the lot of the Serbian prisoners in the Austro-Hungarian camps the Serbian Red Cross Society in London send out by special Government permit food parcels week by week, each parcel costing 5s. Donations towards this end and all offers of help should be sent to Mrs. Robert Frank, Prisoners' Department, Serbian Red Cross, 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.7.

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Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, accompanied by several Roumanian officers, has left London for Oxford, where he is expected to remain for several days.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Knight, C.I.E., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay in succession to Sir Mahadev Chaubal, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., whose term of office has expired. Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola is an additional elected member of the Viceroy's Imperial Legislative Council and an additional member of the Council of the Governor of Bombay.

An engagement is announced between Major H. A. Hammick, M.C., Manchester Regiment, only son of Sir Murray Hammick, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Member of Council of the Secretary of State for India, and Lady Hammick, of 23, Brunswick Gardens, Kensington, W., and grandson of the late Rev. Sir St. Vincent Hammick, Bart., and May, only daughter of Sir Philip Pilditch, J.P., and Lady Pilditch, of Bartropps, Weybridge Heath, Surrey.

The Roumanian Minister, M. Misu, had the honour of being received by the King on February 22. Three days later he left for the Continent. Among those who witnessed his departure were Mme. Misu, M. Nicolas Misu, the Brazilian Minister, the Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch, M. D. de la Chaussée, of the French Embassy; Prince Livio Borghese, of the Italian Embassy; Mr. Philip Gardner, of the Foreign Office; the *personnel* of the Legation, General Georgescu and Mme. Georgescu; and the Earl of Bessborough. M. Michel B. Borescu will act as Chargé d'Affaires during M. Misu's absence.

◆

OBITUARY.

The Rev. Charles George Gull, Rector of Lithington, Sussex, who died at Cheltenham on February 22, was at one time Chaplain of St. Paul's, Valetta.

Colonel Jabez Lightfoot, who died on February 23 at North Fambridge, aged seventy-one, served in the Indian Public Works Department, and was for some time manager of the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway.

Captain T. Fergusson Graham, who died at Brighton on February 21, in his sixty-third year, initiated the system of grass farms in the Punjab to supply Army forage, for which he received special commendation from the Government of India.

Lieut. Solomon Benzecry, Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on November 30, aged twenty-four, was born in Gibraltar, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Benzecry, of Gibraltar. All his ancestors on his father's side were Gibraltarians. He spent the greater part of his life in Gibraltar, but he was educated at Clifton College.

The death has taken place at Exeter of Lieutenant-Colonel George Masters Cardew, formerly of the 67th Hampshire Regiment, in his seventy-eighth year. He was the youngest son of Cornelius Cardew, Judge in the Bengal Presidency, and entered the Service in 1857, and was at Barrakhpore during the Mutiny. His subsequent service included the Afghan War, 1878-80.

Colonel Gervase Francis Newport Tinley, C.B., C.M.G., I.A., who died suddenly at Marseilles on February 18, saw service in the Zhob Valley Expedition, 1884; the Burma Expedition, 1885-9; and the Dongola Expedition, 1886. He was representative India Officer at Queen Victoria's funeral, and commanded the Indian Cavalry Contingent at King Edward's Coronation.

The death occurred on February 23 at his residence, 24, Park Lane, W., of Earl Brassey, in his eighty-third year. The deceased peer was a man of many activities. An ardent politician, a well-informed writer on various subjects, and a keen yachtsman, it is perhaps for the latter pursuit that he is now best remembered; his yacht, the "Sunbeam," not long ago presented to the Government of India for permanent use as a hospital ship, having a world-wide reputation. During his career Lord Brassey held a number of important posts. He was Civil Lord, and afterwards Secretary, to the Admiralty in Mr. Gladstone's 1880 Administration, and was Governor of Victoria from 1895 to 1900. He was raised to the peerage on the resignation of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Government, and was raised to an earldom in 1911.

Mr. John Claude White, C.I.E., who died suddenly after an operation on February 19, at the age of sixty-four, was educated at Rugby and Bonn, and at the Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, and entered the Indian Public Works Department in 1876. He greatly distinguished himself at the time of the Sikkim Expedition, which he accompanied as Assistant Political Officer, and after the Convention with China in 1890 established our control over the foreign relations of Sikkim. Mr. White was appointed British representative there, and for the next twenty years was virtually the ruler of that state. Under his influence the Maharaja became a zealous supporter of the British Government, and he was also able to place relations with Bhutan on a better footing, which had considerable influence on the fortunes of the Tibet Expedition of 1904, when Mr. White acted as assistant to Sir Francis Younghusband.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1918.

ROMANUL NU PERE.

Many a Roumanian these days will be reminded of the national proverb, "the Roumanian never dies," and will take heart. Although nothing seems able to prevent the country from draining the cup of bitterness to the dregs, in the form of a German peace, there will remain the consciousness that the last word does not rest for all time with Germany. The conference at Bucharest will doubtless run the course prescribed for it in Berlin, for no alternative is offered to Roumania. The peace between the Central Powers and the Ukraine, followed as it has been by the despatch of German troops nominally to aid the Ukrainians against the Bolsheviks, has brought the enemy to the rear of Moldavia, and has cut off that province's source of supplies. The Roumanians must either accept Germany's terms or be crushed. No blame can attach to them for abandoning the unequal struggle, in the confidence that, however tragic the plight to which they are now reduced, they will yet emerge from their blackest hour a united and a greater people. Germany's purpose may be regarded as already revealed. Only a fit of madness could prompt her to attempt to stamp out the Roumanian race. She must recognize its existence, and may even endeavour to secure its goodwill by restricting as far as possible to individuals the penalties that will be exacted for Roumania's courage in seeking to bar the way to German aims. There are many ways in which the Balkan quilt can be patched together, particularly when the object in view is the principle of *Divide et Impera* rather than a solution which will bring content to all the peoples and peace and progress to the Peninsula. Bessarabia can be set against the Dobruja, or, as there can be no general peace yet, Bulgaria can be solaced with the widest promises in regard to Serbian territory. The best peace, from the German point of view, would be one which left all the countries embittered one against the other. By avoiding any vindictive punishment for Roumania Germany may expect to smooth the way to more exacting economic conditions, which are her real goal. Certain it is that the terms of peace will lay firmly the foundations of what is intended to be the exploitation of Roumania for Germany's benefit. Much depends on the spirit in which the German General Staff view the military situation, especially in regard to the degree of willing co-operation that they are still able to extract from the Bulgarians and Turks.

The only surprise that the negotiations at Bucharest could produce—except in so far as they might suddenly be influenced by developments elsewhere of overshadowing significance—would be the display of a generous attitude on the part of the Central Powers towards the King of Roumania. He has been dubbed a traitor to the Hohenzollerns, and imperial and kingly dignity may well demand exemplary punishment for a sovereign who has proved a renegade to the doctrine of Divine Right by refusing to allow personal considerations to stand in the way of the national will and the national interest. It is a further crime on King Ferdinand's part in Hohenzollern eyes that he has a British consort. We may feel confident that the King and Queen of Roumania are not likely to permit the question of their fate to jeopardise the negotiations with the enemy. No denunciations of them emanating from a German source could shake the devotion of the Roumanian people to their Royal House. The Roumanian attitude to all the terms of peace must be the same; they will be imposed at the point of the sword, and at the point of the sword they will be accepted in detail. The attitude of the Allies is clear, and it is to be hoped that the Roumanian Government will leave the enemy in no doubt as to its own attitude. The only settlement that will have any permanently binding force is the one that will receive the deliberate sanction of the Peace Conference at the end of the war. Treaties that Roumania or any of the component parts of Russia may be forced to make may serve Germany's present purposes, but they can have no more effect on the Allies' peace terms than the occupation of Belgium. Already there are indications that the conditions to be imposed at Bucharest are causing the Central Alliance more heart-searchings than they need cause the Roumanians. In its ardent pursuit of peace the Austrian Government has eagerly accepted the principle of "no annexations," and it would seem to be by no means anxious to spoil the chances of a general peace by proceeding at the first opportunity to annex Roumanian territory to which it can lay no claim other than the dictates of military aggression. In all these matters Germany, no doubt, will ultimately have her own way; but the process of adjusting the conflicting views of her partners will not strengthen the cohesion of the four States.

Upon the Allied Powers is imposed the obligation to leave no stone unturned in order to shorten the period of Roumania's ordeal. Germany's grip can only be entirely removed by her defeat in this war; but it is likely to be relaxed if Bulgaria and Turkey should find that there was no further object to be served in a continuance of the struggle. The problem resolves itself into the question of the just settlement in the Balkan Peninsula, and at no time could there be a more urgent need for a clear understanding on this point than at this juncture, when the Roumanians will want to be heartened by the knowledge of what they stand to gain by remaining loyal to their national cause in spite of their burden of a German peace. Bulgaria, it must not be forgotten, would have found no cause for throwing in her lot with the Central Powers in 1915, if she could have been guaranteed the portion of Macedonia to which, on the principle of nationality, she was entitled. Her appetite will have grown with the prolongation of the war; but so has the Allies' appreciation of the factors that make for peace in debated lands. One is that a country situated near the sea must have an outlet on that sea; another is that jurisdiction over a port must, wherever possible, coincide with the jurisdiction over the territory on the trade of which the port depends. If these broad principles are applied to the Balkans and, at the same time, sufficient stress is laid on the necessity of a solution that is likely to stand the test of time, is there not some reason to suppose that, after four years of exacting warfare, the States concerned will begin to realise that some triumphs can be too dearly bought? It may seem an inauspicious moment to preach the bankruptcy of Germany's ambitions when she is engaged in securing her hold upon Russia and Roumania. But it will not be lost upon the Bulgarians and Turks that German arms have won no victory since Wallachia was wrested from the Roumanians, ill-equipped and misled by Russian promises. Intrigue secured a temporary success in Italy; treachery and disintegration have made Russia impotent and an easy prey; Roumania has been betrayed, not conquered. In no direction is there the least sign that finality has been reached. The best that Germany has to offer Bulgaria is the prospect of standing on a powder magazine, which sooner or later must explode. We refuse to believe that a future of this character commends itself to the instinct of the Bulgarian people or to the considered judgment of its present rulers. In contrast to it the Allies can hold out the prospect of a United Balkan Peninsula, its grievances adjusted by mutual agreement, and all the peoples embarked on an era of peace and material development. In spite of rebuffs that may be accorded to the first presentation of this case, nothing ought to deter the Allies from bringing their point of view continually before the Bulgarians. They owe it to themselves, to the Bulgarians, and, above all, to the Roumanians, to whom they can hold out no other means of succour.

THE NEAR EAST

LITERARY SUPPLEMENT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1918.

At the end of the Supplement will be found a Bibliography of publications since 1914 *dealing with the Near and Middle East.*

REVIEWS.

CARTA TUA; MONTAGNA MIA.[*]

If the age we live in be pre-eminent as the age of science, we may also allow it to be that of the most highly drilled and gifted imagination. Let us yet further claim for it an exhibition of deliberate courage unsurpassed in any age. Science, imagination and courage are in the throes of the Titanic conflict we see around us; and we prefer to maintain that the Power of Good marshals our forces, in these three fields, against the Power of Evil, and shall prevail.

If ever we attain to anything approaching a Peace Conference, this contribution of Leon Dominian to such a peace will assuredly be in the hands of every plenipotentiary. The whole is a quiet, scientific, judicial survey of the insistent demands of the physical and political geography of Eurasia—the linguistic and topographical truths lying behind the specious phrase, "No annexations and no indemnities." The serenity of the author, no less than his simplicity and industry, inspires us to recommend the volume to the authors of the tragi-comedy of Brest-Litovsk—fly-leafing it with the pertinent comment, "What we are fighting for."

The reviewer takes leave to hope that the Prime Minister, whose wonderful career and present stress can leave him little leisure, will assimilate this book from cover to cover. Its issue under the auspices of the leading geographical society of the New World is significant and persuasive. Its insistence on the plain fact that the war is inspired by the Prussian desire to hold the bridge between Europe and Central Asia and Africa will find an echo among all readers of THE NEAR EAST.

To move to details! Sketching lightly the age-long conflict between man and nature, between language and physical geography, including the not wholly verified existence of a Keltic Europe, Mr. Dominian passes the border between tradition and history, and tells with a dispassionate pen the why and wherefore of the existing boundaries of language and nationality westwards of the Urals, the Caucasus and the Zagros Mountains. Look at the map! His huge subject may be simply subdivided by his excellent maps, coloured or in black and white; and many carefully selected photographs, typical of racial, architectural and geological habitat, enhance the value of the work. He first tackles the 2,000 year old conflict between the Latin and the Teuton, now typified by Flamand versus Walloon in Belgium, and by the more epic question of Franco-Teutonic rivalry west of the Rhine. Language, he says, decides unmistakably against the pre-war political boundaries in each case, but with pros and cons for both. He next depicts the Latin-Teutonic conflict in Switzerland, that strange tri-lingual political entity, a veritable chessboard of dialects, in which he only saves the reader from a prospect of stalemate by hinting at the enduring artistry and power of French culture the world over.

We have next the Italo-Austrian duel, from which we extract the headline of this short review. "Your map; my mountain," says the Venetian proverb, after centuries of Austrian rule. The Prussian ambition, so clearly exposed throughout the volume, might be rendered, "My map; my mountain." Moving north-eastwards from the embattled Trentino, the fateful valley-gorges of the Piave, the Brenta and the Adige, highways of mankind from before the days of Romulus and Remus, we have the chapters on the Scandinavian and Baltic languages, and the area of Polish Speech—bad reading, very bad reading for von Kühlmann, General Hoffmann, and Count Czernin. We can at least be glad that it is now on record that Poland, Esthonia and Lithuania are linguistic European entities, by surrender on the part of Trotsky, and by overt confession on the part of Kühlmann. Thus far, piously, but no farther, east and west of the Vistula, does our author show us the clamant way. Moving south-westwards and south, the survey verifies the claims to "self-determination" of Czech, Moravian and Slovak, and, next, of Magyar and Roumanian. These, with the linguistic rights of Croat and Serb, a profoundly detailed study, leave the Austro-Hungarian imperial double-crown in the position of the single feather on the naked parrot. This way lies, if the voices of Italy, Jugoslavia, Bohemia, and Roumania are admitted to be genuinely articulate, one high road to peace. Jugoslavia of the future has one language, two alphabets and three religions; but Mr. Dominian gives us the Serb proverb, radical in its unhappiness, "Brat yay mio, Koye vieray bio"—which we commend to the Irish Convention—"A brother is always dear, whatever his religion."

The final third of the book is devoted, "according to plan," to the language problem in the Balkans; to the "case" and peoples of Turkey; to a summary and to a valuable appendix. More than any other this portion of Mr. Dominian's toil calls for the attention of soldiers, sailors, airmen and statesmen, although the whole calm effort of the book is to show that language and physical geography have at all times overruled military genius and military ambition.

It needs but little prophetic imagination to warn us that war will not cease upon this earth, by any effort of mankind, until white, yellow and black agree to intermarry. Our author refrains from such imagination, confining himself to the purely scientific vista of the linguistic and geological bridge between Europe, Asia and Africa—the actual Turkish Empire. Here he finds, and admirably portrays, the *casus belli* of many millenniums—the great high road between East and West, made plain by the Wooden Horse of Troy, and still plainer by the Iron Horse of to-day. The first and best-managed railway in Asiatic Turkey, initiated in 1856, the Smyrna-Aidin, a British adventure, the author skilfully shows to be nothing less than the Doric Greek's penetration of the opulent Meander Valley, on foot, in pre-Homeric times. To sum up, Mr. Dominian is to be welcomed as the most powerful advocate that has yet appeared of the basic fact that the present war is an alliance between Eastern and Western culture against the now naked demoniac viciousness of Prussia. Sad as may be the position of the Slav at this moment, Slavic genius is the half-way house—linguistically. If Prussian reversion to, or retention of, the morals of man, when man had to dodge the Icthyosaurus and the Dinosaurus, expects to prevail against dawn, midday and twilight, it is doomed. No man of sense and courage can peruse this book and anticipate for the earth an eternal Prussian night.

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[*] "The Frontiers of Language and Nationality in Europe." By Leon Dominian. Published for the American Geographical Society of New York. (Constable and Co. 15s.)

CONSTANTINOPLE OF THE CROSS WAYS*

"Anything but history," Walpole is reputed to have said; "because history must be false." It is part of the irony of the problem presented to European diplomacy by the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles that its history provides very little, if any, material for its successful solution at the present time. Consequently at first sight a book on the subject which devotes more than 220 pages to the story of the rise, development, and vicissitudes of the problem, and only twenty pages to its solution, may seem to be unequally weighted. But the authors of this volume have done good service in marshalling all the salient facts, if only because they establish the case for a definitive settlement now that an opportunity offers. Whether the solution they propound is the right one is another matter.

Geography is at the root of the trouble, and, unfortunately, the Bolshevik method of simply ignoring it does not eliminate this perplexing factor. Despite the indifference of M. Kerensky's Provisional Government and the contempt of all realities shown by its successors in Petrograd, Russia's dependence on the Straits as an exit from the Black Sea remains. Out of a grand total of exports of 24 million tons in 1913 Russia sent 11 million from the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof. If the old Empire is to be split up into a number of independent States this Black Sea traffic may represent practically the whole of the export of the new State located in Southern Russia. Consequently the perpetuation of a system which still exposes to arbitrary interruption this trade and the corresponding inward trade—to say nothing of Roumanian and Bulgarian trade—is bound to lead, as of old, to friction, which has now culminated in the world war. For the problem of Constantinople and the Straits is part of the Near Eastern question. Mr. Phillipson and Mr. Buxton shrewdly lay stress on this fact, pointing out how the latter question has been aggravated by Russia's efforts to find a solution of the Straits difficulty. Here is an important waterway, with Constantinople as a toll-station on the bank. There must needs be a stream of traffic across it as well as along it, and there would be a call for some regulation of the two streams. The Turks' contribution to the problem has been, as it were, to throw a low drawbridge across the waterway, entirely blocking it, and to make its opening a matter more or less of caprice. As German influence increased in Constantinople there was a danger that the drawbridge would be replaced by a permanent structure. So long as the Turks remain at the toll-station the drawbridge will also be there, or will be liable to be thrown across at any time. Russia has decided—more or less vicariously—that she has no further interest in the future of the Straits. Is the ignorance of the Bolsheviks or of the present rulers of the Ukraine Republic likely to repudiate for all time the stern economic and geographical facts that make Southern Russia dependent on this waterway? There cannot be the least doubt on this point. In these circumstances, therefore, the Allies are justified in seeking a solution of the Constantinople problem without reference to current events in Russia. The original plan of leaving the administration of Constantinople in Russian hands falls through, for the time being. What, then, is to be the alternative?

The solution propounded by our authors is as follows:—

"The most rational, judicious, and practicable solution is to internationalise the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles on the lines of the régime applied to the Suez Canal, and place them, together with sufficient hinterland to safeguard the strategic position, under the administration of an International Commission somewhat similar to that which has existed in the case of the Danube."

They proceed to elaborate a number of provisions embodying the principles on which the regulation of the waterway is to be conducted, and continue:—

"Finally, as to Constantinople. The best solution in the circumstances is without doubt to constitute it a free town, and place it under the conjoint protection of the Powers, including the United States. Constantinople is so closely connected with the Straits that the establishment of a new régime for the latter imperatively demands the establishment of a new régime for the former."

The case for an international commission for an international waterway may be a strong one, and there is no reason why the scheme should not work well—in peace time. To what extent, however, has the Danube Commission functioned during the present war? If, as may be imagined, the Commission has become merely a Board of the Central Powers, what is the practical value of such provisions, in the case of the Straits, as "Blockade to be prohibited," "No act of war or hostility to be committed within their waters, etc."? No doubt, with the promised establishment of a League of Nations, things which seem unlikely enough now will become more practicable, and a Straits Commission may prove, until the outbreak of the next war involving hostilities in this part of the world, as successful as any of the numerous instances of international co-operation cited in this book. But what of Constantinople? It is one thing to administer a waterway where the jurisdiction over any individual is unlikely to extend beyond twenty-four hours at any one time; it is another matter to administer a cosmopolitan town by an international commission. Here our authors would have been well advised to have attempted a detailed constitution for the Constantinople of their well-meant aspirations. Is it to be administered by a municipal council? If so, it will presumably be international in character, and the nationality most strongly represented will probably be the Greek. Are Greeks to be allowed to be in a majority on the council? Probably not. Of what is the police force to consist and under whose orders is it to be? Obviously not Greek or Turkish. American, French, German, British? If so, it will have to be under the orders of a Greco-Turko-Armenian Council. Internationalisation is a blessed word, and is being much used these days; but we do not find many people ready to work out the system to its logical conclusions. The reviewer of this book foresees only friction with any attempt to apply the theories of internationalisation to the practical administration of Constantinople. By all means let the town be under the conjoint protection of the Powers; but the municipal control, for better or for worse, must be in the hands of a single authority. The police force offers the crux of the position. There is the precedent of Shanghai—also international, under the jurisdiction in part of 16 or 17 Consuls, any one of whom has it in his power to thwart the aims of good government and to outrage justice and equity. The Municipal Council is also international; but—and the but is very big—out of nine members seven are British, and the police force is British in constitution (British, Sikh, and Chinese constables) under British control. Accordingly, Shanghai leads a peaceable life, and prospers. Constantinople must try to find salvation on the same principle. It is not suggested that the British need apply for the job; but some attempt ought to be made to secure unity of municipal authority. Russia seemed to offer the obvious solution, but if she will not accept the post, another incumbent must be found for it.

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* "The Question of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles." By Coleman Phillipson, M.A., LL.D., Litt.D. and Noel Buxton, M.A., M.P. (London: Stevens and Haynes. 1917. 12s. 6d. net.)

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ESSAYS ON ZIONISM.*

The volume before us on "Zionism and the Jewish Future," edited by H. Sacher, may be taken as a fair statement of the ideas of British Zionists on this now urgent question. The first point which strikes the reader is the many-sidedness of this movement—sides so various as to be scarcely reconcilable. To some the material object of Zionism appears to be the benefit of the poor persecuted Polish Jew, to give him a home of liberty, where his special mode of life may find a chance of development. More than half the book—a very interesting half—deals with the special interests of East European Jews; but in other essays—and notably in the able article by Norman Bentwich on "The Future of Palestine"—the, as it seems to us, prior claims of the hundreds of thousands of Eastern Jews—in Turkey, Greece, Persia, Georgia, and Turkestan—are forcibly urged. Many thousand members of their communities have moved to Palestine, notably to Jerusalem, but though it is the love of Zion which has brought them there, it can hardly be admitted that they have to any considerable degree been admitted to equal right to development with the European Zionists of the colonies. Norman Bentwich adds: "The Yemen district of Arabia possesses a reservoir of Jewish labourers in the 50,000 people who at present eke out a wretched life in subjection to fanatical Arab tribes. Some thousands of them have already made their way to Palestine and proved their use as workers both in town and field, and the whole community is eager to move when their emigration can be organised." Without doubt these elements, if encouraged and supported, might be of invaluable use to the colonising movement, as they are true Orientals and can stand in a way few Western Jews can do the trying climate of the low-lying—but fertile—lands. They will help to maintain the character of Oriental life and customs which will need to be acquired by the Western Jew, if he is not to appear as a stranger in his ancient home. Among the early colonists costume and mode of life were modelled after Western ways, and pseudo-French modes in ladies' hats and boots seemed strangely out of place among those who claimed that in returning to the subtropical land of their Fathers they were returning to their "home."

The ideal of Zionism is placed—rightly, undoubtedly—on a high plane by the Very Rev. Dr. Gaster, who rejects the criterion of "nationality" as resting simply with a common language, common ethnical origin or political unity, and places it on a common faith: "No one can be a Jew who does not belong to the Jewish faith, and he who belongs to the Jewish faith belongs to the Jewish nation . . . he becomes identified with the hope of the advent of a Messiah, the great ideal outlook of the Jewish nation. . . . There may be degrees in the strength and quality of the faith which each one acknowledges as binding on him. But we have no inquisition. As long as a Jew has not publicly renounced his faith and embraced another he belongs to the Jewish nation. It is of extreme importance to realise that this alone constitutes a Jew—that the nationality of a Jew depends on his faith; for Judaism is a national religion." Such words are logical and clear. It would be well if some people in England would grasp this fact, which is certainly the feeling of the majority of those who are interested in this great movement.

The anonymous three-page "Note on the Boundaries of Palestine" is temperate and scientific, though probably many modern Biblical students would not admit that the "sovereignty of David and Solomon extended northwards as far as the Euphrates."

To many the chapters by S. Tolkowsky, of Jaffa, on the "Jews and the Economic Development of Palestine" and by Dr. Brodetsky on "Cultural Work in Palestine" will prove some of the most interesting in the collection. They are condensed but exhaustive accounts of what has been already accomplished. "The forty-five Jewish colonies existing to-day have a population of about 15,000 souls. They cover a total area of 110,000 acres, which represents nearly 2 per cent. of its cultivated surface." "There is no ground for fearing that by the increase of Jewish immigration we shall ever inconvenience the Arab population; on the contrary, 5,000 Arab labourers are to-day working in the colonies of Judea alone." It is most desirable that the leaders of Zionism should see to it that no injustice should be done to these many thousands of the indigenous population of Palestine, who, if treated with justice and generosity, will be of the utmost service to the new immigrants, but if antagonised by any semi-forcible dispossessment from their ancestral homes and fields will form a source of embarrassment and difficulty to the new settlers for years to come.

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* "Zionism and the Jewish Future." By Various Writers. (London: John Murray. 1917.)

Dr. Brodetsky—and in another chapter Mrs. Benas—refers to that logical and necessary outcome of the educational prospects of Zionism, the establishment in Jerusalem of a Hebrew University "on the lines of European Universities, which shall form the rallying centre of all national spiritual effort." With the vast latent resources at the disposal of the Zionism movement it is impossible to doubt that this must be an early outcome of Jewish cultural activity, and one of the most important fruits of the whole movement.

If it has been only possible here to refer at any length to the practical side of Zionism, it is not that the earlier chapters dealing with the historic side are less interesting. To many English readers—especially perhaps the non-Jews—the "Century of Jewish History" by the Editor, and "Anti-Semitism" by A. M. Hyamson, will be most instructive, as showing the impelling force which has led so many Jews, with such widely different religious ideas, to come to the conclusion that Zionism is a needed idealism for their race against the various forces making for national disintegration.

LORD MORLEY ON INDIA.*

Lord Morley belongs to the school of philosophic Radicals, in whose ranks he stands about midway between the "enlightened self-interest" men and the "perish India" type. Had he lived a century earlier he would certainly have been with Burke against Warren Hastings, and he would have found excellent reasons for impeaching Clive; as it was, the strange tradition of English politics, which puts a lawyer at the head of the Navy and gives a Baptist Prime Minister the promotions to Anglican Sees, made John Morley, as he then was, Secretary of State for India in 1906. He was known to the world as a distinguished literary man who had forsaken journalism for politics—the "orchestra for the stage," as he puts it—as the friend and biographer of Gladstone, and some time Irish Secretary. An unbending agnostic, his enemies declared that he spelt God with a small "g"; his friends, in defence, maintained that his real religion was the Home Rule Bill, and that it was an article of faith with him that the devil resided in Dublin Castle. When he went to the India Office he discovered the principle of evil in frontier expeditions and Imperialism of all kinds, and he continually warned Lord Minto, the then Viceroy, who was by no means a fire-eater, against such seductive glories. Conformably to the old paradox, the democrat in office became the most autocratic of men.

The main article of Lord Morley's administrative creed in dealing with India was that we should transplant thither the spirit but not the letter of English political institutions, and his four years in office were an attempt to translate that ideal into fact. Whether he was satisfied with his achievement does not appear from this autobiography; nor does he refer to the developments which have occurred since he left, and which are now, under the Chelmsford-Montagu *régime*, apparently on the eve of carrying his theories a long way further. This reticence in some ways inclines one to doubt whether his heart was ever thoroughly in India. He would probably have been Irish instead of Indian Secretary in 1906, had the Liberals not been independent of the Irish vote and thereby have suddenly discovered that Home Rule was only of secondary importance; on that subject Lord Morley would never admit of any compromise. It must be confessed that this doubt is not diminished by the remembrance of his Indian speeches, which were cold and hesitating in delivery, and which displeased the little knot of Radical extremists by their moderation as much as they did the Tories by their suggestion of reform. Lord Morley makes it clear that he was not afraid of the extremists; he took their measure with the practised eye of the old Parliamentary hand, and found them talkative but impotent. As a matter of fact, he sometimes took rather considerable risks (debating risks) in dealing with them. He once reproached a member who was lecturing him on Indian policy with only having been six weeks in India. It does not appear that Lord Morley has ever been in India at all, but the rebuked Radical did not think of the retort, or at any rate did not make it. The reason for the Tory distrust was not altogether mere party animosity—there was plenty of that in the 1906 Parliament, but India was usually kept out of the ring—nor was it any die-hard attitude towards the rather modest reforms which Lord Morley introduced. It sprang mainly from the subconscious feeling that the Secretary of State was against his own officials. No particular words or acts could be pointed to to justify that impression, but the impression was there, and the reprint of his letters to Lord Minto in the second volume of this autobiography shows how just the feeling was. There is not one word to show that he recognised the good work of the I.C.S.; he refers to them throughout as Tchinovniks, as though they were merely efficient machines of oppression. He uses far more cordial language about Mr. Keir Hardie, whose visit to India about that time gained some notoriety.

In reading these recollections, one is tempted to wonder what would have happened had Campbell-Bannerman put Mr. Lloyd George at the India Office and given the Exchequer to Mr. John Morley, as he then was. The cold austerity of Mr. Morley would have fitted the Treasury better than Mr. George, who is capable of seeing poetry in the income-tax and making an almost lyrical speech over excess profits. Probably the present Prime Minister knew little enough of India in 1906, but so also did his senior colleague. But the country would have caught hold of his imagination, as it never seems to have done with Lord Morley; he is capable of great enthusiasms, which also was a quality denied to the older man. He would have made more mistakes, but he would probably have been more successful. But Mr. Lloyd George is one of the people whom Lord Morley most strongly objects to; he does not even mention him in these two volumes, which is something of a feat.

There are not many revelations and no indiscretions. It is made clear for the first time that it was Lady Campbell-Bannerman who decided her husband's course in 1905, and that both King Edward and Lord Kitchener wished the latter to go to India as Viceroy, but that Lord Morley would not hear of it. It is also evident that he left the Asquith Government in 1914 not, as some had hoped, because old age unfitted him for the strenuous times ahead, but because he disagreed with the policy of intervention, just as he had disagreed with the British stand over the Baghdad Railway in 1903. This last was a matter of conviction, for it was only later that he was flattered by the German Emperor, and even then he was not hypnotised like Lord Haldane, although, as a true democrat, he was not apparently indifferent to royal politeness.

A GREAT SAILOR.*

Admiral Sir Charles Napier belonged to an ancient Scottish family whose exploits are written large in the history of Great Britain. Born in 1786 at Merchiston, near Falkirk, he entered the Navy as a third-class volunteer in 1799, and saw much service in the Baltic and Mediterranean. In 1809 he took a brilliant part in the conquest of Martinique, where a small vessel under his command intercepted a French line-of-battle ship which was endeavouring to escape from the beleaguered port. By way of requiting exceptional services the Admiralty placed Napier on half-pay; whereupon he joined Wellington's army in Portugal and fought with distinction at the Battle of Busaco (September 27, 1810). Tiring of campaigns on land, he sought employment in a more congenial element, and in 1811 was given command of the "Thames" frigate. The next two years were the happiest of an intensely full and chequered life. Napier inflicted enormous damage on French commerce in the Mediterranean, destroyed land-batteries wholesale, and won the hearts of his crew by tempering strict discipline with justice. On the return of peace in 1814 he was again relegated to half-pay, and once more indulged his restless energy by accepting duties outside the scope of the Royal Navy. The Constitutional Party in Portugal gave him the command of a fleet which was fighting reaction personified in the usurper Dom Miguel. By defeating the Miguelites off Cape St. Vincent he concluded the civil war and placed Queen Maria da

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* "My Recollections." By John Viscount Morley. (Macmillan and Co. 25s Two vols.)

* "Life and Letters of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B. (1786-1860)." By H. Noel Williams. (Hutchinson and Co., 1917. Price 16s. net.)

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Gloria on the throne of Portugal. But official sloth and corruption thwarted his efforts to reorganise the navy. He returned to England in disgust, and spent five years in attempting to secure employment. At length, by sheer pertinacity, he obtained command of the "Powerful," a fine two-decker mounting eighty-four guns, and opportunities of winning fame which had hitherto been denied him. For the perennial Eastern Question assumed an acute phase, owing to the ambition of a soldier of fortune. An Albanian named Mehemet Ali had risen to high rank in the Turkish army and secured the Pashalik of Egypt. In 1811 he treacherously massacred the Mamluks, who had set up a military despotism resembling those of the Prætorian Guard in decadent Rome and the Janissaries at Constantinople. Astute, clear-sighted, a born organizer, but utterly without scruple, Mehemet Ali lost no opportunity of extending his dominions, and in 1838 he rose in rebellion against the Porte. After conquering Syria, he sent his son Ibrahim Pasha against the Turkish army, which suffered a crushing defeat on the Euphrates. In vain did the feeble Sultan Abdul Mejid offer his contumacious vassal the hereditary Pashalik of Egypt. It was Mehemet Ali's ambition to oust the dynasty of Othman from Constantinople; and it would have materialised but for the intervention of the Great Powers. In 1839 England, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia sent a combined fleet to the Levant, with orders to uphold the Sultan's sovereignty. But, by no means for the first or last time in history, concerted action was precluded by mutual jealousies. France secretly supported Mehemet Ali, insisting that he ought to retain Syria as well as Egypt. Thereupon the other Powers entered into a Convention (July 1, 1840) which excluded France from the settlement of the Eastern Question. It gave Mehemet Ali ten days within which he was to accept the hereditary government of Egypt and the administration of Syria. Indignation in Paris rose to fever-point; and Mehemet Ali, relying on dissension among the Frankish Powers, refused their ultimatum with contumely. The Gordian Knot was cut by Napier, who had received the command of a powerful squadron, with the rank of Commodore. He wrested Sidon from the Egyptians, defeated them thrice on land, and bombarded the great citadel of Acre. Then, after expelling Mehemet Ali's forces from Syria, he held out the olive-branch to the grand old adventurer, who granted him an audience at Alexandria. Napier's account of this episode is very interesting. Of Mehemet Ali he wrote:—

> I am not sure that the means he used were justifiable, but, judging him by an Oriental standard, which is the only fair way of judging him, he must be considered an extraordinary man. In less than twenty years he has created an army, navy and dockyard which would do credit to any nation; he has constructed nine or ten sail of the line, some of them very fine ships; he has made officers and sailors of his Arabs, and has instilled some of his own activity into the minds of the indolent Turks in his service. . . . The Pasha is a man of low stature, a good deal marked with the small-pox; his complexion is sallow, his eyes quick and penetrating. He wears a white beard, and when in good humour has a most fascinating manner; but when out of temper his eyes sparkle, he raises himself up in his corner, and soon convinces you that he is much more easily led than driven. He is easy of access, and, indeed, fond of gossiping, and seems well informed of everything that is said or done in Alexandria. He has many friends among the Franks, and when he once takes a liking the man's fortune is made. He has built a very handsome palace, and furnished it with taste. Opposite to it stands the harem where his wives reside, but the old gentleman has given up his visits to that establishment.

The negotiators found that they possessed many traits in common, and Napier actually persuaded his erstwhile foe to conclude a Convention (November 27, 1840) under which he resigned all claims to Syria in return for the here-

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ditary Pashalik of Egypt, under the guarantee of the Powers. Although these arrangements were effected without regular diplomatic authority, they were afterwards ratified in substance by the Powers. In fact, Napier placed Mehemet Ali's dynasty on the throne of Egypt and settled the Eastern Question for thirteen years.

This Convention marked the zenith of his fortunes. He had succeeded as a soldier, sailor, and diplomat. But an old Greek dramatist warns us to "call no man happy until he is dead." The evening of Napier's glorious career was clouded by events for which he was certainly not responsible. In 1853 Nicholas I. reopened the Eastern Question, and Great Britain drifted into war with Russia; and Napier, who had become an Admiral and K.C.B., was appointed to command the Baltic Fleet. His ships represented the last word in naval construction, but they were ill-manned and worse found. In the words of his latest biographer—

> the public was duped by dishonest politicians, whose interest it was to conceal the fatal effects of the cheese-paring economy by which they had sought to gain credit in time of peace.

His correspondence with Sir James Graham and the other muddlers in Whitehall is very sorry reading for all who have Great Britain's honour at heart. With one eye fixed on Fleet Street and the other on the House of Commons, they urged him to attack Cronstadt and Sweaborg, which bristled with far heavier guns than any at his disposal. But Napier's daring was tempered by a large measure of Scottish caution. He steadfastly refused to dash his wooden walls against granite; and the history of subsequent operations in the Baltic proves that he exercised a wise discretion. It may, indeed, be said that Great Britain owed him more for what he refrained from doing than for all the exploits which will keep his memory green for years to come. Of course, public opinion demanded a scapegoat for the comparative failure of Napier's Baltic expedition, and the Admiralty escaped punishment for their own sins of omission by casting him to the lions. He was curtly dismissed from command, and spent the remainder of his life in fruitless appeals for justice. It must be admitted that Sir Charles Napier excelled in the "gentle art of making enemies." He had a trick of expressing his opinions in nervous English, and never lost an opportunity of exposing the Admiralty's shortcomings. Posterity will render ample justice to his memory. Conceding all that can be legitimately urged against it, one recognises in Napier a seaman of the type presented by Hawke, Nelson and Dundonald. Mr. H. Noel Williams has succeeded in rehabilitating a career besmirched by ignoble envy, and his book has absorbing interest at this time of national stress.

F. H. S.

LE PRESIDENT WILSON.*

"The man of the hour," "the Arbiter of the War"; with these and similar well deserved, if highly coloured epigrams, the man is being hailed who, with Promethean constancy, defied a hostile universe. And the man who is claiming, who has claimed, the world's attention is not so much the President of the United States as President *Wilson*. Any book which contains within its covers a tolerable account of that personality cannot but be of absorbing interest.

M. Halévy very happily focuses on the individual. He discusses not so much President Wilson as Woodrow Wilson, the man, the historian, the essayist and, incidentally, the President. He traces the hero of his biography back to his Puritan ancestry, and describes the surroundings of his infancy which, it appears, had more than their usual share in moulding his character. The author significantly remarks that, as a young man, the subject matter Mr. Wilson chose for his prize essay was Pitt. It would have been of interest to have ascertained in what light the essayist of yesterday and the President of to-day regarded the 18th century statesman, and it is a pity that M. Halévy has not been able to obtain a copy.

It may be a revelation to many, but the pacific proclivities of President Wilson, once mistakenly conceived as rabid and worthy of a crank, appear under our author's able treatment in an entirely new garb. M. Halévy depicts his hero as a born, resolute fighter, who, however, owes no allegiance to the baser instincts of cupidity President Wilson's present stand is but one out of many manifestations of his idealistic policy, to which he has constantly adhered throughout. Whether as a student of Political Science where his sway could not extend beyond the domain of thought, as a University organiser, or finally as the highest dignitary in the State, Woodrow Wilson, as becomes a man who has the courage of his convictions, never swerved from his goal.

The American point of view has always more or less baffled Englishmen. The Panama Canal policy in its inception, the Sackville-West affair, the Venezuela message, and a host of other incidents have taken by surprise those who did not realise that the fault lay in a defective system of internal politics. Mr. Wilson's rôle was, if anything, to dispel these superficial differences; and if his policy appeared for a time equally unintelligible to friend and foe, it was owing to his ultra-idealistic attitude, his sincerity and singleness of purpose. It is this avowed defect of American politics that seems to widen the scope of the ardent reformer and the assertive personality. True to the traditions of the English-speaking race, the Americans are too practical and too contemptuous of logic to worry about theoretical shortcomings. This characteristic finds its counterpart in the British constitution, which on paper is meaningless enough to lead de Tocqueville to pronounce it non-existent. In practice it is a wonderful machinery, a marvellous piece of constructive legislation full of wisdom, and certainly a masterpiece of practical politics. Transplant the British Constitution (in the letter) to a foreign land, and it will become the object of derision. Adopt the American balance of powers theory literally, and the machine gets clogged. In the words of M. Halévy, the American Constitution looks as though it was made to provoke conflicts. "It is a machinery well calculated to destroy power and negate government." And unless the sagacity of American statesmen could be trusted to overcome these difficulties, government would be impossible. But Americans have trusted to the sagacity of their statesmen. And if, at times, this illogical procedure has failed them, let us not forget that in the realm of international politics the American Government is a novice. A civil war followed by a period of unrivalled expansion absorbed the nation's energy. But the growing power of internationalism is forcing upon the American people a broader outlook. And it is matter for regret that M. Halévy should not give preminence to an incident of immense importance which illustrates at once the inevitable trend towards internationalism of American politics, and the brilliant liberality and breadth of vision with which President Wilson inaugurated his first tenure—viz., the repeal of the Canal Tolls Discriminating Act.

Withal, M. Halévy has written a brilliant essay. A note of profoundness runs through it: a profoundness, however, that does not repel the casual reader.

S. L.

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* Par Daniel Halevy. (Librairie Royat et Cie. Paris. 4frs.)

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REMINISCENCES.[*]

According to Carlyle, history is the essence of innumerable biographies; but future annalists of the Victorian Era will find scanty material in Mr. Gerard Van de Linde's garrulous recollections. He is fortunate in being the son of an eminent Dutch poet, who must have possessed great personal charm; still more so in having inherited the gift which a writer in *The Times* justly assigned to the founder of THE NEAR EAST—namely, "a genius for friendship." His career appears to have been modelled on that of Hogarth's Industrious Apprentice. Embarking on business in early manhood, he discovered the Philosopher's Stone of success, "Make yourself indispensable." After attaining eminence as a marine and produce broker, he found his true vocation in the arduous profession of chartered accountant. It took him far afield—to India, Egypt, America, and nearly every country in Europe. His reminiscences are mainly transcribed from a copious diary recording impressions of men and things in a spirit of breezy optimism which stands in marked contrast with the world's temper at the present hour. We are told in great detail what Mr. Van de Linde ate and drank, what hotels he favoured, and what trains or steamers he managed to catch. There is no attempt at psychological analysis, no glimpse of that underworld of fraud and self-seeking which exists in every great commercial centre. But this humdrum story of an uneventful life will doubtless interest Mr. Van de Linde's innumerable friends, and possibly benefit the finances of the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Institution, to which he generously gives such profit as may be derived from its sale.

F. H. S.

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AN EGYPTIAN REFORMATORY.

BY COLES PASHA.

(*Concluded.*)

We had, of course, great difficulties with the physically incapable (many were nearly blind), and the mentally deficient, to say nothing of those addicted to drugs no longer obtainable. The malingerers and those who pretended to be incapable of acquiring even the rudiments of a handicraft were, too, not a few at first, thus hoping to escape the period of cellular probation and be relegated to the domestic duties of the prison, especially the prison garden, which was where the then hopeless cases eventually drifted. But when the wastrels found that no advantage was thus gained—on the contrary, it meant deprivation of certain amenities in the establishment and postponement of release till the full period of their sentence had expired—it was remarkable what efforts they made. In fact, much of my time when inspecting the establishment was spent in listening to appeals from those who had been classed as hopeless by their instructors. But this improved state of affairs was only reached after the suppression of a very serious mutiny during the second year. The establishment, too, got at one time a rather bad name, owing to the discovery of some false coins which, with the connivance of some of the officials, were being fabricated by one or two who had proved themselves good craftsmen—too good, in fact! But notwithstanding these set-backs, during the three years I remained in Egypt the general improvement in the inmates can, I think, only be described as very satisfactory, if not marvellous. Some who were classed as hopeless degenerates improved wonderfully, and the crafts acquired by others left no doubt as to their ability to earn an honest livelihood on release should they wish to keep straight. What surprised me most was the facility with which some who were well on in life learned to read and write, and evidently took a pleasure in the limited amount of book-work attempted to be taught at the establishment.

My readers will probably say this is all very interesting, but how about the result? As prior to my leaving Egypt no one had been in detention long enough to qualify for release, I am unable to state what percentage were eventually classed as successes, but of the 400 who had completed the period of probation 190 were reported as doing well, 40 fairly well, 22 slight progress, 60 malingerers, and 88 as physically unfit or degenerates and incapable of earning an honest livelihood. But whatever the final verdict will be as regards those who were apparently doing all that was expected of them, the Institution must prove a success from my point of view, as the community will have been relieved of the presence of these offenders for a considerable period, and the Courts should have no hesitation in inflicting the further period of ten years should they again return to their evil ways. Presumedly, too, the Government will see the necessity of making some provision for the mentally and physically unfit, other than inflicting repeated sentences of imprisonment, as at present.

It may be argued that this long period of detention and the pay of the extra staff provided costs the department considerably more than ordinary imprisonment. This is undoubtedly true, £9 5s. against £18 5s. was tabled as the average annual cost of a prisoner and an inmate of the reformatory respectively the last year I was in Egypt. But against this we may write off the expense the State would have incurred in arresting and trying the same individual repeatedly during the same period had he been a free man, to say nothing of the saving to the community in the shape of stolen property!

Altogether, I doubt there being much in it, but we need not labour the point, as I do not think the Egyptian authorities were troubled on this score. What undoubtedly did trouble them was the civilised methods of prison administration I was gradually introducing, which many, the late Lord Kitchener amongst them, considered too humane for the Egyptian peasant.

To appreciate better this Egyptian point of view, let us see how habitual offenders were dealt with in the early part of the nineteenth century, when Lane visited Egypt. In "The Manners and Customs of Modern Egyptians," we are told that although the amputation of limbs for offences against property, as prescribed in the Koran, was no longer in vogue, still repeated offences were always punished by death, and the first and second offences by severe bastinadoing. "The Basha," too, had a summary way of dealing with cases coming before him, "a peculiar horizontal movement of his hand" leaving the offender in no doubt as to the disposal of his head! It may be admitted that our own system of justice about that period was, too, somewhat primitive, as sheep-stealing was punishable by death, and the skeletons of highwaymen in chains adorned many of our cross-roads. But, whereas in England a civilised administration of justice may be said to have commenced from that period, in Egypt the conditions we found in 1882 were not far removed from what Lane saw fifty years earlier, as I myself can testify. I will quote one case. A murderer, six months after we had occupied Egypt, was sentenced to death by the old Tribunals, and decapitated in the presence of the Governor of the province. But the sword, being somewhat blunt, and the Cowas, who was executioner, not an expert, it took about six strokes to accomplish. The next of kin, who in this particular case had refused "blood-money," then rushed forward and washed her hands (it was a woman) in the man's blood!*

Bastinadoing, too, was, of course, the standard punishment, only without any regular trial, and generally administered to extort evidence or taxes! I think the Egyptians may be excused for failing to appreciate up-to-date prison administration and an adult reformatory only twenty years later! But if new-fashioned prison methods did not altogether find favour, neither was there by any means an agreement as to the the new method of administering justice by the new Tribunals. There are two distinct schools of thought: the old school, voiced by the Governors and Executive generally, who are nominally responsible for the public security, and who only ask to be given back some of their old untrammelled authority. Then there is the younger generation, most of whom have graduated in the school of law, who are rather apt to look on elaborate procedure and other legal paraphernalia as all that is required—the shadow without substance. It is this latter school who are opposed to anything in the way of corporal punishment, and who can with difficulty be persuaded to inflict the capital sentence; neither do they quite realise that a civilised administration of justice must be completed by civilised methods of prison administration. I sympathise with the old school, but I reserve my arguments and powers of persuasion for the younger generation in the Justice, who undoubtedly represent all the intelligence of the country, and through whom alone we can eventually reach the civilised administration best suited to the country.

I fear that all this is rather a digression from the benefits which may be expected from the establishment

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* These facts were elicited by me at an official inquiry.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

of an adult reformatory, and I have already exceeded the space I shall be allowed. Briefly, I did not expect miracles; on the contrary, I anticipated that of the six or seven thousand persons who are annually admitted to prison in Egypt on re-conviction, probably one-half are incorrigible, and should be more or less permanently under lock and key. I calculated that if we could get, say, 3,000 sentenced for an indeterminate period, and the remainder either flogged or provided for in asylums or almshouses, we should have gone a long way to rid the community of these pests. Having once got the principle accepted by the Courts, the only difficulty was to provide the necessary accommodation. Had I remained in Egypt my intention was to utilise the existing prisons, or portions thereof, as "Special Establishments" as the number of habituals sentenced to indeterminate periods increased.

In my long career I have generally found that, if one agitates long enough, one generally succeeds in attaining one's object. I should have gone on agitating till I had succeeded in getting (*a*) corporal punishment accepted as a punishment, rather than imprisonment in many cases, (*b*) labour in lieu of imprisonment as a punishment for all minor misdemeanours, (*c*) a more liberal administration of the First Offenders' provisions of the Code. Having thus reduced the prison population by several thousands, I calculated there would be plenty of accommodation for 3,000 habituals to be treated on reformatory lines.

But all the agitation in the world will not, alas! stop advancing years, and the autumn of 1913 found me leaving Egypt at the close of my official career with my life's work incomplete.

Since then the war has put a stop to all reforms in Egypt and elsewhere, and who can tell what the future may bring. New men new manners. I can, however, claim to have created the pioneer adult reformatory on this side of the Atlantic, and I am confident that the indeterminate sentence is the weapon with which all civilised countries will eventually combat the habitual offender.

* * *

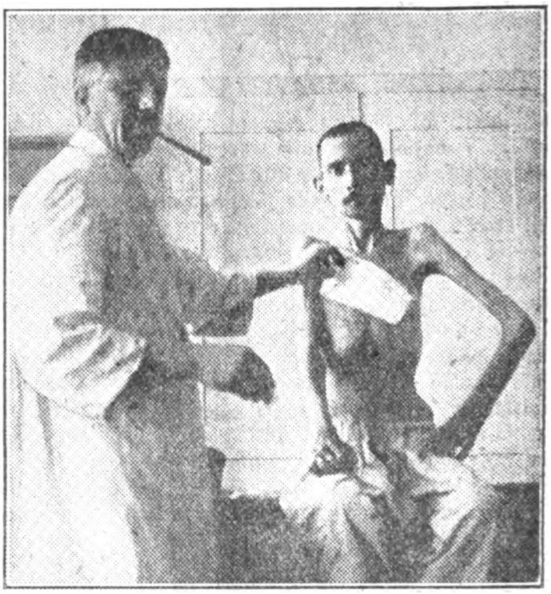
THE WOMEN OF ROUMANIA.

A large gathering assembled at South Lodge, Rutland Gate, on February 25, to hear Mme. Také Jonescu and Dr. Nicholas Lupu speak on Roumanian women in peace time and in present conditions. In the absence of the Roumanian Minister the chair was taken by M. M B. Boerescu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, who said that His Excellency would have liked to be present and express the admiration and gratitude of his country for the splendid work done for Roumania by British ladies in this hour of trial.

Mme. Také Jonescu said that Bucharest had a reputation as the gayest of the smaller capitals of Europe. This was undeserved; the manifestations of human weakness were not peculiar to any one land, and she was convinced that in Roumania there was as large a proportion of exemplary wives, devoted mothers, and good women fulfilling useful duties in every sphere of life as in any other country.

Of the peasant women, she said that Roumania, being almost exclusively an agricultural community, the male population of the villages was relatively unoccupied during the winter months, but the women were never idle. Apart from household work and the care of their numerous children, they spun and wove all the clothes of their hsubands, brothers, and sons, worked the exquisite silken embroideries on their own clothes, and the fine veils that the married women wore. This was in peace time. Since the outbreak of the war the Roumanian women, headed by Queen Marie, had tended the sick and wounded. They had never quailed before the advance of the invader, and, where it was found impossible to evacuate the wounded before the arrival of the enemy there were always brave doctors and nurses to remain.

Dr. Lupu also spoke of the industry of the peasant women. Besides the work already mentioned by Mme. Jonescu, he said the peasant woman helped her husband in the fields. Despite many simple joys, her life was a long martyrdom; she aged quickly; and ten or fifteen years after marriage she had the appearance of an old woman. The Roumanian woman rarely married a foreigner; when she did so she Romanised him. In Transylvania, when the Roumanian army entered the country, the Roumanian women there whose own men folk had been compelled to join the Austro-Hungarian army welcomed the invaders and helped them. Many of them had since paid for this with their lives. Five courts were sitting permanently to deal with such cases, and these had condemned fourteen thousand people to death or imprisonment.



A Serbian soldier (prisoner of war) suffering from hunger-typhus in Mathausen. Reproduced direct from an absolutely untouched, authenticated photograph. (*Serbian Official.*)

If you were this Famished Serb Soldier

He was once a stalwart son of Serbia, his only crime that he fought to protect his home and those he held dear. Look on the photograph and you see the mere skeleton of a man with little left but the will to live. And he *wants* to live. If *you* were in his place would you not be grateful if bread were sent across the waters to feed you and bring back health and strength?

This man's case is but one amongst many. "There are concentration camps where one-half of the inmates have died. And this is not a case of an epidemic. . . . *They die there of cold and hunger.*"

This is the cold recital of irrefragable facts in a memorandum issued by the Serbian Legation. You who read this will feel an impulse to help those who cannot help themselves. You *can* help them. The way is clear before you. The Serbian Relief Fund is the only officially authorised Fund under British administration working exclusively for the relief of Serbians. This Committee is sending food to starving Serbians in prison camps, and is helping to keep alive and healthy the refugee Serbs—parents, wives and children of Serbian soldiers who are still gallantly fighting for the Allied cause.

Save for the soldiers, one part of the Serbian people is in the hands of Serbia's enemies; the rest are in exile. Their vital needs are Food, Clothing and Medical Aid. Help to succour them by sending a donation according to your ability to :—

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The Right Hon. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, C.B.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Ex-King Constantine. Feb. 21.

Mr. Lynch asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether means existed whereby ex-King Constantine might hold correspondence with his relatives in this country; and whether facilities are given by the Government for these communications?

The Minister of Blockade (Lord Robert Cecil): King Constantine's correspondence is subject to the ordinary disabilities affecting correspondence from neutral countries, and nó special facilities are given in his favour.

Mr. Pemberton Billing: Does this apply to packages sent from this country to ex-King Constantine?

Lord R. Cecil: It depends on the nature of the package.

Mr. Lynch: Is the noble lord aware of the fact that a parcel of khaki uniforms was recently sent from this country to ex-King Constantine?

Lord R. Cecil: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Billing: Is it a question of principle to allow packages to go from this country to ex-King Constantine, who is admittedly an enemy of this country and a spy?

Lord R. Cecil: I do not think that it is a question of principle. I do not quite understand the hon. member's question.

Mr. Billing: Is ex-King Constantine regarded as an enemy or a friend to this country?

Lord R. Cecil: I should like notice of that question.

The Turkish Empire.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the memorandum of agreement between Britain, France, and Russia, embodying the arrangements made in the spring of 1916 for the partition of the Turkish Empire after the war, still embodies undertakings to which this country is bound; and whether he will indicate what are the religious interests in Palestine of this country which the memorandum declares are to be secured.

Lord R. Cecil: As I have already pointed out, I cannot at present undertake to discuss these agreements. The version of this particular agreement given by the hon. member is entirely inaccurate.

Mr. King: Is it quite inaccurate to say that we do not recognise any special religious interests in Palestine?

Lord R. Cecil: I do not think that that quite covers my answer. What I said was that the version of the hon. member was entirely inaccurate, but I cannot discuss these agreements.

Mr. King: As the last part of the question is not covered by the answer, cannot some answer be made to it?

Lord R. Cecil: Quite obviously not. The hon. member asks what religious interests in Palestine of this country are to be secured, and I have told the hon. member that I cannot discuss these agreements.

Bulgaria and Russia. Feb. 26.

Mr. Noel Buxton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had official information to the effect that peace has been concluded between Bulgaria and Russia; and, if so, on what terms?

Mr. Balfour, replying, said he had no official information to the effect that peace had been concluded between Bulgaria and Russia.

British Prisoners. Feb. 27.

Mr. J. F. Hope, in reply to a question by Mr. Hume-Williams, said: The number of British prisoners who have reached Holland for internment under the Hague Agreement is 313 officers and 1,165 others. No news has yet been received of the ratification by the Ottoman Government of the Berne Agreement relative to prisoners of war which was signed on December 28, 1917. Some of the Turkish delegates at the conference are understood to have returned to Turkey immediately on its conclusion, while others are believed to be still in Switzerland. The text of the Agreement is alleged by the Turkish Government, however, only to have reached them about February 10. His Majesty's Government are unaware of any reason for delay in ratification, and have requested the Dutch Government to ascertain through its representative in Constantinople how the matter now stands.

IVAN MESHTROVITCH PURCHASE FUND.

The committee formed to obtain a characteristic example of the work of Ivan Meshtrovitch for a public collection has decided to apply the amount already subscribed—viz., £350—towards the purchase of the relief in wood, "Descent from the Cross." It is hoped that some heroic group in the round, like the "Mother and Child," originally thought of, may be secured in happier times. To complete the purchase of the relief a sum of £200 is still required, and the committee appeals with confidence to those who have been moved by the measureless sacrifice of the Serbian race and the tragic expression given to it in the art of the Serbian sculptor. The example chosen is a fitting symbol of the first, and would, it is believed, be welcomed among our national treasures as representing one remarkable side of Meshtrovitch's art. Contributions should be sent to the honorary secretary, Ernest H. R. Collings, 18, Ravenslea Road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W 12. The chairman of the fund is Sir John Lavery, R.S.A., A.R.A.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

A Long Trek.

The February number of *Blackwood's Magazine* contains, over the signature "H. C. W. B.," an interesting account of the 1,700 miles journey undertaken by some of the Kut garrison to their place of interment at Kastamuni. A large part of this long trek was done on foot by officers as well as by men. Kastamuni, indeed, is an officers' prisoners of war camp, and the rank and file of the garrison were detached at different stages of the journey for other destinations. Steamer accommodation was not sufficient for the numbers to be transported from Kut, and some had to march on the very first day. Baghdad would seem to have been reached without much hardship, but from that point the prisoners' troubles (and worse) began. The treatment of the officers was, according to Turkish lights, correct; that of the men, in the opinion of the author, constitutes "one of the blackest crimes committed during any war." Here is an account of the first day out from Baghdad:—

> Most of us were weary, and many preferred lying on the floor of the corridors or vestibules at the end of the cars, to sitting straight up in the cramped compartments. We made several halts, and it was near midnight when we arrived. Our guards, a few gendarmes, seemed to have no idea where we were going, or what was to be done with us. Eventually we were told to leave our kit, which was to be brought along later, and were guided down towards the river. After walking a mile we found ourselves in a small Arab village on the river bank, and were conducted into a courtyard some forty yards square, where we were told we were to stay. There was a rough shelter round three sides, formed by brushwood supported on a rough wooden framework; this promised a certain amount of shade, and we were all glad to be in the open air, rather than in another barrack building.

On leaving Samarra the prisoners fared badly in the matter of transport: "By the time we had got our kit packed we had left for riding one reasonably large donkey and a diminutive beast between the six officers and seven Indian servants in our mess." At Tekrit, however, some additional animals were secured, and the 175 miles between Samarra and Mosul were covered in just under ten days.

An interesting point established by this narrative is that in June, 1916, railhead of the Baghdad Railway was still at Ras-el-Ain, or just beyond, and had by no means reached Nisibin, as had been generally believed. Between Mosul and Ras-el-Ain the transport was composed chiefly of carts—without springs, *bien entendu*. The 200 miles were covered in ten days. "Most of us had walked half the distance, and bumped in carts over the other half." Twelve hours of rail brought the party to Aleppo; thence by train to Islahie railhead for the journey over the Anti-Taurus range. By this time the prisoners were more in touch with contemporary events in Turkey, as the following extracts show:—

> There were some Austrian troops in Aleppo, and we now began to meet many more Germans. Turkish training-camps were

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, Colonel (late R.E.), Secretary.

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much in evidence at the stations we passed after leaving Aleppo, and a good deal of material was going south on the railway. Most of this was going to Egypt to assist in the attack which ended so disastrously for the Turks.

We spent the night at Islahie under some rough tent shelters. All our clothes had been fumigated in a steam wagon specially designed for the purpose.

The following morning we noticed a crowd of men, women, and children moving off along the road and looking very wretched. Our guards said that these were Armenians who had been working on the line, but were being taken away to make room for our troops, who would be sent to work in their place; they also added that these Armenians would be marched off into a waterless spot in the hills, and kept there till they died.

We left our camp in the evening, travelling the first part of the way in carts over one of the most bumpy roads ever seen. After a halt at the foot of the pass we marched up, starting at midnight. There was a fine moon, and the scenery as we climbed higher became very grand. The road appeared to be only lately completed, and was probably due to German energy. As we neared the summit three or four bodies were seen lying in the ditch beside the road: these were evidently some of the Armenians we had seen starting off that morning.

* * *

As we neared the railway again at Bozanti we noticed a few British prisoners. These were naval men taken in the Dardanelles. They said they were being paid, and apparently had not much to complain about. We were not allowed to stop and speak to them, and can only hope they have fared better than our own troops who were put to work shortly afterwards on the neighbouring sections of the line through the Taurus.

At Bozanti we were able to buy a few stores, some of which were British and had been left behind at Gallipoli when we evacuated the Peninsula.

The rest of the journey was comparatively uneventful. Kastamuni was reached on July 5, and the party was halted outside the town while a number of local gendarmes formed up on each side of the road to lend some degree of state to the entry.

The Voice of Albania.

It will be news to many that there is an Albanian daily paper—in Boston, U.S.A. *Dielli* ("The Sun"), we are told, is "the organ of the Nationalist Albanians who want an Independent and Sovereign State of Albania," and it is well that the Albanian point of view should not be lost sight of, even if it can only be adequately heard by way of America. Certainly, if the views of *Dielli* obtain, there will be trouble ahead with any settlement that does not take Albanian requirements into consideration.

In the issue of January 18 there is a forceful article by the Rev. Fan S. Noli, president of the Albanian Federation, who takes up the challenge of an American military critic, who appears to have written in support of the policy of a "window on the sea" for Serbia. This critic is charged with having defended the partition of Albania, having offered Northern Albania to Serbia to satisfy the latter's demand for access to the sea; "and, what is worse, he interprets in that spirit Section XI. of the fourteen conditions of peace set forth by President Wilson in his address before Congress." From the reverend father's reply we take these passages:—

> In my humble opinion, free access to the sea for Serbia through Northern Albania is a military impossibility. Here are some facts to prove my assertion:—
>
> Serbia had before the Balkan wars a population of about two millions. To this she added more than one million of unwilling Albanian subjects and about a million of equally unwilling Bulgarians and Turks by annexing the Albanian province of Kossovo and the Bulgarian province of Northern Macedonia as the fruits of her victorious wars against Turkey and Bulgaria in 1912 and 1913. She may now consummate her happiness by annexing Northern Albania, and thus acquiring her much-coveted free outlet to the Adriatic Sea. . . . But the fact is that the Albanian subjects of restored Serbia, with a window upon the sea, will amount to about two millions. And *that is the question*.
>
> * * *
>
> These Albanians will live up to their record; they will unquestionably fight the issue with the Serbians, if they are compelled to undertake such an ungrateful task, and the odds will not be on the Serbians' side at the end of this war, as they were at the end of the Balkan wars. Serbia is now depopulated by war, by famine, by contagious diseases, by ruthless Austro-German deportations and massacres. The Huns have done their work in poor Serbia as efficiently as in blood-soaked Armenia. Of the two millions of Serbians there hardly remain one million, mostly old men, women and children. Now, have these old men, women, and children any chance against two millions of stalwart Albanian highlanders, about whom Lord Byron said:—
>
> "Where is the foe that ever saw their back."
>
> To ask is to answer. The whole thing is worse than preposterous from a military point of view, it is simply ridiculous.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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An extraordinary general meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was held on February 27, at which it was decided to bring an action against the British Government for compensation in respect of the destruction of the company's properties and plant in November, 1916. Apparently the proceedings will take the form of a Petition of Right, which, it is held, will ensure a definite answer to the company's claim. This, it may be mentioned, is for £1,270,700, plus 5 per cent. interest, but Sir Watson Rutherford said at the meeting: "If they would pay us for our stocks, which they destroyed, £197,000, and give us an assurance that our claim for the residue was admitted in principle, and the British Government would see that after the war, within a reasonable time, the rest of our claim (to which there is no answer) would be paid, we should be quite willing to let the matter stand over."

⁂

All things considered the position of the Imperial Bank of Persia disclosed by Sir Hugh Barnes at the general meeting this week must be regarded as extremely satisfactory. All the bank's branches have been reopened, and business has improved as the result of the growth of confidence and a sense of security in the country. Sir Hugh thought the outlook was promising, but emphasised the need for improved communications, if Persia's trade is to be developed. "It is possible," he said, "that after the war the Persian Government may see its way to embark on a programme of development, and, if so, the bank, as the State Bank of Persia, will be in a position to render it valuable assistance."

⁂

Recent events have accentuated, if possible, the unfortunate position in which Roumania has been placed since the dawn of "democracy" in Russia, and in the circumstances it is not difficult to find the basis for the belief of the Central Powers that they will be able to conclude peace with our Ally. How British interests in Roumania will be affected in that eventuality may be gathered from recent advices from Amsterdam, which suggest that Germany and Austria intend to try to secure a monopoly of the Roumanian oilfields. It is stated that a proposal will be made to the Roumanian Government to expropriate all the petroleum wells in the country and lease them for a long term to the Deutsche Bank, who were largely interested in the oilfields before the war. The control of the oilfields would be of inestimable value to the industries of the Central Powers, and on that account it may be accepted as probable that they will insist on this monopoly as a condition of peace, colour being lent to this view by the statement that Bulgaria alone was advancing substantial territorial claims against Roumania.

⁂

Naturally Roumania will object very strongly to any such proposal, for the expropriation of her oilfields would deprive her of her most valuable economic asset on which the hopes of her future progress are mainly based, but in the circumstances anything may happen, and it would be too much to assume that Germany may not obtain the temporary control of the oilfields. I use the word "temporary" advisedly, because it must be clear that there can be no permanence about any such arrangement while the war remains undecided. When Germany has been decisively beaten it will be the pleasant duty of the Allies to revise any arrangements of this kind. So that there is not the slightest reason for pessimism on the part of shareholders in British oil companies there should Germany obtain her desired concession. The position would be materially unchanged so far as they are concerned. And what applies to them applies equally to those interested in other British undertakings in Roumania.

⁂

There is one aspect of Germany's desire to obtain this monopoly which is of particular interest, and that is the light it throws on the sincerity of her protests against an economic war. The mere suggestion that the Allies might be compelled to punish her by economic measures brought forth new threats and frightfulness from Germany, yet she is now calmly proposing a monopoly in oil which is nothing if it is not economic war. But Germany proved long ago that she was a law unto herself in anything that concerned her own interests, so that her present *volte face* will occasion no surprise. It should, however, serve to remove the last vestige of opposition to the recourse to economic measures by the Allies to protect their trade from German penetration.

⁂

There is a serious shortage of preservatives for hides and skins at the present time, due partly to the scarcity of raw materials owing to the war, and partly to the absence of German proprietary articles. Besides obtaining the control of the hides trade in various parts of the world, the Germans, with their usual care, entered very thoroughly into the question of the preservation of the raw material, and the preservatives they introduced, mainly of an arsenical nature, were in very general use before the war. The fact that these preparations are no longer available has made a considerable difference. The present situation may be gauged from the fact that white powdered arsenic, which cost £13 a ton when the war broke out, is now quoted at from £130 to £150 a ton, and even at that price is scarcely obtainable. Naturally, the position has made the provision of substitutes a necessity, and steps have already been taken in this direction, notably in France, where some excellent results are stated to have been obtained.

⁂

An important interview with Dr. Douritch, Professor of Political Economy, Belgrade University, and Commercial Attaché at the Serbian Legation, on the results of the recent tour in this country of Serbian business men, in the arrangements for which he played a leading part, will be found on page 180. Dr. Douritch, I am glad to write, expresses his complete satisfaction with the tour, which, he points out, has enabled the Serbians to explain very frankly to British merchants and manufacturers the value of economic relations between the two countries. Now that their interest has been awakened in the question its importance must be kept constantly before them if we are not to be taken at a disadvantage by the coming of peace. For to be interested in promoting trade with a country is one thing; it is quite another to take the necessary steps to that end, and here I must lay stress once more on the need for preparation now, if our business men are to hold their own after the war. To enter the Serbian market or any other trading sphere entails immediate preparation. To put it off until the war ends would be little less than futile.

⁂

It is interesting to note what pains the Central Powers are taking to investigate the economic possibilities of the lands they have invaded. One of the latest instances of their keenness in this direction is referred to by a Bulgarian paper, which describes the visit of an "expert" to the Serbian coalfields. The expert, who, it seems, found ten new localities where mines could be successfully operated, and a rich field of coal near Usce along the river Ita, made an excellent report on the coalfields, which he declared offered admirable opportunities for the investment of capital. I may mention here that, while Serbia's coal resources were perfectly understood before the war, only fourteen mines were being worked in 1910. At the outbreak of war this number had been increased to over twenty, but any further development was out of the question, owing to the lack of miners, enterprise, and capital. Here, then, is a concrete example of a direction in which Serbia will require our help, that is unless we are willing to allow Germany to profit by the work of the expert already mentioned.

⁂

An interesting development in Bulgaria at the end of last year was the action of the Ministry of Finance in prohibiting the use in Bulgaria and in the occupied territories of Roumanian, Serbian, and Greek banknotes, silver and nickel money. Holders of these moneys were given a date by which to declare their holdings to the National Bank of Bulgaria, and those who had extensive holdings were allowed to export them.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Serbian Industrial Mission

Interview with Dr. Douritch.

The opinion seems to be general that it would have been difficult to devise a more promising scheme for the promotion of economic relations between Great Britain and Serbia after the war than the recent visit of the Serbian Industrial Mission to the chief commercial centres of this country, in the course of which the members of the mission have had an opportunity of explaining how Serbia's future requirements can best be met and the possibilities for trade between the two countries. Obviously the results of the tour cannot be gauged during the war, but this much can be said—that the visit of the mission has given British merchants and manufacturers a clear insight into the value of trade relations with Serbia, and from the way in which they have welcomed the tour, no less than from their speeches at the numerous functions held in honour of their Serbian visitors, it is permissible to draw the most hopeful conclusions. Among the Serbians the visit is looked upon as having been highly successful. This was the note struck by Dr. Douritch, Professor of Political Economy, Belgrade University, and Commercial Attaché at the Serbian Legation, in an interview which he recently accorded to a representative of THE NEAR EAST. Without saying so in as many words, he made it clear that the tour had fully come up to expectations, and that it would probably have the mast auspicious consequences.

Explaining Serbia's anxiety to establish permanent economic relations with the Allies, he emphasised Serbia's unfortunate situation before the war. "We were practically cut off from the Allies," he said, "and we were economically dependent on Austria and Germany. In future it will not be enough for our political sympathies to be with the Allies, while our economic interests take another direction. We desire to have our relations with the Allies established on the concrete basis of permanent friendship and mutual development. What I have been trying to put forward must interest the Allies, because

"1. Serbia is a country which must develop economically. Her restricted development was unnatural, and, in a way, an accident, because Serbia was handicapped by her hostile neighbours—the Turks and Austrians. The country simply could not develop. Bearing this in mind, and also remembering that Serbia possesses great natural riches and has an industrial population, it will readily be realised that as soon as she is in a position to develop a great economic future will lie before her.

2. "Serbia represents only a small part of the Serbian race, and accordingly, in talking of Serbia to-day, we must think of the future Jugoslav State, with its population of twelve millions.

"3. It is essential for the Allies that Serbia should not only be free politically, but also that she should be strong in the economic sense, because only thus can she fulfil her rôle in the Near East of guarding the free development of other countries and of preventing the political and economic domination of the Central Powers from spreading southward through the Balkans. I am glad to say that this has been more and more understood in this country of late."

It was felt, he pointed out, that it would be an excellent thing if the Serbian position was fully explained to the more prominent business men among the Allies, in order that they might understand what Serbia would need after the war. With that end in view, it was arranged that a number of Serbian business men, representative of their country's trade and industry, should visit the leading commercial centres in France and Great Britain to meet the leaders of commerce and industry, and to study the industrial organisations of these countries.

"The results of the tour in Great Britain," Dr. Douritch continued, "may be considered quite satisfactory in present conditions. Its object was to get into touch with prominent business men, to find out what they produced and would be able to produce in the future, to inform them of our economic conditions and our needs and of our ability to pay for our imports. In this the mission was a perfect success. It is known to-day in the business world here that Serbia produces raw materials which Great Britain has to import. Serbia's need for manufactured articles of all kinds is also fully realised. Particular stress was laid by the members on the fact that she will require vast quantities of machinery as soon as the war ends for constructing roads, railways, ports, and rebuilding her destroyed industries.

"British business men now understand," added Dr. Douritch, "that Serbia could have been a large consumer of British goods before the war, but that, as a matter of fact, practically all her trade was done with Austria and through Austria with Germany. There are many reasons to account for this, but it will suffice if I merely touch on the economic side of this question and outline what is required if strong commercial relations are to be established between Great Britain and Serbia.

"1. There must be direct maritime communication. This was the subject of continuous attention during the tour, and everything connected with it was considered, including the possibility of the creation of an Anglo-Serbian shipping company.

"2. It was explained to British engineers that new roads and railways will have to be constructed to bring Serbian ports into communication with Serbian territories, and I am glad to say that they realised the extent to which the relations of the two countries are bound up in this work.

"3. Regarding the question of credit, to which special attention was paid, I pointed out to the various Chambers of Commerce that Austria and Germany were able to give credit to Serbian merchants, but that Great Britain was unable to do so, because British banks did not offer facilities for the process. The Austrian banking organisations were, of course, specially organised to favour foreign trade. They were not out to render a special kindness to Serbia; on the contrary, they claimed their full interest and more. They realised, however, that in an agricultural country like Serbia people were only able to pay their foreign debts once or twice a year, and they offered facilities accordingly. The result was that even French and British goods were imported by Serbia through Austrian merchants, though it was more expensive to order that way. This is quite understood here now, and it is realised that British industries need a new link between the banks and the manufacturers. So far as I know, it is intended to establish a bank which will serve this purpose, and it has been promised that Serbian trade will be the object of special consideration by this institution. As a matter of fact, some people here are seriously considering the establishment of a British bank in Serbia which would serve the special purpose of promoting trade between the two countries, and would endeavour to work in close touch with Serbian banks and Serbian capital."

"The first practical result of the tour," said Dr. Douritch, in conclusion, "has been the establishment of a society called the 'Anglo-Serbian Committee,' which has as president Sir Algernon Firth and as secretary Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Dundas, and it is hoped that this society will form the nucleus of an organsation which will have the object of promoting economic relations between Great Britain and Serbia. Such an organisation, with its headquarters in London and branches in different industrial centres, and including among its members those with whom the mission was able to come in touch would be an invaluable instrument for the purpose."

TRADE OPENINGS IN GREECE

It is no longer a question in this district of separate or individual trade opportunities, says the United States Consul at Patras, Mr. A. B. Cooke. The entire market is practically depleted so far as concerns articles brought in from abroad, and the merchants of the district would be glad to be able to get into working touch with the American market so as to replenish their stocks. The question now is primarily one of transportation facilities.

One of the local importers, in a conversation with the Consul as to importations, said: "I am interested in all sorts of goods. I am ready to pay cash for them. The price is of secondary importance. It seems impossible to secure ship space at present, even at exorbitant rates. Nevertheless, I want to get into touch with some responsible American export houses, with a view to arranging business for the future." This man was one of the responsible import commission agents of Patras.

Increase in Prices.

Practically every article on the market of this district, in every line, from hairpins to harvesting machines, commands a price three to ten times higher than it did two years ago, and the goods are being eagerly bought by the people even at such prices. In 1915 hairpins were one cent a package, now (October 1917) they are 10 cents; bleached cotton was 14 cents a yard, now 42 cents; charcoal 20 dollars a ton, now 60 dollars; sugar 9 cents a pound, now 29 cents; rice 8 cents a pound, now there is none on open markets; acetylene was 3 cents a pound, now 27 cents.

The markets of this district are interested especially in the following lines of merchandise: chemicals, clothing, cutlery, druggists' supplies, dry goods and notions, farm implements, furniture (metal), groceries, haberdashery, hardware, kitchen utensils, leather and leather goods, lumber (staves shooks), office supplies, paints and oils, stationery and vehicles.

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EGYPT'S TRADE IN 1917.

A Record Year.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 26.

The year which has just closed has constituted a record in the annals of this country in so far as concerns the value of merchandise passing through the Egyptian Customs. The returns for the month of December, just published, which give the total figures for the entire year, show that during 1917 imports amounted to £E31,838,998 and exports to £E41,049,612, as compared with £E30,886,888 and £E37,461,763 respectively during 1916, which up to now had been the record year. It is interesting in this connection to compare the total value of trade which passed last year through the Customs with that recorded before the war. Last year the value of imports and exports together came to £E72,888,610, whilst in 1912—the highest pre-war year—the total was £E60,482,080. Of course the state of the world's markets and the high freights have inflated prices, and the actual quantities are much less than they were five years ago, but it is important to note that the balance of trade on the year was further developed in favour of Egypt. If one takes into account re-exports (£E529 739) and movements of specie (£E1,239,219 imported and £E44,300 exported) one finds that the balance of trade during 1917 was £E8 544,494 in favour of this country as against £E5,901,315 based on the same calculations in 1916.

Imports.

The principal items under imports were preserved meat, £E1,403,175; leather goods, £E301,442; rice, £E246,757; flour, £E709,986; raw sugar, £E329,585; coffee, £E550,161; tea, £E295,153; petroleum, £E596,008; mineral oils, £E205,297; liqueurs, £E261,565; dried fruits, £E204,870; stationery, £E548,748; coal, £E3,309,831; matches, £E221,373; medical drugs, £E338,900; chemical manures, £E752,806; textiles, £E11,722,640; cotton threads, £E721,247; cotton tissues, £E689,854; wool tissues, £E630,796; silken goods, £E528,728; sacks, £E1,084,573; mixed tissues, £E338 218; ready-made linen and millinery, £E494,150; worked iron and steel, £E1,083,567; and tobacco, £E3,040,441.

The chief increases were borne by rice, £E129,484; flour, £E121,641; sugar, £E120,264; coffee, £E129,903; tea, £E169,019; chemical manures, £E373,466; textiles, £E2,078,238; cotton tissues, £E1,255,582; wool tissues, £E213,449; sacks, £E462,475; worked iron and steel, £E154,341; and tobacco, £E2,225,766. Decreases were recorded in preserved meat, £E290,731; jams, £E270,317; beer, £E362,038; petroleum, £E301,719; liquid fuel, £E104,869; stationery, £E228,278; construction wood, £E181,630; coal, £E1,856,805; and furniture, £E125,709. An indication of the manner in which prices have risen even since last year is afforded by the fact that the quantities of flour, coffee, cotton threads and cotton tissues have decreased, although the values have risen, whilst the relation of value to quantity of most of the other articles is out of all proportion.

Exports.

Under exports the chief items have been: eggs, £E453,901; tanned goods, £E768,215; cotton seed, £E1,818 257; cotton cake, £E587,691; onions, £E289,054; cereals, £E842,594; sugar, £E907,115; gum, £E370,361; cotton, £E33,495,193; wool, £E159,346; and cigarettes, £E405,765. There was a falling off of £E199,329 in eggs, £E753,922 in maize, £E182,320 in alcohol and £E112,265 in wool; but on the other hand tanned goods increased by £E349,512, sugar by £E266,475, gum by £E346,571, and cotton by £E3,681,511. Here again the rise in prices manifested itself. Thus sugar exports increased by 40 per cent. in value but decreased by 10 per cent. in volume, whilst cotton fell of by 25 per cent. in quantity but increased by over 12 per cent. in value.

Trade by Countries.

Turning now to the share which the various countries had in Egypt's trade last year we find that although the total imports for the year increased by £E952,110, Great Britain sent just about that amount less. The Empire as a whole, however, maintained its position, thanks to a substantial increase in imports from India, the Imperial share remaining at about 62 per cent., at which it stood in 1916. America likewise fell by about half, and Spain, France, Italy, Sweden and Russia showed substantial decreases. On the other hand Greece had a remarkable increase, about trebling her 1916 figures due to tobacco imports, whilst Chili, Japan and China more than doubled their shipments. Under exports Great Britain increased her share to just a shade under 60 per cent. as compared with 53.2 per cent. in 1916; the rest of the Empire also did well, India trebling her purchases. Italy and Japan made very large increases in the amount of cotton they took, and Greece doubled her purchases under cereals and tanned goods; the United States, Spain and Russia, however, reduced very much their cotton orders.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan flourished during the year. Imports into Egypt rose from £E923,175 to £E2,116,973, which shows that the Sudan is certainly coming to the assistance of her neighbour. Exports from Egypt also increased from £E1,157,891 to £E1,491,784. The chief imports from the Sudan were: livestock £E509,936, (159,149 head)—an increase of £320,668 (61,242, head) over the preceding year; maize £E385,060 (50,000 tons)—more than double the amount and value of 1916; sesame £E197,430, gum £E206,550 (4,500 tons)—against £E28,294 (728 tons) last year; cotton £E362,858 (2,523 tons)—just under treble the value and double the weight of 1916. Exports to the Sudan of note were: refined sugar, £E366,124; cotton tissues, £E315,531; and tobacco, £E159,251.

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GERMAN MONEY FOR TURKEY.

According to a Constantinople telegram, dated February 22, appearing in Tuesday morning's *Tageszeitung*, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent in a message dated February 27, Djavid Bey, the Turkish Minister of Finance, in the course of the Budget debate in the Chamber, said that, with the extraordinary military expenditure, he estimated that the deficit for the coming Budget would be about £T14,000,000, and would have to be covered by financial operations concerning which, the Minister said, he had recently been in negotiation with Germany.

The expenditure for the current year amounted so far to £T128,000,000. The total war expenditure, including expenditure on munitions of war bought in Germany and military requirements there, amounted to about 230 millions, which, together with 155 millions of pre-war debt, raised the total Turkish debt to about £T385,000,000. Loans hitherto taken up in Germany amounted to 200 millions and from Austro-Hungarian banks 10 millions, but the sums actually paid by Germany amounted to 70 millions.

The Minister said that Turkey had during the entire war continued to pay in full the interest on the old debt, not only to holders in allied, but also to holders in hostile, countries, to whose credit about eight millions were deposited in the Ottoman Bank.

INDIAN COTTON CROP.

The Government of India's final memorandum on the cotton crop, says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent, estimates a 14 per cent. increase in acreage and a 10 per cent. decrease in the yield as compared with last year.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Stronger Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices in the market this week have tended to go against buyers. A stronger tone has prevailed in raw cotton circles. Rather more anxiety is showing itself with regard to the prospects for the new crop in the States. A feature of interest has been the narrowing process between the near and distant positions in futures in Liverpool. The Egyptian growth continues to make good progress. The receipts at Alexandria so far this season are 4,680,000 cantars, against 4,369,000 cantars same time last year. Local spinners are complaining of irregular receipts on this side, but it is of interest to note that on Monday last the imports into Liverpool amounted to 13,880 bales. A rather increased business has been done in Egyptian yarns, and certain producers have strengthened their position. The starting of more looms on fine counts is having the effect of improving the position of Bolton spinners. For anything wanted very full rates have had to be paid. Rather more inquiry has been mentioned in cloth for Egypt, but transactions of importance have been few and far between. India has again sent forward offers in dhooties for Calcutta, but not much has been done. Demand for China still lags behind. Some Burnley manufacturers are running fewer looms than at the beginning of the year. Owing to the shipping situation there is every probability of production in both spinning and weaving being reduced at an early date. A rather larger turnover has transpired in American yarns at hardening rates. There has not been much life in export descriptions, but a fair amount of business has been about for France.

Shipping Outlook.

There was a good deal of surprise in Lancashire cotton trade circles at the end of last week when it was announced that owing to the shipping situation the members of the Cotton Control Board had been called up to London to consult with the President of the Board of Trade on the position of affairs. It is understood a very full discussion took place, and further consideration of the matter was adjourned pending a written communication from Sir Albert Stanley. A meeting of the Cotton Control Board was held in Manchester on February 25, when further attention was given to the matter, but no official report has been published of the proceedings. The anxiety is with regard to the future imports of American cotton. At the present time spinners of this class of the raw material are only allowed to run 60 per cent. of their machinery, and weaving concerns 70 per cent., except firms engaged on Government contracts. In well-informed circles it is now believed that a further reduction to 50 per cent. in American spinning, with similar action in the weaving department, is inevitable. The position of stocks at the moment is not really discouraging, but there are fears that imports during April and May will be very small indeed. The Government has determined that the requirements of the cotton trade will have to suffer in order to provide more tonnage for foodstuffs and men and munitions from the United States.

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The Hungarian Ministry of Commerce has declined to register the trade-mark "Gott Strafe England" on the grounds that it is contrary to the principles of International Law and is calculated to injure Hungary's foreign trade interests after the war.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Co-operation in Serbia.

In last week's "Engineering Notes" we referred to the agricultural co-operative societies which existed in Serbia before the war, and suggested that the re-establishment of those societies would greatly facilitate the development of the rich agricultural resources of that country. The Serbian societies were well organised, on the same principle as those in France, in Italy, Germany, etc., but on a smaller scale. They were intended to rescue the Serbian agriculturists from the clutches of moneylenders—who charged 120 per cent.—and the village innkeepers, who bought their produce at a price that left a very small margin of profit. People's banks were in existence, but these did not sufficiently meet the case of the average cultivator. By a well-planned system several agricultural credit banks were established in 1893. These banks not only received deposits and made loans to the farmers, but saw to the buying of cattle, seeds, fertilisers, implements, and other things, thus serving the purpose of supply associations.

Purchase of Machinery.

They also procured the necessary agricultural machinery which local associations held in common. They undertook also the sale of produce, and arranged for various forms of insurance, including insurance against sickness, famine resulting from loss of crops, and also against an inadequate supply of labour. In a report of the Union of Agricultural Co-operative Societies of Serbia, a few years ago, 228 agricultural credit and savings banks were mentioned, which at that particular time had granted 8,209 loans, representing a total of £25,000, and had bought agricultural necessaries to the extent of another £15,000. These may seem small figures compared with corresponding returns in France and Italy, but considering that Serbia is a small country, and that these agricultural credit banks began only a few years ago, the results are distinctly creditable. The re-establishment and reorganisation of these agricultural co-operative societies and credit banks in Serbia is of vital importance for the country's future.

Harvesting and Stubble Breaking.

In view of the existing shortage of labour, any contrivance tending to combine either manual or mechanical work so as to secure the maximum of production for the minimum of labour is a matter of special interest. Experiments have been made in France for carrying out harvesting and the breaking up of stubble simultaneously with a tractor. For this combined work the harvester may be placed either in front or behind the cultivator. In the first case, the cultivator should be placed on the side opposite to that of the harvester; in the second, it can be attached in the midline. Ploughing up stubble immediately after harvesting has, it is said, the advantage of diminishing soil drainage, while the slightest rain has a useful effect on nitrification. On the other hand, carting the sheaves is more difficult: a slight thing, however, when the advantages are taken into consideration. Farmers in the East should try this combined work in their fields next season.

Agricultural Machines for Morocco

An American engineer who recently arrived from Morocco says that the use of modern agricultural machinery and implements such as tractors, ploughs, harrows, drills, and reaping machines is extending there, and is much appreciated by the farmers. The demand this year, he says, depends largely on the activities of British and American manufacturers.

New Flax De-Seeding Machine.

A new machine for de-seeding flax has been brought out which should interest flax growers in the Near East, where the de-seeding process is carried out in a more or less primitive manner. In the new machine the seed is taken off the flax by a gradual process. The machine has a series of combs mounted on carrying belts, the teeth of such combs being disposed at an angle to the base plates of the combs, which are attached to the carrying belts. The straw of the flax undergoing treatment is gripped between the resilient surfaces of endless belts and fed across the path of the combs at an angle, the devices for mounting the comb-carrying belts being preferably arranged adjustably, so as to obtain the best angle for treatment in any given conditions. The flax is fed in between the feeding belts, and as it is carried forward the combs function in order, gradually effecting the removal of the seed, the de-seeded flax being fed out at the opposite end of the machine.

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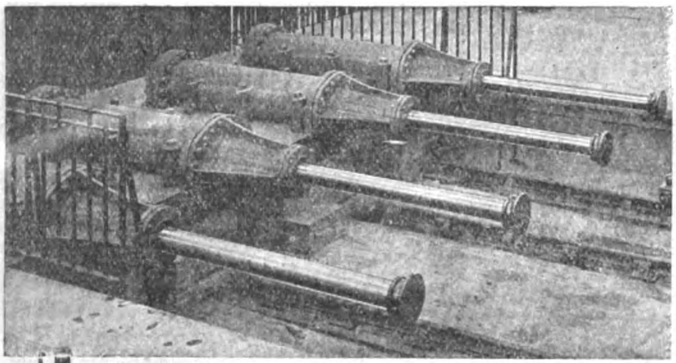
AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position on December 31, 1917.

Outstanding Loans:	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Short Term Loans	867	913
"B" Loans	4,553,549	4,195,838
Total	4,554,416	4,196,750
Annual Instalments:		
Due	820,192	701,285
Total	820,192	701,285
Encashments:	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Arrears on January 31	1,209,187	817,254
,, ,, balance to date	761,529	398,132
,, encashed	447,658	419,122
Annual Instalments:		
Encashed	691.057	602.683
Total encashments	1,138,715	1.021,805



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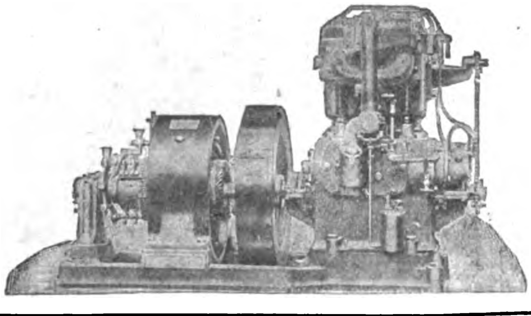

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting of this company was held on February 25, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Hugh S. Barnes (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said that this was the first occasion that the bank had been unable to hold its annual meeting within the calendar year. The reason was the delays and difficulties of the mail service both by land and sea. Since their last meeting they had, to their great regret, lost by death their colleague, Mr. Frederick Sassoon, who took a keen interest in the bank with which his firm had always been closely connected. In place of Mr. Sassoon he was glad to say that Mr. David Gubbay, of Messrs. David Sassoon and Co., had been elected to a seat on the board. They had also appointed as a director Colonel Sir Henry McMahon, who possessed a first-hand knowledge of Persia.

Compared with 1915, the close of 1916 showed a great improvement in the bank's position in Persia, for they had re-opened five of their branches and only three remained closed. During the past year the improvement had continued, and in May last they found themselves once more with all their branches in working order. There had been some return of confidence and a slow growth of a sense of security among the people, which had reacted favourably on the bank's business, and led to a slight increase of trade. Assuming that the war ended, as we all hoped and intended it should, in the victory of the Allied Powers, he thought the prospects of Persian trade were encouraging. One of the main trade routes into Persia had been the river route from Busreh to Baghdad, and thence by the old caravan road through Kermanshah to Northern Persia. With more efficient administration in Mesopotamia and improved river services this route was likely to assume ever more than its old importance. The chief obstacles in the way of an improvement of trade in Persia were the difficulties of transport and supply, arising from the want of good communications. He ventured to suggest that what was greatly needed for the prosperity of the country was the construction of railway communication with the central plateau. It was possible that after the war the Persian Government might see its way to embark on a programme of development, and, if so, this bank, as the State Bank of Persia, would be in a position to render valuable assistance.

The result of the year's working was that, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, they were enabled to pay a dividend of 8s. per share, free of income-tax, against 7s. last year; to add £30,000 to reserve, bringing that fund up to £190,000; to write off £10,000 from their bank premises, and to carry forward £24,239. In conclusion he moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and that the payment of the final dividend of 5s. per share, free of income-tax, on January 2, be confirmed.

Mr. W. A. Buchanan seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Black Sea Amalgamated.

The report of the Black Sea Amalgamated Oilfields, Limited, states that the cost of all wells drilled by the company during the year under review has been debited to revenue account, instead of being, as formerly, charged to capital account, and subsequently written off as depreciation. On this basis the profit and loss account for the period, shows a loss of £211. As in the previous period, the items in the profit and loss account and the floating assets, less liabilities, have been taken at the rate of 16 roubles per £1, the actual rate ruling on January 13 last being 16.3 roubles per £1. The production of crude oil for the year was 19,422 tons, as compared with 24,689 tons for the ten months ended January 13, 1916. The falling off in the production is almost entirely the result of shortage of expert labour and lack of special materials for dealing with wells under repair.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company recommend a balance dividend for the year ended July 31 last of 4 4-5d. per share, free of income-tax (making 7½ per cent.), payable to holders registered 8th proximo.

The directors of the East Indian Coal Company recommend a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent., less tax, for the half-year ended October 31 last.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 21 tons (previous week 21 tons). Hurgada production for week, 6,547 tons, against 2,940 tons.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended January 6, 39,300 poods (634 tons). Week ended January 13, 37,550 poods (606 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended January 20, 60,100 poods.

Maikop Orient—Plot 435a, well 3.—Week ended January 26, 14,800 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended January 19, 38,085 poods.

BULGARIAN SAVINGS BANKS

Increased Deposits.

It has been officially announced that from January 1 to October 30, 1917, the deposits in the 294 postal savings banks throughout Bulgaria reached the unprecedented amount of $11,820,800, says the United States Consul-General at Sofia, Mr. D. I. Murphy. As the deposits during the entire year of 1916 were $7,857,153, it will be seen that the increase in the 10 months of this year amounted to $3,963,647. The showing is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the depositors are mostly owners of small farms and working people. As the great majority of the men of Bulgaria are serving under the colours, it must be assumed that the women, who have done nearly all the farm work and much of the ordinary work of the country, have also managed to effect these tremendous savings.

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In asking the Sobranje for a war credit of £40,000,000, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance said he hoped soon to be in a position to declare that this heavy loan would not be borne by the Bulgarians.

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IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—Medical Review.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
"The late Lord Clyde said:—I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

The quieter state of our market reported in our last issue has continued throughout the present week, but there are indications to-day that a renewal of activity at any moment is not improbable. In Government stocks there has been a persistent demand, but not much business has been done, as sellers have continued scarce. Unifieds are ¾ higher at 86¾, the 3½ per cent. loan is ¼ firmer at 73¾, and City of Alexandria bonds are ½ up at 78½.

In bank shares a certain amount of business has been doing, but prices are all unchanged except Agriculturals, which are 3-32 easier at 6 11-32. In railways Delta Lights have been a feature, and are closing ⅜ higher at 7.

Among land shares a fair business has been doing in Aboukirs round 24s. 6d., at which price the shares are 3d. firmer than last week. In Behéras there have been some small sellers, and, in the absence of support, the shares are 1-16 easier at 14. Delta Lands are also fractionally lower at 15s. 9d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have also shed 3d. at 10s. 6d. New Egyptians have continued to be the most active market of all the land shares, but the price remains unchanged at 19s. 3d. In Sidi Salems there has been again a good deal of interest, and many transactions have taken place, with the result that the shares have advanced a further shilling to 50s. These £4 shares still look one of the cheapest lock-up purchases for capital appreciation, as the company is selling land on a substantial scale at between £61 and £64 a feddan.

Union Foncières, after some transactions at about 3 1-16, have firmed up to-night to 3 5-32, being 1-32 higher than last week. In Miscellaneous shares Markets are 3d. firmer at 26s. 9d., with a fair amount of business doing, whilst Salts are remaining a firm market at 14s. 3d. Khedivial Mails, after dropping to 40s. sellers, close unchanged at 40s. 3d., after being in the meanwhile up to 41s.

In Greek securities some further transactions have taken place in "Currant" Bonds at 95, but in all the other loans dealings have only been trifling, except for Rentes. These are a point up at 44, at which price some business was done.

◆

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at November 30, 1917, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,298,069
Special Reserve		78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,209,568
Mixed Tribunals		2,275,080
Egyptian Government		7,130,155
Bankers' Accounts		772,681
Cheques and Bills payable		145,627
Sundry other Accounts		927,233
		£E.25,760,413
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		8,634,561
Sundry Securities		224,250
Advances on Merchandise		4,393,053
Advances on Securities		1,353,590
Advances otherwise Secured		1,567,189
Sundry other Advances		251,908
Bills of Exchange		3,489,186
Local Bills Discounted		119,423
Buildings and Furniture		277,873
Money at call and at short notice		1,555,125
Bankers' Accounts		1,698,091
Sudan Government		163,362
Sundry other Accounts		308,007
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,579,984	
Gold	108,521	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	86,390	
		1,774,895
		£E.25,760,413

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	29,400,000
	£E.29,400,000
	£E.
Gold	3,952,979
* British Treasury Bills	10,747,021
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	553,941
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	11,269,809
	£E.29,400,000

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* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb 20	Feb. 27
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86	86¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fung., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	73⅝
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	80	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	73
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 7/16	6 11/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14½	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	4½	4⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18⅛	18⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6⅝	7
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/3	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	14 1/16	14
Do. Pref.	4½	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/9	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/3	19/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	49/-	50/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3⅛	3 5/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/6	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	40/3	40/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	40/3	40/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JANUARY 26.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	97½
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	93
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3¼
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	88⅝
Privilégiée		76
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6¾
Nungovich Hotels	£	4¼
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
" Fondateur	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.	£	36/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		15½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	106
" Jouissance	Frs.	168
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5¼
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	42/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	730
" Fondateur	Frs.	875
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	380
" 1903 "	Frs.	290
" 1911 "	Frs.	284
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		9/16

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
February 22, 23	190,000	480,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Feb. 22.	1918. Week ended Feb. 21.
Cattle markets	1,377	779
General markets	397	448
Receipts (£)	1,724	1,227
Total for year	12,912	9,479

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £160,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Sabzavar, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers :: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 357.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The position of Roumania has for some time been so desperate, attacked on the front by the enemy and in the rear by her late Ally, that not a single soul will blame her for having accepted the German ultimatum insisting on peace. There was, in fact, nothing else for it, for the Roumanians could not even, like the Serbs, fight their way out to friendly territory at however desperate a loss. In no sense could Russia be called friendly territory—the Bolshevik attitude towards the nation was perhaps even more menacing than that of Germany and Austria. It is the most cruel fate of the war.

The actual negotiations were preceded, on the German side, by a certain amount of Press camouflage, which was universally received with scepticism. There was talk, for instance, of handing over Bessarabia to Roumania, and certain other details were suggested of a more or less kindred variety, but there is not a word of these matters in the treaty. The terms are as harsh and stiff as could have been suggested by any Prussian dragoon; and it is to be hoped, rather than expected, that they will be noted in detail by the advocates of a "peace by negotiation which shall leave no rancour" as an indication of Germany's idea of peace terms with her enemies.

Roumania is to resign the whole of the Dobruja to Bulgaria, which thus gains the long-coveted annexation, or rather one of them—for she has yet to achieve her ambitions in Serbia and Macedonia. It is true that the second article in the treaty "provides for the maintenance of a trade route for Roumania via Constanza, to the Black Sea," but that is little more than a phrase. It is further expressly stated that "the economic measures corresponding to the situation are likewise conceded in principle." The details of this clause will probably be further elaborated in a subsequent auxiliary treaty; from the language both of Berlin and Vienna during the past few days, it is not difficult to fill in the gaps. Germany has deprived Roumania of her chief port for a definite purpose; it happens to placate her ally, Bulgaria, and it helps to drive her commerce eastwards. It is Germany's aim to get control of Roumania's produce for all time, and she proposes to do it by this means instead of by any definite clause in the treaty of peace. The Deutsche Bank in Bucharest, in co-operation with Berlin, will treat Roumania as a subject economic province. Her industries would be financed from Berlin to the precise extent that Germany thinks wise, and no further, and while Germany lends Roumania money on Germany's terms, she will also buy Roumania's produce on Germany's own terms. It is economic slavery that would face Roumania, and nothing else, if the treaty were to stand for all time.

A further sinister detail emerges in the third clause, which stipulates that "the frontier rectifications demanded by Austria-Hungary on the Austro-Hungarian-Roumanian frontier are accepted in principle by Roumania." No details are given, but from what is known of German theories of frontier rectifications in France, and Austrian theories of the same kind in Italy, it is easy to understand that Hungary will seize every strategic point on her Roumanian frontier. It may be noted that, as regards the north-eastern frontier of Roumania, the position of the recently proclaimed Moldavian Republic in Bessarabia is left open. The question of the dynasty is also not mentioned, and an official statement of the German Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Reichstag announces that this is regarded as "an internal Roumanian one."

The treaty, as it stands, is a disastrous one for Roumania. If it were the final peace treaty, it would leave her with no national dignity and no national independence, at least in the economic sphere. But it is not the final treaty, and Germany must be conscious of the fact that so long as the Western Allies keep the field against her these dictated arrangements must be provisional, and with even less hope of stability than Napoleon's paper kingdoms of Westphalia and elsewhere. It is the final settlement that counts, and not the intermediate separate peaces which Germany is so anxious to procure that she has recently put about the idea that both Serbia and Greece were ready to come to terms.

There is one significant point about the treaty signed at Buftea which will not be forgotten when the terms of the general peace conference come to be discussed. In the case of Russia, she is made to resign her territory absolutely and without qualification; in the case of Roumania, although the Central Powers insist on her complete resignation of the Dobruja, they do, in fact, admit, in spite of themselves, that Roumania occupies a special position at Constanza. In the event of their final victory such an admission would, of course, be practically worthless, but when they are defeated, it will be useful to have it on record that out of their own mouths they recognised, at the very moment of their greatest triumph, that Roumania held a position at Constanza which Russia did not, for instance, hold at Riga.

The actual problem of the Dobruja, as THE NEAR EAST has long maintained, cannot be settled by either the Roumanians or Bulgarians obtaining the whole of that province. The line of demarcation drawn at Berlin in 1878 was not very scientific, but it did, in fact, recognise approximately that Bulgaria had special rights in the southern, as Roumania had in the northern, district. The Treaty of Bucharest was less fortunate, and it left Bulgaria with a grievance—a grievance that was none the less real because it was the consequence of Bulgaria's treacherous conduct in the Balkan war. But Bulgaria has now gone even further in the opposite direction. Any permanent settlement that pretends to be based on justice will have to recognise the fact that Bulgaria has a legitimate claim to the southern Dobruja up to a point near the Constanza railway, while Roumania has an indefeasible right to the northern Dobruja and to the railway line from Bucharest to Constanza.

The treaty of peace between Russia and Germany, or at least those clauses of it which it was thought wise to give to the world, has been published. After Lenin's hopeless statement, "Their knees are on our chests"—did not he help to put them there?—most of the details can cause little surprise. Russia definitely becomes an isolated, almost an inland, State—if the word State can still be applied to her. She has lost her outlet to the Black Sea, the outlet to the Pacific can no longer be considered hers, and on the Baltic she has lost every port except Petrograd, the least satisfactory of them all. She has also lost the Baltic provinces, Russian Poland, Finland, and the Ukraine. The German triumph is complete and absolute, and the psychological effect on the two countries is bound to be considerable, quite apart from any political or economic consequence.

Russia is now definitely cut off from the Balkans, not so much by the treaty itself as by the enforced recognition of the independence of the Ukraine; and a long chapter of history, which may be traced back as far as the first missionaries from Byzantium into Slavonic lands, is now closed. Whether it will ever reopen only time will show—the future of Russia is one of the great problems of the world, and the events of this week have shown that it embraces the future, not only of Russia, but of Siberia.

The Germans, however, have not been satisfied with forcing Russia to resign what she had indeed already given up, her share in Balkan polity. Acting on the hint given by Lenin in his infamous proclamation ordering the freeing of Armenia, they have forced Russia to give up Kars and Batum to Turkey. This may do something to compensate Turkey for the loss of Mesopotamia and Palestine, and will no doubt be defended by the Germans on the ground of historical restoration, but they do, in fact, reopen the Caucasus question in the way that is most convenient for Germany.

The surrender of these places effectively weakens Russia economically, which is a part of German policy. But to have allowed the Ukraine State to possess them would have raised the possibility that that new entity, which will be the dark horse of European politics for some years to come, would eventually have become inconveniently powerful, and that had to be avoided at all costs. On the other hand, their cession to Turkey will not make the Ottoman Empire, enfeebled as it is by the war, independent of Germany, but it will, at the same time, do something to draw Turkey's attention towards the Pan-Turanian idea, which Germany is now sedulously fostering.

The surprise of the treaty at first sight was the expression of mutual disinterestedness in Afghanistan and Persia. There was no need for Russia to proclaim this, since she has already announced her disinterestedness in matters much nearer home, and her influence in Teheran and Kabul must now be a minus quantity. Germany, on the other hand, notoriously has ambitions in Persia, where she has done her best to stir up trouble on general principles since 1914; in Afghanistan, too, her hand has also been traced, although the good sense of the Amir has caused it to fail. It is of interest in this connection to recall Sir Francis Younghusband's statement on Monday that, if the German intrigues in Afghanistan had been successful, they intended to proceed to declare a republic in India on February 21, 1915. But the question arises, Why was this clause put into the treaty?

It was possibly inserted by Germany to mislead the rest of the world—the Russians, by their own confession, were bound to agree to anything suggested by the victor. But in any event it will not deceive a child. Germany has taught us the exact value of her pledges, and her disinterestedness as regards Persia is precisely on a par with her protection of Belgium. It must, too, be read in connection with the semi-official German statement that "by the establishment of free transit with Russia we have secured direct commercial connection, *via* Russia, with Persia and Afghanistan, which was hitherto barred." There is no need to comment on the extreme significance of this statement.

The death of Prince Mirko of Montenegro will not come as a surprise to those who have known something of the inner history of that unfortunate country. When the overrunning of Serbia left Montenegro at the mercy of the enemy and forced King Nicholas's Government to take refuge in flight, the decision was taken to leave some officials behind in the hope that they would be the means of securing better treatment for the population at the hands of the Austrians. With these officials stayed Prince Mirko. He was suffering at the time from an incurable malady, and his removal shortly afterwards to a nursing home in Austria was prompted by medical and not by political considerations. Once in Austria's power, he had no option as to the rôle that he had to play, and it is beside the point to inquire whether he played it *con amore*, as the enemies of the dynasty allege, or from diplomatic motives, because there was no alternative.

It has been a great misfortune for Montenegro that the prestige and affection which King Nicholas has inspired among his subjects have not been bespoken by his sons. The success attending the matrimonial alliances of the King's daughters was not repeated in the case either of the Crown Prince or Prince Mirko. Montenegro has now passed through a fiery ordeal, and when her independence is restored there must needs be a new orientation of her position. There is no call to anticipate that decision, and for that reason we have deprecated in these columns any attempt to prejudice the free choice of the Montenegrin people at the end of the war.

The week has seen little fighting of importance on the two British fronts in the East. There has been evidence of a cautious forward move in Mesopotamia, where General Marshall is apparently feeling his way and testing the Turkish dispositions; the Turkish statement, expected and duly forthcoming, that he had failed to take his objective may be left to the future to answer. In Palestine a further advance over a section of the line has been chronicled, and the Turks, in response, have proclaimed a British repulse.

Incidentally, a letter which has been published from a soldier in Palestine gives a pleasant picture of the Army being welcomed by the population, and having food pressed upon them by the people who have been liberated from the Ottoman Empire. The impression given is that of an army dominated by high spirits and success, as it has every right to be. A somewhat deeper note was struck in the letter from the same front read by Mr. Macpherson in the House of Commons a few days before, written by one to whom the analogy of the Crusades appealed, as it must have to many at home, with striking force. The Palestine campaign has been responsible for many similar communications, some of which almost reach the rank of literature; and England may yet produce a Tasso worthy of the occasion.

A deep impression has been made on the country by the Prime Minister's statement as to the circumstances which led to Sir Stanley Maude's death. Almost at the very moment when victory had crowned his arms he risked his life, and, as the event showed, sacrificed it to an instinct of courtesy towards those with whom he was brought in contact. The war has not furnished us with so many instances of chivalry that we can afford to forget General Maude's acceptance of the tainted cup proffered by his hosts, lest his refusal of the best they had should wound their susceptibilities. It is a noble story, fit to be compared with Sidney at Zutphen, and England, for whom he died, will not be ungrateful.

Our recent article on "Politics and Poverty" has won from our contemporary *India* a tribute of compliments and an inquiry. The compliments merit some acknowledgment; we are accused of "cheerful insolence," of "cant and hypocrisy," of "shoddy economics," and of various other indiscretions, among which we must admit the charge of cheerfulness, and our castigation is adorned by an apposite quotation from J. S. Mill, that prophet of Victorian Liberals and modern Indian politicians. The question which lurks among these compliments indicate, however, that our critics have failed to grasp our argument: they are anxious to know how we suppose the poorest classes in India would be affected, if British merchants should be ousted "by the Tata firm or some other"; and though we made no suggestion of the kind, a few words may be said for the benefit of those who, like our contemporary, are more familiar with abstract politics than with practical finance.

The ousting of "British merchants" might or might not hurt the Indian workmen, but it formed no part of our argument; the question at issue is the supply of capital, not its control. India's income does not at present suffice for the reasonable needs of her inhabitants; to increase it quickly, much more capital is wanted than the country as yet supplies; either, therefore, the inhabitants must continue poor, or some portion of the necessary capital must be obtained from outside. The latter alternative is preferred not merely by philanthropists, but by many of the hardest-headed men of business in the country, and our contemporary has doubtless heard the rumour that "the Tata firm" itself has recently opened relations for this very purpose with the London money market, just as another Indian finance corporation had already done. Our point is that the inflow of capital should not be impeded.

Now, the language recently used in India might very well constitute a serious impediment to that inflow. Capital is going to be scarce for some time; the question whether Indian politicians are financially unsound is already being raised in responsible circles, and if an unfavourable opinion should unhappily gain ground, then less capital would come to India, industrial development would be checked, and the poorest classes would have to wait longer than is necessary for that improvement in their material environment which is a condition precedent to social and political advance. That is our view, and perhaps we may suggest to our critics that, before they pronounce it to be "shoddy economics," they might see what their oracle Mill has to say upon the subject; he is, of course, out of date, but his observations on capital have withstood the criticism of half a century more successfully than most of his work. The question is dealt with elsewhere in this issue in a discussion of the Indian Budget.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 4.

The Duke of Connaught's Visit.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught arrived in Cairo on January 29, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray and Captain Ashworth. He was met at the station by the High Commissioner and his staff, and proceeded to the Residency, where he stayed during his sojourn in Cairo. On January 31 his Royal Highness, accompanied by Sir Reginald Wingate, General Sir Edmund Allenby, and General H. D. Watson, together with their respective staffs, drove over in State to Abdin Palace, where he was received by the Sultan, to whom he presented the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, which H.M. the King conferred on his Highness on the occasion of his accession. Later on in the morning the Sultan, accompanied by Rüshdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, returned the visit to the Residency, where he presented the Duke of Connaught with the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohamed Ali. During both visits the streets were lined with troops, and military guards of honour were drawn up at the Palace and the Residency.

His Royal Highness left this week for Upper Egypt and the Sudan, where he intends making an extended visit. Lieut.-Col. J. K. Watson, Military Attaché to the Residency, who accompanied the Duke of Connaught when he travelled in Upper Egypt and the Sudan on his last visit to this country, has been specially attached to his suite during his absence from Cairo. On the evening of his arrival the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate gave a small dinner party in honour of his Royal Highness, the other guests including General Sir E. and Lady Allenby, Major-General Watson, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray, Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Watson, Lieut.-Colonel Lord Dalmeny, Capt. and Mrs. Napper. On the eve of his departure for the south a banquet was given by Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, the other guests who had the honour of being invited including Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, Bishop and Mrs. MacInnes, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, Said Zulfikar Pasha, Lewa Logan Pasha, Lewa Herbert Pasha, Lieut.-Colonel Watson, Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Symes.

The Sultan's Bodyguard.

A picturesque and interesting ceremony took place on Tuesday afternoon on Abdin Palace Square, when the Sultan presented new colours to his bodyguard. The square had been cleared of the crowd which usually is to be seen on it at all hours of the day, and a special portion had been roped off for the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the senior Government officials, the officers of the British Forces, and the notables. The bodyguard was already drawn up, and presented an imposing spectacle when the Sultan, who made his first public appearance in uniform and on horseback since his accession, rode on to the square, followed by his aides-de-camp. After an inspection of the guard all the officers passed before his Highness, and took the oath of allegiance to him and the new flag on a copy of the Koran, which was held by the Palace Imam. The Sultan then dismounted and handed the new colours to Kaimakam Hassan Tewfik Bey Badr, the Officer Commanding the bodyguard. His Highness addressed a few words to the men as he handed the flag over, and the Kaimakam made a suitable reply. A review of the troops followed. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Sultan, accompanied by his Ministers, went over to the barracks and took tea with the officers in their mess.

State Purchase of the Telephones.

The Council of Ministers at its sitting on February 2 approved of the purchase by the Government of the telephone system of Egypt, to which reference was made in last week's letter. The project has still to receive the approval of the shareholders, and as soon as this is obtained the transfer will take place. The purchase will be as from January 1 last, and interest at the rate of

5 per cent. will be paid up to the date on which the purchase is completed.

A Link with the Crimea.

Yesterday there passed away a link with the Crimean War in the person of Madame Peter, better known in historical records as Madame de Ronsard. This fine old lady, who was born in 1828, and was therefore in her 90th year, had served the cause of humanity since her earliest years. As far back as the Schleswig-Holstein-Denmark campaign of 1848 she helped to nurse wounded soldiers, and, happening to be in Constantinople when the Crimean War broke out, she threw in her lot with the Sisters of St. Vincent and St. Paul, and worked most valiantly with them on the field of battle. For a time, too, she assisted Miss Florence Nightingale. She again distinguished herself during the cholera epidemic of 1862 in Paris and Marseilles, but her most notable work was done during the Franco-German War and the Commune, when she was several times wounded, and was decorated by M. Thiers for conspicuous bravery under fire. Subsequently she returned to Constantinople, and married a second time, but her husband being delicate they came to Egypt, where he died soon afterwards. A few years ago she was discovered in Cairo in a destitute state, the business which she had been carrying on having completely failed, owing to her own and her partner's bad health. Subscriptions were raised to prevent her having to go into a workhouse, the late Lord Kitchener and Mr. Asquith being amongst the givers, and it is a satisfaction to know that the last remaining years of this romantic and heroic old dame were made as happy and as comfortable as it was possible to make them.

The Shortage of Cattle.

The Government has issued an appeal to large landowners for co-operation in the efforts that are being made to remedy the shortage of cattle, which is now very acute. The reduction in the numbers of cattle and buffaloes available for agricultural purposes started about the year 1908, but since the outbreak of the war it has become accentuated owing to the fact that the ordinary foreign channels of supply—Syria, Serbia, etc.—have been cut off, and the country has had to turn to its own stock for its meat requirements, which have augmened in proportion as the population of the country has increased; whilst the number of animals bred and reared annually has fallen off. The decrease in cattle in the nine years has been about 38 per cent., and in buffaloes about 32 per cent.

Every effort has been made to stimulate livestock imports from the only source of supply now open to Egypt, the Sudan, where there is an unlimited supply, which, although it would not be fit for agricultural purposes, would certainly materially assist in meeting the demand for meat in Egypt. Epidemics and transport difficulties have so far stood in the way of providing an adequate and steady supply of Sudan livestock for this country; but there is every reason to believe that we are approaching the time when that consummation will be attained. In the meantime something must be done to protect the working cattle at present available, and, if possible, to increase their numbers, since import of fresh blood from outside is impossible and will remain so for some time after the war. The situation, which interests a large portion of the population, has been thoroughly discussed with all classes of experts, and an amendment to the existing laws regulating the ages under which cattle may not be slaughtered for meat is under consideration with a view to raising the age-limit and so providing more animals for agricultural and breeding purposes.

It is in regard to the provision of fresh stock that the assistance of the large landowners is now being invoked, as they are the only category who can afford to rear cattle on any larger scale than is being done at present. One of the great causes of the falling-off in the number of animals bred and reared is the shortage of fodder, due to the high prices which cotton and cereals fetch, making it unprofitable to feed young cattle during the summer. Endeavours are being made to overcome this difficulty by getting the cultivators to make silage out of berseem. Very successful experiments have been carried out on a fairly large scale by the State Domains, and the next step is to get the landowners to adopt the same procedure. A circular has now been issued explaining the process, and offering to give demonstrations to any proprietors interested in the matter. Some of the largest and most influential landowners have promised to co-operate, and it is hoped that their example will lead the majority to do likewise, and so assist in removing the present serious menace to what is one of the most important factors in the agricultural life of the country.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 10.

The Mutiny at Lamia.

The calling up of eleven more military classes was evidently by pre-arranged plan the signal for the outbreak of a revolt of part of the garrison at Lamia. Although the trouble spread to Thebes and Halkis, it seems to have been nipped in the bud, and the court-martial is likely to deal severely with the ringleaders. Two executions have already taken place. There is, however, much fertile ground for sedition, and the arrest and exile of a further number of royalists who had been allowed to remain in Athens in the expectation that they would not foment trouble is, therefore, a wise measure. Their continued presence here has become a source of menace, and they are better out of the way. Owing to his age, M. Skouloudis is kept under arrest in his residence, but the following have been deported from the capital: Prince Ypsilanti, Equerry to the late king; M. Lambros, former Premier; MM. Zalacostas, Baltazzi, Triantafyllos and Tsaldaris, former Ministers; Colonel Hadzopoulo, Jean Ralli, G. Anastassopoulo, D. Kallimassiotis, S. Stays, A. Cannellopoulo, and C. Mitsopoulo.

In a statement issued to the Press, M. Venizelos stated that the seditious movement at Lamia showed that there was an organised reaction against the success of the mobilisation. The Government was, therefore, compelled to adopt various measures with a view to dealing with a movement of this nature. Events at Lamia had convinced the Government that it had to modify its attitude towards its adversaries, and it was resolved to crush this reaction.

The newspapers express great indignation at this want of patriotism at such a critical time. The *Embros*, which is anti-Venizelist, says that at a time when Greece is preparing to mobilise her military forces to make a more imposing force in the international conflict the movement of part of the Lamia garrison cannot but provoke in every Greek heart not only just indignation, but a painful surprise.

The *Kairoi*, a Venizelist paper, says that this is another proof of the Royalists' blunders. The promoters of the outbreak at Lamia have chosen the wrong moment for their act, at a time when Radoslavoff proclaims that Bulgaria will keep Oriental Macedonia because it is Bulgarian, and that, whilst Bulgaria has doubled its territory, her enemies have been crushed. Any indulgence at this time, says the *Kairoi*, would be an affront to the heroes who are fighting at the front.

The Press in general advocates strong measure being taken by the Government to punish the leaders, so as to prevent a recurrence of the outbreak. The King left for Salonika on Wednesday, breaking the journey at Lamia where he reviewed the garrison, and, in addressing the troops, his Majesty said that he was profoundly pained at the seditious movement in which, unfortunately, certain officers had taken part. He advised them all to devote themselves to the present régime which he, their King and head of the Army, had recognised. Greece must help the Protecting Powers in their great struggle, and not only is he a traitor who creates an obstacle, but traitor also is he who thinks of revolting. "You must submit to the orders of the Government, which enjoys my full confidence," was the final exhortation of King Alexander.

The Food Supply.

M. Embiricos has finally left the Ministry of Supplies, and M. Vourloumis (Bourloumi) has been appointed to succeed him; but General Bonnier is assisting in the reorganisation of this department. In leaving his post, M. Embiricos has the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of his labours. He undertook one of the most arduous tasks at a moment when the country was practically depleted of all stocks of the necessaries of life, and time was required to make the necessary arrangements with the Allies for victualling Greece and then to bring supplies into the country. The effect of his labours are now visible, and he has skilfully tided over the acute phase. His successor assumes office with filled warehouses.

The Allies have shown their sympathy with Greece in supplying her wants. During the past month large supplies of foodstuffs and general merchandise have arrived; in fact, the port of Piræus has become congested, and storage room is difficult to obtain. The economic condition of the country has thus become much more satisfactory, but the utilisation of the country's resources has still to be efficiently organised. It is said that M. Embiricos's resignation arose from a difference of opinion with M. Venizelos over the oil question. M. Embiricos was in favour of a monopoly, but the Premier considered it advisable to allow free trade in oil. Fuel continues to be scarce, and is always a source of anxiety to householders. Meat is obtainable with great difficulty, and at a very high price.

To-day, another census of Athens and the Piræus is being taken, and, as on the former occasion, no one is allowed out of doors until the signal is given by gunfire that the census has been completed. The streets are, therefore, lifeless this morning, and all traffic of every description is suspended.

General News.

The visit to Athens of General Guillaumat, the French Commander-in-Chief at Salonika, was made the occasion of a demonstration of amity towards France. In the principal streets there was a good display of French and Greek flags, and a handsome reception was given the general on his arrival at the railway station, where he was met by M. Venizelos and a large number of high officials. During his stay in Athens he was received by the King, a reception of the French Colony was held at the French Legation, and the Government gave a dinner in General Guillamat's honour. A review of the troops of the garrison was also held.

An Inter-Allied financial commission has been formed here to deal with financial questions arising out of the loans which are being made to Greece by the Allies. The British delegate is Mr. Bilinsky, manager of the Ionian Bank. By a recent decree the banks are not allowed to sell remittances for a larger sum than 1,000 francs per month to one person, without a special warrant from the Ministry of Finance.

GERMAN AIMS IN THE EAST.

In the course of an address delivered at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on February 27—the subject being "German Aims in the East and West"—Colonel the Earl of Denbigh, C.V.O., said that Germany had long been intensely jealous of England. She had worked with infinite cunning for the undoing of the British Empire and British trade and for securing the military domination of the world. Her methods at first had been those of peaceful penetration, but about 1911 she had decided that things were not going fast enough, and had resolved to force war on the world after the harvest of 1914. The murder of the Archduke provided the excuse for a war that had already been determined on. If Germany succeeded in carrying out the *Mittel Europa* scheme, an immense belt of territory controlled from Berlin would divide and dominate Europe. Germany would then be able to destroy Britain's position in the East, for if Palestine could be invaded from Egypt, so could Egypt be invaded from Palestine. If this was followed up by the seizing of Malta, a barrage of submarines could be established from Sicily to Tunis, so that we should be practically turned out of the Mediterranean. Even without this, with two hundred submarines behind the protection of the Dardanelles and a German army in Asia Minor, our position would be one of great peril. The question for us was as to whether we were going to maintain the position we had in the world, or were we, in the words of a music-hall song, going to "get out and get under"—to get out of our Empire and to get under Germany.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Mails and the Crops.

Mails received on January 17 were the first to reach Cyprus for six weeks. They have long been very irregular, often with intervals up to three weeks.

The rainfall since November has been satisfactory and well distributed. Young cereal crops are well forward in many parts, and prospects so far are favourable all round.

Most of last summer's crop of carobs is held in stores, owing to lack of shipping. Merchants cannot take advantage of the high prices offered in France and England (up to £34 the ton). The Cyprus Government has offered to purchase 22,000 tons, at £4 18s. a ton, the beans to be delivered at Famagusta, as in a previous year. Merchants have declined these terms, stating that they would lose if they accepted this price. Greece, it is said, and other countries have paid far higher prices for carobs from Crete and Spain.

The Rise in Prices.

Prices of various commodities have continued to rise. There has been but little meat in the markets for some time. In the coming months young lambs are generally slaughtered in large numbers, and the season is always looked forward to. They are often killed when far too small. The Government very properly last November prohibited the slaughter of lambs weighing less than six okes (16 4-5 lb.) dead weight. Another regulation provided that after November 26 no one in any municipal area might slaughter cattle, sheep, goats, or pigs for food, or sell meat, or trade as a butcher, except under a permit from Government, issued by the Commissioners and Provost Marshals. Large quantities of lambs were formerly shipped to Egypt, which seriously reduced the local supplies and sent up prices.

There has been considerable hoarding, as well as breaches of the regulations fixing tariff prices. Many cases have come before the Provost Marshals, offenders in some instances being sent to prison.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Mesopotamia; the Key to the Future," by Canon Parfit. A short account of the past history, present development, and future prospects of Mesopotamia, showing that the settlement of its problems is of vast importance to the progress and prosperity of the world. 41 pp., with map. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 77 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Armenian Atrocities: The Murder of a Nation," by A. J. Toynbee, with speech by Lord Bryce. An account of the atrocities committed by the Turks on the Armenians, with documents. 117 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Verdict of India," by Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, K.C.I.E. The writer describes what England has done and is doing for India, and explains the German delusion as to its internal condition. 57 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Voice from India," address by Maharajah of Bikanir. Speech delivered to Indian delegates at House of Commons. 24 pp. Empire Parliamentary Association, London.

"The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks," by Arnold J. Toynbee, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. A brief sketch of Turkish history to show that the expulsion of the Turks from Europe and their confinement to a portion of Asia Minor will be the only adequate requital for their atrocious treatment of subject races during this war and previously. 35 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"The Justice of Roumania's Cause," by A. W. A. Leeper. An explanation of the international position of Roumania in Europe and of her rights in the war. The author shows that her cause is legitimate, and that she has taken great risks and endured much to deliver her people from Hungary's oppression. 24 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

That small word "other" seems to spread pitfalls in the most unlikely places. A correspondent of *The Times* once reported that "theatres, churches, and other places of amusement were closed" on a certain occasion. Now comes the official abstract of the Indian Budget, which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. After noting the provision of a recurring grant for primary education, the official annotator proceeds: "*Otherwise* provision for expenditure has been generally restricted to urgent needs"! This, if you please, when the Minister for Education is discharging some of Mr. Montagu's functions at the India Office. I wonder on whose foot this particular brick has fallen. But I fancy that, as both Indian official circles and Indian politicians are in accord on the subject of the urgency of primary education, they will enjoy the episode together.

⁂

Divorce has always been easy—for the man, at any rate—in the Orient, and anyone who has lived in those parts any length of time must have heard many tales of husbands putting away their wives for utterly inadequate reasons. But it is a little surprising to learn that in Ispahan, as a result of food shortage, husbands are actually divorcing their wives because they cannot give them bread. Yet such is the fact, according to reports from missionaries in that city, where the "staff of life" would seem to be even more difficult to obtain than it is further westward. The state of affairs thus revealed is deplorable enough, and the poor women who are the victims of their husbands' economy will have our sympathy. But, even so, Ispahan may congratulate itself that it is not at quite such a low ebb of morals as Petrograd appears to be. In that home of Bolshevism there have been 38,000 applications for divorce since the Revolution! This is said to be the result "of the simplification of divorce proceedings." It looks to me as if it would be a good move to make those proceedings very much less simple.

⁂

The Turkish report of the great victory in the Bay of Chandarli is, I am informed on the very highest authority, not accurate in detail. The coast batteries may—or may not—have "successfully opened fire against an enemy ship," and it may even be true that "the crew . . . were taken prisoners." But the attempt to add a touch of artistic verisimilitude to the report by giving details of the said crew is a failure. It serves, indeed, to show that Turkey still remains painfully ignorant of naval affairs. For we are told that the crew consisted of "the captain and three men." Even the Turks might have known that with three men it is customary to send a commodore at least, if not an admiral.

⁂

The break-up of Russia by the Bolshevists has been a sorry business for that country and for the Allies, but it looks as if it may prove a very real benefit to Anglo-Persian relations. The plain fact is that for a number of years we did what we did not wish to do—what we much wished *not* to do, indeed—simply in an attempt to keep the world's peace. To adopt Oriental phraseology, we were forced to wear the Mask of Greed, and thus compelled to conceal the Countenance of Benevolence. The situation was, admittedly, not one calculated to afford us great satisfaction; but our policy was an honest effort on our part to do the best possible thing in the circumstances; and fortunately the wisest Persians understood our difficulty. To-day there is an end to the humiliating position, and we are free to act towards Persia as our national instinct prompts us. I agree with what the Persian Minister said at a recent meeting of the Persia Society: the friendship between Persia and Great Britain requires a little stimulating. For all that, the friendship is a real one. We want to see a strong and independent Persia, for our own sake as well as Persia's; and we have not any desire to grab territory from the Shah. Nor have we had any such desire, in spite of appearances during the past few years.

⁂

The Baghdad "war stamps" will doubtless prove objects of keen competition between philatelists, and advertisements that have appeared lately seem to show that they are already fetching fancy prices; but to the uninitiated they are hardly likely to appeal forcibly. Here is a chance for Imagination. Cannot our authorities issue a commemoration stamp worthy of the occasion: one typifying the release of Arabian Baghdad from the yoke of the Tartar oppressor by the British? Such a stamp would have a far-reaching influence throughout the East, and would play its part in that re-awakening of the Arab consciousness that is so much to be desired.

CORSAIR.

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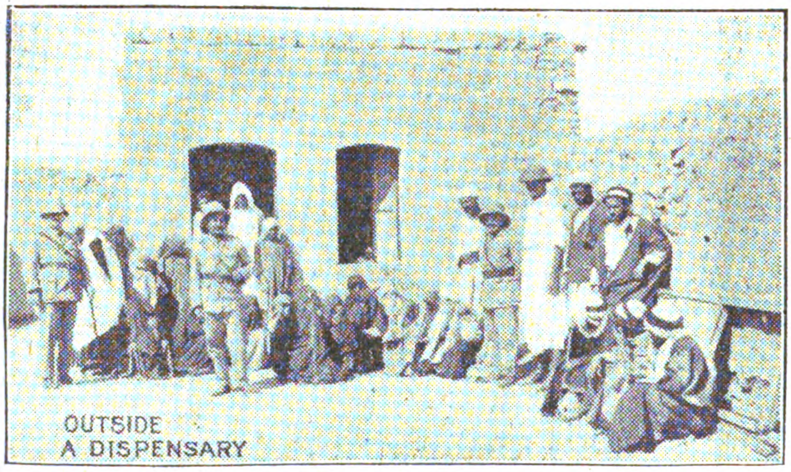

IS NOT VERY INTERESTING?

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BUT MANY A SUFFERING MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD WILL NEVER FORGET THE PLACE.

Here, after the Turkish retreat and the British advance, scores of desperately wounded civilians were brought—Christians, Jews, Moslems—men, women and children. Here a few died, but many lived and were restored to health. Here clothing and food were distributed.

AMONG A BATCH OF STRETCHERS ARRIVING, ONE WITH A VERY SMALL CHILD LYING FORLORNLY AT EITHER END, THE TWO BETWEEN THEM NOT COVERING HALF THE STRETCHER. THE MOTHER DIED ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL. NO ONE HAS BEEN TO LOOK FOR THEM.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WOE IS ARMENIA ![*]

This book should be read. Not because the author says "Lower down" when he means farther south; not because he says the Kurds must go back to the Armenian plateau whence they came, after he has freed Armenia from both Turk and Kurd; nor yet because he says (page 97), "Few, if any, ever arrived there, all dying by the way"; but because, in spite of these signs of hasty work, and in spite of something worse, the subject needs to be studied by the million.

Language evaporates under any effort to describe the iniquities of the Young Turk Triumvirate—Enver, Talaat, and Jemal, who, instigated by their Prussian masters, are the leading *dramatis personæ* in this court of unaccomplished justice. And yet in this presentation of the case against Turkey we read this of Jemal, the satrap of Syria, "With his army behind him, he has twice already defied the orders of Talaat, and I am inclined to think that he is the coming Strong Man of the effete Empire with whom it would be well worth while to make friends, even at a highish price." Mr. Benson goes on to say, "The Allied Powers should keep an undazzled eye on him, for it is quite possible that, having defied Talaat successfully, he may go on to defy the real rulers of Turkey, who live in Berlin." In other words, we should buy criminals whom we cannot execute. We should offer Jemal Pasha a villa in Monte Carlo and £40,000 a year, and thus condone the ghastly Young Turk massacres of Armenians, Greeks, Syrians, and Arabs. For this reason the reviewer asks our readers to read Mr. E. F. Benson's essay, but, having read in detail of the horrors of Ottoman rule, to turn down the suggestion—the purchase of one of the butchers.

Mr. E. F. Benson in the rest of this book brings an unanswerable suit "to the bar of an inviolable justice" —Burke's phrase. Warren Hastings was acquitted. Jemal, Enver, and Talaat will not get that British-rented villa in Monte Carlo.

LES TURCS ONT PASSE PAR LA.[†]

The reviewer has not seen this American bride's letters, from Tarsus, to her mother in the United States, in plain English; only the French rendering is before him. But so well do we love France and the United States that the French edition suffices to prompt us instantly to congratulate the author. Do you still wish to find a difference between the Young Turk and the Old? Read here! Are you a Lansdowne that can talk of a peace by negotiation? Read here! Did you blow, justly, Sepoys from the gun-muzzle, in 1857, and yet will not declare the fate of Enver, Talaat, and Jemal? Read here! Have you shaken the hand and eaten the salt of the desert son of Islam? Read here! Believe me—the happy, generous, fierce offspring of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland has played, and is going to play, a mighty part in avenging the peoples of the Near East. *Les Turcs ont passé par là.* This charming "Yankee" girl, carrying for most of the time, what she democratically describes her first baby, born in the middle of those ghastly Armenian massacres of 1909, witnessed the Turk passing "*there.*" We later know what happened to the Armenians in 1914—and to the Greeks, and to the Syrian Christians. President Poincaré and President Wilson, the Queen of England and the Queen of Italy, if they should read these letters of human touch cannot but echo the verdict of Paul of Tarsus: "Brethren! these things ought not so to be." And shall not any more!

Buy, or borrow, this American missionary girl's booklet if you wish to know how richly civilisation has merited its present dilemma. *Les Turcs ont passé par là!* As the booklet is in French, let me misrender the tag of the heroes of Verdun: *Ils ne passeront plus.* True! they will "pass" no more, however prodded by Huns, if America will only understand. And yet this is only a little girl, straight from Bryn Mawr, the chief woman's university of the United States, writing home from Asia Minor to her "Momma." Some letter-writing!

Owing to an oversight, the book entitled "Armenia and the War," by A. P. Hacobian (Hodder and Stoughton, 2s. 6d. net), was omitted from the Bibliography published last week.

"SUDAN NOTES AND RECORDS."

The proposal to establish a scientific journal for the Sudan was a thoroughly sound one, and the committee responsible for giving effect to the scheme is to be congratulated on the "vision" that prompted the enterprise, and on the achievement in the form of the first number of "Sudan Notes and Records" A particularly happy start is made with an article by Professor G. A. Reisner, of Harvard University, on the ancient history of the Sudan, which lays stress on the important part which from the earliest time has been played by Ethiopia, or the region now known as the Sudan, in view of its geographical position as the gateway to the wealth of Central Africa. In a foreword, General Sir Reginald Wingate, on the ground that knowledge is power, in Africa and elsewhere, expresses the hope that the quarterly will be the means of recording and disseminating information that will conduce to a clearer outlook on the country and a better understanding of its natives, for the benefit both of the Government and of the community at large. In these days when European nations are liable to have overseas title-deeds examined somewhat closely, it is well that the British nation as a whole—not merely Sudan officials and residents—should appreciate the importance of every single link in the long-drawn chain that is known as the British Commonwealth. If we start from the premise that the sea is this island's life-blood, we must accept the Suez Canal as an indispensable artery, which cannot be separated from Egypt. Then with something like 6000 years' acceptance of the principle that Egypt and the Sudan must go together behind them, Britons have a strong *a fortiori* case, which takes them some way into Africa. But the verdict will ultimately rest on the principle that by their fruits they will be known. In this matter Sir Reginald Wingate sounds a typical note. "The creeds, the superstitions, and the folklore of primitive tribesmen," he writes, "are subjects of the deepest interest in themselves, and, apart from their anthropological and ethnological values, are of importance as contributing to that sympathetic comprehension of the people and their mentality, which is so essential to a successful administrator." So long as these considerations influence British administration of native peoples, there is little chance of their title-deeds being seriously called in question. All that makes for a wider dissemination of knowledge regarding the peoples who are brought within the orbit of the British Empire is to be welcomed, and we may certainly look with confidence to "Sudan Notes and Records" fulfilling this rôle admirably.

Other articles included in this number deal with the Sakia in Dongola, a native institution representing a highly organised system of co-operative farming, and Nubian elements in Darfur. Two papers are of general interest: Major C. H. Stigand discusses "Scent and Sight among Game and Other Animals," and Mr. S. Hillelson writes on "Arabic Nursery Rhymes," giving the original of one or more jingles which are familiar enough to English and other nurseries.

For readers in England we would mention that single copies of the quarterly (price 3s.) can be obtained from the Sudan Government Railway Office, 5, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2. The annual subscription is 50 P.T. (10s. 6d.).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Back Numbers. By H. W. Westbrook. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1s. 3d. net.)

Rambles in Cairo. By Mrs. R. L. Devonshire. (Cairo: The Sphinx Printing Press. 6s. net.)

The Homely Diary of a Diplomat in the East, 1897-1899. By Thomas Skelton Harrison. (New York and Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. $5.00 net.)

Flames in the Wind. By Helen Hudson. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

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[†] "Les Turcs ont passé par là!" Diary of an American lady during the Armenian Massacres. Done in the French language by Berger-Levrault. Paris. Helen Davenport Gibbons.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. March.	1918. February.		1336. Jomada I.	5678. Adar.
8	23	Friday	25	24
9	24	Saturday........	26	25
10	25	Sunday	27	26
11	26	Monday	28	27
12	27	Tuesday	29	28
13	28	Wednesday	30	29
14	March 1	Thursday	Jomada II. 1	Nisan 1

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem has arrived safely in that city.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, has arrived in London.

Prince Alexander, the Serbian Prince Regent, arrived at Corfu on March 4.

Colonel Sir Swinton Jacob, the eminent Indian architect, left estate valued at £32,875.

King Alexander of Greece has conferred the Grand Cross of the Saviour on General Pétain.

Dr. Weizmann had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on March 4.

H.H. Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh visited the Exhibition of War Photographs in Colours at the Grafton Galleries on March 5.

Princess Rosetti Rosnovanu, the wife of the Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at The Hague, left London, on March 4, for Holland.

Among recent wills is that of Lord Basil Blackwood, who was killed in action in France on July 4. He left property of the value of £6,685.

The Rao of Cutch has offered to continue defraying the expenses of an Indian Infantry regiment at an annual cost of £36,000 till the end of the war.

Mr. Guthrie, of the American Mission on the Sobat River, arrived at Khartoum at the end of January, accompanied by Mrs. Guthrie and their children.

A Constantinople telegram says that the ordinary session of the Turkish Lower House has been prolonged for a fortnight for the purpose of discussing the Budget.

A movement has been inaugurated by the Serbian Mission in New York to bring a large number of young Serbians, who are now lodged in France and England, to the United States.

The will has been proved of Major Claude Askew and Mrs. Alice Askew, who were drowned in the Mediterranean last October, whose property has been sworn at probate at £5.

According to a Bucharest telegram to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister in London, has been instructed by the Roumanian Government to conduct the peace negotiations.

M. Michel B. Boerescu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, and Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, were among the guests at a dinner given by the Princess of Monaco on March 3.

A marriage has been arranged between J. E. Goudge, Indian Civil Service, of Sitapur, United Provinces, and Phyllis, youngest daughter of Mr. John Hooke and the late Mrs. Hooke, of 23, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

The recruiting figures for India during January constituted the highest monthly total during the war, says *The Times'* Bombay correspondent. The Punjab contributed nearly 13,000 combatants, and the United Provinces 6,400.

According to a Budapest telegram to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, twenty-one Roumano-Transylvanian teachers in Kronstadt and its environs have been suspended from their office for a period of five years owing to "their prejudiced attitude."

The Duke of Connaught returned to Cairo from the Sudan on March 2, and in the evening of that day held at the Residency an Investiture of the Order of the British Empire. The recipients included Anglo-Egyptians and native officials.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, Director of the National Bank of Turkey, who has been appointed to assist Lord Reading, arrived at an Atlantic port a few days ago.

The *Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten's* statement that negotiations with Serbia and Montenegro are only a matter of weeks, and that M. Pashitch's resignation is connected with impending peace negotiations, are categorically denied by the Serbian Legation.

The Hankow War Charities Committee has forwarded another donation of £1,205 to the Overseas Club from the British residents at Hankow, to be divided amongst the British Red Cross, Scottish Red Cross, Serbian Relief Fund, and Overseas Club comforts for prisoners of war.

Speaking in the Main Committee of the Reichstag on March 14, Baron von dem Bussche, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to an observation by a deputy on the question of the Roumanian Throne, said: "The dynastic question is an internal Roumanian question."

The marriage arranged between Errol Mews, lieutenant, R.F.A., second son of Herbert Mews, Whychcote, Portslade, and Ruby Evelyn, elder daughter of the late C. A. Ionides and Mrs. Ionides, of 10, Second Avenue, Hove, will take place on March 16, at All Saints' Church, Hove.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early this month, service conditions permitting, between Lieutenant Herbert Henry Coldicott, G.H.Q., Egypt, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Coldicott, of Leamington, late of Warwick, and Jean Lilias (Lilka), only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Andrews of Saba Pacha, Alexandria.

From Serbian sources Reuter's Agency learns that the Governor-General of Bosnia and Herzegovina has proclaimed a state of siege under a penal code of the most ruthless character, every violation of which is visited with the death penalty. The proclamation was issued from Serajevo and signed by General Sarkotich. It applies to districts essentially Serbian.

Mr. James I. Craig has resigned the office of Controller of Supplies in Egypt, and has been succeeded by Mr. W. Ross Taylor, Legal Adviser to the Ministries of Public Works, War, and Agriculture. The office of Controller of all Supplies in Egypt was created last September, Mr. Craig, who was previously Controller of State Statistics, being the first holder of the office.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has given an aeroplane to the Empire of India. The machine, which is named "Manchester," was presented on Saturday at a gathering in the city, which included Lord Desborough, President of the Imperial Air Fleet Committee. A telegram was read from the Viceroy stating that in India scope for air activity and usefulness had greatly developed.

The annual report of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge states that during the past year valuable additions were made to the collection of Greek vases, many of which came from the Hope collection. The friends of the Fitzwilliam have contributed five good examples of Greco-Buddhist sculpture—probably from the neighbourhood of Gandhara. Messrs. Spink and Son gave a finely carved head of Buddha.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—

Mr. H. Lucach has been appointed Commissioner of Famagusta.

Mr. Baxendale, Commissioner of Famagusta, has been appointed Commissioner of Larnaca.

Mr. Thomas Greenwood is transferred from Larnaca, and is to act as Commissioner of Papho, while Major Bayly acts as Chief Commandant of Police.

News has been received that Colonel Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police, now on active service, has been wounded, receiving injuries in the face.

Mr. Russell, King's Advocate, who has recovered from an attack of typhoid fever, is proceeding on leave to Khartoum.

Mr. Bowring, Receiver-General, who also suffered from typhoid fever last year, is going on leave to Egypt.

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Mr. Macpherson states that, with the assistance of the Admiralty and the Ministry of Shipping, transport facilities will be increased, and this will enable an increased number of officers and men in the Salonika Army to go on leave.

A resolution has been passed by the Manchester branch of the British-Italian League welcoming the announcement that a conference is to be held in London on March 13 between the Anglo-Serbian, Anglo-Hellenic, Anglo-Roumanian, and British-Italian leagues, and expressing the hope that the deliberations of the conference may lead to a friendly settlement of the differences of view at present existing between the peoples on both sides of the Adriatic. The view is expressed that the points of difference still outstanding are confined within narrow limits, and that it is of urgent importance to the future of freedom in Europe that a friendly settlement should be speedily concluded.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Temporary Miralai C. H. Little Bey, D.S.O., has been promoted to the rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi H. C. E. Jebb, Sudanese, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Egyptian Army.

Mr. T. E. S. Armston, formerly of the Customs Guards at Alexandria, has been appointed Commandant of Police at Baghdad.

Lieut.-Colonel (Temporary Colonel) E. S. Herbert, C.M.G., has been granted the temporary rank of Brigadier-General whilst serving with the Egyptian Army.

El Kaimakam P. G. W. Maynard Bey, Second Inspector, Mongalla Province, and El Bimbashi G. C. V. Irwin, Second Inspector, Sennar Province, have been re-transferred to the Army.

Kaimakam C. S. Northcote Bey, Senior Inspector Bahr el Ghazal Province, has been transferred to the same capacity at Mongalla Province, and has been replaced at Bahr el Ghazal by Kaimakam E. D. Bally Bey, of the Intelligence Department at Khartoum.

OBITUARY.

Mr. George Goodwin Dey, I.C.S., retired, whose death has taken place in his 70th year, served in Assam as Officiating Judge of Sylhet and Cachar, and as District and Sessions Judge.

The death has taken place, in his eightieth year, of Sir Chandra Madhab Ghose, who was a Judge of the Calcutta High Court from 1884 to 1906. In the latter year he officiated as Chief Justice.

The death occurred on March 2, at Haywards Heath, of Major-General Sir Wykeham Leigh Pemberton, K.C.B., in his eighty-fifth year. His war service included the Mutiny campaign, when he was present at the siege and capture of Delhi, the capture of Futtehpore Sikree, and the final capture of Lucknow.

The death is announced from Vienna of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, second son of the King of Montenegro. When King Nicholas and his family retired before the Austrian invaders, Prince Mirko stayed behind, and two years ago entered a sanatorium in Vienna.

Lieutenant Edward Nevinson Bell, I.C.S., Indian Infantry, who died of dysentery in India on February 10, was the eldest son of the Rev. W. A. Bell, for thirty-two years rector of Charlynch, and was educated at Marlborough and University College, Oxford. He entered the I.C.S., and went to Burma in 1903, and was for some time District Judge at Mandalay, subsequently going to Shewbo and then to Pakokku.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Alexander Walker Lamond, R.E., who was recently invalided to Colombo after long service at various fronts, died there on February 25, aged 39. He was employed for many years with the firm of Sir John Aird, at home and in Egypt, and was engaged in the construction of the three Nile barrages at Esnah, Assiout, and Aswan, for his share in which he received the Medjidieh and Osmanieh Orders from the Egyptian and Turkish Governments. Colonel Lamond was a prominent Rugby player, representing Scotland against Wales and England.

Mr. Duncan Mackinnon, of Loup and Balinakill, Argyllshire, formerly chairman of the B.I.S.N. Company, died at his residence in Hyde Park Square on February 27, aged seventy-three years. He was a nephew of the late Sir William Mackinnon, and gained his early business experience at Glasgow in his uncle's firm of East India merchants, subsequently going out to Calcutta, where he was ultimately placed in charge of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co., agents of the B.I.S.N. Company. On his return to London he was appointed a director and later chairman of that company. He retired a few years ago, and was succeeded by Lord Inchcape. His two sons, Captain William Mackinnon and Lieutenant Duncan Mackinnon, were killed in action last year.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1918.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

The salient features of the Indian Budget can be stated in very few words. The year now closing has yielded a huge surplus; the coming year will start with the promise of a surplus, smaller indeed, but ample for all ordinary purposes; there will be no additions to taxation, and the annual loan will be devoted entirely to the war. It is Sir William Meyer's last Budget; he has borne a heavy burden during the last five years, a burden rendered all the more irksome by the ill-informed invective of which he has been the target in this country as well as in India; and while we do not assert that he has made no mistakes, or has invariably risen to his opportunities, we are glad to be able to recognise that he will leave India financially sound, and in a position to face the unknown future with a reasonable confidence. In order to appreciate the present position we must glance back for a moment at the Budget propounded last year. India was then able to pay her own way, but the statesmanlike decision to offer a war contribution of one hundred millions sterling involved a substantial increase in taxation to provide for the new burden of interest and sinking fund. With the aid of these additional resources it was hoped that the accounts would balance. As a matter of fact, the balance has been altogether upset, but the discrepancy is on the right side; income has exceeded the estimate by 11½ millions, and, after providing for over three millions of additional military expenditure, the country is eight millions sterling to the good. It was natural to ask why the revenue has so greatly exceeded the estimates, and the answer to this question is threefold: the year has been prosperous, so that ordinary revenue has come in well; there have been some substantial windfalls; and the yield of the new taxation, and also of the railways, has been much greater than was anticipated when the last Budget was framed. The Indian Financial Department has thus maintained its reputation for what it calls caution, and its critics denounce as "under-budgeting"; that old controversy will doubtless be revived in the discussions now opening in India, but our immediate concern is rather with the future than with the past.

The prospects of the coming year are undoubtedly favourable. The estimates provide for a moderate decline in revenue and a substantial increase in ordinary expenditure, leaving a margin of two millions sterling, a sum which is not unreasonable in times like these. There is, happily, no need for any increase in taxation, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that some provision has been found possible for a few of the country's most urgent needs. There is, in fact, a limit to the policy of restricting expenditure, which was quite rightly adopted at the outbreak of the war, and in India that limit has been nearly reached. Even in ordinary times the civil administration is economical to the verge of meanness; for nearly four years it has been absolutely starved, and a continuance of this policy, which has already resulted in the retardation of material progress, could lead only to an ultimate breakdown. We welcome, therefore, the additional provision which has been made, and we have particular satisfaction in recording an additional allotment for the Police Department, where the inadequacy of salaries has long been a public scandal and has of late threatened to become a public danger. The Departments will, of course, not be satisfied, and for at least another year they will have to go very slowly, but that is, we fear, inevitable in the conditions now prevailing throughout the civilised world.

The most significant figures are, however, to be found in that intricate section of the Budget which deals with the capital account. Stripped of their technicalities, these figures tell us not merely that India is doing good work for the Empire, but that she is being well paid for what she does. The Imperial Government and Dependencies are, in fact, spending in India at the rate of about seventy millions sterling a year, and the magnitude of these payments has, as the commercial world knows, entirely upset the ordinary currents of remittance, and led to a temporary alteration in the sterling value of the rupee. Nor is the element of paradox wanting, for we find that India, despite her poverty, has been lending money to her neighbours, and even to the United States, that she has been investing part of her balances in this country, and that next year she expects to increase her receipts from interest by well over a million pounds—by no means a negligible offset to the cost of her contribution to the war. Regarding this contribution, the Budget gives information of real importance. It will be remembered that, while the amount of the contribution was fixed at one hundred millions, only about one-tenth of this sum was expected to be raised by way of loan, the balance being covered by an annual payment to meet the interest and sinking fund. Instead of one-tenth, the proportion already paid exceeds one-third, the precise figure being £35,139,000, and a further payment is to be made by the issue this summer of a short-term loan, which is estimated to bring in twenty millions sterling. This amount may seem small when compared with the results of last year's effort, but that comparison is by no means fair. To obtain a just idea of the meaning of these figures, we must recall that as lately as three or four years ago the Indian money market was never asked by the State to raise more than two or three millions annually, and the fact that a financier so eminently cautious as Sir William Meyer should now talk of tens of millions is evidence not merely that India is for the moment prosperous, but that the whole financial outlook of the country has been permanently changed. India is learning rapidly how to apply her savings, and perhaps also some portion of her hoarded wealth, to useful and practical purposes. That lesson once learned is not likely to be forgotten, and the habit of investment may be trusted to establish itself and expand until it dominates the commercial and industrial life. The process of what it is the present fashion to call Reconstruction will in the case of India be marked chiefly by unprecedented demands for additional capital. The construction of railways has fallen far behind, while the re-equipment of the open lines will present an even more urgent and not less costly problem. The fields, the forests, and the canals have all been starved. Existing industries will clamour for new machinery, while many fresh ventures, both great and small, are waiting eagerly for the moment when they can obtain the necessary plant. During the last three years India has learned much, and has awakened to something like an adequate conception of the immensity of her natural resources. For some time to come there will be an urgent need for all the commodities which she can supply, and it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that her whole industrial future will depend on the way in which she utilises the opportunities presented by the establishment of peace. The idea that she can unaided finance her own reconstruction is, we fear, a dream; she will still require capital from outside, but such borrowing will be costly, and the larger the sums raised within her borders the more satisfactory will be the ultimate result. The Budget tells us that the lesson of investment is now being learned, and that is the best news that India at the present moment can issue to the world.

THE EMIRATE OF MECCA UNDER THE TURKS.

Ottoman apologists have endeavoured to represent the action of the Emir Hussein of Mecca in proclaiming himself independent of the Porte as the revolt of a mere official against the Government under which he held a salaried appointment. This argument, however, is not supported by facts. We in Europe have for many years become accustomed to watch the rapid ebb of the tide of Turkish conquest, which at one time thundered against the gates of Imperial Vienna and now barely wets the west wall of Adrianople. And in Africa we have seen country after country reappear above the desolating flood of Ottoman domination. Kingdoms and peoples in two continents, after centuries of blighting slavery, have revived, and are warming themselves in their recently recovered places in the sun now that the shadow of the Horse-tails no longer paralyses their national life; but nowhere in Europe or Africa has a people been released from its servitude by the efforts of the same race of kings as that under which it originally lost its liberty to the conquering Turk. In Asia alone is it possible to observe this historical phenomenon. The Principality, or Emirate, of Mecca, which at the beginning of the tenth Mohammedan and sixteenth Christian centuries was still under Egyptian influence, became subject to the Turks when Sultan Yawuz Selim (Selim the Grim) conquered the last of the Mamluk Sultans of Cairo, and shortly afterwards arrogated to himself and his family the very Khalifate itself. The somewhat shadowy overlordship of Cairo was in course of time transformed into a definite Protectorate by the Government of Constantinople. Advantage was taken of the economic necessities of Mecca, which is the capital city of a country incapable of feeding either its native population or, still less, the numerous visitors which the annual pilgrimage draws to the Holy Places in it and its vicinity. This poverty of local production has made the pilgrimage essential to the existence of the inhabitants of Mecca, as the money spent by the pilgrims alone enables the purchases of the necessary foodstuffs to be effected which have to feed natives and visitors alike. The Princes of a State so artificial from an economic point of view have inevitably been greatly exposed to external influences, and have often been dependent upon the pious offerings of faithful Moslems for the wherewithal to strike a balance in their Treasury. The Emirs of Mecca, as being responsible for the welfare of the pilgrims while in their territory, have been put to great expense in restraining the predatory tribes of the desert, who at all times have looked upon pilgrims as proper persons to plunder. The Government of the Holy City has also had to arrange for the maintenance and pay of the large staff of preachers and guides required for the spiritual oversight and temporal direction of the pilgrims. In addition to this the ruler of the chief sacred city of Islam has been expected to maintain a state and hospitality befitting his position, and to keep the most cultured and civilised Court in Arabia, although the Hejaz is very far from being the richest part of the peninsula. In addition to these public burthens incidental to his position as Temporal Prince of a centre of pilgrimage, the Emir of Mecca for centuries past has been surrounded by an ever-increasing clan of Sherifs, or scions of the sacred family sprung from the marriage of the Khalif Ali (himself an agnate of the Prophet Mohammed, being of the house of Hashem and the clan of the Koreish) with the Prophet's daughter Fatima. In the old line of Hassan, the elder son of this marriage, the Emirate of Mecca with the guardianship of the Holy Places is hereditary; and in normal times the succession has, somewhat naturally, tended to be from the father to that son who had commonly been associated with him in the Emirate during his declining years, although in theory the Emirate might lawfully be vested in any male of the Sherifian family, provided that his descent was regularly established. When Mecca first came under Ottoman influence this succession from father to son was in force, and it was not for another century that the Turkish theory of the succession of the eldest agnate came to be widely practised at the bidding of the Porte.

Soon after this, however, the Emirs of Mecca became the prey not only of the Porte itself but of the local Turkish Valis of the Yemen and of the Hejaz. Any excuse was good enough to cause the Government to dethrone a reigning Emir, and the tenure of the Sherifian throne became so uncertain and so hazardous that by degrees the prestige of the Emirate was abated. Family intrigues were deliberately fostered by the Government, and the Turks, by exploiting the fact that the Court of Mecca relied considerably upon the Ottoman subsidy, almost succeeded in reducing the hereditary sovereignty to the level of a temporary administratorship. For instance, the Emir Saad Ibn el Sherif Zeid ibn Muhsin was twice deposed, and had to abdicate twice; his son Said reigned five times as sole Emir, and once in association with his father. He abdicated once, and suffered four depositions; three other Emirs had three reigns apiece; eight reigned twice. During the last three hundred years of the Turkish period there were thirty-eight depositions, and the length of reign decreased from the seventy-three years of that of the Emir Mohammed Abu Noma Ibn el Sherif Barakat, the second Prince under the Turkish domination, to the one day of that of the Emir Maarin Ibn el Sherif Mesaid Ibn Said, the fifty-third on the list. These depositions were sometimes effected at the whim of the local Turkish Vali, as, for example, when Ahmed Pasha, Vali of the Yemen, in 1627 (A.H. 1037) lost his luggage at sea off Jeddah, and deposed the Emir Muhsin Ibn el Sherif Hussein Ibn Hassan because the divers furnished by that Prince were unable to recover enough of it to please the passionate Pasha. On other occasions there was even less excuse than this, and the appointments to the dignity thus violently rendered vacant became more and more capricious. The twenty-sixth Emir, on being deposed, was succeeded by a fifth cousin, although at the time he had a brother alive, as well as an uncle and two first cousins, all of whom had already sat upon the throne, two being destined to do so again. The twenty-seventh Emir, deposed in his turn, was followed by a fourth cousin once removed, and the deposed fifty-sixth Emir made way, at Ottoman dictation, for his father's sixth cousin so far as the male line was concerned.

Still, in spite of these violent fluctuations of individual fortune the dynasty survived, and the Turk, who, except for his own reigning house, has neither regard nor interest for any man's fraternity, was overawed by the splendour of the descent of the Sherifs of Mecca from the Prophet himself in the first instance, and from Father Abraham, well three thousand years before him, in the second, and never entirely absorbed the kingdom of the Hejaz. A flickering memory of independence was always nursed amid the most depressing circumstances, and the religious position of the Emir was emphasised annually at the time of the Pilgrimage, when thinking Moslems looked upon the Emir and mentally compared the Arabic-speaking descendant of the Prophet with the tongue-tied Turanian in Stambul, who claimed to be Commander of the Faithful because a fortunate and truculent forebear had been able to requisition the title from its terrified possessor.

Thus the religious duties attaching to the Emirate of Mecca preserved it from the fate common to the temporal monarchies overrun by the Turks, and happier than any of the European kingdoms which have been from time to time disgorged by the defeated and reluctant Khakhaws of Constantinople, the Holy City has once again emerged into the sunlight of independence as the capital city of a considerable kingdom under the guidance of a dynasty which has not changed during more than thirteen centuries. Thus the action of the sixty-eighth Emir of the Ottoman period in proclaiming the independence of Mecca and the Hejaz in June, 1916 [Shaban 1334 A.H.] was only taking a long-sought and heaven-sent opportunity to re-establish the position alike of his dynasty, the Holy City and the Arabian race by casting off the Turanian fetters which had too long shackled the free-born Hagarenes of the desert edge.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Italy and Dalmatia. March 4.

Mr. Balfour, in reply to Mr. Noel Buxton, who asked whether his attention had been drawn to the statement of the American Minister in Sofia to the effect that the American Government had let it be understood that it would not countenance Italy's claim to Dalmatia, said that the American Minister at Sofia was alleged to have made such a statement in the Press, but he was not aware whether the allegation was correct.

The Late Sir Stanley Maude.

Mr. Lloyd George, in moving that a grant of £25,000 be made to Lady Maude in recognition of the eminent services rendered by the late Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude whilst commanding his Majesty's Forces in Mesopotamia, said :—I never submitted a proposal to the House with a greater conviction of its merits and of its claims on the acceptance of this House. The services which Sir Stanley Maude rendered, notably in Mesopotamia, to the Empire were distinguished, far-reaching, and permanent in their effect. He found British prestige at a very low ebb in a quarter of the globe where prestige counts for very much. The British Army in the East had suffered a series of severe reverses. One great enterprise on which a good deal of the strength of the Empire had been concentrated had to be abandoned. One British Army had surrendered to a Turkish force, after another British Army had been defeated in a series of attempts to relieve it. In Egypt we had a large force sheltering behind the desert and the canal from an inferior Turkish army; and this tale of discomfiture and humiliation spread throughout every bazaar in the East, and, like a tree, it grew as it spread. Before it ran into irreparable mischief for the Empire, the genius of Sir Stanley Maude had changed and restored the position. I know well how much of this success was due to the reorganisation of the transport service by Sir John Cowans and his able staff, the reorganisation of the medical service by Sir Alfred Keogh and his assistants, and the reinforcements brought in by Sir William Robertson and Sir Charles Monro; but the enemy also had had time to reinforce, and the enemy also had time to strengthen his forces. The ground lent itself to entrenchments. These entrenchments were constructed under the advice and direction of German engineers. The Turk was fighting at his best in a climate which suited him and did not suit us. But against all these obstacles the leadership of Sir Stanley Maude and the valour of his Army triumphed.

The highest proof of generalship is not so much in the winning of a victory as in the exploitation of it. No general ever made better or wiser use of his victory than did Sir Stanley Maude. The relentless pursuit of the defeated army which ultimately destroyed it and ended in the dramatic capture of Baghdad, which was sounded throughout the East—these were amongst the finest feats in military history. And they had a magical effect on the fame and position of Britain throughout the whole of the East. The Germans realised it. Sir Stanley Maude's achievements had destroyed their cherished dream. They sent one of their ablest generals there to effect a re-conquest, and I do not think it is too much to say that their abandonment of that enterprise was due very largely to their appreciation of the fact, when they came there, that they were confronted by a leader of exceptional resource and power.

But Sir Stanley Maude's real greatness was displayed in the use which he made of the victory after it had been obtained. He showed as much wisdom as an administrator as he displayed skill as a general. Every great general has a strain of statesmanship, and Sir Stanley Maude showed great gifts of statesmanship in his administration of that difficult country. Whilst ruling with a firm hand, he won the esteem and affection of that gifted but suspicious race, not merely by the equity of his rule, but by the intelligent sympathy which he displayed. He possessed that rare tact which is a blend of gentleness and understanding, and the article which appeared in an Arab paper after his death, and was, I think, published in the British Press last week, is the highest tribute which could have been paid to his great qualities as a governor and a man.

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He died a victim of the inbred courtesy of his fine character. I heard the story the other day from a member of his staff. He visited a plague-stricken area at the invitation of its inhabitants. They were anxious to give him a welcome for the many kindnesses which he had displayed, and they gave him a great welcome. They offered him a small act of hospitality, and although he so well knew the peril that he had actually forbidden any soldier in his escort to eat or drink while on that visit, he himself ran the risk rather than hurt the susceptibilities of a people who were anxious to give him a welcome. There was cholera in the cup, and he died in a few days. He will always be remembered as one of the great figures of this war, not merely for what he achieved, but for what he was. I know not what destiny may have in store for the famed land which he conquered, but of two things I am certain. The first is that the whole course of its history will be changed for the better as a result of the victory and the rule of Sir Stanley Maude; and the second is that his name will always be cherished by the inhabitants of that land as that of the gentlest conqueror who ever entered the gates of Baghdad.

A few days ago a record of his will appeared in the papers. It was a pathetic document. Had he devoted his great qualities of energy, insight, organisation, and industry to his own affairs he would have amassed a great fortune. He consecrated them all to the service of his country, and he died a poor man. The least the country he served so well, and for whose cause he gave his life, can do is to see that those he has left who were dependent upon him shall not, at any rate, be left in penury.

Ex-King Constantine. March 5.

Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, replying to Mr. Lynch, said that, in view of the doubt which existed as to whether the Greek Government were or were not making any payments to the ex-King of Greece, his Majesty's Minister at Athens received instructions early last month to ascertain definitely what action the Greek Government were taking in the matter. Lord Granville was informed in reply that no pension had up to now been paid to King Constantine, since the latter had from the first refused to accept one. No other communications had passed between his Majesty's Government and the Greek Government in the matter. Mr. Lynch asked whether the papers would be accessible to any member of the House in order that the inner meaning of these transactions might be seen. Lord R. Cecil.—The hon. member is very suspicious. There is no inner meaning whatever, but I shall be very pleased to show him any papers he desires to see on this subject.

Mr. Pemberton Billing asked whether Lord R. Cecil was aware that there were at the present time at a London tailor's hampers of clothes waiting to be despatched to King Constantine or his agent, whether it was proposed to grant permission for the despatch of the goods, and whether supplying him with goods constituted trading with the enemy. Lord R. Cecil said the last part of the question had already been answered. To the rest of the question the answer was in the negative. Mr. Billing.—Is it proposed to despatch these hampers or not? Lord R. Cecil.—That is a large question.

CONDITIONS IN JERUSALEM.

The following extracts are taken from a letter written not long after the surrender of Jerusalem by one of the Syrian workers of the late Bishop in Jerusalem, Bishop Blyth :—

"It does seem strange to me to be able to write English letters again freely. The last three years were simply terrible. We really do owe a great deal to those who have rescued us.

"I personally did not have to go through very bad times, but some of the inhabitants had a miserable time of it. . . . I got to know nearly all the Turkish influential people, and this helped to get me out of many dangers. One cannot deny that there was some risk in safeguarding the interests of the belligerent Powers, especially the English, but we were always glad to feel that we were able to do something in return for all that was done for us by Bishop Blyth. I have done all I could to keep his furniture, and I am glad to say that I succeeded in doing so. I have often had big rows with some of the officers who attempted to carry away his things, for I considered that his property was something sacred, and that the Turks must not have any of it.

"Little Jemal Pasha lived in the Bishop's house, and I got to know him very well. I have his photograph. . . . The last of the Turkish civil governors left the Bishop's house four hours before the English came into Jerusalem, and the good tidings of surrendering the city to the English was first announced in the Bishop's study. . . . The Church (St. George's) was ready for a service three or four days after the entering of the British troops; no damage was done to it at all, except the digging for guns. The Bishop's house was used by high military people, and when the Governor (Turkish) came to live in it I got him to whitewash it all. It is now perfectly clean and new: the furniture was repaired."

Another letter from Jerusalem, written about the same date, describes how, within three hours of General Allenby's entry, all the shops in the city were open again and the shopkeepers freely displayed things that they had hidden for three years from the Germans and the Turks.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of December 21 last you published a letter from Dr. Lanitis on the subject of the union of Cyprus to Greece.

All those meetings, petitions and telegrams to the British Government that he quotes as proof of the public feeling in Cyprus on this important subject were artificial, and were not the real feelings of the public at all, but specially organised meetings and petitions got up by a certain class of agitators.

I have lived for twenty years in Cyprus, and I flatter myself that I know the island and the true feelings of the population better than Dr. Lanitis does. If a true vote were to be taken on a certain unknown date, so that the agitators and moneylenders had absolutely no opportunity of influencing the voting, I venture to predict that 90 per cent. of the votes would be in favour of the British administration.

There is, however, no need of voting in this matter at all, for it is difficult to see how any British Government, after our present experience of submarines, could hand over Cyprus to any other Power, which might make use of the island as a submarine base at the mouth of the Suez Canal.

I am, etc.,

Ismailia, February 5, 1918. W. H. Williamson.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I be permitted to say that the recent communication of Dr. Lanitis anent the desire of the Greek population of Cyprus for union with Greece represents the true situation, and is amply sustained by the facts.

That a Greek island should desire to become a part of the Greek kingdom is so natural that it is utterly futile for anyone to attempt to uphold a contrary proposition. There is not a scintilla of evidence to sustain the contention of your correspondent in Cyprus that the desire for annexation is not shared by the majority of the Greek inhabitants of the island. It is unnecessary to enumerate the various facts given by Dr. Lanitis, in order to prove that such a desire not only exists, but is universally shared by all the Greeks of the island. All that is necessary is to go to any graduating exercises of any Greek school, in any town or village on the island, and the true feeling of the Greek will reveal itself in unmistakable form; or the first Greek that you encounter on the street or country road will enlighten you on the subject.

The desire for annexation or union to Greece exists despite the fact that the Greeks of the island appreciate all that British administration has done for them.

They do not deny that the coming of the British was a blessing, in that it rid them of the infernal Turkish rule; nor do they deny that the British rulers of Cyprus, with but few exceptions, are men eminently fit for their posts, men who have the welfare of the inhabitants at heart; nor do they minimise the importance of the various reforms undertaken with a view to the betterment of the inhabitants; but as Greeks, they claim that their heart beats fast at the thought of union with the mother country, Greece, and that that event is the goal which they cherish so highly. All liberty-loving peoples would look upon the Cypriots with contempt, if they did not entertain such views—views which are perfectly natural and which are peacefully presented.

I very much regret that Dr. Lanitis did not mention in his letter something about the great desirability of reforming the judicial system of Cyprus, now that the island is a British colony. The present system is obsolete. As is well known, the district courts of Cyprus are made up of one Englishman (president of the Court), one Greek, and one Turk. *Prima facie*, such a system would commend itself to all as representing the three potent elements of Cyprus. Due consideration of the actual status of the judiciary will reveal that such a system is at present highly inequitable; for whereas the English and Greek members of the Courts have been men fairly well versed in the law, the same cannot always be said of the remaining member. Knowledge of the Koran may be useful, but I am not prepared to say that it is likely to fit a person to act as judge in a court of the greatest Empire on earth. The need of the day is for men learned in the law to act as judges; and not for Turkish imams and hodjas in a place where but one-sixth of the population are Turks. The court of assize, whose duty it is to try capital offences, should contain but one Englishman (Chief Justice), the other members being natives. Fortunately, Cyprus has been blessed with a very capable Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser. I am not prepared to advocate the adoption of the jury system in Cyprus; from close observation of its working in America I am convinced that the jury system has served its purpose, and should be discarded everywhere.—I am, etc.,

Barker D. Bairam,
Law Department, University of Michigan.
Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Palestine Commission.

At the annual conference of the English Zionist Federation held last month, it was stated that the objects and status of the Commission shortly to be sent to Palestine had been laid down as follows:—

The Commission should represent the Zionist Organisation. It should act as an advisory body to the British authorities in Palestine in all matters relating to Jews or which may affect the establishment of a National Home for the Jewish people in accordance with the declaration of his Majesty's Government.

The objects of the Jewish Commission, it was added, should be:—

(1) To form a link between the British authorities and the Jewish population of Palestine;

(2) To co-ordinate the relief work in Palestine and to assist in the repatriation of exiled and evacuated persons and refugees:

(3) To assist in restoring and developing the Colonies, and in organising the Jewish population in general;

(4) To assist the Jewish organisation and institutions in Palestine in the resumption of their activities;

(5) To help in establishing friendly relations with the Arabs and other non-Jewish communities;

(6) To collect information, and report upon the possibilities of the further development of the Jewish settlement and of the country in general;

(7) To inquire into the feasibility of the scheme of establishing a Jewish University.

Jerusalem University.

The *Zionist Review* has an interesting statement by Mr. Bertram B. Benas on this subject of a Jewish University in Jerusalem. He writes:—

The day after the deliverance of Jerusalem was proclaimed the present writer, in the capacity of counsel, had the privilege of drafting the agreement for the sale of the land upon the Mount of Olives, where the Jewish University is to be built. The idealism and the practicality of the Jewish National leaders were never more convincingly illustrated than in their decision that the day of the liberation of Judea's ancient capital was the day upon which the first of the foundations of the restored Jewish National Home should be laid, and that the first foundation should be the Temple of Learning. The land purchased was at one time the property of the late Sir John Gray Hill, of Liverpool, a former President of the Law Society, one of the most eminent English maritime lawyers, and a nephew of Sir Rowland Hill. At the opening of the Palestine Exhibition, held in Liverpool in 1912, Sir John delivered an address, from which the following words may be quoted:—

"More than twenty years ago we bought a bit of land on the Mount of Olives, on the highest point in the hills which stand about Jerusalem, and there we built a house, and we have passed part of our time, and recently (as we are getting too old for adventures) all our holidays, there, and we only returned from our beloved home to this dripping June of England last Saturday, so that I think we know something of Jerusalem and its people also. From our house we have, I think, the most glorious view in the world. On the one side we look down upon the Holy City and the great area where the Temple once stood, and the beautiful Mosque of Omar, built, no doubt, out of the remains of the Temple, now stands. We also see the Church of the Sepulchre. On the other side we see spread before us the Wilderness of Judea, which descends to the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, 4,000 feet below us (for we are 2,700 feet above the Mediterranean, and the Dead Sea, which generally shows like one entire sapphire in the brilliant sunshine, is 1,300 feet below it), and the Mountains of Moab, with their great gorges and purple shadows. And to the north we see many of the Old Testament villages, Ramah, Mizpah, Michmash and others. Thus we look upon ground which attracts the greatest of human interest and the widest

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of human sympathies. If then we are enthusiastic about the Holy Land, you will understand why.. . . Our place is called Ras Abou Kharoub, which means the head or eminence of the Father of Kharoub trees."

Thus it can be seen that the site of the University is one of the most historic and most beautiful of sites in the whole world. To the goodwill for the idea manifested by Lady Gray Hill, who has continued the late Sir John's cordial support of all Zionist work, and by their nephew, Sir Norman Hill, the possibility of completing the acquisition of the site, in the face of extraordinary difficulties created by the world cataclysm, is in a very considerable measure due, and they may be assured of the heartiest gratitude of those who have held the ideal of the University as of the foremost import for the future of Jewry.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF A MILITARY HOSPITAL.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the following extract from a letter from a resident in Egypt:—

"I had six months' nursing in a military hospital at Salonika, as one of six lent by the British Red Cross to the Greeks"—(the experiment was not a success). "We were therefore withdrawn, and I went on to Egypt, where I have been nursing since June in one of our own military hospitals. I am in a surgical ward, which receives very serious cases. If there is anything that brings the atrocity of war home to one with overwhelming force, it is the sight of precious young lives shattered, often beyond repair. My work is not cheering, but I like it, and my admiration for our patients knows no bounds. A hospital ward is interesting from a psychological standpoint. It is subject to the strangest whims. Sometimes, apropos of nothing, the men will suddenly burst into song; on other days nothing that happens will break their moody silence. Sometimes the ward has a first-class appetite, and next day the food is carried away, almost untouched. Anon a mania for playing card games attacks the whole ward, and on the morrow you will see everyone busy trying to work military badges on canvas. Over and over again will 'up' patients refuse to take exercise in the garden; and an hour later the same men will not enjoy the afternoon nap so eager are they to be out of doors. On the whole they act like big children, and nothing surprises me more than to see them obeying the sisters' imperious behests without a murmur.

"I admire and respect the nursing staff, but wish they would not be so keen on cultivating hobbies, such as a worship of tidiness or discipline, carried to such excess as to sacrifice the patients' comfort. I have seen a badly wounded man ruthlessly roused from sleep at 4 a.m. in order to be washed, because the process ought to be finished by 6 a.m., which is breakfast-time. Often, too, a sister orders me to shake a patient who, after a restless night, has managed to doze off, because rule enjoins that the bed must be re-made at a certain hour. Another nursing fad consists in tucking a patient's bedclothes in so tightly all round that he can scarcely move hands or feet; and this not because he is wounded, but in order to keep his bed 'tidy.' A climax comes when an inspection is announced. On one occasion a general officer kept us all waiting for two hours, during which treatment was suspended; the 'up' patients were forbidden to sit on their beds, and had to stand or squat on the floor. No tea was served, and when at last the great man did arrive he hurried through the wards, looking neither to the right nor left. That evening the hospital was in a bad temper."

THE FUTURE OF MONTENEGRO.

We have received from Monsieur R. Shurbatovitch, in explanation of the fact that he has severed his connection with the "Montenegrin Committee for National Unity," a communication in the form of an open letter to M. Radovitch, the President of the Committee. The following are the salient features of the letter:—

"When last year you formed a 'Committee for National Unity,' and elected yourself as President, I was one of the first to join your organisation, under the belief that your object was the same as that which actuates the whole of the Southern Slav peoples. But, alas! I found myself mistaken. Not only had your Committee no mandate from the Montenegrin people, but it did not even possess any democratic constitution or basis.

"It would appear that you are for unity under military direction, whilst Montenegro is for unity with the equal respect and freedom for each State in the Union, and she wishes to enter into this Union with the same rights as she desires Serbia and all other Slav States to possess. Your idea of unity seems to be the capitulation of Montenegro to Serbia. The Montenegrin people do not take this view.

"Although I have never taken any active part in your campaign, I cannot any longer remain silent, and by silence appear to consent to your action."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The interesting announcement is made in the Indian Financial Statement that a further War Loan is to be issued in India in the form of short term bonds, free of income-tax, and Post Office Cash Certificates. The previous loan realised £30,411,600, and the forthcoming one is estimated to produce £20,000,000. This seems a very conservative forecast, and there is little doubt that this figure should be easily passed. But whether any appreciable advance will be made on the previous loan is a moot point. It has been one of India's chief handicaps to industrial development that the population as a whole is disinclined to subscribe money for any purpose, so that the country has been dependent on external capital for the extension of its industrial enterprises. This failing, it has been urged, could be overcome by education, especially by the advertisement that would be afforded by one or two successful ventures. The 1917-18 loan made it evident that India is still a difficult country in which to raise money, but it is very possible that the publicity reserted to in connection with that issue may have had a distinct effect in counteracting this tendency. If so the 1918-19 loan may be a great success.

⁂

I understand that the movement to preserve and develop the metal resources of the Empire has led to the establishment of a British Metal Bank, which is to have a capital of £1,000,000, and will, it is stated, be known as "The National Metal and Chemical Bank." The idea underlying this step is that such an institution would be of the utmost value in counteracting any attempts on the part of the German Metallgesellschaft and its associated enterprises to re-establish their position after the war. That such attempts must be expected is beyond question, and, judging by a project which is on foot at Frankfurt-on-Main, we must be prepared for competition of an even more insidious character than was the case before the war. The Frankfurt proposal is to establish a new Metallgesellschaft not in Germany, where its purpose would be obvious, but in Sweden, so that it may be able to pursue its operations unhampered by the peculiar reluctance of other countries to allow the Teuton any further scope for peaceful penetration!

⁂

The eleventh hour additions to Germany's peace terms with Russia are very interesting. Russia is to give up Batum, Ardahan, and Kars, thus losing the fruits of the Berlin Treaty of 1878. Ostensibly this is in the nature of a consolation prize for the Turks to set against their misfortunes in Mesopotamia and Palestine, but as Turkey is practically a vassal of the Teutonic Powers, the intention of the move is obviously to give Germany a footing on the eastern littoral of the Black Sea in order to further her Eastern pretensions. Batum will serve this purpose well. It is an important commercial centre, and its value to Russia may be gauged from the fact that it serves the great oil producing areas of Baku. Supposing that Germany were in a position to enforce this treaty it would mean that she was in touch with yet another oil centre, with a convenient "jumping off ground" (to use her own phrase in connection with Belgium) in the neighbourhood of the port when a suitable opportunity arose for further acquisitions of territory.

⁂

But for the fact that oil enters into the question, I am perfectly sure that Germany would not have omitted to add what may well prove a serious bone of contention to the peace terms. In the Franco-German war the Teutonic aim was the possession of iron, and this, as we have only too good reason to know, was achieved by the capture of Alsace-Lorraine. This time it is oil that is desired, for Germany realises quite plainly that the possession of oilfields or convenient access to them is indispensable for success in the commerce of the future, not to speak of the next war which she is already contemplating. I expect, therefore, as the war goes on that we shall find that Germany, in the knowledge that her visions of territorial aggrandisement in other directions are impossible of achievement, will concentrate more and more on her Eastern policy, in which the oil question will play a large part, and she may well be satisfied, if not actually contented, with the result of the war if she is left as well off as regards oil as she was with regard to iron in the former struggle.

⁂

It will be noted that Germany does not contemplate the acquisition of territory containing oilfields, possibly hoping by this manœuvre to persuade the Allies that her designs are innocuous, but after the exposures we have had of German methods of exploitation in all parts of the globe it is unthinkable that anyone will be deceived by this obvious device. For all practical purposes the expropriation of the Roumanian oilfields would mean that, as far as Roumania was concerned, her oil lands might as well be situated at Baghdad for all the benefit she would derive from them, and in the circumstances it would be better for her if they were, since instead of serving as an instrument for the development of the country they would be utilised by Germany for commercial penetration until Roumania was Germanised in all but name. With regard to Batum, Germany's intentions are more subtle. Here there is no demand for oil concessions; but as Batum's importance in relation to the Baku oil industry is somewhat similar to that of Calcutta to the Indian hides trade, her views as to the desirability of Batum are not difficult to grasp.

⁂

As will be seen from the details given elsewhere by our Cairo correspondent, the Sudan's trade in 1917 more than came up to expectations. Both imports and exports showed a marked increase on the 1916 figures, though, as might have been expected, the advance was much more pronounced as regards exports. As a result, the Sudan has a most satisfactory balance of trade, due to no small extent, of course, to the growing dependence of Egypt on her neighbour for food supplies. The position is not likely to be materially changed in this respect for some time after the war, for the general shortage of commodities and the demands that will be made on the world's shipping in the general process of reconstruction will continue to make the Sudan the most convenient market for Egypt. When normal conditions have been restored, however, the Sudan may find its trade with Egypt affected to some extent, but by that time it may be expected that the Sudan will have found alternative markets for its produce.

⁂

Some useful work is being accomplished by the newly organised Department of Overseas Trade in arranging exhibitions of enemy goods, so that British manufacturers may see exactly what they have to compete against. These exhibitions are not a new feature, but the new series are on larger and more comprehensive lines than those formerly conducted by the Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. Their scope may be gathered from the fact that the latest exhibition in London contains about 10,000 samples of German and Austrian wares. Besides holding these exhibitions in London, the Department has sent a collection of samples to Manchester and other industrial centres, where it has been inspected by many thousands of manufacturers; while many samples have been lent to firms for the purpose of reproduction. The results of this spade work should be apparent after the war, provided our manufacturers bestir themselves and show the necessary enterprise for tackling foreign markets.

⁂

The figures for the Egyptian Savings Bank accounts for the past year are of interest for the light they throw on the country's steady development. During the year 21,990 accounts were opened, and 16,946 were closed, and at the end of December the accounts open numbered 203,260, as against 198,216 at the end of 1916. There was again a satisfactory surplus of receipts over withdrawals, the figures beig £E696,644, as against £E571,978 in 1916. These statistics point to the fact that Egypt's present prosperity is not confined to one section of the community, but is of widespread incidence.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Surplus of £5,600,000.

The Financial Statement of the Government of India was presented in the Viceroy's Legislative Council by the Finance Member, Sir W. S. Meyer, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., on March 1. The chief features of the statement are the following, rupees being converted into pounds for convenience of account at the conventional rate of 1s. 4d. the rupee.

The revised estimate compares with the Budget Estimate, as follows:—

—	Budget, 1917-18.	Revised Estimate, 1917-18.	Increase + Decrease —
	£	£	£
Imperial revenue	66,420,000	76,677,400	+ 10,257,100
Provincial r'v'n'e	32,450,800	33,723,900	+ 1,273,100
Total	98,870,800	110,401,300	+ 11,530,500
Imperial expenditure	66,284,600	70,852,300	+ 4,567,700
Provincial expenditure	32,548,600	31,467,700	— *1,080,900*
Total	98,833,200	102,320,000	+ 3,486,800
Add—			
Addition to Provincial balances	—	2,256,200	+ 2,354,400
Deduct—			
Drawn from Provincial balances	*97,800*	—	
Total expenditure met from revenue of the year	98,735,400	104,576,200	+ 5,840,800
Imperial surplus..	135,400	5,825,100	+ 5,689,700

The principal items of revenue contributing to the total improvement of £11,530,500 are—Railways (net receipts), £3,788,000; customs, £1,733,100; salt, £1,459,900; exchange, £1,000,000; income-tax, £946,500.

The increase under customs is mainly due to higher prices which raise the yield from *ad valorem* duties. The bulk of the increase occurs in manufactured cotton. Substantial increases also occur in tobacco, silver bullion, sugar, excise on cotton manufacture, and export duties on rice. Large gain from exchange arises from high rates at which Council bills are sold at present. This head bears the loss on a portion of the rupee coinage owing to the purchase of silver during the latter part of the year at high prices. Smaller increases under a number of heads make up the balance. Under expenditure, the greater part of the total increase of £3,486,800 (Imperial £4,567,700, Provincial £1,080,900 decrease) comes under military services (£3,057,600).

The total amount of Council drawings in 1917-18 is estimated at £34,839,300, to be met as follows:—From Treasury balances, £24.760.700; from paper currency reserve, £8,658,600; from gold standard reserve, £1,420,000.

Indirect remittances, *i.e.*, expenditure defrayed by the Government of India in India on behalf of the Imperial Government and Dependencies, against which sterling credits are received by the Secretary of State in England, amounted to £66,059,100. Other disbursements in India of an analogous character against recoveries elsewhere are shown in the Revised Estimates, as follows:—Excess payments for foreign money orders, £6,266,900; funds supplied to Ceylon, £1,272,000; credits established in favour of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in order to provide rupee exchange for American purchases of war material in India, £2,666,700. The above payments, amounting (exclusive of Council drawings, £34.839,300) to £76.264,700, have been met mainly from the Indian proceeds in 1917-18 of the Indian War Loan, £30.411.600; the receipts from Indian Treasury Bills, £30,000,000; and from the credits for silver received in India, £13,333,300.

The sterling equivalent of the Indian War Loan receipts has been paid to the Treasury in partial liquidation of India's war contribution of £100,000,000. The amount paid is £35,139,000, which includes proceeds received in 1916-17 in addition to the £30,411,600 received in 1917-18.

Closing cash balances, 1917-18, after providing for the investment of £20,000,000 from home balances in a special reserve for the repayment of short-term borrowing in India, are estimated at:—In India, £15,969,500; in England, £8,036,100; the latter exclusive of £6,000,000 held on account of the gold standard reserve.

1918-19.

The Budget estimate compares as follows with the revised estimate for 1917-18:—

—	Revised Estimate, 1917-18.	Budget Estimate, 1918-19.	Increase + Decrease —
	£	£	£
Imperial revenue	76,677,400	73,999,200	— *2,678,200*
Pr'vincial reven'e	33,723,900	34,347,700	+ 623,800
Total	110,401,300	108,346,900	— *2,054,400*
Imperial expenditure	70,852,300	71,707,700	+ 855,400
Provincial expenditure	31,467,700	34,443,000	+ 2,975,300
Total	102,320,000	106,150,700	+ 3,830,700
Add—			
Additions to Provincial balances	2,256,200	—	—*2,351,500*
Deduct—			
Drawn from Provincial balances	—	*95,300*	
Total expenditure met from revenue of the year	104,576,200	106,055,400	+ 1,479,200
Imperial surplus	5,825,100	2,291,500	— *3,533,600*

The principal increase in revenue (1918-19) is £1,307,300 under interest receipts, mainly due to increased investments in the paper currency and the special reserve mentioned above. There is a decrease of £1,940,600 under salt, resulting from the stoppage of indents for Northern India salt owing to accumulation of uncleared indents and to low output in the current year in consequence of the damage to salt works from rains.

Under expenditure, the main increases over the Revised Estimates are:—Civil works, £835,100; education, £759,000; political, £381,100; posts and telegraphs, £332,400; police, £320,600; military services, £248,000.

Provision is made by a recurring grant of £200,000 for primary education under the second of the above heads. Otherwise provision for expenditure has been generally restricted to urgent needs.

No new taxation will be imposed in 1918-19.

CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS, 1918-19.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

	£
Railways	4,202,300
Irrigation	466,700
New Delhi	266,700
Discharge of debt—	
India Bonds	500,000
Debentures of railway companies	2,624,900
Temporary debt in India	2,746,700
Provincial deficits	95,300
Total	£10,902,600

RESOURCES FOR MEETING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Imperial surplus	2,291,500
From famine grant	553,400
Unfunded debt	1,215,300
Reduction of cash balances	3,601,300
Repayment of advances credited to Federal Reserve Bank of New York	2,666,700
Net receipts under other transactions after providing for £2,060,000 for Council Bills unpaid at end of 1917-18	574,400
Total	£10,902,600

It is assumed that Indian Treasury bills issued in the current year will be replaced. Closing balances, 1918-19, are estimated at—In India, £11,119,900; in England, £9,284,400; the latter exclusive of £6,000,000 held on account of the gold standard reserve.

Indirect remittances, *i.e.*, payments in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government recoverable in sterling, are estimated at £74,020,000.

No provision is made for meeting Council bills sold in 1918-19; such drawings will be financed by special measures. On the other hand, the estimates provide £12,000,000 for purchase of silver and also for a remittance of £16,347,000 from England to India by means of further note issues against investments in the paper currency reserve, so as to enable Indian Treasury balance to meet war disbursements (*i.e.*, indirect remittances) on behalf of Home Government. As a further means for meeting these disbursements it is proposed to issue a second War Loan in the form of short-term bonds, free of income-tax, and Post Office Cash Certificates. The proceeds of this loan, which are estimated at £20,000,000, will, as in the case of the 1917-18 War Loan, be made over to the British Government in further liquidation of India's contribution to the war.

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TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department has issued a new Consolidating List, containing the names of over 3,500 persons and firms with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade under the Trading with the Enemy (Statutory List) Proclamation. Although the Statutory List has now been in existence for nearly two years, cases still come to the notice of the Foreign Trade Department in which firms are corresponding with persons on the Statutory List, and they not infrequently give as an excuse that they have never heard of the list. It is important that everyone engaged in foreign trade should realise that he is under an obligation to make himself familiar with the Statutory List and to observe it in his dealings. Failure in this respect renders him liable to the heavy penalties provided by the Trading with the Enemy Acts, and these apply to holding any communication whatever with anybody on the Statutory List and not merely to entering into an agreement or continuing to carry on business with such persons. In exceptional cases, where it appears to be necessary and where it is not contrary to the public interest, a licence may be obtained from the Foreign Trade Department exempting from the prohibition.

The Statutory List is published at intervals in a consolidated form, and additions are made approximately at intervals of a fortnight. Copies of the Consolidated List and of all additional lists may be obtained at a small cost from the Superintendent of Publications, his Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

JAPAN AND INDIAN COTTON.

Reports from Bombay that the Indian Government is inaugurating a rigorous restriction of the export of cotton and is contemplating levying an export duty are causing the utmost concern here (says Reuter's Osaka correspondent in a message dated March 3) because Japanese mills depend on India for raw cotton, the imports of which into Japan are enormous.

With regard to the above telegram, Reuter's Agency understands that Osaka—the Manchester of Japan—always becomes excited about this time of the year in view of the introduction of the Indian Budget, and apparently there was some apprehension that the Indian Government might levy an export duty on that commodity.

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MOROCCO TRADE NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER, January 22.

The fears aroused by the long postponement of the rains have proved to be without justification, for sufficient rain has fallen all over the country to permit of ploughing, and a spell of fine weather is what is now needed for the work to be done. The season is, however, far advanced, and conditions will have to remain very favourable if good crops are to be reaped. So far there are no reports of the coming of locusts, and as the usual time of their arrival is past it is possible that the country will be spared a visitation this season. In view of the agricultural uncertainties the authorities have wisely suspended the purchase of the 1917 crops for export to France, though it is doubtful whether the Moors would have brought their produce to market so long as there was any probability of crop failure. The authorities, it may be mentioned, have prohibited the export of almost all agricultural products, which are bought by them and shipped to France; the list of prohibitions has recently been made still more complete.

Tea Imports.

An official notice was published towards the end of last month which stated that the British Government having forbidden the export of tea from Great Britain, the authorities in the French zone had collected orders from merchants in Morocco for Shanghai tea firms, and had arranged with the French Government for transport facilities for bringing the tea direct from Shanghai to France.

The tea trade occupies an important part of the business of London firms dealing with Morocco, and steps taken by them early in November resulted in permission being granted by the British Government for the export of a very large quantity of tea to Morocco provided it was brought to Great Britain by neutral or Japanese vessels. There is some curiosity to know what the ultimate effect of the special facilities for direct import from Shanghai offered by the French Government with a view to maintaining the regular supply of one of Morocco's chief needs will be on one of the staple articles of British trade with Morocco.

A Petrol Shortage.

An announcement appeared a few days ago in the Press stating that in order to husband the supplies of petrol a regulation would soon be issued forbidding the use of private motor-cars and restricting public motor-car services. Such a restriction, however necessary, would be severely felt, as motor-cars are the chief means of communication. The railway (a narrow gauge line) serves little more than Casablanca, Fez, and the intermediate towns, and its pace is not great. The rest of the country depends on motor-cars.

Slow Road Construction.

Much disappointment is felt at the very leisurely progress made in constructing the road between Kenitra and Tangier. The road from the south ends some 20 to 30 miles from Kenitra, and from that point to the Tangier zone, some 80-90 miles, traffic has to use a track impassable in winter. Curiously enough the Tangier zone is the only one of the three zones—French, Spanish, Tangier—through which the Kenitra-Tangier road passes where the work has been done. In summer motor-cars do the journey between Tangier and Rabat in a day, and during last summer a public motor-car service, half of which was maintained by a British motor-car company, carried mails and passengers, and provided a better means of communication more regular than any other available. inclusive very often of the telegraph line, which is of intermittent value.

The French zone is still in winter time, so far as letters and passengers are concerned, cut off from communication with Europe, very often for a week or ten days at a time, and is at the mercy of steamer services and the state of the sea. The completion of the road offers very few difficulties beyond the distance which in some places stone has to be conveyed, and unskilled labour is cheap and available, but the work goes on as casually and intermittently as if a delay of one or two or three years was a matter of complete indifference.

Bank of British West Africa.

So far as the British colonies are concerned, the New Year was most propitiously marked by the opening of new branches of the Bank of British West Africa at Saffi and at Fez. The Saffi branch brings the bank's work into close touch with an important district of the south. where British trade influence has long been particularly and happily marked. The Fez branch is a most important development, as it will vastly increase the probability of British trade profiting by the great opportunities which the position of Fez in the new economic organisation of Morocco will assuredly offer. The career of this bank in Morocco, which commenced only three years ago, has been remarkably successful, and it would be difficult to exaggerate the degree of encouragement and assistance that its work has given to all British enterprises in Morocco. The bank has earned the confidence and appreciation of the Moroccan business world as a whole, but from the British Colonies it has earned much more. From these a real debt of gratitude is due both to those who have directed the vigorous policy of the bank and to those who have so skilfully carried out that policy in this country.

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ALGERIAN MARKET FOR MACHINERY.

No great activity of any kind is being manifested in the Algerian machinery market at present, says a United States Consular report. War conditions have made the strictest economy necessary, and goods are not being purchased unless the profits to be derived therefrom can be readily determined beforehand. The lack of shipping facilities is also a serious obstacle to the importation of merchandise.

Machinery is imported into Algeria chiefly from France. It is also imported to a limited extent from Great Britain, the United States, and other countries. Before the war Germany sold a considerable amount of machinery to Algeria. The bulk, however, comes from France, but it is not necessarily of French manufacture, as it is the custom of Algerian importers to buy even foreign products as largely as possible from French agencies of the foreign houses. This simplifies negotiations, since they are familiar with French business methods, and also simplifies the customs formalities. The duty on imported machinery varies according to the article. The French customs tariff applies, and the duty is roughly from 12 to 40 francs per 100 kilos.

SHIPPING TO MOROCCO.

At the instance of the executive committee of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the attention of the Shipping Controller has several times been drawn to the inadequate shipping facilities for the various North African ports. Whilst the Controller undertook to do all that was practicable to facilitate trade services, he was unable to arrange for augmented sailings to a considerable extent. In order that he may be kept fully informed as to trade requirements arrangements have been made, at his request, for the Chamber to prepare a monthly schedule showing the weight of goods ready for shipment to the various ports on the North African coast.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, 1918.

The fourth British Industries Fair, organised by the Board of Trade since the outbreak of war, will be opened in the Pennington Street premises of the London Dock on Monday next, March 11. The building in which the fair will be held this year is situated within twelve minutes' walk of Mark Lane Station on the Underground Railway, and a service of motor omnibuses will ply between Mark Lane Station and the fair.

In order to avoid any possible interference with the production of military requirements, the fair has again been confined to the following industries, viz., pottery, glass, stationery, paper, printing, fancy goods and toys. As in former years, the right to exhibit has been confined to manufacturers, and some 425 firms are exhibiting.

Although the number of exhibitors is approximately the same as last year, the area covered by the forthcoming fair is very much larger than in the case of any of the previous fairs, and, therefore, manufacturers will be able to display their goods to better advantage. In spite, however, of this increase in area, the whole of the space available was allotted to manufacturers before Christmas, and it has unfortunately proved impossible to accommodate a number of firms which had omitted to apply for space in good time.

Admission to the fair is again confined to bona fide trade buyers, and invitations have been issued by the Board of Trade direct to over 60,000 firms in this country. Any firms which have not yet received an invitation, and desire to visit the fair, should apply for a card [illegible] admission to the Director, British Industries Fair, Board of Trade, 10, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

The *Ahram* states that it has been decided to double the railway lines between Ismailia and Kantara.

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Steam Engines.

Manufacturers of portable steam engines and tractors may be reminded that the present high prices of machinery and of fuel oil have tended to restrict the use of oil engines for field work throughout the East. In several districts in the Near East single and double steam-engined ploughing tackles have been introduced, and many second-hand portable and traction steam engines, and even road-rollers, have changed hands to be employed in field work. According to recent information they are at present more economical for such work than oil engines. This is certainly the case in India, where steam ploughs have been used to excellent effect. In the Bombay Presidency, for instance, 1,200 acres of rough virgin land were broken up to a depth of one foot, and the large clods harrowed down at a cost of 15 rupees (or £1 1s. 4d.) per acre; while in another district 554 acres of grass-bound land were broken up to a depth of 16 inches, at a cost of 25 rupees (or £1 13s. 4d.) per acre. These are very satisfactory results, and compare favourably with those obtained in the Near East, what difference there is being in favour of the latter owing to climatic conditions. In view, therefore of the great need for mechanical power for agricultural purposes in the East, and the apparent preference for steam engines at present and perhaps for a few years yet. British manufacturers and exporters should not lose sight of these facts, for competition is already in progress for those markets.

Seed Dressing Machines.

Farmers in the East are seldom satisfied with the economic results of their work, and this is especially the case with regard to the export trade. They complain, for instance, of the much lower price that they obtain for their seeds in the local markets than that which the local buyer or the exporter subsequently obtains The reason is, as a rule, that the farmer adheres to the old-fashioned methods of preparing his seeds for the market. He knows little or nothing of the winnowing or dressing machines. He tosses up the threshed straw with a fork on the threshing floor, and the wind separates the seed from it as cleanly as the process will allow. He brings the seeds to the market in that unattractive condition, and, of course, does not receive a proper price. This generally happens with seeds such as wheat, barley, canary seed, linseed, etc. The buyer or exporter has to complete the cleaning process with the assistance of winnowing and dressing machines in his warehouse, and then obtains the full value of the seeds, thus reaping a large profit. Some farmers, as I have already said, know little or nothing of such machines, and the local seed buyer is not anxious to give them any unnecessary information. Others know the machines, but what they have seen or heard of them is that they require mechanical power, which is an expensive item for the average farmer and smallholder. It should, therefore, interest such farmers and smallholders in the East to know that there are small seed dressing machines of British manufacture which can be driven by a small oil engine or a horse-gear, or a treadle, and even by hand; and, as a rule, the price of these machines is within the means of the average Oriental farmer.

A Good Grain-Cleaner.

One of the latest type of these machines is a linseed dresser, which can deal not only with linseed, but also with other kinds of seed and grain. With the necessary changes of riddles, it can be employed for cleaning wheat, barley, oats, peas, dari seed, rapeseed, canary seed, etc. For linseed dressing the power-driven machine is capable of dressing from 60 to 70 bushels of linseed per hour; while the hand-power size can deal with 25 to 40 bushels of seed per hour. In place of the blower used in the hand-power machines, the power-driven plant has a double exhaust for the extraction of dust, light shapes, straws, etc., from the seed; and has, of course, a larger riddling surface and a more regular motion. It is evident that by the employment of such modern seed dressing machines the appearance, quality, and value of the seed are greatly improved; and if this fact and how the machines can be obtained is made known to agriculturists and farmers in the East by the various makers, the result would be undoubtedly very satisfactory for the latter.

Caucasian Tea Factories.

The news that the Germans have demanded the surrender of Batum and Kars indicates not only their determination to replenish their stores of petroleum, but also to master a region which has recently proved to be quite suitable for the production of tea and other tropical products. The raising of the tea plant along the coast of the Black Sea, near Batum was progressing very satisfactorily before the war. The total area of land under tea in the district was, then, 810 acres, which included besides Imperial estates, 270 acres on the property of Messrs. K. and S. Popoff, and the plantations of several small proprietors. The owners of these plantations by paying a fixed rate of 5d. for every pound of ready-made tea turned out by the factory were able to send the produce to the tea-making factory belonging to the Imperial Domains for manipulation; but in consequence of the increase in the output of tea from the plantations on their own estates, the Imperial Domains authorities were unable to continue to undertake the manipulation of tea of outside growers, and the latter were obliged to erect small factories for themselves. The factories were equipped, it is stated, with machinery, etc., of British manufacture. The administration of the Imperial Domains intended to increase the area under tea cultivation within the limits of their estates to 540 acres, and also to erect a second tea factory later on; but instead of this scheme, some alterations were being made to the existing factory, among which was the addition of a new mechanical drying room, when the war broke out. It appears that the Imperial Domains authorities were contemplating at the time the lease of lands to persons desirous of growing tea who would be prepared to sell their leaf for manipulation to their factories, but the war upset their plans, and new plans on an undoubtedly great scale are now to be prepared by the Germans.

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SUDAN TRADE IN 1917.

An Excellent Year.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 11.

The Sudan Customs have just issued the statistical returns for the month of December, and from them we are able to see the progress made in the external trade of that country. Undoubtedly the past year has been an excellent one for the Sudan, surpassing all predictions. Imports amounted to £E2,976,957, or an increase of 15 per cent. over the previous year when the total was £E2,579,091, whilst exports reached the respectable figure of £E3,465,980, which was over 50 per cent. better than that of 1916. The balance of trade swung over entirely in favour of the Sudan, and taking into account re-exports was about £E800,000 better than the previous year when the balance was £E120,000 against the country.

Increased Exports to Egypt.

As might well be expected Egypt was the largest customer of the Sudan. Her purchases amounted to £E2,589,541, an increase of £E1,544,291 over 1916, the chief commodities taken by her being livestock, cereals, cotton and gum. Great Britain had a slight increase, from £E649,827 to £E707,636; but with the sole exception of Italy and India all other countries showed a falling off in their purchases, due undoubtedly to the shipping difficulty. Under imports into the Sudan Egypt again was the largest supplier, her share coming to £E1,845,162 as against £E1,339,286 the previous year. Great Britain sent £E170,448 less than in 1916—£E396,260—and trade with the Union of South Africa rose from £E100,401 to £E156,550, due mainly to increased coal imports. The other countries showed little change, the most important alteration being decreases in imports from Arabia and Italy of respectively £E10,421 and £E14,377.

Chief Imports and Exports.

The chief imports were flour, £E66,828; refined sugar, £E409,555; coal, £E318,590; cotton fabrics, £E776,205; sacks, £E110,047; tobacco, £E68,068; tea, £E75,083; whilst the principal exports were cattle, £E255,744; sheep and goats, £E234,490; dhurra, £E658,824; sesame, £E202,130; gum, £E743,018; cotton, £E564,303; camels, £E49,395; hides and skin manufacturers, £E187,486; ivory, £E56,670; dates, £E54,050; ground nuts, £E61,420; senna, £E71,781, and gold bullion, £E67,533.

The Rise in Prices.

An indication of the manner in which prices have risen is afforded by the following facts: Sugar imports fell off by 845 tons, but the value rose by £E79,405; 94 tons more tea were brought in, but the value of the total import increased by £E23,708; of flour less than half the quantity imported in 1916 came in, whilst the value fell by only 25 per cent.; coal imports diminished by about 10,000 tons, but the value rose by £E26,737; and imports of cotton fabrics fell off by 879 tons, whereas the value increased by 18 per cent. or £E121,690. It is, however, satisfactory to note that the Sudan profited from the general rise in prices in so far as concerned its exports, the value of all of which rose out of all proportion to the quantity, and that it was able to convert an adverse balance of trade into a most favourable one. Indeed in every respect 1917 will stand as a landmark in the trade annals of the Sudan, which in the twenty years since its reconquest has built up a very important external trade, with practically no outside help, and within the past ten years has more than trebled its commercial transactions with foreign markets.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Output Again Restricted.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

A smart advance has occurred in raw cotton rates during the past week, and spinners and manufacturers have been forced to put up their quotations for yarn and cloth. A feature of interest has been the decision of the Control Board to restrict the output of mills engaged on American cotton from 60 per cent. to 50 per cent. This action has not been unexpected in view of the increasing shipping difficulties. The Government has been unable to allocate any freight space for the importation of raw cotton across the Atlantic for this month. There seems to be no prospect of lower rates in the near future. A stronger feeling has prevailed in Egyptian cotton circles. Imports from Alexandria are disappointing, but spinners are understood to hold large supplies at the mills. An improved demand has been experienced in fine Egyptian yarns, especially in combed descriptions, and a big business has been done. This section of our trade continues very prosperous. Rather more demand has been reported in miscellaneous cloths for Egypt. Some buying has transpired in grey shirtings, and printed and dyed goods have been in request. India has not given very much support, although a few more sales have been put through in dhooties for Calcutta. Bids for China remain poor. Certain South American markets continue to provide an encouraging turnover. Home trade remains very busy. American yarns are distinctly dearer on the week, and an increased demand has been met with for quick delivery. Certain counts and qualities are very scarce. Limited companies continue to report large profits. India has again bought fine yarns on a free scale, and some producers are sold up to the end of the year.

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INDIA'S SILVER HOLDING.

In the course of their weekly bullion letter, Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. state that the silver holding of the Indian Treasury continues to shrink. Substantial additions will accrue before long as a consequence of purchases made by the Government. Whether these will counterbalance or exceed withdrawals remains to be seen.

(In lakhs of rupees).

	Feb. 7.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 22.
Notes in circulation	10,484	10,391	10,384
Reserve in silver coin and bullion	1,476	1,345	1,284
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,755	2,831	2.855
Gold out of India ..	105	67	67

The stock in Bombay on February 8 consisted of 3,200 bars. No fresh news has come to hand.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Bank of Mysore.

The report of the Bank of Mysore, Ltd., for the year ended December 31 last states that the net profit amounts to Rs1,99,101, which with Rs10,872 brought forward aggregates Rs2,09,973. An interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was paid for the half-year ended June 30, which absorbed Rs40,000, and there has been placed to reserve fund Rs50,000. The directors now recommend a final dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31 (Rs40,000), to place to reserve fund (making Rs1,00,000 for the year and raising the fund to Rs2,75,000) Rs50,000, and to carry forward Rs23,880. The directors have continued their policy of maintaining strong liquid reserves. Cash and investments aggregate over 22½ lakhs, representing 37 per cent. to liabilities of all kinds. The bank continues to make steady progress. The working capital has increased by 11 lakhs during the year. The balance-sheet shows:—Deposits: Mysore Government, Rs10,00,000; fixed deposits, Rs33,39,042; savings bank and prudential deposits, Rs93,106; current and other accounts, Rs16,93,815. Reserve fund, Rs2,25,000. Cash and investments, Rs22,61,656; loans, cash credits and overdrafts, Rs47,06.980; bills discounted, Rs4,63,792.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be HELD on SATURDAY, the 6th April, 1918, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo for the purpose of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report.
Receiving the Auditors' Report.
Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1917.
Declaring a Dividend.
Confirming appointment of two Directors.
Electing Auditors for the year 1918 and fixing their remuneration.

All Shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting provided the Shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:—

In Egypt, at the latest the 1st April, 1918.
At the Head Office, Cairo.
At the Branch of Alexandria.
At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhour, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod el Farag, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and Mousky (Cairo).
At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank:
Bank of Athens.
Banque Bélge pour l'Etranger.
Imperial Ottoman Bank.
Banque d'Orient.
Banco di Roma.
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio.
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
Credit Lyonnais.
In the Soudan at the latest the 27th March, 1918, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.
In Europe, at the latest the 15th March, 1918.
In Paris at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise
In Italy at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.
In London at the Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Cairo, 25th February, 1918.

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

Safeguard your Health with this Reliable Medicine.

ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN
DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA,
DYSENTERY.

Cuts short attacks of HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.
A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.
Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.
The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.

Of all Chemists, 1/3, 3/-, 5/-.

Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne' THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Our market has been very quiet this week, and there has been a reaction on profit-taking in certain directions in order to provide funds for subscriptions in connection with the War Loan week. Government stocks have continued in demand, but business has been practically at a standstill, as there have been hardly any sellers on this side.

In bank shares there is no change whatever to report, excepting a slight decline of 1-32 in Agriculturals to 6 5-16, and a rise in Anglo-Egyptian Banks, on the other hand, of ¼ to 14¾.

In railways, Delta Lights, after easing to 6⅞, have firmed up again, and close unaltered at 7.

In land shares, Behéras are ¼ easier, at 13¾, Delta Lands are 9d. lower, at 15s.; and New Egyptians are 3d. easier, at 19s. Sidi Salems, after changing hands at 47s. 6d., close only 1s. 3d. down, at 48s. 9d. Union Foncières are 1-16 lower, at 3 3-32. Generally speaking, offerings have been gradually absorbed, and Egypt has continued to get support.

In miscellaneous shares, prices have remained firm, and there has been a very fair amount of business doing in Egyptian markets and Salt and Sodas. Khedivial Mails have fractionally declined again to 40s.

In Greek securities, Rentes are again 1 point up at 45, and 1890's 1 point down at 55. Some business was done in Fundings at 53½. Other prices are all unchanged, but there are small sellers of "Currant" Bonds at 95.

Paris Bourse.

Closing prices included:—Egyptian Unified, 96.25, against 96.05; Turkish Unified, 62.85, against 62.85; Credit Foncier Egyptien, 750, against 750.50; Ottoman Bank, 485, against 494; Suez Canal Shares, 4,645, against 4,650.

Oil Shares.

Prices were generally unchanged. Anglo-Egyptians (B) were steady at 35s.-36s., and Roumanian Consols remained at 9s.-10s.

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INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to February 23 Indian Treasury Bills have been sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value Rs9,37,75,000; eight months' bills, face value Rs19,86,65,000; nine months' bills, face value Rs6,42,45,000; twelve months' bills, face value Rs83,25,000; total, Rs36,50,10,000; equal, at 1s. 5d. the rupee, to £25,854,900. The total sales up to February 16, amounted to Rs34,79,00,000 (equal, at 1s. 5d. the rupee, to £24,642,000).

FRENCH LOAN TO MOROCCO.

The prospectus of the French Loan to Morocco has been issued in Paris. The loan, which bears 5 per cent. interest, payable on March 1 and September 1, is issued in 408,928 obligations of 500 francs each. The price of issue has been fixed at 89 per cent. The proceeds of the loan are to be used for public works, including the development of Casablanca, the construction of roads, etc.

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The 5 per cent. debenture stock transfer books of the Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway Company, Ltd., will be closed from March 15 to March 28, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to those stockholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances &c

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Feb. 27	Mar. 6
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86¾	86¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73¼	73¼
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	73½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do 4% Unified	79	71	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	73
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 11/32	6 5/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14½	14¾
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3¼
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7½	7 7/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18½	18½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7	7
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14	13¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/9	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/3	19/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	50/-	48/9
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 5/32	3 3/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9	1/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	40/3	40/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	40/3	40/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON FEBRUARY 4.
Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18 5/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12¾
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	97
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	92
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3⅜
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	88¼
Privilégiée		76½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 11/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	5¼
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.	£	35/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		16½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	170
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	370
" Div.	Frs.	300
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	267
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 5/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	39/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	735
" Fondateur	Frs.	875
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	380
" 1903 "	Frs.	287
" 1911 "	Frs.	280
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		3/16

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SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
February 24, 25, 26	380,000	500,000
February 27	180,000	310,000

The Postmaster-General announces that, except for naval and military addresses, the parcel post to Aden is suspended, and letter-packets must not exceed 8 ozs. in weight.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - £160,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Sabzavar, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia: and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

THE
GENERAL ANGLO-SERBIAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED,
106, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2

The Company has been formed to promote British Trade and Industry in SERBIA and other BALKAN STATES.

The Company is a Promoting Company, and is prepared to consider any proposals for the Financing and carrying on of any business in the above countries.

Agents in ROME, and as soon as circumstances will allow Branches will be opened in SERBIA and other BALKAN STATES.

Correspondence is invited from those interested in SERBIA and the BALKAN STATES, or contemplating business with these countries when communication is restored.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No, 358.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Military activities during the week on the Eastern fronts have been very pronounced. Two successive advances have been made by the British in Palestine; the first thrust evoked little opposition, the second was strongly contested, but the Turks were repulsed by General Allenby and gave ground. A report from German sources has it that General von Falkenhayn has been recalled from Aleppo. Nothing is known as to the truth of the rumour, or, if it be true, as to the appointment of his successor. In Mesopotamia, again, another considerable advance has been chronicled. The Turkish garrison of Hit, now successfully occupied by the British, has continued its retirement up the Euphrates, and is reported to be in occupation of Khan Baghdadi, twenty-two miles above Hit. Their retreat was not accomplished without heavy casualties being inflicted on them by our air forces, which bombarded them with bombs and machine-gun fire at heights varying from 2,000 to as low as 100 feet.

The Turks, meanwhile, are progressing in Armenia, as was fully foreseen after their reoccupation of Trebizond. They report that an attack by Armenian bands was easily beaten off, and we shall have to look for the triumphant announcement of their entry into Erzeroum during the next few days. After that it is probable that the silence—the silence of death—will once again descend on this unhappy land, which has been sacrificed by the Bolsheviks. For the time being the Armenians must bear their misfortunes with the knowledge that the Allies are one and all determined to restore their freedom before peace is declared—but the road of liberation is a long and difficult one, and they will have to suffer much before that day comes.

It is difficult to keep pace with the development of Euxine politics. A deputation from the inhabitants of Batoum and Ardahan is reported to have been presented to the Sultan—it would have been interesting to have had details of its composition, and of the reasons which prompted this foregathering—and the Sultan's answer was brief and confident: "The territories you inhabit were once separated from my Empire, but they will never again be torn from our hearts." Prophecy is proverbially dangerous, as even the German Emperor has discovered since his promise to the troops that the autumn leaves of 1914 would not have fallen from the trees before his victorious armies were back in their homes; and in this particular case the Sultan may have to put a new meaning on his words. Whether Batoum remains in his heart does not much matter, but it is unlikely to remain permanently in his jurisdiction.

A curious message has been received from the Republic of the Caucasus—whose limits are not easily defined at the moment—regarding their relations with Turkey. The tone of the message is distinctly anti-Bolshevist, as might be expected, and it appears that the Caucasus is by no means inclined to lie down with the Turco-German lion, or rather inside that distended animal. But certain negotiations are being carried on, and a deputation from the Republic has been sent into Trebizond. As the matters which it is discussing, the membership of the deputation, and the Turkish authority it is discussing with, are all undefined, one can do little more than place the fact on record and await fuller details.

Very largely, of course, the situation there depends on the German plans during the forthcoming spring. Mysterious hints have been given in the Berlin Press during the past week to the effect that the much-advertised offensive in the West—" the last great battle which is to crush the Allies and end the war "—is postponed indefinitely. We shall do well to accept these statements with due reserve, but the fact remains that the Germans have still three alternative fronts. There is Italy, Salonika, and the Black Sea. For the moment at least the latter holds the field.

The Germans have pressed forward through the Ukraine, which they now hold in the hollow of their hand, and they are in occupation of Odessa. The continued invasion of a country with which one has formally made peace creates a position which defies analysis; but the German aim is patent. By controlling Odessa they will obtain full control at the other end of the exports of the Ukraine, just as by the occupation of Constanza they will obtain full control of the exports of Roumania. But this, although important and indeed essential to German industry, is only the basis of their aim. The proposed superstructure is more important and more menacing.

A hint as to German intentions in this matter is given in the remarks of Herr Nadolny, who was Counsellor of Legation at Teheran, made last week and reported in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. He stated that " after the Russian wall in the north of Persia has been burst we may hope also that the English wall in the south will be broken through, and that German labour will succeed in penetrating through the breach, thus contributing to the prosperous development of Persia." The destruction of "the English wall in the south" presupposes, of course, the defeat and withdrawal of the

British Mesopotamian force, for unless the Baghdad Railway is restored to Germany, the road to Persia cannot be reconstructed; further, it implies the driving of the British out of the Persian Gulf—a rather difficult task, as to whose accomplishment it will be noted that the German diplomatist only expresses a hope. He is far more confident as to the breaking down of the Russian wall in the north of Persia, and for this no doubt he has some reasonable ground. The German occupation of Odessa is the first and a very long chapter in the writing of that particular history.

The occasion on which these remarks were made was a meeting of the German Persian Society in honour of the Persian Parliamentarians who are visiting Berlin. These gentlemen are presumably identical with the two who were stated to be Persian delegates to the abortive Stockholm Conference last autumn. Some details as to their title to represent Persia at that gathering were given in THE NEAR EAST at the time, and their continued presence in Berlin is probably due to the very considerable difficulties in the way of their returning to Persia at the present moment. They may conceivably have to postpone their homecoming until the German Secretary of Legation returns to Teheran—after the war.

The final details of the Roumanian peace treaties have still to be received. But some interest attaches to various indications as to the way in which the wind is blowing across the Dobruja. Dr. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, in one of those interviews which he finds so convenient, has stated that "after the war Bulgaria and Hungary will have a common frontier. This will be the line of the Morava. Bulgaria will acquire the Dobruja, and if Roumania should be given Bessarabia the political claims of Hungary on Transylvania would only be strengthened." These remarks were made for a purpose—for M. Radoslavoff is not "a child in these matters"—and their purpose is fairly evident. They are intended mainly for digestion in Berlin.

A cordial agreement between Bulgaria and Hungary, on the basis of sharing in the spoils, is not in the least surprising. Hungary has notoriously large ambitions, which are concealed under the term "frontier rectifications," which, no doubt, would turn out on examination to be something like the German plan for the occupation of Verdun as a "guarantee" of French neutrality in 1914. But Bulgaria is evidently dissatisfied at the statement in the peace treaty with Roumania that the Dobruja is to be handed over to the Quadruple Alliance, and not to Bulgaria *tout simple*. This curious stipulation looks almost as though Berlin did not trust Sofia very far; and in view of the variegated past of M. Radoslavoff, one can only applaud the caution which Berlin has shown in this matter.

A note in the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* on this point is of interest. It is said there that the Dobruja will only be ceded to Bulgaria on certain economic and political conditions, and that "these concessions have reference to the future economic relations between the Central Empires on the one hand and Bulgaria on the other. The Roumanian oilfields will be territorially ceded to Hungary, but will be administered under joint German, Austro-Hungarian, Roumanian, and Bulgarian control, the yield being divided amongst the interested parties in proportions which have yet to be fixed." That Roumania will not get very much out of this joint control may readily be believed; but apparently Bulgaria, and probably Hungary, are also dissatisfied. Hence the wooing of Budapest by Sofia.

Meanwhile, the destiny of Bessarabia remains an open question. It is continually being mentioned, possibly as a trap for Roumania, but it is more than doubtful whether Germany has any intention of handing that country over to Roumania, and the fact that German troops are now at Odessa and have cut off Roumania back and front appears to be a decisive indication against the idea that Germany will give any compensation to a defeated State. In connection with this matter, the German plans for a full control of the Black Sea and the surrounding countries are gradually becoming known; of much significance is a report from Stockholm that the German Government contemplates the construction of a canal from the Baltic to the Black Sea, opening up communication between the Kiel Canal and the Black Sea. The project, of course, is not a new one, but hitherto it has belonged to what Wagnerians call "future-music." The cost of the scheme is put at a hundred millions sterling.

The overdue mails from India have now been distributed, and their contents should enable readers in this country to form some idea of the course taken by the winter flood of political discussion. It was inevitable that projects of constitutional reform should occupy practically the entire field, and, as was only to be expected, the details have obscured the principles to an extent which makes rather dull reading; perhaps, therefore it is worth while to set out briefly the salient facts as they appear when viewed from this side of the world. The past year has brought great changes. At the beginning of 1917 India was still seeking for a sign, and the politicians at least professed to be in doubt regarding England's intentions for the future. The sign has since been given: everyone now knows, what most people already felt, that India has to develop gradually, but as quickly as possible, a complete system of responsible government, and this knowledge has given a new and practical tone to many of the discussions which have recently taken place.

There is, we think, general agreement that the immediate changes must affect the provincial governments rather than the central administration, that the provincial legislatures must be constituted largely by direct election, and that arrangements must be made to secure the direct representation of the mass of communal and sectional interests which in effect make up an ordinary province at the present day. Accepting these conditions, the problem is to convert the provincial bureaucratic machine into a self-governing organism, and the discussions of the past winter have in effect, though not always in form, turned on the rival methods put forward to secure this object. Some politicians, it is true, profess to see no difficulties, and think that the change can be effected by a stroke of the pen, but this attitude may fairly be described as assumed for tactical purposes, and the complexity of the problem is in fact realised in quarters where its very existence is indignantly denied.

Perhaps the most popular method of procedure is to remodel the machine from the top: take the Governor "out of politics"; entrust the administration to a Council with a steadily increasing Indian element; bring this element into subordination to the Legislature, and we are assured that the problem is solved. It is an attractive programme on paper, but its weakness has been clearly brought out of late, and we believe it is not quite so popular as it was. Indians have already, in practice, a large measure of power, but no effective responsibility: this line of action will certainly increase their power, but critics urge that responsibility will continue to lag behind. Indian Councillors will remain human beings, and it is not to be expected that they will devote themselves mainly to fitting the yoke of popular control more tightly on their own necks. Starting as autocrats, the tendency will be for them to give the people what is good for them, rather than what the people want, and while that course may mean efficient administration, it will not lead to responsible self-government.

The alternative course, which has made most headway during the winter, is to proceed by departments: set up forthwith an executive responsible to the Legislature for the administration of a few of these, and hand over the remainder by instalments as experience is gained, until the bureaucratic machine is at last completely absorbed. This scheme, originally put forward by an unofficial conference, has, of course, been riddled with criticism: it involves for an indefinite period a cumbrous dualism in administration; it means a serious, if temporary, sacrifice of efficiency, and, speaking generally, it offends all those bureaucratic traditions which India has cherished throughout the centuries. Its outstanding merit is that it brings definite responsibility into existence from the outset, and in the opinion of its supporters this result is so important as to outweigh the attendant inconveniences.

On this view Mr. Montagu has to choose between two alternatives of the kind which have contended since politics first began. He may take the Tory side, and give more power to the few, or he may follow Radical principles and make the few responsible to the many from the outset, though in accordance with the conditions of the country their powers and their responsibility will at first be limited to certain well-defined branches of administration. No indication of his decision has yet been allowed to reach the public, and prophecy is not our business at the present moment. India has had her say. The scene of the discussions will presently shift to Whitehall, and the result will doubtless be announced in a Parliament which has even graver matters to discuss, and of which it can be said only that the needs of India are assured of generous and sympathetic consideration.

Some comment has been caused by Mr. Zangwill's article in a Sunday paper on the future of Palestine. He appears to accept, or rather to acquiesce, in the British Government's decision to hand over Palestine to the Jews rather grudgingly: he complains that Palestine is too small, and that it is a pity that the present inhabitants have had their rights specifically safeguarded by the proclamation. We doubt if he will get much sympathy over these two points. The rights of those in possession are invariably safeguarded by the British Government; it is a fundamental principle of British rule, sanctified by hundreds of treaties with native chiefs in all parts of the world—the Treaty of Waitangi is one conspicuous instance. Where these rights were not safeguarded, as in Ireland in the old bad days, it led to trouble and civil war. Mr. Zangwill can, if he chooses, cite the war of extermination waged by the ancient Israelites in their first conquest of Palestine in justification, but it is notorious that the Jews did not carry out their policy very thoroughly at the end, and there is no likelihood that it will be revived at this time of day.

The remainder of the complaint is not much more substantial. It is really not the fault of the British Government, but of geography, that Palestine is not large enough to accommodate all the Jews in the world; in any event, it is highly improbable that every Jew will want to return to live in Palestine. The habits of centuries cannot be so easily broken. And should any large number desire to assemble together in any corporate existence, and land not be found available in Palestine, there is no reason why some other colonial experiment elsewhere should not be tried.

Another point in Mr. Zangwill's article is his statement that Lord Lansdowne, whom he regards, perhaps too partially, as the only likely successor to Mr. Lloyd George, has also approved the proposed solution of the Palestine question; and that the Turks themselves now recognise, and perhaps regret, their mistake, since they are frantically bidding for Jewish support. It would have been interesting to have more details of these subterranean politics than Mr. Zangwill has chosen to provide; and more particularly a statement as to the attitude of the Jews of the Central Empires on the question, which should have been available to Mr. Zangwill as head of an international movement. The Jews seem prudently to have lost no time in making themselves reasonably safe in the possession of Palestine, even in the event of an Allied defeat, according to Mr. Zangwill—an eventuality which we will not contemplate. But can he not give us some more particulars of the opinion of the Jewish communities in Germany?

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 11.

The Duke of Connaught.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught on his way south spent a few days at Luxor, where he visited the temples and other sights. He has now arrived in Khartoum, where he is staying at the Palace as the guest of the Acting Governor-General.

The Sudan.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, the Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, was due back from Khartoum this week, but he has returned to the Sudan at the request, it is understood, of the Duke of Connaught. He will, therefore, not be back in Cairo until the end of the month. The Sudan appears to have become a great attraction to British and Egyptian residents of this country. It is the only place within reach of Egypt where, without crossing the seas, one can obtain a complete change and rest. Alexandria may be very nice in the summer, but, all said and done, it is nothing less than "Cairo by the sea," and for the official element of the population it certainly does not possess the features which make for rest from the normal life out here. If one excepts the new but somewhat primitive resorts of Ras-el-Bahr and Borollos, Port Said is the only place in Egypt meeting in any respects the requirements of the residential population. Unfortunately, it has been shut to the general public for the past two years. In view of the occupation of Palestine it is sincerely to be hoped, however, that during the coming summer that very attractive seaside resort will once more be thrown open to residents, and that thus the pressure on Alexandria will be relieved. Meanwhile, those who can afford the expense are making a visit to the Sudan, where recent visitors include Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Dr. Douglas Dunlop, Judge Halton, Mr. J. Langley, and Ismaïl Sidki Pasha.

Cotton Seed Control.

The Cotton-seed Control Board, which is supervising the purchase of cotton-seed on behalf of his Majesty's Government, has again had to notify the public that it cannot receive any further consignments owing to the congestion of stocks at Alexandria. The stock at present in that port is 1,353,000 ardebs, as against half that quantity and 1,000,000 ardebs in 1915 and 1916 respectively. So far only 2,000,000 ardebs have arrived at the port from the interior since September 1. This is approximately the same quantity as had been received up to the corresponding date in 1915, and about 170,000 ardebs less than had come to hand during the same period in 1916. The total cotton-seed crop available for export may be estimated at between 3 and 3½ million ardebs, so that there are still about 1,250,000 ardebs to come down. These added to the present stock make about 2,700,000 ardebs still to be shipped. Since September 1 only 830,000 ardebs have left the country, and unless further shipping accommodation is immediately provided and continues to be allotted by the Shipping Controller during the next six months, the arrival of the new season's crop will find about one-third of the previous year's seed still unshipped, a state of affairs that will seriously interfere with the handling of the new crop of cotton, as well as of cotton-seed.

In this connection it is certainly a very great pity that the Egyptian Government did not see its way to restricting the cultivation of cotton more than it has done. It is all very well for Lancashire to oppose any reduction, and to say that that commodity is required for the prosecution of the war and for legitimate trade demands; but if, as is certainly the case, there is not sufficient shipping to take the cotton and seed away from Egypt, and if, as appears inevitable, about one-third of the old crop will still remain unshipped when the new one comes on to the market—with the result that the handling of the latter will be much interfered with—there would appear to be no sound argument in favour of preventing the country from further extending its cultivation of cereals, the extra production of which could easily be absorbed locally, and could be of material use to the British Force.

Indeed, the interest which the latter have in the question appears to have been overlooked. They have had to import flour for their own requirements in the past, and they must continue to do so in the future for the simple reason that the local supply, even under the present régime of a restricted cotton area, will be barely sufficient for the requirements of the country itself. Had a greater restriction been imposed on cotton cultivation then more cereals would have been grown, less flour would have had to be imported, less ships would have been taken up for that purpose, and—it is clearly permissible to make this deduction—more ships would, in consequence, have been available to take away cotton and seed from Alexandria.

There is little doubt that the decision to reduce the cotton area should have been come to one year before it was actually decided on. Even as it is, a wide enough view of the question has not been taken. In the light of the present situation the British and Egyptian Governments, when they made up their minds to restrict the cotton area, should have so arranged the proportions as to ensure that the production of cereals would be such as entirely to meet the needs of the country and the British Forces, and that the cotton crop available for export would be kept within the limits approximating that for which shipping accommodation could be provided in the period intervening before the advent of another crop. Thus the object before the two Governments, *i.e.*, the rendering by Egypt of greater assistance in the prosecution of the war, would have been attained. At present the opposite is the case, for it can scarcely be contended that the Empire in general is benefiting from, or the prosecution of the war is being facilitated by, the warehousing in this country of about one million and a-half cantars of cotton and a like number of ardebs of seed, the while the British Forces are being compelled to import their cereal requirements. Apart from that, Egypt herself is suffering, since cotton prices locally are falling and those of cereals are steadily rising. In the circumstances a further and considerable restriction of the cotton area next year would appear inevitable, if a more serious political and economic situation than that at present in sight is to be avoided.

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THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

The Renewed Advance Towards Nablus.

From the frequent short official reports which have come in it is clear that with the beginning of this month a determined advance has been inaugurated upon our next great objective—Nablus, the ancient Shechem, "the natural capital" of Palestine.

It may be useful to summarise the all-too-scanty facts which can be gathered from these reports.

At the beginning of the month—March 3 is the first date actually mentioned—an advance of 1½ miles was made from somewhere to the north of Bireh, on each side of the Nablus road. To the east of the road we appear to have been further forward than on the road itself or to the west, as an earlier account mentioned our capture of Durah, nearly four miles north of Bireh. During all that week "hardly a day passed without the enemy being compelled to yield positions of value." Our central advance was supported by the Irish on the west, and by south-west country troops still further west in the foothills bordering upon the maritime plain, where, near the sea, we hold posts considerably to the north of our line inland. On the 6th the Turks, evidently fearing an advance across the Jordan eastwards, blew up their new bridge at El Ghoraniyeh, on the road to Amman. By the 7th "our advance was to a maximum depth of three miles on a front of eighteen miles."

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The 9th inst. was a day of specially heavy fighting on a wide front. On our extreme right, in the Jordan Valley, our troops crossed the River Aujeh, and London infantry, assisted by mounted troops and armoured cars, carried by storm by 3 p.m. a strong Turkish position from the hills of Abu Tellul to Khurbet el Beiyudat, constructed right across the road up the Jordan Valley. In the centre our Army advanced two or three miles and captured Kefr Malek, the most easterly village on the central plateau, the lofty mountain (3,316 feet) Tell Asur—the ancient Baal Hazor—and Silwad, the village which dominates the Wady el Jib near Ain el Haramiyeh. Tell Asur is a place of such extraordinary natural strength that it is not surprising that it is reported that the enemy were unwilling to abandon it without a struggle, and three times they advanced in vain to retake it. The advance was continued without pause during the night, and the next day (March 10) our men, on a twelve miles front, pushed on irresistibly some 3,000 yards and captured the lofty ridges to the north of the Wady el Jib, occupying on their way the Burj Burdawil (the ruins of the summer residence of King Baldwin of Jerusalem), Attara, on a lofty hill (2,663 feet above sea level), which dominates the neighbourhood, Ajul, 2½ miles to the north-west, and Deir es Sudan, another two miles north-west. Our flying corps meanwhile assisted the advance by bombing the reserve troops and transport to the north at El Lubban, apparently Khan Labban, the well-known ruined khan at the foot of the steep descent which the Nablus road makes into the Plain of Lebonah (Judges xxi., 19).

Difficult Country.

All those readers of The Near East, and they must be many, who have ridden through Palestine, will realise the extraordinarily "precipitous and difficult country" in which our Army is now engaged. The battle has centred round the well-known Ain el Haramiyeh and the higher part of the Wady el Jib—more familiar to the tourist at the Wady el Haramiyeh—the "Robbers' Valley." Its steep and rocky sides, terraced to considerable heights and full of beautiful old olive trees, present countless opportunities for taking cover, and yet it is only by clearing out this gorge that the high road, so vital to our operations, can be secured. The Turks appear to have made a strong line of resistance running from Kefr Malik in the east through Tell Asur, Khurbet Burdawil, Attara, and eastwards to Deir es Sudan, and our overpowering and extremely rapid advance will, we hope, have completely disorganised their defence and necessitate a retreat to a new line considerably in the rear. We may be sure General Allenby, with his methods of lightning strokes, will not allow the enemy much opportunity of re-fortifying another such line within any easy distance. Our whole northern front--from the sea to the Jordan—and we have that, too, to guard between the mouth of the Aujeh and the Dead Sea—covers over 35 miles in a straight line, much of it among the most intricate mountainous country. It is not as long a line as General Allenby had to provide for further south, but a far more difficult and broken country. The weather is said to have been unfavourable, but the winter's rains must soon be drawing to an end, and amid the beautiful climate and the verdure and freshness of early spring those who have to live out of doors in the mountains of Samaria will have little to complain of in this direction.

On the 12th inst. Indian and South and East Anglian troops on a front of eleven miles advanced no less than three miles over the difficult country where the foothills begin to flatten down to the maritime plain Rentis and El Lubban (to be distinguished from the village on the Nablus road), on the southern bank of the Wady Deir Ballut, and Deir Ballut and Mejdel Yaba, on the northern side, were successively taken, as well as El Mirr, out in the plain a little west of the great fountain of Ras el Ain. Deir Ballut and El Mirr were held in strength as vital points in the Turkish system of defence.

Meanwhile our flying corps have been giving the Turks to the east of the Jordan no immunity. The depot at Shunet Nimrin, where the Jerusalem-Amman road enters the mountains of Moab, as well as the Hejaz railway stations at Kulaat el Hesa, east of Et Tafileh, El Kutrani, thirty-five miles further north, and the aerodrome west of Kerak have been effectively and repeatedly bombed. These last raids should be of substantial assistance to our Arab Allies, who must be now harassing the Turks centred around Maan and El Kerak.

E. W. G. M.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Armistice.

Following upon the decision of the Petrograd Government to conclude an armistice on the Russian front, a similar step was decided upon by the commander of the Russian troops on the Roumanian front. The circumstances were such that the Roumanian High Command could not avoid being involved in the offer of armistice. There was no thought that the armistice could and would lead to a separate peace. People firmly believed that there was too great a cleft between the German and the Bolshevik outlook for an agreement between them to be possible, and therefore all considered it advisable to join in what they could not prevent or avoid. The fact itself that the duration of the Roumanian armistice was timed upon the Russian one sufficiently indicated, as it was pointed out, the motive which inspired the action of the Roumanian Government.

A mixed Russo-Roumanian delegation therefore met the enemy delegation in Focshani, and the act of armistice was duly signed on behalf of the Roumanian High Command by General Lupescu, on December 9, 1917. Generally speaking, the armistice of the Roumanian front was concluded on lines similar to that concerning the Russian front. There were, however, a few interesting divergences. While the denunciation of the Russian armistice was subject to seven days' notice, the Roumanian armistice only provided for seventy-two hours' notice. Moreover, it was to have a provisional character, and was to be replaced by the general armistice concerning the whole of the Eastern front, which the Petrograd Government was then negotiating. The reservation introduced by the Roumanian delegation, which made the continuation of the Roumanian armistice dependent on that of the Russian one, was also involved in a provision put forward by the enemy delegation. It was to the effect that the Roumanian armistice was automatically to come to an end should the enemy Command decide upon a new offensive in the East, even if such an offensive were not to affect the Roumanian front.

In the Occupied Territory.

There is suggestive material contained in an ordinance issued by the German Command about the middle of last year, which prohibited the export of wine, spirits, raw materials of all kinds, mineral products and their derivatives from "any part of the occupied territory, with the exception of that portion of Dobruja which belonged to Bulgaria until the Peace of Bucharest." The export of any such materials can only be carried out by special permission of the German High Command. Now, since there was no possibility of exporting things to the unoccupied Roumanian territory, and since Roumania had no neutral neighbour, the order obviously intended to give the German authorities complete control over the Roumanian supplies to the exclusion of Germany's allies. Any infraction of the order was to be dealt with by German court-martials. It is rumoured that the order created considerable displeasure in Bulgaria, and that open accusations of "unjust treatment" were uttered against the German High Command.

The same spirit pervades an ordinance for the regulation of fishing in the Danube. Art. 16 formally forbids "allied soldiers" (i.e., Turks, Bulgars, and Austrians) to fish in the Danube, without special and written permission of the German authorities mentioned in the order. One wonders what is the difference between the German as master and the German as friend.

The German authorities have assumed complete control over all the public and private financial activities in occupied territory. A "Bank Inspectorate" has been instituted which supervises all the transactions of private banks, which are obliged to submit even their ordinary correspondence to the censorship of the Inspectorate. The ordinance concerning these matters is signed by von Mackensen, who states that only himself or the German High Command has the right to decide the details of the working of the Inspectorate.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 17.

A Patriotic Demonstration.

Last Sunday morning the streets of Athens were quite deserted save for the military mounted patrols, who arrested any person not provided with a special pass to be out. The census was completed by half-past two, and shortly afterwards the whole of Athens seemed to turn out, and the streets in the evening were a striking contrast to the morning.

The demonstration organised by various bodies as a public protest against the seditious movement at Lamia was, if one may judge by numbers, a satisfactory proceeding, and the newspapers describe it as a great success. It was probably one of the largest gatherings of its kind during the present war, for it is estimated that 40,000 took part in it. Special trains brought crowds from the Piræus with representatives from various corporations and their banners. All these collected in the Omonia Square, which soon became a dense mass of humanity. Several speeches were made and a number of resolutions carried, embodying reproval of those who took part in the base act against the country; advice to the Government to deal severely with the organisers and to take all the necessary measures to stifle any new attempt at reaction; expressions of devotion to the policy of the Government to restore the national prestige, and to secure the realisation of the ideals dictated by the glorious traditions of Hellenism; and a declaration of readiness to make all the necessary sacrifices for the success of the great struggle.

A procession was then formed and marched up Stadium Street, amidst continuous cheering. It proceeded to the Premier's residence, where a large crowd had already gathered. M. Venizelos appeared at his balcony and spoke a few words, and was then followed by M. Repoulis, who made a long and inspiriting speech. The procession subsequently proceeded to the residence of the Serbian Minister and to the American and French Legations, where short speeches were made, and finally passed by the British Legation. A short speech was made here by one of the members of the delegations. Lord Granville appeared on the balcony to express his thanks, concluding his remarks with "Ζήτω ἡ Ἑλλας, Ζήτω ἡ Νίκη."

The whole of the proceedings appeared to be most orderly and there were no signs of the least friction anywhere. The reliable Cretans—gendarmes and police—were stationed at various corners.

The Aftermath of the Mutiny.

Whilst the population of Piræus and Athens is expressing its indignation at the recent seditious movement, the court martial at Lamia is dealing severely with the mutinous soldiers. The authorities here are deporting to various islands scores of officers and others identified with the Royalist régime, who are all better out of the way; five ladies connected with the former Court, who have been trying to corrupt young officers, have been confined in a monastery. These measures which are now being taken were advocated, it is said, when M. Venizelos came into power, but the Premier took a more lenient attitude. Now that his leniency has been abused the offenders are not being spared. The rising was apparently organised in Athens, and the misguided soldiery, influenced by stories of the downfall of the Venizelist Government, were induced by the ringleaders to take the fatal step. They are now paying the penalty of their folly. Several have already been executed and many condemned to various terms of imprisonment. The rounding up of the mutineers continues, but the majority have surrendered of their own accord.

The Government are to be congratulated on the prompt and severe measures taken to suppress the revolt and to deal so severely with the guilty. This severity seems to have had a salutary effect, and it is reported that the call to the colours is being responded to in a very satisfactory manner.

King Alexander has been paying a visit to the Macedonian front, inspecting the different sections, and General Bordeaux, the head of the French Mission, has spent several days at Lamia in connection with the recent events.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Although Petrograd does not lie on a straight line drawn between Tangier and Teheran, I feel compelled to wander from a strictly Euclidian path in order to ask myself or my readers whether anybody can tell me what has happened to a worthy contemporary, the *New Europe.* A little while ago we were told that under no consideration was Palestine or Mesopotamia or a single German colony to enter the orbit of the British Empire; mainly, as far as one could tell, for the *beaux yeux* of the Bolsheviks. Again, the same periodical held up to our perfervid worship the democratic diplomacy of Russia. This is some of the light and leading vouchsafed:—The Bolshevik Government is acclaimed as "imposing its will on enemies at home and abroad." "Here we have the secret of the strength of Russian diplomacy . . . so situated, a *Realpolitiker* or an *ancien régimist* could have done nothing but accept a peace dictated by German generals. From this calamity Russian diplomacy saved Europe." Six solid pages of this. The British Government is urged to adopt " the Russian procedure for peace by public discussion. . . We might at once make a beginning by appointing to Petrograd an 'envoy extraordinary' " of the Bolshevik type is implied. I rubbed my eyes and turned to the second page of the cover to learn whether there had been a wholesale clearance of the former "collaborators." But they are still there —also the suggestion that the journal stands "*pour la victoire intégrale.*" What does it all mean? According to the *New Europe,* Bolshevik diplomacy has "saved Europe." This kind of thing is calculated to Bolo one over.

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The gratuitous reference to Persia and Afghanistan in the German-Russian treaty of peace puzzled me at first, as it seems to have puzzled a good many cleverer people. For why should the Germans wish to notify the world at large that they hope to stir up fresh trouble for the Allies—and especially for Great Britain—in those two countries? They have tried it before, and failed. Why expect better luck now? Is it a bit of red-herring diplomacy, so to say—an attempt to divert attention to a field where they have no real intention (or hope) of making any important move? Or is it, on the other hand, an example of that smacking-of-the-lips-before-food that the Teuton is so great at? Does he really mean to do his best in Iran and Afghanistan; and is he crowing in advance lest he may have no chance to crow later on? Any one of these things is possible, I take it, and only the future will show which —if any—of them it is to be. But lately I have been wondering whether some Teuton with a taste for history, and some sense of the dramatic, may not have been responsible for the apparently unmeaning reference.

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Such an one would probably think along lines something like these:—"For nearly a century Russia threatened Afghanistan, and rather more than threatened Persia; and as one result she gave the hated English many an anxious time during that period. In fact, ever since the Russian-inspired siege of Herat, ever since the early Victorian days, there was rivalry between the Bear and the Lion over that district, and John Bull always felt anxious for his Indian possessions. And now [our Teuton philosopher might continue] the collapse of Russia will free England from that anxiety once and for all. That must not be! *We* will step into the breach; *we* will take up the part abandoned by Russia. And thanks to our shining armour, our mailed fists, our genius for organisation, our invaluable Kaiser, and (above all!) our KULTUR, we shall succeed where clumsy Russia failed. So, in course of time, we shall absorb both Persia and Afghanistan and—*Gott strafe England!* But, lest there may be a little hitch somewhere in this so-wonderful programme, let us indicate our intentions at once in our magnanimous Treaty of Peace." That seems to me to be a possible explanation of the mention of Iran and Afghanistan in the precious Treaty, and I offer it for what it is worth. But, of course, the imaginary Teuton's views are his own—I decline any responsibility for them!

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Turkey has been called "an unlucky country," and upon the whole I take it that very few people would dispute the statement. But in one way at least she appears to be extraordinarily lucky in regaining possession of territory which she ought by all rules of the game to have lost for good and all. In those dim and far-away days when Turk and Bulgar were not quite such bosom friends as they now are (!), Enver and his gang lost Adrianople to the Bulgars; but luck, pure luck, gave it back to them without any effort on their part, and an amazed Europe saw the adventurers' triumphal re-occupation of the lost city. Now they are once more masters of Erzeroum, Trebizond, and all the rest of the territory wrested from them at such cost by the Grand Duke Nicholas and General Judenitch. And finally they may, it seems, get back the long lost Kars, with Ardahan and Batoum thrown in! How long they will be allowed to keep these places remains to be seen; the end of the war is not yet; and arrangements of this kind, made in Germany, are likely to be only temporary. But for the moment the wonderful "luck" holds good. Turkey could no more have turned the Russians out of Erzeroum than she could have turned the Bulgarians out of Adrianople. But in Turkey luck seems to be as whimsical as everything else is. Fortune, we are told, helps the bold gambler, up to a point. It certainly looks as if Enver, Talaat and Co. might be regarded as living illustrations of the truth of the saying.

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Indian newspapers recently to hand contain an account of the sad end of the Faridpore Praying Palm. This remarkable tree used to bow down, as if prostrating itself in worship, at the hour of evening prayer, and apparently it remained bowed through the night, only assuming the erect position again in the morning. In these circumstances, we need hardly be surprised to learn that in course of time it attracted pilgrims in considerable numbers, or that its custodian was made (on its behalf) the recipient of many offerings. But, alas, how are the mighty fallen! On the very day that a distinguished scientist of Bengal, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, was to lecture upon it in the Bose Institute, a telegram was received by Lord Ronaldshay, reporting that the pious tree had expired, and that "the upper part was lying flat." On top of this one of the Anglo-Indian journals is unkind enough to suggest that the poor tree "must have heard" that it was about to be exposed as "a humbug." If that be so, I can only say that I, in turn, am ready to bow to the shade of the palm as to the possessor of supernatural gifts.

CORSAIR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CAPTURE OF BAGHDAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Monday, March 11, was the anniversary of the entrance of our troops into Baghdad. Owing to the generosity of so many last year something over £18,000 was collected in connection with "Mesopotamia Day." The Army in Mesopotamia is now very large, and this Fund fears that there is only sufficient money to carry on its work for a limited period. I therefore take this opportunity of asking for further contributions to help in alleviating and lightening the hardships of the troops who have suffered so many privations and attained such gallant successes—more especially in the conquest of Baghdad. And surely this of all other days seems to be the moment when we should try and show our appreciation of what they have achieved not only for England, but for the whole Empire.—Yours faithfully,

STELLA MAUDE,
Hon. Organiser of Mesopotamia Day, 1917.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, M.C.F., 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair, London, W.1., and cheques cross "Coutts and Co."

"THE DEATH OF PRINCE MIRKO."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The order of the Prince Regent Alexander of Serbia that the Serbian Court shall go into mourning for six weeks as a sign of sympathy for the death of his uncle, Prince Mirko of Montenegro, will give the greatest satisfaction to all the Serbians and Montenegrins who are at present suffering inhuman agonies under the iron heel of the enemy.

It also proves that no dissension exists between the ruling houses of Belgrade and Cetinje as some people imagine, or that there is discord between these people, who are the children of one mother, and brothers by blood and religion.

The tragic history shared by these people for the last five hundred years has convinced them that only brotherly love and unity has saved their souls in the past, and will also save them in the future.

Prince Mirko was the greatest personality after King Nicolas in Montenegro, and many hearts will ache and mourn for him, and millions of voices will utter the usual last wish of the Serbians to their dead. "*Laka mu zrna Zeml ja bila!*" ("Lightly may the black earth rest over him!").—Yours faithfully,

D. JANITSCH.

Polperro, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W.,
March 12, 1918.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DIPLOMACY—GASTRONOMIC[*] & CLASSIC.[†]

We like both these books. The first because it takes us home, but we sincerely hope that Sir Walter Townley, for instance, Minister at The Hague, will not give us a similar book about diplomatic existence there, or at Bucharest, or Teheran, or Buenos Aires, or Washington, where he has been, and that Colonel Harrison, if he has served the United States in other foreign capitals than Cairo, will likewise not give us another in exactly the same dinner-dress. We tremble indeed to think what Colonel Harrison might have written about, or eaten in, say, Petrograd or Peking, and when we compare this collection of *table-d'hôte menus* with "My Four Years in Germany," we gather that even in the United States the diplomatic service is not recruited from one dead level of digestion, and heartily we thank Mr. Gerard. After all, what could the homely diary of a diplomat be "anyway," anywhere, if his attention is riveted on the colours of antimacassars and wall-papers, the tint and body of wines, the shape of entrée dishes, the paquinity of gowns, the diaphaninity of puff-pastries, and the adipose tissues of diners-out?

Here they are—the old familiar faces—passing in review, but so inadequately reviewed. Here are the unseeing Abbas whose was in vain urged to look to England for high honour. Prince Mahomet Ali, who, like his brother, repelled by Lord Cromer's lack of elasticity, seems to have made much of "our American agent"; the late and present Sultans of Egypt; Prince Said Toussoum; the Nazley Hanem; the last but one and the last Khedivahs; Riaz, Tigrane, Boutros Ghali, Fakhri, Yacoub Artin, Mustapha Fehmy, Mazloum and a quantity of other pashas; Cromer, Kitchener, Grenfell, Wingate, Rennell Rodd, Garstin, Palmer, Dawkins, Alonzo Money (what a dinner he gave!), McIlwraith, and the English Secretary of the Khedive, Brewster Bey; the whole diplomatic corps, of course; the Ghazi Mukhtar, Slatin Pasha, Baron and Baroness de Malortie, Count and Countess de la Sala, Lady Zohrab, Mrs. Jones Parry (and her "extensive" tea-parties at Shepheard's), and the ladies of all the above gentlemen that owned any (and their gowns); the Duke of Connaught, passing through; the Earl of Lonsdale, passing through—we will not lengthen our list.

Further, Colonel Harrison, a proud and devoted husband of an elegant but ailing wife, takes us into many of, if not all, our familiar haunts—Lord Cromer's study the Khedive's selamlik, Shepheard's bar, the Khedivial stables and orange groves, Ghezirah racecourse and the Arabesque kiosk near by, where, in those days, you could play petits-chevaux (a vain, uncanny swindle) until 8 and 9 a.m., and others redolent of what the Portuguese call "higgi liffi"; but into the *rez-de-chaussée* of Cairo life, apparently, his curiosity did not guide him—a common and clamant sin of most diplomatists except the artistic Japanese and the pestiferous German. "How those poor people must have bored each other!" is one abiding impression quite unconsciously conveyed by our author, and conveyed because he, lucky fellow, was but a two-winters' stayer, and seems thoroughly to have enjoyed himself. He also shows that he was a modest man and a merry diplomat and a mere unintriguing, non-diplomatic, American business man, as he emphatically told Boutros Pasha Ghali. He gives us two excellent portraits of himself and two of the late Mrs. Harrison, and some thirty other personal photographs of the leaders of Cairo society in his day. A Minister or an Ambassador who neglects to fill portfolios with portraits of the eminent people around him must be, as the French wit said, either a fool or a philosopher.

A special feature of the book is the notes. To them you must look for anything historical or biographical of the events and personages which pass on Colonel Harrison's narrow stage.

We resolved at the outset to finish with a quotation from a book that has vividly revived fragrant bouquets of dead violets; and we will. Here it is:—

At one of the Cairene gastronomic tourneys to which (think of it!) that superman, Lord Cromer, condemned himself for a whole quarter of a century, he pulled a cracker with Mrs. Harrison, and remained with the billet-doux in his own hand. The billet-doux reads:—

"On voit le défaut du voison,
Mais on n'aperçoit pas le sien."

The author comments: "He was gallant enough, referring to her, to say that he did not agree with the first line."

"The morning of March 25 is still fresh in my memory, when" (the year is 1909, and Senator Tittoni had, of his own statesmanship and initiative, compelled Austria-Hungary to accept a compromise on the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina) "the usher of the Consulta announced the German Ambassador, Count Monts. I had for a moment interrupted the work on which I was busy, and was looking out of the window from which one's first glance falls on the giants of the Piazza del Quirinale, of which Goethe has said that neither eyes nor thought suffice to grasp them: beyond, the eye rests on the dome of St. Peter's and on Monte Mario, which on that morning was radiant with the splendour of an early Roman spring. Before this magnificent panorama, which combines the beauty of nature and of art, the interview with Count Monts took place. With serious mien he told me" (you must read the prologue and the epilogue of the Demosthenian beauty of this subdued narrative) "that he had to make a most important communication to me. He was charged by his Government to ask me for the immediate recognition of the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I answered Count Monts with expressions of astonishment at the demand, which appeared to me inopportune and unjustified at a moment when my proposal for settling the question by means of a conference with a programme previously agreed upon, had met with general" (that is, Austrian, Russian, French, British, Italian and German) "approval. Count Monts replied that the conference had become useless now that Russia had already, at Germany's request, agreed to recognise immediately the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The other Powers could not do otherwise than follow her example. I observed to Count Monts that no communication from St. Petersburg had reached me, and that in any case I had solemnly declared to the Italian Chamber that Italy could accept the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina if it were accompanied both by the abolition of . . . (etc., etc.). Count Monts asked me if this were my last word upon the subject, and, having received my answer in the affirmative, was about to take leave of me, when the usher announced Count Lutsow, the Austrian Ambassador. I begged Count Monts to remain, and in his presence informed Count Lutsow of our conversation. Count Lutsow hastened to say that . . . (etc., etc.)."

This is Italy, through the mouth of one of her most brilliant sons, describing in solemnic language how Prussia and Austria prepared, premeditated, pre-ordained this present war so far back as 1909. There is no trace of red mullets or their accompanying *garniture* in this historic little volume. We are so optimistic as to the result of this war that we can twit Colonel Harrison with his antipodean brother-diplomat—a scion of the race of Regulus, Cicero and Macchiavelli and Mamiani and Mancini. We can even venture to assert that Secret Diplomacy has its uses when backed by fearless patriotism and faithful wisdom. This little book, indifferently translated into English as it is, is yet exceedingly welcome, for it emphasises modestly, for whosoever cares to read it, the too commonly despised intellect of Modern Italy. Tittoni was accused by Germany of telling France, in July, 1914, that Italy would not fight with Germany and Austria, and thereby urging France to keep a stiff upper lip. He pulverizes in dramatic manner this Prussian accusation. He shows us Classic Diplomacy on an eminence as high as Italian history has ever led us to emplace her.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Naval Intelligence. By the Author of "In the Northern Mists," etc. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

Pseudophilhellenes: A Letter to E. Venizelos on the Duplicity of Principal Burrows, of King's College. By P. Katapodes. (London: The Voice of Greece. 1s. net.)

Le Monde Slave. No. 6. December, 1917. Edited by MM. E. Denis and Robert de Caix. Paris: 3 francs.

Enquiry After God. By Kutbudin Sultan. (Madras: Thompson and Co. Re. 1-4.)

The Crying Need of the Age Fulfilled. (London: The Ahmadia Movement. 2d.)

THE "NEAR EAST" LITERARY SUPPLEMENT.

Copies of the special Literary Supplement, included in our issue of March 1, which contained a bibliography of recent books dealing with the Near and Middle East, have now been published separately, and may be obtained from THE NEAR EAST offices, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, price 1½d. post free.

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[*] "The Homely Diary of a Diplomat in the East, 1897-1899." By Col. Thomas Skelton Harrison. Houghton, Mifflin Co. $5.

[†] Who was Responsible for the War? The Verdict of History. By Senator Tittoni, formerly Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Italian Ambassador to Paris. Preface by Nelson Gay. (Blond and Gay, Paris.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	**1918.**		**1336.**	**5678.**
March.	**March.**		**Jomada II.**	**Nisan.**
15	2	Friday	2	2
16	3	Saturday..........	3	3
17	4	**Sunday**	4	4
18	5	Monday	5	5
19	6	Tuesday	6	6
20	7	Wednesday	7	7
21	8	Thursday	8	8

The Greek Minister called at the Foreign Office on March 7.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister to Paris, left London on March 10 for the French capital.

Sir Richard Temple's Indian and Oriental library realised a total of close on £2,000 at Christie's.

M. Themistocles Sofoulis, Deputy for Samos, has been elected President of the Greek Chamber of Deputies.

The Jewish regiment marched through Cairo on March 10 amid the great enthusiasm of the Jewish population.

On account of the death of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, the Serbian Court will go into mourning for six weeks.

According to a telegram from Sofia, received in Amsterdam the life of the Bulgarian Sobranje has been prolonged until demobilisation.

The Postmaster-General gives notice that the mail service and the money order service to Russia (except Finland) and to Roumania are suspended.

March 6, the anniversary of the capture of Yanina by the Greek army in 1913, was duly observed in all the Greek camps, where religious services were held.

The Lord Mayor of London and Sir William Dunn, the ex-Lord Mayor, have been appointed by King Alexander of Greece Grand Officers of the Order of the Saviour.

Captain G. E. Soutzu, of the Roumanian Government Committee in London, has returned to town from Bournemouth after several weeks' absence through illness.

Mr. Howard Head gave a demonstration of a mobile X-ray department constructed for service in Mesopotamia at a meeting of the Röntgen Society held last week.

The War Office has directed that one battalion of the King's Own Malta Regiment (Militia) shall be raised for active service anywhere oversea for the duration of the war.

The will of the late Colonel George Fletcher Ottley Boughey, C.S.I., who was for many years connected with the Indian Public Works Department, has been proved at £24,250.

The King of the Hellenes has sent a message to King George thanking his Majesty in the warmest terms for conferring on him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

In an article on "The German Horror in Serbia," M. Pierre Loti says that a quarter of the population has already succumbed to famine, cold, and the odious services exacted.

Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, who served in the Burma War of 1852 and with the Naval Brigade in the Crimea, celebrated his 82nd birthday on March 13.

Reports received by the Armenian Information Bureau indicate that the handing over of the Trans-Caucasian districts will mean further massacres and the final extermination of the Armenians.

Captain Jovan K. Tanovitch, representative of the Serbian Press Bureau in London, has been decorated by the King of Serbia with the highest honour, the Karageorge Star with Swords, for bravery on the Salonika front.

Replying to a deputation from the inhabitants of Batum and Ardahan, the Sultan of Turkey said :—"The territories you inhabit were once separated from my Empire, but they will never again be torn from our hearts."

An engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place at Tring, between Captain W. L. A. Harrison, M.C., R.A.M.C., only son of Dr. and Mrs. Harrison, of 33, Granville Gardens, W., and Rosalie Sibyl, elder daughter of Captain S. S. Flower (R. of O.) and of Mrs. Flower, of Giza, Egypt, and Tring, Herts.

On March 4 King Alexander of Greece dined with Earl Granville, the British Minister. His Majesty will shortly go to the Macedonian front, where, it is understood, he will make a prolonged stay.

Lady Jellicoe has received a telegram from H.H. the Maharaja Holkar of Indore, subscribing £1,000 to the Centenary Fund of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, which Lady Jellicoe is organising.

It is announced from Corfu that the Jugoslav Division, formed of Serbian, Croat, and Slovene volunteers from Austria-Hungary, which constitutes a new unit of the Serbian Army, has been in action on the Salonika front.

The Earl of Denbigh will deliver an address on the "Mittel-Europa Policy of Germany in its Relations to Sea Power" at a Navy League meeting to be held at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, on Sunday afternoon, March 24.

The Zionist Society of Engineers of America has appealed to Jewish engineers in New York to study conditions in Palestine with a view to preparing for the time when technical skill and experience will be needed by the Jewish people.

Prince Alexander, the Serbian Prince Regent, has accepted the resignation of the Cabinet, handed in by M. Pashitch on February 27, and has requested the old Cabinet to continue in office until the constitution of a new Ministry.

The Serbian Minister presided on March 8 over the first of a series of conversaziones held at the headquarters of the Serbian Red Cross, 9, Ennismore Gardens, Kensington, with the object of aiding the funds of the society and making the people of this country better acquainted with Serbia.

The *Echo de Paris* states that the French Government does not intend to avail itself of the safe conduct passes provided for General Berthelot and the Roumanian Mission, and that it is probable that the Mission will retire towards Russia, where it would be possible for it to carry out a new Mission.

Under the auspices of the London University Zionist Society, a series of six university extension lectures on "The Historical Geography of Palestine" will be delivered by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman on Saturday evenings from March 16 to April 20, at 7.30 p.m., at Gresham College, Basinghall Street, E.C.

On the occasion of Mr. Bonar Law's speech in the House of Commons on March 7, M. Haidoukovitch, the Montenegrin Minister of War, occupied a seat in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery. In the evening, accompanied by Mr. Alex Devine, he was entertained at dinner by Mr. Ronald M'Neill, M.P., and met a number of members of Parliament interested in Balkan affairs.

The engagement is announced of the Rev. Norman H. Tubbs, M.A., Caius College, Cambridge, Principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Tubbs, of Woodlynch, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, and Miss Norah E. Lunt, younger daughter of the late Prebendary and Mrs. Lunt, of Walcot, Bath. The wedding is arranged to take place at Agra on May 1.

President Poincaré has addressed a most cordial telegram to King Alexander of the Hellenes announcing the bestowal of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour on his Majesty. King Alexander has sent to President Poincaré a message, couched in the warmest terms, expressing his thanks for the decision of the French Government to confer this decoration upon his Majesty.

Since his return from the Sudan, says *The Times* Cairo correspondent, the Duke of Connaught has inspected units and hospitals in the Cairo command. Sir Reginald Wingate gave a garden party at the Residency in his honour. The Sultan, who was present at the garden party, also entertained the Duke of Connaught at Abdin Palace. The Duke has held several investitures, conferring the insignia on those recently granted British military and civil honours. On March 6 there was an imposing investiture at Gezira, where the Duke reviewed the Cairo garrison.

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Feeding Prisoners interned
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Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON.
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A supplement to the "London Gazette" was issued on March 12 with the names of the officers, ladies, non-commissioned officers, and men recommended for special mention by Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, Commander-in-Chief of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. There are about 1,400 names in the list, and among those mentioned are Rear-Admiral D. St. A. Wake, Major-General Sir H. T. Booking, Lieutenant-General Sir A. S. Cobbe, Major-General Sir P. Z. Cox, Major-General V. B. Fane, Major-General Sir G. F. MacMunn, Lieutenant-General Sir W. R. Marshall, and Major-General J. C. Rimington.

OBITUARY.

Mr. William Hebard Hudson, who died suddenly in Rome on March 4, at the age of seventy-nine, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1861, and was for some time Civil and Sessions Judge in the North-West Provinces.

The death is announced in Edinburgh of Mrs. Currie, widow of the Rev. Dr. James Currie, and mother of Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., of Lincoln College, Oxford, and some time Director of Education in the Sudan Government.

Deputy Surgeon-General William Sly, who died at Lowestoft on March 6, saw service in the Indian Frontier Campaign of 1863, taking part in the defence of the Sungars at the Umbeyla Pass, the storming of the Conical Hill, the burning of Lalloo, and the action in the Bonair Pass.

Colonel Sir George Malcolm Fox, who died on March 10 at Rustington, Sussex, was born in 1843. He served in the 100th Royal Canadians and 42nd Royal Highlanders, and took part in the Egyptian Campaign, receiving the medal and clasp and Khedive's Star.

The death is announced from India of the Rev. Kenric George Foster, Canon of Lahore Cathedral. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, he joined the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment in 1900, and served with the Indian Expeditionary Force from 1914 till 1916.

M. Jules Charles-Roux, who died in Paris on March 6, aged seventy-seven years, was Vice-President of the Suez Canal Company, and acted as President in the absence of M. Jonnart. He was also President of the Conseil d'Administration de la Compagnie des Messageries-Maritimes.

Sir Alexander Hope, of Craighall, fifteenth baronet, who died on March 7 at Pinkie House, Musselburgh, at the age of ninety-three, served in the Bengal Civil Service for thirty years, and for some eight years before retiring was District Judge of Saran. He was on furlough during the Mutiny, and thus saw nothing of that outbreak.

Dr. Sybil Louie Lewis, of Hull, who died on March 10, after three days' illness, went out to Serbia with members of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and worked there for sixteen months in fever-stricken districts, returning in February, 1916. She went to Macedonia the following August, and remained there until last December, when she returned to Hull.

VISITORS TO THE SUDAN.

Our Khartoum correspondent, writing early in February, says:—Sir Murdoch Macdonald has been in Khartoum for some days in connection with the Gezira irrigation scheme. It is apparently determined finally to set the scheme in motion, as the fuller inquiries go to show that the original estimates understated the potentialities; therefore the scheme has the very highest chances of success.

Sir Said Ali Mirghani, K.C.M.G., recently visited Cairo and took the opportunity of being examined by the medical authorities there, and they confirmed the verdict of the Khartoum doctors who had recommended an operation. The operation was performed at Khartoum after his return, and Dr. Madden, the senior surgeon of the Egyptian Medical Training School, came to Khartoum expressly to perform it. He was assisted by Dr. Ali Bey Ibrahim, the well-known practitioner of Cairo. The operation, which involved the removal of one kidney, was most successfully performed on January 29; the patient has borne it very well, and the bulletins have been uniformly good. The trouble was of long standing, and the operation was done at a fortunate moment.

Among interesting visitors to Khartoum by the last mail are the Under Secretary for Agriculture from Cairo. There was also Ismail Pasha Sidki, lately a Minister in the Sultan's Government, who has come to examine certain matters in connection with the Local Resources Board. It is understood that his object is the collection of statistics. A number of the Governors of Provinces within easy reach of Khartoum have visited the capital in order to confer with the Government. Major A. Cameron from Sennar Province, Mr. Sagar from Kordofan, Mr. Iles, C.B.E., from the Blue Nile, Mr. Struve from the White Nile, Mr. Browne from Berber, and Mr. Tippetts from Halfa, were all present. Mr. More, of Khartoum Province, was, of course, available, as well as Mr. Matthew, the Acting Governor of the Red Sea Province.

WHERE TO STAY.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1918.

REDRESSING THE BALANCE.

The review of the military situation given by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons last week, when moving the Vote of Credit, was subsequently described in the course of the discussion as the gloomiest speech that had been made from the Government benches since the war broke out. Inasmuch as the Chancellor of the Exchequer undertook to give a survey of the position in the different theatres of war, the speech in parts may have merited the criticism; but only those who wish to be misled by false hopes will find fault with an attempt to represent to the British public things as they actually are. The defection of Russia has passed through so many stages and been spread over such a long period that there is a tendency to imagine that its final consummation has been robbed of its prejudicial effect upon the Allied cause. That this is not the case is shown by the fate of Roumania, which is the first-fruit of the Russian tragedy. Instead of thinking of the war only in terms of the Western front, and being buoyed up with expectations of an Allied advance or the disastrous failure of an enemy offensive, we shall do well to regard it from now onwards from the point of view of the average Roumanian; in other words, instead of an undefined goal which they are continually expecting to come upon, so to speak, round the corner, the Allies must abandon the idea of any end to the struggle until the distant peak on the horizon has been reached. As it is unthinkable that there should be any peace settlement which does not secure complete rehabilitation for Roumania, let us concentrate attention on the kind of work likely to be entailed in bringing that about, rather than pin our faith on some sudden *coup* in France or Flanders. If the objective is known to be some distance away and difficult to attain, the preparations made to reach it are more likely to bear fruit than if they are planned for a brief enterprise. The Allies are pledged, not only to restore peace to the world, but also to bring contentment and ordered government to the peoples affected by the war. That the magnitude of the task should have been enhanced since the pledge was given, by the course of events in Russia, does not free them from their obligations. But as their responsibilities have grown, the methods adopted to meet them must also be planned on a larger scale.

Not the least interesting portion of Mr. Bonar Law's speech was devoted to the position of Turkey. He was by no means inclined to underrate the effect of the operations against that country. On the contrary, he claimed that they entailed for Great Britain a great military advantage. Their full significance was to be realised by considering what our position in the East would have been to-day, if after we had been compelled to abandon the Dardanelles expedition, we had left the expedition in Mesopotamia where it rested after the capture of Kut or had left the position in Palestine as it was after our ineffectual attempt at invasion. Great Britain is an Eastern Power, and it was calculated by those who were competent to give an opinion that to the millions of India the taking of Baghdad would have a bigger effect than almost any possible military operation. The value of what has been achieved in Mesopotamia may also be gauged by the fact that the Germans definitely promised the Turks that they would turn the British out of Mesopotamia. Steps were even taken to give effect to this promise, but they had to be abandoned. Further, it may be regarded as no small gain that great discontent prevails to-day in Turkey. "The feeling there is that in spite of the success of the Central Empires against Russia and Roumania, which have caused so much joy-bell ringing in Berlin and elsewhere, the Central Powers are not able to help Turkey, and the Turkish Empire is falling to pieces while all that is happening." So far so good. We may feel confident, however, that Germany will not easily admit to the Turks the bankruptcy of her military power. She will have specious explanations for the decision to leave the British more or less unchecked at this stage in Mesopotamia and Palestine, and will know how to buoy up the Turks with elaborate promises in another direction. Some indication of the current of German thought is given by the stipulation as an after-thought in the Brest-Litovsk Treaty that a strip of territory in the Russian Caucasus must be surrendered to the Turkish Empire, and by the references to Persia in the same document. Turkey is being encouraged to look beyond the passing phases of the present struggle, and relying on the lost territories being restored to her by German victories in the West, to aim at an empire stretching from the Mediterranean to Central Asia, which, developed by German enterprise, will far outweigh the inconvenience of one or more unsuccessful minor campaigns.

Pessimism may be left to pacifists; optimism is based on the righteousness of the Allied cause, and only asks that long views should prevail. The crime of Bolshevism has not only weakened the Allies, but it has also imposed upon them the duty of righting the wrong done to the real Russia. Only personal co-operation with the loyal elements in the country can effect this, and the Allied Governments have to determine how such co-operation can be attained. The one practical method that suggests itself is to entrust Japan with the task as the mandatory of the Allies. She is on the spot; she is ready for the enterprise and has the capacity to carry it through to a successful finish. A *sine qua non* is that the Japanese should take action with the cordial consent of those Russians to whose aid she will be advancing. Their army will stand in no need of assistance, other than that provided by the friendliness of the country through which their lines of communication will run. For political purposes it may be necessary that British and American missions be associated with the Japanese action; but for some time to come the chief problem will be a military one. For there can be no question of Japan confining her activities to Eastern Siberia. The object of the Allies is to free Russia from the German-Bolshevik incubus and to restore her independence; they are not called upon to mobilise the Japanese Army merely to save accumulated munitions at Vladivostok. Germany has satisfied herself that her successes in the East have given her a fresh lease of life. Let the Allies also lay their plans far ahead, and show that Turco-German dreams of a Central Asian Empire are going to be shattered by the liberation of these very countries, it may be not before 1919, by an Allied force on the spot. Action to this end, however, should not be delayed. The menace of German designs in the East is well known to Japan, and they can be furthered as well by Bolshevism as by militarism. Great Britain has to remember India, and the Allies as a whole can hardly fail to appreciate the advantage of once more building up the ring fence around the Central Empires.

PRO-AUSTRIAN PROPAGANDA AND ITALY—I.

BY RICHARD BAGOT.

The efforts being made in this country to promote a conciliatory policy towards Austria with a view to detaching her from Germany will not have escaped the attention of readers of THE NEAR EAST, or of those who believe—and rightly believe—that unity and reciprocal loyalty among the Allies is the only sure road to victory over the Central Empires.

We are assured by those who are seeking to further a pro-Austrian propaganda both in England and in the United States that we Anglo-Saxons have no quarrel with Austria-Hungary, and we are asked to lament the fact that in fighting that Empire we are fighting against an "ancient ally." A well-known writer on military subjects, concealing his identity under the *nom-de-plume* of "Achilleius," has even gone so far as to assert that we English deeply regret that British troops should be fighting with the Italians against the Austrians. It is an assertion which, however correctly it may represent the private sentiments of the individual in question, or the desire of the Vaticanists, is certainly not representative of those of the vast majority of the English people in whose name he so complacently arrogates to himself the right of speaking. Simultaneously with these assurances, we may observe a persistent endeavour to alienate British sympathies from Italy, and to excite suspicion and ill-feeling towards the Italian people. The similarity between the tactics and arguments adopted by our Austrophils and those employed by the pro-Germans in Italy is remarkable. It is also not a little significant and instructive. The ultimate aim, both of our own pro-Austrians and of the Italian—or, rather, the Vaticanist and revolutionary—pacifists in Italy would appear to be the cynical betrayal of the national honour of their respective countries; while their primary aim would seem to be the creation of such bitterness of feeling between the Anglo-Saxon, the French, and the Italian peoples as would effectually break up the alliance existing between them, and compel Italy to retire from the war—disgusted, disillusioned, and deceived.

It is obvious that the detachment of Austria-Hungary from Germany would in itself be a diplomatic victory of the highest importance for the Allies, since it would almost certainly lead to the speedy defection of Bulgaria and Turkey from the German cause. It is not easy, however, to discover the grounds upon which any reasonable suppositions that Austria would welcome any such detachment are based. The various peoples composing the Austrian Empire are, no doubt, heartily sick of the war, and fully conscious of, and disgusted at the manner in which they have been exploited by Germany; while the middle and lower classes—but not the armies or the ruling castes—are certainly suffering from serious shortage of food and of other necessities. But where do we find any evidence of a desire on the part of the Austro-Hungarian political leaders, or of the Hapsburgs, to conclude a separate peace, or, indeed, to assume any position which would signify secession from the alliance with Germany? And what are the terms which our British Austrophils would wish the British Government to offer to our "ancient ally" in order to induce her to detach herself from Germany? They are careful not to define those terms—and, as the Italians would say, *si capisce!*

Now there are, it may be hoped, very few people among the Entente nations who would not welcome peace and agree to any reasonable and honourable negotiations by which it might be secured upon a lasting basis. But what, we must again ask of our Austrophils, leads them to suppose that Austria would agree to any terms or conditions of peace which would not be in direct and open violation of the compact existing between Italy and her Allies? It is at least unfortunate, though by no means accidental, that insistency on the fact that we have no quarrel with Austria is accompanied by a persistent though covert attempt to carry on in this country a propaganda which is nothing more nor less than anti-Italian in its nature. Just as our pacifists in general persist in asserting that the war aims of the Allies have never been clearly stated, notwithstanding the definite exposition of them so repeatedly and so clearly given by the Governments of all the Allied nations, so our Austrophils insist upon asserting that the special war aims of Italy are of an imperialistic and even of a grossly fantastic nature, notwithstanding the fact that Signor Orlando, Baron Sonnino, the representatives of every political party in Italy, and the most responsible organs of the Italian Press have repeatedly and persistently shown those aims to be quite the reverse. It is not, on the surface of things, easy to understand why the legitimate interests and the national necessities of Italy, alone among the Allies of Great Britain, should be disowned, and, indeed, denounced, by English agitators in favour of a process of moral whitewashing of Austria and of ignoring her guilt in deliberately lending herself to the engineering of a war which she is conducting by methods not a whit less barbarous and treacherous than those employed by her partner. It is true that the entry of Italy into the war was exploited by the so-called Nationalist party in order to persuade the Italian people to accept its imperialistic policy. It is also true that the policy of that party, had it ever had the remotest chance of being carried into full effect, would have been a negation of the very principles for which the Allied Nations and Italy herself are fighting; and it was not for nothing that the majority of Italians, with true Italian sarcasm, called their exaggerated Nationalists *i nostri Prussiani!* But some excuse must be made for the "Prussians" of Italy. Irredentism had for some decades before the war become little more than a pious tradition. That it had any remnants of life at all in the heart of the average Italian was due to Austrian stupidity and bad faith in dealing with her subjects of Italian race in the unredeemed provinces. In Lombardy and in the Venetian provinces Irredentism, of course, had never ceased to be a living force—a sacred heritage of sons whose fathers had suffered from Austrian tyranny and cruelty. But in the centre and the south of the Italian kingdom the people had long ceased to concern themselves very deeply with the fate of their unredeemed kindred either in the Trentino or in the trans-Adriatic provinces. This indifference was not unnatural; and, moreover, the Italians both of the centre and the south are not lacking in cynicism or in humour of a certain quality. The fact that considerable numbers of their race were subjects of an alien and hated Government left them, so to speak, comparatively cold. Emigration, in their eyes, was the obvious remedy for any subjects dissatisfied with their Government. It was a remedy they adopted themselves; and it was certainly a simpler and more convenient one for Italy to counsel her unredeemed children to adopt than that of going to war with Austria. It was also less costly—and taxation was quite sufficiently high as it was. It was not, indeed, until Italy had actually declared herself to be no longer neutral, but on the side of the Entente Powers, that the interest of the great mass of the Italian public in Irredentism re-awakened, and that the vital importance to the nation of a rectification of the Austro-Italian frontiers and supremacy in the Adriatic was generally recognised. This re-awakening of public opinion was largely due not only to the

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

Nationalist party, but also to the "Pro-Dalmazia" and other kindred societies, as well as to the numerous publications widely circulated under their auspices. For the first time, perhaps, the greater Italian public—the agricultural and the industrial and commercial classes—realised that the redemption from foreign domination of the Trentino and the Adriatic provinces was not merely a matter of national sentiment, but of national safety and independence, and it would be manifestly unfair to forget or to ignore the part played by the Nationalists in this re-awakening, merely because of the imperialistic programme which at the commencement of the war was advocated by their leaders and by their official organ. One of the many misconceptions and prejudices which still obtain in this country regarding the Italian people is that they are uneducated, and therefore easily led astray by political or other agitators. Also, that they are a sentimental race; whereas they are entirely the reverse of sentimental, being not only remarkably shrewd but also extremely sceptical. The fact that illiteracy reaches a high percentage in certain classes of the community is often quoted in support of these completely erroneous conceptions. The superficial Anglo-Saxon critic of the Italian populace is apt to assume that, as in Great Britain, illiteracy is as a general rule inseparable from intellectual incapacity, and very often from a condition little removed from cretinism. He is unaware that the Latin illiterate—and especially the Italian illiterate—is of quite another category. The illiterate Italian peasant—who, by the way, is gradually but surely disappearing—has frequently, and, indeed, usually, as sound a grasp of social and political matters as his more lettered colleagues. It is probable, I think, that he has very often even a sounder judgment concerning them, since he listens to all opinions and criticisms on current political and social events and on those who are responsible for or dealing with those events, and forms his own individual opinion, which is apt to be surprisingly shrewd and logical.

Those who have mixed on friendly terms with the agricultural and industrial classes in the regions in Italy where illiteracy is still common, and who have frequented the local *caffè* and similar social resorts when the labours of the day are over and newspapers are read aloud by the literates and the local politicians discuss current topics, will never again fall into the error of assuming that, because in Italian of the lower orders happens to be illiterate, he is necessarily either ignorant or lacking in a remarkable natural intelligence rarely possessed by his counterparts in these islands; and still less that he is unable to exercise a reason and a judgment which are so naturally acute as to make him often more than a match for many who can read and write. This characteristic of Italian illiteracy is dwelt upon here, because it is frequently asserted by Austrophil writers and speakers in this country that the aims and aspirations of Italy in fighting on our side in the war are not only purely egoistic and, indeed, reprehensible, but that illiteracy itself has been exploited by Italian politicians and the Interventionists generally in order to persuade an ignorant population to submit to the imperialistic policy of a party not only bent upon the dismemberment of Austria, but also upon preventing the Southern Slav races from realising their legitimate national unity and independence. I have already observed that what may be called the full programme of the Nationalist party as presented by its organ, the *Idea Nazionale*, and by its leaders and sympathisers, was never approved of by the great mass of the Italian people. It cannot be denied that this programme created serious suspicions and misunderstandings regarding Italy's eventual war aims, not only among the Slav peoples of the eastern Adriatic, but also among her Allies. The natural alarm of the Jugoslavs quickly found its expression in the formation of committees in Paris, London, and other capitals, and in the speeches and writings of their sympathisers both here and in France. It may be suggested that there was a period during which both the Jugoslav representatives and a considerable portion of the Italian Press somewhat lost their heads, since each side plunged into a controversy the bitterness of which was scarcely warranted by the situation and the facts at issue. It was assumed—very erroneously—by many prominent and influential people in this country that Italian official and public opinion was entirely in sympathy with the imperialistic aspirations of a single political party in the Italian State; and Signor Salandra's cryptic expression—*sacro egoismo*—bade fair to be nearly as unfortunate for his country as was for Germany the German Chancellor's lapse into truth when he confessed to the wrong done to Belgium. It is scarcely necessary to point out that this period of misunderstandings and bitterness has now happily passed, and that both Italy and her Slav neighbours recognise that their national security and prosperity depend upon complete political and social harmony and friendship; while the Italians now fully realise that the formation of a great and independent Slav State, with proper access to the Adriatic, alone could ensure permanent peace and reduce to impotency the Austro-German intrigues in the Balkans and the Nearer East.

In the meantime, however, it may be well to recall to mind the attitude towards this question of an Italian political party which more faithfully reflects Italian public opinion than is, perhaps, altogether realised in our country. So far as Irredentism is concerned—and in this term the proper political, military, and naval control by Italy of the Adriatic is, of course, implied—the Italian Reformed Socialist Party, which was represented at the Inter-Allied Conference in London held in August of last year by two delegates, officially declared its views as to the two main objects—apart from those which it characterised as being of an idealistic, though none the less powerful incentive—for the sake of which Italy entered this War of Liberation. Those two primary objects were declared to be as follows:—

1. "To reunite with the Mother-Country those populations of the same race who dwell beyond the old, unjust, and arbitrary political frontier under the Austrian rule.

2. "To ensure, within the circle of Nature's boundaries, along the chain of Alps and the Adriatic Sea, the safety and tranquillity of the Italian nation—there being no doubt that the Italy which emerges from this war must embrace the populations of the Trentino, of the Gorizia region, and Istria. Other populations of Italian origin and sympathies are scattered along the eastern shores of the Adriatic and in the Dalmatian Archipelago, from the Quarnero to the Ionian Islands. The delimitations of boundaries between the Italian State and the Slav State or States, which will emerge from the breaking up of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, must be conducted in a just and conciliatory spirit, and in a manner to avert all future grievance and discord. And, should it happen that in the settlement of frontiers certain groups of the Slav race are comprised in the Italian State, while certain groups of the Italian race remain yet comprised in the Slav State or States, previous mutual guarantees should be given for the maintenance of local autonomy, and for the free development of individual activities.

"Given the above views, the Italian Reformed Socialist Party hold that the new eastern boundaries of Italy should be traced in obedience to ethnical, political, and military considerations, and so as to ensure the safety of the Italian nation, while avoiding all undue interference with the rights of those free nationalities which shall be constituted in the East."

This Declaration, the present writer believes, represents the views and aspirations which the great bulk of the Italian people holds concerning Irredentism in general and the justice which must be maintained towards Slav rights and aspirations by Italy. It was made at a time when the period of misunderstanding above alluded to was in its most acute phase, and its spirit has now been adopted even by the more intransigent among the Nationalist party; while there is ample evidence, from their subsequent speeches and assurances, that the Ministers of the Italian Government are in full accord with it—as, indeed, there can be little doubt that they had always been even before it was formulated on the occasion mentioned.

It is significant that, notwithstanding this Declaration and notwithstanding the repeated assurances of the

Royal Government of Italy, our Austrophils continue to represent our Italian Ally as seeking merely selfish aims, and do not scruple to advocate a policy with regard to Austria which, if adopted, would be an act of treachery and dishonour as gross as any that have stained the good name of the Central Empires. We may now pass to examining the motives underlying the propaganda in favour of initiating a conciliatory policy towards Austria-Hungary, and how far they are consistent either with the dignity or the loyalty of Great Britain, as well as the sources from which they spring.

(*To be concluded.*)

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Roumanian Treaty.

March 11.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Roumania has concluded a separate peace with the Central Powers; whether its terms were submitted to the Allies before being accepted; and whether it is the policy of the Allies to bring the terms of this peace for revision before the Peace Conference or a League of Nations after the War?

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Balfour): I understand that a peace has been provisionally concluded, but has not yet been ratified. His Majesty's Government were informed of the enemy's terms before they were accepted. As regards the last part of the question, his Majesty's Government have the deepest sympathy with Roumania in the cruel position in which she has been placed, and it will certainly be our duty and our endeavour to obtain at the eventual Peace Conference a revision of the harsh terms which have been imposed.

Warrant Officers (Pay).

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether any, and, if so, what, measures are contemplated for improving the position of warrant officers in India in respect of the pensions they earn, the amount thereof, and the period they are required to serve; whether the increased cost of living has been taken into account and any allowance given on that account; and whether any increases of pay and pensions have been given to warrant and non-commissioned officers in the British Army since 1914?

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Herbert Fisher): The Secretary of State has not at present under consideration a revision of the permanent pension rules for warrant officers of the Indian Departments, nor have allowances been granted to pensioners of these classes on account of the increased cost of living. The answer to the third clause of the question is in the affirmative. The question of the application to warrant officers of Indian Departments of the new Royal Warrant regarding disability pensions arising out of this war is under reference to the Ministry of Pensions. The question whether any increases in pay should be given in certain cases has been referred to the Government of India. I shall be glad to let the hon. member know further when a reply has been received.

Cow Hides.

Mr. Shirley Benn asked the Secretary for India whether he has received a report from the Imperial Institute on the subject of the trade in raw Indian cow hides; and whether it is intended that this report shall be published at an early date.

Mr. Fisher: The Report has been received. Its publication at present is not proposed, as the Government of India, to whom it has been sent, desires first to form their own conclusions on the subject. The Board of Trade agree that this course is advisable.

Indian Cavalry Corps' Gallantry.

Lord Lamington asked the Secretary for War whether units of the Indian Cavalry Corps that took part in the battle of Cambrai did not behave with the greatest gallantry and performed signal service; and whether information further than what had been supplied could be given. He said that reports had been received from many sources as to the gallantry of this corps, but no official statement had been made. The many casualties which they suffered were proof of the high test to which they were put.

The Earl of Derby (Secretary of State for War) expressed his gratitude to the noble Lord for giving him an opportunity of testifying in public to the great service rendered by these soldiers from India There was one particular incident associated with their gallantry at Cambrai which he would like to mention. So greatly was their bravery on that occasion appreciated by the Guards Division that they made a present of plate to that particular regiment as a memento. That showed the great appreciation in which these Indian cavalry were held by other forces of His Majesty's Army. It would be understood that in important operations like these Sir Douglas Haig could not possibly dwell on the achievements of every regiment, but he stated that British as well as oversea and Indian regiments performed splendid feats, which could not be recorded in the despatch. But in this particular case he (Lord Derby) wrote to Sir Douglas Haig asking him to let him have an account of the part played by the Indian cavalry in the Cambrai affair. In reply, he had received something which was almost in the nature of a despatch. It was very interesting, and he proposed to circulate it to the Press. On the occasion in question, as on all others, the Indian cavalry had acted up to their splendid reputation.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Syria.

The World has a graphic pen-picture of Syria by Bernard Maimon. This is his peroration:—

Syria is, without exaggeration, the most picturesque and at the same time the most fertile country of Western Asia, worthy of being the country of a great people both by the richness of its soil and by its geographical position. Here are the plains of Sharon, Acre, Tyre, Sidon, and many others. The valley of Sharon is watered by half-a-dozen rivers.

Here real mountains rear their crests—not like the wretched little calcareous ranges of Abdul-Aziz and Sindjar in Mesopotamia, between which flows the Khabur, nor like the artificial hills in the boundless alluvial plain of Babylonia! In Syria the smallest hills, with their terraces where the vine grows and the olive-tree flourishes, often give the impression of vast pyramids, beside which the Chaldean Ziggourats and the great pyramids of Egypt would seem but toys.

One can well imagine the surprise of the Assyrians or Egyptians who, for the first time, gazed upon Mount Carmel, which in truth deserves its name of "Kerem," that is to say, "garden," from its luxuriant vegetation, flowering shrubs and aromatic herbs which reach to its very top! The Bargylus (Ansayrieh), a range of more than 150 kilometres in length, has its western spurs clothed with vines and olive-trees, whilst its higher slopes are covered by forests of pines and firs. Its loftiest peak, Casius, in Arabic "Djebel-el-Akra," that is to say, "The Bold Mountain," springs suddenly to a height of 5,000 feet above the level of the Mediterranean. The Lebanon, the Syrian Mont Blanc, which rivals the Bargylus in length, and the inexhaustible forest of which, composed of cedars of enormous size, furnished the neighbouring powerful kings, to the east and to the south, with the timber for their palaces, and Phœnicia with the wood for its countless ships, reaches in Timarum, its principal peak, the height of 3,230 metres. Here, too, is the Anti-Lebanon, parallel with the Lebanon, where Jebel-Esh-Sherki reaches an altitude of 2,712 metres, a mountain of the most picturesque beauty with its wild and rocky gorges. Mount Hermon, the sacred mountain, shrub-and-forest-clothed, the highest peak of which is covered with snow, is very little less than 3,000 metres in height. SUCH IS SYRIA.

British Assistance for Persia.

The era of playing second fiddle to Russia in Persia is over, and Great Britain is now in a position to indulge her own instincts for helping the Persians on lines that they can understand and appreciate. Our first concern has been for the restoration of ordered government in the provinces; in due course, it is to be hoped, we shall contrive to give the Teheran authorities support and practical advice in their task of bringing the whole country once more under the central administration. In two articles this week a writer in *The Times* tells the story of what Sir Percy Sykes and the South Persia Rifles have accomplished. General Sykes landed at Bandar Abbas in March, 1916, with a staff of only three British officers of the Indian army.

Notwithstanding the obstacles to recruitment, the levies increased numerically very rapidly when the start had been fairly made. But the strain on the staff in training the men, carrying on office and administrative duties, arranging for supplies and transport, and working out plans of medical organisation was carried almost to breaking point. It could not have been borne without the enthusiastic leadership of the chief, whose powers of organisation are no less remarkable than his capacity for understanding the Persian and gaining his good will. A strong element in the latter qualification for his command is an intimacy with the Persian tongue so great that on some of his shooting expeditions in Central Asia in the old days of peace he was presumed to be of Persian nationality.

Within three months of his arrival at Bandar Abbas General Sykes had pushed inland 250 miles to his old post at Kerman, where he met with a most cordial reception both from the Persian officials and the public. After setting matters right there, he marched north-westward to Yezd and thence to Ispahan. The arrival of the force at the latter town was a great relief to the population, which had been threatened with an incursion of robber bands, and Sir Percy Sykes was able to open up the Ahwaz road. Thence the force turned southwards to Shiraz, inspiring more than one robber chieftain with a wholesome awe of its powers on the way. The length of this jig-saw march from Bandar Abbas, via Ispahan, to Shiraz was about 1,100 miles, and it was carried out in circumstances of the most arduous and, in some places, of a perilous character.

All this was accomplished within a period of eight months from arrival in the country. The British personnel had been added to little by little; and the military escort from India now comprised some 800 troops. On reaching Shiraz Sir Percy Sykes took over the mutinous gendarmerie, and in due course the act was officially recognised by the Persian Government. The force now numbered some 5,000 men.

Lack of means of inter-communication proved a serious obstacle, and was one of the first things to engage the attention of Sir Percy Sykes.

A very important part of the operations of the Rifles has been the improvement of road communications, especially in the province of Fars, of which Shiraz is the capital. The main roads between that city, Yezd, and Ispahan have been so improved that they are at last available for wheeled traffic, all the difficult passes having been cut down. In more than one awkward place the rocks have been blown up, and modern engineering has brought the high places low and made the rough places smooth. It would be an enormous gain if fairly easy communications could be established between Shiraz and the port of Bushire; but the precipitous and broken line of country leads competent observers to doubt whether a modern road, or railroad, can ever be profitably built. To the north, however, we have the best evidence of the improvement the Rifles have effected in the fact that the commandant made a record last summer by motoring from Shiraz to Teheran in 5½ stages.

The improvement of communications has been the more appreciated by the Persians because it has facilitated the growing security of trade exchange. Through last autumn, when the raiding season is usually at its height, no robbery occurred on the main road from Shiraz to Yezd and Ispahan; and it was far safer than it had been at any time for a decade past. Altogether the position in the early summer months was most encouraging. The force was steadily mounting up to the maximum limits. On the whole the recruits were well behaved, their strong prejudices having been overcome by the exercise of tact and understanding of the Persian psychology. The applications for service in the cavalry were so numerous as to be embarrassing, in view of the great difficulty there is in obtaining good mounts in a country like Persia. The great province of Fars was enjoying far more tranquillity and order than it had known for many years, and altogether Sir Percy Sykes and his staff had cause for satisfaction that their efforts had been so fruitful.

ARTICLES TO NOTE.—"From Salonika to the Albanian Coast." By the late Major Claude Askew in *The Windsor Magazine*. "Palestine and Jewish Nationalism," in *The Round Table*.

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CANON HORSLEY ON THE HOLY LAND.

On March 12, at the Royal Victoria Hall, South London, Canon Horsley described a recent visit to the Holy Land, illustrating his lecture with the magic lantern. He said that Palestine was a beautiful country, but its fertility had been very largely destroyed. The terraces into which the hill sides had once been cut had been broken, and the trees had nearly all been cut down, with the result that the heavy rains washed away all the cultivable soil, leaving only the bare rock. Only in one place had he come across a small wood of scrub oak. Generally he saw only occasional stunted olive trees, and, in some districts, a few palms. Turkish misgovernment was largely, though by no means entirely, responsible for the neglect of the country. An inhabitant of Jerusalem had told him that he wanted to make an orchard, but that so surely as he planted a fruit tree the Turks came and demanded a tax. Of the inhabitants of the country Canon Horsley said that the Arab fellaheen were a much finer race than the Syrians, and still more so than the Jews. The traveller saw their black tents throughout the country, and their customs and habits took us right back to the time of Abraham. One slide showed a shepherd with a flock. The sheep of Palestine, said the lecturer, were often black, the goats were hornless, and both sheep and goats had long black ears. Hence the task of separating the sheep from the goats was a difficult one. The shepherd alone could do it. Another slide showed a child apparently wearing large black spectacles. This appearance, the audience was told, was due to flies settling on the ophthalmic discharge from the eyes. The majority of the inhabitants of Palestine were said to suffer from diseases of the eyes, and blind beggars were very common. Nazareth was now a town of ten thousand people, nearly all Christians, belonging to the Greek Church; but Capernaum was a ruin, and very few of the villages of Galilee mentioned in the Gospels were still existing. The principal town of that part of Palestine was now Tiberias, into which place it was not recorded that Our Lord ever entered.

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SYMPATHY WITH ROUMANIA.

Mr. Balfour has addressed a letter to the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires (says Reuter's Agency) declaring that the British Government has the deepest sympathy with the Roumanian Government in the present situation, and follows with anxious attention the course of events in Roumania.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister to Great Britain, who is now on his way to Roumania, will conduct the negotiations with the Central Powers on the terms of peace, including the delimitation of the frontier with Hungary, the traffic on the Danube, access to the Black Sea, economic questions, and other delicate matters.

The Roumanian Government is deeply impressed by the expressions of sympathy from the Allied Governments, and also by the large number of private expressions of sympathy that are reaching it daily.

The members of the Royal Family and the Government are still at Jassy.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

In view of the fact that the peace terms imposed on Roumania will be revised when the Allies have obtained a decision in the war comparatively little interest attaches to the measures by which Germany hopes to fetter the development of our Ally except in so far as they afford an indication of Teutonic aims in the East. Viewed from this standpoint, what is known of the terms merits more than a little attention. The Dobruja we know is to be handed back to Bulgaria, but whether Constanza, Roumania's chief port, is to go with the Dobruja is by no means so clear. Roumania is to lose the port, while being allowed a trade route through it to the Black Sea, and that is all that is definite on the subject, which makes me suspect that Germany thinks the Dobruja, plus Constanza, would be altogether too big a plum for a country so insignificant as she no doubt deems Bulgaria to be, and so she proposes to have it herself. I can see no other solution which would account for the peculiar silence regarding the fate of the port.

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Germany's wish to possess Constanza can very easily be understood. Constanza was one of the principal channels of Roumanian trade, and it was, in particular, the centre for the export of oil to the Allied countries. Reference to the export figures for 1913 will illustrate this point. In that year Roumania's exports amounted to four and a-half million tons, of which oil accounted for 1,036,000 tons. Of these exports a million and a quarter tons passed through Constanza, including 909,000 tons of oil in various forms, of which 700,000 tons went to the Allied countries and 130,000 to Germany, Austria, and Turkey. In Germany's hands the port would become a powerful weapon for economic warfare, for it could and would be used to prevent the Allies from having access to the Roumanian oilfields. On this ground alone Germany no doubt desires to retain Constanza, but there are two other reasons no less potent which are likely to influence her decision: one is that the possession of the port can be made an instrument for the economic subjugation of Roumania, which is essential to her purposes if the former project is to be worked satisfactorily.

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The remaining reason brings us back to the subject I discussed in these columns last week—Germany's Eastern ambitions, which have been given a new turn by the Turkish failure to withstand the British offensives in Mesopotamia and Palestine. If Germany is to find a new way to the East she must either Germanise or neutralise the Black Sea, since it lies almost directly across her Eastern path. Her Russian negotiations have given her through Turkey an important footing on the Eastern side of the Black Sea, and, while she already has an excellent port at the other end in the shape of Constantinople, Constanza is more accessible to the Central Empires and, incidentally, an easier place to reach by land if military measures become desirable at any time. Its acquisition, if that be Germany's intention, can only be a means to an end, for it would be the height of folly to imagine that the process would stop short there. If the war were by any misfortune to end with Germany in possession of Constanza, it is certain that before long she would find occasion to force a land route to the port.

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Germany's anxiety to obtain a commanding position in the Black Sea should not, however, in my opinion, be entirely attributed to her Eastern pretensions, though I have not the slightest doubt that they are, and have been all along, the chief influence in her aggressive policy towards the East. Another factor in her calculations, I fancy, has been the desire to safeguard Turkish sea communications from interference by Russia, not from any regard for her Ally, but because she feels that step to be the necessary preliminary before she can reap certain economic advantages from Turkey. It must be remembered that oil is only one of many articles of prime necessity for which Germany is dependent on her imports from other countries. Cotton, of course, is entirely imported, and Germany's supplies of copper are by no means sufficient for her needs. In the event of an economic war the Allies' control of these commodities would constitute a serious menace to Germany. Now, Asia Minor is an excellent cotton-growing country, and possesses, in addition, important deposits of copper, to mention no other economic riches. Hence Germany's solicitude for Turkey's Black Sea frontier.

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Sir William Meyer showed very clearly in his speech on the Budget statement how India has benefited from the fair success that attended last year's War Loan. He pointed out that the heavy demands on the resources of the Government for disbursements on behalf of the Home Government and for the finance of war exports and similar transactions resulted in the transfer of the Government's resources to London to an embarrassing extent. Against this it was impossible to obtain counter remittances in silver or gold, because of the high price and keen competition for the former metal, and because of the necessity for preserving the central gold resources of the Empire. In the circumstances the financing of these disbursements has only been possible, he explained, owing to the success of the War Loan and of the Indian Treasury Bill issues. The estimate of the forthcoming War Loan was, he said, to be regarded as a minimum. "No one," he continued, "will be better pleased than I if this estimate should be very largely exceeded, and India's effort should once more show that she can override the cautious calculations of her financiers!"

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An interesting review of his five years' tenure of office as Finance Member concluded Sir William Meyer's speech, in the course of which he dealt at length with India's various contributions to the war. He said that besides the increase in expenditure for military purposes, and to provide the interest and sinking fund charges in respect of the war contribution of £100,000,000, there had been a net outlay in India for His Majesty's Government of £128,000,000, and as a result of the operations India had lent £67,000,000 to the Home Government over and above the £100,000,000, while £16,000,000 more was to be lent in connection with further investment of paper currency reserve funds in Home Treasury Bills. Emphasising the fact that no one would have imagined before the war that India could have undertaken these responsibilities, he said: "The generally favourable monsoons have assisted in bringing about this result. Our trade conditions have again been wonderfully prosperous, considering all the adverse circumstances which had to be faced, and have indeed led to the paradoxical result that the pecuniary resources of the Government of India have had to be strained to the utmost to meet the demands on it necessitated by the Secretary of State's Council drawings for the assistance of trade, coming as these did on top of large war expenditure on behalf of the Home Government repaid in London."

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The case for banking amalgamations was put very forcibly by Mr. Walter Leaf at the recent annual meeting of the London County and Westminster and Parr's Bank. Discussing the wider aspects of the amalgamation policy, he referred to the movement in that direction in Germany where the three great banks—the Deutsche, the Dresdner, and the Disconto-Gesellschaft—have built up a formidable combination for the purpose of attempting to capture the finance of the world after the war. Amalgamation was the most effective weapon, he pointed out, with which to meet German competition after the war. This is self-evident, since it is obvious that British banks operating with restricted resources would stand little chance against rivalry of the character that must be expected. As it is, they will have their work cut out to hold their own as regards foreign business, owing to the remarkable development of German banking institutions and, in particular, of the Deutsche group, which has been gradually extending its sphere of operations especially in the Near East.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Whisky de Luxe
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COTTON GROWING IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Part Played by Science.—I.

By John W. MoConnel.

In 1915 there was published for Dr. W. Lawrence Balls, formerly Botanist to the Egyptian Government Agricultural Department, a book entitled "The Development and Properties of Raw Cotton," which was reviewed at the time in this journal. This may be described as the first book in which an attempt has been made to give in popular language an accurate and scientific description of the growth of the cotton plant and the development of the cotton fibre or lint. As the book was written shortly after the termination of the nine years which the author spent in Egypt, which were principally devoted to the study of the development of cotton, it naturally consisted very largely of a record of the author's own observations and discoveries, and it gave also some description of his methods of recording the salient features both of the growth of individual plants and of the consequent analysis of records and forecasts of cotton crops.

It is evident from the writings of many of the best workers in scientific cotton growing that this book and the other writings on cotton by Dr. Balls—notably his three papers published among the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, have put the entire question of cotton improvement and extension on to a new plane. The science of cotton growing is, of course, still in its infancy, but it has now been definitely recognised that such a branch of science exists, and a beginning of its exploration has been made. It may be taken to be admitted that, to meet the growing need of the world for an increased supply of cotton, and particularly for cotton suitable for use in making goods of high class, there is a correspondingly increasing need for the utilisation of natural science in the growing of cotton. Dr. Balls went even further than that, for his book showed that he had found, as most or all other workers on cotton had found, that there are no scientific terms in which spinners are able to express to growers an accurate description of what they desire cotton to be. It is now being realised in this country that scientific investigation into the processes of spinning and manufacturing cotton will be required before spinners can describe their needs to growers.

But as regards the application of science to the growing of cotton, it may be taken to be now generally agreed that uniformity is the most valuable characteristic in cotton. It is also clear that both heredity and environment are factors which conduce to or interfere with uniformity. Dr. Balls has shown that it is only from pure strains of cotton that an approximation to uniformity of fibres can be obtained, and for this purpose the practical application of Mendel's Law is necessary, whether the pure strains are bred intentionally by considered and artificial crosses, or merely isolated from the complexity of strains which naturally obtains wherever cotton is grown. On the other hand, this book made it clear that it is only by the detailed study of individual plants that the effects of different environmental treatments can be quickly and accurately ascertained.

Recent Developments.

Since the book was published we have moved forward. The need for more cotton and for better cotton is no longer the opinion of a few. The need is known to all concerned in the industry. It has been recognised in official reports and in deputations to the Government. A Government inquiry into the possibilities for cotton in the Empire has been ordered. At the same time, belief in the results to be obtained by the application of science in the solution of our industrial problems has grown to quite a surprising extent. Among other new developments there is good prospect of an association being formed to conduct research into all the problems of the cotton industry, from the growing of the plant to the completion of the finished article—perhaps even to the further stage of reconstructing the fabrics when worn out. The present time seems, therefore, opportune for an inquiry into the progress already made, or in process of being made, in the utilisation of science for the growing of cotton. Perhaps some attempt may also be made to indicate in a general way where science is most wanted. The inquiry will be confined to the growing of cotton in the British Empire.

Two striking features of the cotton industry may be mentioned before proceeding further. The raw material, *i.e.*, the cotton is, of course, entirely imported so far as the British Isles are concerned. On the other hand it is estimated that three-fourths or four-fifths of the cotton used in Great Britain is exported in the form of yarn or piece-goods. Thus we have the peculiar situation that the greatest manufacturing industry draws all its raw material from beyond the seas, and sends away again the great bulk of the manufactured article. Under such conditions it is obvious that even the existence, to say nothing of the prosperity, of the industry depends on such factors as superior organisation, superior technical skill and cheapness of transport. Up to the present time it may be stated with some pride that Great Britain has been equal to the occasion.

Speaking in general terms, and disregarding a few specialities, it may be stated that by far the greater part of the world's exports of cotton goods are produced in this country. Great Britain's power to compete in any other country is only limited by that country's own development of cotton spinning and manufacture. The only considerable exception to this statement is found in the growing power of Japan, where the combination of the appliances of high civilisation, together with wages still remaining on the level of backward races, has created a new competition of admittedly serious character in China, and to a less extent in India.

Growing Demand for Cotton.

Our purpose in this paper is to consider the British cotton industry from the point of view of the raw material. We must start by recognising the fact that since the industry began to take its modern shape, at any rate for the last hundred years or more, the great source of the world's supply of cotton has always been the United States. In later years, however, it has become apparent that the increase in the world's consumption of cotton is tending to outpace the increase in supply, and there has grown to be a strong desire that Great Britain should turn to account the great opportunities of the Empire, and should endeavour to grow her own cotton. This aspiration has gained strength during the war, and this for two reasons: In the first place, the unity of the Empire has been welded on the anvil of war from a dream for the future into a basic fact. And, again, the definite incorporation of Egypt and the Sudan in the Empire, has brought with it the actual fact of growing, not only a very considerable quantity of cotton, but in particular the only large supply of cotton superior in quality to the general type of the American cotton crop. Thus a great stride has been made towards answering a question which is really important, not only to the cotton industry, but to the whole industrial organisation of the Empire. This question is, to what extent and by what means it may be possible for the British Empire to grow within its own boundaries the cotton its united manufacturing powers can consume?

There is nothing inherently impossible about the matter. The limiting conditions under which cotton growing is possible have never been accurately listed, but some of them are well known. Tropical, or semi-tropical regions; irrigation facilities, or a rainfall of sufficient quantity, and generally at such times as suit the plant; climate sufficiently regular in temperature and moisture to give in each year the period necessary for the growth of the plant and of the fibre; a reasonable freedom from injurious insects; a population large enough to make high cultivation possible, and sufficiently civilised to appreciate the advantages of growing crops useless to themselves but having a money value when marketed in other countries; and it must be admitted that at present another necessary characteristic of the population is a readiness to work hard for a wage which, measured by European rates, would be considered contemptible, but which does, in fact, bring to the cotton worker a degree of comfort hitherto unknown. Now all these conditions are to be found in the British Empire. So far as latitude goes, Cyprus, and nearly all India, the whole of Africa, and a great part of Australia, besides the West Indies and Central America, in fact nearly the whole Empire except British North America, New Zealand, and the British Isles themselves, come within the bounds where cotton is possible, and there are immense areas where other conditions also are favourable.

There has, indeed, been a very good foundation laid already. In the British West Indies cotton-growing was resuscitated about sixteen years ago. There is now grown mainly in the smaller Windward and Leeward Islands half, or more than half, of all the cotton grown in the world, which is suitable for making the very finest and strongest goods. The quantity is very small, but the intrinsic value is very great. What is, perhaps, of even greater importance is the fact that while cotton of a kind is indigenous in those islands, this particular development of cotton of exceptional merit has been practically created by the definite scientific work, and if the time comes, as seems not improbable, when larger quantities of the same kind of cotton are needed, it should not be impossible to extend the industry to other suitable British colonies. Man can do again what man has done by science, and not by accident. In the next place, we have Egypt and the Sudan, which are, as mentioned before, the present source, and, it may be added, the only immediately available source for the bulk supply of what is known in this country as fine cotton. Something must be said later as to the position in Egypt of science as related to cotton. But the point to notice at the moment is that the Empire has not to achieve the getting, but merely to secure the keeping and enlarging of its own and the world's bulk supply of fine cotton.

Poor Production in India.

India also must be named. And in India there is a great problem. India is the ancient home of fine cotton and of the finest cotton goods. And yet India, under British control, has been only known as the producer of very poor crops, and of very undesirable qualities of cotton. Practical improvement was for a long time rendered difficult, partly by the dislike of a bureaucratic Government to accept assistance from outside, while a further obstruction is that jealousies and suspicions are so often allowed to separate the important spinning industry of India itself from the still greater industry in Lancashire, whereas in truth their interests in this matter are not in conflict. But it seems probable that the real reason for the past want of progress, perhaps one may even go so far as to say the real reason for the long-continued uncertainty as to the possibilities of progress, was that science was so little used in the early efforts at improvement.

Lastly there is Africa, the Africa beyond the boundaries of Egypt and the Sudan—East Africa, West Africa, and the rest. It is in these regions that the chief work of the British Cotton Growing Association has been done. If progress is to be measured by the actual quantities of cotton grown, the Association has not so far made a great achievement. Something less than one bale in every sixty required by this country is the most that has so far come in any year from these parts of Africa. But the Association has done two things: it has brought to light many of the difficulties which have to be overcome in growing cotton, and shown that there are many countries where cotton cannot be an economic success. It has also made a real and promising beginning with cotton in many districts of Africa, notably in Uganda and Northern Nigeria. And there is little doubt that after the war progress will be more rapid. But perhaps it may also be said that one lesson to be drawn from the work of the Association is of the same kind as the lesson from India. It is, that nothing can be done without science. This remark is in no way intended to reflect upon the early work of the British Cotton Growing Association, or upon the early efforts at improvement in India. The science of constructive botany seems really to be a very recent discovery. Certainly ten or fifteen years ago there was no knowledge readily available—either in the cotton states of America or elsewhere—which could have been applied either to the selection of cotton seed or to the cultivation of the plant. Through much tribulation this knowledge has now come to birth, and, even yet, it will be many years before there is any approach to complete knowledge of the subject.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR

Capturing Enemy Trade.

The British Industries Fair, which was opened on March 11, in the Pennington Street premises at the London Docks, which were placed at the disposal of the Board of Trade by the Port of London Authority, marks a further stage in the process of the manufacture in this country of goods which before the war were more or less a monopoly of the enemy countries. It is on the same lines as the previous fairs, and while it comes fully up to the standard set by its predecessors it surpasses them in many respects, notably in the range and variety of the exhibits which show very plainly that for enterprise and ingenuity British manufacturers are in no respect behind their Continental rivals.

Since the last fair was held industry has had many further restrictions laid upon it, with the result that the lot of manufacturers of goods not essential to the immediate national purpose has been far from easy, but despite these adverse conditions the list of exhibitors is distictly promising. There are roughly speaking some 400 firms represented at the fair, and they are allowed to show only articles of their own manufacture included in the following trades:—earthenware and china, glass, fancy goods, paper, printing, stationery, and toys and games. With its restricted scope the exhibition is, of course, in no sense representative of British trade possibilities; its interest, however, lies in the evidence it affords of the readiness with which our manufacturers have embarked on new lines of trade. Viewed from this point the present fair is of good augury for the future.

A satisfactory feature is the great care that has been taken to preserve the business character of the exhibition. No doubt the public would have flocked in their thousands to see the products of British enterprise if they had been been invited, but the fair is not for them and entrance is confined to *bona fide* buyers both for the home and overseas markets. Altogether some 100,000 tickets have been sent out to business firms by the Board of Trade, and the attendance this week which has been much larger than on previous occasions shows that the utility of the fair is now fully recognised in business circles.

China and Glass Ware.

By far the most interesting section of the exhibition is the display of china, and glass ware. Those who are ever ready to decry modern decorative art, would, indeed, be difficult to please if they failed to admire some of the delicate examples of pottery on view. There are tea and dinner services, vases, and ornaments in most exquisite designs, not at all inferior so far as the eye can see to the art of the past. Less ornamental but of great importance are the specimens of chemical glassware, porcelain, filter papers, etc., for the laboratory and for scientific purposes. Before the war the manufacture of glass and porcelain for use in laboratories was in the hands of Germany and Austria, and this is one of the trades captured through the war. Since last year, when a number of exhibits of chemical glassware, etc., were shown, a considerable advance has been made in the development of the trade, and there is now every reason to think, that this country will hold its own in this industry against any competition after the war.

Fancy goods are much in evidence, nearly a hundred stalls being devoted to articles of this description. Here a word is called for with regard to leather work which figures very prominently in this section. Before the war Germany and Austria flooded this and other markets with all kinds of small articles made of leather, as was only to be expected in view of the hold they had on the hides trade. Handbags, pocket-cases, wallets, and anything, in fact, for which there was likely to be a demand in the leather line was provided by the enemy to the injury of home manufacturers. If Germany and Austria are able to get the hides after the war—and they will only be able to do so at a price—they will no doubt try to regain their lost trade, but judging by the exhibits they will find the competition too much for them, especially as they will not be in a position to cut prices as they did in the past. The specimens on view are certainly much better than the enemy product, and there is every reason for thinking that the manufacture of such articles as pocket-cases, wallets, purses, etc., should in the future prove a very profitable branch of industry. It is particularly to be hoped that this will be the case since this industry has been taken up by numbers of discharged soldiers, who are responsible for some of the most artistic productions at the fair.

Toys, Printing, and Stationery.

In the toys section something like 170 firms are exhibiting, and here, too, gratifying progress has been made. Germany and Austria found toys of all kinds a very remunerative branch of their export trade, and they were helped so far as this country was concerned by the antiquated methods of manufacturers in general who seemed to adopt the maxim that any kind of toy would do for a child, and when they failed to withstand enemy competition with dolls with wooden expressions and singularly uninteresting toys they were the first to be surprised. All that is changed now, and the toys exhibited will bear comparison with the best products of any country, their workmanship and design being highly satisfactory.

Present conditions naturally limited the exhibits in the printing and stationery section; but even so the 80 firms represented made a very creditable show between them. Mention must be made here of the excellent display of printing by the Medici Society which is one of the features of the exhibition. In this section as in others there is evidence of progress by manufacturers in new directions, notably in making wax crayons and school chalks.

In the light of the experience gained as the result of the fairs that have been held since the war broke out there can be no question that the institution of this annual event has so far fulfilled expectations. It has provided a method by which manufacturers can advertise their wares to the best advantage; it has also given buyers, both for the home and foreign markets, an opportunity they never had before of obtaining exactly the type of goods they require. The facilities it offers in this respect are now fully realised by both these classes of the business community. The future of the fair depends, however, on post-war developments, for it is hoped that it may not only rival, but eclipse, the Leipzig fair, which has been such an excellent medium for the introduction of German goods to foreign markets. Success in the real sense depends on this happening.

AMERICAN HELP FOR SERBIA.

Immediately upon the recovery of Serbian territory now in the hands of the enemy (says a United States trade report) it will be necessary to supply the remaining civilian population of that territory with relief in the shape of most necessary tools, foodstuffs, medicinal products, agricultural implements, live stock, raw materials for factories, household utensils, and the like. Before the war Serbia was largely dependent upon the Central Powers for these things, and while it will prove difficult for the Serbian merchants to adapt themselves to the usages of the Allied markets, especially our own, a complete willingness and desire to do so is assured.

American manufacturers may, therefore, anticipate with the liberation of captured Serbian territory a market for the following articles:—Tractors, ploughs, harrows, rollers, seeders, cultivators, mowers, reapers, scythes, compresses, sickles, whetstones, thrashers, hoes, corn shellers, spades, picks, axles, shovels, wagons, cart axles and wheels, spray pumps, spray bags, sulphur, copper sulphate, raffia, pig iron, tin plate for utensils, oxen, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, fowls, incubators, seeds, saw-mills, motor trucks, saws, saw sharpeners, nails, chains, measuring instruments, rails, corn, wheat, flour, hardtack, dried vegetables, lard, eating oil, canned meat, milk, coffee, tea, sugar, shoes, leather, clothes, cotton, wool, iron and steel bars, galvanised sheets, tin plate for canning purposes, wire, lubricants, cordage, coke, calcium carbide, soap, candles, river steamers, and barges.

BULGARIAN EXPORTS.

Statistics of Bulgaria's imports and exports during 1915 and 1916 are not obtainable, says the United States Consul-General at Sofia, Mr. D. I. Murphy, in a recent report. The Director of Prevoyance, to whom I applied some time ago, has recently informed me, however, that he believes he will be able to furnish such information for 1917. His letter of November 8 states: "In the first half of the present year there have been exported from Bulgaria 29,048,955 kilos of merchandise and 1,868,589 separate pieces, valued at 159,480,858 leva." Normally this sum would be equivalent to $30,779,806 (£6,156,000), but owing to the depreciation of Bulgarian paper money in circulation it represents at this time but $17,720,092 (£3,544,000).

It cannot be ascertained exactly what articles entered into this exportation, but it is believed that the vast bulk of the merchandise was foodstuffs, and that the "pieces" represent cattle, sheep, and hogs. It has also been ascertained that the exports went mainly to Germany, there being no commerce with the world outside of Germany, Austria, and Turkey.

RESTRICTIONS IN EGYPT.

General Sir Edmund Allenby has issued a proclamation prohibiting the import of gold into Egypt except under licence, says *Reuter's* Cairo correspondent. Owing to the delay in obtaining the quantities of millet and maize required by the British Expeditionary Force, the proclamation further orders all holders of these commodities to declare the quantities held by them within ten days. In the event of persons not complying with the provisions of this proclamation, quite apart from their liability to prosecution under Martial Law, all undeclared quantities of millet and maize will be liable to confiscation.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Baltic-Black Sea Canal.

According to a report from Berlin, the commercial agreement between Germany and Russia will contain a plan for the construction of a great canal from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The cost, it is stated, will be twenty milliards of marks, and German financiers are ready to provide the money. Commenting on the subject, Scandinavian newspapers show that Germany intends to use the canal as an economic weapon against Russia in order to bring her under German domination. The idea of such an enterprise is not new. A few years before the Balkan War the Russian Government obtained the sanction of the Tsar for the appointment of a Special Commission to examine the question of constructing the canal, and among the schemes ready for consideration at the time was one in which an American and a British firm were interested. Under this scheme the Rivers Dvina, Beresina, and Dnieper were to be utilised, and the termini of the canal were to be at Riga and Kherson. The length of such a canal would be about 1,000 miles, and it would have a breadth on the surface of about 212 ft. and at the bottom of 114 ft., with a uniform depth of 27 ft. 6 ins. Its construction would probably occupy six years. At a speed of eight knots, as has been found practicable in the case of the Suez Canal, the passage of ships would occupy five days. The great advantages that such a waterway, under German control, would afford to German trade are obvious. And if the other scheme for the construction of a navigable canal to unite the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea is also carried out by German capitalists, another route for the German aim known as the "Drang nach Osten" will be opened.

Towards the East.

It is proposed to construct the canal joining the Black Sea with the Caspian Sea from Astrakhan, in the Caspian Sea, to the Rivers Manytch and Don, with a branch to Taganrog. It will be a short canal, and very economical in construction. Goods going from Astrakhan to Warsaw travel 1.853 versts, but by this canal and viâ Odessa they would travel only 1,123 versts. By the union, therefore, of this canal with the Baltic-Black Sea canal, at a point north-east of Kherson, where the River Dnieper turns from a southerly to a westerly direction, an important waterway would be opened from Riga in the Baltic to Kherson in the Black Sea, and Astrakhan in the Caspian Sea, and thence along the Caspian to Astrabad, in Persia, or to Baku, in Transcaucasia, and other Caspian ports. Such a waterway, dominated by Germany, would be a very dangerous economic weapon in her hands against British trade in the East.

In previous engineering notes we referred in details to the other German scheme, the "Central Europe Waterway," or the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, which is particularly supported by Bavaria and Austria. The attention paid to this scheme is due to the fact that it is considered that it will assure Germany a commercial route which cannot be blockaded or cut off in war, while in peace it will provide the most effective means for the strengthening of German commerce.

Energetic Japan.

In view of the possible intervention of Japan in Siberia, and of the remarkable strides that Japanese trade has recently been making in the markets of India as well as of the Middle and Near East, a few notes on the energetic industrialism and thoroughness of the Japanese will be of interest at the present time. Apart from other industrial products, agricultural machinery and implements of Japanese manufacture are becoming more and more known to the Oriental farmers, who in some cases find them more suitable for their work and much cheaper than the European articles. It is noteworthy, however, that while the export of such kinds of machinery is systematically pursued by the manufacturers, very effective and timely measures are being taken by Japan for the development of home industry and agriculture. For instance, according to recent reports, regulations which are expected to prove of considerable benefit to the farmer of small means in Japan—and the majority of the farmers there belong to this class—were passed at a recent special session of the Diet. The regulations in question aim at promoting the establishment of agricultural warehouses throughout Japan, and provide for the granting of a subsidy amounting to 20 per cent. of any sum expended in purchasing, erecting, or repairing buildings to be used as warehouses. The amount set aside by the Government for the current year is reported to be 75,000 yen, and it is anticipated that 150 warehouses will be erected at various places. In the past the small farmer in Japan has suffered, like the small farmer in the Near and Middle East, from a defective selling system, which has compelled him, when funds were lacking, to dispose of his crop to the middleman at an unprofitable figure. The erection of warehouses will enable him to store his produce until a reasonable price is forthcoming, or until he can obtain ready money by raising a mortgage on his produce. How simple and very beneficial such a system would be to the struggling small farmer in the nearer East!

Threshing Machines.

Manufacturers of small threshing and winnowing machines are reminded that there will be a good demand in Palestine for such machines in the near future, and probably this year, if facilities for transport can be arranged. Threshing is done there either by hand or by bullocks treading out the grain, and the winnowing is done by hand. Both processes are slow and wasteful. Threshing and winnowing machines capable of being moved from place to place, as farms are small, would prove a great success. Such machines would find a good sale also in Greece, the Ægean Islands, Cyprus, and Crete.

Irrigation and Milling Machines.

In recent years irrigation and milling machinery from America has been successfully introduced into Syria, especially into Palestine. Small flour mills with stones are preferable, as the flour must be ground very fine, and iron discs for such grinding are not suitable. The discs become hot and "burn" the flour. The attempts of local merchants or importers (without technical knowledge) to introduce in the Near East grist mills, or flour mills with iron discs, as used in the British colonies, which are cheap, but cannot produce the very fine flour which the Oriental peasant requires, prejudiced that line of British small agricultural machinery, and gave American and Austro-Hungarian manufacturers an opportunity to secure a large share of the market with their small horizontal stone mills. British flour mills fitted with Derbyshire stone have been found suitable in some agricultural districts, but in quotations it is advisable to quote also the price of the mills without the stones, as many buyers prefer to fit them with local mill-stones, which are suitable for grinding very finely either wheat or barley, or both, mixed, as is often done in the Near East. It is hoped that some means will be found before the summer comes to supply Palestine, Egypt, and Greece with pumping and milling machinery, which, according to recent reports, are very much needed in the rural districts.

Barter in Teheran.

It is reported that some enterprising people in Teheran propose to establish a large "American store" in that town, chiefly for the sale of hardware, kitchen utensils, and small machinery for domestic use. Instead of taking payment in cash, the idea is to trade with the natives for small-sized rugs, skins, and other Persian products. There is doubt that the enterprise will be very successful, for it is a kind of dealing that appeals to Orientals, who, in their desire to obtain something that they fancy, may easily give a fine Persian rug or a valuable skin for a saucepan or a dollar clock.

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THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

As a result of recent military events, the London and Manchester offices of the Imperial Ottoman Bank are again in a position to do business with their Jerusalem and Jaffa branches. These, of course, are not the only branches with which, since the war began, the bank has been for a time unable to communicate or do business with. The full list of branches in communication with London and Manchester is as follows:—Paris and Marseilles; Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, Mansourah, and Minieh, in Egypt; Larnaca, Famagusta, Limasol, and Nicosia, in Cyprus; Salonika, Mitylene, Rhodes, Busreh, Jerusalem, and Jaffa.

Messrs. David Sassoon and Co., Ltd., announce that they have removed from 12, Leadenhall Street to 9, King William Street, E.C.

RANKEN CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS. AND HANOVER SQUARE,
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.
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For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")
WILKINSON'S
ESTD. SINCE 1829.
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*
SARSAPARILLA
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—MEDICAL REVIEW.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
"The late LORD CLYDE said:—I am never withou for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
'It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, Englan

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Stronger Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The strong feeling in the market has been well maintained. It has been very difficult for buyers to operate without paying full prices. Rather violent fluctuations have occurred in American cotton rates. Owing to the further cut in production, it does not now require a large amount of fresh business to keep the position of producers healthy, especially in view of the extensive requirements of the Government and the home trade. Although stocks of Egyptian cotton in Lancashire are extensive, further supplies are not coming in very freely, and the advance in war risk insurance rates from 5¼ per cent. to 6 per cent. has had the effect of stiffening values in Liverpool. Egyptian yarns continue to do very well, and we are able to report a larger turnover, especially in combed qualities. Producers have been very independent when fresh business has been offering. Shippers of cloth to Egypt have recently been much relieved by the larger amount of tonnage available, and substantial clearances from Manchester warehouses have been effected. The improved inquiry has continued, and miscellaneous sales have totalled to very fair dimensions. India has given rather increased support in light fabrics and printing cloths. Only occasional transactions have been mentioned for China, chiefly in Mexicans. Very few manufacturers are at all anxious for fresh orders. American yarns have been decidedly strong, and prices tend to advance, quite irrespective of raw cotton rates. There has been an urgent demand for prompt delivery, which has not been easily met. Export numbers have been sold in fair quantities for France, but Indian demand has been rather quieter.

COTTON PRICES IN INDIA.

Replying to a communication from the Controller of Prices regarding the desirability of preventing speculation and fixing a maximum price for cotton, in view of the recent rapid rise (says Reuter's Bombay correspondent in a message dated March 4), the Cotton Trade Association gave it as its opinion that it is inadvisable to interfere with the price, which is not abnormal but is due to the shortage of the world's supply. The association agreed on the necessity of steps for the control of speculation by outsiders. If a permanent remedy is sought the Government should grant the association a charter enabling it to control contracts similarly to the Liverpool Association.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son have reopened their office in Jerusalem.

India's imports in January amounted to Rs1.02,10,000, an increase of Rs7,52,000 on the figures for the corresponding month of last year, while the exports amounted to Rs1,53,48,000, an increase of Rs7,16,000.

Commander A. Houghton, R.N.R., President of the Mercantile Marine Service Association, whose death occurred recently at Liverpool, served for 25 years in India under the British India Steam Navigation Company, for 17 years being in command.

This year there is 35 per cent. more land in Egypt growing cereals than there was last year. All the crops are reported from 1 to 2 per cent. above normal, with the exception of wheat in Lower Egypt, which is 3 per cent. below, owing to the insufficiency of chemical manures. Cotton sowing is delayed on account of the cold and wet weather.

Sir C. Kirkman Finlay has resigned his seat on the boards of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Bakhtiari Oil Company, the First Exploitation Company, and the British Tanker Company, and the vacancies thus created have been filled by the appointment of Mr. R. I. Watson, who is a director of the British Petroleum Company and a member of the London Board of the Burmah Oil Company.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

Under the rules of the Suez Canal Company, if any cargo is once carried in a space exempted from the tonnage of the ship, that space is added permanently to the tonnage of the ship, and canal dues are charged on that space for ever afterwards. This prevents owners from carrying any goods whatever in the superstructures and other exempted spaces, and it is most important at the present time that ships should fill up every available space with foodstuffs and other essential commodities.

The Board of Trade recently proposed to the Suez Canal Company (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) that as a war emergency measure the above rule should be suspended during the war, and that if the cargo were carried in an exempted space, dues should be charged on that space on each occasion on which it was occupied by cargo, but that the space should not be permanently added to the tonnage of the ship. The Suez Canal Company at once, without any hesitation, accepted this suggestion as soon as it was put before them, and official letters have been sent to the Shipowners' Associations informing them of this decision.

G.C.R. AMBULANCE TRAIN.

An ambulance train for the American Army has just been completed at the carriage works of the Great Central Railway, and on its way to the port of embarkation the public will be given an opportunity of seeing it at the principal towns through which it passes, as follows:—London, Marylebone Station, Saturday, March 16; Leicester, Central, Sunday, March 17; Nottingham, Victoria, Monday, March 18; Lincoln, G.N. Passenger, Tuesday, March 19; Cleethorpes, Passenger, Wednesday, March 20; Sheffield, Victoria, Thursday, March 21; Manchester, Central, Friday, March 22; Liverpool Central, Saturday, March 23. The train may be styled as a "first aid" or "clearing" train, its prime functions being that of removing the sick and wounded from the battle area rather than that of a strictly "hospital" train. A charge of 1s. will be made to view the train, and the entire proceeds will be handed to the Red Cross for the purpose of providing additional comforts, etc., for our sick and wounded soldiers.

THE SERBIAN MISSION.

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool has received a letter from the Serbian Minister, written on behalf of the Serbian Government, expressing sincere thanks for the manner in which the members of the Serbian Industrial mission were entertained in that city.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin states that the Ottoman Government still remains in possession of the railway and its revenues. The accounts now presented are for the half-year to December 31, 1917, and incorporated therewith are the accounts from Smyrna to August 31, 1914, since which date no further returns have been received. These accounts are subject to adjustment as and when later returns are received. Certificates for the debenture interest for the half-year to December 31 last, amounting to £74,175, have been posted to the Four per Cent. and Five per Cent. debenture stockholders, in accordance with the resolutions passed at the special meeting of shareholders held on June 10, 1915.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Assam-Dooars Tea Co. have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, the same as a year ago.

In view of the delay in the mail service from the East, rendering it impossible to hold the general meeting for a few weeks, the directors of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., have declared a dividend for the year ended December 31, 1917, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less income-tax. Warrants will be posted 28th inst.

Oil Outputs.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Production week ended January 26, 63,375 poods.

Maikop Orient Oil.—Plot 435a, well 3.—Production for week ended February 23, 13,400 poods.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Production for week ended January 20, 36,967 poods, or 596 tons.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Total production of crude oil by this company and Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, amounted to 72,207 barels for February.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended March 1.	1918. Week ended Feb. 28.
Cattle markets	1,325	722
General markets	415	448
Receipts (£)	1,740	1,170
Total for year	14,652	10,649

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for eleven days ended January 31.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
Jan. 21-Jan. 13	7,388	10,894
April 1-Jan. 31	178,707	234,594

POWER LINE TO MOROCCO.

Regular Service of First-Class Steamers taking cargo to and from **London** and **Rabat, Larache Tangier, Casablanca, Maagan, Saffi** and **Mogador.** Loading Berth—MOROCCO WHARF, WAPPING'

SAILINGS FORTNIGHTLY.

The hulls of the above steamers are insured under the Government War Risk.
For Rates of Freight, Sailing Dates, etc., apply to **THE POWER STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.** (James Power & Co.).
158, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegraphic Address—"POUVOIR," London. Telephone—No. 1525 Avenue and 2541 City.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.

Established 1894.

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

HEAD OFFICE: 17 and 18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.
Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.
CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI — Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Business continues on a very restricted scale and the reactionary tendency noted last week in connection with subscriptions to War Loan has continued, but in the present state of the market business one way or the other has an altogether disproportionate effect upon prices. Most of the changes this week are again to a somewhat lower level, but few shares have changed hands on the way down, and any renewal of demand would therefore meet with a quick rebound in prices. All the news to hand from the other side continues very satisfactory in every respect.

In Government stocks the market has been exceptionally firm and both Unifieds and 3½ per cent. Prefs are ¼ better at 87 and 74 respectively, but the scarcity of sellers continues to interfere seriously with business.

In Banks, Agriculturals after dropping to 6¼ sellers, at which price several hundred were absorbed, are finishing unchanged at 6 5-16, some good buying having taken place on the decline. A fairly large business has been done in Agricultural Prefs round 6⅞, a decline of ⅛, since last week. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been an exceptionally firm spot and are a further ¼ up at 15. National Banks have receded ⅜ to 18⅛ on some small selling in a market without support.

In Railways Delta Light have remained firm at 7. The traffic receipts continue very satisfactory. In Land shares Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 24s., and Behéras on some trifling transactions have fallen ⅛ to 13⅝. Behéra Prefs are unchanged at 4⅜ ex. div. Delta Lands have changed hands in a small way at 14s. 6d., a decline of 6d.; whilst Foreign Trusts are 3d. higher at 10s. 9d., some business having been done as high as 11s. Gharbieh Lands are ⅛ off at 2 without coming to business, and Union Foncières have shed 1-32 at 3 1-16. In New Egyptians transactions have been on a fair scale and the price is 6d. down at 18s. 6d. Sidi Salems have receded 2s. 9d. to 46s., in consequence of a few sales on an unwilling market, and United Egyptian Lands are 3d. easier at 1s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares a fair amount of business has been going on in Markets round 26s. 9d., and also in Salts and Sodas chiefly between 40s. and 40s. 6d.: but the price in the latter instance closes 6d. down at 39s. 9d., there being sellers to-night on the market at 40s. In Khedivial Mails the generally easier tendency of shipping shares has caused a decline of 1s. 6d. to 38s. 9d.

Greek securities have been neglected apart from some transactions in Monopolies at 50½, a decline of ½. There are still sellers of "Currant" Bonds at 95. Bank of Athens shares have risen ¼ to 3½.

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INDIA GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The following statement shows the form in which the balance of the India gold standard reserve was held on February 28:—In India: Nil. In England: Cash placed by the Secretary for India at short notice, £6,014,499; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on September 30, 1917), £18,833,135; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £9,123,177—total, £33,970,811.

The *Deutsche Tageszeitung* says that supplies of petroleum in Germany are much less than last year despite all reports of progress in the production of oil in Roumania. The paper states that large quantities of petroleum are converted into lubricating oils for use in submarines.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

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GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances &c

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 6	Mar. 13
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86¾	87
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73¾	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	45	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73½	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	78
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	73
„ 4½ p.c., 1909	80	48	48
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 5/16	6 5/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	6⅞
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14¾	15
Bank of Athens	£2	3¼	3½
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7 7/16	7
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18½	18⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7	7
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4½
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13¾	13⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/-	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2⅛	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/-	18/6
Sidi Salem Co.	9/16	48/9	46/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 3/32	3 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/9	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	40/3	39/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	40/3	38/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 16.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18 7/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	95
„ „ D'v.	Frs.	121
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 11/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	14¼
„ priv.	L.E.	4⅝
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	168
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	96
„ Privilligiée	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	93
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 9/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 3/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 7/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	88¼
Privilégiée		77
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 13/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
„ Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
„ Ord		42/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	16
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	—
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
„ Jouissance	Frs.	174
Egyptian Markets		27/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	390
„ Div.	Frs.	340
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	281
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 11/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		41/1½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	742
„ Fondateur	Frs.	875
„ 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	378
„ 1903 „	Frs.	288
„ 1911 „	Frs.	279
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		9/16

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The Greek Government is drawing up a Bill for the introduction of the metric system.

The accounts of the Tunis tramways for 1917 show a net profit of 686,597 francs, as against 619,746 francs in 1916. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 1 franc per share, making, with the dividend of 3 francs paid last December, 4 per cent. for the year.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital	500,000
Reserve	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 359.—Vol. XIV.   FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Actual military news from the Eastern front, or fronts, has been lacking during the week. Neither in Palestine nor in Mesopotamia has any advance been made; on the other hand, the Turks made their anticipated entry into Erzerum—which they seem to have set on fire, as a prelude, no doubt, to the further disciplining of the wretched Armenians; the Bulgarians have made a violent attack on Monastir, and the Germans have pursued their " mission of liberation " as far as to occupy Odessa.

The Bulgarian activities have led to some speculation as to a possible offensive against Salonika. Bulgaria having obtained the Dobruja, naturally turns her attention to Macedonia; her desire to recapture Monastir is notorious. Austria, as well as Bulgaria, has ambitions to possess Salonika—a rivalry which has led to some heartburning in the past, and may again in the future; and Baron von Kühlmann, who evidently carries more and more weight in German foreign policy, is a resolute Easterner, as Prince Lichnowsky's Balkan revelations have proved. The general expectation of a Balkan offensive by Germany has derived some support from obscure hints in the German Press, which may mean anything or nothing, and from a chance sentence in a recent survey of the military situation by Mr. Bonar Law, who was not very optimistic as to the future of the Salonika force.

The German occupation of Odessa is another matter altogether. The enemy have now definitely got control of the Warsaw-Kieff and Lemberg-Odessa railway lines, and this serves three different objectives. It gives them the dominating factor in the collection and distribution of food in the Ukraine, which is of very great importance for the hungry folk of the Central Empires; it gives them the Russian Black Sea Fleet, which, although no longer a fighting force, is presumably still useful for purposes of transport; and it opens out to them a road into Central Asia. In this respect it is a further chapter in that great struggle between rail-power and sea-power into which the war has now developed.

The next move of the Germans in this region, if they are to make good their boast of securing a direct route between Berlin and Persia, will be awaited with interest. So far they have met with little opposition on their trip through the Ukraine to Odessa; they may find the going more difficult when they reach the Caucasus. But from this quarter the only news that has filtered through is a repetition of the statement that the Caucasus Republic has opened peace pourparlers with Turkey at Trebizond.

As regards the Roumanian negotiations, General Avarescu has resigned his post as Prime Minister, not altogether unexpectedly. Appointed at a critical moment at a time of supreme crisis, he was unable to secure the terms which he had hoped for from the Germans, and his resignation has been followed by the appointment of M. Marghiloman, who is understood to be more Germanophil. The main German demands are said to be (a) the prolongation of the former commercial treaty; (b) the delivery of surplus agricultural produce as long as the Central Powers require it; (c) the obligatory delivery of the oil surplus; (d) the guarantee of the interests of the Central Powers in regard to Roumanian railways; and (e) the guarantee of their shipping interests in the Lower Danube.

These drastic terms, it is clear, are equivalent to the systematic subjection and economic exploitation of Roumania for an indefinite period. It may be taken for granted that it will be Germany, and not Roumania, that will decide as to the amount of the surplus produce, as well as the rates paid for this export; the Roumanian railways will be run as a provincial section of the Prussian State Railways. And the contention of German professordom, originally put forward by Moltke, that the Danube, being a German stream at its source, must be a German stream throughout the whole course to its mouth, appears to have emerged in the last stipulation.

There have been various political activities in Bulgaria. M. Momchiloff, Vice-Presdient of the Sobranje, declares himself satisfied with the Dobruja settlement, and quotes Marshal Mackensen as expressing wonder that Bulgaria should for forty years have suffered and not tried the impossible to obtain restitution of this Bulgarian land. In other words, the German General is amazed at the moderation of his friends. M. Momchiloff remarked further that " Bulgaria will have her Dobruja without any diminuation of her sovereignty over the province, and without agreeing to economic stipulations. Let us have patience a little longer. Let us have confidence in the fidelity of our Allies and the star of Bulgaria." The published treaty of peace did not make it clear, nor is it yet certain that the sovereignty of Bulgaria over the Dobruja was recognised by the Central Powers—the province was stated to be ceded to them generally. Unless a further agreement has been arrived at between Bulgaria and her Allies—and M. Momchiloff does not even suggest it, whereas he would surely have published it had he had so valuable a document within his knowledge—the disposal of the Dobruja is left to Berlin to bargain with her Ally over it. For the moment, however, all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds at Sofia, with a faint suggestion, however, that "the fidelity of our allies" may become the fly in the ointment.

Conceivably, Bulgaria is to have the Dobruja, if she in turn consents to a frontier rectification with Turkey. These bargainings about territory, which are unwisely dismissed by idealists elsewhere as trivial in comparison with the new world order which is to be evolved, are the very stuff of statecraft in the Balkans, and not in the Balkans only. Turkey is said to have put forward her own demands for a rectification of frontier in the Adrianople district, and the return of the Adrianople-Dedeagatch line which was ceded to Bulgaria four years ago, and she claims that in this matter she has the support of Berlin. The statement is inherently probable, since Germany is almost bound to give Turkey some further compensation for her loss of Palestine and Mesopotamia, and the strip of territory in question was Turkish until the Balkan war. Germany at least has no objection to Turkey in Europe.

The mystery of King Constantine's allowance now appears to be solved. In a Bill laid before the Greek Chamber altering the law with regard to the royal allowance, it is announced that the Greek Government intends to give the ex-King a pension of half a million drachmae; the Government, however, reserve the right to suspend it at will. In other and less official language, the allowance is dependent on his good behaviour. Should he forfeit it, he would no doubt apply successfully to Berlin for a grant from his brother-in-law. The pension is not illiberal—King James II. received nothing from England after his misadventure—but it is not really a large charge on the Greek people, King Alexander's civil list being reduced from 2,000,000 drachmae to 1,600,000. Only 100,000 drachmae can, therefore, be said to be paid to King Constantine, at which price his transfer from Athens to Switzerland is cheap indeed.

The German design on Petrograd and Moscow gradually becomes clearer, but it still lacks definiteness—Moscow, it must be remembered, is the beginning of the trans-Asian railway. But to the south the enemy display no hesitation. They are already at Nicolaieff, east of Odessa, an important shipbuilding centre, and are now engaged in girdling the Black Sea, while inland they are on the road from Kieff to Kharkoff, the great industrial centre of Southern Russia; in these countries they are clearly aiming to secure an economic control intended to be permanent.

The Turks, too, are doing their share in the advance. The reoccupation of Kars may be reported any day, and they will no doubt soon be able to announce their entry into Batum, which is not only an industrial centre that will be useful to their masters in Berlin, but will serve as a jumping-off ground for the Caspian, whence the road to Persia and India opens out before them. It is a grandiose project, and there has been some disposition in England, particularly in quarters that are not too markedly favourable to the prosecution of the war to the bitter end, to treat this as a fantastic scheme repudiated by the sober statesmen of Berlin. But events are proving before our eyes that the Emperor William, like Napoleon and others before him, is dazzled by the prospect of eastern conquest, and that, foiled of his hopes of dominating the west, he has been driven eastwards. It still remains true that the Marne, Ypres, and Verdun were decisive battles in history, but while they saved the outer world from Teutonic mastery, their repercussion on the eastern frontier was not foreseen.

It is impossible, of course, to predict the German movements in the new eastern campaign; nor would it be wise, until more direct evidence arrives, to connect the local outbreak of the Marris, in Baluchistan, with German intrigue. But it is by no means impossible that they are now planning a forward move against the British force in Mesopotamia, and concerting measures for an advance into Persia. As to the former, it would probably be some months before they could throw an army against our forces in Baghdad—they are hardly likely to attempt a campaign during the heat of the coming summer—and General Marshall and the British Government have, therefore, ample time to make their dispositions.

At a time when there is some reason to suppose that the misunderstandings between Italians and the representatives of the Southern Slavs are in a fair way to be replaced by a working agreement between the two peoples regarding their future relations the articles appearing in our issue of last week and this week from the pen of Mr. Richard Bagot will be found of special interest. Writing with a profound knowledge of his subject, Mr. Bagot sets forth clearly the reasons which brought Italy into the war, and places the part which Irredentism played in the matter in its true perspective. On this evidence it is easier to understand recent Italian policy; how it is possible to regard in 1917 claims which seemed so urgent in 1915 as far less important than the necessity for a friendly relationship with the Jugoslav State that is to be.

Prince Lichnowsky has been punished, as was to be expected, for his indiscretion as to his views of German policy in Morocco and the Balkans before the war, as confided by him to his friends, who confided it to a neutral newspaper. It is quite clear that Prince Lichnowsky belonged to the older type of German politicians—a type which had considerable following and influence as recently as ten years ago. He inherited Bismarck's opinion that the whole of the Balkans were not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian soldier, and he distrusted altogether the policy of overseas adventure in Morocco, which culminated in the diplomatic defeat of Germany at Agadir. Undoubtedly his leading idea was to cultivate good relations with England and indirectly with France, and his tribute to Sir Edward Grey (as he then was) is frank and sincere. It is curious that the most convincing justification of British policy in the Balkans, which has often and with some reason been criticised here, should come from the last German Ambassador to London.

Since Prince Lichnowsky's opinions as to both the Balkan and Morocco policies of Berlin could scarcely have been unknown in the Wilhelmstrasse, it would remain somewhat of a mystery why he was ever appointed to London, were it not for the fact that Germany may have realised the advantage of having, as it were, an honest dummy to cover her real aims. Prince Lichnowsky was the face, Baron von Kuhlmann the brains behind the face, of German diplomacy in London before the war. It was not merely a dishonest but a dangerous policy which Germany pursued in London, but it does in fact seem to have achieved its purpose of misleading those who naturally thought that Prince Lichnowsky, as the accredited representative of his Government, was expressing their actual view. On the stage it is said that the good actor is not he who only feels his part, but is his part; Prince Lichnowsky came under this classification, because he was not an actor, but was sincere, and his sincerity misled England as to Germany's real aims. Against this type of diplomatic cunning nobody can be immune, for it strikes at the very root of all international intercourse.

The official account of the part taken by the Indian Cavalry in the fighting near Cambrai seems to have proved a disappointment to that large section of the public which expects in such narratives warmth, colour, and, above all, adjectives. Sir Douglas Haig is economical of these munitions, and the general reader must be content with his acknowledgment of the "most gallant and valuable service" rendered by the regiments engaged. To those who can read between the lines the report is more satisfying: the cavalry were set hard tasks, and they did what was expected of them in their traditional style. There is really nothing more to be said: people who have seen the Indian cavalry at work know what that means, and the rest of the world must rely upon its own imagination.

Talking of the Indian Army in the West, it will be interesting to see whether the Jats, who have added so greatly to their military reputation during the last three years, decide to take an active part in the political game in India. They have every right to do so quite apart from their recent services in the field, which, by the way, they are not likely to minimise, for a hundred odd years ago they were well in the running for the high stakes of Empire, and there is little doubt that, if India had been left to herself, they would have at least divided the country with the Marathas, probably extending their rule southward to the historic boundary of the Vindhyas. The English, however, came first, and the Jats then settled down to the performance of a less conspicuous but much more useful task.

That task was to adapt their agricultural system to the new conditions created by the construction of the earliest canals. They had little help from outside in those days when agricultural experts had not been invented, but they worked out the problem successfully, and, while they vastly improved their own position, they made the canals pay, and thus established irrigation as a practical policy for the country at large. They have, therefore, a triple claim to make their voices heard in the governance of India. There are nearly seven millions of them all told, hard fighters, hard workers, with an excellent conceit of themselves, and, though wanting in eloquence and forensic skill, quite able to hold their own in practical debate. They would contribute an element of the utmost value to the new councils, and India will undoubtedly be the gainer, if they decide to devote to politics some portion of the energy with which their community is so plentifully endowed.

The Jats, however, are not India, and his Majesty's gracious reception of representatives of the Chin Hills Labour Corps comes aptly to remind us of the solid, if inconspicuous, services rendered to the Empire by a very different section of the population. The Chins are, of course, recent additions to the Empire's strength, and surely it was unkind of a news agency to announce to the world that they "were formerly rebels." The fact is that when circumstances brought them within the orbit of Western civilisation, they did not at first take kindly to the idea, and they resisted it in the manner traditional to their country, part of the mountainous tract which so effectually separates Upper Burma from the plains of Eastern Bengal. If this be rebellion, we must agree with the chroniclers in applying the same word to the heroic resistance offered by the Rajputs of Udaipur to the rising tide of Moslem civilisation.

In any case, the Chins have now submitted to the inevitable, as is shown by the fact that no small proportion of their numbers are at present working hard on the Western front, and seeing for themselves one aspect at least of that civilisation of which they have so recently become partakers—the civilisation of shells and tanks and aeroplanes, designed to serve the same purposes as their more primitive *dahs* and spears. We wonder what they think of it all! Perhaps, however, it is more to the purpose to speculate on the effect of their return home, with pockets full of money, and all sorts of new wants which their hillside villages will not be able to meet. Changes are bound to follow, and probably not all of them will be for the better; but we may fairly hope that the balance will be favourable, and that these years of healthy and disciplined life will lead to a permanent alteration of some of those habits which their best friends deplore.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 18.

The School of Law.

Sir William Brunyate, the Acting Financial Adviser, gave a highly interesting lecture this week to the students of the Sultania School of Law, on the subject of books recommended for private study. In addition to the students and the Law School staff, the audience included the Prime Minister, the Acting Judicial Adviser, and a number of leading lawyers. It is proposed to invite members of the legal profession to deliver periodical addresses to the students, and Sir William's lecture was the first of the series.

Government Officials and the War.

The Government officials are again agitating for further war bonuses. The special committee which sat last summer to consider the position of the smallest category of employees has advised that the bonus then granted up to the end of the calendar year should be continued in the current year, and a further credit of some £E88,000 was passed at the last Council of Ministers to enable these payments to be made up to the close of the financial year, i.e., March 31. After that date they will be included in the ordinary Budget. This sum brings the total amount spent in this direction since August up to £E327,500. The officials in the categories just above those already dealt with have now sent in petitions for similar treatment, and the Government is considering their position. There is, indeed, little doubt that for people with fixed incomes the present steady rise in the cost of living is a very serious problem, and in view of the fact that most commercial institutions of any standing have granted their personnel additions to their ordinary pay to enable them to meet the heavy calls now made on them in every direction, there would appear to be some justification for the adoption by the Egyptian Government of measures similar to those introduced by the Home Government in the treatment of its smaller personnel.

The Petroleum Crisis.

There are signs that the petroleum crisis with which we were threatened is abating. Distribution centres have been opened up all over the city, and in each section special committees have been formed for the control of the supplies to be portioned out to each consumer. The scheme organised by Mr. Monteith Smith, the Petroleum Controller, appears to be working very well in Cairo, and he has now turned his attention to Alexandria, where he has been able to secure the services of Mr. Ralph Carver, of the firm of Carver Bros. and Co., as his representative in that city for the control of the local distribution. It is evident from the speediness with which the previous confusion has disappeared and from the absence of complaints that,

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whilst hoarding may have been a contributory factor, the main reason for the previous disgraceful state of affairs was the absence of any proper organisation. We now have what appears to be an efficient system of control, and there is every reason to hope that as far as petroleum is concerned the situation has been settled.

The Cotton Situation.

In view of the remarks made in this correspondence last week it is interesting to note that a Commission consisting of Sir H. L. Smith and Messrs. Fountain and Carter has arrived in Cairo from London in order to study the local cotton situation.

The members will not make a long stay in Egypt, but during their visit they will confer with the authorities and principal residents interested in the cotton industry. Their first two days have been occupied in visiting the High Commissioner, the Financial Adviser, the Ministers, etc.

A Hydrobiological Institute in Alexandria.

Some little while back I referred to a project for the creation of a hydrobiological institute in which the Sultan, then Prince Fuad, took a very great interest. The project has now materialised, and a decree has been issued instituting "L'Institut Sultanien d'Hydrobiologie Appliquée et d'Acclimatation." The statutes set forth that the object of this institution is the study of the marine flora and fauna in Egyptian waters, both maritime and inland, and generally all that has a bearing directly or indirectly on that study, and that to attain this object it will be necessary to make a census, and study the habits of the fish, migratory and otherwise, to be found in Egyptian waters, to make attempts at acclimatising fresh varieties of fish which might be useful to Egypt, to develop the industrial potentialities of the Egyptian Fisheries, to encourage and facilitate scientific research by the distribution of prizes, and to create aquariums for the purpose of interesting the general public. The headquarters of the Institute will be in Alexandria, and it will receive a subvention from the Government and the Municipality. Its foundation members include the late Sir Armand Ruffer, Dr. Granville, Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Robinson, Colonel G. G. Hunter Pasha, Mr. A. King Lewis, and Mr. A. G. M. Dickson. There will be a council of thirteen members, of whom two are to be Government delegates. For the first year Dr. G. Granville is president, and the two Government delegates are Captain Flower and Hopkinson Pasha. Little has hitherto been done to foster the local fishing industry, which as a matter of fact has distinctly retrograded of late years, and which in view of the urgent necessity for increasing the food supply of Egypt could have rendered material assistance in this respect had it been properly directed and organised. The Hydrobiological Institute of Alexandria, which owes its inception and foundation entirely to Sultan Fuad, should, therefore, fill a much-needed want in Egypt, and deserves every support.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Khartoum, February 3.

War and Prices.

The effect of the war on prices is now being more fully felt in Khartoum, and indeed throughout the Sudan. Stores of all sorts are beginning to run out, and there is great difficulty in getting new supplies. Moreover, the considerable demand for the native commodities has caused the price of meat to be raised, and stock is realising unprecedented prices. Animals that in pre-war times were worth only £6 or £7 are now fetching £20, and millet also is obtaining a very high price. Owing to a certain amount of competition, the price of gum rules higher than the opportunities of shipping would seem to justify. There is further a brisk trade in small quantities of henbane and similar drugs. Sennar has suffered rather a reverse, as the natives have grown a considerable quantity on irrigated land in the hope of the high prices holding. But the market is somewhat glutted, and the price is now only £1 as compared with the £2 previously reached, and it is a question whether this is adequate to justify the use of irrigated land.

Transport Problems.

Visitors to the Sudan are frequently impressed by the great possibilities of the country, but they are prone to forget the very great distances that raw products have to pass before reaching the normal forms of transport. Even when the Nile has been reached there may be a very long journey before the market can be attained, and the price, more especially with coal at its present rates, makes the moving of freight a serious consideration. The chief forms of export are grain, cattle, cotton and gum. These all up to the present, and mostly from their nature, are scattered over a wide area, and they have to be brought up to the nearest point of rail or water transport by some other means. In the South, where the "fly" exists, the only form of transport is the carrier, and that implies that the weight to be carried is limited, apart from the expense being very great. Further North the camel does indeed supply a form of transport, but there is a very great demand for camels for war purposes at the present time, and moreover it is slow and only practicable for a certain time of year, as the rains make the use of camels difficult and for economic purposes impossible. Cattle, it is true, can be moved on the hoof, but even so there is the necessity of finding grazing and watering for them on the way. The use of petrol-driven cars and trolleys has naturally been widely considered, but there are certain disadvantages that make this form not altogether convenient. A car is dependent on petrol, which is by no means easy to store in a country where the temperature is liable to rise as high as it does in the Sudan, and difficulties of getting adequate repairs in the wilds are obvious. In some parts, especially in the extreme South, the value of steam-driven cars and trolleys is a possibility that will doubtless be the subject of experiment, but over very large expanses the lack of water makes this form impossible. Normal wheeled traffic entails almost as much trouble for the making of roads as motors of any sort, and water in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the animals at the short distances apart that would be needful is only to be found in favoured places. It would appear that there are very great difficulties in the way of solving this problem without risking a great deal of money on a doubtful chance.

The Need for Light Railways.

The railway is the most obvious solution, but the amount of material to be moved along any one line is so small that it would not require one train a week, except in unusual circumstances, and the traffic would not justify the capital expenditure. It is in cases of this sort that the light railway, such as is common in Belgium or Italy, might provide the solution. The cost of building in the first instance is no doubt considerable; but the working expenses are very low, and there is no need for great speed, nor would it be impossible in some localities at least to run the engines on local fuel—*i.e.*, the wood of the forests through which such a line would run. Statistics are not attainable, but it would be interesting to know how far the cost of the transport of, for example, the Darfur expedition on camels would have gone to meet the price of a light railway over the same distance. The present rates for transport from Nahud to el Obeid are said to be 15s. a cwt., and though this is a tremendously inflated price, it is likely to be very high for a long period. If the total expended on the transport of merchants' and Government stores were added together at the present rates, there is little doubt that the substitution of a form of light railway would be seen to be at least as cheap. A light railway it would have to be, for this could be run on the same lines as the Khartoum Railway, which is in fact a light railway, and presumably this type of engine would not want the large amount of water that the heavy gauge railway requires. For instance, such a line from Gedaref to Mafaza and on to Sennar would find a very adequate amount of freight in the millet and gum grown in the immediate vicinity of the line, whilst a similar line to Nahud from the present railhead at el Obeid would open up large markets of gum and possibly of grain that have hitherto not been available to the market. If the fourth-class passengers on the normal railway are to be taken as a guide, such a line would not lack traffic for passengers only, and though the service might not run with perfect accuracy it would strike no unfamiliar note even then.

It is almost impossible to estimate the amount of trade goods that are carried out on these lines at present by camel, and the figure, if known, would only be a guide to the amount that can be easily absorbed. If there were greater facilities of transport, there is little doubt that there would be more to travel. In each case, too, the trade would be reaching out to possibilities of touching outside spheres, in the one case Abyssinia and in the other Wadai, whence there are caravans now to el Fasher.

MOROCCO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, January.

The Subjugation of the Tribes.

The winter seems to be having its usual effect on the work of subduing the remaining independent tribes in the mountains to the north-east of the French zone. The rain to some extent, no doubt, makes the supplying of the troops engaged in the task of holding and extending the frontier of a pacified country more difficult, but the weather conditions press much more hardly on their opponents. The cold and heavy snow in the mountains, besides the hardship caused to the mountain tribes themselves, inflict heavy losses on their flocks, which are now in many cases cut off from their old winter pastures on the plains. The tribes are compelled to recognise the precariousness of their position, and enter into negotiations with the French authorities, which, though perhaps designed chiefly to gain a temporary respite and help to tide over the difficulties of the winter months, often result in permanent submission.

It is not always fully realised how steadily progress has been made, by means both military and pacific, in opening up the country between North Morocco and Algeria. A few years ago the mountain tribes, self-governed and warlike, held, almost without a break, the line of the Atlas from north to south. Since then the great Makhzen Kaids of the south, the Glawa, and others, supported by the French military authorities and by the military posts, advanced further and further into the mountains, have completely broken the continuity of this line and greatly extended the Government authority east and south of Marakesh. In the north, the line from Fez through Tazza to Ujda, on the other side of the Atlas, strongly held and open to traffic, tends to cut off the mountain tribes of the centre from the independent tribes in the Spanish zone, and the road across the mountains, recently traversed by columns advancing to meet each other from the two sides of the Atlas, from Bu Denib and Mekinez, which will form a direct route from Fez and Mekinez to the Tafilet district, will, when held by the posts which will soon be formed, divide still further into blocks the still resisting tribes, and diminish very greatly their power of opposition.

The menace from hostile tribes once entirely removed, and the normal gauge line from Ujda through Tazza to Fez established, relations between Algeria and Morocco will become much closer, and there will be a great probability that some at least of the trade which now comes through the western ports will be diverted to Mediterranean ports and reach Morocco across the Algerian frontier, where the Customs dues are not 50 per cent. of those levied at the Atlantic ports.

A BALUCH TRIBE IN REVOLT.

The India Office issued the following statement on March 20:—

The attitude of the Marris, in Baluchistan, which has been unsatisfactory for some time, has recently culminated in a series of outrages.

Aided in some cases by Khotrans, they have cut telegraph wires, fired on trains, and destroyed Government property in several localities in and adjacent to their tribal area; they also organised and carried out attacks in force on our posts at Gumbaz and Fort Munro where they were completely repulsed and suffered many casualties. Their attitude, however, is still defiant, and punitive measures are now being undertaken against them.

Our aeroplanes have on two occasions recently bombed their tribal concentrations with effect.

His Highness the Khan of Kalat has very generously presented Rs. 4,000 (£266) for the provision of comforts for the sick and wounded in the operations.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 24.

The Currency Problem.

Athens is now suffering from a shortage of small change. The silver one-drachma and two-drachma pieces have suddenly disappeared, and the smaller denominations in nickel and copper are the only change now available. The high price of silver has apparently induced speculators to accumulate the silver coins, and as the public are evidently also hoarding, the Ministry of Finance has issued a notice to the Press to the effect that the real value of the drachma is only sixty centimes, that the drachma will not be accepted outside Greece beyond the intrinsic value of sixty centimes, that anyone requiring to buy silver coins should not pay more than the legal currency, and anyone demanding a higher rate will be punished under the law; that the State have ordered bank notes of one and two drachmas, and before putting them into circulation will deposit their equivalent in gold at the National Bank, and that, as soon as the notes ordered are put into circulation, the Government contemplate withdrawing the one and two silver drachmæ from circulation, in which case those silver coins will then only have their actual value as a piece of silver.

It is hoped that this announcement will check the hoarding.

The Census.

The results of the census showed that 30,000 bread tickets in excess of the population were in circulation, and a saving to this extent will be effected. The population of Athens amounted to 253,000 and of the Piræus 128,000.

The Lamia Outbreak.

The court martial continues to deal with the seditious movement at Lamia and Thebes. Several death sentences have been passed and carried into execution, and many have been degraded and sentenced to terms of imprisonment. The deportation of undesirables continues, and these measures cannot but have a salutary effect and act as a deterrent to the hare-brained imbued with royalist sentiments. Mme. Tsellos, the wife of a former Cabinet Minister, has been placed under arrest for having ordered a supply of photographs of the ex-King. The photographer has also been arrested for having printed numerous copies of a photograph of Constantine which had been received from Switzerland, and which were going to be used for propagandist purposes.

Mobilisation.

A decree has been issued calling to the colours four classes of reserves from this district and some of the islands, and this process of gradual mobilisation is likely to continue. Possibly as a precautionary measure, the fourth regiment of the Archipelago division has been brought down from the front. They marched through Stadium Street on their way to their barracks in their fighting kit and iron helmets escorted by a band of music and a squadron of cavalry, and were given an enthusiastic reception. After their arrival at their barracks they had an address of welcome from M. Venizelos.

A British Visitor.

There was quite a flutter on Thursday at the arrival of a distinguished British official. The secret of his identity was well kept, and it was not generally known that Sir Eric Geddes had been in Athens until the following day, when he was again on his journey. He was received by the King and lunched with the British Minister, M. Venizelos, M. and Mme. Politis, and Admiral Condouriotis being invited to meet him. Before Sir Eric left he had a conference with M. Venizelos and his colleagues, and then paid a visit to the arsenal. The papers attach much importance to this visit to Athens.

Yesterday an interesting lecture on the Philhellenes Hastings and Finlay was given by Mr. A. J. B. Wace, the Director of the British School of Archæology, to the members and visitors of the Athens branch of the Anglo-Hellenic League. The lecture was given in the hall of the Archæological Society before a very large and distinguished gathering of British, Americans, and Greeks. M. Venizelos was present, as well as the Earl and Countess Granville and the Legation staff.

This was the second lecture of the season, the previous one on Sir Charles Dilke having been given by Professor Andreadis a short time ago.

A PILGRIMAGE TO NICÆA.

THE CITY OF THE CREED AND THE CRUSADERS.

*(Concluded.)**

The three greatest events in the history of Nicæa are the meeting of the Great Council of the Christian Church in 325 A.D., the siege of the city in 1097 by a great army of Crusaders, and the establishment of an empire of Nicæa in 1204. Those who have read Marion Crawford's fascinating novel "Via Crucis" will remember that he lays an important portion of his plot at Nicæa. He is dealing with the ill-conducted Second Crusade under Conrad and Louis the Seventh of France, and represents the tidings of the first defeat of a portion of Conrad's army being brought to the army of the French King while encamped on the south side of Lake Ascanius. But the Second Crusade, like the second Council, has to do with Nicæa incidentally, as it were, and does not become a part of its vital history.

We sat for several hours that Whit Sunday afternoon among the ruins of what tradition and scholars now assert to have been the palace of the great Emperor Constantine, who presided over that first Council, held also near Whitsuntide. The deserted city before us was clad in all the beauty that the spring, with her ever-youthful touch, can command. The mountains to its right and left, beginning with brilliant green, were shaded off into purples, pearly greys, and blues. The air was fragrant with the flowers of the acacias. From the thicket of young mulberry trees, with which a portion of the space enclosed by the ancient walls of the city is covered, came the liquid, whistling aria, and then the happy lilting measure of the nightingale. Every now and then a bird, a near relative at least to the blue-jay, would flit from one tall acacia to another, displaying a ravishing flash of colour. The storks, the Hadji Babas (pilgrim fathers) of the Turks, were clattering with their bills their characteristic signals to each other from the ruined towers. At our side were the lovely waters of Lake Ascanius, no less beautiful than those of Geneva or Maggiore. The long stretch of walls and towers in front took on the rich colours of the glowing sunset. It was the place and the hour for the telling of great deeds.

We spoke of the Council; of the great Emperor halting between two opinions, not yet declaring himself a Christian, but wise enough to see that the band of stern men in his army who had accepted the Nazarene belief were more determined, more to be depended upon and more united in their common faith than were the adherents of a dozen different forms of Paganism; of the ardent fires of religious faith blazing up during every moment of the sitting of that great body of Bishops from every part of the then-known world; of Arius, with his determination to make an individuality of the God-man distinct and separate from the Father and the Holy Ghost; of Athanasius, the fiery young enthusiast from Alexandria, still more determined to support the unity of the Godhead. There were men in that Council (in *The* Council it might be called) with only one leg or one arm, and with other marks of physical torture suffered at the last great persecution under Diocletian, who had died only five years earlier. Profession of Faith, to these scarred "confessors," was a matter not of sentiment, but of the deadliest earnestness. That is why they builded better than they knew when they formulated the Creed which, in substance, is accepted practically by all Christendom to-day.

But other scenes associated with the place were brought with almost equal vividness to our minds that evening, as, for example, those connected with the siege of 1097. The Seljukian Turks were then in possession, and their Sultan was outside the walls with an army to harass the besiegers. The Crusaders under Godfrey de Bouillon, with their hundreds of thousands, were encamped on the heights to the right and left of where we were sitting. We recalled their horror when on their arrival they came to the camp of their predecessors of the previous year under Peter the Hermit, and found no traces of him or his followers but their bleaching bones; the mutual cruelties of the armies one to the other; the heads of the Turkish captives thrown into the city by Christians; the heads of Christian prisoners thrown over the walls as an answer by the Turks; the long protracted siege with hunger and slaughter unspeakable; the attempt of the Sultana to escape from the city by way of the lake; her capture by the Crusaders, and then the surrender of Nicæa to the soldiers of Alexis, who had come from Constantinople by night along the lake and had entered the city without the knowledge of the besieging army; the Crusading army's natural cry of "treachery" against the Greeks, while their leaders, who with wise forethought had determined not to allow the demoralisation of their army by allowing them to sack a Christian city, remained in their tents and said nothing of their agreement with Alexis. "Thus," said our historian, "the great body of the Crusaders was enabled to go upon its way to the Holy Land and enter upon its lawful business."

Then, passing over the intervening period, we spoke of the year 1204, when after various vicissitudes Nicæa was once more the capital of an empire. Under Theodore Lascaris, driven from Byzantium by the conquering Latins as a result of the Fourth Crusade, all that was most valiant in the Greek race sought refuge here. Greek learning made its home within these walls. Priests and monks brought their precious manuscripts here, dreamed of a glorious past, and looked forward confidently for the re-establishment of an empire whose capital should be again on the Golden Horn; worked so earnestly for it that soldiers and priests together realised their dream in 1258. That their dream was a brief one made it none the less real.

The city was captured by the Ottoman Turks in the fourteenth century, and the old walls are desolate to-day, except for the perennial beauty with which they are clothed by nature. Ivy and creeping plants of many kinds climb up from the ruined moat and drape with cool and picturesque hangings the towers and battered parapets that now have no armies to guard them and no enemies who would attack them. The roads that once led from every civilised country Nicæaward are mostly overgrown and deserted. But Nicæa, the tomb of three empires, set apart though it be in a far and now mostly forsaken land, in spirit still influences the world.

MARY A. POYNTER.

GERMANY AND THE CAUCASUS.

Mr. Ghambashidze, honorary secretary of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, gave a lecture last week on the Caucasus at a meeting of the United Russian Societies Association, held at King's College, Strand. He said that, owing to the danger now threatening from the Turks and Germans, the Caucasus had become almost the centre of the Middle Eastern situation. Of the 60,000 German colonists in the Caucasus, many had amassed large fortunes, though they had arrived in the country as poor peasants. In the face of the dissatisfaction of the natives of the Caucasus, owing to the insufficiency of land for their own purposes, Germany had decided to transfer her colonists from the Caucasus to German East Africa; but it was questionable now whether it would be possible for that scheme ever to be carried out. Whereas the Christians of Armenia and Georgia naturally were bitterly opposed to Turkey, it was quite otherwise with Tartary. Turkey was managed, not from Constantinople or Berlin, but by the Tartars in Baku, which was the centre of the Pan-Islamic movement. A Tartar doctor from Baku was vice-president of the Committee of Union and Progress in Constantinople, which had fostered the revolution in Persia. This situation constituted a great danger for the Allied cause. The oil deposits of Baku could be placed at the disposal of the Central Powers at a certain price. There was also a great amount of copper in the Caucasus, whose mineral deposits were sufficient to supply the munition factories of the whole world, though there was not a single factory there for the supply of the Caucasian Army, which had had to obtain all its munitions through Petrograd. When the Germans got to Batoum, on the Black Sea, they could do almost anything they liked. Among other things it would be possible to build there submarines for use in the Mediterranean.

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* The first and second parts of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of October 19 and February 22.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The War Office announcement regarding our occupation of Hit stated that the Turks had "retired to Salahie (seven miles upstream)"; another, later, announcement reported that they had continued their retirement as far as Baghdadie, or Khan Baghdadieh. These names may give rise to some confusion amongst those who do not know the country. The Salahieh—really we *must* have that final "h"—referred to is not the spot famed for its fine ruins, which lies some 160 miles farther upstream. It is, I suspect, a very modern place, and a very insignificant one, too. At any rate, I never heard of it when I covered the ground, and I cannot find it on any of some half-dozen maps. Khan Baghdadieh also is a mere halting place of no importance at all. In fact, with the possible exception of Meyadin, there is absolutely no place of any size between Hit and Deir (Deir-el-Zor); but there are some extremely picturesque villages, such as Anah and Fehemi, and the scenery is very fine. The ruins at (the upper) Salahieh, or Khan Khalessi, are also very interesting, and wonderfully situated on the edge of the bluffs overlooking the Central Mesopotamian plain—El Jezireh, as the Arabs calls it.

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A touching example of a rather rare quality, gratitude, was recently given in Egypt, when a prisoner, about to be released, presented his shirt to his gaoler, who had shown him numerous little kindnesses. The sequel to this pleasing and moral little tale is, however, not quite happy. The shirt, it seems, was not the grateful prisoner's to give away; and as a result he and his benefactor were arrested and sentenced to a month's imprisonment each. One wonders whether they will swop shirts when the month expires!

⁂

Examples of Germany's treachery continue to accumulate steadily and not slowly. We remember how, while swearing friendship for Islam, she was actually plotting how best to undermine Moslem influence in Africa, and how to outrage Moslems' feelings by the introduction of pig-breeding into their midst. Her scandalous breaking of her pledged word, and her cynical disregard of all considerations of humanity and of decency in regard to the sinking of defenceless ships, neutral as well as enemy, has led the world to regard her as the "mad dog" of Europe. Her fondness for working underground and for employing agents of the Bolo and Abbas Hilmi type have only served to accentuate the contempt felt by all honest men for her unique methods of "diplomacy." One almost wonders why the news agencies should think it worth while to add to the sorry story. But it must be acknowledged that often the news of these German "activities" is distinctly interesting, if no longer instructive.

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I am thinking, of course, of the instructions issued to the Turkish commanders on the Persian front by their German taskmasters, through the agency of one, Major Druffel, a German staff officer. Briefly put, these precious instructions were that the Turks should "discreetly" stir up the Kurds to harass the Russians in their withdrawal in every possible way; the greatest possible loss was to be inflicted on them, and the withdrawal was to be made "as costly to them (the Russians) as possible." The precious instructions do not mince matters at all. "In fact," they say, shamelessly, "the armistice should make no difference whatever to their action"—that is, to the action of the Kurds. In some ways the amazing document might almost have been taken from the pages of "Hajji Baba." Its tone and composition would not, for instance, have disgraced Shir Ali Beg. But, on the other hand, I like to think that no Persian "officer and gentleman" of the present time would ever demean himself by such treachery as this latest example of the Germans In matters of this kind the Orient must evidently look to Prussia for guidance in the future.

⁂

In pre-war days the price of provisions was hardly regarded as a first-class subject of conversation; but the war has rubbed off a good deal of polish here and there, and I gather that even in the Innermost Circle of the very Smartest Society people nowadays talk frankly of the "awful prices" of various edibles. That being so, there can be no harm in a mere freebooter like myself, with no pretension to manners, touching on the subject; and I may acknowledge without shame that I have been reading with lively interest a list of the "Current Bazaar Rates" in Busreh and Ashar. For the benefit of the British housewife—and the poor conversationalist!—I may perhaps reproduce a few prices. Thus a kidney costs 1 anna, and a liver 5 annas; a small chicken fetches 1 rupee, while a large one—who chooses the adjective, buyer or seller?—costs twice as much, and a "fowl, large," is 3 rupees. Eggs are 1 rupee a dozen. The Busreh housekeeper is lucky in being able to obtain dried figs (1 rupee 8 annas per oke) and dried apricots (2 rupees), water melons (1 rupee per wogia) and pomegranates (1 rupee 4 annas per wogia). Dates cost 8 annas for 7 lbs., instead of the 2s. a lb. that *we* must pay! Potatoes are 12 annas for an oke; and other vegetables to be obtained are tomatoes, bringal, carrots, pumpkins, dry onions, turnips, and radishes. So, even though there is no quotation for cucumbers, French beans, ladies' fingers, or spring onions, the choice of vegetables is comparatively large. Sugar and best tea are 2 rupees 8 annas and 3 rupees the oke respectively; cheese is 5 rupees 8 annas the wogia; and ghee—which is the great cooking fat of the country and of the Near East generally—is 7 rupees 8 annas the wogia. Kerosene is 3 rupees 8 annas the tin, and cigarettes vary from 1 anna to 2 rupees 12 annas per packet—a wide range of qualities seems to be indicated! For the benefit of the uninitiated, it may be well to mention that an oke equals two and four-fifths of a pound, and a wogia equals seven pounds.

CORSAIR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTENEGRO.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your correspondent, Mr. Taylor, in a recent issue credits me with ideas about Serbia and Jugoslavia for which there is no foundation, as I mentioned neither, save in a quotation. Another of your correspondents says:—"From long experience I would suggest that it is useless for any outsiders to attempt to meddle with matters which are purely internal affairs of the South Slavs." No doubt; but your correspondent herself has never been able to refrain from meddling with the affairs, internal and external, of many Balkan people, and no doubt did find it useless, especially as regards Montenegro, for without sympathy there is no understanding.

I see or hear from Montenegrins almost daily. Five have just been here, using, I noticed, the terms Serb and Serbian in the way it is necessary and desirable to use them, and, as regards any supposed leaning to Austria, as I have seen it stated elsewhere some have, I do not recall one in or out of Montenegro who did not regard Austria as a natural enemy. Diverse opinions are in every land, and political rebels to their Governments, but that does not always imply they are not loyal to their country. I think, if anyone here can speak of what Montenegrins feel, I can, for not only have I seen many here, but I receive letters and greetings from them from many lands, and have been the depository of their hopes, fears, and property, and throughout this war have given unceasing time and trouble to the alleviation of their wants.

I have just received on the best authority the assurance that Montenegro has not the smallest intention of making peace with Austria. But when one contemplates the fate of Roumania it may yet be she will have no choice but to submit. Whatever be the goal Montenegrins of diverse opinions aim at, and however divergent be their ways, it is, I think, always the same goal, and I find it difficult to exclude any Montenegrins from that belief.

Ere the actual outbreak of hostilities the Austrian Minister at Cetigne expressed to the Montenegrin Government his appreciation of its correct attitude over the Serajevo murder plot, and desired to know whether in case of complications with Serbia Montenegro would remain neutral, and intimated that in that case Austria would be prepared to concede territorial compensations to Montenegro, such as Skutari and its territory, Spizza, Budua, a part of Bosnia, rectifications of frontiers, etc. Montenegro's answer was to draw the sword and range herself beside Serbia, though all her resources were exhausted by the two previous wars, and she had neither men nor money, munitions nor food. The Montenegrin Government telegraphed to M. Pasitch:—"La Serbie peut compter sur l'appui fraternel et illimité du Montenegro, en ce moment d'où dépend le sort de la nation Serbe, et en toute autre occasion"; and the King of Montenegro telegraphed to his grandson, the Crown Prince of Serbia:—"Mes Montenegrins et moi sommes déjà sur les frontiers, prêts à mourir en defendant notre independence nationale." Well did they assist Serbia, for they held the positions they had taken from the Austrians to cover the Serbian retreat through Montenegro, which left their already starving country bare.

There has certainly been much unwise meddling with the internal affairs of the people of Albania by outsiders, with very unhappy results. When Count Berchtold and the Marquis di San Giuliano asked M. Philip Nogga, an Albanian, what Austria-Hungary and Italy could do for his countrymen, he replied:—"The most helpful thing would be to desist from distributing money among them, under any circumstances or for any purpose however praiseworthy"—an illuminating comment on the "philanthropic" efforts of people of various nationalities, which were often mistaken for or resolved themselves into political propaganda which created strife among the Albanians themselves, as well as with their neighbours.

The Albanians deserve sympathy. Their wrongs cry to heaven. Their cause has practically been ignored during this war, but not forgotten by all. They have lacked wise, discriminating friends. I agree with a remark once made to me by the late Bulgarian Minister here, M. Hadji Mishef, though I have no intention of doing more here than quote it, and that as a warning:—"Albania," he said, "was a chief contributory cause to the Balkan War, to the second war against Bulgaria, and to this third great war. When the war is over the Albanian question will remain." Few questions stand alone; they are intricately mixed up the one with the other, and though we use the words "chance," "by accident," and so on, I think most events are the logical outcome of what went before—links in a long chain of circumstances, though, even when looking back, it is not always easy to see it. A long acquaintance with many lands and their political questions, including a long familiarity with Germany, had prepared me for the many curious events of 1911, when war against us by Germany had, I have much reason to believe, been decided upon; and experiences and study of the situation in Germany, on the Adriatic littoral, in Corfu, in Montenegro, and in other places prepared me for further developments when war was frustrated in 1911, and prevented by famine, or an organised famine possibly, in the spring of 1912. Therefore, when in the waning summer of the latter year I left Montenegro, knowing war was to be in the Balkans, and that Montenegro had fixed upon the day, which she dared not postpone, as Austrian intervention had to be forestalled, and though matters called me back to England, in Vienna I assured myself of many things, warned some people of Austrian activity, and during long train journeys studied the curious pan-Germanic literature I had picked up in Vienna and elsewhere, and I foresaw clearly that not only was war in the Balkans coming, and that much would revolve round Albania, but that the dreaded European war was inevitable. But I trusted that the supposed cleverness, knowledge, and wisdom of the Entente Powers would be powerful enough so to control events, and by non-interference in the Balkan War, prevent our enemies, Germany and Austria, from precipitating the conflict until the favourable moment for us. The policy, however, entered upon by the Entente, and particularly by my own country, I did not foresee, and it astounded and dismayed me, and when the strange inharmonious concert of the neutral Great Powers started on its abnormal course I saw the great war looming nearer ahead, and our enemies being placed by our aid in a better position to wage it against us. Then, as now, I believed, and believe, that the most gigantic blunder was being perpetrated by our own Government, and that we would rue it for ever.

Meeting most of the Balkan peace delegates when they came to England later, and learning much of some ambassadorial views, which were not, perhaps, quite those made public through the abortive Ambassadorial Conference, where the three cousins, Prince Lichnowsky, Count Mensdorff Pouilly, and Count Benckendorf played leading parts, I was only more confirmed than ever in my belief as to the impossibility of evading the great war, if the fatal policy pursued was continued in the Balkans, as it was. The contending interests were too many and too great to permit of any real disinterested action on the part of the Great Powers—more rightly called Great Pirates in that case—and many curious little illustrative incidents came my way, which it is discreet for the present to consign to silence.

When the Great Powers in 1913 delivered their final ultimatum to King Nicolas over Skutari, I said to the King that if they took Skutari from him under such circumstances it made the great European War a certainty, for, for one thing, it meant the planting of Teutonic influence in Albania (one of the things the Balkan War was to prevent), which, with Constantinople in German power, was to form the nutcrackers to crush the Balkans between them and leave Germany, not Austria, who was merely her catspaw, in a position akin to that we occupied in regard to Egypt; for from German sources, especially from some in close touch with the German Emperor, I had learnt more than enough of what their real aims were.

They did take Skutari from Montenegro after she had won it to give it to the new State of Albania—set free from centuries of Turkish misrule principally by Montenegro—to which eventually, to please Austria and Germany, a German Potsdam officer prince was appointed as ruler, and, escorted by the Great Powers, that Prince went to his new kingdom. He did not get much beyond his port of entry, and was received by his "loving subjects" with shot and shell, whereupon the latter became "rebels."

But Germany was delighted, and the name of Albania was affixed to every possible article in shop windows, including feminine adornments, every German woman bursting forth in "Albania" blouses or sashes, and "the new German province" was on every tongue.

"Das Deutsche Leid," which pervaded Germany in so many poems and such pathetic fashion, was the ceaseless "sorrow" they had not been able to inflict their "Kultur" by fire, sword, or peaceful penetration on the lands lying between them and the Adriatic, on the Adriatic shores, and far beyond them; and Germany, in sentimental sorrowing greed for the possession of everyone's else property is a memory not to be forgotten.

When the Balkan War was over, in 1913, after a brief visit to England, where no one would listen to anything save "atrocities," and where the adherents of Bulgars, Greeks. Serbians, and so on bombarded one with pamphlets and "proofs" of the enormities of every one country but their own or their pet one, I went to friends in France and asked them to motor me all over the Franco-Belgian frontier to see where the Germans had entered in the war of 1870-71, and where they would enter in the coming war, just as they did; and then I went to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to see where they would enter there, just as they did; for within a year the great war came, and my friend's château was the first one entered in France by General von Kluck and his staff on the heels of the retreating British on August 25, 1914; and Montenegro and Serbia were fighting our common enemy, and under circumstances of such disadvantage, the result of the work of this Entente in concert with our enemies, the other Great Powers, that their task was rendered a doubly difficult one.

The Englishmen who worked so ardently to defeat and ruin Serbia and Montenegro, and to put our known enemies into Albania, are responsible for criminal folly for which there is no pardon. That they might not have realised fully what they were doing is no excuse. It was often enough pointed out to them. Yet some of these same people are still busy with the same methods and same evil policy, continuing the mischief and doing irreparable harm.

War was inevitable—the incident to serve as an excuse could easily be found or created; but, save for this foolish meddling, it might have been frustrated so far as to enable our side to control the time of its coming until we were more prepared—if that ever would have been—and the auspices more favourable.

Montenegro, to the delight of our enemies, was cast down, abandoned, and defeated, owing much of her disaster to Serbia and the Serbian staff she had been forced to have for her army, all this being quite in accord with the strange policy pursued against her for so long. And some of her enemies among her Allies saw in it a fitting opportunity to try to kick and rob her when she was down, though it was no employment for any honest or honourable person.

But there are defeats which are victories, as may be shown in this case. There is a star shining in the East, and we know the setting of a star is in no man's hand. The spirit that endureth is one of the most powerful things on earth, and the Montenegrins have it to the full. The proud may be cast down and the humble exalted, and yet over the gates of Montenegro may be written the words of a very old motto: "De ira eruté" . . . by the grace of God . . . saved!

I am, etc.,

C. D. Mackellar.

THE DEATH OF PRINCE MIRKO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read with pleasure the letter from Mr. Janitch in your last issue on the death of Prince Mirko.

We are none of us in a position either to defend Prince Mirko, in view of the fact that he has been a prisoner in the hands of the Austrians, suffering from an illness which, unfortunately, has ended fatally. But what is most pleasing to me, as it will be to everyone who wishes to spread amity and fraternity instead of discord among the South Slav peoples, is to recognise this spirit in the remarks of Mr. Janitch, and, if he will allow me, I congratulate him upon it.

We in England who are interested wish to see the South Slav peoples united in the right sense of the word, and they will only fall in the regard of all right-thinking people in this country if, at a time like this, they engage in any campaign of slander or discord, or show any attempt to take advantage of the situation for political aggrandisement.

On the other hand, it is not for any Englishman to interfere in the internal politics of the Slav countries. This is their affair, and their affair alone, but we can all sympathise with their aspirations, and all join in an enthusiastic desire to help them by every means in our power, not only to recover their own countries, but to see that the future atones for the past suffering, and that liberally and amply.

The only protest that can be made is against those Englishmen who identify themselves with a campaign of slander and attack. They associate themselves with one section of a political propagandist party who are already discredited by all who are made aware of their tactics.—I am, etc.,

Alex. Devine.

Northwood Park, Winchester, March 16, 1918.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE.*

To the phalanx of writers on personal records of the war, such as Ian Hay, Bartimeus, Ole Luk-Oie, and Sapper, comes a new author, "Conrad Cato" by designation, with a small volume on the trials and tribulations, humour and heroism of our river Navy in Mesopotamia. Nor is the newcomer the least worthy and entertaining of his kind; like an impressionist of incisive brushwork, he paints a delectable series of convases, the background whereof is the low banks of the Tigris and Euphrates stretching away almost endlessly in and out of floodtime to where the horizon line is broken irregularly by hills and mud-fortresses belching forth shell and shrapnel, by palm-groves and Arab villages baking in the glow of a tropical sun. The details of the picture are H.M. sloops, steamers, trawlers, barges, armoured "bellums" (gondola or punt-like native boats), and floating artillery devices of a picturesque if not very stable nature. The whole, were it not for the halo of tragedy which is War's prerogative, would be a delightfully naive and ingenuous chronicle of river picnics in the old Garden of Eden. As it is, however, the heroism and bravery, nonchalant as they are unaffected, of our naval officers and men in the campaign which ended in the capture of Baghdad, are overshadowed by the lamentable tragedy of Kut. So even are doings of our river boats ineffaceably tinged with the memory of that great and wonderfully noble failure—namely, the sinking of the relief ship Julnar within sight almost of the starving garrison in the beleaguered fort.

The height of our amphibians' glory—if such it can be termed—was reached in the operations which ended in the fall of Amarah, about which, as our author tells us, the only noteworthy comment of the Press was a petulant outcry by one of the weekly journals, wanting to know, "When is this picnic in Mesopotamia going to cease?" Roughly, the operation consisted in driving the Turks from their terra-firma positions in a flooded country to the north of Kurnah—a venture that necessitated a good deal of amphibious thought on the part of the General (General Townshend, as yet unknown to fame) and his staff. Artillery had to be accommodated on twin-bellums joined by means of planks—a most unreliable platform for 4-inch guns!—and the troops had to be taught to punt themselves across No Man's Land to the foot of the Turkish trenches. To the river sloops and launches again fell the lot of previously engaging the enemy batteries, of supporting the slow advance of the troops, and of towing such barges into position as were to be converted by sappers into bridges across unfordable canals—these few details will show the ingenuity displayed by our amphibious thinkers in overcoming a situation of an exceptionally complex nature. Our victory over the enemy was decisive, and he fled precipitately from his defensive positions in full retreat up the river in steamers, barges, maheilahs.

The total British force at the moment, counting in all the crews of the launches, the General, his staff, and a dozen privates, amounts to eighty-eight officers and men.

> A naval lieutenant is sent ashore in a skiff with six Tommies, and he makes straight for the Turkish barracks, where he finds quite a lot of soldiers, such as one often does find in barracks. He seeks out the commanding officer, and asks him how many men he has there. The number was between 400 and 500. "Is that all?" asks the naval lieutenant, then tell them to pile arms and fall in on the river bank. They will be stowed in barges and sent down the river at the first opportunity." Now, the commanding officer does not know that the total British force at Amarah is only eighty-eight, nor that the British Army is at least twenty-four hours behind the Navy. All he knows is that he has seen a steamer-load of discomfited infantry tearing up the river with an armed launch in chase, and that armed launches have guns. So he deems it wise not to argue the point. . . . And that is the story of the taking of Amarah.

With this quotation we may leave the first part of the book. It is followed by a number of short stories illustrating the humour and temper of the naval officers when the thermometer is somewhere near 120° F. in the shade and mosquitoes are about as pleasant as the ping! ping! of machine-gun bullets flying low across No Man's Land. Most of the stories are concerned with the doings of one Toby, a real or imagined character, who enters effectively in one tale entitled "Unmixed Bathing." Having been invited by four enthusiasts to go out shooting with them, he refuses, and they go off by themselves. Luck is against them, and in the afternoon they return to their "bellum," cursing their luck. They are met by an Arab sheikh who speaks broken English to them, is an admirer of the British naval officer, and tells them a lot about Arab lore. Yes, he has four wives. Would they like to see them? Well, if they promise not to approach them nor to attempt to speak with them, his boat will guide them to where his wives are bathing in a pond not far away. Our heroes jump at the offer, and off they trudge. They go miles and miles, getting hotter and hotter, more and more wearied until—they lose their guide. Filled with righteous wrath, they return to their "bellum," only to find Toby lounging therein and sipping a cooling drink. Beside him lie the discarded garments of an Arab sheikh!

C. R.

SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT.*

The two great volumes associated with the name of the late Fred T. Jane are too well known to need commendation to British readers; but a reminder may be given that they are still making their appearance during the war. *Jane's Fighting Ships,* rightly styled an encyclopædia of the navies of the world, is now edited by Mr. Maurice Prendergast. In deference to the requirements of the Defence of the Realm Act, the volume appears without the familiar silhouettes of British men-of-war, and naturally there can be no mention of the large number of new ships completed since the outbreak of the war or now building. A similar embargo applies to other navies; but it has been possible, in spite of these handicaps, to bring out a book of absorbing interest. The information regarding the German Navy is a special feature.

All the World's Aircraft is freed from some of the restrictions attaching to its naval colleague. The "errors of judgment" which have presented the enemy with some of our own models intact—the kindness has been reciprocated even more generously, be it remembered—have rendered secrecy in regard to these machines no longer necessary. The result is that some idea can be formed from this book of the wonderful variety of craft that go up into the air, from the monster Handley Page to the waspish "Scout Experimental," which tucks itself away under half a wing of its big brother. The novelty of the air service causes more interest to attach to aircraft illustrations than to those of ships, and with these the volume is wonderfully supplied. It is, moreover, a complete *vade mecum* for the air service, not the least important section being an introductory glossary of terms. It is well that the reader should be reminded that the Service is still in its infancy, for who can doubt that the achievements of what is virtually the tenth year of its existence will be speedily left behind. Hence the tables showing "the step-by-step progress," though short enough, are most eloquent. An engineering section describes the world's aero-engines and aeromotor development in 1916; there are chapters also on historical aircraft, on war balloons and parachutes, and a brief history of modern aeronautics by Mr. C. G. Grey, who is also the editor of the volume. The intelligent interest in aeronautics that this book stimulates is a duty to our generation.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Philips' Strategical Map of Palestine, Syria and Sinai Peninsula. Politically coloured. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net. Mounted on cloth, 6s. net; with rollers and varnished, 8s. 6d. net.)

Philips' Strategical Map of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor. Physically coloured. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

Beyond the Rhine: Memories of Art and Life in Germany before the War. By Marc Henry. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. 6d. net.)

The Deliverance of Jerusalem. By E. W. G. Masterman, M.D., F.R.C.S. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

Great Britain, Palestine, Russia, and the Jews. A reprint of Canon Hoare's *Palestine, Russia,* brought up to date. By the Rev. E. L. Langston. (London: Chas. J. Thynne. 1s. 6d. net.)

La Bulgarie en Guerre. By Léon Savadjian. Preface by Maurice Muret and Letter from George Fazy. (Geneva: Georg and Cie.)

De la Succession d'Autriche. By Etienne Fournol. (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 3f. 50.)

Bharata. By Kedar Nath Das Gupta, in conjunction with Margaret G. Mitchell. (London: Union of the East and West. 1s. net.)

We are asked to state that Mr. Van de Linde's "Reminiscences," recently reviewed in these columns, were published for the benefit of the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Association. The author has contributed upwards of £4,000 to its funds. He duplicates new subscriptions and defrays its working expenses in order that the entire income may be devoted to the relief of needy applicants.

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* "The Navy in Mesopotamia—1914 to 1917." By "Conrad Cato." (Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)

* "Jane's Fighting Ships, 1917." 25s. net. "Jane's All the World's Aircraft, 1917." 21s. (London and Edinburgh: Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Ltd).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. March.	1918. March.		1336. Jomada II.	5678. Nisan.
22	9	Friday	9	9
23	10	Saturday..........	10	10
24	11	Sunday	11	11
25	12	Monday	12	12
26	13	Tuesday	13	13
27	14	Wednesday	14	14
28	15	Thursday	15	15

A Greek Legation is to be established in Tokyo.

Mr. Augustus van Millingen returned to Egypt last month.

Dr. Margaret Dobson will shortly go to Egypt on war service.

Greek reservists of the 1909 and 1910 classes have been called to the Colours.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James, has left Berne for Roumania.

According to a Bucharest telegram to Amsterdam, M. Marghiloman has been appointed Roumanian Prime Minister.

Sir Arthur Hirtzel underwent an operation in a nursing home on March 22, and is reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

It is reported that a French officer has taken charge of the Department of Military Justice at the Greek Ministry of War.

Second Lieut. A. P. Dale, who has been accidentally killed while flying in Egypt, was the Unionist agent at Chesterfield.

Mr. Contomichaelos, president of the Greek community of Khartoum, has given LE.1,000 to the schools of that community.

Mr. George Enger, who has been on a visit to the Sudd region to study the commercial possibilities of the district, has returned to Egypt.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, stated in the Sobranje that Bulgaria supported the idea of an independent Albanian State.

Lord Inchcape has consented to act as trustee and as a member of the National Committee on Sea Training, in place of the late Earl Brassey.

On March 21, the commencement of the Persian New Year, the Persian Minister received members of the Persian colony and friends at the Legation.

Austrian and Turkish ambulances, according to the frontier correspondent of the Amsterdam *Telegraaf*, have arrived at Cologne and Düsseldorf.

Prince Alexander, the Prince Regent of Serbia, attended a Requiem Mass at the Serbian Church at Corfu on March 14 in memory of his uncle, Prince Mirko of Montenegro.

The engagement is announced between Captain F. Gwatkin, Lancers, Indian Army, and Alys, youngest daughter of Colonel E. C. Stanton (late R.E.), of Allington Lodge, Merton Park.

Miss Gertrude Bell has been awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for her important explorations and travels in Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and on the Euphrates.

The "London Gazette" announces that the King of the Hellenes has conferred the honour of Commander of the Order of the Redeemer upon Captain Francis R. Scarlett, D.S.O., R.N.

Mr. Thomas Fraser, of Chesterfield Gardens, Hampstead, one of the managers of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, who died on January 18, left estate of the value of £53,964.

The Serbian Legation in London again denies in the most categorical terms that there have been peace *pourparlers* between Serbia and the Central Powers. "Serbia remains true to her ideals and faithful to her friends."

Dr. Trumbitch, president of the Jugoslav Committee in London, was received by Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on March 20 (states Reuter's Agency). Dr. Trumbitch explained fully to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs the aspirations of the Jugoslavs for their liberation from Austria-Hungary and their union with their kinsmen in Serbia and Montenegro in one independent State. Mr. Balfour, in reply, warmly expressed the sympathy, which is traditional, of Great Britain for the subject nationalities.

Sailendra Nath Ghose, who is under indictment at San Francisco with other Hindus and Germans, charged with plotting a military uprising in India, has been arrested and admitted to bail in £5,000.

Lady Mond will preside on March 26, at three, at 35, Lowndes Square, at a meeting in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, when Father Nicolai Velimirovic will speak on "Features of Serbian History."

Bulgarian officials in occupied Serbia are reported to be forcing the Serbian population at the point of the sword to sign documents designed to make the world believe that the people desire union with Bulgaria.

A census of Busreh and Ashar made in August, 1916, gave the total civilian population as 28,213. According to a municipal estimate, the numbers are now close upon 59,000, excluding formed Labour corps.

In an interview with a representative of the Amsterdam "Jewish Correspondence Bureau," Dr. Heemskerk, ex-Prime Minister of Holland, advocates the formation of an independent Jewish State in Palestine.

A Constantinople telegram to the *Cologne Gazette* announces that, on the urgent proposal of the Minister of Marine, Djemal Pasha, the Chamber of Deputies voted an extraordinary naval credit of £T1,000,000.

Three designs were received for the Australian monument to be erected on the banks of the Suez Canal, two from Australians and one from an Italian. It was expected that the decision would be taken early this month.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. Harold P. B. Hoare, Indian Army, only son of the late Rev. H. G. Hoare, and Mrs. Hoare, Peshawar, and Kathleen Marion, second daughter of Mr. J. S. and Mrs. Manning, Madras and Reading.

Miss Constance Clark, of the nursing staff of the Royal Naval Hospital at Malta, has had conferred on her the French silver medal for the treatment of epidemic diseases, in recognition of her services to French naval officers and shipwrecked sailors.

On the departure from Jassy of General Berthelot with the French Mission, a deputation from the Roumanian Parliament handed him an address. The scene was a most poignant one, both the Roumanians and the Frenchmen being visibly affected.

Wild elephants have caused considerable havoc in the paddy fields in the neighbourhood of Kurumbranad (Malabar district, Madras). One of the herds, numbering between forty and fifty, is led by a magnificent bull, the sight of whom frightens away the watchers protecting the crops.

The King inspected a party of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain E. O. Fowler, I.A.R.O., at Buckingham Palace, on March 16. The party is composed of men from the Chin Hills in Upper Burma, who are on leave from the front.

What is described as probably the best Y.M.C.A. hut of its kind in Mesopotamia was formally opened and dedicated on January 7 at the British Advance Depôt at Amarah. The hut, which is built of brick, with a corrugated iron roof, is 140 ft. long and 30 ft. broad, and is lighted with electricity.

The Czech Press Bureau states that while in Great Britain, France, and Italy the movement for a united action of the Slavs and Latins of Central Europe is steadily growing stronger, the Slavs in Austria also are actively engaged in coming to a common agreement in their opposition against the Central Powers.

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Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON.
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The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Major-General Sir George Kenneth Scott-Moncrieff, K.C.B., C.I.E., Director of Fortifications and Works, War Office, to be an additional Member of the Second Class or Knight Commanders of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

While protesting against their non-admission to the Greek Parliament, the deputies for Northern Epirus have submitted to the Chamber a memorandum enumerating the trials to which the Greek population of Northern Epirus is being subjected by bands of Albanians, and recording that these Greeks are deprived of national education, of opportunities of practising their religion, and of all their political and communal rights.

An infantry sword has been added by the Serbian Ministry of War to the collection of swords of the Allies at the Tower of London. This is the only example in the collection that has been actually in service. It was used by Colonel Voislav St. Pavlovitch, colonel of the 4th Infantry Regiment, a kinsman of King Peter I. He was killed, sword in hand, at the head of his regiment on the Salonika front in November, 1916.

Among other signs of the Italo-Jugoslav rapprochement, says the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, is the Serbian Government's decision to send 200 students now in France and Switzerland to prosecute their studies in Italian technical and normal schools. The Italian Government has promised to accord facilities to Serbian students at Italian Universities, and a Serbian elementary school will be opened at Rome shortly by the Serbian authorities, which Italian children also can attend.

The Montenegrin Premier, through Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General, denies the report that Prince Mirko had abandoned the cause of his country. Prince Mirko was unable to leave Montenegro when the country was evacuated, as he was suffering from a pulmonary affection to which he has just succumbed. Though compelled to remain in Montenegro, he did all in his power to assist his countrymen against the invaders. It was in consequence of a decree of the Austrian authorities that he was removed to a sanatorium near Vienna, where he died, faithful to the last to his King, his country, and the Allies.

Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated March 15, says:—The Government yesterday laid before the Chamber a Bill altering the law which dealt with the Royal Civil List and fixing the allowance to be paid to ex-King Constantine. In the preamble to the Bill the payment of an allowance to the ex-King is said to be justified by the Government's decision to annul the Budget grant to King Constantine. An annual allowance of 500,000 drachmæ (£20,000) is now accorded to the ex-King, the Government, however, reserving the right to suspend payment of it at will. King Alexander's Civil List is reduced from 2,000,000 drachmæ to 1,600,000 drachmæ (£64,000) An annuity of 300,000 drachmæ (£12,000) is granted to the Queen Dowager Olga.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Pearson, Royal Engineers, Director of Surveys, Sudan Government, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Bimbashi F. A. L. Lawrence has been transferred from the Sudanese to the Western Arab Corps; Bimbashi E. R. Sauter from the Sudanese to the Equatorial Battalion; and Bimbashi W. M. H. Pollen, M.C., from the Equatorial Battalion to the Sudanese.

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OBITUARY.

The death took place, on February 21, at Alexandria, of M. Nicolas Lombardo, one of the oldest members of the Italian colony in Egypt.

The death has occurred at Hsipaw, Burmah, of Mr. William Vivian Hoey, of the Indian Civil Service. He was educated at Bedford Grammar School and Brasenose College, Oxford.

Major-General Harding Steward, C.M.G., who died at Newton Lodge, Nailsworth, Glos, on March 15, in his 83rd year, served in Malta, the Ionian Isles and elsewhere with the Royal Engineers.

Admiral John William Brackenbury, C.B., C.M.G., who died at his residence at Hampstead on March 15, commanded the "Thalia" in the Egyptian War, 1882, receiving the Egyptian medal, the bronze star, and the Third Class of the Medjidieh.

Colonel Samuel Hunter Cowan, whose death has taken place at Torquay at the age of seventy-six years, obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery in 1859, and was appointed assistant superintendent in the Survey Department, Bengal, in 1867. He held charge of the Cachar Survey and later of the Hugli River Survey.

Lieut.-Colonel John Hobart Tyler, whose death has occurred at his residence in Clevedon, was attached to the 60th Rifles during the Mutiny, and served at the siege of Delhi and was severely wounded. He was for a considerable time officer in charge of the guard over the King of Delhi, and was twice mentioned in despatches.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918.

GERMANY'S GAMBLE IN ASIA.

All that is happening in the East points to the fact that Germany is about to embark upon a gigantic gamble in Asia. The purpose of the German Government is probably threefold; it wishes to hearten its own people with a view to strengthening their powers of resistance; it hopes to galvanise the Turks to further effort; and it is minded to stake out as wide a claim as possible in order to have a substantial margin for bargaining when the inevitable day of reckoning comes. If by chance the collapse of Russia were to be repeated in other countries of the Alliance, then the gains in Asia would represent the coping stone to world-domination; but if something has to be sacrificed in the West or overseas, the foundations now being laid around the Black Sea and the Caspian will at least stand Germany in good stead when the time comes to pick up again the threads of a policy which by a miscalculation has on this occasion overreached itself. The war has taught the Allies that German designs cannot be treated with indifference; even where they fall short of complete realisation, they are usually formidable enough to be more than embarrassing. For the moment the Germans appear to have everything at their feet. Russia, for all the blustering of the Bolsheviks, has been pushed impotent on one side; the treaty with Roumania is not yet ratified, but Mackensen is completely master of the situation in that country. More important still, Odessa and Nicolaieff have been reached by German troops. It is hardly to be expected in the hopeless chaos in which the whole of Russia finds herself that effective steps will have been taken to prevent the whole of the shipping at these ports from falling into German hands. Even if the bulk of it should have sought refuge elsewhere, it can only be a matter of time before the Germans, with the help of the Turkish navy, will have taken possession of the Black Sea Fleet and of all the vessels sheltering in Russian harbours. Then with Batum and Kars, according to the terms of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, ceded to Turkey, they will be established at the two ends of the railway system which leads to Baku on the Caspian Sea and Tabriz in North-Western Persia. Germany will have established her footing in the Middle East, and will have in her grasp a far less vulnerable route to India than the one which, passing through Baghdad, would have to skirt the shores of the Persian Gulf.

The vista thus opened up is already being painted in attractive colours for the edification of the German public; for optimism just now is at a premium, and *Zukunftsmusik* is the official remedy for domestic troubles. As the programme is not entirely dependent on the victorious advance of any considerable Turco-German force, but relies mainly on the helplessness of the populations concerned to withstand German intrigue, its defeat will not be effected completely by the final success of the Allies in the West. For this reason e menace ought to be combated on the spot. The first rift in the enemy's lute is supplied by the people of the Caucasus, who are displaying no readiness to acquiesce in the surrender of Russian territory to the Turks, although it would be a mistake to place much reliance upon their capacity to stay the German advance. A further asset for the Allies is to be found in the Persians themselves. They are essential to the success of the German scheme, in so far as their territory constitutes a large section of the prospective corridor to India. The railway from Krasnovodsk, on the eastern shore of the Caspian opposite Baku, to Tashkend, with its branch line to the Afghan frontier, offers a second string to Germany's bow, but would by itself be unequal to support the German scheme, if Persia proved unfriendly. The attitude of Persia must at best be an expectant one. She can hardly be blamed for failing to grasp the real inwardness of the situation in Europe. Russia, the personification of the all-powerful, who had to be placated at every turn by Great Britain, she sees humbled to the dust. Is it to be wondered at that the Persians find that there was something behind German boasts and German gold? The Teheran Government may be capable of forming a shrewder estimate of the position; but its authority to-day is restricted. It knows that Persia cannot stand alone; that she must look to a European Power, if only for the indispensable financial assistance without which Teheran could not hope to remain even a figurehead. Not unnaturally it desires to recover its lost authority, and therefore must lend an ear to any definite expression of opinion in the country. The peculiar situation in Azerbaijan, when Russia was still Imperialist, lent special weight to that province. To-day it is the part of Persia most exposed to Bolshevik and, consequently, German influence. For this reason the course of events in Azerbaijan needs to be closely watched.

The immediate task of the Allies ought to be the strengthening of the two forces which offer to bar Germany's way eastwards from the Black Sea. Direct intervention in the Caucasus is out of the question. It has not even been possible to send a mission to Tiflis. Great Britain, however, occupies a unique position in Persia, and there should be no difficulty now in making it clear to the Persian Government and people that the British have no other desire than to see them a united and efficient State. Organised and enlightened administration, however, cannot be established by a hopelessly corrupt bureaucracy, nor does constitutional government necessarily spell sound finance. It may be that the signal success achieved by Sir Percy Sykes and his South Persian Rifles will convince the Persians that their chances of national salvation lie in having the work of government carried out by Persians under efficient foreign supervision. The early introduction of this principle on a comprehensive scale offers the best bulwark against German penetration. In the meantime, the attention of the enemy must be diverted from grandiose schemes for the future to more urgent problems nearer home. Neither General Marshall nor General Allenby can annihilate distance, and Aleppo remains a long way from Hit and from Nablus. But Turkey no longer has her heart in the war; and if she can be made to realise the irresistible nature of the advance from these two ends of her empire, there may be a call for the diplomatist to complete the work begun by the soldier. There remains in the hands of the Allies the most effective weapon of all, the utilisation of the Japanese Army not only to drive back the insignificant forces with which the Germans are now able to overrun Russia, but also to bring back self-respect to the Russians and enable them to rally for the defence and integrity of their own country. The Allies' hesitation in coming to a decision on this point has, it is to be feared, given time for party politics in Japan to exercise a dilatory influence. A clearer comprehension of the extent of the German menace would, perhaps, have allowed the Japanese expedition to be by now well on its way westwards across Siberia.

PRO-AUSTRIAN PROPAGANDA AND ITALY—II.

BY RICHARD BAGOT.

In the preceding portion of this article, the misconceptions, carefully fostered by the pro-Austrian propagandists in this country regarding the mental capacity of the Italian people to be a judge of Italian national interests and necessities, were briefly considered. We may now pass to the examination of the present attitude of Italy towards the questions in which she, more than any of her Allies, is vitally concerned; the justice of that attitude and its loyalty towards the primary objects for which the Allies are waging war on the Central Empires; and the injustice and disloyalty to the cause of the Allies of which our Austrophils, consciously or unconsciously, are guilty by lending themselves as instruments of a propaganda the sources of which must be only too evident to those acquainted with the mazes of pro-German and Vaticanist intrigues both in Italy and elsewhere.

It has frequently been stated, and with entire truth, that the entry of Italy into the war was due to the influence of a minority. But there would appear to be some danger of its being forgotten that this minority trusted to the good faith and loyalty of Great Britain, France, and Russia, which Powers had lost no opportunity of pointing out to the Italians that only by ranging themselves on the side of the Triple Entente, fighting for the protection and the rights of weaker nationalities, could Italy hope to accomplish the liberation of her own unredeemed peoples, the legitimate rectification of her frontiers, and the final completion of her national unity. It has already been shown how Irredentism had practically ceased to be anything more than a pious tradition among the great mass of the Italian people—and allusion was made to the somewhat cynical attitude frequently to be met with in central and southern Italy towards the idea of liberating Austrian subjects of Italian race from the hateful and tyrannical Hapsburg rule. It would be misleading, however, to take that cynicism too seriously; and, so far as the argument occasionally heard, to the effect that the Italian subjects of Austria had it in their own power to free themselves from the Hapsburg yoke by emigration, is concerned, it must be remembered that such an argument is certainly not employed by patriotic Italians belonging to any region of the Italian kingdom. It was precisely among that minority which brought Italy into the war that the true spirit of Irredentism had never ceased to exist. Three reasons may be said to have made it possible for a minority to persuade the majority of the Italian people to abandon neutrality and to confront with equanimity, and even with enthusiasm, war with a powerful and treacherous neighbour, and the certain prospect of war also with Germany. The first of these reasons was the universal indignation caused by the discovery that the national honour was being outraged by the intrigues carried on between a certain political group and Prince von Bülow, with the object of bribing Italy to maintain neutrality at the price of a pretended cession by Austria of territory, a cession which would obviously have been revoked in the case of a final victory on the part of the Central Empires. The second reason was the horror and indignation caused by the monstrous acts of unbridled barbarism committed by the Germans in Belgium, in France, and on the seas—acts which were rightly regarded by the Italian people as a direct menace to the principles of Latin civilisation. The third reason was the contempt and disgust inspired by the cynical indifference to those acts, and the manifestly pro-German and pro-Austrian attitude assumed by the Vatican and by the new Pope, Benedict XV.—an attitude maintained until it became evident that the war could end in no overwhelming, if any, victory for the Central Empires. It has, we believe, scarcely been realised in this country how much peace meant to Italy. The nation had barely commenced to recover the effects, moral and economic, of the war with Turkey. Italian commerce, finance, and social progression of all kinds had in the fifteen or twenty years prior to 1914 been steadily and rapidly advancing, and the maintenance of peace alone could contribute to a further development and continuance of those conditions. It was no unworthy motive of egoism, whether " sacred " or not, which caused the majority of the Italian people to suffer itself to be persuaded by a minority and to abandon peace and prosperity—for war. The nation had to choose between fighting for the great principles of Latin civilisation, and a passive attitude towards the foes bent upon the destruction of that civilisation; between national honour and national dishonour; between the realisation of the policy of the great Italians of the Risorgimento and the policy of the sacristy and the " commercial penetration " of Berlin and Vienna. The Nationalist and Interventionist parties could scarcely be blamed if, conscious that neutrality signified the pursuance of a policy dictated by the enemies, external and internal, of Italy, they sought to reawaken in the hearts of the people the spirit of Irredentism by insisting upon the political and material advantages of grasping so great an opportunity of rectifying frontiers which constituted a permanent national weakness and danger, and of extending the spheres of Italian supremacy. The Irredentists, among whom Irredentism, and all for which it stood, was still a sacred aspiration yet to be realised, could scarcely be blamed if they recognised that the moment had arrived for the completion of Italian unity. We are not concerned in these pages with the justice or injustice of Italian claims over the eastern Adriatic provinces. Like all national and political movements, Irredentism has ever had its *intransigeance*; and it has been certainly unfortunate that its more exaggerated supporters have been led into equally exaggerated claims by a political group which a very large—perhaps the great majority—of the Italian people, as has already been observed, has somewhat humorously qualified as *i nostri Prussiani*. We are concerned, rather, with showing how the propaganda now being carried on in this country in favour of a conciliatory policy towards Austria-Hungary cannot but be regarded with the greatest suspicion on account both of its original sources and of its ulterior objects, as well as on account of the consequences its adoption by the British Government would inevitably produce.

The pro-Austrian propagandists have found in this country a field exceptionally suitable to their purposes. The British public is, and always has been, even more ignorant, if possible, of the Austrian system of government and of Austrian foreign policy than it has been of modern Italy and the character and aspirations of the modern Italian people. A sentimental and curiously erroneous conception of the individuality of the late Austrian Emperor, based, apparently, on sympathy with him for a series of family tragedies which his own actions and conduct were largely responsible for bringing about, and also on the fact of his unusually lengthy reign, was sufficient to distract the mind of a people traditionally indifferent to the foreign policy of Continental States and their rulers from the almost unexampled record of political treachery, intolerance, and oppression of his subjects of alien race which characterised the reign of Francis Joseph—a reign in the course of which over 70,000 persons suffered death for political offences often of the most trivial nature, and sometimes for reasons which had not even the excuse of being of a political character. The Austrians and Hungarians of the upper class have been frequent and welcome guests in our midst, and have won English sympathies by their love of and proficiency in shooting and hunting, as well as for the superficial charm of their social qualities; while some of us have enjoyed their hospitality in their own country, and have been impressed by the princely scale of that hospitality and the magnitude of their estates. But we have not, like the Italians, had them for rulers and neighbours. We have experienced neither their political treachery nor their ruthless cruelty towards all whom they suspected of being political opponents. We have known the Austrians and the Hungarians only as social acquaintances anxious to make a favourable impression upon us.

Those among us who have followed with interest—

and, it may be added, with intelligence—the various phases of Italian public opinion during the last two years can scarcely have failed to recognise that it has steadily drifted further away from imperialism, and from the imperialistic programme of the intransigent Irredentists and Nationalists. The Pact of Corfu, of July last, could hardly have been signed during the year following the entry of Italy into the war without creating a storm of Interventionist indignation both genuine and assumed. Instead of this, the leading journal of Italy representing the best elements of the public opinion—the *Corriere della Sera*—made itself the champion of the most practical part of the Jugoslav aspirations, and insisted that only the liberation from Austrian rule of the Slav populations on the eastern shores of the Adriatic, and their unification into an autonomous State or States, could create an effective barrier against Austro-German schemes in the Balkans and the Nearer East, and at the same time secure to Italy her necessary security and influence in the Adriatic waters.

The immediate and rapid recovery of the Italian army from the sudden and most grave reverse which destroyed in a few hours the fruits of two years and a-half of splendid victories gained in the face of well-nigh insuperable difficulties—a disaster which was directly due to treachery—was, it will be remembered, immediately followed by an insidious attempt on the part of the clerical and official socialist " neutralists " to remove from power not only General Cadorna, but also Baron Sonnino, both of whom stood for unswerving allegiance to the Allied cause, and to a resolute war policy. The object of this intrigue was obviously to prepare the ground for the return of Signor Giolitti and his pacifist and pro-German party, which might be depended upon to carry out the programme of the Neutralists. It is, indeed, that programme which our Austrophils in this country are seeking to further by their propaganda in favour of a conciliatory policy towards the " ancient ally," with whom " we English have no quarrel," and which, it may be observed, is so curiously in harmony with the peace proposals and with the " neutrality " of Benedict XV.

As has been observed, our Austrophils are careful not to explain to us the conditions which they would offer to our " ancient ally," in order to induce her to commit the supreme folly of taking a step which there is no reason to suppose that she has any real intention of taking—although there are undoubtedly reasons to suppose that she is at this moment allowing us to believe that she would not be averse from doing so. We are told, somewhat vaguely, that we should not desire the dismemberment of the Austrian Empire, and that it is very egoistic of Italy to do so; and yet at the same time we are told that we and our Allies are fighting for the rights and for the protection of the weaker nationalities. It is scarcely conceivable that, at any rate during the present phase of the war, Austria would consent to retire from the conflict except on the conditions that she retained her hold over at all events the eastern Friuli, Istria, and Dalmatia, as well as over Bosnia and Herzegovina. We must presume, therefore, that we have not been fighting in this war with the object of securing to the weaker nationalities their rights and liberties, since we should, by leaving those regions to the rule of the Hapsburgs, prove ourselves to be quite the reverse of champions of political and racial independence and liberty. But perhaps our advocates of a conciliatory policy towards Austria which is to bring about her detachment from Germany and her retirement from the war are ingenuous, or ingenious, enough to believe that Austrian guarantees of political liberty and autonomy to her alien subjects in those regions would be worth the paper they were written on, or that they would not share the fate of other scraps of paper. Such ingenuousness would be quite conceivable. It would also no doubt be highly diverting to the two Emperors. It would not, however, be so diverting to Italy, who, after all, is our Ally. There exists, indeed, no Italian worthy of the name who would not feel that should Austria emerge from this war with her usurped territories intact, with her Italian and her Slav subjects unliberated, and with the Hapsburg power unbroken, Italy would have been indeed betrayed into the hands of her enemies by those who had professed themselves her friends and induced her to fight on their side by pledges they had deliberately broken. Were Austria not to be dismembered as a result of this war, what Power, it may well be asked, could insist upon her fulfilling any guarantees of liberty or autonomy for her alien subject races? Would Great Britain, or France, or America be in a position to do so? Would Germany, the bitter foe of Latin civilisation, be disposed to assist in a liberation of the Jugoslav and other races which could only tend to the strengthening of Italy and the creation of a new barrier to German aims in the Balkans and in the eastern Mediterranean? But perhaps this pleasing duty would be left to that nebulous body, the League of Nations. Speaking on August 6 last, Mr. Lloyd George observed, with reference to the Austro-Italian questions, that, " though we agree with President Wilson that the break-up of Austria-Hungary is no part of our war-aims, we feel that unless genuine self-government on true democratic terms is granted to those Austro-Hungarian nationalities who have long desired it, it is impossible to hope for the removal of those causes of unrest in that part of Europe which have so long threatened its general peace." Precisely. But with an Austria left in undisturbed possession of those regions in which nationalities hitherto under her rule have, as Mr. Lloyd George rightly says, long desired genuine self-government on truly democratic terms, what reason is there to suppose that such terms would ever be granted? Surely, no one having the slightest acquaintance with the history of the House of Hapsburg, and with the system of Austrian government, could suppose that such terms ever would be granted to alien races under the Hapsburg sway! It is not easy to understand how, without the dismemberment of the Austrian Empire as at present constituted, Mr. Lloyd George's and President Wilson's ideals could be realised; and it is, therefore, a little perplexing to be told in the same breath that such a dismemberment does not form any part of our war-aims. It is also perplexing to the Italians and, it must be presumed, to the Jugoslavs. Neither is the situation made any clearer by the amazingly ingenuous statement made by another politician, M. Pichon, who remarked in a recent speech that the subject peoples of Austria-Hungary should be left to the Hapsburg rule " provided that autonomy or genuine self-government is given to them on the first opportunity." It is greatly to be feared that, under the rule of the Hapsburgs, the opportunity would be very long in presenting itself; and, in the meantime, the general peace alluded to by Mr. Lloyd George would continue to be threatened.

It would be, to say the least, not a little unfortunate were the pro-Austrian propaganda now being carried on in our midst—a propaganda the sources of which are perfectly well known to the Italians and to all who are really acquainted with revolutionary and other intrigues in Italy and the Allied nations—to receive any real support in responsible quarters in this country. For this reason all those who recognise that unity and reciprocal loyalty between the Allies are indispensable to the triumph of our common cause, and who realise that the primary object of Germany has always been to promote discord and ill-feeling among her foes, must regret that any steps should have been taken which could justify the suspicion that the British Government had directly or indirectly played into the hands of those seeking to further Austro-German aims by endeavouring to find a basis upon which to assume a conciliatory attitude towards Austria-Hungary, or that it was in any way deceived by the specious " detachment " theory so cunningly devised in the Ballplatz and the Wilhelmstrasse. Apart from the obvious disloyalty to Italy of which this country would be guilty were any agreement made with Austria which did not secure to our Ally all that she now claims as her indisputable rights, we should be faithless to that cause of protection of the weaker nationalities and of the safeguarding of their rights and liberty, for which we profess to be fighting, were we, relying on Austrian guarantees or promises, to leave the subject nationalities of Austria under the sway of the Hapsburgs. Such secret diplomacy as this would, it may be hoped and believed, rouse the indignation of every honourable Briton both here and beyond the seas. Our Empire needs no peace made in Germany or in the Vatican; and neither does Italy. It would be well if our Austrophils were made to realise this. Our quarrel with Austria and our quarrel with Germany is one and the same. It is also the quarrel of France, of Italy, and of all our Allies. There may be more ways than one of finally settling that quarrel; but it is not at the price of disloyalty either to those fighting on our side who have trusted to our word or to the cause which we have declared to the world to be our primary object for having entered this war. It is natural that, in view of the ignorance of the real Austria and of Austrian methods of government, which has always existed in every class in this country, our pro-Austrian propagandists, both in our Press and in our Government departments, should find the whitewashing of what they please to call our "ancient ally"—of her connivance at and participation in the German outrage on humanity and civilisation—a comparatively easy task. It would, indeed, be a brilliant diplomatic victory for our Foreign Office could it succeed in persuading Austria at this moment to confess herself utterly defeated and impotent to prevent that dismemberment which could alone be a genuine guarantee of liberty and self-government to her oppressed nationalities and of restitution to Italy of her national frontiers and territories. But it is certainly on no such assumption as this that the wire-pullers of the pro-Austrian propaganda are proceeding. They are endeavouring, for very obvious reasons, to find means whereby the Hapsburg autocracy with its buttresses of ultramontane clericalism, political and religious intolerance, and mediæval conceptions of social rights, may be left intact; and whereby—though we must believe that only the instigators of the movement, and not our ingenuous politicians, recognise this—the autocracy of the Hohenzollerns and the militarism of Germany should emerge all the stronger for being relieved of a partner whose defection could be dealt with at leisure in future years, and whose present needs were becoming not a little embarrassing. In the meantime such a permanent estrangement and, indeed, legitimate anger against Great Britain would be fostered among the Italian people as would cause Italy for her own protection, and for her own internal welfare both social and economic, speedily to seek re-admission into a German alliance; while the peace proposals and the "neutrality" of Benedict XV. would have secured their principal object for which, as it would seem, our Vaticanists in this country, in Canada, and in Australia are so indefatigably working.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Soldiers in India (Commissions). March 11.

Sir **Charles Henry** asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether, when a soldier serving in India has been recommended for a commission and on account of age is not eligible to receive one in the Indian Army, arrangements will be made that he shall be transferred from India in order that he may obtain his due recognition and be granted a commission?

Mr. **Macpherson**: Any soldier who is ineligible on account of age for a commission in the Indian Army, but conforms in all respects to the qualifications necessary for a temporary commission in the British Army, can, if recommended by his commanding officer and the General Officer Commanding in Chief in India, be sent home for admission to an officer cadet unit to train for commissioned rank, though, if he is a candidate for an infantry commission, he would normally be sent for his course of training to the officer cadet unit which now exists in India for the purpose of training candidates for that arm. The same procedure applies in the case of a grant of a permanent commission in the Regular Army to soldiers serving on normal Army engagements, with the exception that, if the recommendation of the General Officer Commanding in Chief in India is approved, the soldier is not sent home for further training.

Mesopotamia (Replacement of Troops). Mar. 11.

Sir **John Jardine** asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he can definitely state that any arrangements are being made, in consideration of the bad climate of Mesopotamia, the changes of temperature from the bitter cold of 29 degress to the heat of 130 degrees, and the increase of fevers, jaundice, and cholera in the hot weather, to replace any units of troops which have already withstood two hot weathers in successive years by units at present cantoned in the healthy conditions of Indian military stations?

Mr. **Macpherson**: Arrangements are in hand which will materially reduce the number of units which have been in Mesopotamia for two hot weathers, but the present scarcity of shipping precludes the regular replacement of whole units in Mesopotamia by those in India. The general officer commanding in command grants such leave as he finds possible, giving preference to those who have been in Mesopotamia for two hot weathers, but this privilege is bound to depend upon the military situation at the time and the availability of transport. The improvement of general conditions in Mesopotamia has resulted in a large decrease in sickness, especially in enteric, malaria, dysentery, and cholera. Except during the height of the hot weather the climatic conditions about Baghdad compare very favourably with those in India.

Prisoners of War in Turkey. March 18.

Mr. **Hanson** asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that the Turkish authorities refuse to allow their English officer prisoners to buy soldier's ration bread with which to satisfy their hunger, on the ground that Turkish officers in our hands are not allowed this concession; whether he was aware of the price which the said officers are charged for bread, which they are compelled under these circumstances to buy in the bazaar, with the result that many officers with limited means and with a wife and family to support are reduced to great financial extremity; and whether the military or Indian authorities will take some effective step or steps to relieve this situation?

Mr. **Macpherson**: Representations to the effect that British officer prisoners of war in Turkey are not allowed to purchase food at Government contract rates have recently been received, and it is known that the price of foodstuffs in Turkey is now very high. The Netherlands Minister has been authorised for some time past to supplement materially, and gratuitously, the amount paid to British officers by the Turkish authorities, but owing to the totally inadequate means of communication it is probable that this does not always reach the prisoners. The question is under consideration whether, in view of the continued rise in prices, the payments made by the Netherlands Minister should be increased.

In reply to a question by Colonel Sir **Randolf Baker** about prisoners, British and Indian, taken by the Turks since the war began, Mr. **Hope** gave the following written reply:—

Of the British prisoners, including the Royal Navy, 438 officers and 3,780 other ranks are known to have been captured by the Turks. Of these 32 officers and 274 other ranks have been repatriated or escaped. Fourteen officers and 1,413 other ranks have died, and 392 officers and 2,183 other ranks are still in prison camps, according to the latest returns. These figures are exclusive of one officer and 635 other ranks of the Kut garrison who have never been traced.

Of the Indian native prisoners 221 officers and 7,169 other ranks are known to have been captured. Of these six officers and 1,146 other ranks have been repatriated or escaped. Four officers and 1,298 other ranks are known to have died, and 211 officers and 4,725 other ranks are still in prison camps, according to the latest returns; 2,600 of the rank and file of the Kut garrison have never been heard of.

Eastern Campaigns.

Major **David Davies** asked whether the military operations in the Eastern theatres of war came under the supervision or control of the Supreme Allied Council at Versailles, in order to give the fullest expression to the doctrine of the single front, and to obtain complete unity of action amongst all the Allied forces.

The **Chancellor** of the **Exchequer**: The answer is in the affirmative.

A Gallipoli Medal?

Mr. **Macpherson**, in reply to Colonel **Yate**, stated that there was no intention to issue a special Imperial medal or ribbon for the operations in Gallipoli.

Brigadier-General **McCalmont**: Do I understand from the use of the word Imperial that there is an intention of issuing a colonial decoration?

Mr. **Macpherson**: I do not know what the Australian authorities themselves have done, but the view of the military authorities at home is as I have stated.

British Prisoners.

Mr. J. F. **Hope**, Lord of the Treasury, in reply to Sir R. **Cooper**, said that the question of arranging for the internment in a neutral country of British and Turkish prisoners of war was carefully considered by his Majesty's Government, but was not found to be practicable, for lack of accommodation in any available neutral country, as well as on account of the difficulty of transporting the large numbers of Turkish prisoners from Egypt, India, and Burma to any suitable neutral territory. As my hon. friend is aware, an agreement for the repatriation of British and Turkish prisoners on the ground of health has been signed, and only awaits ratification by the Turkish Government.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

America and Turkey.

A noticeable development of the war is the hardening of American opinion against Turkey all the more remarkable in view of the altruistic character of American relations with the Ottoman Empire in the past. As a typical utterance on the subject may be quoted a brief statement by Mr. W. H. Taft, entitled "Americanism versus Ottomanism," which appears in *The New Armenia*:—

> Ottomanism represents the very antithesis of Americanism. It is a lawless form of mediæval autocracy imposed on subject races by pressure from without; sustained by fraud and force; knowing no law; despising justice; alien to every instinct of humanity; deaf to sympathy and glorying in the shame of its power to injure and destroy.
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> Americanism is a constitutional form of government by the consent of the governed; sustained only by the force of intelligent public opinion; evolved by experience and ever evolving into larger and wider conceptions of justice; tempered by the principles of equity; swayed by the emotions of charity; keen to respond to the calls of humanity and glorying in its victories of peace.
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> Eastern diplomacy is outwardly bland and exuberant. It is secretly adamant and utterly indifferent to performance. It is opportunist. It says one thing and does another, or leaves its promise unfulfilled, and all with equal equanimity. Those who practise it are like those mentioned by Macbeth: "They palter with us in a double sense; they keep the word of promise to our ear, and break it to our hope." Its rule is to evade, revoke, and delay at all costs, promise the best, and do the worst.
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> American diplomacy may err in the direction of emphasising the national characteristic optimism of our people. It is not bland. Sometimes it is blunt. But its optimism is not a cloak for opportunism. It says what it means, means what it says, and does what it says and means. Its rule is to devise the best possible, and strive for the best obtainable.
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> The two systems have nothing in common, and between two such diverse systems a rapprochement of international intercourse is almost impossible. It is well nigh hopeless to expect the old East to alter its methods. It is unthinkable that we should change ours
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> We are not at war officially with the Ottoman Empire. But we are and have been everlastingly at war with Ottomanism and every other disguise for irresponsible autocracy since we became a nation. The Ottoman Empire is not only doomed. It is not merely moribund. It is dead—and we are waiting with what patience we may for the final obsequies. When that takes place, as it surely will, and at no distant date, we shall be prepared to say: "The king is dead, long live the State."

Two Views of Greece.

Mr. C. M. Villiers-Stuart, in the *Fortnightly Review*, has contrived to depict some old scenes in new language. The ground will be familiar enough in its details to many, but the merit of his contribution consists in the method he has chosen of presenting the two views in juxtaposition. They are the English view and the Greek view. "We see Greece as the champion of the finest flower of Paganism; they see her as the protagonist of Eastern Christianity." The foreigner turns first instinctively to the Parthenon, and on this building the writer has the following remarks to make:—

> There are two world-famous shrines, the Parthenon and the Taj Mahal, which every pilgrim makes a point of visiting by moonlight. Over their beauties, especially seen in these circumstances, the writers of text-books rave. About the Indian Taj, I would venture to say that the pilgrims and their guides are wrong, for colour is the life of the East—as water is its soul—and the garden tomb of the Lady Arjumand, lovely at all times, should be first seen touched by the rosy-fingered dawn. The Parthenon, on the other hand, is a European triumph; it conforms to our rules. It had colour in profusion when it left the sculptor's hands, but it was used in the dry Western way, as a conscious decoration to define and bring out the form, not in its emotional sense as used in Byzantine, Persian, and Indian building. There is beautiful colour there to-day, in the contrast of the golden-white Pentelicon marble with the pale blue background of distant sea and sky, or as it stands out in sharper relief against the mauve and purple downs of Hymettos. But the critics are right here: the great temple of Athena makes the deepest appeal in the warm southern moonlight.
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> Then, when the detail shows as plainly as by day but the local colour is lost, the beauty of the Parthenon's perfect form holds one fast. The huge Doric pillars, springing from their rock-like platform, at first sight recall the temple's forerunners by the Nile; the grave Egyptian feeling is quite unmistakable. But this impression quickly fades; the whole mind is absorbed and held captive, not by the vast scale, but by the extraordinary sense of life with which each part is interpenetrated, by the subtlety and balanced grandeur of the Greek genius.

On the Greeks also the ideas and institutions of a remote past continue to exercise a living influence. But it is not the past which the Athens "schools" have studied so diligently. "It is the glamour of the Eastern Empire and its old rivalry with Rome which fires their imagination and for them constitutes the absorbing question of the future." Mr. Villiers-Stuart continues:—

> Athens almost forgotten, Constantinople lost, Mount Athos became the central rallying point of the Greeks. The monasteries on the westernmost finger of the Chalcidice peninsula are so seldom visited, indeed so little known, that the part they have played in Balkan history is apt to be overlooked. The fact that no woman may land there may possibly have contributed to this neglect. The few Western travellers who have been enterprising enough to do so seem to have gone more in search of old manuscripts than of anything else. But the wonderful series of buildings on the mountain tell their own tale; with the sole exception of Pompeii, nowhere in Europe are there such ancient specimens of domestic architecture. The collection of jewellery is said to be unique. And there to this day the Icon painters exercise their art in an unbroken school of monastic tradition. Their saints, it is true, have now a smooth prettiness not uninfluenced by the Neapolitan painters of the Catholic revival. But their halos and skies are still of beaten gold, and their stately attitudes and almond-shaped eyes are directly inherited from ancestors of the fourth-century mosaics
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> The reason that these treasures escaped the Turks is not far to seek. The monks of Mount Athos, wise in their day, submitted to Mohammet II. with a good grace before the fall of the capital. In this way they retained their power and their privileges. Protected by the Turkish fleet from attacks over sea and secure on land in the isolation and natural strength of their rocky peninsula, they have handed down, almost untouched by the changes around them, the learning, the art, and the peculiar point of view of Christianity in one of its earliest phases. For, broadly speaking, the Greek Church represents Christianity up to the close of the twelfth century, the Roman Church the inspiration of the later Middle Ages, and the Church of the English Prayer-Book the Christianity of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in contact once more, through the Renaissance, with the clear light of classical Greek reasoning. In the twentieth century the spirit of Christianity awaits a fresh form of fulfilment.

Hence, according to our author, the Greek insistence on the part they have to play in the Balkans. He concludes:—

> We begin to realise how lasting is this old influence of the East on the West now our latest crusade to Byzantium has brought us in contact with it once more, though, as a matter of fact, we have found its manifestations rather perplexing to deal with. We are so accustomed to think of Athens as Greece and Greece as Athens, the city is so fixed for us under its ancient aspect as the bulwark of Europe against Asia, that it is not a little disconcerting at first to find the country in its own mind standing for the union of the Balkan nations and the rebuilding of the Eastern Empire. This is a project dear to Greek hearts.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"THE WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"GERMANY, TURKEY, AND ARMENIA." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"LOYAL INDIA," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"HORRORS OF ALEPPO," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"MARTYRED ARMENIA." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"TURKISH PRISONERS IN EGYPT." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The unpromising nature of the position with regard to Egyptian cotton was discussed by our Cairo correspondent last week, and in view of what he then said my readers will not have been taken by surprise by the decision of the British and Egyptian Governments to acquire the cotton crop. Briefly stated, the root of the trouble has been the shortage of transport, which has so seriously interfered with the shipments of cotton and seed from Egypt that our correspondent says that it appears to be inevitable that about one-third of the old crop will remain unshipped when the new crop comes on the market. That contingency made Government intervention inevitable, if a serious-cotton crisis was to be avoided, and so far as can be seen the steps taken will prove quite effective in coping with the situation from Egypt's point of view. The purchase of the crop at 42 dollars per cantar—which approximates to the current price—will give stability to the trade and insure the cultivator good profits.

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While one of the most difficult problems in regard to the Egyptian cotton crop is thus disposed of, another and an almost equally serious one remains to be solved. Our correspondent gave some illuminating figures regarding the congestion of cotton stocks at Alexandria. With the present shipping facilities the congestion must prove a cumulative process, and to avoid this and at the same time to relieve the situation in Lancashire, where many mills at the present time are dependent on supplies of Egyptian cotton, the Government will have to increase the tonnage available for cotton shipments. The position is one which, our correspondent thinks, called for an earlier and more extensive curtailment of the acreage under cotton, which would have enabled Egypt to grow more cereals and would have freed tonnage for other purposes. This was not done, however, and instead of wasting regrets over such omissions it will be more profitable to look to the future and ask whether the acreage under cotton will not have to be diminished this year. On the face of it there seems an almost unanswerable case for some further reduction.

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Lancashire, as a whole, has so far shown less anxiety than might have been expected over the cotton-crop purchase, and there is a tendency in the cotton centre to await further developments before attempting to gauge its effects on the industry. Indeed, for some reasons the action of the two Governments is welcomed, notably because it will mean that a stop will be put to the speculative character of the Egyptian market. The point on which doubt is felt is whether Government control will mean that Lancashire will get less cotton than would otherwise be the case. I scarcely think there need be much fear on this score, for Lancashire's dependence on Egyptian cotton is fully realised, and the last thing the Government would desire would be to take any steps which would result in accentuating the industry's difficulties.

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Practically the only new light thrown on the Central Powers' terms to Roumania during the past week is in a Budapest telegram to the Dutch Press purporting to give the views held in "well-informed quarters." I may remind my readers in passing that Continental diplomacy attaches a precise significance to all such terms as "semi-official," "demi-semi-official," etc., and as "well-informed quarters" ranks rather low in this curious hierarchy the views quoted may not amount to much. Still, for what they are worth I give them, as a certain interest attaches to them from the stress laid on the economic value of Roumania to the Central Powers. There are only five conditions, and, *mirabile dictu*, they are all commercial. Provision is made for the prolongation of the German commercial treaty; surplus agricultural produce is to be delivered so long as the Central Powers require it; there is to be obligatory delivery of the oil surplus; and the interests of the Central Powers in Roumanian railways and as regards shipping on the Lower Danube are to be guaranteed.

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Whatever their origin and value, these terms are illuminating as showing that the trend of opinion in the Central Powers is flowing more and more in the direction of the complete exploitation of the unfortunate country that is for the moment more or less at their mercy. This is further illustrated by a report in the *Tägliche Rundschau* to the effect that all Roumanian heights of strategic importance commanding the passes into Roumania will be ceded to Austria-Hungary. Adding to these terms the proposed cession of the Dobruja to Bulgaria and the seizure of Constanza, and we have, I should think, a fairly complete index of the enemy's intentions. Obviously they mean to bind Roumania hand and foot, so that after the war she will prove a convenient stepping-stone Eastwards. Fortunately for Roumania, the last word on the subject lies with the Allies, and not with the Central Powers.

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Count Reventlow, in a curiously frank article in the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, has been outlining German, or, rather, the Pan-German ambitions with regard to Egypt. He lays special stress on the economic value of Egypt, especially as a cotton-growing country, the point being that he considers that "the deliverance of Egypt from the British yoke" is possible, and that Germany is, of course, the destined heir to the country. Reading between the lines, I gather Count Reventlow's view is that Egypt could be exploited by Germany with even greater success than the Balkan countries, which should make very pleasing reading for Egyptians. I think we should be grateful to the Count for this lucid exposition of Pan-German designs in this direction, which must have given the German authorities "furiously to think" whether their publicists as a whole are not a greater hindrance than help.

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Mr. T. H. Mawson, the town-planning expert, has just returned from Salonika, where he has been acting as the senior member of the Commission appointed by the Greek Government to elaborate a scheme for rebuilding the town. The plans include a great extension of the docks, the remodelling of the railway system, and the construction of two new railway stations, connected by an underground electric railway. That more or less sums up the commercial side of the scheme. Provision is also made for a greater Salonika, constructed in accordance with modern principles. It is proposed to divide the city into three zones, divided from one another by large public parks, while there are to be a series of public gardens and squares and broad avenues. No difficulty is anticipated as regards the expenditure that will be entailed by these comprehensive plans, as the Greek banks are overburdened with deposits as the result of Greece's war-time prosperity. It is stated, however, that co-operation of British financial houses will probably be welcomed as a further safeguard from the Greek investors' point of view of the soundness of the scheme.

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Considerable attention is being paid, I understand, to the possibility of the revival of the cinchona industry in Ceylon. The present price of quinine is very high, and it is felt that cinchona cultivation would give the island a most profitable industry. It is worth noting in this connection that the Indian Government is giving every encouragement to the increased cultivation of crops. Unfortunately conditions in Ceylon are not the same as in India, and the lands once devoted to cinchona cultivation are now planted with tea. In the circumstances that seems an insuperable difficulty, as it is not to be expected that planters would willingly reduce the production of tea, except as a temporary expedient to meet war conditions.

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COTTON GROWING IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Part Played by Science.—II.

By JOHN W. McCONNEL.

From our summary in the previous article it will be quite evident that there are great possibilities opening before the Empire for the development of cotton growing, and while there is no need and no room for disparagement of earlier efforts, yet, at the same time, there are substantial reasons for believing that in the present day we have resources of knowledge and available methods of work which are quite different from those which could be used at an earlier date. Scientific research into the laws of nature and the universe is indeed the panacea of the moment. It is recommended for the advancement of all our industries, and nowhere is there a louder call for research and science than in regard to the growing and the using of plants. It is sufficient to refer to several of the brilliant essays in "Science and the Nation," published last year at the Cambridge University Press. Again, sugar, whether derived from the cane or beet, has benefited by science; Professor Biffen's work on wheat is well known; the freeing of the vine from phylloxera affords another illustration.

This brings us to our special inquiry. Is science capable of supplying the clue by which we may unravel the intricacies of difficulty and doubt which at present smother the most earnest workers on the improvement of cotton? In this connection it is well to remember the distinction already referred to. There are two quite different sets of problems to be solved by the scientific cotton grower. There is the nature of the cotton derived from its ancestry, and, on the other hand, there are the modifications of the plant and of its products, both the seed and the lint, which result from all the conditions of the soil and climate and human care under which it is grown. In other words, there is the study of heredity and the study of environment. It is fairly clear that the writers of our earlier books on cotton hardly recognised this distinction. And the earlier practices of would-be cotton growers ran the gamut from thinking that any cotton would grow anywhere to believing that nature abhorred the introduction into any country of new varieties drawn from elsewhere. Even now there appears a lamentable want of certainty on the whole subject. It is doubtful if any scientist is prepared to state the definite limits of the theoretical cotton plant in regard either to its habit of growth as a plant or to the different qualities, length, fineness, etc., of its lint. Even if it is difficult to separate the practical effects of these two interacting components, still there can be little doubt that they are, when scientifically considered, quite separate, and to a very considerable extent will require to be separately studied.

Research Work Required.

It seems hardly possible that any very great progress can be made in the improvement of cotton in any particular characteristic whether in the direction of increased quantity or of better quality until more is known of the genetic foundations of the particular characteristic. It is already known that such characteristics as time of maturity, liability to shedding, as well as colour, length, and fineness of lint, and many other characteristics, do follow definite laws in their inheritance, but the study of all this has been carried so small a distance towards complete knowledge of the subject, and the characteristics are in many cases known to be so complex that there is an obvious and crying need for much more work to be done. Such work is not likely to be directly profitable to anyone in particular, but it is essentially necessary as the foundation on which practical improvement can hereafter be built.

On the other hand it appears that in all agricultural work, as well as in regard to cotton in particular, it is only just beginning to be recognised that there are scientific as well as unscientific methods of measuring the effects of environment. Sad experiences appear to await inventors or improvers in agriculture when they come to test their discoveries on a large scale. The foundation of all satisfactory work in comparisons of different treatments of anything must lie in the elimination of other interrupting influences. Apparently it is peculiarly difficult, when examining the effects on plants of any particular influence, to be sure that other influences have been reduced to a common level. Some of our cotton experimenters are still shown by their own reports to be depending on results obtained in different plots, without having made any very serious efforts to be sure that all other conditions are identical. Naturally, it is a great improvement on the older methods when a system of carefully-designed scatter plots is made use of. But even more can be done by adopting Dr. Ball's practice (described in the book previously referred to) of regularly recording through the season certain material particulars concerning the growth of many individual plants, so scattered in the various competing crops as to secure the cancelling out of all disturbing elements. Additional advantages gained by this system are that it enables the chief observer to notice other important points, such as the effects, both immediate and deferred, of changes of temperature or moisture; also the work of a season would not be entirely lost in the event of some storm or other disturbing cause debarring the whole crop from reaching its normal fruition. The study of environment certainly calls for the employment of scientific methods.

Problems to be Solved.

Then there is another distinction to be drawn. Research is a term which covers many divisions of work, and in its practical application to cotton it will be necessary to recognise these divisions and to make the appropriate provision for each of them. The field of research ranges from the abstract study of cotton, as one among a thousand vegetables, to the minutiæ of practical advice for the growing of a particular cotton in the best way in a particular place. Some of the more practical problems ought to be, and will be, the business of the individual planter, or small group of planters. Others will be the concern of an island or a district, and among these problems will be, in many cases, the administrative work necessary to secure that one bad planter does not injure his neighbour, either by neglecting known remedies for pests, or by growing a different kind of cotton from his neighbours, and so contaminating the future seed supply. Other problems, again, are of a less directly practical nature. Important as it may be to the future of all cotton growers and all cotton users to learn the true nature of the physiological development of the cotton fibre, and the limitations and possibilities of heredity, it is obviously unreasonable to expect any particular cotton growing community to bear separately the cost of such work. It is indeed of real importance that this distinction of the kinds of research work necessary should be specially considered in relation to the proper apportionment of the cost. So far as can be seen at present, the ideal system would provide for the cost of directly practical work being borne locally; and in regard to work of a more remotely profitable kind, it seems reasonable that great countries, such as India, Egypt, perhaps the West Indies as a whole, perhaps before long Uganda and Nigeria, should have strong departments for the scientific study of cotton, separate from, and in addition to, those concerned with the application of science to the practical agricultural work of growing cotton. Beyond and above all this, however, there is evidently need for a well-equipped central association for research in regard to the growing of cotton, and it is only reasonable to expect that this should be largely maintained and directed by the British cotton spinning and manufacturing industries.

There is, however, one more thing to be said about this research work. What is apparently as much needed at the moment as anything else is some organisation for collecting and co-ordinating all modern research work on cotton. It ought to be made possible for any worker in cotton to start with a full knowledge of what is already known. Something of this kind is, of course, already done. The *Agricultural News of the West Indies* frequently reprints articles on cotton as on other things, from papers in other parts of the world, while the *Agricultural Journal of India* has reprinted, and afterwards has published as a separate bulletin, some excellent papers read at the West Indian Conference on Cotton in 1916. This is a very promising sign, but much more could be done by a central institute. Another function is thus suggested which might be filled by the cotton research association of the Empire. It should become the centre to which will naturally flow all increases of knowledge about cotton, and from which at frequent intervals this knowledge will be distributed in an intelligible and usable form. When that is properly undertaken it will no longer be necessary for each worker to begin at the very beginning. It is also possible that then some of the older officers of agricultural departments who may have hitherto somewhat blocked the possibilities of progress will find their powers of resistance somewhat weakened.

Isolation of Pure Strains.

It would be presumptuous for the present writer, who claims no equipment of scientific knowledge, to attempt any complete description of the scientific work required to be done. A few words may, however, be devoted to naming some of the general principles. Cotton, in practice, is grown as an annual, and is largely cross-fertilised by the agency of insects. It will, therefore, be very generally admitted that the only basis for improvement is to be found in the isolation of pure strains. To achieve this, continual and persevering effort is required. Nothing but confusion worse confounded can result from the propagation of hybrids, whether such hybrids are produced by Nature or result from intentional crossing by the experimenter.

It is, however, a very different matter to suggest that much, or rapid, progress can be made by intentional crossings of pure strains, even when these have been successfully separated. Many of the desired characteristics in cotton appear to be of extremely complex natures. Many of them are also so largely affected by environment that the limits and potentialities of heredity must often be difficult to trace. The apparently simple and very important quality of length in the fibre, while undoubtedly governed by heredity, is known to be varied by the nourishment of the plant while the fibre is growing; so that not only will different members of a pure race of plants give fibres of different lengths if the soil and other conditions differ, but even the same plant will give fibres of different length at different times in the year, and in addition, the fibres on different parts of each seed will in every case to some extent and in some cases enormously vary in length.

This illustration is typical of the difficulties in regard to every other desired characteristic (and most of these are more difficult to measure), and it shows what a mass of careful and detailed study will be required on the laws, both of heredity and environment, before any very great progress can be made. In the meantime, in every country where even decent cotton is now grown, the first rule undoubtedly ought to be to select and obtain pure strains of what is now available. Great improvement will result from this alone, for there is already reason to think that any pure strain of cotton, *ipso facto*, works better in the spinning machinery than its impure relatives. After this first and great step has been taken, and when each district of each cotton growing country grows one pure type of cotton, further progress will be much easier to make. Another thing that is a fundamental need will become possible when there are pure cottons available from different places. Then it will be possible to ascertain scientifically and state in precise language what are the exact qualities in the fibre which lead to specific qualities in the yarn spun. At present this is only known in a very general way. And the users and growers of cotton are in much the same position as smelters and users of iron were in before they made use of chemical analysis.

In the meantime, there are all the laws of plant growth, and their relation to fibre development to be analysed. The cotton plant as an annual has to complete its life history from the germination of the seed to the opening of the cotton boll and the picking of the lint within the time climatically available in each locality. Frost may limit the period at either end. Rains are required when the plant is growing, and are injurious or fatal when they exceed greatly the limiting amount required at any stage. Great heat may be injurious. These are natural phenomena uncontrollable by human agency, but the plant itself is variable, and there are kinds which suit these conditions in one place, and are unsuitable in others. The period required from the germination of the seed to the opening of the bolls ready for picking may be as little as fifty or as many as two hundred days. In the past problems in regard to this have been solved empirically. But science will surely have something to say both about genetic properties and modifications of agriculture as the study of the living plant develops.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Egyptian Crop Purchase.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The feature of interest in the market this week has been the decision of the Government to purchase the Egyptian cotton crop for next season at a fixed price, and users and merchants have discussed the situation very freely. On the whole is it believed that this action will not adversely affect Lancashire trade; in fact, supplies for this country should be more assured. A decided advance in values, however, has occurred in Liverpool during the last few days and spinners have purchased on a free scale. Stocks at the mills in Lancashire are undoubtedly extensive, the majority of users being well bought. Details relating to the conditions under which purchases will be made are awaited with some anxiety. Egyptian yarns, have, of course, been put up in price to meet the higher cost in the raw material, and although operations have been somewhat irregular substantial contracts have been arranged in some quarters. Some Bolton mills have sold their production until the end of this year. Operations in piece goods for Egypt have been somewhat irregular. The higher prices required by sellers have somewhat checked trade. Offers for India remain scarce, and there is no hope of a larger turnover until the selling basis in the bazaars improves. China buyers have been content to purchase small lots in well-known "chops." The strength of spinners of American yarns has been more pronounced than ever, and a large business has been under consideration at hardening rates. There has not been much done in export yarns.

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EGYPTIAN WHEAT PRICE FIXED.

It is officially announced that maximum prices will shortly be fixed for wheat and wheaten flour, ranging from the producers' sale price to the consumers' purchase price, says Reuter's Cairo correspondent in a message dated March 18. This tariff will remain in force for at least a twelvemonth.

WAR GIFT FROM EGYPT.

The Council of Ministers has decided, says a Reuter message, that the Government of Egypt shall contribute £3,000,000 towards the cost of the war as a mark of gratitude towards Great Britain for her protection of Egypt. The Government will also include £500,000 in the next Budget to meet military expenses incurred in Egypt in connection with the war.

JAPANESE SHIPPING ENTERPRISE.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided to commence a service between Bombay and Marseilles, via the Suez Canal, in connection with its existing Japan-Bombay service. This service will, for the present be run monthly with three steamers. The Company's interests in the Red Sea, Suez Canal and Mediterranean Sea are to be represented by the Messageries Maritimes Company, and in the United Kingdom by M. Samuel and Co., general agents, and the company has its own special representative for the United Kingdom and the Continent, resident in London, with his office at the general agency.

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Lecturing on Serbia at Manchester University on March 18, Dr. Douritch stated that, under present conditions, that country was economically in an exceedingly sorry plight. The cultivation of the land was almost entirely being carried out by the women.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

State Purchase at Fixed Price.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent, in a message dated March 16, reports that the following official statement has been issued there:—"In view of the abnormal conditions arising from the war, whereby the Egyptian cotton trade is affected by the shortage of shipping and the reduction of the cotton area, and also the necessity of the British Empire and its Allies to meet their essential requirements, his Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government, acting in concert, have decided to acquire the cotton crop from August 1. A Cotton Control Commission will be appointed for this purpose, and will be assisted by an Advisory Board, representing exporters, growers, and banks. From August 1 until further notice the Commission's purchase of next season's crop and the residue of the present crop will be delivered at Alexandria on the basis of 42 dols. per kantar for fully good fair Sakellaridis. No further export licences will be granted except for the Commission's purchases. Licences already granted are being cancelled, except for cotton held in port and sold for export before August 1. The Commission is prepared to sell until further notice on the basis of 48 dols. per kantar f.o.b. at Alexandria fully good fair Sakellarides. The Commission will prepare in due course a schedule of types of cotton with the purchase and sale prices based on the above standard prices, communicating samples to the principal consuming countries. The Egyptian Government, in a lengthy explanation of the considerations which made it lend itself to the above arrangement, says that the most important advantage is in a fixed price instead of leaving cultivators exposed to the inconveniences of variations in demand, of lack of transport, and other considerations beyond the control of the Government. Forty-two dollars is more than twice the pre-war price and ensures generous profits to cultivators, but the Sultan's Government would not have consented to deprive cultivators of greater profits if they had not been assured of other advantages from the above arrangement. If Egypt has the semi-monopoly of a raw material of which Great Britain and her Allies have imperious need, Egypt at the same time is dependent on the same Powers, particularly on Great Britain, for other commodities and facilities no less necessary. Egypt cannot continue to profit by such facilities unless it lends itself to a policy of general solidarity. The Government has obtained an assurance that Egypt will continue to profit even in the period of reconstruction after the war from its share in articles of primary necessity which must be regulated owing to the scarcity and the large demand for them. The British Treasury is prepared to lend £10,000,000 sterling to meet the financial demands of the combination, and an equal sum will be advanced by a group of banks at limited interest under the guarantee of the Egyptian Government. If American prices rise the sale price of 48 dols. will eventually be increased, and the profits of such increase will be credited to the Egyptian Government."

The Commission of Control.

An official communication announcing the decision of the British and Egyptian Governments to take over the Egyptian cotton crop states that a Cotton Control Commission has been appointed, consisting of the Hon. Ronald Lindsay (chairman); Mr. B. Hornsby (deputy-chairman); Mr. K. P. Birley, Mr. Ralph Carver, and Mr. King Lewis.

The Commission will be assisted by an Advisory Board (representing the export houses, cotton growers, and banks), the composition of which will be announced in due course. The Commission will be prepared as from August 1, 1918, and until further notice, to purchase cotton, both the next season's crop and the residue of the present crop, delivered at Alexandria at a price based on 42 dols. per kantar for fully good fair Sakellaridis. From and after the above date no further export licences will be granted except for cotton purchased by the Commission, and all licences already granted will be cancelled except for cotton held at a port which has been sold for export before that date. On and after August 1, 1918, the Commission will be empowered to take possession of all unlicensed cotton held at Alexandria on terms specified in the present notice. The Commission will also have all necessary powers to utilise on equitable terms the pressing and warehousing facilities which they may require.

Within the limits and subject to the conditions of the rations officially fixed from time to time for each country of destination, the Commission will be prepared to sell the cotton purchased by them at a price based until further notice on 48 dols. per kantar f.o.b. Alexandria for F.G.F. Sakellaridis. The Commission will prepare and publish in due course a schedule of types of cotton, with purchase and sale prices for each type based on the above standard prices. It is proposed to communicate samples of the types to the principal consuming countries. A further notice will be issued shortly setting out the proposed rules and methods of procedure of the Commission. The present intention is to utilise as far as the Commission find practicable the existing machinery and organisation of the trade to give effect to the scheme.

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In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

BULGARIAN TRADE ORGANISATION.

In preparation for the expected boom in trade after the war, Bulgarian capitalists and men of affairs have of late exhibited great activity in organising well capitalised banking and business concerns, says the United States Consul-General at Sofia, Mr. D. I. Murphy, in a recent report. As an indication of the extent of the movement, begun only a few months ago, the following showing of the banking and commercial establishments registered in Sofia up to December 1 may be of interest. The list does not include registrations in the other thirteen judicial districts of the country :—

Name of Company.	Capital. Francs.
Branch of Ruschuk Bank	20,000,000
Bulgarian Central Bank	3,000,000
Bank of Bulgaria	5,000,000
General Credit Society	6,000,000
Rose Bank	4,000,000
Bulgarian Bank " Soedinenie "	5,000,000
Bulgarian Fund Bank	5,000,000
Bulgarian Savings Bank	1,000,000
Bulgarian Bank of International Commerce	1,000,000
Society " Kniga," to supply paper and stationery	2,000,000
Bulgarian Society " Nicotea," for commerce in tobacco	6,000,000
National Society " Sugar Industry "	8,000,000
Society ' Longoza," to supply building materials from State forests	3,000,000
Bulgarian Anonyme Society " Orient," for commerce in all kinds of goods, real estate, and industrial operations	2,000,000
Bulgarian Cement Society " Lev "	4,000,000
Steamship Society " Dunav " (Danube)	4,000,000
Commercial Society " Soedinenie," to deal in raw and cured hides and skins and carry on commercial operations	5,000,000
Bulgarian Economic Society, for the purchase and sale of real estate, erecting and selling houses, loans, and mortgages	5,000,000
Mill Society " Bistritza," for constructing and exploiting modern automatic bakery	2,000,000
Cyclop Society, for making and dealing in construction materials	1,200,000
Bulgarian Iron Society, to trade in iron, iron ware, paints, and like articles	2,000,000
Mine ' Courilo ' Society, to exploit coal mine at Courilo and to build factory for making briquets	4,000,000
Sofia Co-operative Meat Society, to improve the meat trade and regulate sale of meat	1,000,000
Society " Belo More " (Ægean Sea), to engage in commercial and economic enterprises and foreign representation	30,000,000
Balkan Silk Factory Society, to promote all commercial and industrial enterprises connected with the manufacture and sale of cocoons, silk, silk cloths, etc.	1,200,000
Central Construction Society " Sredetz," to construct private and public buildings and for commerce in all kinds of building material	10,000,000
Society " Obedinenie," to carry on banking operations; to engage also in commerce and industry, cattle-raising, and trade in farm products	10,000,000
Society " Serdika," to engage in commerce, industry, and operate in real estate	5,000,000
Insurance Company " Rodina," to engage in insurance and re-insurance business in Bulgaria and abroad	60,000,000
Society International Transport " Maritza," to transport merchandise by land and water and engage in other operations connected therewith	5,000,000
Society " Streha," to engage in trade in automobiles and accessories, materials, etc.	40,000,000
Bulgarian Credit Stockholders' Society, to engage in banking, commercial, and industrial operations	2,000,000
Society " Iber," to exploit a steam furniture factory at Dolna Bania and for operations in lumber and building materials	2,000,000
Society " Kotva," to manufacture cement and hydraulic lime and to construct buildings of cement	3,000,000
Commercial and Industrial Stockholders' Society " Budeshte," to establish printing office, publish newspapers and books, and deal in paper	500,000
Stockholders' Society, to exploit sugar factory at Ruschuk	100,000
Society " Otechestvo," to engage in banking operations and industrial operations	20,000,000
Society for Commerce in Tobacco and Cigarettes, to plant, manufacture, purchase, manipulate, and sell tobacco and cigarettes	2,000,000
Austrian Insurance Company " Phœnix," Vienna, branch Sofia	6,000,000
Bulgarian Forest Commercial Bank, Sofia, for operations relative to forest economics	50,000,000
Total	346,000,000

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

Position Further Improved.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 18.

The nine months ended December 31, the accounts in connection with which have just been published, show a further improvement in the financial position of the Egyptian Government. Revenue during the period amounted to £E17,088,271 and expenditure to £E13,732,346 as compared with £E15,266,367 and £E12,975,919 respectively up to the end of the previous December. There is thus an increase of £E1,821,904 in revenue and one of only £E756,427 in expenditure. As a result there is for the nine months a surplus of no less than £E3,355,925—over one million more than at the same date of 1916, when the figure was £E2,290,448. In this connection it is interesting to note that the total surplus in the latter financial year was £E2,686,668, so that we may expect the amount to be carried forward to the reserve on April 1 to be in the neighbourhood of four millions.

Revenue.

The principal items of revenue have been land tax, £E4,909,722; customs, £E2,138,046; tobacco dues, £E1,370,987; mixed court fees, £E731,289; native court fees, £E317,236; railways, £E3,617,364; domains receipts, £E836,197; ghaffir cess, £E637,712; miscellaneous receipts, £E429,424; interests on funds, £E257,978; post office, £E262,871; excise, £E197,363; house tax, £E264,094. The chief increases have been railways, £E281,272; judicial fees (including £E124,854 under mixed courts), £E162,657; customs, £E82,251; land tax, £E74,328; domains, £E52,559. Tobacco dues decreased by £E161,413 and port dues by £E45,074; whilst the two new items, ghaffir cess and excise mentioned above contributed to the general increase to the extent given against each of them.

Expenditure.

Under expenditure the main items have been Sultan's civil list, £E244,959; state domains, £E211,862; post office, £E240,473; public instruction, £E304,077, public health, £E298,646; mixed courts, £E200,476; native courts, £E303,966; irrigation, £E831,774; railways, £E2,055,802; police, £365,432; ghaffirs, £E540,026; war office, £E723,669; Pensions and indemnities, £E539,539; public debt, £E4,128,984; provincial administrative services, £E320,947 and central administration ministry of the interior £E275,825. The most noteworthy increases have been irrigation £E200,099, and war office £E101,110; and the largest decrease was in railways £E599,969.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to December 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14, 1917, to January 13, 1918) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Dec., 1917		2,404,732	1,557,000
Do. do. do 1916		1,515,273	925,000
Estimated Receipts for 12 months (Law of Control)		28,900,000	10,700,000
Actual do. do., 1917		33,523,091	14,262,000
Do. do. do., 1916		34,229,959	25,827,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 12 months	1917	+ 4,623,001	+ 3,562,000
	1916	+ 5,329,959	+ 15,127,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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INDIAN TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, presiding at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts last week, when a paper on "English Commerce with India, 1608-1658" was read by Mr. W. Foster, Registrar of the India Office, said he could not help being struck with certain analogies between some of the events dealt with in Mr. Foster's paper and some of the events of to-day. There was the story of the partial failure of the indigo trade, just as we had seen it again in our day, although he hoped to see that trade get a fresh lease of good fortune as science and skill were brought to bear upon the cultivation and preparation of indigo for the market. Notwithstanding many vicissitudes, the development of India's trade had proceeded steadily. He did not doubt for a moment that in this matter the war would have brought great advantages to India. The Indian Government and the Indian people had been stimulated to develop and make use of their own resources. They had been forced to look round and see how far they could provide for themselves articles, or substitutes for articles, which they had bought elsewhere.

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TRADE WITH SERBIA.

Influence of the Recent Mission.

If indications count for anything the optimistic views expressed by Dr. Douritch in an interview published in these columns on March 1 on the results of the recent tour of the Serbian Industrial Mission are fully justified, for there seems no doubt that the visit has created the desired impression as to the value of the Serbian market and as to the imperative need for close economic relations between Great Britain and Serbia in the future. Discussing this question with a representative of THE NEAR EAST recently, Mr. E. A. Brayley Hodgetts, London representative of Nobel's Explosives, Ltd., and chairman of the Russian section of the London Chamber of Commerce, emphasised the educational value of the tour. "Everyone recognises now," he said, "that the Balkan Peninsula is one of the most important territories in Europe owing to its geographical position; also that it is a region which is believed to be very rich in minerals, though owing to Turkish domination, little developed; and that it offers a very large field for engineering work in the way of railway development, etc."

"The Balkan States," Mr. Brayley Hodgetts continued, "have, of course, suffered since their liberation from Turkish rule by being hampered in developing their raw materials by Austria, which would not encourage any such enterprises, and Serbia was kept in economic subjection, every effort being made by the Dual Monarchy to keep it an agricultural country. Now everything points to Serbia becoming the dominant partner in the Balkans after the war. The Greater Serbia which the Serbs justly desire to see re-established, and the gravitating force of the Jugoslavs towards Serbia, is likely to give Serbia a very much more important position in the Balkans and even in South Eastern Europe generally than many people to-day surmise. The Serbians are naturally anxious to develop the industrial side of their country, and after the war they will look to the Entente nations to help them in carrying out the industrial exploitation of the large territories that will be comprised in the Greater Serbia. It is evidently in the interests of this country that we should cultivate at as early a date as possible friendly relations with the leaders of Serbian industry and finance in order to accomplish the necessary pioneer work."

British Engineers' Opportunity.

Mr. Brayley Hodgetts laid great stress on the opportunity awaiting Great Britain in this connection—an opportunity of a type which, he points out, she had not taken full advantage of in the past. "Great Britain," he said, "allowed Germany to forestall her in the chemical industries, but she may still claim to be—as she has been all along—the premier engineering country in the world. After all modern engineering was first fostered and developed in this country, and it was from Great Britain that European countries obtained instruction in the manufacturing industries. Indeed, it is to us that Germany, France, Russia, Spain and Italy owe their knowledge of manufactures. It seems to be the mission of this country to perform this kind of pioneer work which in the result creates for Great Britain new and influential customers. From this sound point of view the visit of the Serbian Industrial Mission has been welcomed in this country, and it is to be hoped that the visits paid to the various industrial centres will have convinced the Serbians that in Great Britain they have a powerful and influential Ally willing and able to help them to attain the great position in South Eastern Europe to which they are looking with justified ambition."

"In the development of what is virtually a new country," Mr. Brayley Hodgetts concluded, "Serbia will naturally require manufactured goods of every kind, including large quantities of explosives, that chemical product without which large public engineering works are to-day inconceivable. Indeed, one wonders how the world was able to get on before Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. Before the war Serbia, owing to her economic bondage to Austria, was compelled to draw her supplies of this and nearly every other manufactured commodity from that country. Henceforward she will go into the open market and satisfy her requirements at the best obtainable prices, and in coming to Great Britain for her supplies she will be given that fair and considerate treatment which has always characterised our manufacturers in their dealings with foreign customers."

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PATRAS FRUIT CROP.

Last Year's Poor Yield.

The 1917 citrus fruit crop of the consular district of Patras was greatly damaged by the long and excessively dry summer, and also by the ravages of the Mediterranean fly, says a recent United States consular report. Official statistics place the crop at about half that of 1916, which latter in its turn was much reduced by ravages of the fruit fly. Official tentative estimates of the crop of 1917 for the district are:—Oranges, 180,000 short tons; lemons, 700,000 tons; citrons, 6,500 tons. No estimate is made for mandarines, the official statement reading:—"The great damage caused by *Ceratitis Capitata* has not permitted even an approximate estimate of the mandarine crop." Oranges, mandarines, quinces, and to some extent citrons have been attacked by the fruit fly, with great damage to the first three. Many of the oranges, mandarines and quinces fell off before maturity: such as reached the local markets were more or less infested with the maggot of this fly. There was practically no first-class fruit to be had. The shortage of the citrus fruit crop does not affect the export trade directly to any extent, since none of this fruit, except citrons to a limited extent, is exported.

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Mr. G. N. Lionda, managing director of Messrs. Lionda and Co., Limited, 34, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3, has returned to London on the conclusion of his visit to Salonika and Athens. Mr. Lionda went to Greece for the establishment of a new office at Athens, and in connection with other important banking and commercial enterprises.

THE GREEK BUDGET.

Loan from the Allies.

In Parliament this evening (says a *Reuter* message from Athens dated March 13), M. Negropontes, the Minister of Finance, submitted the Budget for 1918, the principal figures of which are the following:—Receipts, 300 million drachmæ; proceeds of loans, 850 million drachmæ; expenditure, including payment of debts, 910 million drachmæ. The surplus of 240 million drachmæ will be devoted to covering all deficit to the end of 1917. Comparing the Budget with those of the two previous years, the Minister said that the State must find the necessary resources to cover a total sum of 846,000,000 drachmæ for extraordinary needs. To cover these there were two means—taxation and loans. Political conditions did not permit of great fiscal reforms, but an Income Tax Bill would be introduced on a basis of scientific reform. As these measures did not suffice to meet the urgent needs of the country, and as an internal loan presented difficulties, it was necessary to have recourse to a foreign loan of 750,000,000 drachmæ. The loan showed the goodwill of the Allies and was concluded on advantageous terms. In conclusion, the Minister expressed the hope and the conviction that when the war ended in the triumph of civilisation Greece would find herself materially and morally strengthened and able to continue the career marked out for her by her magnificent vitality. It is announced that the Government will submit a Bill to Parliament for increasing the Ministers' monthly salaries from 800 to 1,000 drachmæ, plus an extraordinary monthly allowance of 500 drachmæ.

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INDIAN SESAMUM CROP.

The *Indian Trade Journal* publishes a final forecast of the acreage under sesamum in British India, and the estimated crop yield, based upon reports received from provinces which contain, on an average, 77 per cent. of the total area under sesamum in British India. The total area reported is 4,094,000 acres, which is 18 per cent. less than the area under sesamum (revised estimate—4,994,000 acres) last year. The total yield is estimated at 340,000 tons, a decrease of 26 per cent. as compared with the revised estimate of the yield last year. The season, on the whole, has not been favourable, the crop having been adversely affected by the heavy and continuous rains of September and October in almost all provinces.

ROUMANIAN COMMERCE, LTD.

Roumanian Commerce, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £10,000 in 5,000 preference shares of £1 each and 100,000 founders' shares of 1s. each, as merchants, bankers, concessionnaires, agents for Roumanian Governmental Departments and others, etc. There is an agreement with Otto Fulton. The subscribers (each with one preference share) are Otto Fulton, 22, Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W., and J. H. Procter, 25, Hartington Road, Grove Park, Chiswick.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Ukraine Market.

Of all Russian provinces the Ukraine is the one best known to British manufacturers, and especially to engineers and machinery exporters, and it has, for long, been closely associated with modern British industry and commerce. To the business man the Ukraine is best known not only as a central market of All the Russias, but also as a most convenient centre for conducting a general trade with many important districts of the Near and Middle East. The foremost commercial centre in the Ukraine is Odessa, with its famous harbour in the Black Sea. It is one of the most prosperous, while the least Russian, of Russian towns. Situated between the mouths of the rivers Dnieper and Dniester, the place has many and exceptional facilities for trade. Its well-being is to a large extent due to British enterprise, for English firms have constructed the waterworks, designed the harbours, and paved the streets, while half the trade has been carried on by English steamers. Odessa is the landing place for all agricultural machinery and implements destined for use on the vast fertile lands of Southern Russia.

"An Agricultural Show."

Some years ago, when the present writer visited Odessa and was passing one of the principal jetties, accompanied by an official of the British Consulate, the latter, pointing to a very large part of the jetty which was covered with all kinds of machinery, said: "All that machinery came from England. Does not the sight remind you of an agricultural show in England?" The remark was not incongruous, for there were in groups or lines portable engines, threshing machines, winnowing, reaping, mowing, and sowing machines, harrows, ploughs, chaff-cutters, flour mills, windmills, hay-presses, sheep-shearing machines, shovels, etc., all of an excellent finish and appearance, admired by groups of very interested people speaking various languages, for the trading people and those interested in farming in and near Odessa are of all nationalities. Unfortunately, such a proof of British trade supremacy in that important region could not be seen for some time before the war. The systematic energy and "trade pushing" methods of the Austrian and German manufacturers, the practical salesmanship of the American agent, and the apparent apathy of the British manufacturers changed those conditions, and with the exception of two or three British firms who retained residential representatives and depots in Odessa, all others seemed to "wait" for the buyers, or to depend on the occasional inquiries and orders of the machinery exporter and merchant at home. Yet notwithstanding the altered conditions, and the creation of South Russia into a so-called independent State, there is still an excellent chance for the British manufacturer to recapture the lost trade in that region. Whatever may be the political or commercial influence of Germany there, the Ukrainian—to give him the new name—landowner, farmer, or master of industry, believes in the superiority and value of British machinery, and will always be glad to obtain it if the manufacturers give him adequate means and opportunities to keep in touch with them. This can be done by judicious advertising and occasional visits of competent representatives. The names of the important Ukrainian towns, Nicolaieff, Taganrog, Berdiansk, Ekaterinoslaff, Kharkoff, Kherson, and Kieff, the capital, with many other smaller but rich towns in the adjacent agricultural, mining, and industrial districts, are too well known to British engineer-manufacturers and exporters to say more here as to the great value of the newly created State as a market for machinery of all kinds, and as a convenient centre for the distribution of goods to the Near and Middle East and to South-Western Siberia. The planning of a well-directed campaign for the capture of such a valuable commercial centre in the forthcoming trade war ought, if it is to be effective, to be considered now.

Donetz Coal Basin.

It was recently reported from Kharkoff that the electrification of the Donetz coal basin had been commenced, and that a sum of 50,000,000 roubles had been paid for this purpose. Steam-driven turbines are to be installed, and fuel for the boilers will be supplied from the waste gases of the coke ovens. In connection with this enterprise some important chemical works will be erected for the purpose of utilising by-products from these ovens; and the erection of a factory for the manufacture of aniline colours is also contemplated. It is hoped that the new Government will not place any obstacle in the carrying out of such an important scheme.

Machinery for Morocco.

The advice given to British manufacturers of farming and agricultural machinery that it would be to their interest to watch the Morocco market, and especially to study the classes of articles most in demand and found by experience to be suitable for that country, must be borne in mind when they attempt to introduce their manufactures in that market. It is said that some ploughs that were sent to Morocco from this country were cast aside by the native ploughmen as unsuitable. This is not an unusual occurrence. Natives, as a rule, in Asia and Africa seldom take to a new implement, tool, or method, at once. Much persuasion is often required before they see the difference between rustic hand-made native implements and those made in Europe. With regard to ploughs it is advisable that manufacturers should take into consideration the kind of soil, and in some cases the climatic conditions of the country where the ploughs will be employed. In Morocco as in many districts of the Near and Middle East the native plough in some cases gives better results than the ordinary modern European plough; the former does not go far enough down to disturb the subsoil which, when untouched, retains its moisture; whilst the latter goes too far, disturbs the subsoil and for a year or two the results are not very satisfactory for the farmer. For such soils a light shallow plough is preferable; and if ordinary heavier modern ploughs are used it is advisable to roll the ploughed surface well to prevent the moisture escaping. In some parts of Morocco, however, notably in the Tangier district, the land is hard and compact, and in such cases heavy ploughs are needed for breaking up the land. To avoid disappointment, therefore, it is advisable in giving or taking orders for ploughs or other cultivating implements to obtain technical advice as to the kind and condition of the soil for which such implements are needed. Generally, the native farmer of Morocco gets on well enough in the use of European agricultural implements if he has skilled advice as to working them, but if left to himself, at the first difficulty he meets he considers them faulty and casts them aside.

A Plough Required.

A plough is much wanted in Morocco capable of uprooting the Palmetto plant, which grows all over that district. An implement of this kind is used in New Zealand. The ordinary European ploughs are not capable of uprooting this plant, as it is stubborn and deep-rooted, and requires removal by hand, which is a tedious and expensive process. British plough makers should pay attention to this requirement, for Morocco is a new and promising market.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, has been established at Ebute Metta, Nigeria.

Exporters in Great Britain of yarns, woollen and cotton textiles, hosiery, and laces to Portugal, Morocco, and all ports in the Mediterranean, Egypt, India, China, Straits Settlements, Bangkok, Saigon, Java, Japan, and Manila are requested at once to register the names of their firms with the Secretary of the Textile Exports Shipping Committee, Room 45, Parr's Bank Buildings, 3, York Street, Manchester. Failure to register will preclude any shipper from obtaining space in a rationed steamer.

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INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to March 9 Indian Treasury bills have been sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value Rs. 11.05.95.000; six months' bills, face value Rs.19.90,25.000; nine months' bills, face value Rs.86,70,000; total Rs. 38.88.70.000, equal, at 1s. 5d. the rupee, to £27.545.000. The total sales up to March 2, as already announced, amounted to Rs.38,17.30.000 (equal, at 1s. 5d. the rupee, to £27,039,200).

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Southern Punjab Railway.

The report of the Southern Junjab Railway Company for the year to September 30 last states that the net revenue was £304,473, of which £87,030 is payable to the Secretary of State for India as the share of surplus profits due to the Government, and £10,000 is transferred to a contingencies account, leaving £207,442, which, added to £108,404 brought forward, makes a total of £315,847. After deducting dividends paid there is left £173,847. The directors recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary stock of £7 per cent., making £12 per cent. for the year, subject to English income-tax, leaving £103,847 to be carried forward.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.—On March 31 the dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum on the Cumulative Preference shares, less tax at 5s., for six months to December 31, 1917, will be paid at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., London. The preference transfer books will be closed from 25th to 31st instant, inclusive.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C., announce the numbers of Piraeus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway 4½ per cent. bonds which have been drawn for repayment at par on April 15.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Company have declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the "B" stock, payable 30th instant to holders registered 13th instant.

The directors of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary stock of 3½ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., subject to English income-tax at 3s. 9d. in the £, payable 12th proximo, making 9 per cent. for the year ended September 30 last.

The final dividend on the Six per Cent. preference shares of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904) for the year ended December 31, 1917, will be payable on the 30th instant

The directors of the Mysore Gold Mining Company have declared a balance dividend for 1917 of 2s. 6d. per share (less tax at 5s.), payable April 5 to holders registered 14th instant, making 85 per cent. for the year, against 95 per cent.

The directors of the Assam Oil Company have declared a final dividend for 1917 of 3½ per cent. on the Preference shares, payable 30th instant to holders registered 13th instant.

Eastern Bank. The transfer books will be closed from 23rd to 28th instant, inclusive.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce that owing to continued delays in obtaining the necessary returns from foreign stations and administrations it will be impossible to present the accounts audited in respect of the year 1917 during May. They have decided to make an additional payment on May 15 on the ordinary stock equal to a dividend of 1½ per cent., and bonus of 2 per cent., making 8 per cent., free of income-tax, the same rate as was paid for the previous year.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah, production for week, 21 tons (last week 21 tons); Hurgada, production for week, 11,465 tons (last week, 2,780 tons).

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Production, week ended February 2, 62,475 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended February 2, 21,506 poods (347 tons).

European Oilfields.—Production for week ended February 10, 58,400 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended February 2, 24,993 poods (403 tons).

DEUTSCHE ORIENT BANK IN EGYPT.

Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, answering a question by Mr. G. Faber, said:—Mr. R. E. Moore, resident partner in Egypt of the firm of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Peat, was appointed controller of the Deutsche Orient Bank in Egypt in November, 1914. The liquidation of the bank is nearly, if not quite, complete. I understand that the premises have not been sold.

TRADE OPENINGS IN GREECE.

British merchants and manufacturers will do well to keep the Greek market in mind, since at the present time owing to the restrictions placed on trade by the war there is a growing need in that country for articles of almost every kind, in particular for stationery, paints and oils, clothing, cutlery, chemicals and drugs, dry goods, agricultural machinery and implements, haberdashery and hardware.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended March 8.		1918. Week ended March 7.
Cattle markets	1,294	..	759
General markets	400	..	464
Receipts (£)	1,694	..	1,223
Total for year	16,346	..	11,872

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended February 10.

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
Feb. 1-Feb. 10	7,105	..	8,502
April 1-Feb. 10	185,812	..	243,096

Voisin Bey, whose death occurred recently in Paris in his ninety-first year, was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Suez Canal Company. From 1865 to 1870 he was Director of Works at the Suez Canal.

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Saddlery and Harness of every description.
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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

At the end of last week our market had further reacted downwards upon a continuation of the selling which had been in evidence during the preceding fortnight; but, since the beginning of the present week, there has been a cessation of this downward tendency, and a good deal of fresh buying has been going on. This change in market conditions was brought about by the announcement that the British Government had arranged to buy the new crop of Egyptian cotton as well as any bales left over from the old crop at 42 dollars per cantar for the Sakellarides quality. This means that the native in Egypt, whether shipping facilities are available or not, is now assured of an excellent sale price for his cotton; and the arrangement covers a period which will extend to about August, 1919; so that the Egyptian cultivator can now make his plans for a long time ahead. The result will probably be for the next year or eighteen months a continuation of great prosperity. Mortgage, industrial, and commercial companies will go on effecting large encashments; while the agricultural land companies will continue to find a ready market for the sale of their lands in the circumstances.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have again been in constant demand and are a further ¼ up 87¼, but transactions have been limited owing to the scarcity of sellers. Some small business was done in Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferences round 74, but there are large unsatisfied buyers.

In Bank shares, Nationals have remained neglected and unchanged, but Agriculturals have improved 1-16 to 6⅜. There have been a fair amount of transactions again in Agricultural preferences round 6⅞ and 7, and the price is ⅛ up at the latter figure. Anglo-Egyptian banks have also been in some demand round 15. Delta Light Railways are rather quieter at 6⅞, with some small transactions passing.

In Land shares, Aboukirs are again 6d. easier at 23s. 6d., and Behéras are ⅛ down at 13½, at which price some business was done. Delta Lands, after receding to 14s., are closing unchanged at 14s. 6d. Foreign Trusts are fractionally lower at 10s. 6d. In New Egyptians the price at one time declined to 17s. 6d.; but few transactions took place at this level, and a very large demand subsequently both for Egypt and locally caused a recovery to 18s. 9d., at which price the shares are 3d. higher than last week. Sidi Salems close 1s. lower at 45s., after being done at 44s., but there was some very good buying at the decline. In Union Foncières the price, after reacting to 3, closes 1-32 up at 3 3-32 on both Egyptian and local support.

In Miscellaneous shares a fair amount of business has been doing in markets without altering the price, and some large transactions have taken place in Salts and Sodas between 39s. 6d. and 40s. Khedivial Mails are 9d. up at 39s. 6d. on a renewal of buying from Egypt.

In Greek securities there has been rather more doing. A fair parcel of Larissas was done at 56, a rise of 1 point, and some business also took place in 1914 Loans at about 71. Rentes have improved 2 points to 47, and, generally, the market is strong. Bank of Athens shares are again ⅛ higher at 3⅝, and some small business has been done in Piræus Athens 4½ per cent. bonds round 72¾.

The National Bank of Greece announce that the dividend for the second half-year of 1917, amounting to 140 drachmæ per share, will be paid by the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C., against surrender of coupon No. 10.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 1s. 3d. to 37s.—38s. Otherwise prices were practically unchanged.

Paris Bourse.

Egyptian Unifield 95.30 (unchanged); Serbian 1895, 56.90 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 62 (against 62.40); Credit Foncièr Egyptien, 758 (against 752.50); Suez Canal Shares, 4,625 (against 4,607).

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 13	Mar. 20
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87	87¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	50½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	45	47
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	78	78½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do 4% Unified	79	71	71
Bulgarian 6 p.c., 1892	98	73	—
" 4½ p.c., 1909	80	43	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 5/16	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	6⅞	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15	15
Bank of Athens	£2	3½	3⅝
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¼	8¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7	6⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¼	18⅛	18⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7	6⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅝	13½
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4⅜xd	4⅜xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/9	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	2	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/6	18/9
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	46/-	45/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3 1/16	3 3/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	39/9	40/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	38/9	39/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¼	3⅞	3⅞

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON FEBRUARY 23.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	95
" " Div.	Frs.	121
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	14⅛
" priv.	L.E.	4⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	168
Bons de Panama	Frs.	124
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	96
" Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	91½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 5/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 3/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 7/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5 11/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	7¾
Unifiée	L.E.	89¼
Privilégiée		76½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6¾
Nungovich Hotels	£	6⅛
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 11/32
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3¾
" Ord		41/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	16⅛
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	174
Egyptian Markets		27/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	390
" Div.	Frs.	340
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	278
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 15/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		41/1½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	740
" Fondateur	Frs.	875
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	375
" 1903 "	Frs.	288
" 1911 "	Frs.	278
United Lands	P.T.	9¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		3/16

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 360.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In less crowded days the brief communiqué in which General Allenby has recorded the passage of the river Jordan by his troops this week would have attracted considerably more notice. The crossing was not undisputed by the enemy, but his resistance failed to prevent the British from establishing their hold on the other bank. The country in which we are now operating is a difficult one, and presents many awkward military problems. The presence of the Duke of Connaught in Jerusalem is to be noted, after his preliminary tour in Egypt.

In Mesopotamia heavy rains have fallen, and military operations have come to a standstill for the time. It is improbable that news of any further advance will arrive for the present from this quarter; but the splendid results achieved during the past year are now becoming fully apparent, and they have played, and will continue to play, their full part in the securing of the Middle Eastern position against those German plans for the conquest of Persia and India which were enlarged upon by the Berlin Press a week or so ago.

The tremendous events on the Western front have naturally had the effect of withdrawing attention from the East, and the position in this respect is not likely to change much during the next few weeks. It would, however, be highly unwise to assume that the enemy plans in the East have been modified, still less abandoned. The Germans regard themselves as having won the war against Russia and Roumania, although they grudgingly admit that the British are in process of doing the same thing against Turkey; and their attitude is that, if they win the war in the West, these victories in the East would then become of secondary importance; while if they are again reduced to a deadlock in the West, they have so much in hand in the East to go on with.

In the event of defeat in the West, they would use their annexations in the East as materials to bargain with; in the event of victory, no doubt they would grasp all they could on both sides; stalemate would see the peace offensive again launched, with suggestions for a negotiated peace of give and take—in which we should give and the Germans take. But the renewal of the offensive in the West proves definitely two things: First, that the Germans think they can beat us, as to which there is nothing to be said until we prove to them that they cannot. Secondly, that even victory in the East at the price of exclusion from the rest of the world would not in the long run satisfy Germany.

The fighting in the West may have one curious reaction on the Eastern situation. It was reported some time ago that Turkish and Bulgarian, as well as Austrian, troops had been sent to the Western front, and it was accepted that these were despatched thither in accordance with the Prussian doctrine that it is wise to take hostages from among one's allies as well as from one's enemies. But the presence of Bulgarian troops in the West having been brought to the notice of President Wilson, has led him to consider the possibility that these may come into conflict with American troops. In that case he has made it clear that a declaration of war by the United States against Bulgaria would follow forthwith. This would not, of course, make much difference to Germany, but it would not be particularly welcome to Bulgaria.

The new Roumanian Cabinet which M. Marghiloman has formed is largely composed of officials. In the present unhappy position of the country its business is to make peace on the best terms it can; there is no reason to believe that it will be able to secure any substantial modification of the terms laid down by the Quadruple Alliance. M. Marghiloman is *bien vu* both at Berlin and Vienna, and his Cabinet has been praised by the German Press as "respectable," which in Teuton phraseology is one degree removed from nonentity. As to the Premier himself, it is sufficient to recall that a month ago he was issuing wireless appeals to the King to perform "the inevitable act" of abdication. It is to be presumed that he will not repeat that advice for the present, but the fact that it was given, and that the man who gave it has now become the first subject of the State, shows the pass to which Roumania has been reduced.

The friends of M. Marghiloman claim that, whereas M. Carp was an avowed pro-German, M. Marghiloman was never more than a neutralist. The precise definition of his opinions has now perhaps little more than personal importance; the orientation of Roumania is for the present directed towards Berlin, and Wilhelmstrasse would protest vigorously against any independent policy—as may be seen by its urgent message addressed to the Bolshevik Government this week. Even in internal affairs the Roumanian Premier will have only the shadow of freedom, and an announcement that he hopes to carry out the policy of agrarian and electoral reform that was recently voted at Jassy must be read with the implied condition that permission and support for this programme are first obtained from Berlin.

It by no means follows automatically that this permission will be given. It is not necessarily to the interest of the German Government to allow Roumania to set her house in order; any step that may strengthen Roumania by removing internal friction will probably be discountenanced by the German Foreign Office on plausible grounds as against its own interests. Its policy everywhere, as the present war has shown, from Mexico to China, is to encourage friction in other States, as likely to tend to its own advantage.

The lines of German policy in this particular matter can easily be foreseen. The movement for political and electoral reform in Roumania has naturally derived its main support in Liberal circles, and it has, to say the least, only been grudgingly accepted as a national necessity by the Conservatives. Now, the weight of German policy is always and everywhere thrown against electoral reform on democratic lines, and she has no sympathy with the emancipation of the peasants; her influence will, therefore, be given to maintaining the Roumanian Conservative party in power, or, more correctly speaking, in office; and she will undoubtedly attempt to come to a permanent understanding with them on the basis that they rule Roumania and Germany rules them. The bargain will not be so brutally enunciated, but these will be the essential elements.

On those lines German capital will feel reasonably secure in the development of Roumania on German lines. Roumanian directors will no doubt be allowed for what will be nominally Roumanian enterprises, but these will be little more than men of straw, taking their orders from the German controller in the background. The system is a familiar one, and the Deutsche Bank, which is already established at Bucharest, thoroughly understands its working. It aims at reducing Roumania to a German economic satellite. Possibly for the time being it may have some appearance of success, but we refuse to believe that the strong national feeling of Roumania, which has been fortified both by the war and by the cruel fate which has put her out of the war, will in the long run acquiesce in this rôle of satellite so clearly marked out for her.

There is far more chance of a permanent German success in this direction in the Baltic provinces and in Finland than in Roumania. Along the Baltic German influence has been strong for centuries; in Roumania it is of recent growth, it has been largely underground, and its true nature is now thoroughly understood. Nor can any economic measures get over the fact that in Roumania the sympathies of the bulk of the people are, and have for long been, with the Latin and not with the Teuton States. Unless the present settlement is upset, therefore, at the general Peace Conference, the domination which Germany is openly aiming at in the Balkans merely contains within itself the seed of future wars, for the same considerations will also apply, with somewhat diminished force, to Bulgaria.

For the present Germany certainly has the advantage in the Balkans, and she will make full use of her time. Our newspapers are again allowing their headlines to suggest that the present battle in the West is "the Kaiser's last thrust," and that if, as is expected, his armies cannot break through, he will be compelled to sue for peace. This remains to be seen. On the other hand, if the war reverts in a few weeks' time to an indecisive trench warfare on a new Western front, Germany may indeed attempt a fresh peace offensive. But in view of the temper, not merely of the German Government and the pan-Germans, but of the bulk of the German people, Socialists as well as Conservatives and National Liberals, there does not seem the faintest hope that Germany will put forward the terms which the Allies are in the least likely to accept. The Kaiser revealed himself again last week as being against what he calls "a soft peace"; if he fails to defeat us in the West, he will presumably call on us to accept the Eastern situation as a *fait accompli*, while we make concessions in the West and overseas. In view of the present temper of England, which, conformably to our traditions, is firmer at this moment of supreme crisis than at any time in the past two years, those proposals would be indignantly rejected. We will no more contemplate a German victory in the East than in the West, and the same may be said of the other parties to the Alliance.

The fact that this commits us to a seemingly indefinite prolongation of the war, as Lord Leverhulme, in a widely-quoted interview, has recognised this week, cuts in two directions. It means, of course, that Germany will still further lose touch with the extra-European world—but that in itself forces her all the more strongly towards the East. She will utilise her opportunities to the full in the Balkans, the Ukraine, and in Turkey; and she will lay her plans on the assumption of permanent control in those regions. It appears to be generally admitted that she will not be able to draw large supplies from those countries during the present year, but she will call on her people to hold out until 1919, when the fruits of victory will, she hopes, at last be apparent in grain and oil.

The territorial cessions which Austria demands from Roumania are said to include the strip of territory extending from a point east of the Red Tower Pass to a point on the Danube near Ghilramar. This district has an area of some three thousand miles, and includes the Vulcan Pass, the Porta Orientala, and the Iron Gates—the strategic keys of the country. Count Czernin—who but a few short weeks ago was professing to advocate a peace without annexation—proposes to make this country an Austro-Hungarian Crown land, with its capital at Turnu Severin. Further than this, opposite Predeal, Austria demands the annexation of Roumanian territory about ten miles wide as far as Bushteji, and thence eastwards for a distance of some eighty miles; while from Ocna northwards a strip of twenty miles in width is claimed over a front of about 140 miles. The total claim is about seven thousand square miles, no inconsiderable amount. The aim in this case is apparently not merely the lust of land, but a demand for full military security against invasion in the next war—a similar demand, it will be remembered, was put forward in the last settlement with Italy in the middle of the nineteenth century, and has considerably handicapped our Allies in their Alpine campaign in the present fight. The certain political result of this military measure will be to foster the irredentist feeling in Roumania, but presumably Austria has allowed for that.

In connection with the enforced Roumanian cession of territory to Bulgaria and Hungary, the Berlin paper *Tägliche Rundschau* reports that Roumania will receive as compensation "not only districts in Bessarabia taken from it by Russia in 1878, but a not inconsiderable extension of territory beyond the Pruth." The truth of the report is doubtful; what is certain is that, if Roumania is to be treated as a mere satellite of the German Powers, as is evidently the intention, a strip of territory one way or the other will not matter. More probable is the report that the Chotin district of Northern Bessarabia will be united to the Bukovina. This is an accession which Austria has long coveted to round off her furthest province; and now that she has thrown off the mask of "no annexations and no indemnities," which was a useful snare with which to entrap the Bolsheviks, her traditional policy of expansion is naturally to be gratified. The Emperor Charles would then be able to boast that, whereas his predecessor began his reign by a war which lost him territory, the present reign has begun by adding to the Hapsburg dominions.

No further news has been received from the East as to the progress of the negotiations between the Caucasus Republic and the Turks at Trebizond, nor do the German newspapers appear to be better informed than ourselves—they are given up for the moment to accounts of the brutal manner in which the Armenians have treated the Turks who have marched forward to Erzerum—a hypocritical performance that should have evoked a feeling of disgust even in Germany, one would have thought. But meanwhile the formation of yet another republic is announced—a Tauridian Republic, which includes the whole of the Crimea. The only thing that is known about this republic is that it is under Bolshevik influence.

The Egyptian Budget for 1918-19 balances in the neighbourhood of £E23,000,000, save for a small anticipated deficit of £E350,000. This represents a 50 per cent. increase on the figures of six years ago, and is, indeed, more than £E3,000,000 higher than last year's Budget. Egypt has fared consistently well throughout the war after a preliminary setback in the early days. Although prosperity at the present height may be temporary, it rests on foundations making for steady progress. Prices have ruled high for cotton and cereals, and the British forces in the country have more than compensated for the absence of the ordinary tourist. But production is increasing, and on scientific lines. The chief drawback is that important public works are to a large extent in abeyance, but in this connection it must not be lost sight of that Egypt is devoting most of the money that might be set aside for a construction programme at the end of the war as a monetary contribution to the cost of the war. It may well be that the Egyptian, having experienced the advantage of "good money," will see the necessity of keeping production up to a level that will assure him a similar income when prices resume a more normal figure.

There appears to be some trouble in the Greek Chamber over ex-King Constantine's pension. It is not to be wondered at. Pro-Germanism is in the very bones of that monarch, and his exile to Switzerland has clearly tended to aggravate, if that is possible, this disease, to which the husbands of German princesses are particularly liable and which in their cases is usually incurable. The exiled monarch is busily intriguing, and it is certainly rather hard that Greece should have to pay for a King whom she does not want to see back again. The idea that King Constantine would be reduced to beg his bread from charitable Swiss peasants, if Greece stopped his allowance, is, of course, absurd; he would simply draw on his brother-in-law in Berlin, from whom he has certainly earned a pension. In these circumstances few could question the right of the Greek Chamber to stop his allowance.

In this connection it may be noted that our contemporary *Truth*, which is often well-informed, states that the opinion is generally held in Zurich that King Constantine will soon leave that city for Germany, where the Royal Schloss at Homburg is understood to have been placed at his disposal, and where the ex-Queen would find the congenial society of some of her relatives close at hand. The personal attendants of the ex-King are said to include a German naval and a German military officer.

So many authoritative, and contradictory, announcements have been made in this country about impending visits of political deputations from India that there is natural hesitation in accepting the latest report, which tells us that the extreme section first secured the postponement of a deputation representing various shades of opinion, and then hastened to despatch one of their own. The story is, however, not improbable: for the last two years the Home Rulers have played their cards far more skilfully than the Moderates, and if the latter have now allowed themselves to be euchred, the result will not surprise spectators who have watched the game attentively. The "unity" of the movement, of course, remains unimpaired by such transactions, and our visitors will doubtless be quite ready to speak in the name of India, sinking the fact that their monopoly of the platform results from the exercise of a presidential casting vote.

What the members of the deputation hope to accomplish is not altogether clear. Mr. Montagu has heard their sentiments already, and the only other persons who count at the present stage are the Ministers of the War Cabinet, who will, we fear, be too busy this summer to spend much time in listening to the oft-told story of the visitors' grievances and aspirations. As for the British public, we are quite sure that it does not intend to be worried over the details of the Indian Constitution: it has accepted the declaration of policy made last August, and it means to leave Ministers to carry that policy into effect. Audiences will doubtless be forthcoming—sympathisers, pacifists, and busybodies of all sorts—and there will be much mutual admiration and little scrutiny of the credentials of either side; but at the end of these things Home Rule will stand precisely where it stood at the beginning.

It does not, however, follow that the visitors will altogether waste their time, though the benefits may be different from those they hope to secure. They will come to this country able and astute men, but at the same time somewhat bookish and provincial, with a narrow outlook and a natural ignorance of the real meaning of the terms most often in their months. Here they will have an opportunity of learning many things. They may see, for instance, what autocracy really means, though we hope such tangible bits of information as bombs or torpedoes will not come their way: they may learn by observation something of the working of a democracy, and they may realise what India will be like when weavers, and potters, and leather-workers can rise to be Ministers of State. If they make the most of their opportunities, they will return to India even wiser than when they started, and in that event their journey will not have been thrown away.

One point which our visitors might well be given special opportunities of studying is the restriction of individual freedom necessitated by a state of war. India is very slow in learning this lesson, and much is still written and spoken there which would not be tolerated in this country, while the recent news that the agitation against preventive internment is being more actively worked up is disquieting from every point of view. Nobody likes the idea of internment, a word which, by the way, suggests all sorts of horrors conspicuously absent from the actual process, but in the conditions prevailing in Bengal it has been proved to be the most effective measure for controlling the activities of the friends of the enemy, and to observers in this country that consideration is decisive until the war has finally been won. A study of the regulations for the Defence of the Realm and of the action taken under them would be excellent discipline for those who hold a different view.

We have written above of India's ignorance of England, so it is only fair that we should recognise that there is ignorance also on the other side. An enthusiastic "war worker" asked us bitterly this week whether India was ever going to wake up, instancing in particular the failure to adopt the practice of daylight saving, which has again come into force in this country. It was, of course, easy to emphasise that in this matter at least India—the real India—has been wiser than the West, and that, as she still regulates her activities by the sun, it is quite unnecessary to tamper periodically with the clocks, which are, moreover, too scarce to make any particular difference. We wish all misunderstandings on both sides could be removed with no greater difficulty.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 25.

Receptions at the Palace.

The Sultan is giving a series of evening receptions to the leading Government officials and notables. The first took place some ten days ago, when most of the guests were Egyptians. On Thursday evening last the second one was held, and the guests on this occasion included the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, General Sir Edmund and Lady Allenby, the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the senior Government officials, and the leading European notables. A special theatrical entertainment was given by a French troupe, and a most sumptuous buffet was provided.

The Petroleum Question.

I have reason to believe that the Government will very shortly exact measures for dealing more effectively with the question of local supplies of foodstuffs as well as of articles of daily necessity. As a start very wide powers have been granted to the Petroleum Controller under a proclamation just issued. Under this measure petroleum is declared to be an article subjected to military control; its transport and sale are prohibited without special permission from the Controller; no one may retain in his possession more than is necessary for the purposes of his business or for his ordinary consumption during a period of ten days; the Controller is empowered to require declarations as to the quantity held by each person and to make regulations for the sale and distribution of petroleum; and any offence against the proclamation or any breach of the terms of any permit will be deemed an offence punishable under martial law. Thus the problem of petroleum is being drastically dealt with, and it is to be hoped that similar measures will be taken with regard to other commodities which are beginning to arouse attention, and which, if not firmly tackled, may assume serious proportions in the very near future. The tariff has long become a dead letter, and the more affluent condition of the producers of agricultural commodities, since it does away with the necessity which existed previously to sell in order to have funds for everyday requirements, is inducing them to hold up supplies, a change in the local situation which calls for an immediate amendment of the existing legislation so as to enable the authorities to deal with this new class of hoarders in an effective and satisfactory manner.

Education in Egypt.

The two Commissions appointed some while back to study the introduction of elementary education and the creation of a State University have made good headway with their work, and the first-named one should soon be in a position to draft its report. It is understood that as matters stand at present the recommendations of that Commission do not differ much from the terms of the original project submitted to it for consideration. It should, therefore, be possible to give effect to this scheme of extending elementary education throughout the country within a short time after the presentation of the report, if it were not for two obstacles standing in the way of any speedy realisation of the proposal. In the first place new buildings have to be constructed for these schools, and the cost of erection would be a heavy charge on the Government. Secondly, the staff of qualified teachers is inadequate. One of the great criticisms of the existing elementary schools—I refer to those which are privately run—is that a great proportion of the teachers are not in possession of the proper educational certificates.

The housing problem might in some districts temporarily be overcome by the renting of local buildings, but generally speaking new premises would in every case have eventually to be provided. The financial difficulty might be met by the Provincial Councils, who have the power to allot a certain proportion of local taxation to educational projects, and who could, when proper material becomes available, arrange to allocate a fixed sum annually in their Budget to new works in the form of the construction of elementary schools and to their future upkeep. It is in this manner that the system of elementary schools will most probably be financed, for it is obviously more equitable to meet local elementary education by local contributions than to make it a charge on the State Budget as a whole. As regards the dearth of teachers, the Government is extending its training institutions as much as possible, and practically every Mudiria has its normal school. The production of a sufficiently numerous teaching staff will take some time, of course, but it is expected that as and when schools become ready there will be available a very large proportion of the staff required.

In this connection one wonders why the Egyptian University does not assist in the production of teachers. Its governing body knows or ought to know by now that that institution has not fulfilled its object, and that its days as a University are numbered, and so instead of trying to justify its existence, or, rather, make believe by statistics that it is filling some useful purpose, by starting classes for external students at the School of Law to enable them to sit at the annual law examination, it would surely be better if it opened courses for the training of teachers. This is a suggestion which might well be taken into account by the governing committee. Neither the opening of classes for training teachers nor the qualifying of students to sit at examinations other than the Egyptian University examinations enters really into the rôle of that institution, but whereas its present departure tends to increase the ranks of an already overcrowded profession, and so is doing no useful service to the State, the one suggested would meet a real want and be of national utility.

The Cotton Seed Situation.

The situation in Alexandria having improved, the Cotton Seed Control Board now announces that it will be prepared to resume acceptance of cotton seed in Alexandria on and after the 26th instant. In the meantime the difficulty encountered in shipping the seed out of the country has compelled the Government to suspend temporarily part of Law No. 29 laying down the measures to be taken with a view to reducing the propagation of the pink boll worm. In the terms of Article 1 of this law all premises where cotton seed is stored between May 1 and August 1—the period during which the moth is known to emerge from the chrysalis—must be provided with means for preventing the moth from flying out into the open; in other words, all apertures must be closed with wire netting. As a result of the present shipping situation it is evident that an abnormally large portion of the cotton seed crop will still be in the country during the period mentioned, and since there is possibly not sufficient wire netting available locally, and since most of the premises where cotton seed will be stored this year will not be used permanently for the purpose, it has very rightly been considered unfair to shoulder the local industry with the extra expense and trouble in this respect, and Article 1 of the Law has, therefore, been suspended for the current year.

In addition, Articles 2 and 3 of the same Law ordering the installation in all ginning factories of approved apparatus for the destruction of the pink boll worm in the freshly ginned seed, which was suspended last year, has been reimposed. The suspension, it may be recollected, was put into effect because it was found impossible to get the necessary machinery from England before the final date fixed for its installation, i.e., September, 1917, but sufficient plant has now been received to meet the needs of the ginneries in Upper Egypt, and an *arrêté* has therefore been issued ordering all ginneries in that area to instal the necessary apparatus before July 15. Factories in Lower Egypt have been given up to the same date in 1919 to comply with the requirements of the law, as there is every reason to expect that this extra period will be sufficient to enable the ginners concerned to obtain delivery and erect the necessary plant.

CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE.

(From a Syrian Correspondent.)

Some interesting information on the economic situation in Turkey is supplied by a resident who has recently arrived in Egypt from that country. My informant begins by giving the last official list of prices of foodstuffs in Constantinople as follows:—

	Piastres.		Piastres
Bread, per kilogramme	25	Sugar, per kilogramme	100
Meat ,,	40-70	Coffee ,,	400
Haricot beans ,,	3	Petroleum ,,	80
Flour ,,	50	Coal ,,	3
Potatoes ,,	18	Eggs, per piece.........	21/2
Milk ,,	15	Fowl ,, ...	45
Butter ,,	110		

As to articles of clothing, a suit costs from 1,500 to 2,000 piastres and a pair of boots from 600 to 1,000 piastres.

In explanation of the economic ruin to which Turkey has been brought, he points out that, as an essentially agricultural country, she ought to have been self-supporting if sufficient human and animal labour had been left. But the Young Turks have not only denuded unnecessarily the country of men and beasts of burden, without any regard for economic requirements, but have committed the further suicidal crime of making an agreement with their German masters that the latter were to be paid for supplies of munitions of war in foodstuffs. As the munition account ran up into several millions the requisition of foodstuffs by the Turkish Government to meet the liability was carried out in proportion. As an instance the fact is cited that the town of Edremid alone supplied one million marks worth of oil during the first year of the war.

In the second year of the war the prices of foodstuffs were still fairly reasonable, as may be seen from the following figures that ruled at Angora.

	Piastres.		Piastres
Wheat, per kilogramme...	4	Honey, per kilogramme	12
Butter ,, ...	9	Milk ,,	2
Rice ,, ...	5	Meat ,,	3

The issue of paper currency had not yet been made, and the stocks in the country, which had always exported considerable quantities, were slow in being exhausted owing to the sea blockade. These prices, however, were doubled six months later, and when my informant left the town German agents and members of the Committee of Union and Progress were taking over all that they could lay hands on. Although railway transport was exclusively taken up by the army, the latter favoured the Unionists' agents by allowing them a few trucks to Constantinople, where their goods were sold at extravagant prices.

The final heavy drain on men and beasts of burden brought about the supreme crisis from which Turkey is now suffering so acutely. To illustrate the utter dearth of beasts of burden my informant reports that he personally saw an unfit and cast-off horse sold in a village for 4,000 piastres.

If this state of things obtained in the purely Turkish part of the Empire one can easily imagine how much worse conditions were in the non-Turkish provinces, especially in Syria and Palestine. The climax of cruelty was reached when the Turks were being driven northwards. In their hurried retreat systematic spoliation degenerated into looting, plunder, and even destruction. Detailed accounts are beginning to appear in a Zionist organ published in Cairo. I append an extract from a letter in the current issue, which refers to the situation just after the capture:—

The Turkish Evacuation.

"At Jerusalem the situation is fearful; thousands are literally starving. Although the British Government is doing all in its power to alleviate the prevailing distress, yet it is still acute. The scarcity of foodstuffs is such that only the few persons of means can afford to supply their needs; the overwhelming majority of the poor cannot do so. What aggravates this pitiful situation is the practical absence of clothing material, which is unobtainable at any price. Crowds of men, women, and children are to be seen half-naked and barefoot.

At Jaffa things are no better owing to the manner in which the evacuation was carried out. Practically all the inhabitants were driven out to the north, and the huts of Kefar Seba and of Jemma and the hovels of the backyards of Galilee, as well as the cemeteries of all those places will long tell of all that this unhappy population has suffered. It is only the few who have been lucky enough to escape to the south, who are now gradually returning to the town, destitute and in rags.

The colonies to the south of Jaffa are in a much better condition. The war had taught them thrift, and as practically everyone has his vineyard and almond grove, these colonies on the whole did not experience absolute hunger. It is especially in cattle and clothing that the need is mostly felt. In the colonies lying north of Judæa, where the Turkish retreat was slow, the situation is precarious. Worse than locusts, the Turks destroyed what they could not carry away. In the largest and richest colony, Petah-Tikwah, worth about 15 million francs, whose population runs into several thousands, not including the refugees from Jaffa, the total damage amounts to several millions; many vineyards and orange groves with their buildings, motors, and machines were destroyed. The quiet little centres of Ain Ganim and Machné-Jehuda suffered severely. If at Beer Toubia, Ekron Gdera the Turks satisfied themselves with mere plunder, or the requisition of the last loaf of bread or head of cattle, and indulged only occasionally in damaging certain houses, amongst which is the fine synagogue of Gdera, such was not the case at Ain Ganim and Machné-Jehuda, where the buildings were demolished and burned. The Turks left neither houses nor orchards; they did not even spare the renowned vegetable gardens there. The ruined inhabitants of these places have come to swell the number of destitute at Jaffa. Many of the inhabitants of Petah-Tikwah who were once well-to-do have been reduced to poverty, and now lack both food and clothing."

In contrast to this picture of lawlessness and wanton destruction we can fortunately turn to the intelligent organisation and humane solicitude shown by the British administration. Entering a country just devastated by the enemy, with damaged or destroyed lines of communication to repair and new ones to lay down, involving the transport of an enormous amount of material under difficult conditions, aggravated by the absence of local means of animal transport and inclement weather, and with a large army of fighting and auxiliary troops to keep supplied with food and munitions, the military authorities have yet been able to devote some care to the needs of the civil population. A British lady engaged in relief work wrote to a Syrian friend similarly engaged:—" Our men are going on diminished rations in order to keep the poor people from starving." Could the contrast be more striking? And yet there are still some people who express impatience over the apparent delay in the settlement of the arrangements for provisioning Palestine and establishing trade relations, within restricted limits, between that country and Egypt. The writer is in a position to state that, far from the question not having been given a sufficiently prompt attention by the authorities, it has been a matter of anxious thought for them. To that end a special administration has just been created, called the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration, for the purpose of utilising to the utmost extent, through licensed firms, the limited transport facilities which the military authorities can at present afford. It is expected that this new agency will be in working order very soon.

One thing is certain that, although the economic condition may still leave much to be desired, there can be no fear of actual starvation, and that relief is very near at hand. Further than that the outlook for next summer is decidedly bright, as the authorities have, with intelligent foresight and commendable sympathy, already supplied the peasants and landowners with seed corn for the next harvest; and as the country is now being opened to trade, further attention will be devoted to matters of detail, such as the replenishing of the stock of cattle for ploughing purposes and the supply of petroleum for motor-engines in the fruit plantations in Jaffa and elsewhere.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Before the war most people in this country persisted in believing that Baghdad was in Persia. On one occasion I had an argument on the subject with a young woman in a post office, who finally consented to believe that the city was in Turkey only when I assured her that I had been there myself. As for Busreh, few Englishmen had ever heard of the place in their pre-war days. But to-day both places are known to most of us—by reputation at any rate. An old West Country dame has given Busreh a title that might fairly stick to it, if it had the chance. She was telling a neighbour of her son's arrival in the port, and the neighbour was momentarily puzzled. "Busreh?" said she interrogatively, "Busreh?" "Yes, my dear," explained the other. "The place where the dates come from." And Number Two beamed understandingly. Shall we ever, I wonder, have a "Charl[illegible]'s Aunt" from Busreh?

⁂

It was the "star" turn at the Y.M.C.A. hut that evening. An Australian was describing in eloquent and moving terms the capture of Bethlehem. His own company had been the first to enter the village in the late afternoon, and he was recalling the memories that crowded in upon them during the hours that followed. "I guess the shepherds watched their flocks *that* night" was the contribution of the inevitable voice from the audience.

⁂

During the past week I have heard the war described as the greatest game of chess that has ever been played and at the same time the strangest. The reason given for the latter adjective was that in this particular game all the Rooks are on one side, all the Knights on the other, while the Bishops are neutral.

⁂

What bade fair to be a promising romance, in which "a beautiful Turkish lady" played a prominent part, has turned out to be nothing but a very ordinary intrigue. In a message dated March 19, the New York correspondent of *The Times* reported the arrest of the said "beautiful Turkish lady" with three companions, who were all "believed to be active members of the German espionage system"; and the American papers, we were informed, had been enabled "to publish a thrilling spy romance." Knowing something of the power of the American journalist in the romantic line, I can readily believe this; for certainly all the ingredients for a first-class "shocker" seemed to be provided. The fair Turkish lady's companions in adversity were a Baron, a Count, and a lady who, though described as "a native of Berlin," preferred the title of Madame to that of Frau (this, too, after receiving a substantial sum from Count Bernstorff!). The b. T. l. apparently passed under several aliases at one time and another; she lived in considerable style at the Hotel Baltimore; she seems to have been at home in several capitals; and she was given to entertaining officers at "very pleasant little parties."

⁂

All this, as I remarked above, looked promising, even though the fascinating fair had such an unattractive name as Storsch. In fact, her ugly surname—acquired in the course of her variegated career from a French husband from whom she was subsequently divorced—was to some extent atoned for by her first name, Despina. But the American police seem to have been suspicious of her cosmopolitanism, so to say, and accordingly she suffered arrest. Fortunately for herself, if unfortunately for the end of the story, certain mysterious code documents, which were seized by the secret service officers when the luckless four were taken prisoners, turned out to be nothing worse than "love epistles couched in affectionate terms, the hidden meaning of which was at first undecipherable." So Madame Storsch, the Count, the Baron, and the second lady are, after all, to be "deported simply as undesirables"—to quote a Reuter's message which gives the end of the story.

⁂

The love letters, by the way, were apparently written by—or to?—"a neutral diplomatist." It strikes me as fortunate that this fact did not transpire in time to be turned to account in the debate on Foreign Policy and the Shortcomings of our Trained Diplomatists in General (that is not what the newspapers called it, but it conveys the idea, I fancy) last week. Even Mr. Balfour might have found it hard to defend a diplomatist (neutral or otherwise) who had indulged in such indiscretions as sending or receiving "love epistles couched in affectionate terms," even in code. I wonder whether the secret police who decoded the interesting documents had a *very* amusing time! If the letters were Oriental in expression, they would probably give the decipherer considerable trouble, at any rate; for, after he had decoded, say, "My gazelle-waisted palm branch," or whatever it might be, he would still wonder whether he *could* really have got at the writer's innermost meaning. But perhaps he was satisfied as soon as he found that the letters *were* "love epistles couched in affectionate terms." For such things have usually no meaning, hidden or otherwise.

⁂

One aspect of the Lichnowsky affair has been overlooked in this country; but it is very typical of Germany. Prince Lichnowsky wrote the famous notes for the family archives, and in his explanation to the Imperial Chancellor he states: "I considered I might show them, on the assurance of absolute secrecy, to a very few political friends in whose judgment, as well as trustworthiness, I had equal confidence." He proceeds to stigmatise the circulation of the documents as an "unprecedented breach of confidence." I am not so sure about that—in Germany; but I am sure that, outside Hunland, no such breach of confidence could have occurred, at least in the circles of society within which we may conclude Prince Lichnowsky moves. But here we have German *Kultur* in a nutshell. Every stratum of society is so honeycombed with espionage that even those of the highest rank cannot trust the smallest circle of their intimate friends. Mr. Gerard, the American Ambassador, in his "Memoirs," comments on this phenomenon. Sir Valentine Chirol, who has a particularly intimate knowledge of Germany and the Germans, refers to the same characteristic in a letter to *The Times*, in which he shows how Germany's highest representatives abroad are encouraged by the Government, *anglice*, to play mean and dirty tricks on one another. The fact is that the German's outlook on life, his code of honour—in fact, his whole mind—is an Augean stable. How is the Herculean task of cleansing it going to be carried out?

⁂

In former days Arabia must have been a paradise for the poets. The production of a poem of merit secured for its author not only praise and honour, but also, in many instances, more substantial rewards that might well give rise to jealousy amongst the poets of lands less appreciative of their art than Araby. To a certain extent this love of poetry still survives among the Arabs and Arabic-speaking peoples. The desert Arabs, I am told, are the poet's most enthusiastic admirers, if not his most intelligent critics; but in the larger towns and cities it appears to be becoming rather "unfashionable" to be too enthusiastic over poetry or the poets. Be that as it may, the poet evidently finds appreciation—and solid proof of it, too—in Egypt. I have just been reading of one highly esteemed poet, Hafiz Bey Ibrahim, reciting an ode of his own composition in the amphitheatre of the Egyptian Ministry of Education. That in itself is no mean honour, one imagines, and the ode appears to have been greatly enjoyed, although it contained over two hundred verses! One wealthy Cairene has presented the gifted poet with a diamond ring valued at £200 (Egyptian); while another is said "to propose to give the poet a still more valuable present." Lucky Bey! If it is no longer fashionable to stuff a poet's mouth with sugar plums, he may at least still hope for other, and more agreeable, recognition.

⁂

If you ever read the "agony column" of *The Times* or the *Morning Post* you are probably familiar with the "Wilt any kind person adopt beautiful baby boy?"—or girl, as the case may be—style of advertisement. Such appeals would probably be common in the Egyptian journals just now, if anybody set the fashion, for, according to the *Wady-en-Nil*, the Government officials are indulging in such remarks as: "I should be obliged if anyone would take charge of my children and reduce my financial burden," or, "I have a big family and the price of bread takes most of my pay," etc. This is, of course, apropos of the agitation for further war bonuses, to which THE NEAR EAST'S Cairo Correspondent referred last week. The Egyptian papers received lately contain many allusions to the subject, and petitions appear to have been raining in on the Government in connection with this cost of living problem.

⁂

Unless the newly established Sultanien Institute of Hydrobiology performs a miracle in the way of getting to work quickly, we can hardly hope that it will do much to relieve the harassed Egyptian housekeeper of her share of the great food problem, which is exasperating the world at large. For we all hope that the war has now entered on its last stage. The institute is bound to prove a blessing to Egypt, however, and it ought to "fill a want" that really has been "long felt." Ancient Egypt appears to have been well off for fresh-water fish, if we may judge by the sculptures, which frequently show us fishermen spearing fish, taking them in nets, and so forth. But modern Egypt has strangely neglected the excellent chances provided by the Nile and the Balu Yusuf Canal. It is true that European sportsmen occasionally fish these waters, and that native fishermen, professional and amateur, do so also to a slight extent; but, in comparison with what might be, next to nothing has been done. The Institute will doubtless alter that in time, and the Egyptians will have cause to bless Sultan Fuad for his happy thought in calling it into being.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMAN FRIGHTFULNESS.[*]

Mr. Arnold Toynbee has rendered good service to civilisation by his crushing indictment of German policy in Belgium and Northern France. That it was prompted by the Higher Command is shown by an official "Manual of the Rules of War," issued by the Berlin General Staff in 1902. This code of military operations, designed for the use of officers on active service, declared that humanity in every form was contrary to the nature and aim of warfare. It also left the choice of methods for cowing the civilian population of an invaded country entirely at the discretion of army leaders. The fact that five years later the German representatives at the Hague Convention acquiesced in clauses which should have had a diametrically opposite effect led to a general belief that future wars would be waged with due regard for international law. Hence the thrill of horror which ran through the civilised world when it became known that Germany treated the Hague Convention as yet another "scrap of paper." The evidence establishing her guilt rests on official reports published by the British, French, and Belgian Governments; not to mention the testimony of neutral eye-witnesses proving the perpetration of wholesale massacres, arson, rape, and pillage by the locust-like horde that swept through Belgium and Northern France in August, 1914. Mr. Toynbee has marshalled his damning facts with consummate skill; and the value of his book is increased by maps and photographs enabling the reader to form a mental picture of the horrors of German invasion. It is passing strange that Bavarians, Saxons, and Würtembergers should have far excelled their Prussian masters in the shedding of innocent blood. The latter might plead in extenuation the fierce passions generated by economic and political rivalry; but South Germans have no such excuse to offer. Their conduct during the autumn of 1914 reveals the sinister action of the Prussian cancer on races of low mentality and coarse animal fibre.

F. H. S.

DIPLOMACY OUT OF DATE.[†]

Serbia has many skeletons in her cupboard, and in this respect is not alone among States, whether inside or outside the Balkans. Hers, however, are almost entirely of recent origin. Their exposure to the public gaze, therefore, seems to make the dis-service usually associated with this step even more marked than it would be if the skeletons had been of a respectable antiquity. But such is the effect of the book of memoirs which Count Mijatovich has published. Of his devotion to Serbia there can be no question; he has spent long years in her service, both as Cabinet Minister and as diplomatist; he enjoyed the confidence and friendship of her rulers. As he has had special opportunities of watching events, *quorum pars magna fuit*, that ended in the great war, the instincts of the historian told him that the contributions which he could make to the general knowledge of the trend of European politics would be of value. Keeping this goal in view, he has indulged a happy vein of story-telling, with the result that he has compiled a most interesting book. Our only fear is that his candid narrative is not calculated to raise Serbia in the estimation of those who hold that the Balkan States are inclined to arrogate to themselves a position to which they are not entitled. Nowadays secret diplomacy has lost caste; but in these pages it runs riot, and in some instances—notably in connection with the secret treaty between Serbia and Austria-Hungary (1880)—it is clear that our author's line of reasoning belongs to the old school, and would not pass muster in a more democratic age. It is a matter of general knowledge that the Balkan States in the old days played a prominent part in promoting or keeping alive friction in Europe. Count Mijatovich's narrative explains in part how this was done. King Milan himself cheerfully admitted, we are told, that he declared war on Bulgaria in 1886 with the idea of provoking war between Russia and Austria. Perhaps the chief service that the author has rendered by his frankness, which, he informs us, is at once his "strength and weakness," is to point to a condition of things that must not be allowed to repeat itself. The story of the Obrenovitch régime is not a happy one. It will seem to many a pity that Count Mijatovich, as he omits all mention of certain events in Serbia in 1899 which did not redound to the honour of his friend, Dr Vladan Georgevich, did not spare the memory of the misguided King Alexander. For in this respect the troubles of Serbia are not to be regarded as at an end, if we are to take all that we read in this book *au pied de la lettre.* For the Count is a firm believer in "the occult." His own future was mapped out for him when a boy, and he is convinced that the last prediction, which promises him death at the hands of a political assassin, will yet come true. We trust not. Another seer who occupies a prominent position on the author's stage is Matha of Kremna, who predicted the assassination of King Alexander, the accession of Peter Karageorgvitch, and the occupation of Serbia by a foreign army. The rest of this prediction runs:,—

> But some time afterwards a man will arise from among the people, a relation of the Obrenovitch dynasty, who will gather the people around him and succeed in driving out the foreign army and unite all Serb countries in one State.

We can but hope that the Serbians will recover their country sooner than this prophecy would seem to imply. It is claimed for Princess Nathalie, who obtained a divorce from (the late) Prince Mirko of Montenegro, that she is the last legitimate descendant of the Obrenovitch family. Her children, indeed, might save the reputation of Matha of Kremna; but the reader, unless he be a member of the Psychic Society, while grateful to Count Mijatovich, will be tempted to hope that his excursions into the occult, like those into secret diplomacy, belong to a dead past, which has been at last interred for all time.

THE COTTON WORLD.[*]

The life of modern Lancashire is, or was until war broke out, symbolised by the hum and drone of its cotton mills. Cotton in bales come from the south, east and west, pass through the wonderful processes of spinning and weaving, emerge therefrom in the shape of cloth, and, pausing only slightly, take ship again for the world's four ends. Thus the whole social and economic structure of Lancashire is built upon cotton, on its price, on harvest prospects, on the shortage or abundance of crops, on rates, on the relations between capital and labour, and a myriad other problems of international as well as of national importance. The result is that the men who stand at the apex of the cotton industry in Lancashire are men indeed, and none has within the past few decades earned a more deserving title in this respect than Sir Charles Macara, with whose doings our readers, both at home and in Egypt, are acquainted in connection more particularly with the cotton problems of the valley of the Nile from Ghezira to the Delta. Mr. Mills, in his portraiture of modern Lancashire, has therefore had a happy idea in taking as the central figure the striking personality of the baronet who did so much to regularise the flow of cotton into and the flow of cloth out of the Manchester Ship Canal, and who, in all his vast dealings with capital and labour, aimed continually at harmonising the demands of the classes so as to prevent deadlocks in the trade and moments of strife or stagnation in the economic life of Lancashire. The result is a readable picture of Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, and the minor milling centres before 1914. The last chapter, which we perhaps prefer, is devoted to Sir Charles's activity during the war—to the suggestions which, in his capacity as a great organiser of men, he made to the Government of the day, of how some were accepted and carried out, and others, ignored at the time, were adopted in principle at a later date. This chapter, with all its disappointments, is an object lesson in how to muddle, and is, without in any way aiming at it, a powerful indictment of the mismanagement of national organisation by "an orgy of departmentalisation"—an evil of which we are only now beginning to feel the first effects. The appendices of Mr. Mills' book include most of Sir Charles Macara's speeches and writings on cotton problems, the majority of which are already familiar to our readers.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Peace Problems in Economics and Finance. By Uriel D'Acosta. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Limited. 2s. 6d. net.)

Occasional Addresses, 1893-1916. By the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith. (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. 6s. net.)

Two useful maps have just been issued by Messrs. George Philip and Son—of Palestine, Syria, and the Sinai Peninsula, politically coloured, and of Mesopotamia and Asia Minor, physically coloured. The latter (3 ft. by 2 ft. 3 ins.) includes the Balkan Peninsula, together with the Black Sea and the Caucasus. It is, therefore, of special interest at the present juncture. The Palestine-Syria map enables the British operations to be followed closely, and gives a good idea of the physical difficulties ahead of General Allenby. The price of each map is 2s. 6d. net; mounted on cloth to fold, 6s. net; with rollers and varnished, 8s. 6d. net.

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[*] "The German Terror." By Arnold Toynbee. Hodder and Stoughton, 20 Warwick Square. Price 1s. net.

[†] "The Memoirs of a Balkan Diplomatist." By Count Mijatovich. (London assell and Co. 16s. net).

[*] "Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart: A Study of Modern Lancashire." By W Haslam Mills. (Sherratt and Hughes, Manchester.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1336.	5678.
March.	March.		Jomada II.	Nisan.
29	16	Friday	16	16
30	17	Saturday........	17	17
31	18	**Sunday**	18	18
April.				
1	19	Monday	19	19
2	20	Tuesday	20	20
3	21	Wednesday	21	21
4	22	Thursday	22	22

All British officers serving in Roumania are reported to be well.

Nine classes of Jews and Moslems in Epirus have been called to the Greek Colours.

Prince George of Serbia visited the King and Queen at Bucking Palace on March 23.

Mgr. Melitius, late Archbishop of Cyprus, has been appointed as Archbishop of Athens.

An Armenian Information Bureau has been instituted with headquarters at 153, Regent Street.

It is reported that the first disbanded Roumanian Army Corps has arrived in the occupied territory.

Colonel Milivoj J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, has left for the Western front.

Professor Undecteur, of the Sofia University, has been appointed Bulgarian Minister Plenipotentiary to the Ukraine.

The will of Mr. George Lyell, of Horsell Lodge, Woking, Surrey, formerly of Calcutta, has been proved at £206,093.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, has expressed his thanks to the donors to the Lord Mayor's Fund on behalf of the victims of the Salonika fire.

A hospital train conveying 153 seriously wounded Serbians, including about twenty officers and three French soldiers, from Austria arrived at Lyons on March 21.

After four days of conferences a complete agreement between the leaders of the Serbian parties as to the formation of a Coalition Cabinet could not be reached.

Lady Lawrence, widow of the first Lord Lawrence, Viceroy of India, 1864-1869, left unsettled estate of the gross value of £11,767, of which £10,442 is net personalty.

Major-General George Rennie Manderson, R.A., C.B., of Fullands, Taunton, Somerset, formerly of Hartnolls, Tiverton, Devon, Mutiny veteran, left estate valued at £17,165 gross.

Captain J. R. W. Gillan, Gordon Highlanders, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer with the rank of Bimbashi and posted to the Sudanese for duty.

Captain F. Y. Goring, Royal Sussex Regiment, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudanese for duty.

Meat in Cyprus, writes a correspondent, has been very scarce. Clothes cost about five times pre-war prices; while leather and many manufactured goods are becoming more and more scarce.

Captain Douglas Pass, who is a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turks, has given, through his wife, £5,000 in War Bonds and War Loan towards the erection of a residential college at Bristol University.

The *London Gazette* states that the King has given authority to Mr. Shirley Clifford Atchley, translator at the British Legation at Athens, to wear the Insignia of Chevalier of the Order of the Redeemer, conferred on him by the King of the Hellenes.

Mr. Lukach, who has been appointed Commissioner of Famagusta, Cyprus, while recently acting as Commissioner of Papho, succeeded in collecting over £1,000 for the Red Cross, and that in a district which has always been regarded as the poorest in the island

Reports from the United States Minister at Jassy show that although the terms of peace have not been signed Roumania's boundaries are being altered under the clause providing for the rectification of the frontier, and that Roumania is being subjected to the most drastic persecution.

Jewish crowds gave the Zionist Commissioners an enthusiastic reception on their arrival in Cairo. Sir Reginald Wingate, High Commissioner, and General Allenby were represented at the station.

Messages of congratulation were received by the Persian Minister, Mirza Mehdi Khan Musthir-ul-Mulk, from Mr. Balfour and the principal members of the Foreign Office, on the occasion of the Persian New Year's Day.

The marriage between Captain Cyril Noyes, M.C., Indian Infantry, eldest surviving son of the Rev. H. E. Noyes, D.D., and Violet Gaddum, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Lucas, of Ringmore, Devonshire, has taken place in India.

The publication by Czech newspapers in Austria of the full text of the Allied Socialist Manifesto of February 23 has not been permitted, and even the summaries that were published grossly distorted the reference to Austria-Hungary.

According to a Bucharest telegram *viâ* Berlin, negotiations among the members of the Quadruple Alliance, as well as between the Quadruple Alliance and Roumania, are proceeding satisfactorily, and a substantial *rapprochement* is within reach.

The Agent-General for Victoria (Sir Peter McBride) has received authority to pay to the Lord Mayor of London's Armenian Relief Fund £2,000 from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne's Armenian Relief Fund, making the total amount of charitable funds received from Victoria for distribution by him £439,961.

A Persian gun captured in Mesopotamia by the late General Maude is to be placed in Trafalgar Square. Major-General Sir W. T. Furse, Sir Douglas Dawson, Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., H.M. First Commissioner of Works, and the Permanent Secretary of that department visited the Square this week and selected a site.

The Grand Council of the Primrose League, which is organizing a campaign with regard to German designs in the East has arranged with the National War Aims Committee for the delivery of lectures, illustrated with large scale maps, to League Habitations on "German Aims, Causes of the War, and the Dangers of a Premature Peace."

The Postmaster-General announces that according to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office the transmission of parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Turkey (including civilians) is again suspended; and, until further notice, such parcels cannot be accepted at post-offices. Letters for prisoners of war in Turkey are still being forwarded.

The marriage of Captain S. H. La Fontaine, M.C., Intelligence Officer, East African Forces, and Assistant District Commissioner, British East Africa Protectorate, second son of Mr. and Mrs. S. La Fontaine, 10, Nottingham Place, W., and Agnes Helena, daughter of the late Rev. R. W. Thrupp and Mrs. Thrupp, St. Francis, Worthing, will take place at Philbeach Gardens on April 3, at 12.

The Times Athens correspondent states that the Greek Government submitted to the Chamber on March 14 a Bill reducing the King's allowance from £80,000 to £64,000. The Queen-mother Olga is allowed an annual grant of £12,000. Another Bill empowers the Government to grant the ex-King an annuity of £20,000 as compensation for the appropriation of the ex-King's property in Greece. The right to stop this annuity is reserved by the Government. It is reported, however, that the Greek Budget Commission at its next sitting will propose the rejection of Article I. relating to the annual allowance of £20,000 to ex-King Constantine. The Commission will justify its proposal by Constantine's continued antinational attitude.

The services for which Captain C. A. M. van Millingen, M.C., the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor A. van Millingen, M.A., D.D., of Robert College, Constantinople, was awarded the Military Cross are thus described in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of March 18:—"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of three officers and ninety-seven other ranks, which resulted in the killing of one enemy officer and twenty other ranks, the capture of six prisoners, and much damage to enemy dug-outs and material. When his right party was held up by an enemy strong point he personally led them forward, the post being rushed and all those in it killed."

Messages received from Brigadier-General Hawker, Military Governor of Baghdad, by the Armenian Refugees Fund, state that the main street of the city is now lighted with electric light. and the British authorities are making all kinds of improvements. The Governor is controlling the grain supplies for the population, with a ticket system of control, and sells about 85 tons a day to the civil population. Some Armenian refugees have arrived at Baghdad, and General Hawker has arranged for the able-bodied men among them to go to the French Legion being formed at some place near Syria. The Governor has also ordered the registration of Armenian girls employed in Baghdad.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has conveyed to the Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon by telegram the following message from his Majesty: "I have received with heartfelt regret the news of the death of Sir John Anderson, and am sure that the people of Ceylon will join with me in mourning the loss of their distinguished Governor, whom I had known and held in the highest regard for many years.—George R.I."

Reuter's Delhi correspondent states that Lady Chelmsford, presiding over a meeting of the Executive Committee for "Our Day" on March 20, announced that the total collections throughout India amounted to £815,000. The principal contributors to this result were Bombay with 20¼ lakhs of rupees, the United Provinces with 19 lakhs of rupees, Bengal and Punjab with 16 lakhs of rupees each, and Burma with 9 lakhs of rupees, while the Indian States gave over 20 lakhs of rupees.

Sir Alfred Mond, speaking at a meeting of the Serbian Relief Fund held on March 26, said that no nation had suffered as Serbia had suffered, and no country had been more true to the Allies. At an hour when we ourselves were going through moments of anguish and arduous trial, when we were feeling to the full the brunt of the war and the strength of the brutal enemy opposed to us—that was the hour in which we should do our utmost to help the Serbian people, who were waiting for their day of liberation.

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OBITUARY.

SIR JOHN ANDERSON.

We regret to announce the death of Sir John Anderson, Governor of Ceylon, which took place in Colombo on March 22. Sir John was born in 1858, and took his M.A. degree at Aberdeen in 1877 with first-class honours in mathematics, gaining also the gold medal for the most distinguished graduate of the year. Two years afterwards he entered the Colonial Office as a second-class clerk. In 1891 Sir John was appointed Joint Commissioner with the late Sir J. F. Dickson to inquire into certain matters connected with the registry of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar, and in the following year he was attached to the staff of the British Agent for the Behring Sea Arbitration in London and Paris. In 1896 he became a first-class clerk, and in 1897 a principal clerk. Sir John was Secretary to the Colonial Conferences of 1897 and 1902. In 1899 he again visited Gibraltar to inquire into the rates of pay in the Civil Service, and in 1901 he was in attendance on King George, then Duke of Cornwall and York, on his visit to the Colonies as the representative of the Colonial Office. He was appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States in 1904. and he held this office until 1911, when he came home to take up the appointment of Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. In 1915 he went to Ceylon as Governor and Commander-in-Chief. Sir John received the C.M.G. in 1898, and was created K.C.M.G. in 1901, G.C.M.G. in 1909, and K.C.B. in 1913.

Mr. Harry Gavin Young, late of the Indian Police Department, has died at Locks Heath, near Southampton.

Mr. Frederick George Wigley, C.I.E., barrister-at-law, who died suddenly from pneumonia on March 22, was appointed personal assistant secretary to the Bengal Legislative Department in 1896, and secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council in addition in 1900. Subsequently he served in the Home Department of the Government of India.

Colonel George Stewart Ommaney, who died on March 21 in London, was the youngest son of General Edward Lacon Ommaney, and was formerly in command of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles, retiring from the Indian Army in 1910. He served in the Afghan War, 1879-80, and in the Sikkim and Waziristan Expeditions of 1888 and 1894. When the present war broke out he volunteered for further service, and for a time commanded a reserve battalion of the Welsh Regiment.

Captain William MacAndrew Marshall, I.A., elder son of Colonel Marshall, of Langford, Jersey, was killed on March 19, aged twenty-nine. He was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, and passed fifth out of Sandhurst into the Indian Army. He was appointed to the Dogras, and, having passed the Higher Proficiency Persian examination, was anxious to do political work. He was posted to Hanza-Naga, in the Gilgit district, but on the outbreak of war he rejoined his regiment and did duty at the depot until September, 1916. Then he went with them as adjutant, and was at the fall of Kut, after which he shared in the pursuit of the Turks to Baghdad. Subsequently he was appointed assistant political officer of a large district adjoining Baghdad.

Major R. D. de la Cour Corbett, Indian Infantry, died while a prisoner of war at Changri, Turkey, on December 25, 1917. He was born in 1881, and was gazetted to the Royal Irish Rifles in 1901, transferring to the Indian Army in 1904. In 1908 he was sent on famine duty in the Utroula district, and was appointed tutor to the young Raja of Awa in 1912. When war broke out he rejoined his regiment, and went to Mesopotamia in November, 1914. He was one of the brave band who, under General Townshend, were besieged in Kut, and was taken prisoner at the fall of that place and sent to Kastamouni, in Asia Minor, and subsequently to Changri.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1918.

TURKEY AND THE STRUGGLE IN FRANCE.

This week and, doubtless, for several weeks to come the whole world will have its attention riveted on the Western Front, for the intensity of the stupendous struggle in France has the effect of making the other theatres appear for the moment very remote. Among the belligerents probably the Turks alone find themselves able to watch the battle with any measure of detachment; for by this time they must have realised how little their interests coincide with those of either group. One of the first reflections to which the news of Germany's efforts will have given rise in Constantinople is that, while there were so many men available as cannon-fodder for the German and Bavarian Crown Princes, the few that might have helped to preserve the integrity of the Turkish Empire could not be spared. No assurances, however confidently they may be given, it would be thought, can make the Turks forget that they alone of the four Allied Powers can point to territory in the enemy's possession, and as the months and years pass the prospects of its recovery are found to recede. If they are of a contemplative turn of mind, they will begin to consider the alternative to a victory all along the line for the Central Alliance. If concessions have to be made, in what direction may they be expected to be offered? In other words, where will Germany and Austria-Hungary find it easiest to make some sacrifice. Before the Russian collapse the four Powers appeared to stand or fall together. Turkey was essential to Germany's aspirations for world-dominion, for to be shut off from the Persian Gulf or from the Red Sea by the loss of Turkish territory meant the defeat of her plans. Events in Russia have disclosed an alternative route to German world-power; it may not have all the advantages of the other, but a strong point in its favour is that it is far less exposed to outside interference, while at the same time it relieves Germany of her dependence on Turkey's good will for the realisation of her hopes.

A variety of circumstances justify the belief that the working arrangement between the Germans and the Turks has not stood the strain of the prolonged war. The comparative ease with which at first Germany established her power in Constantinople promised the very best results from German absorption of Turkey. But the Turks have become restive, and the Berlin Government has had time to realise that a strong or aggrandised Ottoman Empire will not prove such a pliant tool as a weak one whose main idea was to play off the Powers one against another. The Central Asian scheme with its corridor through the Caucasus not only offers what promises to be a simpler route, but it also enables Germany to revert to her former policy of bringing Turkey into line with her wishes by being a consenting party with the other Powers to the partition of the Ottoman Empire. In this way Germany would have a second string to her bow; for if the disintegration of Russia should prove short-lived, there will no longer be a Turkey rendered aggressive by dislike of German overlordship or by theories of *Weltpolitik* inculcated in her by association with the Central Powers for the purposes of the Great War. It would be amazing if the Turkish Government, after all that has happened, still retained any illusions in regard to German disinterestedness. An eloquent example of German methods has been furnished by the clause in the Roumanian treaty, which provides that the Dobruja should be ceded to the Central Powers —not to Bulgaria. It may be that the *caveat* is for Turkey's benefit, and that the territory in question is to be handed over to the Bulgarians when they have consented to a rectification of the Thracian frontier in favour of the Turks. But the lesson is unmistakable— that Germany expects her allies to accommodate themselves to her views, and will take good care that they do so. If, then, the Germans fail to deliver a knock-out blow in France this time, the Turks know that they can hope for nothing better than a peace by negotiation. In such an eventuality they have the certainty that the Central Powers will do all that they can to see that the real sacrifices to the Entente demands shall be supplied by the Turks, part of whose territory has already been taken hostage. Even the complete victory that the Germans claim to be counting upon might well be received with mixed feelings in Turkey, for against the retrocession of Palestine and Mesopotamia would have to be set the permanent establishment of German control over the Ottoman Empire as surety for German loans.

That reflections of this nature are not unknown in Constantinople is proved by the remarks of the Grand Vizier, recently quoted in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, to a German correspondent on the subject of Palestine. With the defeat of the Allied Powers, and with German friendship as tactful as before in these internal affairs, Turkey would have no cause to consider Zionism or Jewish susceptibilities; but Talaat Pasha was at pains to hold out an olive branch to Jewry. As there had never been any anti-Semitism in the empire, he pointed out, Turkey did not require to demonstrate her good will towards the Jews. In the past the existence of the Capitulations had compelled the Turkish Government to look askance at Jewish immigration on any large scale, as the majority would be Russian subjects. They would retain their nationality, and their presence would imply an increase in the power and authority of the Russian Consul. With the abolition of the Capitulations, all that had been changed. Immigrants who came for permanent settlement would become Turkish subjects. The Jewish community would have its own schools, with Hebrew as the language of instruction, and would be free to practise its own religion. Even in regard to local and municipal autonomy, while the Jews could not expect privileges not accorded to other subjects of the empire, means could be found within the Constitution to satisfy their demands. The Grand Vizier recognized that Zionism, in view of the cooling off in the relations between Germany and Turkey, is too formidable a factor to master, even in the event of complete victory for the Central Alliance. He may even appreciate the fact that, with Mesopotamia restored to Turkish rule, a Jewish Palestine, not under Turkey, would through the medium of its Arab population exert throughout the Arab world just the influence required to give a practical direction to the aspirations of autonomy aroused by the war; while with Mesopotamia as a British Protectorate, it would only be a matter of time before Arab progress brought about the eclipse of Turkey's position in the Moslem world. For many reasons indeed the clash of arms in France must evoke much heart-searching in Turkey, and, however much that critical field may absorb our attention, the Allies should yet find time to give a thought to the position of the Ottoman Empire.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE BLACK SEA.

BY A ROUMANIAN.

There would be matter for wise speculation in a comparison between the hopes and aims which inspired the various countries at the beginning of the war, and the situation in which they now find themselves. Much has since changed, but little has changed as the respective Governments wished it to. If the statesmen who now lead the various countries at war would indulge in such commendable meditation, they would experience something of a shock in finding how little a share they had in bringing about that for which they now are blamed or praised. They would discover that their activities have consisted mainly in a continuous adaptation to circumstances and situations which were sprung upon them; and that upon their ability to do so promptly and without friction depended their main chance of convincing the political factors that they were responsible for the good things and innocent of the bad things which happened to their countries.

But this is not to be an essay on political determinism, and I must apologise to my readers for being led to philosophise in attempting to see through the Roumanian situation—for this is the chosen subject of this article. It is by no means an easy matter to work out in clear outline the thread of Roumanian policy; and a publicist tackling the theme sociologically, that is by attempting to found it on a survey of the character and tendencies, of the likes and dislikes of the Roumanian people, and of the influence which historical and geographical factors had upon their political development, would soon resign his task in despair. Not even Mayfair could boast of a greater discrepancy between the inner self of the social body and the character of its relations with like bodies near and far. Roumania's foreign policy has not been a policy, it has been a series of accidents brought about by the dabblings of European diplomacy. Leaving aside the general factors of democracy and nationalism, which influenced the whole European world, what most prompted the Roumanians to shake off a century-long Turkish domination were the consciousness of their creed and their Latin origin. The first had been stimulated largely by the rise of a powerful Greek Orthodox empire in the East, whose rulers set themselves the task of re-instating the Cross on the dome of Santa Sophia. But in their efforts to do so they not unnaturally, and, but for the manner, indeed, inevitably, strove to build for themselves a secure highway towards Constantinople by fastening their influence, if not their domination, on the Roumanian regions on the Danube, and this of necessity engendered suspicion and antagonism among a people speeding towards national independence. The second and far more powerful impetus in that process was provided by the close and enthusiastic intellectual contact with French civilisation. The awakening of the consciousness of Latin origin supplied the Roumanians with a justification for independent existence in the midst of a mosaic of Slav and Mongol peoples, and at the same time with a vitalising ideal, that of perpetuating Latinism upon the soil of ancient Dacia.

The fulfilment of that ideal had hardly dawned when, as a result of circumstances which admit of no logical explanation, Roumania found herself under the guidance of a German prince. The prince, who was King Carol, is open to no other imputation than that he was a German, and as such desirous of linking up the fate of Roumania with the foreign policy of Germany. But he found that a difficult pursuit, until the demurring flirt, who was Roumania, received a jerk from behind which sent her head over heels into the arms of the Central Powers. I refer to the ungenerous treatment which Roumania received at the hands of Russia after the Russo-Turkish war in 1878, when she lost Bessarabia; that experience, coupled with the short-sighted neglect in which she was held by the Western democracies, forced her to move subserviently for nearly forty years in the orbit of the Central Powers. That uncongenial association, though strengthened by a secret treaty of alliance with Austria-Hungary, never resulted in a friendly understanding between the parties concerned. The Roumanians in the kingdom could not possibly have abandoned all hope of union with the three and a-half millions of Roumanians in Hungary, and the increasing persecution to which this population was subjected only served to render the position more impossible.

At the time of the conclusion of the treaty of alliance with Austria-Hungary, King Carol admitted the justice of Roumania's national aspiration, while at the same time suggesting that a truce was desirable for the purpose of allowing both parties to develop in peace. But his very words implied that the truce would be brought to an end by a crisis which would bring to the fore the national problems of Eastern Europe. When the present war broke out, however, King Carol thought it possible to follow up to the utmost his *Realpolitik*, in opposition to the most intimate sentiments of his people. The great influence which he wielded only succeeded in keeping Roumania neutral, and though the King died soon afterward, circumstances abroad and at home made it more difficult to revert to a decision which would have carried the whole people with it at the beginning of the war, and which in the end did bring Roumania on the only possible side of the fence. The tergiversatory policy of M. Bratianu, coupled with the unmistakable treachery of the Tsarist régime, caused Roumania to face her enemies deficient in preparation, with disastrous results for herself. Followed a brilliant victory, and then, as the result of circumstances over which she had no control, the final collapse.

The Roumanians cannot easily forget the treatment they received at the hands of the Bolsheviks; nor that they are the original cause of Roumania's present plight. But while the Bolsheviks are dangerous fanatics, the Germans and their confederates are cold-blooded robbers, and between the two it is not difficult to choose. The terms which the Central Powers are now imposing upon Roumania are not only unjust and brutal, they also seem astonishingly impolitic, since they bar for ever the road to an understanding between the Central Powers and Roumania. The former do not seem to be much concerned with the possible consequences, however. They are primarily anxious to satisfy their immediate material needs; hence the incongruity of the conditions which they enforce upon Russia and Roumania, as well as of the concessions which they granted to the Ukraine. The only provision they make for the future is to sow wherever they tread the seed of conflict between the various surrounding States, so as to divert their attention and energy from the accounts they have to settle with the Central Powers.

Such is the case with Poland and the Ukraine; with Great Russia, Finland, the Ukraine, and Turkey; such is now the case with Roumania and Bulgaria; and the Central Powers generously press Roumania to occupy Bessarabia, and thus create one more possibility of conflict between Roumania and a reorganised Russia.

But, as the Roumanian saying goes, "The reckoning at home seldom proves true at the market," and after all the Central Powers, perhaps, do well to grasp now whatever they can get, for opportunities will soon become scanty. While Hoffmann is frowning his brows à la Bismarck, the circle of death is tightening round the Central Powers. The creation of an independent Poland and of an independent Ukraine complete the

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circle of attractive centres towards which the subjected peoples of the Dual Monarchy must gravitate. The Ukraine and Poland may accept now a compromise, Roumania may be humiliated, but the Dual Monarchy will finally pay the price. As far as Roumania is concerned, the attitude of the Central Powers is not quite illogical, since the results of the Russian Revolution have served to make Austria-Hungary the only enemy of Roumania. Three were the powerful arguments which were contending against Roumanian intervention on the side of the Allies: anxiety as to her economic situation, if Russia acquired Constantinople and the Straits, danger of Russian Imperialistic ambitions, and anxiety as to the fate of the Roumanians in Bessarabia. The Russian revolution has solved all these problems. Though a new quarrel has been sprung upon Roumania by Bulgaria, yet that is mainly the doing of the Central Powers, and the wrong will be probably redressed before long. There will then be one duty and one hope left for Roumania: to free the three and a-half million Roumanians in Hungary. Roumanian foreign policy is fatally one of antagonism to the Central Powers; no treaty, no class-politics could divert it, and if Roumania can rely upon the sympathy of the Western democracies, the peoples of the West need be in no doubt as to her faithfulness and gratitude.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

Racial Types.

In "Ancient Egypt" last year Professor Flinders Petrie reproduced from sketches and photographs taken a long time ago by the Russian Egyptologist, Professor Golenicheff, ten sculptured reliefs of Asiatic prisoners depicted by Egyptian artists upon the temple of Abu-Simbel. These are executed with the greatest care with the object of representing the racial type of the people, or tribe, of which each individual was a member.

M. Golenicheff renounces the idea of identifying their characteristics with those of any special people, but Professor Flinders Petrie, assisted by the great collection of examples of racial types known to the Egyptians, which he has been collecting for many years, not only makes the attempt, but in the majority of cases achieves a certainty of attribution.

The designer of this long relief of kneeling prisoners, united by a neck-rope, began with those from Asia Minor beyond the Taurus, and, including an undoubted Hittite, proceeds down the Mediterranean littoral of Syria and Palestine. One type is pronouncedly Phœnician and wears the seaman's cap of those old mariners.

The figures are of great interest to ancient Hebrew history, several of them being peoples mentioned in the early Old Testament books. The Philistine does not appear in this series, but is well known from other Egyptian reliefs.

A Loan Contract.

Occasionally among the thousands of papyri of the early Christian Era found in Egypt a manuscript imported into the country may be found; one instance of this is a document in the Cairo Museum which contains a contract concerning a loan, drawn up at Constantinople. It was found at Aphrodite, in the Fayoum, and takes the form of acknowledgement for a loan (by two persons named Flavius Victor and Flavius Apollos) amounting to 20 golden solidi. The lender was a banker named Anastasius, and the receipt states that the borrowers, were to pay interest at the rate of 8 per cent. This reward for the accommodation is important, as it confirms the literary history of late Roman legislation; because by a law of Justinian, confirmed by the 136th Novellus, and the ninth Edict, which regulated bankers' rights, 8 per cent. had been declared the maximum. Two of the witnesses are employees or friends of the banker, while a third is an Egyptian who was at Byzantium at the time.

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The Tomb of an Egyptian Queen.

In the *Journal of Egyptian Archæology* Mr. Howard Carter describes a tomb excavated from an entrance cut into the cliff at about half the distance from its base to the summit, in a valley at the back of the mountain face in rear of the temple of Der-el-Bahari. The tomb was purposely placed in such a strange position to prevent its presence being detected, but the precaution has proved unprotective. Mr. Howard Carter shows that the sepulchre was certainly made for the famous Egyptian queen Hatshepshut, for in one of its innermost chambers is a magnificent sarcophagus bearing hieroglyphic inscriptions concerning her, and her relation to various deities.

A more magnificent, because completed and fully decorated, tomb for this lady is well known to tourists in the so-called Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, and therefore some explanation is desirable as to the reason why a duplicate place of interment should have been provided for her. Mr. Howard Carter suggests, and doubtless correctly so, that this newly-found tomb was made, and the sarcophagus carved, engraved and placed therein while Hatshepshut was merely a queen by right of being wife of the Pharaoh, for the site is selected in the valley close to where the tombs of princes and princesses were usually placed. When she became a queen regnant she was entitled to a burial-place in the more honourable valley of Bibar-el-Maluk, or "Valley of the Kings."

The sarcophagus was found standing partly over the entrance to the descending passage leading to the crypt, to be its final resting-place, a crypt that has never been completed. Its lid, which also bears inscriptions, was found placed beside it, having probably been removed by plunderers many centuries ago, for thieves had burrowed their way into the sepulchre. By the time the tomb had been completely excavated as to its chambers and passages, excepting the last and lowest crypt, Hatshepshut had become queen, and so no part of the interior is decorated in any way. The texts upon the sarcophagus not being sufficiently eulogistic for the extreme and exceptional position to which she had attained, a new one had to be provided for her fresh burial chamber, and so the one Mr. Carter found was left in the tomb which was not occupied.

J. OFFORD.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Roumania (British Legation). March 20.

MR. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the present location of his Majesty's Legation to Roumania lately located at Jassy.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Mr. Balfour): As far as is known, his Majesty's Legation is still located at Jassy.

Army Pensions (Royal Warrant).

COLONEL YATE asked whether officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who are compulsorily retained in India after their pensions have become due are permitted to draw their pensions; and, if not, will he say why such permission is refused?

MR. FISHER: The provisions of the Royal Warrant of December 3, 1917, apply to warrant and non-commissioned officers of the British Army serving in India, and arrangements for putting them into effect will be announced in India shortly, including an extension of the period for electing to take pension on completion of twenty-two years' service. The question of the extension of the provisions of the Royal warrant to warrant and non-commissioned officers and men of the Indian Unattached List is before the Government of India. In India, as elsewhere, commissioned officers retained in the Service cannot draw pension.

Royal Indian Marine Transports.

COMMANDER BELLAIRS asked, in view of the numerous old cruisers we possess, and the Far East being out of the war zone, whether there is any reason for the Royal Indian Marine transports "Dufferin," "Hardinge," "Northbrook," and "Dalhousie" being used as inefficient war vessels instead of carrying troops; whether he is aware that fine large British India boats are doing this transport work in the Indian Ocean, when, by reason of their speed, they are most suitable for the war zone; and whether he will take steps to release the Royal Indian Marine transport vessels for transport duties?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Dr. Macnamara): The possibility of releasing the Royal Indian Marine ships referred to by my hon. and gallant friend from their present service was fully considered in 1917, but it was decided by the Board that this could not be done. I may mention that the "Hardinge" does in fact carry out a good deal of trooping work in addition to her other duties.

COMMANDER BELLAIRS: Will the new Board reconsider the matter?

CAPTAIN G. A. LLOYD: Can the right hon. gentleman state to the House the very fine war services which the "Hardinge" and the other steamers referred to have done in the Red Sea?

Dr. Macnamara: I will put the point.

Deceased Officers' Estates (Charges).

Mr. Currie asked the Secretary of State for India whether he has sanctioned the widow of an officer who has given his life for his country being charged anything between £50 and £100, in name of official expenses, by the Administrator-General for Madras, etc., for the mere completion of her title as executrix, apart altogether from Government duties here and in India, to a small parcel of shares in a Madras rupee company, valued for probate at £400 odd; when, if ever, the scale of official fees and costs exigible in this office were last revised; whether the India Office has any control over the charges made by the leading firms of Service bankers in London for transacting this class of business for officers or their widows, or for civilians; whether delay of a year and upwards is not uncommon in the Madras Administrator-General's office; and whether he has power to restrict the official fees in the case of small estates?

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Herbert Fisher): If the hon. member will kindly let me have the name of the deceased officer to whom he refers, the Secretary of State will cause inquiry to be made. The Administraor-General's commission in the case of an estate of the value of £400 would in the ordinary course be 5 per cent., or £20, and might be reduced to £10, while if the estate were that of an officer transferred to the Administrator-General under the provisions of the Regimental Debts Act, the maximum commission would be 3 per cent. In addition, there would be some legal charges; but, if the officer were killed in action, there would be no Government duty on the first Rs.5,000.

The present rules were approved by the Governor of Madras in Council in 1914, and amended in 1917. The India Office has no control over the charges made by bankers for transacting this kind of business. The period required to settle an estate would depend on the nature of the assets and liabilities. The Secretary of State is not aware that needless delay occurs. The amendment of the Rules in 1917 provided for the reduction of the Administrator-General's commission in simple cases by any part not exceeding one-half.

Ex-King Constantine.

March 21.

Lord R. Cecil, Minister of Blockade, replying to Mr. Lynch said that he had no information as to a reduction of the pension to ex-King Constantine. As far as he knew, the statement made to his Majesty's Government by the Greek Government that ex-King Constantine had in fact received nothing still held good.

Mr. Lynch.—How does that tally with the fact that it has been resolved in the Greek Parliament to reduce the pension?—Lord R. Cecil.—I am not aware that it has been so resolved. Mr. Pemberton Billing.—Can the noble lord say whether the British Government, officially or unofficially, are conducting any communications with ex-King Constantine?—Lord R. Cecil.—No, sir, none whatever. In reply to a further question as to whether the reply covered all payments arising out of the Civil List of Greece as well as the pension, Lord R. Cecil said the question was probably prompted by a statement which had been published in the newspapers. From that statement, read carefully, it was not clear that it referred to the ex-King; it might equally refer to the present King of Greece. He might be wrong, but his impression was that what had happened was a reduction in the Civil List of the present King.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. Stewart asked whether any recent information had been received about the conditions prevailing amongst our prisoners of war in the hands of the Turks; whether any arrangements for the exchange of prisoners were arrived at between our representatives and the representatives of Turkey when they met recently in Switzerland; and whether there is any prospect of these arrangements being carried out and exchanges effected.

Mr. Hope, replying to Mr. Stewart, said: A good deal of information has been lately received respecting internment camps in Turkey from a number of British prisoners of war recently repatriated from that country as invalids, and I am glad to say that this information is not more unfavourable than might have been expected. I may say in general there seems to be a slight tendency towards the better treatment of prisoners in Turkey, but their difficulties are constantly increasing on account of the increasing scarcity and dearness of provisions and on account of the depreciation of Turkish paper currency. The Agreement signed by British and Turkish Delegates at Berne in December provided for the mutual repatriation on a wide scale of incapacitated or invalid prisoners. This Agreement has been ratified by his Majesty's Government, and it is to be expected that it will also be ratified by the Turkish Government, to whom its terms will, no doubt, be satisfactory.

◆

"THE NEAR EAST" DIRECTORY.

Owing to pressure upon our restricted space, it is found impossible for the present to publish the directory of former British residents in the Near East. Inquiries for the present addresses of many of those residents, however, continue to reach us, and in the case of those who sent their names for insertion in the directory we are generally able to supply the information. The Editor would be glad if those who have changed their addresses during the last twelve months or so would kindly notify him, in order that the directory may be kept up to date.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Law Reform in Egypt.

A correspondent in *The Law Times* raises the question of the reforms in the judicial system of Egypt which will have to be introduced as a result of the change in the status of the country. The subject, he points out, is of interest to lawyers in England, as there is now a small number of English barristers and solicitors practising in Egypt, and there will be in the future an opening for many more. He fears that the Commission appointed by the Egyptian Government to study the question of reform may have their views coloured by the Continental system which they have had to work. On the other hand, the Advisory Committee in this country is a legal one, and so should be particularly open to representation from the Bar Council, the Law Society, and other professional bodies. The writer continues:—

> The new law for the whole of Egypt will probably be founded on the present mixed codes, and, as there must obviously be an appeal to the Privy Council (which there is not under the present system), the law and practice will no doubt gradually be brought into harmony with English ideas of justice, as has happened in the case of other colonies governed by foreign law; but wise legislation at the present time would undoubtedly do very much to hasten the process and avoid friction.
>
> There are certain reforms in the civil law which are of particular interest to English lawyers and their clients. For example: (1) There is the question of land transfer. At present there is a Registry of Deeds (not a register of titles) in the Mixed Tribunals, but there is an *ad valorem* stamp duty of 2 per cent. on sales, which is so heavy as to discourage registration. In the boom of 1906 it happened in many cases that the same piece of land was sold over and over again on the instalment plan, but no documents were registered, and, when the financial crisis came in 1907, there was an inextricable tangle to unravel. (2) There is no law of mortgage. There is probably no finer security in the world than agricultural land in Engypt, and, even under present conditions, a large amount of English capital is invested on mortgage in Egypt, but under the present system a mortgagee cannot enforce his security except through the courts, in which the delays and expenses are intolerable. In a country like Egypt, where many of the landowners are illiterate, it may very well be advisable to provide for some application to the court on somewhat similar lines to that at present necessary in this country under the Courts (Emergency Powers) Acts, but under the present system in Egypt an unscrupulous mortgagor, who is just as likely to be a European as a native, may delay the enforcing of the security for years. (3) There is the question of limited companies, the law as to which is very incomplete and antiquated as a whole. For example, an Egyptian limited company can only be formed by a decree of the Sultan, which has to be applied for separately in each case and in itself is inconvenient, and there is a provision that a quarter of the capital must be subscribed in cash, which makes things very difficult. Of course, this law has been evaded, but the evasions are not always successful or satisfactory. At one time promoters in Egypt adopted the plan of registering companies in England, but found that such companies were liable to be declared "null and void" by the Mixed Tribunals as being a fraud on Egyptian mixed law.
>
> The English lawyers practising in Egypt, who are acquainted with both systems, have recently, in response to a request from the Judicial Adviser, addressed a collective letter—which is very moderate in its tone—to the Commission in Egypt, in which they suggest, apart from reform in civil law: (1) That English should be the language of the new code (with translations in French and Arabic), and that, after a proper interval, English should be the language used in the courts, except when Arabic is necessary. (2) That there are many features of English procedure which should be introduced, *e.g.*, (*a*) discovery of documents. At present each side communicates to the other only such documents as will support its own case, which is clearly not the best way of getting at the truth. (*b*) Methods of obtaining speedy judgment where there is no real defence. Under the present system the delays are intolerable. (*c*) Remedies by way of injunction, *mandamus*, and prohibition. Under the present system there is no remedy against the person of a recalcitrant litigant. (*d*) The introduction of oral evidence and cross-examination. For all practical purposes this is at present non-existent, which in many cases leads to a denial or failure of justice. (3) The introduction of English criminal law and procedure is strongly insisted on. English criminal law has been successfully introduced into other British possessions, *e.g.*, Canada, St. Lucia, and Cyprus. It is believed that there is no case of a foreign criminal law having permanently maintained itself in a British possession. There can be no doubt that it would be a great hardship on British subjects in Egypt, especially the poorer ones like Maltese and British Indians, to be made subject to a code of criminal law based on the Continental system.

Georgians and Armenians.

The disintegration of Russia lends importance to the fortunes of the separate units formerly merged in the Russian Empire. In view of Germany's effort to penetrate into Central Asia, special interest attaches to the Georgians and others who occupy the territory immediately to the south of the Caucasus. Taking as his text a lecture recently given by Mr. David Ghambashidze, a Georgian, at King's College, a writer in the *Nation* contributes an article on the numerous races and sects to be found in this part of the world. The numbers of Caucasian races, he holds, have been absurdly exaggerated, and he continues:—

> Apart from the remains of the Circassian gardeners (Mohammedans) along the north-western slopes of the main range, looking out to the Steppes, and apart from the wilder Lesghians of Daghestan (also Mohammedan) upon the high north-eastern plateau above the Caspian, there are only four races which count: the Georgians, the Russians, the Armenians, and the Tartars. The Georgians and Russians are probably about equal in numbers—about three million each. The Tartars have increased rapidly, and may now be counted as nearly two and a-half million. What the Armenians are since the massacres of the war no one can tell; before that there were about one and a-half million in the Russian Caucasus.
>
> Tiflis and the Koura valley; Signakh and the Alazan valley (a region overflowing with wine and all fertility); all the rich valleys and plains of the Rion westward to the Black Sea are Georgian by race and immemorial occupation, though Russian settlers abound. East of Tiflis the country becomes more and more like a desert till Baku and the Caspian are reached, and throughout that district the Tartars predominate. In Tiflis there is a rich Armenian quarter, but most of the Armenians are scattered in patches over the southern province, around Kars and Erivan. Thousands have swarmed over from Asiatic Turkey, driven by the Kurds to seek refuge under the Russian flag, no matter how cruelly Gollitzin and similar agents of the Tsar might oppress them. Unhappy is the nation which has no frontier! Armenians have not even a city which they can call their own. The centre of their race is but a church—the church and monastery of Etchmiadzin. There St. Gregory the Illuminator beheld the vision from which the name is derived ("The Only-Begotten has Descended"); there he established the Armenian Church, one of the earliest forms of Christianity, and there the Armenian Katholikos lives. But what will happen to Armenians now that Russia cannot give them even a stepmother's protection? A large part of the country over which they are scattered, perhaps even including Erivan and Etchmiadzin itself, is to be handed back to the Turks, and the villagers delivered up to their ancient enemies like cattle for the slaughter.
>
> For many years, Armenians disputed with Tartars for supremacy in the great oilfield of Baku. Both races organized bands of assassins, to the upkeep of which even British managers were compelled to contribute under fear of death. From time to time violent civil or racial war raged in the shoddy streets, and when the present writer was entertained by a Tartar who had risen from a porter to be the richest illiterate in the world, a company of soldiers was always kept in the back premises to guard the palace. But now the Tartars appear to have triumphed. They are almost incredibly rich. Twelve years ago they had no newspaper; now they have twenty-eight. At that time, they possessed one "man of culture," famous for his translation of Milton's "Hail! holy light" into the Tartar dialect of Turkish; now they publish libraries. Mr. Ghambashidze tells us we must look to the Tartars of Baku as the true directors of Turkish policy, the real inspirers of Pan-Islam and the Pan-Turanian movement. If that is so, the prospect for all that we mean by civilization in the highly civilized provinces of the Caucasus is black.

Articles to Note.

"Notes on Surgery at Salonika." By Colonel Sir T. Crisp English, K.C.M.G., and Colonel R. E. Kelly, R.A.M.C., in the *British Medical Journal.*

"Salonika's Citadel," in the *Manchester Guardian.*

"Palestine and Jewish Nationalism," in the *Round Table.*

"THE BAGHDAD TIMES."

We have received the first numbers of *The Baghdad Times*, which began publication as a daily newspaper on January 1. It is a four-page newspaper, priced at one anna, and it gives the official reports from the various fronts, pictures, and a leading article. From one of these we extract the following alluring paragraph:—

> "Most of those who read these lines are thousands of miles from home. How many, we wonder, reflect upon the manifold advantages that they enjoy which they would never have had if they had not come to Mesopotamia! Where else in this war can the hard-working soldier, after the strenuous labours of his day's routine, be lulled to sleep by the melodious cry of the jackal?"

The article is entitled, appropriately, "A Better 'Ole," and the writer seems to have found it.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The fact that Turkey is Germany's ally seems to have been forgotten by enterprising German business houses, judging by the reports of the methods of commercial penetration adopted by them in that country. Apparently they have been profiting at the expense of their ally by a system which can only be described as "compulsory purchase.". The method by which it is worked is that the Turkish banks inform a merchant house that they hold a bill for German goods, and the unfortunate Turk is practically obliged to accept the bill by the knowledge that otherwise insuperable difficulties will be placed in the way of his doing business by the banks in the shape of refusals to grant credit, etc. In the circumstances it is hardly surprising that Germans are devoutly hated in Turkish business circles to-day, and I think it extremely probable that if they have the opportunity after the war many Turks will never do business with Germany again.

⁂

The registration of the National Metal and Chemical Bank, the formation of which was the subject of reference in these columns recently, was effected last week. The capital of the bank is £1,000,000, divided into £10 shares, all of which have been privately subscribed and the articles of association are in accordance with the model drawn up by the Board of Trade for companies engaged in vital industries. Directorships of the bank are confined to British subjects, and there are safeguards against the control of the bank passing into foreign hands. While the bank will undertake ordinary banking enterprises, its principal object will be to help in the development of the smelting and chemical industries of the Empire. This task is essentially one calling for specialised knowledge, which is not at the disposal of the ordinary bank.

⁂

The efforts of tanners in this country to take the exports of Indian "kips" in the future are likely, it seems, to meet with support from Canadian tanners, who are stated to have taken the greatest interest in a collection of Indian hides which was sent to the Dominion by the Hides and Tanning Materials Committee of the Imperial Institute. Already several inquiries have been received from Canadian firms as regards supplies of the hides, and it is considered probable that when Government restrictions on the disposal of Indian hides are relaxed, a considerable trade will be done direct with India.

⁂

The importance of increasing the supplies of cotton grown within the Empire in order to safeguard the needs of Lancashire was discussed by Mr. Edward C. de Segundo in the course of an address this week before the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. He called attention to the rapidly increasing proportion of American cotton spun in American mills, which, he pointed out, was a grave menace to the spinning industry of Lancashire. No less than fifty-four per cent. of the cotton grown in the United States was now spun there, he said, while a similar movement was taking place in India, which country was also exporting large quantities of cotton to Japan. The remedy was, in his view, for the Government to speed up the cultivation of cotton in the Sudan.

⁂

The Egyptian Budget, which has just been introduced, provides for a revenue of £E22,900,000 and an expenditure of £E23,250,000, leaving a deficit of £E350,000 to be met from the reserve fund. This estimate thus surpasses that of the record Budget of 1917-18 by £E3,375,000 as regards revenue, and £E3,725,000 as regards expenditure. The main items from which increased revenue is expected are customs, tobacco, and excise duties, £E1,060,000, of which an allowance of £E634,000 is made for the new sugar excise; railway, telegraph, and telephone receipts, £E2,156,000, of which the newly-acquired telephone service is responsible for £E200,000; judicial fees £E191,000, interest on investments £E148,000, and the Domains, £E122,000, due to the high prices obtained by the State crops. On the expenditure side the increased estimate is principally due to the higher level of prices, the extra cost of fuel for railways alone being budgeted for at £E950,000, while the increased salaries of small officials, amounting to £E564,000, and provision for the £E500,000 voted towards the cost of the war, help to bring the total to its high figure.

⁂

The most obvious aspect of the estimate is the excess of expenditure over revenue, which in the light of last year's returns must be regarded as an excess of caution on the part of the authorities. In his letter last week our Cairo correspondent gave the figures for Egypt's finances for the nine months ended December 31, showing that revenue amounted to £E17,088,271 and expenditure to £E13,732,346, giving a surplus of £E3,355,925—rather a million more than at the end of December, 1916—and he expressed the view that the amount to be carried to the reserve would be in the neighbourhood of four millions. So far as can be seen, the factors which have brought about this increase in revenue—the excellent returns given by cotton and cereals, and the prosperity brought to the country by the presence of the British troops—will have just as great an effect in the coming year, and as there is no reason to suppose that this incidence will be unduly neutralised by high prices—the principal factor in expenditure—it will be a matter for considerable surprise if the Egyptian Government has not a satisfactory surplus at its disposal on April 1, 1919.

There are one or two interesting points in the report of the Indian Public Works Department Reorganisation Committee, appointed in 1916, which has now been published. It is recommended by the committee that public works (excluding irrigation with which they were not dealing) should be transferred from the Department to local bodies, and they point out that while the Government must secure the maintenance of the main arteries of communication, this does not require a separate engineering staff. In this connection they say that "the maintenance of all roads under proper safeguards should in principle be the function of local bodies, and the policy of government should be directed towards the eventual introduction of the system in its entirety." The construction of buildings for Government purposes should in their view be also entrusted to local authorities.

⁂

Another important recommendation concerns the encouragement of contracting firms. Hitherto, the number of these firms in India available for the construction of public works has been strictly limited, and the committee are of the opinion that everything possible should be done by the Government to encourage the establishment of such firms. Various measures are suggested for this purpose, notably that tenders should be invited for complete works, and that the system of lump-sum contracts should be introduced. It is recognised that the growth of these firms must be a very gradual process, but it is the committee's view that their proposals would result in the development of the desired class of contractors to whom Government work could be entrusted.

⁂

The contradictory character of the reports which have reached this country of late with regard to the Roumanian oilfields has been very marked, so much so, indeed, that it was obvious that either the German and Austrian Press were writing in ignorance of their subject, or else they were following instructions in order to deceive the Allies as to the true position of affairs. A very interesting light is thrown on these vacillating reports in a despatch from the Paris correspondent of the *Financial Times*, which is quoted in full in another column. He says that the object of the Central Powers in giving currency to reports suggesting that the oilfields are in a practically unworkable condition is to induce shareholders in the Allied countries to get rid of their holdings, so that the enemy may obtain the controlling interests in the oil companies. That they should attempt to get control of the oil industry by such means, when they have let it be thought that the produce of the oilfields would be a part of their peace terms with Roumania, indicates very clearly that they know that the end of the war will make such terms worth the paper on which they are written.

COMMENTATOR.

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COTTON GROWING IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Part Played by Science,—III.

BY JOHN W. MCCONNEL.

Bulletin No. 1. *Central Research Farm, Khartoum North.* 1915.

West Indian Bulletin, Vol. XV., No. 4, *and others. Various Papers on Cotton,* 1916-1917.

Papers on Cotton in India by various authors, reprinted from the Agricultural Journal of India. 1913-1917.

Scientific Reports of the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa. 1914-15—1916-17.

Reports on the Progress of Agriculture in India. 1914-15—1916-17.

The Agricultural Journal of Egypt. Vols. V., VI., and VII. 1916-1917.

The Pink Boll Worm, by F. C. Willcocks, Entomologist to the Sultanich Agricultural Society. 1916.

Reports of the Departments of Agriculture in Uganda. 1915, 1916, 1917.

Report of the Department of Agriculture in Nyassaland, 1916.

Reports of the Department of Agriculture in Nigeria. 1915-1916.

To anyone who takes the trouble to read the reports cited at the head of this paper it will be obvious that there are innumerable puzzles to be elucidated by future researches into the nature and development of cotton. It is really like that dream of Nebuchadnezzar for which he demanded interpretation without record of the things dreamed. Science has to define what is wanted before it can begin to supply the want. And then the proper supply of the want will depend on the scientist being able to assign the proper value to each of the two interacting but unknown quantities, the value of heredity and the influence of environment.

The reports we have before us show the work that has been done in the last three or four years. It must be recorded that the impression they convey is, on the whole, most encouraging. It would be quite out of place in a paper of this kind to attempt any analysis of these publications, and still more to discriminate minutely between them. There are, however, some general lessons that may be drawn. The Khartoum report and the West Indian bulletins alike indicate that a very high standard of work is aimed at and, indeed, reached. We find in both a carefully-drawn distinction between the entirely theoretical lines of study and the practical harnessing of research and pure science so that they may promote economic efficiency. The value of purity of breed is thoroughly appreciated in both places, and the impossibility of making any progress merely by selecting plants in the field on account of their growth, habit, and fibre. It is, however, noticed in the West Indies, where the islands are small, and where circumstances have led to there being comparatively little opportunity for crossing with other strains that, in consequence, the fields are in any case comparatively true to type.

Another point that is brought into prominence is the importance of the study of individual plants. Work after the example of Balls' observations on growth has been most carefully done and is lucidly explained. Again, great importance is attached to the opinion and still more to the practical mill tests of cotton by spinners. This is a most hopeful sign, for it seems impossible that any real improvement in quality can be achieved until some means is devised for obtaining not merely a general appreciation, but specific criticism, of particular characteristics from those who use the cotton. The interested reader can only regret that this exceptionally good work is found in areas in which so little cotton is grown. These West Indian islands can never, from their natural limitations of area, be large producers, but they are training a school of cotton workers which should in time be one of the great assets of the Empire. The Sudan, though its cotton production is still trifling, has great possibilities, and one can only hope that the Government of the Sudan will make use of the science it has at its command, and will be guided by it in all its future development. The financial resources of the Sudan are no doubt small, but expenditure on the agricultural department of a country that must depend on agriculture cannot wisely be curtailed. The Sudan has an immense territory, and includes all sorts of climates, and it is earnestly to be hoped that very soon after the war a scheme of branch agricultural stations, dependent on and directed by the Central Research Farm, will be elaborated so as to cover systematically the whole area.

Progress in India.

In regard to the Indian papers, the present writer has to confess to having experienced an agreeable surprise. It has been his fortune in previous years to take part in deputations about cotton to successive Secretaries of State for India, and he had formed the impression that no improvement would ever be willingly permitted. But the whole tone of these reports, which come from India itself, is wonderfully and delightfully different. Throughout them there runs a spirit of life and progress. It is no doubt certain that a far larger staff is required to deal with the immense areas which must for many years depend entirely on British agricultural science for their progress. It is stated that India spends on agriculture no more than £1 per annum for every thousand of the population. In comparison, the figures for this country are £46, for the United States £36, for Queensland £92. It seems obvious that under such limitations Indian agriculture must continue to be backward, and cotton will suffer along with everything else. It is also possible that much of the work now being done would be raised to a more effective level if it were more generally recognised that scientific treatment will solve practical problems. It would very likely be wise if more were done in the way of conferences between men working on cotton in different parts of India. But whatever room there may be for improvement, there can be no doubt that there is a new spirit abroad, and if science is worth anything at all, progress, both in regard to quality and quantity, ought before long to be evident.

The African reports are also, in their way, encouraging. Care is being taken and good work is being done. Cotton growing is still really in its infancy, and it is not surprising that the methods followed are far from perfect. All that can be said here is to express the hope that the Government responsible for each area will be liberal in its expenditure on research and scientific direction in agriculture. It seems certain that any reasonable outlay in this direction will quickly pay for itself. In Uganda the value of cotton annually exported is £300,000 or over, while all other agricultural products together are less than £300,000. Thus it would seem reasonable for the Government to consider whether a judicious enlargement of the outlay on agricultural research and control might not add largely to the prosperity of the country. One interesting feature of cotton in Uganda is that the supply of seed is strictly controlled by the Government, and that over large areas an effort is made to keep to one type. When the Government goes one step further and adopts the necessary measures to secure that the supply of planting seed is all developed from a pure source, Uganda will be really on the high road towards success. In Nigeria cotton does not yet supply so large a proportion of the total production of the country, but there appear to be great tracts in Northern Nigeria which are particularly suitable for cotton. Here, again, there is no doubt that the country will benefit by increased expenditure on scientific growing and control. One can, however, hardly expect that in colonies so little developed very much scientific work will be done, except such as is directly remunerative, and it seems that these are places where some arrangement might be made for help being given by the British spinning industry.

Egypt's Dependence on Cotton.

The last papers on our list are those published in Egypt, and it is rather difficult to speak of them. In considering the scientific work on cotton in Egypt the statistical position must be remembered. Cotton is the great product of Egypt. The prosperity of Egypt, and consequently the cheerful acceptance of the British rule by the dwellers in Egypt, rich and poor alike, absolutely depends on cotton. The value of cotton and cottonseed annually exported is about £30,000,000, and forms about nine-tenths of the total exports. On the other hand there are serious indications that there is something wrong with the crop. For several years past there has been a noticeable decrease in the production per acre. To some extent this may be attributed to the pink worm pest, which began its ravages in 1913, and is in no way up to the present under control. Good work appears to have been done in the way of studying the insect, both by the Agricultural Department and by Mr. F. C. Willcocks, entomologist to the Agricultural Society, whose excellent monograph is mentioned in our list of reports. It is worth mentioning that the pink worm was first noticed in Egypt by M. Andres, his assistant. Control, however, has not yet been made effective. There must, moreover, be other evil causes at work in addition to the pink worm.

The average production over the last twenty years has been :—

	Cantars per feddan
1898-1902	5·19
1903-1907	4·45
1908-1912	4.16
1913-1917	3·94

The reduction of from 5.19 cantars to 4.16 cantars occurred before the pink worm was introduced into the country. The figure for the five years, 1913-1917, is an average made up from two years in which it did comparatively little harm, and three years in which it ravaged nearly the whole country, and in these three years the average was only 3.62 cantars. The production for the present year is not yet known, but it is not at all likely to exceed the average of the other three years of full infestation. Thus it appears that causes unknown have reduced the production from 5.19 cantars to 4.16 and that the pink worm has made a further reduction to 3.62, or thereabouts. On the present acreage, at pre-war prices, this means a reduction of the total value of the crop from about £37,000,000 to £26,000,000. The whole subject demands the most careful investigation.

There is another very serious matter also demanding investigation. It has always been the case in Egypt that fresh strains of cotton have succeeded each other, and that each in turn has with greater or less rapidity deteriorated in quality, and perhaps also in productivity. The latest strain, known as Sakellaridis, which has now come to be almost exclusively grown in Lower Egypt, and which was at first quite the best cotton ever largely produced in Egypt, is complained of by many users as having deteriorated in quality.

Egypt can afford almost any expenditure if it is necessary to maintain or improve her cotton crop. And a cursory reading of the reports of scientific work on cotton now conducted in Egypt hardly give the impression that it is being kept on the high level attained a few years ago. This is a matter of very great importance to Egypt. It is of almost equal importance to Lancashire, and the hope must be expressed that so soon as the war is over, or even before, the question of applying all the resources of natural science to the growing of cotton will receive the serious attention of both the British and the Egyptian Governments.

Recognition of Science.

On the whole, however, this cursory summary of the literature available shows without doubt that the place of science in cotton-growing in the Empire is really recognised, at least by many of those personally engaged in the development of cotton. Doubtless there is room for more to be done. In every one of our cotton-growing Colonies it is evident that more liberal expenditure

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on agriculture is required, and will bring rapid and large returns. It is quite clear that in many places, for instance in Egypt, Uganda, and some of the West Indian Islands, cotton, even as now grown, is far the most profitable crop that can be grown. It is evident, also, that it is urgently necessary for the Governments of India and of Egypt, and of each colony, to recognise that natural science will open the door to prosperity in agriculture. Agricultural control and direction, demonstration farms, experiment stations, of which some will be limited to the practically useful, while others will reach the almost purely theoretical, are all wanted in greater or less degree in each cotton-growing country; and, as the key to all this, we must hope before long to see some central institution provided which will be capable of collecting and coordinating and distributing all the scientific work of all the local workers. One thing that is both encouraging and discouraging is to notice how few are our present workers on cotton-growing. They are units where they ought to be tens at least. It is encouraging, because if these few men can make the progress of which there is evidence one can calculate with confidence on the results that would be produced by an adequate staff. But it is discouraging because there is no strong school of tropical agriculture which can give the necessary additional training to the workers who are needed. It is, moreover, obvious that, even if such a school is brought into being, it will fail to attract many students until there are more posts available in which they can see definite prospects for their future careers.

Still, taking all things into consideration, there are good reasons for hoping and expecting that in a comparatively short period of years the aspiration that the Empire may be able to grow its own cotton will be very largely realised. It is, moreover, probable that the cottons of the future will be in many respects better than those of to-day.

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The *Neue Freie Presse* states that an Import and Export Company is being formed in Austria by the Creditanstalt, the Bodenkreditanstalt, and the Anglobank, with a capital of 15,000,000 kronen (£625,000). According to the *Fremdenblatt* this company will absorb the export firms of Alois Schweiger and Company (which had branches in this country and in India), the Austro-Oriental Trading Company (which traded with Egypt and Turkey), and the Austrian Export Company, formerly A. Janowitzer (which traded with India and other countries).

BRITISH TRADE WITH GREECE.

Post-War Prospects.

Some very interesting views as to the prospects of British trade with Greece have been given to a representative of THE NEAR EAST by Mr. G. N. Lionda, managing director of Lionda and Co., Ltd., 34, Fenchurch Street, E.C., who has just returned to England after a prolonged visit to Athens and Salonika in connection with various commercial enterprises. Mr. Lionda, who is a prominent member of the business community both here and in Greece, was for some eighteen years an official of the Bank of Athens, and his position and experience give great importance to what he has to say on the subject.

"Conditions in Greece at present from the commercial point of view," Mr. Lionda stated, "are most favourable for the growth of British trade, as it is fully realised to what an extent Greece's trade was in the hands of Germany and Austria, and there is a general desire to prevent the possibility of a recurrence of this state of things after the war. Greece, a natural ally of the Allies, geographically and ethnologically, should, therefore, be an important factor in British trade, but it must be borne in mind that under existing conditions, such as imposed by manufacturers on this side, British traders will be unable to compete in the Greek market with the Central Powers, whose commercial organisation has hitherto proved to be far superior to that of this country."

Trade Methods of Central Powers.

Mr. Lionda went on to illustrate the methods of Germany and Austria in Greece. "They shipped goods on c.i.f. terms," he pointed out, "and granted very extensive credit. In addition, they appointed their best agents to the various Greek commercial centres, and also sent well-equipped travellers to study any deficiency and to see what British traders were doing to enable them to overcome any difficulty in the way of quality, price, etc. No detail which might in any way assist their trade returns was too insignificant for their attention, and when it is remembered that they had to encounter unorganised opposition for the most part, their success is not in the least a matter for surprise."

"At the present time," he went on, "Greece is overburdened with money. Roughly speaking, £40,000,000 is deposited at the various banks in the whole of Greece, but, substantial as this sum is, much more money will be needed after the war for the first necessities of life, and for various enterprises, and, of course, British capital will be required." Discussing the measures necessary for the development of British trade in the country, Mr. Lionda laid great stress on the imperative need for organisation. "Manufacturers above all others," he said, "must spare no pains to establish their position in Greece now, as the commercial fight is going to be a most bitter one. There is no need for them to send out travellers to Greece at present, for they can achieve the desired end just the same with the collaboration of Hellenic firms established in this country having their own houses in Greece. When the war ends, however, the question of sending out suitable travellers speaking foreign languages with the same facility that German and Austrian travellers did will arise. Besides this there must be the closest co-operation between British and Hellenic financial houses, and it is essential that an Anglo-Hellenic bank should be established with Anglo-Hellenic capital organised in the same way as the Deutsch-Orient Bank and the Deutsch-Palestina Bank, and this bank must have the whole-hearted support of the big financial houses in this country in the same way as the Deutsch-Orient Bank and the Deutsch-Palestina Bank were aided at every turn by the Deutsche Bank, the Dresdner Bank, the Disconto Bank, and other important German financial houses.

Banking Facilities Required.

"British manufacturers," added Mr. Lionda, "must make up their minds now, in order that they may not again be too late, to come into touch with the leading Greek exporters, and they must also commence now to change their methods and ways of doing business. As to new banking facilities, it is essential that any serious steps in this direction by British, Greeks, and Serbians should receive the fullest support of the British Government. I understand in this connection that certain negotiations are going on with financial groups in Greece and in this country. Unless, however, the Government gives unstinted support without being taken as a pessimist, I fear that there will be many difficulties in withstanding the onrush of German and Austrian traders after the war. One more point is, that instead of sending consular representatives to the Near East it would be better for the British Government to select business men with adequate commercial experience, and appoint them as commercial attachés with a free hand to deal with and report on any matters touching the welfare and development of British interests in the Near East."

"There is one matter in particular at the present time which requires attention," Mr. Lionda remarked, "and that is that it is most advisable that the Shipping Controller in this country should allow without delay a British or Greek steamer to resume the traffic with Greece, and at regular intervals, in order to encourage the Greeks who are all, I am proud to say, on the side of the Allies in every respect." In conclusion, Mr. Lionda briefly touched on the present state of Greece, which he said could not be better than it was at present, and paid a glowing tribute to the administration of M. Venizelos, to which he declared, this satisfactory position was entirely to be attributed.

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ATHENS BOURSE REFORM.

The Government has laid before the Chamber (says a Reuter message from Athens) a Bill dealing with the reform of the Bourse, on the following lines: 1. The setting up of a Governmental bureau of control, as a set-off to the creation of the Bourse Council, on which there will be representatives of the Bourse and of finance. 2. The creation of two classes of intermediaries, that of stockbrokers, who are equivalent to the "agents de change" in France, and that of brokers, equivalent to "coulissiers." 3. The recognition of dealings for the account, which can no longer be disputed without serious reason. 4. The determination of a Bourse monopoly reserving the right of operating solely to "agents de change," furnishing a certain sum of money as a guarantee, which will go to the common fund to cover members' obligations.

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ENGINEERING NOTES

Ukraine's Commercial Importance

In last week's notes reference was made to the importance of Ukraine as a market for agricultural machinery, and as a commercial centre with convenient and economical routes for the distribution of all kinds of merchandise throughout the markets of the Near and Middle East. Recognising its value in these respects, some enterprising firms—American and German being more prominent—have in recent years established offices, sub-offices, agencies, and showrooms there, in order to be in a better position to deal promptly with business and to be able to despatch representatives and mechanics at the shortest notice to any part of Russia, Persia, and the districts bordering on the Black and the Caspian Seas. A glance at the map will give an idea of the importance of Ukraine from the commercial as well as from the political standpoint, and will explain the eagerness with which the Germans sought to conclude peace and make economic "treaties" with that Russian province. From a commercial point of view it is of the utmost importance that adequate measures should be taken at once to thwart the German efforts to render Ukraine an economic annex of Germany. With the rich plains of Southern Russia under German domination, and a reorganised Germano-Russian engineering industry in that region, British engineering enterprise in the East will be much affected and seriously handicapped in the forthcoming trade war.

The Siberian Market.

Siberia is commonly considered as a land of vast and dreary steppes, and is associated with frost, and snow, and political exiles. This idea is altogether erroneous, for the country has vast expanses of virgin soil of wonderful fertility, and though the summer is short, the climate uncertain, and the locusts destructive, there is scope for almost limitless production. But the natural advantages of the land remained undeveloped until the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which brought the country into touch with the Western world. Since then Siberia has made great progress, and in recent years British agriculturists and farmers have found Siberia a serious competitor in their home markets. As an instance dairy produce may be mentioned. The imports of this produce from Siberia in 1900 represented a value of £980,000; in 1901 the figure rose to £1,655,000; and in 1902 to £2,196,000. The imports went on increasing until Russian butter was coming to London at the rate of 1,000 tons a week, with large quantities of eggs and poultry besides. These results may seem more remarkable if it is mentioned here that the first dairy in Siberia for making butter for export was not set up until 1893; and that the first person in Siberia to make butter according to modern methods was an Englishwoman, married to a Russian. In the production of cereals, Siberia has similarly advanced, and most of the agricultural machinery and implements that are used in Western Siberia have passed through Ukraine, or have been supplied by the sales offices or agents of American, British, or other firms established in Odessa, Kharkoff, or Moscow. In recent years American firms have done most of the trade in that line, with British, German, and Canadian firms following in that order.

American Methods.

The methods of distribution of agricultural implements and machinery in Siberia that have been followed by an American company, which did a large share of the trade in that line are very interesting, as they were evidently well suited for the market. The head sales office for Russia of the company was in Moscow, but for Western Siberia and the Ural district three branch offices were maintained, the towns of Ekaterinburg, Omsk, and Novo-Nikolaievsk being selected for the purpose. Each branch office was kept permanently supplied with a sufficient stock of machines, parts, etc., to supply at any time the needs of the district which it covered. The manager and assistant manager of each branch office, as a rule, received a commission on sales, in addition to their salaries as officers of the company. Under the supervision of each branch office were a number of sub-agencies situated in the more important centres of the district. In addition to the above, there were a large number of agents or dealers selling machinery and parts on a commission basis. These agents were scattered all over the territory in such a manner that practically no section was left unrepresented. Each agent was supplied with a full sample collection of machines, and in some cases also with a limited stock. A permanent staff of salesmen was also attached to each branch office. These salesmen visited practically every village for the purpose of taking orders, distributing advertising matter, collecting money, and controlling agents. There remains to be mentioned the technical men who were regularly sent out from Moscow to mount machines and to be available should difficulties arise in any district.

The Credit Question.

In Western Siberia sales of harvesting machinery for ready money were practically unknown before the war. The usual terms were from 20 to 30 per cent. cash, and the balance on credit over a period of up to two years. In some cases it was even three years before the peasant discharged his liability. The machinery would arrive in the spring, and the first settlement would be made at the end of the season. But at the present time sales of agricultural machinery and implements are being conducted on a cash basis. With regard to the period after the war, it is generally agreed that no credit is likely to be granted for the first few years, but a moderate credit system will be gradually introduced later.

A Superheater.

A superheater which has recently been brought out is a device for superheating paraffin in such a manner that it becomes transformed into pure gas, propelling a motor-car in the same way as petrol gas. In this appliance the proportion of exhaust heat (which is not large) is directed in its entirety to the gasifying of the fuel without heating, and, consequently, rarifying the air charge. The superheater in question is designed expressly for the Ford cars, for the reason that the Ford engines are suitable for paraffin consumption. To fit this appliance no alteration is required in the car beyond removing the inlet pipe leading from the carburetter to the cylinders and replacing it by the superheater. With petrol at its present price and so difficult to procure this appliance should appeal to owners of Ford cars here and in the East, where a great number of them are employed for commercial purposes as well as by private owners.

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GERMANY AND ROUMANIAN OILFIELDS.

Attempts to Obtain Control.

Numerous reports of a pessimistic nature, telegraphed viâ Amsterdam and Geneva, are reaching the Paris Bourse representing the condition of the various Roumanian petroleum works as in a dilapidated and ruined condition, says the Paris correspondent of the *Financial Times.*, In many cases the wells are stated to be in a semi-hopeless condition. It is alleged that the German engineers have been unable to reopen the shafts of the Colombia Oil Company, and have, therefore, abandoned the works. The same reports are now being spread about the Astra Romana wells and the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields. It is quite obvious that these reports are telegraphed to Paris in order to induce Entente holders of Roumanian petrol shares to sell at any price. The German and Austrian papers, such as the *Berliner Tageblatt*, the *Frankfürter Zeitung*. the *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna, and others, are now giving publicity to reports diametrically the opposite to those which they printed a few months ago. Thus on November 2, 1917, the *Frankfürter Zeitung* reported that a very considerable portion of the normal peace production of Roumanian oil was being obtained through the old wells alone. The Astra and the Steaua Companies were continuing their normal extraction of oil under their own managers. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was then stated to be working satisfactorily under a German receiver. The same was the case of the Romana Americana Company. If, therefore, we are now told the contrary it is evident that the German newspapers are simply obeying an order that has been given to them. The *Neue Freie Presse*, which now gives publicity to despondent rumours, stated a few weeks ago that the Roumanian wells were extracting at the rate of 1,800,000 tons of oil per annum.

A current of arbitrage transactions on the various Roumanian oil shares, mostly for Swiss—presumably German—account, has recently set in on the Paris Bourse. It is interesting to note the efforts now being made to concentrate in German hands by every possible means the various Roumanian properties which have remained non-German. Thus, according to the *Berliner Tageblatt*, the Deutsche-Erdoel-Gesellschaft, with a capital of 30,750,000 marks, has acquired from a Dutch syndicate a large parcel of shares in the International Roumanian Oil Company. According to the *Finanziel Veekblad*, the Steaua Romana, in which a notable portion of the capital is French, is now patronised by the Deutsche Bank, and intends to assume control of the "Astra Romana" belonging to the Shell Royal Dutch Syndicate. Finally, the Amsterdam *Telegraaf* states on reliable authority "that the entire question of the oil-bearing lands of Roumania will ultimately be resolved into one of a practical German monopoly." If there is some foundation, as seems probable, for the rumour that Germany is to expropriate all the Roumanian oil companies and hire them out for ninety years to a consortium of German banks, it is to be feared that such a monopoly would constitute the first step in the economic battle which Germany intends to wage after the conclusion of peace. The position cannot be watched too closely in view of the vast interests which Entente capital holds in Roumanian oil properties, more especially as the Germans are already hastening to liquidate the interests of Entente companies in the part of Roumania occupied by their troops.

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INDIAN INDIGO CROP.

The *Indian Trade Journal* publishes a final general memorandum of the acreage and yield of the indigo crop in 1917-18, based upon reports received from provinces containing practically the whole area under indigo in British India. The total area, estimated at 690,600 acres, is 10 per cent. below the area in 1916-17 (770,000 acres—finally revised figure). The total yield of dye is estimated at 87,000 cwt. as against 95,700 cwt., the finally revised estimate of 1916-17 or a decrease of 8 per cent. The season was not altogether favourable. Heavy rainfalls and floods affected the crop in Bihar and Orissa, and in parts of the United Provinces. In Sind the crop suffered from low inundation in the beginning of the season.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Quieter Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Tuesday.

The demand in the market has been rather quieter, but spinners and manufacturers have been very difficult to deal with, and for anything wanted full prices have had to be paid. The war news has been rather disturbing, and has had some effect upon trade. It is understood that representatives of the Government are consulting with spinners and merchants in Lancashire with regard to the distribution of Egyptian cotton when the crop is taken over for next season. An active demand has again been experienced in Egyptian cotton on the spot in Liverpool, and prices are being well maintained. The receipts at Alexandria so far this season are 5,026,089 cantars, against 4,643,364 cantars last year. Egyptian yarns have been very strongly held, and numerous spinners have met with an encouraging demand. Many Bolton mills are reporting record profits for the past half-year. Piece goods for Egypt have moved off rather quietly. Leading shippers are now showing rather less enterprise, but there is plenty of stuff on order in Lancashire for export. Standard cloths for India and China remain slow, especially sized goods. A very fair inquiry has again come through in finishing and bleaching materials for several outside markets. Manufacturers remain very independent. American yarns have been stiff in quotation.

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INDIA'S TRADE AND FINANCE.

In their weekly bullion letter Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. give the following official table showing the balance of trade of India, and presenting the intensity of the currency problem facing the Indian Government during the abnormal war conditions that prevail :—

—	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	£	£	£
Imports of merchandise — Ex - Government stores	91,953,000	87.991,000	99,748,000
Net imports of—			
Gold	5,637,000	764,000	2,797,000
Silver	6,676,000	3,717,000	2,214,000
Enfaced rupee paper	238.000	603,000	347,000
Interest on enfaced rupee paper	228,000	213,000	195,000
	104,732,000	91,760,000	100,873,000
Exports of merchandise — Ex - Government stores	121,061,000	131,587,000	160,591,000
Net export	16,329,000	39,827,000	59,718,000

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the National Bank of Egypt have declared a dividend for 1917 of 8 per cent., *i.e.*, 16s. per share, as against 6 per cent. for 1916, £52,000 to statutory reserve, £200,000 to special reserve, and £49,000 carried forward, against £31,353, £80,000, and £22,179 respectively for 1916.

The directors of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company state that it will be impossible to hold the annual meeting in March, but the Board have decided to pay on the 30th instant an interim dividend of 6 per cent. on ordinary shares for the first quarter of the year. Last year the dividend was the same.

Coupons of the Greek Five per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893, falling due April 1, 1918, should be presented at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son for payment in accordance with instructions received from the International Financial Commission, Athens, of 120 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 32 per cent. ordinary interest and 22 per cent. per annum augmentation on account of surplus revenues of 1917, payable on the coupon of the first quarter of the year. Coupons of the Greek Four per Cent. Rentes falling due April 1 will be paid 80 per cent. in gold of their face value, being 32 per cent. ordinary interest and 24 per cent. per annum augmentation on account of surplus revenue of 1917.

The National Bank of Egypt announces that coupon No. 27 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Three and a-Half per Cent. bonds due April 1 will be paid at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria and London, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania will be held on April 10 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street.

Rangoon Para Rubber.—Owing to delay in final completion of accounts and to difficulty in financing estate requirements brought about by temporary stoppage of shipment of rubber from Rangoon to London, the directors regret that the annual general meeting will have to be postponed until April 23, and payment of dividend of 6¼ per cent. delayed until May 7.

◆

The Argus Printing Co., Ltd. (10, Temple Avenue, E.C.4), issue a handy writing pad with calendar and memorandum slips attached.

According to *Die Zeit* the petroleum production in the Boryslav-Tustanowic district of Galicia in 1917 amounted to 70,350 cisterns (of 10,000 kilogs each).

RANKEN CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS. AND HANOVER SQUARE,
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI. COMPANY LONDON, W.
Telegrams —"Mentally.
'Phone—Gerrard 597.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")
WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
" We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*
SARSAPARILLA
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
" We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—MEDICAL REVIEW.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
" The late LORD CLYDE said :—I am never withou for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
" It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday.

Our market this week has been under the shadow of the military operations now taking place on the Western front, and business meanwhile is practically at a standstill.

In Government stocks Unifieds are fractionally lower at 87, with some transactions at an even slightly lower price; but the market in this stock remains firm and there are few sellers about. In Egypt 3½ per cent. prefs., although some small business was done round 73½, there are still a good many unsatisfied buyers round 74.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ easier at 18, but the preliminary figures just announced are exceedingly satisfactory, showing as they do that the profit last year was equal to more than double the dividend of 16s. per share which was to be paid, as against 12s. for 1916. Agriculturals have remained a firm spot but inactive, and Anglo-Egyptians are ⅛ easier at 14⅞.

In Railways, Delta Lights have receded ⅛ to 6¾, but the shares on offer have been absorbed. As regards Land descriptions Aboukirs are 6d. easier at 23s., and Behéra prefs. are ⅛ lower at 4½. In Gharbieh Lands the price is also ⅛ down at 1⅞, there being sellers at 2, with buyers at 1¾. New Egyptians have lost 6d. at 18s. 3d., at which price some business was done to-day. The only other alteration is a fall of 3-32 to £3 in Union Foncières, but the business done has been quite infinitesimal.

In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are ⅛ lower at 12⅛, and both Salts and Sodas and Khedivial Mails are 6d. easier at 39s. 6d. and 39s. respectively. A fair business took place in Khedivial Mails at the price mentioned.

In Greek securities the market has remained exceedingly firm; but, apart from a rise of one point in Monopolies to 51½, at which price a fairly large transaction took place, there has been no other alteration to record. Bank of Athens shares are again ⅛ firmer at 3¾ in sympathy with the rise in Athens, but no business has been transacted.

◆

EGYPTIAN TARIFF VALUATIONS.

Revised Duties on Cotton Yarns.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* published a list of revised tariff valuations for use in assessing the duties on cotton yarns imported into Egypt from February 5 to April 4, 1918, or until denunciation, as follows :—

Description.	Import valuations per kilogramme.
Cotton single yarns grey and bleached—	Milliėmes
From India—	
Nos. 4 to 12	200
Nos. 14 to 20	255
From other countries—	
Nos. 4 to 12	345
Nos. 14 to 20	355
Knittings—	
From India—Nos. 3 to 12	260
From other countries—Nos. 3 to 12	370
Cotton sewings grey or bleached—	
From India	375
From other countries	405
Cotton doubled yarns, grey and bleached Nos. 40/2	480
Cotton double yarns, No. 20	480
Turkey red cotton single yarns	455
Other coloured cotton single yarns	455
Gassed or mercerised or prepared yarns bleached or dyed—	
From India	ad valorem
From other countries	ad valorem

The tare allowance for bales is fixed at 3 per cent. Duty is leviable on the valuations shown at the rate of 8 per cent.

◆

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to March 16 Indian Treasury bills were sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value, Rs.12,00,20,000; six months' bills, face value, Rs.19,97,60,000; nine months bills, face value, Rs.7,53,15,000; twelve months' bills, face value, Rs.87,00,000; total, Rs. 40,37,95,000 (equal at 1s. 5d. the rupee to £28,602,100)

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Mar. 20	Mar. 26
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87¼	87
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50½	51½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	47	47
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71	71
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	78½	78½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15	14⅞
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅝	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18⅛	18
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6⅞	6¾
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/6	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13½	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝xd	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	14/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/9	18/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	45/-	45/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 3/32	3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	40/-	39/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	39/6	39/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3⅞

◆

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended March 15.	1918. Week ended March 14.
Cattle markets	1,117	692
General markets	376	434
Receipts (£)	1,493	1,126
Total for year	17,839	12,998

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
March 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	760,000	890,000

The directors of the Ionian Bank, Limited, recommend a final dividend of 3s. per share with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of income-tax, subject to audit for the half-year ended December 30, 1917—January 12, 1918, making, with the interim dividend, 7 per cent. per annum for the year 1917.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, on March 26, Mr. Walter Leaf presiding, the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 11th inst., under which the amalgamation of the undertaking with Parr's Bank was agreed to, was confirmed as a special resolution.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

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BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 361.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

While the first act, as it were, in the great battle in the West is over, and the world awaits the raising of the curtain on the next scene before Amiens and on the Somme, military events of great importance have also been occurring in the East. People at home, with their eyes directed on France, have naturally paid small attention to the bulletins from Mesopotamia and Palestine, and the daily papers have shown a tendency to forget the Balkans altogether. This attitude, however natural, is unwise; for, although the vital decision will be in the West, the future of the world and of its development after the peace, and indeed the actual details of the treaty of peace, may very largely depend on the position as it develops in the East during the next few months.

It is certain that Britain will have to put forward a very considerable increase of military effort in the future, to last, at any rate, until the American Army is in full force in France. That effort will naturally and inevitably be directed towards the Western front and home defence mainly, if not solely; but at the same time it would be unwise, as some of our extreme Westerners have argued, to proceed from this fact to starve our Eastern Expeditionary Forces. If we did not possess India, and if, therefore, we had no Asiatic policy, this would be a conceivable, although not a very ambitious, standpoint; but our possessions and our present commitments will not allow any stagnation here, with the consequent reduction of prestige which such a stagnation would bring.

It is true that, if we lose in France, we lose everything, but the converse is not necessarily true—that, if we gain in France, we gain everything we have fought for. Now, we do not intend to lose in the West, and that being so, it is impossible not to recognise that the events of the past year have had a very considerable effect on the future of Asia for a long time. In politics as in philosophy, it is true that things are what they are, but the remainder of the proposition in political terms is that they will be what we will them to be. And in the East we will them to be the very considerable diminution of the Turkish Empire.

Two additional steps have been taken towards the achievement of that aim during the past week. General Allenby's forces, having crossed the Jordan—an interesting account of which difficult enterprise has now been received from the war correspondent on the spot—made a destructive raid upon the Hejaz Railway, several miles of which were torn up. Our troops then returned, but in the course of the week from March 25 to April 1 we took 700 prisoners with several guns. Turkish opposition in Palestine does not seem to get more effective, although it would, of course, be folly to pretend that they are beaten; they may be able to put up a very pretty fight or so yet before this modern crusade is over.

A still more striking performance is reported from Mesopotamia, which has led to one of the most brilliant and certainly by far the quickest pursuit of any enemy in the war. It is only ten days since the War Office reported that heavy rains had fallen, which made any forward movement for some time ahead appear to be out of the question; but the deluge does not seem to have disconcerted General Marshall's plans in the least. He struck hard at the Turks at Khan Baghdadie, beyond Hit; they were evidently taken by surprise, surrounded, and forced to surrender; five thousand prisoners were captured, as well as a large amount of booty. In view of the already weakened state of the Turks in this region, after their many defeats during the past year, this additional reduction of their forces must represent a most serious loss of their hitting, if not of their staying, power; and this great success (which passed almost without comment) was followed by a further rapid advance along the Aleppo road and 73 miles beyond Anah, which resulted in the capture, according to a laconic communiqué, of "a few more Germans."

Obviously the Turks had no stomach for further fighting at the moment, as the advance could not have been made at such a pace, if there had been the least opposition. This progress is of very great importance, since it brings us beyond Abu Kemal, from which post runs the old desert road to Palmyra; we are now not far from Khan Kalasi, on the ruins of the city of Salahieh (which traditionally derives its name from Saladin). Our troops have advanced altogether 130 miles in less than a week—a feat which must make many a weary cavalryman on the Western front pale with envy, and which will long live in the records of war; and it may also be noted that we are now within 250 miles of Aleppo.

Count Czernin's latest speech cannot be regarded as sincere. He makes a point of not having demanded a square foot of territory from Russia, and says that, if Roumania had agreed to peace at the same time, she might have had the same terms. The measure of the truth of that is that Germany has annexed Russian while Austria has annexed Roumanian territory; probably Count Czernin has heard of burglars dividing the spoil. It is idle to pretend that Roumania would have escaped her fate had she given way a whole month earlier.

Indeed, the Austrian politician himself admits as much when he divides the acquisitions into military guarantees and commercial advantages: the militarists of Austria were hungry for the one, the business men for the other.

He proceeds to announce once again that Serbia is anxious to make peace, only the Entente will not let her—the Germans used to say the same thing about Belgium. But Austria, it appears, is anxious to come to terms with "a beaten enemy"—we know from the example of Roumania and Russia what those terms would be—and certain acquisitions of Serbian territory are mentioned, but not defined. But it appears from the speech that Austria's main desire to come to terms with Serbia arises from the fact that, having conquered Serbia in the field, she now wishes to conquer her "morally." When we remember Forgach, Agram, and Austrian policy at Belgrade, the comparison of Count Czernin with Pecksniff seems feeble.

The terms of peace between Russia and Roumania have now been published. Their main feature is that they provide for the evacuation of Bessarabia by Roumania within two months, and our unfortunate Allies do not therefore obtain that measure of territorial compensation for their losses in the Dobruja and elsewhere which was suggested in the Austro-German Press. We were always doubtful whether this inspired suggestion, frequently made in Berlin and Vienna, was made in good faith; it is now evident that it was only put forward to deceive. There are some other clauses in the agreement which have no particular importance; but the treaty here can in no sense be called a settlement, the whole situation still being obscure and fluctuating.

The Lichnowsky memorandum may or may not have any effect on German public opinion, presuming that the latter has any real existence, but as an historical document it is of first-rate importance. It does not perhaps add much to our existing knowledge of Balkan politics before the war; Prince Lichnowsky's interest in the Near East was obviously of a secondary character (as was Sir Edward Grey's), and the testimony he gives to the honesty of British diplomacy in the Balkans, although welcome, still leaves open the question of its wisdom in many details.

The key to Prince Lichnowsky's whole attitude is to be found in the words, "Central Europe is mediævalism, Berlin-Baghdad is a *cul-de-sac*, and not a road into the open, to unlimited possibilities, and to the world mission of the German people." The ex-Ambassador, in fact, was a Westerner; he believed in colonial expansion, and the details which he gives of the negotiations with England as to the opening of Africa to German enterprise show him as by no means an unsuccessful diplomat. In 1912-4 he did, in fact, secure, with British consent and even goodwill, that "place in the sun" which Germany demanded in the tropics. It was not his fault, and certainly not that of Downing Street, that Germany lost that place by preferring war.

On the other hand, for one who looked on the Berlin-Baghdad project as a *cul-de-sac* he certainly did a great deal to turn the *cul-de-sac* into a high road. One cannot help making a wry face over the concessions to which Lord Grey put his hand. "The so-called Baghdad Railway Treaty," says the Prince, "aimed at the division of Asia Minor into spheres of interest, although this expression was carefully avoided in consideration of the Sultan's rights." Lord Grey made the concession—a very considerable one—of allowing the continuation of the Baghdad line to Busreh, which had previously been categorically refused. "The shipping on the Shatt-el-Arab was to be in the hands of an international commission. We (Germany) also obtained a share in the harbour works at Busreh, and even acquired shipping rights on the Tigris. . . . By this treaty the whole of Mesopotamia up to Busreh become our (German) zone of interest." This is, of course, a tribute to the British determination to go to the utmost limit in order to get on better terms with Germany, but it is very doubtful whether these extensive concessions would have been ratified by public opinion in England.

Against these concessions, we were practically confined to the Persian Gulf, where we had had a strong position already for two hundred years, and, in addition, the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, French Syria, and Russian Armenia were also recognised as "British economic territories." In other words, it was a typical German agreement—she obtained a great deal from us directly, and recompensed us in a shadowy and indirect fashion by promising us good treatment in the house of our friends. It is no wonder that German commentators have already admitted that these terms were extraordinarily generous. It is an excellent thing to seek peace and ensue it, but this agreement came near the Danegeld method of preserving the peace. Why Germany did not accept it remains a mystery; but had she done so it is probable that her appetite would have grown by what it fed upon, and in another few years still more far-reaching demands would have been put forward, presumably for the extension of the Baghdad Railway to India, and further economic rights up to the Indian frontier.

Mr. Balfour's distrust of the Baghdad Railway policy, which was shown as far back as 1903—a distrust which moved Lord Morley's indignation, and apparently that of some of his colleagues in Mr. Asquith's Government—was fully justified. The Baghdad Railway scheme may have been originally a *cul-de-sac*, but when it debouched into the Persian Gulf, and was intended to lead on to India, it cannot be maintained that that standpoint was true any longer. The only possible defence of these concessions is that we did not understand the German political mentality; but that is no defence at all, since it is the business of statesmen to understand the political mentality of other countries.

One good thing has come from these revelations. If they are inaccurate—and we believe that, broadly speaking, they are accurate, since they not only bear the impress of truth, but agree with the recollections of those who followed pre-war Anglo-German policy pretty closely—they can be denied. It can no longer be maintained that the British Government has no knowledge of these matters; the case for reticence has gone by the board, since Prince Lichnowsky's apologia has leaked out. That is a minor point: the main thing is that in no conceivable circumstances, save an absolute defeat of the Entente, could these terms again be offered to Germany. We know her aims, and that one demand leads to another. It is evidently a consciousness of the fact that the war has destroyed all chance of the realisation of these aims that leads the ex-Ambassador to his pessimistic but true conclusion that the British will maintain their hold on Southern Asia, that the Anglo-Saxons and the Latins will control the outer world, and that Germany will be confined to Germany and Austria. The one point on which we should differ from him is his suggestion that France will count for less in the future. He does not seem to have appreciated the extraordinarily brilliant work of France in Africa during the past generation; and although France has lost heavily during the war, her spiritual renown never stood higher than to-day. It is not in England that he will find any echo of this sentiment.

Fighting is reported to have taken place in the districts of Batoum, Kars, and Ardahan. The Armenians and Georgians, it is stated, have formed an army for the defence of the country against the Turks, who, in virtue of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, have attempted to carry into effect a military occupation of the country. News of the formation of a Trans-Caucasian Government had already reached us, and from a message sent by the German Foreign Office to the Swedish representative at Tiflis, it is clear that the Berlin Government is viewing the course of events in that part of the world with some concern. Whatever may be the situation in other parts of the former Russian Empire, there would seem to be a clear-cut issue in the Caucasus. To Armenians and Georgians Bolsheviks and Turks alike are enemies, and it is satisfactory to know that they have lost no time in organising for the defence of their rights.

On the other hand, the position in the Caucasus might be complicated by the Tartars of the Baku district, to whose support the Turks are looking for the success of the Pan-Turanian movement. It is conceivable that, in the event of a successful invasion, these Tartars might have thrown in their lot with the Turks. But behind the sturdy resistance of the other races they ought to have time to realise that Turkish anxiety to make common cause with them is based on no altruistic solicitude for the Caucasian population, but on the desire to use the wealth of these districts for the furtherance of Ottoman aims, which merely make a cloak of Islam, without conforming to or believing in its tenets. In this connection an article on the Caucasus, of which the first instalment appears this week, should prove of special interest. It deals first with the early history and with the population of this region, and will then touch upon more recent developments, together with the economic potentialities. Great Britain cannot afford to ignore the future of the Caucasus, as in the event of the permanent disintegration of Russia it would become an important gateway to India for Germany.

The announcement that an airship has been seen over Crete, coupled with the rumour of aeroplane raids over Egypt, suggests an extension of the air war to the Mediterranean. It is, of course, over two years ago that Zeppelins were active over Greece, and although these instruments of war have been somewhat discredited in the West since then, they may still have some opportunity of doing damage in districts less well equipped for aerial defence. The range of the aeroplane has grown very considerably during the past year, and destructive raids from Turkey or Bulgaria over Egypt are by no means impossible, while against Athens—which the Germans, judging by their barbaric attempts against Venice and Naples, would have peculiar enjoyment in damaging—they would be still easier. It is unlikely, however, that any aeroplane attacking Egypt would be able to carry sufficient bombs to do much damage, owing to the length of the flight from base to objective.

There is a moral for everyone interested in the material development of India to be drawn from the experience related by Mr. McConnel in the article on cotton-growing which we published last week. Mr. McConnel tells us that he first tried the India Office, and formed the impression that nothing would be done; then he tried India, and found that much had already been accomplished. Of late years Delhi has been far ahead of Whitehall, just as some of the provinces have been ahead of Delhi, in pressing forward the application of science to the agricultural and industrial problems of India. Ambitious schemes have been formulated in, shall we say, Allahabad, or Poona, or Nagpur, reduced to modest dimensions in Delhi, and then "held up" in London, till the workers have been discouraged, and the public has naturally blamed the whole organisation for the action or inaction of a part.

The India Office has seen sundry war changes, and it goes without saying that much better things are hoped for in the future. With so many seats in the building occupied by secretaries and other high officers from India—some retired, others only tired—many ambitious schemes ought to find an old friend able and willing to urge them forward through the slack water and refloat them as often as they run aground; but we cannot expect that the navigation will ever be free from danger. In any case, the man who wants to get something done should understand that he must first get his scheme launched in India, which is by no means difficult, if it be anything like seaworthy, and he need do nothing in Whitehall till the scheme is on its way. The time for real work comes when the files have crossed the water.

If, however, the scheme is likely to be costly, the promoters must be prepared to do some lobbying in India, for in these democratic days projects can no longer depend entirely on their merits. There are many voluble claimants for the limited funds available for new developments, and since even Finance Ministers conceal a good deal of human nature beneath a stern and rugged exterior, it usually happens that most of the money goes to the men who can make the most noise. Promoters have now to reckon with this fact: it is good to have the departmental Minister on your side, but it is even better to secure the active support of a band of prominent politicians, men who have the courage of their interpellations, and who will not be deterred by false modesty from pressing home their demands. It seems rather a cumbrous way of getting things done, but, as we have said, these are democratic days, and the people love to have it so.

The death of General Sir Alfred Gaselee will be deeply regretted in the ranks of the Indian army, with which he served for upwards of forty years, and in which he had secured universal affection and respect. The record of his active service is extraordinary, and it may fairly be said that he was usually to be found fighting somewhere on the frontier, except when circumstances took him further afield, as to Abyssinia in 1868 or to China in 1900. He always distinguished himself on these varied fields, but his chance came when he was given a brigade in the operations in Tirah, where his success opened the way to higher appointments, and he became Quartermaster-General in India, and subsequently commanded the old Northern Army.

China was, however, the scene of General Gaselee's most anxious task. He commanded the British forces in the joint operations rendered necessary by the Boxer rebellion, and thus had practical experience of an experiment towards a League of Nations conducted on definitely Prussian lines, an experiment which might have led to disastrous results but for the ability and tact of the Indian commander. As it was, our troops obtained an insight into German methods which caused a deep impression throughout India, and still counted for much in 1914. Since then there has been no lack of evidence in the same direction, and we suspect that the Indian Army, which has a long memory, still regards General Gaselee as the typical representative of its ideals and the antithesis of all that it hates and condemns.

SERBIA AND THE JUGOSLAVS.

At the Royal Victoria Hall in South London on April 2, Dr. May Dickson-Berry lectured on Serbia and the Jugoslavs, her address being illustrated by the magic lantern. The slides showed the history and geography of the country, its beautiful scenery, its architecture, the picturesque costumes of the peasants, and many other matters of interest. The costumes, the audience were told, varied from one place to another; but they were always very bright in colour, and were decorated with beautiful embroidery. The summer costume of the men greatly differed from that worn in winter, the most conspicuous summer garment being an embroidered shirt, which was always worn outside the trousers; while in winter nearly everyone wore a sleeveless sheepskin coat—though this was sometimes worn in summer also. The people were described as being very kind and hospitable, and intensely patriotic. The history of their race and country was not to them something to be learned at school, and speedily forgotten; it entered into their very life; and one of the lantern slides showed a cottage, on the outside walls of which its owner had made pictures of Serbian heroes. Such drawings roughly made, said Dr. Dickson-Berry, were not uncommon. Many quaint old customs survived. The Serbian equivalent to the mediæval bard still went about singing and reciting in the villages, and people visited the graves of their relatives and placed food and wine upon the tombs. After this ceremony a religious service was held, and the food was given to needy people. At the time the lecturer was in Serbia with her husband, the recipients of these gifts were generally Austrian prisoners.

Ethnographic maps thrown on the screen showed the distribution of population in that part of the world. Serb, Croat, Bosnian, and Dalmatian, Dr. Dickson-Berry said, were all of the one race, the principal differences among them being due to religion. The Serbs were generally members of the Orthodox Greek Church, the Croats were Roman Catholics, and the Bosnians were largely Moslem. All were in sympathy with the idea of the founding of a great Jugoslav state, and, in the early days of the war had deserted to the Allied cause by thousands. An endeavour had been made to prevent this by placing German troops behind the Slavs, and, on the least sign of hesitation by the latter, they were shot down by machine guns. They had gone over to the Allies nevertheless, and a Jugoslav army had been formed, which had fought most gallantly in the Dobruja and elsewhere. The realisation of the idea of Jugoslav nationality would defeat entirely the pan-German scheme of a middle European block under Prussian military and economic control.

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

The sudden and—to us—unexpected attack on the Turkish forces on the plateau of Moab seems to have been a brilliant affair, carried out with General Allenby's usual lightning dash. Clearly the Turks were ill prepared for this fresh attack when our Army was already so heavily engaged in western Palestine. The description of the crossing of the Jordan as given by Mr. Massey is most vivid, especially to those who know the spot. The deep channel of the Zor, which the Jordan has through long ages cut for itself through the alluvial deposits of the Ghor, presents a most formidable barrier to any one advancing eastwards. The descent from the Jericho plain to the river bank is steep, and after rain exceedingly slippery. Between the slimy cliffs and the river is a stretch of muddy soil which, when the Jordan is in flood—as it is often at this season—soft and slippery enough to make any progress most difficult. The Jordan banks are of treacherous loose mud, and wooded to the water itself; the river, which here is yellow brown with sediment, is swift and full of cross currents, and a most dangerous one for a swimmer. The further side is covered by a tangled growth of thorny shrubs, and rises terrace by terrace to the level plain. The scanty fords are all difficult in time of flood. The main crossing was made at the ford just below the Monastery of St. Gerasimos, built upon the ruins called Kasr Hajlah. This marks the site of Beth Hogla (Josh. 15, 6). The convent is one of the few inhabited buildings on the banks of the lower Jordan. The site is important, because close to it is the spring of Ain Hajlah, and also, in the Zor, the ford Mahadet Hajlah and the traditional scene of the baptism of Christ. To this spot thousands of pilgrims come annually (in peace times) to be baptised, a custom going back very many centuries.

The first attempted crossing was at El Ghoraniveh; for some years there has been a bridge, which, however, was destroyed by the retreating Turks. Here, though the banks are far better and the presence of a road to the shore on each side rendered crossing more hopeful, the swiftness of the current and the prepared opposition made a front advance impossible. It was only after the entrenched position of the Turks had been outflanked by mounted men, who crossed at Mahadet Hajlah, that a bridge could be constructed here.

A feint further north at El Mandesi ford, a little south of the mouth of the Auja, as well as the crossing of a small party near the mouth of the Jordan, served to confuse the Turks and disperse the opposing forces. The crossing of the main body was effected by Saturday, March 23, and during that and the next day strong attacks were made on many roads leading on to the Moab plateau. The main line of attack was up the beautiful Wady Sha'ib, up which runs the new carriage road to Es Salt, and thus to Amman. The lower part of the valley is known as Wady Nimrin, after the ruins of Beth Nimrah (Joshua 13, 27; Num. 32, 3, 36), which lie up a hill called Tell Nimrin in this valley. The valley is most picturesque; I recall no district in Palestine where the wild flowers in spring are more profuse. As one ascends from the Jordan valley to Es Salt—a height of over 3,000 ft.—one passes belt after belt of varied flowers, each altitude being characterised by certain kinds. As Es Salt is approached several springs are passed, and immediately below the town the valley is full of watered gardens and orchards. Es Salt is still a place of considerable importance, the capital of the district of El Belka and the chief centre for education and commerce in Moab. The people—both Moslems and Christians—both in their costumes and their ways preserve much of the Bedouin type. There are Christian schools belonging to the Latin, the Greek, and the Anglican Churches, and the C.M.S. has a fine Medical Mission Hospital there. The city is built chiefly upon the steep sides of a lofty hill, which culminates in a ruined castle of the Crusading period, if not earlier. On the whole this is a prosperous place, with abundant water, some beautiful gardens and orchards, and ample pasturage around. In its near neighbourhood—on the road between it and Jerash—are large groups of fine old trees, the surviving remains of a once extensive forest; it is thought probable that Es Salt is derived from the Latin *Saltus*, a name given to such a district of wooded mountain land.

Es Salt was captured on the morning of March 25, and no time was lost in pressing on over the lofty, wind-swept plateau of Moab towards Amman. This place is one of great military importance as one of the chief stations on the Hejaz Railway. The chief reason for the raid was to reach the railway, and, according to the latest accounts, "several miles of railway track, with culverts and an important bridge, were effectively demolished." This line is of such vital importance to the Turks that this must be a heavy blow and a great cause of panic and disorder.

Amman itself is one of the most famous sites in this region. Originally Rabbath Ammon—the fortress of the Ammonites—captured by Joab, acting for David, it became later on the yet more famous Philadelphia, one of the greatest cities of the Decapolis. The very extensive ruins there include a great theatre, the outlines of which, with its forty-five tiers of seats, that once accommodated 4,000 spectators, can still be traced running round a great semi-circle excavated on the hillside. Among the columns, ruined temples, and other Greek buildings distributed along the banks of the Jabbock, lie the primitive dwellings of the large settlement of Circassians who for over a quarter of a century have been developing this region. The Amman railway station itself is some three miles further down the valley of the Jabbock. Both north and south of this the line bends eastwards in great curves to the very confines of the desert itself. Such a destruction of the line as has now taken place must greatly embarrass the Turks, especially those further south, who are already harassed by our Arab Allies, who are advancing from the south. Also it will destroy any sense of security they may have been indulging in with regard to this region. Amman itself being doubtless very thoroughly defended has not been touched at present, and we learn that after capturing 700 prisoners, four guns, several machine guns, and a number of motor lorries, our force is falling back upon their base at Es Salt. This diversion should very greatly relieve pressure upon our forces to the west of the Jordan, who have been making sure but slow progress against strong opposition.

E. W. G. M.

[Of Amman and Es Salt a correspondent writes:—Of the ruins that remain at Amman none is older than the Greek period. In the days of the Crusaders the place was raided once by Godfrey de Boulogne, and a second time by his brother Baldwin of Edessa, the second Latin King of Jerusalem. Right across country, six hours' ride from Amman, is Assalt or Es Salt, supposed to be Machaerus, the scene of John the Baptist's execution. The summit of Gebel Yousha (Joshua) is reached in about an hour and a-half from Es Salt, whence is obtained a lovely view of the Jordan and the Ghor.]

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Daughters of Officers of the Army are admitted to the above Schools according to the circumstances of their parents, at rates of £20, £45, £65, and £80 a year. Granddaughters of Officers are admitted at £45, £65, and £30 a year according to circumslances, and a limited number of daughters of civilians are admitted at £120 a year when there are vacancies. There are 15 Scholarships, open to competition, in the School. of amounts varying from £10 to £20 up to one of £50.

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F. W. T. ATTREE, COLONEL (late R.E.), Secretary.
Office: Panton House, 25, Haymarket, S.W.1.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, March 10.

Public Functions.

Public ceremonials and demonstrations are the order of the day, and King Alexander is indefatigable in his attendance at such functions. Yesterday his Majesty paid a visit to the reservists at Chalkis and delivered an inspiriting speech. From all accounts the reservists are generally responding well to the call to the colours. Last week a demonstration was held at the Piræus by the reservists, at which M. Repoulis presided, and the whole proceedings were characterised by great enthusiasm. A distinct change for the better appears to have set in, be it superficial or not, since the events at Lamia and Larissa, due no doubt in a great measure to the firmness displayed by the Government. It cannot be said that the mobilisation is popular, as may be easily understood after what the country has gone through during the past three years; but it is probably being realised that this step is necessary for the welfare of the country, and the nation may be expected to become resigned to the necessity.

On March 7 the taking of Janina in the Balkan War was celebrated by a review of the troops on the Champs de Mars, which was attended by the King, the members of the Government, and the Diplomatic Corps. The Macedonian regiment which recently arrived from the front came in for much acclamation, and their officers have been given a reception at the Military Club, at which the King was present.

The opening of Parliament by King Alexander was a brilliant ceremony, the streets being lined by the Macedonian troops in their metal helmets.

From Day to Day.

The vigilance of the police continues in a commendable manner, and punishment is inflicted whenever necessary. The editor of the newspaper *Chronos* was recently fined 10,000 drachmæ, with eight years' imprisonment, for publishing an article disapproved by the Censor. The police have this year wisely prohibited, in connection with Carnival Week, the appearance of masked men and women in the streets and the use of confetti, which on former occasions led to the streets of Athens being filled with crowds.

There is a project to create a new police force, and it is proposed to obtain the assistance of instructors from England to organise it.

The conferring of the Order of the Bath and the Legion of Honour on King Alexander appears to have given much satisfaction, and the *Patris* says that these distinctions conferred on King Alexander by Great Britain and France are more than a mere act of courtesy towards the King of a friendly and allied people. They express, it adds, the unalterable esteem and sympathy which the Allied Powers have always entertained for the Hellenic people. This truth is further amplified by the message which the first commoner of England, Mr. Lloyd George, has addressed to the Hellenic people, and is emphasised still more emphatically by Mr. Bonar Law's recent utterances in the House of Commons.

King Alexander has honoured the British and French Ministers by his presence at dinner.

A certain amount of paper money is already in circulation, and has had the effect of arresting the process of hoarding silver coins. In addition to the internal loan, the Government contemplate issuing Treasury Bonds against the loans they are receiving from the Allies.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Weather and War.

There has been a good deal of cold, bracing weather. Sufficient rain has fallen to encourage hopes that cereal crops will bring to the island a self-supporting year, although there was a great deal of grumbling in many parts as to an insufficiency of seed corn. The critical spring period, however, has still to be passed.

Mails, now so anxiously looked for, arrive with trying irregularity. War news brings no prospect of improvement as regards travelling, and families that have not left the island for years now hope that next, if it cannot be this, year may afford a chance of getting home.

Precautions Against Epidemics.

Owing to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which was new to Cyprus, it became necessary last year to declare a number of areas as infected. The measures taken have been so successful that many places have now been declared free. It would seem to be a common experience, all the world over, that new maladies, both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, should follow the introduction of new conditions, and in Cyprus several complaints are attributed to the period of the British occupation. On the other hand, the Government has been very successful in keeping the island free from many outside dangers. The dreaded *phylloxera*, for example, regarding which there was for many years great local anxiety, and which would ruin the vine industry, has been kept from its shores by rules of such stringency as to evoke protests even from the Directors of Agriculture. The vigilance of the Medical Department has probably saved the island from various epidemics that have attacked neighbouring countries and places of pilgrimage; and the appointment of a Government Veterinary Surgeon has been attended by excellent results.

Village communities have continued to avail themselves here and there of the law which enables them to prevent the keeping of goats within their borders; but this law only provides an unsatisfactory compromise with the evil which it aims at suppressing. One village, for instance, may, by the required majority, vote for application of the law; a neighbouring village, where it may be needed quite as much or more, fails to act owing, it may be, to the preponderance of a clique or faction, which overawes the fainthearted majority against its better judgment. It is to be regretted that the depredations of goats are not dealt with in a drastic and systematic manner in the general interests of landowners, including the Government. The argument in favour of reducing the pest within harmless limits is unanswerable, if the official estimates of damage to both State and private property have any meaning. It seems of little advantage that such figures should be published, unless the lesson to be derived from them leads to practical enactments commensurate with the evil. The havoc wrought by goats has been demonstrated most conclusively ever since the first years of the occupation, and yet every year the matter seems to be brought up as if it were the discovery of a new danger.

General News.

In the vine districts villagers are obtaining very good prices for their wines, while raisins fetch double and treble pre-war rates. The carob merchants only have reason to fear that they may be hard hit, as there is no prospect of improvement in the matter of shipping.

Game (hares and partridges) have been fairly plentiful, but woodcock are comparatively scarce this winter. Sportsmen, both British and native, have had good days. Almost prohibitive prices are asked for cartridges.

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THE SULTAN OF TURKEY AND ISLAM.

The following is a translation of the Order promulgated last January by the King of the Hejaz regarding the omission of the Sultan's name from the Friday prayer:—

> In conformity with the terms of the Royal proclamation, stating: That we announce to all Moslems of the Turkish Empire, especially the army and its officers, that, if they do not rise for the overthrow of the Turanian oppressors and utterly renounce them, our last hope of the restoration of the glory of Islam to that country, and of the reunion of its people in the bond of Islam, will be lost; and the first act of our renunciation of it will be the omission of the name of its Sultan from the Friday prayer, we having so far retained that name out of reverence for the memory of his predecessors, and in the hope that one would arise to deliver his country from the usurpation of the men of the Turanian band; and as the delay allowed to them has long expired, the Royal Hashemite Order has this day been issued—giving effect to the foregoing pledge—for the removal of the name of their Sultan from the public prayer, commencing from the first Friday after the present date, and for communication in that sense to be made to the proper quarters.

According to *El Qibla*, the following is the formula to be used in future in the Friday prayer, after the blessing on the Family and the Companions:—

> O God, sanctify the souls of the Imams who were zealous for the Faith, who judged with justice and followed it. O God, prolong Thy help and support, make eternal Thy protection of Thy servant and the son of Thy servant, who humbles himself before Thy majesty and Thy glory; the warden of Thy strong place, the city of his forefather, the Chief of the Prophets; the Sherif and Emir of Mecca; the King of Arabistan; the pupil of every eye; our Lord the Sherif Hussein, son of our deceased Lord, the Sherif Ali—(here follows the pedigree). Be to him a trusty guardian, a counsellor, and a helper. Aid him, O God, in all that pertains to the land and the people, to the concerns of all the people of our Lord Mohammed, on Thy earth or upon Thy sea. As it may please Thee, O God, guide aright all the rulers of the Moslems, and bring to nought the unbelievers, the innovators, and all who devise evil against Thy servants, the Faithful, in East or West. Amen. O God, O Lord of the two worlds, grant Thy pardon to the Faithful men and women. . . . (to the end of the established prayer).

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Anah, which our troops entered a few days ago, is (as I remarked recently) a picturesque place. It has, or used to have, an extraordinary number of water-wheels, also of empty houses, and it is the "furthest north" on the Euphrates for the date palm to grow in any numbers. The reason for the number of empty houses, I was told, was that when anyone tired of his dwelling he just walked out of it and built himself a new one. Why the old ones were not occupied by new tenants I could not ascertain on either of my visits to the place. One pretty feature of the village is the quantity of coarse maiden-hair fern that grows over many of the mud-built houses and water-channels. It grows as thickly—or almost so—as the ferns in Smugglers' Lane, at Salcombe, and in many another shady Devon lane, and its beautifying effect upon the crude architecture of Anah is undeniable. The people, too, are rather pleasant looking and well mannered. On the whole, there are worse places to spend a couple of days in than Anah.

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I do not know what genius is responsible for the Turkish reports of the fighting in Mesopotamia, but he appears to be quite clever in his own style. His adroit way of ignoring such trifles as our capture of any particular spot, however important it may be, is wonderful, and in the art of putting the best face possible upon an unpleasant situation he is an expert. His method, as far as I can fathom it, is to report any reconnaissance of ours as "a determined attempt to advance," and the withdrawal of a scouting party as a "crushing defeat." Of course, it is gloriously simple, but is not simplicity of this kind akin to genius? At any rate, the reports to which I refer have afforded me a good deal of amusement of late.

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The fact that ex-King Constantine had to send his two spies into Greece by submarine seems to have surprised some people, who fail to realise the change that has come over Greece and the Greeks of late. But Tino, like his German friends, likes underhand methods; so undersea boats doubtless possess a particular attraction for him.

A message sent by General Hawker, Military Governor of Baghdad, to the Armenian Refugees Fund, gives some information about improvements introduced into the city by the British. Some of these would certainly give a great shock to the shades of Mansur, Haroun-er-Rashid, and Jaafer, should these famous worthies ever revisit the scene of their former activities. There is, for instance, the installation of the electric light in the main street. Would that, I wonder, be welcomed by the trio of shades in question? Some of their adventures would look a trifle queer in the powerful light of a big arc lamp, and I am not quite sure that they would regard the light as an unmixed blessing. They would probably prefer electric torches of their own. But the ghost of another former "great one" of Baghdad would certainly rejoice. That really progressive man, Midhat Pasha, who was for a while Vali of Baghdad, would be glad to see "light, more light," the wider roads, and the greater cleanliness that the British have introduced.

⁂

The introduction of electricity will, however, almost certainly lead to the elimination of the *farnoosji*, or "lamp-boy," who, with his great lantern formerly marched ahead of you when business or pleasure took you abroad in the city after dark. He and his *farnoose* were picturesque survivals of old times, but they certainly did not light your path as efficiently as the more prosaic electric lamp. How many an anxious moment have I experienced when, on my way out to dinner at some friend's house, I have found myself picking my way amidst puddles and lakes of mud while the *farnoose's* light flickered feebly in the draught, or the *farnoosji* sauntered ahead oblivious to my distress. One horrible memory of the kind still haunts me vividly. On a state occasion, when I was to dine with the Consul Beg, I nearly lost my balance at a particularly unsavoury spot, because my lamp-boy had got too far ahead. One foot shot from under me: the other followed suit. I had visions of my shirt-front and evening dress in sore distress. Even as they passed before by mind's eye, I performed feats worthy of a Blondin at his best; and as a result I kept my feet, and reached the Residency unsoiled; but the memory of that bad half-minute inclines me to cast my vote in favour of electricity, rather than of the glorified link-boy.

Corsair.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HOME LIFE IN THE BALKANS.*

The Balkans, it is to be feared, are in danger of being associated in the mind of the British public mainly, if not exclusively, with battle, murder and sudden death. It is well, therefore, to be reminded of the more peaceful aspects of their daily existence, and this Miss Garnett has done in a volume which is full of interest and displays no small measure of painstaking exploration in a useful field. The characteristics and social customs of a people reveal both what is good and what is bad in them; and from these the careful student may be able to form some idea of the prospects that lie before the race: In this respect Miss Garnett's contributions to our knowledge of Albania is, perhaps, the most valuable section of the book. Here is a classic instance of a house divided against itself; but as it has contrived to make some sort of a stand against disruptive influences, it is necessary for the future welfare of the country—and in a corresponding degree for the peace of Europe—that the reason for this fact should be appreciated. Our author reminds us that the Albanians have the same language, customs, traditions and aspirations. They are divided in matters of religious belief by three creeds—the Moslem, Orthodox Greek, and Roman Catholic; but apart from the fact that the Moslems constitute about one-half of the population (with the majority of the remaining half Orthodox), Miss Garnett bears testimony to "the prevailing tendency on the part of the highlanders to become Moslems, and of the Orthodox Christian agriculturists to emigrate to Greece and elsewhere," and she considers it probable, therefore, that in course of time the country may become entirely Moslem. The fact that not only are some religious ceremonies and pilgrimages carried out in common by both Moslems and Orthodox Christians, but inter-marriage is also not infrequent between the two creeds supports this theory in so far as the "pull" in such circumstances rests with the party which starts with numerical superiority. Clearly the political solution of the Albanian question must take into consideration these and similar factors with a view to following the line of least resistance that is going to make for unity in the country. On the subject of vendetta, Miss Garnett supplies no evidence to assist her readers in forming an opinion as to whether the practice is or is not on the wane. She quotes, without repudiating the description of the Albanian nation as being "without a literature, without art, and almost without a history"; but explains the neglect of the mother tongue as arising from the profession of three creeds, "Turkish only being taught in the Moslem schools, Italian in the Roman Catholic, and in the Orthodox Christian, Greek." The first contribution of the Allied Powers towards the future settlement of the Albanian question would seem to have been an unqualified acceptance of the principle of partition. Whether that will outlive the doctrine of "no annexations" remains to be seen. It has to be borne in mind that the peace of Europe predicates peace in every part of it, and that the Allied goal will not be attained if Albania is to be left as a fruitful source of unrest owing to the failure to respect the wishes of the people in so far as they lend themselves to practical application.

The other nationalities dealt with in this book are the Macedonian Greeks, the Wallachs or Vlachs, the Bulgarians, and the Osmanlis. Miss Garnett brings out prominently two facts well known to all who have had the opportunity of studying the adherents of the Orthodox Churches, the many links between pagan and modern beliefs, and the hold which religion has on the populace from birth to death. In the case of the Greeks there is no difficulty in tracing the connection between many of the customs and superstitions of classical times and those of to-day. Some, indeed, survive without the cachet of religion, as may be seen—though Miss Garnett does not mention this point—in the reluctance of the Greek shepherd to enter a cave at noonday, the hour sacred to Pan. All visitors to Greece are struck by the custom at funerals of carrying the body to the graveside in an open coffin. Miss Garnett mentions the custom without offering an explanation. Two are usually offered, but the present writer does not know which, if either, is historically correct. On the one hand, the custom is described as merely precautionary—to diminish the chance of premature burial in a country where interment has to take place not later than the day after death; another explanation attributes the custom originally to a Turkish regulation enforced to prevent smuggling in closed coffins. A burial practice that has been handed down from Mycenæan times, and is still followed, is that of burying in the grave articles cherished by the deceased. The modern Greek method, however, is to place the souvenirs in a glass-case at the head of the grave.

The primitive agricultural methods of Greek Macedonia are noted by our author, and in keeping with them is the poverty of the people concerned. A variety of circumstances may be held to have been responsible in the past, and it will be of interest to see whether the Allied occupation of the country round Salonika, which has brought a sense of security to the inhabitants never experienced before, in addition to such practical advantages as roads and motor transport, will mark the opening of a new era in this matter. Into the question of the relation between ancient beliefs and superstitions on the one hand and a backward state of civilization on the other there is no need to enter. Many of the picturesque survivals of past times will be regretted, if they have to be sacrificed to the cause of progress; but it is impossible to read Miss Garnett's attractive book without being reminded that the troubles of Europe for some time past have been intimately connected with the Balkans and have arisen in part from the failure of the Balkan peoples to advance as rapidly as the more Western nations.

It is not possible within the limits of a review to do justice to Miss Garnett's excursions into Balkan folk-lore or to her detailed descriptions of home-life. She rightly says that "it would prove a stupendous, if not an impossible, task to collect all the folk-beliefs and customs of the Balkan Greeks and their neighbours." In regard to the Osmanlis, her account of the status of Turkish women will be read with special interest, and will, no doubt, clash with many preconceived ideas on the subject. She does not apparently hold with the theory that associates harem life with prison bars. The existence may be an empty one, but, on our author's showing, it cannot be called irksome; and now have we not accounts of Turkish V.A.D.'s or similar amazing developments? It may be, however, that harem life depends upon the harem and the husband. A conscientious foreign observer, studying British customs and beliefs before 1914, might have heard the women of Great Britain described on many a suffragist platform in such terms as would have satisfied him that "slavery" was still the rule in this country. Such are the limitations that present themselves to all who set out to obtain a generalized picture of a foreign people. Much depends on the attitude of the investigator, and on his or her qualifications. Fortunately, Miss Garnett occupies a strong position. Her knowledge of the people she describes is intimate, and with it she combines sympathy and thoroughness.

SOMEWHERE NEAR ARMAGEDDON.†

"O, unbeliever, we have in no wise need of the friendship of unbelievers!" So Shah Tahmasp to Anthony Jenkinson and Edward Clarke, who had journeyed in 1562 through the dominion of Ivan the Terrible, *viâ* Moscow, the Caspian Sea, and Guilân, to proffer presents and friendship from Queen Elizabeth. But history is an ironic jade; and the actual Shah of Persia has now to make up his mind as to the respective values of the present offers of friendship from King George and Kaiser Wilhelm. He might even be glad of the active amity of two other "unbelievers," the Emperor Yoshuhito and President Wilson. But choose he must, and now this is the question: "Do you wish the whole of your country to become a battleground, or only a little corner of it?" or, as put by Kaiser Wilhelm: "Do you want a really decent Armageddon à la Prussian militarism? We feel sure you must say yes." Probably the Shah and his advisers have already decided which way health and wisdom lie, and the Allied champions of a clean earth also.

The province of Guilân hugs the south-western shores of the Caspian Sea, and is somewhat in the shape of a pear. It is about the size of the Counties Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hants, Wilts, and Dorset, or two-thirds of Wales, say about 3,500 square miles. The whole western and southern boundary is delimitated by great mountains sloping east and north towards the Caspian, and enclosing a crescent-shaped, fertile, river-scored plain. Our author's book describes it geographically, economically, and historically in great detail, and it is from the latter section that we take our early and striking quotation. Resht, its capital of over 30,000 inhabitants, is probably by now in the hands of the Bolsheviks, alias Germany. So far as the man in the street knows, it is somewhere near to Armageddon, and our only potential outpost is 7,000 South Persia Rifles, very much south. The three pawky maps are, for a bulky volume like this, distressingly inadequate.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Babi Religion. Compiled by Edward G. Browne, M.A., etc. (Cambridge: University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

The Riddle of the Purple Emperor. By Thomas W. and Mary E. Hanshew. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 6s. net.)

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* "Home Life in the Balkans." By Lucy M. J. Garnett. (London: Methuen and Co. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

† "Les Provinces Caspiennes de la Perse. Le Guilân. By H.-L. Rabino. (Ernest Leroux, Paris.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. April.	1918. March.		1336. Jomada II.	5678. Nisan.
5	23	Friday	23	23
6	24	Saturday........	24	24
7	25	**Sunday**	25	25
8	26	Monday	26	26
9	27	Tuesday	27	27
10	28	Wednesday	28	28
11	29	Thursday	29	29

H.H. the Raja of Ratlam is staying at Harrogate.

Madame Take Jonescu has left London for the country.

The present session of the Bulgarian Parliament has been prolonged until April 7.

Dr. Ante Trumbitch, President of the Jugoslav Committee, has left London for Rome.

The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin left London on March 27 for Clandeboye, Belfast.

The Countess of Yarborough has arrived in town from Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire.

General Danglis, Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, is paying a visit to the Salonika front.

All over India prayers are being offered for the success of the British and Allied Armies.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, C.M.G., Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London from France last week.

M. Jean Caradjas, who has been appointed First Secretary to the Greek Legation, arrived in London on April 2 and took up his duties.

Lord Willingdon, Governor of Bombay, sailed from Bombay at the end of last month on a short sea voyage to recuperate from his hunting accident.

It is stated that the persecution of the Greek and Armenian population in the villages along the coasts of the Black Sea is proceeding on a scale which will mean regular extermination.

Colonel George Ostoitch, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, arrived in London on April 2 from Salonika. He is aide-de-camp to the Crown Prince of Serbia.

The Persian gun captured in Mesopotamia by General Maude, which is to be placed in Trafalgar Square, is one of four guns found by the British troops in Baghdad when they entered the city.

Reuter's Athens correspondent states that, as a result of the charges brought forward by the Public Prosecutor, the court-martial has ordered criminal proceedings to be taken against ex-King Constantine.

After proclaiming the independence of the country, the Diet of the Caucasus has approved the basis of separate peace with Turkey, providing for the re-establishment of the 1914 frontiers and the autonomy of Armenia.

Colonel Nicolaievitch, formerly Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, who has been appointed in the same position to the Legation in Belgium, is leaving London this week for Havre to take up his duties.

M. de Strandtman, First Secretary to the Russian Embassy in Rome, has refused to accept promotion at the hands of the Bolshevist Government, and has joined the Serbian Army as a volunteer on the Macedonian front, with the rank of captain.

The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, Dr. MacInnes, was enthroned at St. George's Church on March 1, in the presence of a large gathering, including the Grand Rabbi of Jerusalem, a representative of the Mufti, and representatives of the Greek, Armenian, Coptic, Abyssinian, Syrian, and Protestant Churches.

A "Book of Thanks," a record of appreciation of a gift of £5,000 for the benefit of munition workers, has been sent to H.H. the Maharaja of Gwalior by the Welfare and Health Section of the Ministry of Munitions. The "Book of Thanks," a beautiful volume, bound in Indian blue leather, illustrates by means of photographs the purposes assisted by the Maharaja's foresight.

The Sultan of Turkey has conferred on Field-Marshal von Hindenburg the Medjidie Order, with brilliants and swords, and on General von Ludendorff the Iftihat Order, with brilliants and swords, "on the occasion of the recent victories."

A Royal Warrant issued in Army Orders states that the King has authorised the altering of the title of "The Camel Corps" to "The Imperial Camel Corps," and that it shall be deemed to be a Corps for the purposes of the Army Act.

M. Michel B. Boerescu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon on April 2 M. D. de la Chaussée, Secretary to the French Embassy, and General Georgescu, the representative of the Roumanian Army attached to the British Headquarters.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Harold Rodocanachi, R.F.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Pandia Rodocanachi, and Melita, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vassiliadi, will take place at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, on Thursday, April 11, at two o'clock.

Out of consideration for the susceptibilities of the Queen of Roumania, who declared, says the *Weserzeitung*, that she would never return to Cotroceni if the peace negotiations were concluded there, the negotiations with Roumania have been transferred to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Viceroy of India, with the approval of his Majesty, has appointed Sir E. V. Levinge, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., to act as Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa during the absence of Sir E. A. Gait, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., who has been granted leave on medical certificate for six months from to-day.

The Church Missionary Society has received a cable stating that Dr. Vernon Harold Starr was stabbed at Peshawar on March 17, presumably by a fanatic, and that he died twelve hours later. He joined the staff of Peshawar Hospital in 1910, and exercised a notable influence upon the hill tribes as well as the people of the Peshawar Valley.

It is notified in an Army Council Instruction that officers and men who have been returned home on account of malaria will not in future be available for posting to a theatre of war where malaria is prevalent—namely, Salonika, Egypt, Mesopotamia, or East Africa. They will, however, be available for other theatres of war when otherwise fit.

While the economic negotiations between Roumania and the Central Powers are proceeding the chief political negotiators will return home. Talaat Pasha has left, and will be followed by Count Czernin, Herr von Kühlmann, and M. Radoslavoff. When the economic negotiations are ended, the negotiators will return to Bucharest to sign the treaties.

The Duke of Connaught arrived here this morning, says Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated April 1, and was received on the landing stage by Lord Granville, the British Minister, the staff of the British Legation, and a representative of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. To-morrow morning he will formally present to King Alexander the Order of the Bath, which was recently conferred on his Majesty by King George. On Wednesday the British Minister will give a dinner at the Legation in honour of King Alexander and the Duke of Connaught.

The following telegraphic message of congratulation has been received by Sir Douglas Haig from the Commander-in-Chief, India:—"The Army in India is watching with sympathy and entire confidence your conduct of the present struggle, and your old subordinates are convinced that you and your brave troops will see this battle through to a successful issue." Sir Douglas Haig replied as follows:—"All ranks of the British Army in France send grateful thanks for the message which you have been good enough to send to us. We are all greatly touched and encouraged by the sympathy and confidence of our comrades in India."

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In the past two months, says *The Times* Delhi correspondent in a message dated March 22, Indian Army recruiting has beaten all records. The Punjab has contributed 25,000 and the United Provinces 12,000 combatants. Agricultural operations will influence recruiting in the next few months, but the general prospects continue excellent.

The following telegram has been sent by the King to General Marshall, the Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia:—"In the midst of the great struggle in Western Europe I wish to assure you that I follow with constant interest the splendid progress made by the gallant troops under your command. I congratulate you and all ranks on the success of your latest achievements.—GEORGE R.I."

At the instance of a few relatives and friends a proposal is now on foot for a national memorial to Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., in recognition of his great services to the Empire and to perpetuate his memory. It is proposed, under the sanction and with the approval of the Secretary of State for War and the Minister of Pensions, that this should take the form of a convalescent home for men maimed and crippled in the Great War. Suitable premises are available in the neighbourhood of London. Messrs. Cox and Co., 16, Charing Cross, S.W.1, and Sir C. R. McGrigor, Bart., 93, Panton Street, S.W., have consented to receive donations, which will be acknowledged in the Press.

The report of the Budget Committee dealing with the question of the allowance to ex-King Constantine (says Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated April 2) contains the following passage:—"The Greek State would not hesitate to grant to the ex-King the necessary means for maintaining himself outside Greece in as much luxury as is possible, but the question arises whether the ex-King deserves such generosity at the hands of the nation. It is common knowledge that he has not sincerely kept the engagements he took on leaving Athens. He has turned his house at Zurich into a reactionary and anti-national abode and a centre of intrigue against the most vital Greek interests, with the object of turning to the disadvantage of the country the rtsuggle in which she is engaged." The Committee expresses the belief that even should international undertakings authorise the grant of this allowance, "our great Allies, who are aware of what is going on in Zurich, will be willing to relieve Greece of her undertaking."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. John Ghest Cumming, C.S.I., C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal, in succession to Mr. Nicholas Dodd Beatson-Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E., Indian Civil Service.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Edmund Elliot Lowis, late of the I.C.S., died at Weston-super-Mare on March 25 at the age of eighty-one. He retired in 1891.

Major-General Walter Stuart Hore, honorary colonel of the 120th Rajputana Infantry, died on April 1 at Lemore, Eardisley. He took part in the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867-8.

The death has taken place at Madras of the Rev. Christopher Francis Breay, senior chaplain of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and went out to India in 1892.

Mr. Stapleton Cotton Hogg, late Assistant Financial Secretary, India Office, died at Hove on March 25, aged seventy-eight. He was the sixth son of the Right Hon. Sir James Weir Hogg, Bart., and brother of the first Baron Magheramorne.

Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Arthur Cooke, Indian Cavalry, who died at Southsea on March 26 from illness contracted on active service, received his commission in 1890, and transferred to the Indian Staff Corps in 1891. He served in the operations on the North-West Frontier, 1897-8, and in the Tirah Expedition.

General Sir Alfred Gaselee, G.C.B., G.C.I.E., died on March 29 at his residence at Guildford, aged seventy-three. The son of the late Rev. John Gaselee, Rector of Little Yeldham, Essex, he was born in 1844, and received his commission in the 93rd Highlanders in 1863, transferring to the Indian Army in 1866. His war service included the Bezoti and Jowaki Expeditions, the Afghan War of 1878-80 (when he took part in the Kabul-Kandahar March), the Zhob Valley, Hazara, and Isazai Expeditions, while he commanded the British contingent of the Chinese Expeditionary Force in 1900. He commanded the Northern Army in India in 1907-8, and reached the rank of general in 1906, retiring in 1911. General Gaselee was created K.C.B. in 1898, G.C.I.E. in 1901, and promoted G.C.B. in 1909. He was aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria from 1893 till 1901 and to King Edward in 1901. He had been colonel of the 54th Sikhs since 1904.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1918.

MAKING HEADWAY IN THE EAST.

The centre of gravity in this war remains in the Western theatre, where it is believed that the point must sooner or later be reached at which the German nation will be compelled to admit the defeat of all the plans and aspirations that militarism has compelled it to make its own. But a variety of forces other than the men and material under the command of the Generalissimo of the Allied armies in France will combine to bring about that stage, and these in turn will be the resultant of influences at work beyond the confines of Germany. In spite of all the concentration of effort required for the mighty stroke that Germany has now delivered between the Scarpe and the Oise, she has found time to devote attention to the potentialities of Roumania and the Ukraine, with a view to counteracting the effect of the naval blockade. Similarly the Allied countries can testify to the confidence they have in their own cause by not losing sight of the advantage to be derived from the defection of Turkey and Bulgaria from the Central Alliance. These two States have contributed materially to the enemy's powers of resistance, and when they fall away the effect on Germany and Austria-Hungary will be more than a moral one. For this reason the Allies, in spite of the tension of the Western front, can afford to allow themselves to be heartened by the British successes in Palestine and Mesopotamia. The greater the defeat of Germany's plans in France, the more will she react to disappointment in the East. Unless the stupendous bid for an early decision, to which the Germans would now seem to be committed, has been prompted entirely by counsels of despair—and it will be well not to count too much upon this comfortable theory—we may feel certain that the progress of the Palestine and Mesopotamian forces is being watched anxiously at German Headquarters. All hope of obtaining further assistance from the Turks may have been abandoned, and their collapse may have been discounted long ago in the military plans of the Central Powers, but the task of announcing the fact to the German public will be an exceedingly unpleasant one for the Berlin Government, as it must shatter the last illusion remaining to that much-deluded people in regard to a war which has taken such a terrible toll of them in life and treasure.

The success at Khan Baghdadieh has proved as complete as that at Ramadieh last October, but with this difference—that General Marshall was able to follow at once in pursuit of the Turks who had escaped, and would seem to have accounted for practically the whole Turkish force immediately confronting him. The captures, he reports, prove to be of great importance, and much valuable information has been obtained. We may hazard the guess that it was on the strength of this information that the pursuit is being pushed with such boldness. Pressing on, part of the British force reached Anah, sixty miles above the scene of the fighting, which, to judge from the stores taken there, must have been one of the enemy's chief depôts on the Euphrates. Anah is one-third of the distance between Baghdad and Aleppo, and its occupation brings General Marshall and General Allenby equi-distant from the latter town, although the difference in the nature of the country ahead of the two forces presupposes a much slower rate of advance for the Palestine Expedition. Anah has since been left behind, and troops are now reported at Abu Kemal, seventy miles beyond. General Allenby, in turn, by cutting the Hejaz Railway, has freed himself from the menace of a flank attack, and there are possibilties in his geographical position which are necessarily lacking to General Marshall, with his base at Baghdad, several hundred miles from the sea. Distances of this nature cannot be annihilated when it is a question of equipping and provisioning a large expeditionary force; moreover, climatic conditions may sooner or later restrict the campaigning season on the Euphrates, although, if it were a matter of moving to a joint timetable, these are not likely to deter the veterans of Expeditionary Force D. Both in Mesopotamia and in Palestine the nature of the Turkish resistance bears out what is known from other sources, that the Turks as a fighting unit are in a bad way. Unfortunately they have in their favour the great distances that separate the nerve centre of the Empire from its outlying provinces, and the Turco-German authorities may feel reasonably confident that the issue of the war will be settled one way or the other long before the British forces can hope to reach Constantinople by way of Mesopotamia or Palestine. At an earlier stage in the war, it is understood, the Turks were saved at the eleventh hour from a complete collapse by our failure to press home the advantage we had gained. It is to be hoped that there will be no repetition of that mistake at this juncture. If the reports of the internal conditions in Turkey are held to be reliable, a comparatively small effort only may be required in support of the double thrust from the south-east and south to convince the Turks that, as far as they are concerned, the game is up.

While the main facts of the general situation are patent to all, and it is not difficult to see the direction or directions in which military action might profitably be undertaken, the question of its feasibility belongs to a closed book. Until it is opened by the responsible authority the subject may be left for another of some moment to the present and future well-being of the districts now in the occupation of British troops. In the general satisfaction evoked by Great Britain's decision to facilitate the national development of the Jews in Palestine, there is a danger of the feelings of the majority of the inhabitants of that country being overlooked. Before the war the population of the country was understood to be about 700,000, of whom 125,000 only were Jews. The frequent references to a Jewish Palestine have aroused, there is reason to believe, misgivings among the Syrian population, some at least of whom would seem to have formed the hasty conclusion that their future destinies are about to be committed entirely into the hands of individuals with whom, as neighbours, they may not have been in the past on the best of terms. Such fears, it ought not to be necessary to point out, are groundless. Well-informed Zionists are the first to realise that the time has not yet come—nor is it even in sight for the present generation—for an independent Jewish State. According to the author of "Palestine: The Rebirth of an Ancient People," local autonomy "is all that the Jews of Palestine ask—the development of the system which has already been inaugurated and whose success has been proved by experience." The Jews, he adds, desire no favours as compared with other inhabitants of the land. No official pronouncement regarding the future government of Palestine has yet been made; but both Jews and Syrians may be satisfied that the régime will be friendly to Great Britain, and therefore friendly to their own interests. There is every reason to suppose that the economic development of Palestine, mainly by the instrumentality of the Jews, will be of special benefit to the Arab population, and through them to the Arabs of the neighbouring lands. In this connection it is not without interest to note that the Hejaz organ *El Qibla* recently quoted with approval from a Syrian newspaper published in Brazil a warning that the Syrians who, in pursuit of safety or wealth, had left their country or had remained in it inactive and oppressed, must not expect to have a voice in determining its future, unless they take steps now to qualify for that privilege. Some allowance must be made for the enthusiasm born of Arab successes against the Turks; but the moral for the Allied Powers would appear to be that, in order to prevent the possibility of friction arising from misunderstandings, an early opportunity should be taken to make a clear statement with regard to the future of Palestine.

THE CAUCASUS.

ITS PEOPLE, HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND PRESENT POSITION.

By D. Ghambashidze.

I.

The Caucasus has come into prominence very much lately, and as there is considerable ignorance about it, not only among the general public but in the English Press, it will be interesting to give rather detailed information on the subject.

Physical Features.

The Caucasus is situated between 38°-47° Northern latitude and 38°-50° longitude East of Greenwich. It borders in the North on the Don Cossack district and the Government of Astrakhan, in the South on Eastern Turkey and Persia, in the East on the Caspian Sea, and in the West on the Black Sea. It is divided by the chain of the Caucasian Mountains into the North Caucasus and Trans-Caucasia. The total area of the Caucasus is 272,000 square miles. The Caucasian mountain chain stretches from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, and is about 1,000 miles in length. The central chain from the mountain of Elbruz to Kazbek is about 130 miles long, and in some places about 18,000 ft. high. The highest peaks are :—Elbruz, 18,470 ft. and Kazbek 16,346 ft. The chain is intersected by four passes, the biggest among them being the Georgian military road between Tiflis and Vladikavkas. Among the rivers the most prominent are:—Kuban, 420 miles long; Ingur and Rion, 200 miles; Terek, 350 miles; Kura, 690 miles; and Aras, 520 miles.

The climate of the Caucasus is very varied, thanks to the vertical configuration of its surface and the unequal fall of rain. For instance, at Sochi, on the Black Sea, the rainfall is 3,000 mm., and at Baku 241 mm. per annum. In the western part of the Caucasus the climate is subtropical; in the eastern part dry, owing to the influence of the winds from the Trans-Caspian district. Under the protection of the Caucasian Mountains and plenty of moisture there is very rich vegetation, and at a height of 4,000 feet there are forests of oaks, beeches, chestnuts, boxwood, etc. In Trans-Caucasia the vegetation is of the same character as in Asia Minor and along the shores of the Mediterranean. Along the Black Sea shore and round Batoum are grown oranges, lemons, bamboos, cork trees, etc. At a height of 9,400 ft. there are wonderful rhododendra, and Alpine grass is met even at a height of 11,500 ft.

Among the animals, bears are prevalent, and near Lenkoran, on the Caspian Sea, there are even panthers and tigers. In the high mountains there are still to be met bison, wild goats, hogs, foxes, reindeer, antelopes, etc. Along the River Rion, in the western part of Georgia, there is an abundance of pheasants. Altogether there are 400 varieties of birds.

Population.

There has been much misunderstanding and exaggeration about the mixture of races in the Caucasus, some of the so-called "experts" having spoken of sixty races. In point of fact the mixture of races is similar to that of the Balkan Peninsula.

The total population of Caucasus is about eleven million, divided into:—

1. **Russians**: 2,400,000, chiefly Cossacks, in the north of Caucasus. In Trans-Caucasia the Russian population did not exceed—before the Revolution—180,000, including the army and sectarians. Total, 2,580,000.

2. **Caucasian Mountaineers**: (*a*) Circassians, 200,000; (*b*) Lesgians and Chechens, 680,000; (*c*) Ossetians, Nogais, Kalmyks, Ingushes, 395,000. Total, 1,275,000. With a few exceptions they are all Mohammedans.

3. **Georgians**: About 3,000,000, including 200,000 Mohammedans living in the districts of Batoum and Ardahan, and 300,000 Lazes living in the district of Trebizond.

4. **Armenians**: 1,490,000, living mixed with the Tartars in the districts of Erivan, Elisavetpol, Baku, and Kars.

5. **Tartars and Persians**: 2,300,000.

6. **Germans**: In the north of Caucasus, 42,000; in Trans-Caucasia, 18,000. Total, 60,000. The Germans were brought to the Caucasus from the south of Germany at the instigation of Emperor Alexander I.

7. **Greeks**: 60,000. They immigrated to the Caucasus from Asia Minor.

8. **Jews**: In the north of Caucasus 64,000. They immigrated from Palestina in the first century, and speak a mixture of old Hebrew and Tartar.

The variety of races inhabiting the Caucasus can be explained by the geographical position of the Caucasus as a bridge between Asia and Europe, over which many peoples have wandered. The historical transformations in Western Asia have always directly affected the development of the Caucasus.

History of the Caucasus.

From times immemorial, long before Alexander the Great, many peoples have tried to conquer the Caucasus. Big towns existed in that region long before Athens and Rome were known. Greeks, Persians, Turks, Skethians, Huns, etc., tried to obtain a foothold there. When speaking about the history of the Caucasus during the last five centuries, we have to consider the following three factors:—

1. The expansion of the Russian Empire towards the south and the constant desire to reach Persia and Turkey.

2. The continuous struggle of Turkey and Persia to obtain a foothold in the Caucasus.

3. The isolated position of the ancient kingdom of Georgia in Trans-Caucasia as a buffer between the clashing ambitions of Russia on one side and Turkey and Persia on the other.

From among the many races in the Caucasus, only Georgia existed as an independent and powerful kingdom up to the end of the eighteenth century. Georgia, or the Iberian State, existed long before the Christian era. The country received its first lessons in civilisation from the Greeks. In the third century B.C. Alexander the Great conquered Georgia and established his administration; but a national hero, Pharnavaz, organised a revolt, expelled the Macedonian governor, and founded the Georgian dynasty. During his reign Georgia was converted to Christianity by St. Nina. The Greek Emperor sent the bishop with priests to Georgia, and the King and the people were baptised in the year 332. King Vakhtang Gorgaslan (446-499) completed the conversion of Georgia, and Georgia became a considerable power in the Middle East.

In the year 458 the first Georgian Bishopric was founded at Metzkhet, and in 542 the Emperor Justinian recognised the independence of the Georgian Church, whose Primate was styled Katholicos-Patriarch. In the seventh century Georgia was invaded by the Arabs, and the ancient kingdom was split up into several principalities—Kakhetia, Imaretia, Mingrelia, and Abkhazia—so that the Arabs only ruled the country around Tiflis. Under David III. (1080) the country was again re-united, the Mohammedans expelled, and the greater Georgian kingdom, extending from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, and from the mountains to Kars was constituted. He reorganised the country, built churches and schools, and made Georgia a centre of culture and civilisation. The celebrated Queen Thamar reigned from 1184-1212 and her great achievements made the country famous. She successfully waged war against the Turks and the Greeks and helped to form the Empire of Trebizond. The period of her reign is considered the golden period in the history of Georgia; but soon after her death the Mongol hordes under Genghiz Khan invaded the country, and from 1236-1393 it was subject to constant invasions on the part of the Mongols, Tartars, Turks, and Persians.

The position of Georgia, as an isolated Christian Kingdom in the East, was very critical. She was surrounded by enemies such as Turks and Persians, and she naturally began to look towards the north, especially to the Moscovite country, where she expected to find sympathy and relief on account of the common faith. Soon, however, the Tartar invasion stopped all connections between Russia and Georgia. The latter opened up very close relationship with Byzantium, and only when Constantinople was taken by the Turks in 1453 was Georgia obliged to look towards Moscow. After the suppression of the Tartar rule Moscow rulers began to pay attention to the Caucasus. In 1555 Ivan the Terrible sent some Cossacks down the River Terek, who in 1567 formed a military district. The son of Ivan the Terrible, Theodore, opened diplomatic relationship with the Georgian King Alexander II. But this was also interrupted, as there were no proper communications between Georgia and Russia.

From 1602-1607 Persia started to invade Georgia, and tried to prevent any alliance between that country and Russia. They took from Georgia about 15,000 prisoners and made a colony of them in Persia near the town of Shiraz. In 1619 the Georgian King Theymouraz approached the Russian Tsar Michael Theodoravitch with a view to organising a combined expedition against Persia. But the proposal was not executed. The infuriated Shah of Persia again invaded Georgia, which was unable to obtain help from Moscow as, at that time, Russia was at war with Poland and Sweden.

The next King of Georgia was Vakhtang VI., a very learned ruler and founder of the first Georgian printing office in Tiflis in the year 1712; he edited the ancient Georgian annals, and was the author of the code of law of Georgia. Peter the Great was very anxious to extend his influence round the Caspian Sea and to penetrate into Persia and, for that purpose, he concluded an alliance with Vakhtang VI. and built sailing ships for transporting troops from Astrakhan to Persia. In 1721 about 50.000 Russian troops arrived at Derbend, occupied Derbend and, in conjunction with the Georgian troops, proceeded further to Baku. Persia did not take up the challenge and ceded to Russia, Derbend, Baku, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Astrabad. But Turkey was very much alarmed and immediately occupied the Persian provinces of Tabriz and Erivan.

With the accession to the throne of Katherine I. relations with Georgia were renewed, and Vakhtang VI., together with a thousand representative Georgians, went to Moscow, where this colony was of great assistance in cementing the relationship between Russia and Georgia. Many notables received vast estates in the Ukraine. In 1727 King Vakhtang acted as mediator between Persia and Russia, and concluded a very favourable treaty for Russia. But in 1734 Persia again invaded her lost provinces and retook them. King Vakhtang waited in vain for the arrival of troops from Russia and, being very much distressed, died in 1737 in Astrakhan, where he was buried in the Uspensky monastery.

The Crown Prince Vakushti was, at that time, in Moscow, where he organised a very big printing office chiefly for the publication of ecclesiastical literature. He was educated by Catholic missionaries in Tiflis, and was a very good linguist. His book of the geography of Georgia is still recognised by the Academy of Science as the best reference book. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, according to the Treaty of Belgrade—1739—between Russia and Turkey, the north-western portion of the Caucasus was entirely abandoned to Turkey. In 1747 the Georgian Army defeated the Persians and annexed the provinces of Erivan and Ganja, making them tributaries to the State. In 1754 Persia again invaded Georgia, and was again defeated.

With the ascendancy of Katherine II. to the throne of Russia, relations with Georgia were once more reopened. At that time a celebrated King, Heraklius II., reigned in Georgia, whose great intellectual capacity and fighting power was so enormous that Frederick the Great of Prussia sent a special military mission to make inquiry about his methods of warfare. Katherine the Great, in her letter to Voltaire, praised him very much for his stubborn fighting with the Turks and Persians in defence of Christianity. In 1768 Russia declared war on Turkey, and concluded an agreement with King Heraklius II. for joint action, and sent an expeditionary force to assist the Georgians, commanded by General Gottlieb Kurt Heinrich von Totleben. In 1769 the Russian Expedition arrived on the frontiers of Georgia, and, after receiving formal permission to pass the Georgian territory, joined the Georgian Army. On March 17, 1770, the joint forces attacked the fortress of Akhaltsykh, but Totleben treacherously turned back and abandoned Heraklius. A very stubborn battle was fought against the superior forces of the Turks, and the latter were heavily defeated. But they recovered and, together with Persia, began to press Georgia very heavily, and it was decided to enter into formal alliance with Russia, for which purpose a special delegation was sent to Russia. But the policy adopted against Turkey by Russia at that time did not permit of the conclusion of the treaty.

Meanwhile, Katherine began very energetic work in constructing fortresses in the north of the Caucasus. In 1782 the Ukrainian Cossacks settled there and founded the town of Ekaterinodar. In 1783 Crimea was annexed, and the Crimean Khan Shagin-Girey was defeated by General Suvoroff. This alarmed Turkey and Persia very much, and they again began to invade Georgia. As no help came from Russia, King Heraklius despatched a special delegation to the Austrian Emperor Joseph II.—mediation was offered by the Catholic Missionaries Dominique and Mavros—asking for an alliance for combined action against Turkey. The suggestion was very favourably received, but Katherine II. hurried to prevent such an alliance, and sent a special delegation to Georgia headed by Count Potemkin. This delegation was met by the Georgian envoys Princes Bagration and Chavchavadze, at the fortress of Giorgievsk, and the Treaty of July 24, 1783, was concluded between Russia and Georgia.

This Treaty contains thirteen articles and four supplementary articles, and was printed in the Russian Code of Law in Petrograd in 1831. According to it the Russian Empire granted protection to the isolated Christian Kingdom of Georgia. It solemnly promised to respect its internal independence and the dynasty. Georgia had full right to maintain its national army and Russia had no right to interfere internally. It also promised to respect the independence of the Georgian Church. In return, Georgia was obliged to give assistance to Russia in her wars with Turkey and Persia, and if such wars had been waged successfully, Russia would have been obliged to return to Georgia the territory recovered from Turkey. This Treaty was ratified by both monarchs, and it has its international importance and value.

On January 27, 1784, Russian troops arrived in Tiflis—but this alliance infuriated Turkey and Persia, and they invaded Georgia in 1785. At this time the second war on Turkey was declared by Russia, and on October 14, 1788, the Turkish fortress of Anapa was attacked and captured; but, according to the Treaty of 1791, at Jassy, it was returned to Turkey.

Meanwhile, Persia invaded Georgia in 1795 with eighty thousand men and, as there was no help forthcoming from Russia, after a stubborn fight the Georgians were defeated and the Persians occupied Tiflis. In 1796 a relief expedition arrived from Russia commanded by the Georgian General Prince Tsitsianoff. This expedition cleared the Persians out of the Georgian territory, threw them out of all provinces of Eastern Caucasia, and pursued them up to Tabriz. But the relief expedition again returned to Russia, and Georgia was left alone. Thanks to the urgent requests of the Russian Ambassador in Tiflis, General Kovalski, a new expeditionary corps was sent.

On January 18, 1801, Russia violated her Treaty with Georgia, annexed that country and made it a Russian province. The Russian troops were commanded by General von Knoring. The behaviour of Knoring was atrocious. The expectations of Georgia were cruelly disappointed, and the Russian troops were despatched to the western part of Georgia which was ruled by King Solomon II. He offered resistance, and, being very badly treated, left the country and went to Trebizond, where he died in 1815, and was buried in the Greek Cathedral there. In 1827 another war with Persia broke out, and the Russian troops, commanded by the Georgian General Prince Eristov, occupied Erivan and Tabriz. According to the Treaty of Turkmenchai, February 9, 1828, Persia lost the province of Erivan, had to pay twenty million tomans as compensation, and had to abandon the right of maintaining the fleet on the Caspian Sea. The celebrated Russian writer, A. S. Griboedoff, took a prominent part in concluding this Treaty and was appointed Russian Ambassador in Teheran, where he was killed on January 30, 1829. His remains were transferred to Tiflis and buried in the Georgian monastery of St. David.

After the conclusion of the Persian war the Russian administration in Georgia began to withdraw all the privileges granted to the Georgian nation, and Count Paskevich acted with such harshness that the nobility and the people revolted, and the Provisional Government of Georgia was proclaimed. The revolt, however, broke down, and thirty-four Georgian generals and officers were deported to the north of Russia, where they received consideration due to their rank.

In 1829 war with Turkey broke out, the fortresses of Kars and Akhaltsykh were taken and, according to the Treaty of Adrianopol, Turkey was obliged to evacuate the Black Sea shores from Anapa to Poti.

At this stage a new religious movement began amongst the mountaineers of the Caucasus, under the name of Muridism, which originated from Asia Minor. It assumed a political character, and was directed against the Russian rule, which was so harsh, and facilitated the spread of this new movement. The leader was the celebrated Shamil. This genius among mountaineers baffled the world with his powers of resistance. The fight began immediately after the termination of the war with Turkey and continued till 1835. All the mountaineers of Eastern Caucasus were on his side. At that time Count Vorontsoff was appointed commander-in-chief of the troops operating against the mountaineers. He arrived in Tiflis and inaugurated a very friendly policy towards the Georgians, taking into consideration the very important military assistance which they were able to give against the mountaineers. Count Vorontsoff made improvements in the Civil Service of the Caucasus, and made special recommendations to the Emperor Nicholas I., to whom he wrote the following:—

> "Every reform and measure introduced in Georgia must be carefully weighed, as this nation, which has voluntarily entered into alliance with Russia and whose services in defence of Christianity are immense, deserves every consideration. Harsh measures would not prevail, and would produce very tragic results."

The activities of Count Vorontsoff were many-sided, and he made numerous improvements which had very beneficial effects.

(To be continued.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GERMANIC ALLIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Mr. Richard Bagot has done a public service in exposing in your columns the folly of those who imagine that Austria-Hungary can be detached from Germany and induced to sign a separate peace on any terms compatible with our war aims as defined by either Mr. Lloyd George or President Wilson. Our former relations with Austria, even if it were historically correct to speak of her as "our ancient ally," have nothing to do with the present situation. We might just as well—and with even more reason—talk of Prussia as "our ancient ally." All that we have to bear in mind to-day is that the Prussianised Germany of the Hohenzollerns and the Dual Monarchy of the Hapsburgs have stood jointly and severally for the last three and a-half years and still stand for the principles of ruthless domination over subject races against which we are pledged to fight to the bitter end. Count Czernin's language may occasionally be lest truculent than Count von Hertling's. But is there a single one of the many concrete issues involved in this war towards which his attitude differs in the slightest degree from that of the German Chancellor? There are apparently still some Englishmen to whom Czechs and Jugoslavs are mere names, and who cannot, therefore, realise what the perpetuation of Austro-Hungarian domination would mean to them, but even they can hardly ignore the significance for all oppressed nationalities under the Hapsburg rule of Count Czernin's declaration that in fighting to preserve Hapsburg to Germany the Dual Monarchy is merely fighting its own battle. If for Count Czernin the question of Alsace-Lorraine has no more existence than for Count von Hertling, what chance is there of his admitting the existence of a Jugoslav question or a Czech question on which he would be prepared to negotiate with the Allies, or to agree to a settlement in any way based on those democratic terms of genuine self-government which can alone secure a real and permanent peace? German ascendency in Austria and Magyar ascendency in Hungary are the twin-brothers of Prussianism, and with it they stand or fall.

No less futile is it to attempt to differentiate between Austro-Hungarian methods and German methods. It was Austria's brutal ultimatum that precipitated, and was intended to precipitate, the war, and, if Serbia is more remote from us than Belgium, the martyrdom of the small Slav kingdom has been no less cruel than that of the unfortunate little country across the Channel, whose long-drawn cries of suffering reach more easily to our ears. And what of the treatment meted out throughout the war by Austria-Hungary to the alien nationalities under her own rule? Such a record of arbitrary arrests and transportations and hangings and shootings even her German allies can hardly beat. There was one occasion when Austria-Hungary, had she wished to dissociate herself in the slightest degree from German frightfulness, might have done so without any detriment to her own belligerent interests, as she necessarily plays a very subordinate part in naval warfare. That was when Germany made her announcement of ruthless submarining. It would have been at least a sign of grace had she confined herself to tacit acquiescence in her ally's action. But, far from that, she went out of her way to proclaim her endorsement of it. Again, more recently, she seemed for a moment to have some searchings of heart as to participation in renewed German aggression upon prostrate Russia after the Brest-Litovsk "Treaty," but if she ever really had any, they soon evaporated, and her armies marched shoulder to shoulder with the Germans to fresh "victories" in Ukrainia. As to the sort of peace which alone commends itself to Austro-Hungarian statesmanship, have we not just had a sample of it in the terms imposed upon derelict Rumania?

We have a hard row to hoe, but we shall make it none the less hard by courting fresh illusions. Prince Lichnowsky's memorandum must surely have convinced even our blindest Austrophils that Austria-Hungary shares to the full the blood-guiltiness of Germany in regard to the origin of the war, and there is not a phase of the war during the last three and a-half years in which she has not continued to share Germany' rssponsibility for the methods and purpose with which the war has been waged. How, then, can there be peace between us and Austria-Hungary when no Englishman worthy of the name would venture to talk of peace between us and Germany?—I am, etc.,

VALENTINE CHIROL.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Jewish Settlements in Palestine.

It is up to the Jews, in common parlance, to make good in Palestine. The basis of their future organisation, if it is to be successful, must be production; for this reason importance attaches to the record of the settlements which hitherto have represented all that Zionism has been able to point to in support of its aspirations. A correspondent of *The Times* gives an account of some of these settlements as they were found by the Expeditionary Force. He writes:—

> The Southern Palestine colonies are tidy villages, with lands which are far more thoroughly and scientifically cultivated than almost all the Arab estates or the Turkish Crown lands in the Plain of Sharon. The writer visited several Jewish colonies in the plain and in the foothills of the Judæan Plateau, and one of the two small colonies which exist in the mountains of Judæa. Of those in the plain, Rishon Le Zion and Rehoboth may be taken as typical. The former colony lies a few miles south-west of Jaffa. It is inhabited mainly by Jews of Russian origin, and was founded in 1882, and, after some fifteen years of difficulties which were surmounted largely owing to the munificent assistance of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, became, and is now, a thriving agricultural settlement well known throughout the Levant on account of the attribution of its name to the good wine produced by Palestine colonies, and Rishon in particular. It boasts the most capacious wine cellar in the world, contains three large wells, a club, a good library, public baths, which are much appreciated by our troops who are quartered near the municipal buildings, and a hospital with six wards. There are over 1,300 inhabitants living in stone houses, each with its garden around it—a physically and mentally active and healthy folk, who cultivate some 3,000 acres. A fine palm grove and long avenues of trees along the streets give the settlement the appearance of an oasis amid rolling plains, flowery green enough during the rainy season, but dry brown in the summer, which lie between the coast dunes and Ramleh.
>
> Four miles south thereof lies Rehoboth, founded in 1890 by Russian-Polish Jews. It has a population of over 900 souls, including 270 Yemeni Jewish workmen, whose introduction proved a great success. Here, too, as in almost all Jewish colonies, each family has its own house, not luxurious but comfortable, well built, with garden and stable. The wide, sandy roads that run through the village are bordered with avenues of mulberry trees. The communal buildings and the notably large "Beth-am" or people's house, synagogue, and library show that here as in other Jewish colonies material comfort is far from being the only object attained. The population is impressively healthy, and the writer has seldom seen so many pretty children as in Rehoboth. Altogether here is a model agricultural community of independent and prosperous smallholders.

The Ex-Khedive.

The association of the ex-Khedive with Bolo in an abortive attempt to play Germany's game in France is the theme of an article in *The Fortnightly Review*, in which Sir Malcolm McIlwraith rings down the curtain on the public life of Abbas Hilmi. He fears that amid the mass of evidence given before the court-martial the precise rôle and participation of the ex-Khedive and of his satellite, Yussef Saddik, may not have sufficiently emerged for the British public.

> And in view of the great importance which this personage has had for us in the past as the Sovereign of Egypt, with whom we had to deal for upwards of twenty years, and who, throughout that period, exercised far more power and influence in the country than is usually realised in England, it is desirable to draw attention to his conduct briefly before it passes into oblivion, amid the many more weighty matters which absorb us at the present time. Its importance lies in the fact that—as perhaps we have now learnt by the tragic events of 1914 and since—we are, as a nation, somewhat too prone to underestimate both the reality and the dangers of the hostile sentiments entertained towards us by other nations and their heads; and, even after such revelations, to treat them, once we are "out of the wood," with exaggerated and sometimes foolish generosity.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith pieces together the story of the intrigue as far as it concerns Abbas Hilmi, and shows how it fits in with what was already known of the ex-Khedive's character and special weaknesses. He considers Saddik to have been the chief villain of the piece, for it was he who first met Bolo and introduced him to the Khedive.

> This man, he continues, was originally a lawyer of good ability, and was at one time one of the native judges of the Mixed Tribunal of Mansourah. He early became prominent, however, in that quiet little town, by noisy demonstrations of bitter Anglophobia and political intrigue; and since judges, even in Egypt, cannot be allowed to mix themselves up habitually with seditious propaganda, he was removed from the Bench. Thereafter, he became a financial broker, and, developing considerable business ability, is supposed to have made large sums of money at different times, which he spent with equal facility. Later he was taken into the personal service of the Khedive and filled many positions in his household, both in Egypt and in Constantinople. His

main duty, however, was no doubt to look after his Highness's very complicated financial affairs, and he usually accompanied him to Paris in the summer.

In the end the three confederates did in fact obtain many millions of marks from Germany, "that not usually too credulous Power," and then fell out over the division of the spoils. Saddik brought an action against the Khedive in Switzerland to recover a portion of the funds deposited in a Swiss bank. This supplied the French police with one of the first indications of what was going on. It led to the severance of the long connection between Saddik and the Khedive, and the former, attributing his dismissal to Bolo's influence, gave full information to the police agent Casella as to Bolo's relations with the Khedive. The projected coup, of course, was a failure, the Germans had paid their money for nothing, and tried to make Abbas Hilmi disgorge the funds he had received. In consequence he found it necessary to leave Vienna hurriedly, and returned to Switzerland.

Touching upon Bolo's excuse for having had dealings with the Khedive, an enemy of the Entente, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith quotes the saying attributed to the Khedive: "How could anyone ever say that I was the enemy of France," and adds:--

> "The truth is that, as some wise and witty Frenchman once remarked, 'En administration, on aime toujours quelqu'un *contre* quelqu'un.' During the many years in which we had to contend with French opposition in Egypt, the Khedive loved the French against ourselves. When we settled our differences with them by the Anglo-French Entente of 1904—and, still more, since the war—he has loved Germany against us both. If Germany should win the war and dominate the Near East, his affections would doubtless be transferred elsewhere, or, even possibly, at last be bestowed on us. Fortunately, it may be regarded, even now, as reasonably certain that Germany can never win the war sufficiently for the Khedive's sentiments to matter any longer. By this last adventure he has doubtless compromised himself almost as much in the eyes of the Germans as in those of the Allies, and no fresh political upheavals are conceivable under which so generally discredited a personage could return to public life."

Cyprus.

Captain K. C. Ferguson describes Cyprus as a neglected island in the current issue of *Chambers' Journal*, and in the compass of a short article he contrives to give us an interesting summary of its history, while introducing some pertinent remarks on the present and possible future. In 1878 *Pax Britannica* came to the land.

> Our administration was somewhat hampered by the fact that Cyprus remained a Turkish possession. The scanty revenue of the island was burdened by the payment of an annual tribute to Constantinople, and the term of our occupation was vague. Such conditions did not favour the maximum benefit to the island. Nevertheless, clean-handed British officials set about improvements in the internal economy of the country. The Council, presided over by a High Commissioner, and comprising British, Turkish, and Cypriot members, worked as well as its peculiar constitution would allow. Between the Turk and the Cypriot there is no love lost, and, truth to tell, the former is in many ways the more acceptable. He has distinct manly virtues, and when he is guided by methods more enlightened than his own, the evil traits in his character cannot assert themselves so lamentably. In a few years there came about a state of things unknown to the existing generation of Cypriots. Good roads replaced the roughest mule-tracks. A well-organised police force assisted in maintaining law and order. Justice was administered. Agriculture was encouraged, and forests were conserved. The gratitude of the natives is on record. But to-day a new generation is to the fore, and the old evils are forgotten. Loyalty to Britain is not always found. When the first ambiguous account of the battle of Jutland came through, a noisy faction in Limassol held champagne lunches in honour of the British "defeat"! Tino had a considerable following.
>
> Now, since the declaration of war with Turkey, Cyprus has definitely become a British possession; but, even so, the man in the street cannot yet tell what its fate may be in the coming peace settlement. The writer fails to see any good reason for handing it over to a foreign Power. The island is self-supporting. The ruinous tribute to Turkey has ceased, and with the fuller development of its natural resources its revenue will be greatly increased. In other words, it can run itself financially. No advantage would accrue to the natives were it handed over to Italy, France, or Greece, as some suppose it may be. Further, as has been said, it lies over against the mouth of the Suez Canal. Do we desire a foreign fortified base in this position? Britain has ruled the country for forty years, and the people know our ways. Some of them have told me that they dread the British may evacuate it.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Not the least interesting portion of the report prepared for the Bureau of Labour Statistics at Washington on social and economic conditions in enemy countries is the statement regarding the position in Bulgaria and Turkey. In the former country, owing to its predominantly agricultural nature, the food situation has been by no means acute according to the report. In Sofia itself, however, the position is stated to have been rendered difficult owing to the great increase in the population, which has considerably increased the complexities of distribution, and now "all new-comers who have no war business to keep them in the city have been ordered to leave." As regards supplies, the report refers to a statement by the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture, quoted in the *Balkanska Poste* of July 17, to the effect that while the number of domestic animals had decreased, a sufficient meat supply was assured, and that there were 8,000,000 sheep in the country giving 5,000,000 lambs a year. According to the Minister, the chief food difficulty of Bulgaria has not been due to shortage but to transportation difficulties arising from lack of labour.

⁂

A very different picture is given in the report of conditions in Turkey, and one which, indeed, fully confirms the view that the civilian population there has been enduring extraordinary hardships. It is interesting to note the statement that the Turkish people have not been suffering through any failure of their crops, "for the crops have on the whole been good and the acreage increased"; on the contrary their food shortage has been due "to the corruption and graft of officials, and to the fact that Germany has taken vast quantities of Turkey's supplies away from her." The report adds that "this greed of Germany to supply her own lack and the extortion of Turkish officials combined have been more than sufficient to reduce the people of that country to a far worse condition than that obtaining in any of the other Central Empires, so called. In Germany and Austria the word starvation is still something of a figure of speech. In Turkey it is a word to be taken literally." The position is very aptly illustrated by the quotation of some of the prices which the Turks now have to pay for goods. Bread, it seems, has risen 1,100 per cent., sesame oil 1,300 per cent, wood 600 per cent., and butter something like 900 per cent.!

⁂

In the light of the appalling conditions that prevail in Turkey, it is possible to gauge very accurately the extraordinary "enthusiasm" with which the population views the continuance of the struggle. If only it were possible to take a plebiscite of the Turks on the question of peace at any price, I am convinced that the only votes for war would be cast by the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, and only by them because they fear Turkey's release from the German yoke will bring them well-merited punishment for the unhappy state into which they have brought their country. From the Allies' point of view the picture is most hopeful, for the Turks cannot be so blind as not to realise that they have to thank Germany for their food shortage, and I shall be very surprised if this knowledge does not eventually lead to such an intense hatred of Germany as to make any attempt on Germany's part to exploit Turkey after the war absolutely futile.

⁂

The past year has been most satisfactory for the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and for the first time its profits exceed four hundred thousand pounds, the figures being £402,795 as against £381,260 in 1916. The gross profits were £94,300 more than those of 1916 at £923,000, but the growth of expenses limited the net profit to £21,500. £100,000 is again placed to the reserve, while the amount allocated to the pension fund is increased from £20,000 to £25,000, and the amount written off premises is £40,000 as against £30,000. The distribution to shareholders has been increased to the record figure of 19 per cent. as against 17 per cent. in 1916 and 14 per cent. in 1915, and £167,261 is carried forward as against £157,465 in 1916 and £130,205 in 1915.

⁂

The results achieved by the Chartered Bank must be regarded as remarkably good in view of the fact that the Eastern banks have been compelled to place restrictions on the exchange requirements of their customers owing to conditions arising out of the war. Evidently whatever has been lost in this direction has been more than made good through the prosperity of Indian trade and in other ways. Before leaving this subject I feel that a word is called for regarding the exceptional financial position of this bank. The present allocation to the reserve raises that fund to £1,900,000, at which figure it passes the amount of the bank's paid-up capital by £700,000. Put in other words, the reserve is now equal to 166 2-3 per cent. of the capital. Deposits during the year showed a substantial increase of £4,416,000, the figure being £28,042,100, while cash and bullion increased from £5,919,700 to £8,739,300. With so gratifying a position before them, following a succession of such excellent years, it is to be expected that the shareholders will heartily welcome the proposal to increase the directors' fees from £6,000 to £10,000, which is to be made at the coming general meeting.

The report of the National Bank of India, which has just been issued, also discloses a marked expansion in profits, the total being £353,139 as against £297,474 in 1916. The dividend is maintained at 16 per cent., but in addition a bonus distribution of 4 per cent is proposed, making the yield 20 per cent. free of tax. £100,000 is placed to the reserve as against £50,000 in 1916, and the carry forward is increased from £106,689 to £139,829. Other points of interest are that the deposits have increased from £19,551,978 to £24,685,344, cash in hand from £4,397,834 to £7,081,381, bills of exchange from £9,592,894 to £12,076,258, and discounts and loans from £7,281,822 to £7,331,665.

⁂

I hope that those people who have seen fit to take exception to bank amalgamations in this country have been following the course of events in Germany of late. There is no misconception in Germany as to the influence on a country's commerce of strong banking institutions, and, indeed, it would be almost impossible that there should be, seeing the immense part played by the Deutsche Bank and its subsidiary enterprises in the Near East and elsewhere before the war. German business men are perfectly well aware of what they owe to their banks, and in consequence there has been a constant tendency during the war to strengthen their banking institutions with a view to an even more elaborate campaign of peaceful penetration in the future. Among the latest instances of this trend of events are the gradual development of the Dresdner Bank, which has absorbed the Rheinisch-Westfälische Disconto Gesellschaft in Aix-la-Chapelle, and also the Märkische Bank, and the extension of the influence of the powerful Deutsche Bank, which during the past few months has established quite a number of branches in the Near East.

⁂

This development of German banking enterprise is one of the principal factors to be taken into consideration with regard to post-war trade, and the only way to limit the operations of these banks is to oppose them by banking institutions of similar strength. Hence banking amalgamations here are essential—"a necessary evil" I suppose we shall eventually persuade opponents of the movement to admit—and it is also no less essential that our banks should take the same interest in foreign trade as their German rivals and establish branches abroad, and, generally speaking, give every facility to British overseas trade that the German banks have given their customers in the past. Failing that, as I have often pointed out before, campaigns to extend British commerce in foreign countries, and more especially in the Near East, can only lead to indifferent results.

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COTTON-SEED UTILISATION.

British and American Methods.

Lancashire's need for new and greater sources of cotton within the Empire to meet the situation that will arise after the war, owing to the increasing extent to which America is utilising her own cotton, and also owing to the development of the spinning in India of Indian cotton (which, by the way, has never been altogether satisfactory from the Lancashire spinners' point of view) and also to its export to Japan, will no doubt result in a great increase in cotton acreage in Egypt, the Sudan, and other parts of the Empire. Happily this is not one of those cases where over-production is a thing to be feared, for the demand for cotton is practically unlimited, and the world can readily absorb all it can get. While there can be no difficulty on this point, so much cannot be said as regards the strains of cotton that are desirable. Here, there are two main factors to be considered which may or may not prove reconcilable. In the first place, spinners' requirements have to be satisfied. That is, of course, the main consideration, and the second and subsidiary factor concerns the requirements of the oil crushers who take the cotton seed which forms on the average something like two-thirds of the weight of a cotton crop. And at this point a further consideration arises. There are, as a matter of fact, two main systems of cotton-seed crushing. The British method has heretofore tended to subordinate everything to the production of cake rather than of high-grade oil, while the American method is so devised as to secure several products from the cotton seeds in the process of extracting a pure oil and making a pure cake.

It scarcely needs to be pointed out that the same variety of cotton seed is not suitable for the two systems. British crushers naturally prefer what is known as "bald" seed—i.e., seed that has little or no fibre left on it after the ginning process. The cotton which produces this seed does not fill a large place in the world's output, and most of it is grown in Egypt. By far the greater part of the cotton grown in the world is of the "Upland" or "Woolly" variety, and this type bears a quantity of short fibre as well as the long staple cotton. Probably over 95 per cent. of the seed grown in the United States is of this type, and the question is whether the results obtained there are such as to make it worth while for British crushers to adopt the American method; and, if so, whether it would be possible to produce sufficient cotton of the "woolly" variety within the Empire to meet their needs. It is not the purpose of the writer of this article to outline a policy in this connection, but rather to compare the British and American methods, particularly in the light of two inventions by Mr. Edward C. de Segundo, for which important results are claimed in the direction of obtaining still further products from the seeds.

The Two Systems.

The British method of whole-seed crushing is to take the seeds to the crusher straight from the cleaning machine. This method is not altogether satisfactory for a variety of reasons, the chief of which is that the resultant crude oil is highly coloured, and has a bad flavour, and the residue of the seed, after expression of the oil, contains the remains of the kernels and the shells with whatever fibre is left on them after the ginning process. The American system, known as the decorticating method, is first to treat the cotton seed to a second ginning process. One of the machines mostly used for the purpose is the "Carver Linting Machine" and in the best practice in pre-war days it was usual to take off by its means from 1 to 1½ per cent. of the fibre. This product, known as "high-grade linters," was readily saleable at a good price even before the war, but during the war it has attained a remarkable value. This first cut still left more fibre on the seed than is necessary for the separation of the kernels from the shell in the process of decortication, and so it has been the custom for United States millers to pass the seed through the linting machine a second or even a third time to remove all unnecessary fibre. The product thus obtained, called "second-cut linters" had practically no value before the war, though the war has given it a considerable, though an entirely fictitious, value. Then follows the decorticating process by which the shells are separated from the kernels, and to ensure the success of this process it is essential that sufficient short fibre should be left on the shells to enable them to mat together, as, in proportion to the extent to which the seed is unduly denuded of fibre the tendency of the shells to fall through the sieves with the kernels increases. Owing to the great war-demand for cotton fibre, the seed has been more and more closely linted during the last three years. Whereas in 1914, the average amount of linters made was about £65 per ton of seed, in 1917 it has risen to £148 per ton of seed, with the inevitable result not only of prejudicially affecting the quality of the linters made, but also lowering the grade of oil and of cake. After the decorticating process, the kernels go to the press-room and yield 15 per cent. to 19 per cent. of crude oil of a high quality, easily refined to an edible oil unrivalled for the manufacture of margarine and artificial lard.

New Processes.

It is maintained that as regards both systems, but more especially as regards the decorticating system, the position has been entirely changed by the introduction of Mr. de Segundo's "Seed Defibrator" and "Hull Defibrator." The former machine, which is intended to be used after the "Carver Linter" has removed the "high-grade linters," is designed to strip the fibre off the seed that the "Carver Linter" leaves on. This machine ejects the fibre and the cotton seed in different directions, and by an ingenious contrivance the very fine fibres and dust are also collected so that the cotton seed leaves the machine clean and free from dirt, while the fibre known as "seed lint" forms a new and valuable product in the place of "second cut linters." One of the chief merits of the machine is its ability to remove these short cotton fibres from the woolly varieties of cotton seed without injury either to the cotton fibre or to the seed. It has been stated by authorities on cotton seed in London and elsewhere, who have inspected woolly cotton seeds treated by Mr. de Segundo's Seed Defibrator, that the market value, from the British seed crusher's point of view, is thereby increased by about 20s. per ton owing to the physical conditions of the woolly seeds having been brought approximately to that of Egyptian or "bald" seed. As to the "seed lint" product it is believed that there will be an excellent market for it under peace conditions, and in view of its remarkably high cellulose content it may reasonably be expected to realise a correspondingly high price. A well-known firm of manufacturers of artificial silk in England have tested the seed-lint produced by this machine, for the production of artificial silk on a manufacturing scale, and have written to say that this material is in every way suitable for their purposes. Reports from Messrs. Cross and Bevan, consulting and analytical chemists, of London, show that the yield of cellulose obtained from seed-lint is as high as 86 per cent., or within a few per cent. of that yielded by raw long cotton. Thus, the material removed by Mr. de Segundo's Seed Defibrating machine, not only operates to enhance the market value of the woolly seeds, but is, in itself, a commodity capable of useful industrial application. This factor renders the machine a very useful one in the British system. Applied to the American (or decorticating) method, it would, of course, be set to leave enough fibre on the seed to prevent the hulls from intermingling with the kernels during the process of "decortication."

Mr. de Segundo's second machine, the "Hull Defibrator," is employed after the decorticating process, and is designed to deal with the 40 per cent. of hulls. This machine, which has been in use in the United States for some years, strips the hulls of whatever fibre remains on them (estimated at about 20 per cent. of the weight of the hulls) and delivers the fibre and the clean shells separately.

Naturally the amount of fibre removed at this stage depends on how much has been taken off by the "Carver Linting Machine" and by the "Seed Defibrator." The fibre has proved to be of good quality, and of considerable value for the manufacture of explosives and for paper making, though it is a product rather less fine than the "seed-lint" which is recovered from the seed direct before it has undergone the mechanical treatment in the decorticating machine, whereby the fibres are to some extent shortened. Nevertheless, the value of the hull-fibre, as produced by this machine, is evidenced by the fact that upwards of 7,000 tons have been

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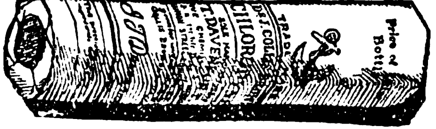

sold in the United States for the manufacture of explosives, and that this fibre was being used by papermakers in England in increasing quantities before the war. The remaining product, the shell-bran, or defibrated hull, is useful as a roughener in the manufacture of mixed feeds, possessing the great advantage that it is free from cotton fibre, which, as is well known, being largely composed of cellulose, is practically undigestible and possesses little or no nutritive properties.

In this brief outline of the present position with regard to the utilisation of cotton seed it has been impossible to do more than merely touch on the main points in the two processes, and it must be left to those concerned to say what modifications of the British system, if such should be deemed desirable, are most likely to serve our purposes after the war, when it will evidently be essential to utilise all our natural products to the fullest extent.

◆

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market's Strong Tone.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Business in the market during the past week has been disturbed by the Easter holidays, and negotiations between buyers and sellers have been resumed in a rather half-hearted fashion. The tone remains strong, the tendency of prices being against buyers. A considerable demand has again been experienced in Egyptian cotton. We are still waiting for more information from the Government with regard to the distribution of the crop for next season. Rather varied success is being met with by spinners who have turned machinery on to the Egyptian staple. Producers of Egyptian yarns remain deeply sold, and combed qualities are particularly strong. Some users report a little more irregularity in carded counts. There has not been very much activity in piece-goods for Egypt. Clearances in Cairo, however, are said to be healthy. Shippers of cloth to India and China continue to receive poor advices from the other side. It seems quite impossible to lift prices in Calcutta, Bombay, and Shanghai more on to a level with Manchester values. Sized goods have been very slow, but a fair amount of inquiry has come through in finishing, printing, and bleaching descriptions. Prices in American yarns have hardened. Great scarcity exists in medium numbers of wefts. Ring beams are not easily obtained quickly. There has not been much doing in export bundles.

◆

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

It is announced in the *Board of Trade Journal* that it has now been ascertained that the total area in Egypt to be planted with cotton during the forthcoming season will be less by not more than 13 per cent., as compared with last season, and not 20 per cent. less, as stated in the previous issue of the *Journal*.

INDIAN COTTON.

The Committee appointed by the Indian Government to consider the possibilities of extending the cultivation of longer-stapled cotton in India is now busily at work. Reports to the British Empire Producers' Organisation make it tolerably clear that an immense increase in the Empire's cotton supply may be in due time expected from that country. It is true that until quite recent years the many attempts to introduce longer-stapled cotton into India had resulted—with a single exception—in hopeless failure. On the other hand, it has recently been demonstrated that, as far as climate goes, longer-stapled cotton can be grown over a very large part of the country, though for some districts a special type of this cotton may have to be evolved, as has already been done in the United Provinces and in the Punjab. Adequate irrigation will, however, in many districts have to be provided, and the cultivator will have to be ensured such a price for the new grade cotton as will induce him to grow it in preference to the short-stapled variety. These should not be insoluble difficulties.

INDIAN FINANCE.

The Second War Loan.

The session of the Legislative Council ended to-day says *Reuter's* Delhi correspondent in a message dated March 22. A number of Budget points have been debated at length during the past month. The Indian members have been unanimous in their expressions of approval of the Budget and of regret at the approaching departure of Sir William Meyer, member of the Council in charge of the Finance Department. Sir William Meyer having announced that the surplus for next year now stood at £2,582,000, and that an extra grant of £200,000 would be made to technical and agricultural education, reiterated his heartfelt acknowledgment of the generous tribute to his work from his non-official colleagues.

The Viceroy, in closing the debate, dealt with the importance of ensuring the success of the second Indian War Loan, and explained that the money would be entirely devoted to the purchase in India of foodstuffs and equipment for the Empire and the Allies. One reason for not imposing extra taxation was that a considerable surplus was anticipated and a very large amount of money had been transferred to England which could not at present be brought back for expenditure in India. Lord Chelmsford, referring to India's share in the war, said emphatically, "We are helping to the utmost of our ability." He hoped India would surpass her previous war loan effort, and urged the formation of unofficial propagandist committees to help the war loan, but condemned all undue pressure or compulsion. He associated himself fully with the tributes paid to Sir William Meyer, and said, "No man has spent himself more freely in the cause of the Empire. He has never failed to find funds for military purposes or hesitated in discharging the paramount duty of financing the military demands to the full. The Government," he said, "took responsibility equally with Sir William Meyer for the Budget proposals, and the Council deeply resented the unfair attacks which had been levelled at him."—

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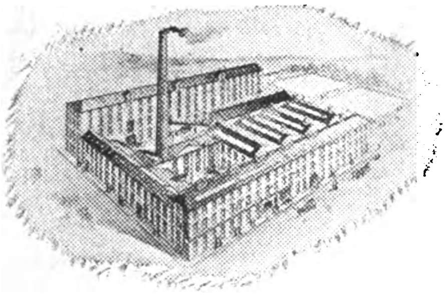

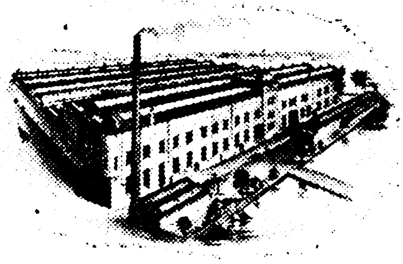

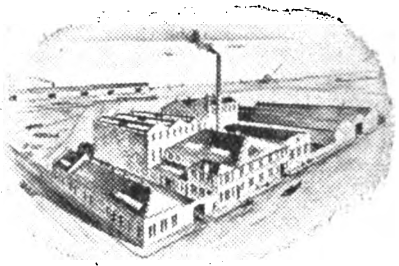

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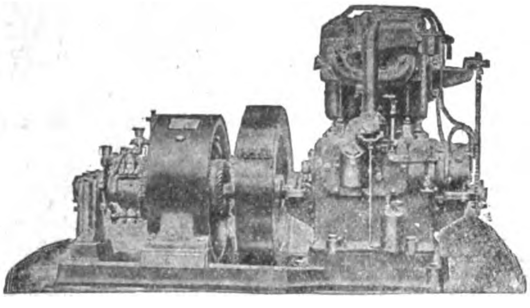

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Electric Machines for India.

According to an official report, electrical machines to the value of Rs. 3,613,000 were imported into India in the year before the war. As far as power machinery is concerned, however, electrical machinery for use in connection with water-power plants has the best future. There are at present two large works of this nature in India, the one on the Cauvery Falls, in Mysore, from which transmissions have been carried to the Kolar goldfields and the towns of Mysore and Bangalore, and the Tata hydro-electric works in Lanauli, near Bombay, which are to supply power for 900,000 spindles and 7,500 looms in Bombay. The total number of electric plants in India is already large, and is increasing. Most of the larger towns either already possess electrical works for lighting and tramways, or are on the way to establish them. Consequently the use of electricity may fairly be said to be only in its initial stage, and one may, therefore, confidently anticipate a gradually increasing market for electrical machinery. As there is no Indian machinery industry, everything that works require of this character must be imported. The greater part of the trade—in fact, 90 per cent.—was supplied, before the war, from the United Kingdom, whilst Germany and the United States followed a long way in the rear.

Small Motors for Egypt.

There is a considerable demand in Egypt for small motors (petrol motors, oil engines and gas engines), small electric motors for works, such as printing works, pumping, etc., dynamos for lighting purposes, and large motors for cotton-spinning works and large pumping plants. Great Britain has been the leading supplier of electric, gas and petrol motors, in spite of keen competition from Switzerland. Since the outbreak of the war, and especially the restrictions on the export of machinery from this country, American and Swiss agents have been very active in the Egyptian market. The former, however, are not making much progress in this line of machinery, owing, it is believed, to the idea among buyers that the cheapness of American productions is off-set by the cost of repairs and spare parts made necessary by defective working. They are, therefore, more disposed to purchase European machinery if and when they can get it. In view of this prejudice, American firms have made arrangements enabling repairs to be made as cheaply as possible in the country itself, at the same time availing themselves of every possible opportunity to give the natives a working knowledge of the machinery in order that they may avoid unnecessary breakages. The imports of the above class of machinery into Egypt in the year before the war amounted to nearly £500,000, and it will be a pity if through war restrictions, or the apparent inactivity of British manufacturers, foreign competitors succeed in securing the trade.

INDIAN SILVER RESERVE.

A further reduction in the holding of silver is shown in the Indian currency returns given below. The reserve of 1,075 lakhs is lower than at any period since February 19, 1906, when it was 1,060 lakhs. Commenting on the position, Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. say that a temporary lessening of the holding is far less material now that steps are being taken to release a portion of the extremely large stock of silver held in the United States against currency. If the proposed step is carried out the equivalent of about 155,000,000 ounces of fine silver will be at once available for such purposes as the United States of America may decide. Inasmuch as that country has urgent need of credits in India for the purchase of Indian products, and it has been decided to fix the cost of supplying rupees in India at 34½ cents per rupee, there is but little doubt that silver will be supplied by the United States for Indian coinage, as required, in order to render this arrangement easily operative.

(In lakhs of rupees).

	Mar. 7.	Mar. 15.	Mar. 22
Notes in circulation....	10,304	10,259	10,073
Reserve in silver coin and bullion..........	1,271	1,247	1,075
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,818	2,797	2,783
Gold out of India	67	67	67

The stock in Bombay on March 8 consisted of 1,300 bars.

GERMANY AND ROUMANIA'S CURRENCY.

Forced Note Issues.

When the Roumanian Government was compelled to leave Bucharest the National Bank of Roumania was placed in charge of a delegation consisting of two of the managers and two auditors, says the Paris correspondent of the *Financial Times*. All right to issue notes was taken from this delegation. The German authorities on arrival at Bucharest placed a sequestrator in charge of the bank who compelled the delegation to issue Bank Treasury notes for three, six and twelve months, bearing interest at 2½, 3½, and 4½ per cent. These Treasury notes were utilised in the following way. The district authorities, in order to cover the cost of local administration and the fines levied on them by the Germans were obliged to apply to the National Bank for advances to meet the calls made upon them. In order to provide the necessary cash to make these advances, the bank issued Treasury notes, discountable at any time at 1 per cent. over and above the face value. On the other hand, the German military authorities pay for all cereals and other objects in Roumania requisitioned by them in lei notes issued by the "Banca Generala Romana," which is the recognised emanation of the Berlin Disconto Gesellschaft, and which notes, issued by a specially constituted paper money committee at the said bank, are covered by German mark notes deposited with the Berlin Reichsbank by the Disconto Bank. The counter-value is issued in lei notes in Roumania by the Banca Generala. Thus while the "covering" German and Austrian notes remain at the Reichsbank, the lei notes manufactured at the Banca Generala paper money factory in Bucharest are issued as forced currency to Roumanians in payment of all purchases made by the German authorities and German troops. Thus this practically worthless paper currency—supposed to be covered in Berlin by German and Austrian notes in the hands of the Reichsbank—is the only visible sign of a vast portion of the private and public wealth of Roumania, and constitutes one of the forms of the so-called "peace without money indemnities" of the Germans. The Roumanians are thus left with paper issued by a local German bank, the Banca Generala, on cover, or supposed cover, of German and Austrian paper money deposited by a Berlin bank with the Reichsbank.

◆

The Indian trade returns for February show an increase in imports of £1.990.000 and a decrease in exports of £724,000, compared with February of last year.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Chartered Bank.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India Australia and China states that the accounts show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £560,261, inclusive of £157,465 brought forward. The interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000. The amount now available is therefore £476,261, and the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of £1 per share, making 19 per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of income tax; to add £100,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £2,000,000; to add £25,000 to the officers' superannuation fund; to write off premises account £40,000, and to carry forward £167,261. A resolution will be proposed that the fees of the directors be increased to £10,000 per annum. The amount was fixed at £6,000 in 1906, and the business of the bank has been very greatly increased since that date. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after April 17.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India, Limited, states that the net profits for the year to December 31, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £353,139, and, adding £106,689 brought forward, the available total is £459,828. An ad interim dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was paid for the half-year to June 30, amounting to £80,000. The directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate and a bonus of 4 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, and an addition of £100,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £1,350,000. They propose to write £10,000 off house property account and to add £10,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving £139,828 to be carried forward.

Bengal Dooars Railway.

The report of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Limited, states that during the second half of the year to September 30, 1917, the gross earnings were Rs8,69,312, as compared with Rs8,74,083 in the corresponding period of 1916. The working expenses were Rs3,76,075, against Rs3,96,578, and the net earnings were Rs4,93,237, as against Rs4,77,505. The coaching earnings for the year amounted to Rs4,35,773, compared with Rs3,97,309 for the corresponding year of 1915-16, an increase of Rs38,464. The total amount received on account of goods traffic was Rs12,84,193, against Rs13,72,603 in 1915-16, a decrease of Rs88,410. The amount at credit of the net revenue account is

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SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., SALONICA, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."
ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

£58,458. Out of this sum the directors have placed £8,000 to the credit of the reserve fund, bringing it, with interest, up to £138,714, and there then remains a balance of £50,458, which the directors recommend should be dealt with as follows:—In payment of a final dividend of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year, and a bonus of 2 per cent. (both subject to income tax), £22,000, leaving to be carried forward £28,458. The ordinary stock dividend warrants will be posted on April 11.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. announce that they have now received funds towards the payment of the coupons of the Royal Roumanian Government Four and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan, 1913, due on the 1st instant.

The Bank of England is prepared to receive the coupons due the 15th inst. on Egyptian Preference bonds.

Coupons for interest on the Greek Government 4 per cent. Loan of 1910 falling due on April 1 should be presented for payment, between the hours of 11 and 2, at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, or to Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, E.C., where lists may be obtained.

Half-yearly coupons for interest on the Ottoman 4 per cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute, due April 10, will be paid on and after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

This has been a very slack week, and the Easter holidays have contributed to the inactivity. Whilst on the one hand there has not been much pressure to sell, on the other hand buyers have been few and far between, and, in a general way, a waiting attitude is being adopted. The news which continues to come from Egypt remains of a most satisfactory character, and, with any general revival of confidence, the market should soon shake off its lethargy and go ahead once more.

Egyptian Unifieds are ½ down at 86½, but the business put through has been on quite a small scale. On the other hand, Egyptian 3½ per cent. preference remains firm at 74 with unsatisfied buyers, and sellers still scarce.

In Bank shares, Nationals have shed ¼ at 17¾, and Agriculturals 1-16 at 6 5-16, but transactions have been of a trifling character. In Agricultural preferences the price is 3-16 lower at 6 13-16, at which figure some fair amount of business has been transacted. Land Banks were nominally ¼ down at 6½.

As regards Railways, Delta Lights are 1-16 lower at 6 11-16, at which price some business has been done.

In the Land department there is a drop of ¼ in Behéras to 13¼, some small sellers coming on an unwilling market. Delta Lands have reacted 9d. to 13s. 9d., on some persistent small selling on a market devoid of support, but all the shares on offer at the lower level have now been taken. In New Egyptians there has also been a decline of 6d. to 17s. 9d.; but here also there has been good buying on the decline, and Egypt has also been purchasing again.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares, Markets are 3d. quieter at 26s. 6d., and Salts are 6d. down at 39s., there being good buyers for the latter at 38s. 6d., with sellers at 39s. 6d. In Khedivial Mails there is a decline of 6d. to 38s. 6d., but there are no sellers under 39s. The preference shares are unchanged at 3¾ xd.

Amongst Greek securities, there has been a further appreciation almost all along the line on buying for Greek account, but business has been rather restricted by the small quantity of stock offering. The 1881, 1884, and 1890 loans are all 1 point up, at 60 for the 1881 and 1884, and 51 for Larissas. Rentes have been done for a fair quantity round 48xd., which represents a rise of about 2 points since last week. Fundings have more than recovered their dividend at 54xd. The 1910 loan is also quoted about ¾ higher at 58xd. Bank of Athens shares remain a firm spot at 3¾, and there has been a persistent demand for Piræus-Athens 4½ per cent. bonds round about the current price.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		April 3
	July 27 1914	Mar. 26	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87	86½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	51½	51½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	47	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	57
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	4xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71	71
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	78½	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜	$6\frac{5}{16}$
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7	$6\frac{13}{16}$
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14⅞	14⅞
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6½	6½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18	17¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6¾	$6\frac{11}{16}$
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	$1\frac{1}{16}$	23/-	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13½	13¼
Do. Pref.	4⅞	4¼	4¼
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/6	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/6	10/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/3	17/9
Sidi Salem Co.	$\frac{5}{16}$	45/-	45/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3	3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	$1\frac{3}{16}$	26/9	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	$\frac{11}{16}$	39/6	39/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	39/-	38/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3⅞	3¾xd

ROUMANIAN OIL INDUSTRY.

According to the *Neue Freie Presse*, cited in a Vienna telegram to Sunday morning's *Vossische Zeitung* (says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent in a message dated March 31), individual Roumanian oil enterprises will remain independent, but performing paid work for the Monopoly administration. The share capital of the Monopoly administration will probably amount to between 200 and 300 million francs. The administration will consist of representatives of Germany, who will be in the majority, Austria-Hungary, and Roumania.

INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to March 23 Indian Treasury Bills were sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value, Rs.13,31,35,000; six months' bills, face value, Rs.20,10,70,000; nine months' bills, face value, Rs.8,24,20,000; twelve months' bills, face value, Rs.88,95,000; total, Rs.42,55,20,000 (equal at 1s. 5d. the rupee to £30,141,000).

Egyptian Delta Light Railways—Coupon No. 41, due April 1, on the 5 per cent. debentures, should now be lodged at the Bank of England for payment.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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BRANCHES—
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Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 362.—Vol. XIV.
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The position on the Western front continues to absorb attention, and it will remain urgent and critical for months to come. How urgent it is may be judged from the fact that for the first time since 1914 the head of the Government has mentioned as a possibility—distant, indeed, but still a conceivable contingency—that we may have eventually to retire from France and to fight the war at sea. That we should continue to fight, even in those unhappy circumstances, while we have a boat left on which to mount a gun, is as certain as the rising of to-morrow's sun.

Mr. Lloyd George, in introducing his Man-Power Bill, did wisely to refer to the accusation brought against him by the extreme Westerners, that forces had been diverted from the Western to the Eastern fronts which might have saved the necessity of this further draft on our resources. It is perfectly true, as he said, that if you have an Empire you must defend it; the German menace to the East, which is still serious, owing to the collapse of Russia, might by this time have been excessively dangerous, even had Russia not indulged in a revolution, if we had let things slide in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. The Germans were making mischief in Persia with a view to our embarrassment throughout Central Asia long before our advance up the Tigris.

Similar arguments may be adduced in favour of the Palestine campaign, which was entirely preventive in its origin, although it has since been affected by larger political issues of international importance. The Germans have never forgotten the saying that Egypt and the Suez Canal are the spinal cord of the British Empire, but they are perceptibly further from that vital spot than they were two years ago. It may be a belated recognition of this fact that caused the Germans to send a division of their own men to Palestine, where they have been located east of the Jordan, or it may be that Turkey's appeals for help could no longer be disregarded.

Our three eastern campaigns—if the stranded Enoch Arden force, as it has been called, at Salonika, may be given that word—have taken four divisions, of which one is in Mesopotamia, and three are in Palestine and Egypt; the Salonika force has been reduced by two divisions. They have achieved very considerable results, and, in comparison with the ghastly Gallipoli gamble, they have won great success at small cost. It may, of course, be argued that these troops could have been used to better purpose in France. The subject is too large to be argued in a note; but had they been so employed, we doubt if (a) they would have turned the tide so far in the West as to have rendered the latest call-up unnecessary, or that (b) any British Government which cared in the least for our prestige in Asia or Africa could have ignored the steadily increasing menace which the Germans would have brought against us in the East, had we neglected more distant problems for the Western front.

The Turks have been in a grandiloquent mood this week. Besides their account of the Caucasus campaign, in which the percentage of truth and falsehood is difficult to analyse, they have issued a story of a great victory over the British in Palestine. They have beaten us so often in Palestine that it must be a matter of constant wonder to the intelligent neutral, if so unlikely a person exists any longer, how it is that General Allenby succeeds in advancing at all. Their latest exploit is to convert the British raid on the Hejaz Railway into a severe defeat; but as it happened that the railway was cut and destroyed according to our programme, we need not take the Turkish bulletin very seriously. It is interesting to note that even their inventive powers have not yet supplied a public explanation of the great British advance in Mesopotamia.

The raid had at least one important result—it located a German division east of the Jordan. It is probable that these men may have been sent down recently from Aleppo, the enemy headquarters, and it is possible that we may find more of them in reserve—the German manpower is not so short as some of our discredited prophets would have us believe. This new factor in the campaign will have to be taken seriously; it is conceivable that it implies a new German tonic administered to the fainting Turk. It may be remembered that some time ago the German Press remarked, with the suspicious unanimity born of Government inspiration, that the Pope's interdict on any attempt to recapture Jerusalem was unworthy of serious attention.

But the truth is apparently more depressing than fiction, since all these victories have failed to impress the Vice-President of the Turkish Chamber, who is now in Berlin. Hussein Jahid Bey has made a statement in the *Vossische Zeitung* regarding the painful position of Turkey. "Our efforts at the Dardanelles, in Galicia, and in the Dobruja," he says, "were naturaly bound to consume our strength to the point of exhaustion. All this fails to cause despondency, since we are convinced that the decisive questions of the world will be fought out on the Western front. Therefore, we endure temporary misfortune in quietness and full confidence in German arms."

It is not for us to dispute the ardent Westernism of the Oriental, the more particularly since we are fighting in the West and Turkey is not; nor are we concerned to deprecate the stoic statement that Turkey is not despondent. But the two admissions of the Vice-President are ample—first, that Turkey has already consumed her strength to the point of exhaustion without profit, but rather with loss to herself; and, secondly, that Turkey is unable to reconquer her lost provinces, but looks to Germany to do it for her.

There has been exceptional military activity in the regions round the Black Sea. The Turks report a violent battle on both sides of Lake Van, the occupation by them of Vastan and Arin, an attack on Sarikamish, and the occupation of that town. They state further that the enemy was pursued in the direction of Kars, and that the Ottoman advance towards Batum is in progress. No account of these proceedings has been received as yet from the Caucasian Republic, but news is forthcoming that the Armenians have thrown the Turks out of Erzeroum—a matter on which the Turks maintain a corresponding reserve. In view of the existing difficulties of communication, it may be some little time before fuller information as to this new campaign is received.

On the other side of the Black Sea, the Germans appear not to have been idle. They announce the occupation of Ekaterinoslav, one of the great towns of Southern Russia, and the occupation of which is clearly intended to control the Crimea, as well as to hold another stage on the road to Astrakhan and the Caspian; the position in Odessa remains obscure. The Germans were reported to have been thrown out of that city some days back, but no confirmation of the report has been received, and their announcement to the Bolshevist Government that Odessa is to be regarded as the property of the Ukraine does not necessarily connote that Germany is a disinterested spectator of the contest. Negotiations are reported, however, for the neutralisation of the Black Sea—this following on a statement that the Russian Black Sea Fleet was preparing for action—and the sittings of the Commission to discuss the question are to be held at Odessa, according to the German papers, and not at Focsani, as the Roumanian and Ukraine authorities desired. In these negotiations, apparently, Turkey has invited Russia to participate, and M. Tchitcherin has accepted the proposal.

The sittings of the Commission will, of course, be dominated by Germany, who wishes to neutralise the Black Sea, in order to get rid of any obstacle which might trip up her stride to the East. Regarding the settlement of Roumania as accomplished, Bulgaria and Turkey as firmly bound to her, and the Ukraine as in process of peaceful absorption, the road is now clearing for her further advance, and it would not be surprising to hear of German troops on the Volga. Access to the Caspian Sea, of course, would at once be used as a means of stirring up trouble in Persia; and this is only the preliminary move, as it were, in the game, which aims at Afghanistan at least as much as at Persia. In the latter country, however, the Germans seem to have had even less success than in the former, if the account of German intrigues at Kabul, which was published in the *Vossische Zeitung* a fortnight ago, has any truth in it. One point, at least, in these revelations can be accepted without reserve—it is that M. Trotsky has shown "much sympathy with the idea that liberated (*sic*) Russia should co-operate with Germany in order to liberate India entirely from England." Whenever one hears the guttural Teutonic accent so clearly behind the mockery of Russian idealism one recognises the essential Bolshevist.

Apparently King Constantine is to forfeit his pension. Nobody can suggest that he has not deserved this treatment—the further revelations of his doings before his enforced abdication, and the reports of his proceedings since he has been in Switzerland, are sufficient condemnation of any tenderness being shown towards him by his late subjects. There can be no reason to doubt that he was at the bottom of the recent abortive mutiny, and an attempt at communicating with his supporters in Greece by means of a submarine is also credited to him. In these circumstances he can hardly expect to remain a pensioner of Athens; his proper course is to apply for funds to Berlin.

The exchange of messages between the City of London and the people of Mecca is a sign of the times. The Mayor of the sacred city of the Moslem world congratulates London on the "invincible heroism" of the British Armies in the West; we, for our part, cannot refrain from recognition of the work done by the Moslems in Arabia to free themselves from the Turkish yoke; an interesting summary of what has been accomplished in this direction was given by Lord Robert Cecil in the House of Commons this week.

Count Czernin's reputation for honesty, which had about reached the level of the German mark on the neutral exchanges before his recent speech, has now sunk to the level of the Austrian krone, since his exposure by M. Clémenceau; lower than this it can hardly go. In these circumstances, his attribution to Serbia of a desire to make peace with her enemies, a desire which he suggested was only restrained by the statesmen of the Entente, scarcely needed the indignant refutation which it received from the Serbian Government. We cannot, of course, gauge the cross-currents of Viennese diplomacy, but it would seem that the lie was not worth the telling, when it and its fellows were certain to be so quickly exposed.

The messages which have just been exchanged between the Prime Minister and Lord Chelmsford undoubtedly strike the right note in emphasising the danger to India from the existing situation in the East. The danger was realised almost instinctively in this country as soon as the collapse of Russia opened the road to German tyranny in Asia, but India's outlook on world-politics is still to a large extent conditioned by a past which has become irrelevant. She has been accustomed to rely through the centuries on her mountains and her seas, and has claimed the privileges of an unconcerned spectator in regard to events beyond these barriers; the claim has from time to time been refuted by hard facts, but the mental attitude persists, and these reminders will serve a useful purpose in bringing the realities of the situation home to people who would otherwise ignore them.

On the sea, indeed, there is no danger, so long as the British Fleet retains its mastery, but the passes on the North-West remain to tempt any adversary who commands the requisite forces, and India can never afford to shut her eyes to a menace in that quarter. It is a sign of the times that Lord Chelmsford should refer specifically to the need for awakening the people's leaders to a keener sense of the danger: the expression is, of course, susceptible of various interpretations, but taking it to apply to the prominent politicians, the darlings of leagues and congresses, no one conversant with Indian politics can deny that an awakening is needed, and by a curious coincidence the necessity has been illustrated by one or two items of news which have recently been published.

Mr. Tilak, for instance, would not, we believe, resent the suggestion that he might be described as a leader of the people, and on the very day when Lord Chelmsford's message was published we read that Mr. Tilak had declared his intention of telling the people of this country that, unless Home Rule were granted, they would stand in danger of their Empire being crippled, if not lost. That reads rather like a threat, and it will be interesting to see whether Mr. Tilak takes this line on English platforms, or whether the influence of the environment results in some modification of his attitude; at any rate, it is noteworthy as an illustration of the provincial, if not parochial, outlook of one type of popular leader as the term is understood in India.

Let us turn to another " leader," the irrepressible Mr. Gandhi, who is now out to win the war by persuading Bombay peasants to refuse to pay their land revenue until certain differences with the authorities are adjusted to their satisfaction. If he will forgive the comparison, Mr. Gandhi strongly reminds us of the immortal swineherd Ho-Ti; his sense of the relation of means to ends is so peculiar that in another environment he would be quite ready to burn down a house whenever he wanted a dish of roast pork. He has a keen eye for a grievance, and, for all we know, the peasants may in this case have some grounds for complaint, but there can be no justification whatever for striking at the fundamental obligation to pay the revenue, almost the only indigenous institution which commands the unqualified admiration of the outside world.

We do not suppose that the Bombay Government will be seriously embarrassed by this action, but it may form an awkward precedent in the days that are at hand. "Responsible" administrations will have to collect revenue, much more probably than is collected at present, and Indian Ministers of the future will have small cause to thank the man who first taught the taxpayers to strike, a lesson which, once learnt, is certain to be put in practice at inconvenient moments. One is tempted to picture Mr. Gandhi as Chancellor of the Bombay Exchequer confronted with a peasantry on strike, and to speculate on the drastic measures he would be likely to adopt; but the picture is scarcely convincing, for, if there be one certainty in the future of Indian politics, it is that, whatever party may hold the reins of power, this gentleman will usually be found in opposition.

The *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung* has published what purports to be the text of an appeal addressed by the Chief of the Druses to the Central Powers for help in repelling the British. How much truth, if any, there may be behind this report it is difficult to say. The Druses have always been regarded, and not without warrant, as a somewhat mysterious people. But in the past they have exhibited no particular liking for the Turk, while they have, on the other hand, shown a friendly disposition towards the British. In view of these facts, it is at least permissible to suspect that the German journal's information is not entirely trustworthy.

Surprise is being expressed in some quarters that the Central Powers have not shown any sign of evacuating Roumania now that peace has been signed; a statement in the Bucharest *Tageblatt*, however, shows that they have no intention of doing so, and that the people have, as hitherto, to render "unquestioning obedience" to the orders of the military. It may be assumed, therefore, that Germany will not withdraw what is in effect an army of occupation until she is satisfied that the keys of the whole situation are in her hands; and this will presumably include not merely the resignation of territory to Austria but the complete fulfilment of the programme of economic arrangements by which Roumania is to be exploited. Those who lean to the idea of a peace by negotiation in this country, if there are any such left, may well take note of these proceedings.

The Germans are also said to be initiating a political campaign in Roumania which is to set all parties by the ears, and in particular to be directed towards the exclusion of M. Take Jonescu from political life. This is the same manœuvre which was practised several years back against M. Delcassé in France, and which was tried, although without success, by the Germans against Lord Grey after Agadir, when they endeavoured to get up a campaign against him in the British Press as a provocative and impossible Foreign Minister. In this last case the myth was so absurd that only the *Daily News*, so far as memory serves, was credulous enough to swallow it; but it is a favourite German trick in many countries. The remedy is a simple one—to abate party controversies at home, and never to believe that a German speaks the truth even by accident.

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

It is now clearer, as many of us supposed last week, that our advance east of the Jordan was of the nature of a raid, and apparently our men have been withdrawn from the Mountains of Moab, not, as our enemies suppose, as a result of pressure, but by predetermined plan. It is, therefore, worth our while to estimate, as far as we can, the very substantial successes which will have attended this daring effort. First, it is clear that very important facts have been ascertained with regard to the strength of the enemy's position around Amman. It is evident that this very vital front has been powerfully fortified. Germans as well as Turks have been encountered and heavy casualties have been inflicted upon them. Many hundreds have been captured. Secondly, the Hejaz railway—so vital to the Turks—has been very severely damaged over many miles, thereby greatly embarrassing the enemy and largely disorganizing their military plans. Doubtless our Air Service will see to it that the repairs will not be effected without great difficulty and delay. Thirdly, in our advance all his depots along the road to Es Salt seem to have been captured and destroyed. Thus Mr. Massey states: "I cannot estimate the amount of material captured: but, judging from the depots I have seen, it must be considerable. Another gun was taken at Es Salt, and also about twenty German lorries." Fourthly, we have substantially rendered assistance to our Arab allies. To resist our attack Turkish troops were withdrawn from the north and from the south, and it is impossible not to connect with this the latest news that on April 7 El Kerak was occupied by Arab troops. Very possibly this was one of the objects of the raid. Not only is El Kerak —the ancient Kir of Moab—an extremely important post, which the Turks would certainly not give up without a bitter struggle: but by holding El Kerak and, as they will necessarily do, its natural outlet to the south-east corner of the Dead Sea, we have for the first time got into direct contact with the Arab forces. Before their retreat from the northern shores of the Dead Sea the Turks were bringing supplies of various kinds from the Kerak district to the north shore of the Sea by means of motor and steam boats. Now we shall be able to help our allies in the reverse direction. El Kerak occupies a dominating position, 3,115 feet above the Mediterranean, and is the capital of a considerable *liva*, or district, around: it lies upon a hill surrounded by deep gorges, and its massive ruined castle is one of the most magnificent ruins of the Crusading era. It dominates the Dead Sea, and from it the Mount of Olives is visible on clear days. Although twenty miles from the Hejaz Railway, it is believed to be connected with it by a good road constructed since the war; and, holding a fortress of such strength, the Arabs, who are splendid fighters, should be able to make the position of any Turkish force anywhere to the south extremely insecure. The inhabitants of the Kerak district are bitterly anti-Turk, and may in many ways assist their deliverers against their hereditary enemies. It is safe to predict that the success of our raid will give our enemies a renewed sense of unease and will necessitate the diversion of considerable forces, which might otherwise be opposed to us in Western Palestine, to their provision against the repetition of such a surprise visit on a larger scale.

I must, in conclusion, briefly refer to a short note which appeared last week just under my Notes on the Palestine Campaign. A correspondent there states that: "Of the ruins that remain at Amman none is older than the Greek period." This is not strictly true, for apart from the fact that some of the walls of the Acropolis are probably older and that under the present surface there must be extensive remains of Rabbath Amman, there are in the neighbourhood of Amman some of the oldest ruins in the land in the form of megalithic buildings and dolmans belonging to the pre-historic times. Further, this correspondent states that Es Salt is "supposed to be Machærus, the scene of John the Baptist's execution." This is a theory which I have never heard, and is certainly opposed to all the evidence. Machærus is undoubtedly from Mukaur considerably further south in the neighbourhood of the Wady Zerka Maan, where there are very extensive ruins. Es Salt has been suggested as the site of Ramoth Gilead, but there are very serious difficulties, and such a view is not generally held. Thirdly, the mountain in the neighbourhood of Es Salt is Jebel Osha, 3,595 feet high, which dominates the land, and is visible from the Mount of Olives. It is nothing to do with Joshua, but is called after the prophet Hosea, whose " wely " is here shown by the Moslems. From here, as the writer suggests, one of the most magnificent views of the Jordan valley is obtained, the mountain Ebal Gerizim, and even Tabor being visible to the north.

E. W. G. M.

THE REBUILDING OF SALONIKA

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HINTERLAND.

By Thomas H. Mawson.

(Senior Member of the City Planning Commission for the Rebuilding of Salonika.)

It is unfortunate for the proper understanding and development of our immense natural opportunities in the Orient that our gaze is concentrated with so much anxious thought on what is taking place on the Western front. Under any less absorbing strain the mind of commercial and industrial England would be devoting itself with the greatest energy to the creation of vast financial enterprises for the rebuilding of Salonika, and the development of the extensive tracts of fertile lands in Macedonia. These areas have now been opened up by the creation of an extensive and well-co-ordinated system of railways and magnificent arterial roads, laid down at enormous cost by the armies of the Allies. The opportunities thus operating for British energy and British finance are so important that, notwithstanding our many anxious occupations, I venture to urge my countrymen to take time by the forelock and to organise at once for big enterprises which are unusually full of promise.

Before describing these possibilities, let me remind my readers that, owing to our occupation of Macedonia and the vast sums of money spent by the Allies, Greece has become a very rich country, that in consequence a large proportion of the necessary capital would be subscribed locally. What is needed is that these undertakings should be promoted by British firms of acknowledged organising ability and repute, and that in each department the scale of operations should be commensurate with the work to be accomplished. The immense popularity of our army in Macedonia has prepared the way for British energy, and I am in a position to state that the Greek Government would welcome us both for the rebuilding of the city and in the development of the natural resources of Macedonia.

To obtain some sort of perspective of these possibilities, one must grasp the fact that Salonika is the most important port in the Ægean, that it is the natural gateway to the Balkan States, and that Serbia hopes to have her own free port in the Gulf of Salonika. Therefore, whilst the pre-war population was only some two hundred and twenty thousand, the city is certain to contain with the next twenty years a population of half a million. This means that not only must the old city be rebuilt on big lines, but that very considerable extensions will be necessary.

The central area of the city actually destroyed by the fire was about a mile and a-quarter in length and a little more than half a mile in width. Within this area there lived a population of seventy thousand inhabitants, for whom rehousing is a first necessity. The fire, however, destroyed all the principal hotels, banks, schools, a large number of churches, and also the best shops and commercial premises within the city. So extensive was the fire that M. Venizelos instructed the Commission to proceed with their plans on the assumption that the city had been entirely destroyed. This permitted the planning of the new city on the best known economic and æsthetic principles, and the Commission have taken full advantage of this instruction and have provided initial plans. Their report includes the following recommendations, all of which offer wide opportunities for British contractors:—

1. A large extension of the docks in conjunction with a considerable development of the railway and warehousing service.

2. New Union Railway stations for passenger service, one at the east end of the city and another at the west end, along with an electric underground railway system connecting those terminals, which are about four miles apart. This electric railway will be placed under the Rue Egnatius, and therefore will intersect longitudinally the busiest part of the city.

3. A new water supply for the city and its suburbs.

4. A main drainage system for the whole of the city along with lifts for the lower part of the city and outfall works.

5. Electric power and light stations and the installation of light and power throughout the city.

6. The extension and renewal of the electric tram system for the city and adjacent suburbs. As planned, this system should prove a good paying concern, whether worked by the municipality or by a private company. The present powers have only a short period to run.

7. The formation of a new street and boulevard system.

8. The building of the principal Government and municipal offices, law courts, and post office. The building of the city business and commercial premises, and also the new residential quarters. For all these operations special facilities and concessions will be offered by the Greek Government to approved firms.

9. In addition to these great works connected with the reconstruction of the city, there is little doubt that Salonika will become a manufacturing centre. The rebuilding of the city and its extension alone will create enormous demands for cement, sanitary pipes, patent flags, and curbs, for which excellent gravel, stone, and sand are to be found in abundance. Saw mills, carpentry shops and workshops for the manufacture of furniture, commercial and domestic equipment will also be required, whilst the manufacture of bricks and roofing tiles will be another industry to which a great impetus will be given.

These are merely a few of the larger industrial activities which the rebuilding of the city will bring to the fore. Other opportunities of a more directly financial nature which may be developed are fire, life, and shipping insurance, the erection and running of large stores for merchandise of all kinds. I imagine also that many factories for the development of native industries and the packing and export of fruit, cotton, tobacco, and maize, to mention only a few of the native products, will afford outlets for capital.

Great as are the opportunities connected with the rebuilding of the city, those of the hinterland are even greater. These, if fully developed, would add to the commercial supremacy of Salonika, which is the port of entrance and export, and also the centre for insurance, banking, and exchange.

We must remember that before the war there were four principal causes which prevented the economic development of this rich territory:—(1) The unsettled state of the administration and the constant wars which in some localities practically annihilated the population. (2) Pestilential malaria, with which the native did not know how to deal, or which from a fatalistic attitude of mind he regarded as the visitations of Providence. (3) The lack of railways, good roads, and means of transport. (4) The need of scientific knowledge in regard to the best methods of cultivation, mechanical labour-saving appliances, and co-operative buying and selling.

Respecting the first, we may reasonably expect that a permanent and progressive Government under the most able direction of M. Venizelos will quickly secure that stability which is the first essential of progress. As to the second, I am told by those who have studied the question that the canalisation of the Vardar, Doiran, Struma, and other marshes would effectively destroy the malaria mosquito. The third condition has been splendidly met by the Allies, who have constructed hundreds of miles of the finest roads in Europe and laid down a complete system of military railways which open up the country for quick transit in a perfectly wonderful way, and at the same time reduce the cost of haulage by at least two-thirds. The last condition would be met by the introduction of capital, scientific direction, and British energy.

That the great Greek Minister contemplates a revival of prosperity in this direction is proved by the fact that he is setting up a new department of the Ministry of Communications for the purpose of replanning the ancient ruined villages, and for the planning and construction of other villages in strategic districts. In Old Greece, at least one English syndicate is at work with success already assured, and on principles approved by the Greek Government, and it is an extension of this work which is so much desired for Macedonia.

In considering these possibilities we must remember that very little of this land is at present under cultivation, that the greater part of it can be successfully irrigated, and that it is suitable for almost any kind of crop, ranging from cotton to maize, and from vines to strawberries.

From the mining point of view I am not able to give any sound advice; but I am told that prospecting is being energetically prosecuted, and that anthracite coal has already been discovered. If this latter report be true, Macedonia is, indeed, the land of golden promise.

In conclusion, may I add that my friends are constantly asking how the rebuilding of the city of Salonika is to be paid for. Well, I cannot yet say, but I may state that a city which has neither debts nor taxes is in an exceptionally favourable position for the raising of loans.

CONDITIONS IN NORTH-EASTERN PERSIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Meshed, November 28.*

Drought and Poverty.

For more than a year and a-half the Meshed district has had no rain or snow, and the drought is becoming very severe. The price of wheat has risen from a normal of about twelve tomans per kharver (650 lb.) to forty-five or fifty tomans. The poor people who receive about the same wages as they did before are paying about four times a normal price for bread. For them, extras such as tea, sugar, fruit, etc., are entirely out of the question as being beyond the capacity of their purse. Thousands of them have not tasted meat for many months. All their money goes for bread, and a great many of them cannot get enough even of that. I am told on good authority that babies are being left in the streets to be picked up by any one who will take them and care for them, and that about twenty-five such foundlings have been taken to the hospital of the shrine of Imam Riza. The case is quoted of a man who became desperate from the lack of food for himself and family, but one day brought home ingredients for an "osh," which is a sort of stew very common in this country, and secretly put poison into it. The whole family ate heartily, and all died. I cannot vouch for the truth of this story, but, whether true or false, it is a fair illustration of the straits to which many of the poor people are being reduced.

The following incident I can vouch for. The carcase of an animal was thrown out into the open just outside one of the city gates. (The people do not always take the trouble to cart dead animals outside of the city. They quite as often leave them in the street or in any other piece of open ground, and the street dogs do the rest.) As soon as this carcase was thrown out, people went running to the spot and began cutting off and carrying away chunks of the meat, while the dogs stood around wagging their tails patiently waiting for their turn to finish up what was left. I can also vouch for the following story having been told to a doctor of my acquaintance. A "hammal" (a man who earns a living by carrying loads on his back) went to the doctor, who discovered that the man had appendicitis and required an operation; he offered to take the man into the hospital, to do this operation free, and to bear all the expense of the case. The man said that he could not have it done, because his family of eight persons was dependent upon the three or four krans a day that he and his son earned. That is pitiful when you remember that the combined earnings of the father and son will buy scarcely six and one-half pounds of bread a day for eight people to live on. Where are their clothes, fuel, and other necessities coming from?

Among the villagers, upon whom the cities are dependent for food, the live stock is being greatly depleted for lack of fodder. Dry leaves off the trees are selling for four tomans a kharver, whereas two tomans used to be about a normal price for a kharver of good straw. Animals are dying, and others are being killed, because there is nothing to feed them on. A sheep with her lamb at her side is selling for eleven krans, whereas the lamb alone used to sell for fifteen krans. This does not run up the price of meat at present, but it will later on. But every camel, horse, mule or donkey that dies or is killed does help to increase at once the price of every kind of farm produce and every article of every kind that has to be transported, because there is no transport except by animals.

A Local Demonstration.

Yet I have been told by a very rich landowner, whose barns are full of wheat, that there is wheat enough in the province to feed the entire population plentifully for three more years, even though the three coming harvests should fail entirely. We have been reading in the papers about the sin of profiteering in England and America, especially in regard to foodstuffs and other necessities, and of the efforts of the Governments to cope with the evil and to regulate prices. There is a good deal of wealth in this province of Khorasan, but it is owned and controlled by a comparatively small number of men, and thus far the Government has either been unable to regulate the prices of foodstuffs or is indifferent to the subject. Behind the provincial Government is the Central Government in Teheran, which changes hands too often to wield any real power. Kamran Mirza, who had been Governor-General of Khorasan for about a year, recently resigned and returned to his home in Teheran. A few weeks later the announcement was made that Prince Nieer-ed-Dowleh, who resigned this Governorship about eighteen months ago, had been appointed again. One of his first nominations was that of Salar-i-Nusrat to be Chief of Police. A few nights afterwards a prominent Persian gave a dinner, at which were about thirty guests. Between seven and eight o'clock in the evening masked men entered the place, shot down the servant at the door, entered the room where the guests were sitting, and engaged in promiscuous shooting. The Chief of Police was shot through the abdomen. A rich wheat owner threw himself out of the window, and in thus saving his life he broke his arm in two places. The servant who was shot at the door died next morning. The Chief of Police is recovering. Bazaar gossip says that this was a demonstration merely to show what would happen if the Teheran Government were to send Nieer-ed-Dowleh here as Governor-General. And yet there are a great many people who would be glad to see him come. During the next few days a crowd of men were at the telegraph office sending messages to Teheran. That is a way they have in this country. When the populace or a faction seriously object to a measure, or want to demand something, they go to the telegraph and stay there for a few days, either till they get what they want from the central authority or until something else happens. In this instance what happened was that after a few days an official announcement came that Prince Nieer-ed-Dowleh had resigned and would not be sent to Khorasan. It would be of interest to know whether he had had to pay for the appointment which he resigned. Governor-Generalships in this country may sometimes be sugar-coated, but they are not generally made of sugar inside. A man must pay a large sum for his appointment. This sum is regulated either by the size of the resources of the province or district to which he is appointed or else by the power of the central governorship to extract money from him. In either case, on taking up the duties of his appointment, the first thing he must do is to reimburse himself for the amount he has paid to the Central Government. This process of reimbursement must necessarily make for him both friends and enemies. The rich man who gets off lightly is his friend and swears by him. The rich man who pays heavily is his enemy and swears about him. If an archangel or a prophet should come here as Governor-General, he would find it a hard task, for if he was not susceptible to graft I hardly see how he would reimburse himself for the initial amount he had paid to the Central Government for the privilege of coming here and conducting a strong, good government. The trouble is that the system is bad.

Trade and Finance.

Business is at a very low ebb. Prices are very high. Pounds sterling are selling at thirty krans or less, as compared with fifty-five before the war. Russian roubles are selling at eight shahies, as compared with one hundred and sixteen shahies before the war. Imports from Russia are practically stopped. The other day I needed a few nails, and I paid at the rate of a hundred and twenty krans for six and one-half pounds, whereas the price used to be four or five krans for that quantity. We are dependent on Russia for hardware. A little petroleum and a few other things come from Russia occasionally, but not at all in sufficient quantities to meet the demands. Some goods are smuggled in, but the amount does not suffice to meet the needs. One thing has happened during the last months which has brought a certain amount of relief in regard to some things. Large quantities of tea, sugar, and matches have been brought in from India, and the prices of these articles have been very considerably lowered, while at the same time the merchants bringing in these goods are making a good margin of profit. I suppose great Governments do not usually engage in philanthropy, and yet we do hear of their occasionally doing so in war time. If only the English would promote an enterprise in some form to facilitate the transport of merchandise from India into Khorasan and right up to Meshed, it would not only be philanthropy, but should yield large money profits.

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* Delayed in transmission.

Mr. Nicolsky, who for the past three or four years has been Russian Consul-General here, has been appointed to the corresponding post in Teheran, and will leave in a few days. He is a very genial man, and will be greatly missed by his many friends.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MACEDONIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Greece has declared her intention to cultivate a large area in Macedonia. To the ordinary man in the street this conveys nothing, but to many, like myself, who have spent many months there, it is of great interest. To begin with, there exists no possible doubt of the fertility of the soil; it is rich, vastly so, more especially where the Allies have had numerous kraals of horses and mules. I know of such a place of about 1,000 acres, which if developed would certainly yield beyond anticipation. Its value is further enhanced by its proximity to the sea, and a landing pier. However, before any definite scheme can be approved, the vital question of irrigation must be solved, and the development of the railway system must be urged. It is well known that the system has been extended since the Allies' occupation; to what extent I am not prepared to state; suffice to say that much more will have to be done. Of course, this will probably be a serious obstacle; tunnels must be bored, and bridges and embankments built. Still, there is no lack of material. Then the question of road transport will have to be considered. It would be absolute folly to rely upon the present method, which is by unwieldy, springless, jolting bullock wagons. Personally, I firmly believe that motor transport will stay. Merchants have seen the possibilities and immense value of quick transit; this opens up further possibilities. In fact, with the development scheme, scores of trades would begin, the foremost being agricultural machinery. The present-day farmer possesses little, if any, up-to-date machinery. One sees the plough of Biblical days in use, oxen in the yoke, and so on. The Greek farmer must not be blamed wholly for this; fear of depredations, lack of State aid and encouragement, and lastly, and certainly not least, that bugbear of the Balkans, petty wars, all of which have hindered progress, as is so much regretted now. Next, the state of the roads must be improved, and very much so, the few good ones to be found at present having all been made during the war for military requirements. These are excellent, and will remain the main arteries, but there is plenty of material for making the necessary network. The cost will be comparatively small. Further, one must bear in mind the incalculable improvements made by the Allied forces, not only topographically, but on the moral of the people.

There remains the most important problem of labour, and it must be understood that, like all Easterns, the Greek peasant treats his wife as very much his inferior, and is quite content and happy to watch her do all the work. In short, she is the bearer of the burden; hence she enters largely into the labour question, and I firmly believe female labour on the land will predominate over male. Especially will this be the case in remote places among the hills. The emancipation of woman has not troubled Greece very much. I should like to mention here that strict laws will have to be made to counteract depredations and thieving. It is common knowledge that the average native is very susceptible to the latter failing, and will all unconsciously kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Firm steps must be taken to prevent those petty wars which have been part and parcel of the Balkan people's existence, thus rendering the possession of property an uncertainty.

And now with regard to irrigation. It would not be possible to irrigate the southern part of the province as the Egyptians and Turks do; the water supply would not admit of this being done. One solution would be to conserve the large volumes of water which come down from the surrounding hills in the rainy season. When one realises that for practically five months in the year there is hardly any rain, something must be done; true, there are springs, and on one side of the hills are two large lakes, but these only irrigate one side. Then there is the Struma Valley, which is as fertile as it possibly can be. Even here the irrigation arrangements are open to improvements; albeit the largest and best crops are grown here. There are acres upon acres of vines, peaches, almonds, figs, mulberries, etc. Add to this the many huge tracts of land extending to the slopes, yielding splendid maize, barley, and cotton crops, and you will get an idea of what an ideal place it is for the cultivator. A word or two about the Struma River. The current is exceedingly swift, and with power stations along the banks the question of electricity could be solved, the necessary material being brought on the railway north of the river, and having Seres as its principal stop.

With so many things to make life pleasant, there are two drawbacks which affect this region the most—malaria and dysentery. There are myriads of mosquitoes, but much has been done in attempts to exterminate them. The two years' campaign against them has achieved good results; as may be seen from the Health Report of the British Army in Salonika, 1917. The climate for eight months October-May is temperate, the remaining four months being more or less hot. American enterprise is in evidence, as was shown by the extensive flourishing crops and good buildings of a farm, the property of an American, before the war. Modern machinery was also there, and everything pointed to a successful venture. There is plenty of game and fishing in many districts for the sporting farmer.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN OF ATHENS.

The Holy Synod of Greece has unanimously elected as Metropolitan of Athens the Archbishop of Kition (Cyprus), Meletios, Metaxakis. No other candidate was proposed. The Metropolitan of Athens is also the permanent president of the Holy Synod of Greece, a body comprised of five or six Bishops, annually elected by the outgoing Synod, and approved by the Government. The Synod meets in Athens, and acts as the head of the Greek Church in the Kingdom of Greece. Not infrequently these holy fathers are much interested in politics, and mix in political intrigues to an extent that the canons of the Church forbid, as in the case of the late Synod, which, under the presidency of the late Metropolitan of Athens, Theokletos Menopoulos, excommunicated M. Venizelos, or allowed the public and the clergy to anathematise him when he went to Salonika and formed the National Government. On the return to power of M. Venizelos, the members of the Synod were tried and sentenced to degradation and incarceration. The ex-Metropolitan of Athens is at present incarcerated in a monastery in Crete.

The new Metropolitan Meletios is from Crete; he studied in the Theological College of the Cross in Jerusalem, and was appointed Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod of Jerusalem, in which position he distinguished himself against the Panslavist intrigues which at that time disturbed Palestine, over the question of the Patriarchical Throne of Jerusalem. He has been the organiser and editor of the official periodical, "The New Sion," which became famous for its powerful articles (written by him) in defence of the Greek Church and its rights in Palestine. He went afterwards to Constantinople and Athens, and at one time he was proposed as a candidate for the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Ten years ago he was elected Archbishop of Kition, in Cyprus, where he was much liked. During the two Balkan wars he went to Greece, where he proved himself a conspicuous champion of Hellenic interests. He is the author of some very interesting books published in French, English, and Greek. One of the latest refers to the rights of Hellenism on Mount Athos.

ARMENIA'S AWFUL AGONY

increases. The almost incredible hardships and horrors of the past seemed to have reached the limit of human endurance, but now the whole nation is

FACED WITH ANNIHILATION.

Boghos Nubar Pasha, President of the Armenian National Delegation in Paris, declares that the Armenian Nation, throughout its whole history of catastrophes, has never been so near complete annihilation as it is to-day. Armenians of Turkey hitherto have always found shelter and protection with their brothers of the Caucasus when danger threatened them. Now that supreme refuge is torn from them, how are they to be saved ?

See *Daily Chronicle*, March 7th, 1918.

Great Britain stands for the relief of the weaker Nations.

IS ANY NATION WEAKER THAN ARMENIA ?

—so persecuted, so ravaged by famine, by pestilence, by exposure and by sword ?

The people wander from place to place in hopeless homelessness, and count themselves fortunate if they can find the shelter of the overhanging side of a friendly hayrick.

Death is claiming the young in large companies. Of 200 children who reached a certain centre near Erivan 196 died.

The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund is doing all it can to succour the terror-stricken sufferers, and has sent out the sum of £75,000 in relief since its inauguration in 1915.

Our Workers Remain at their Posts.

OUR NATIONAL HONOUR IS AT STAKE.

We have given our promise to defend the weak and helpless. We cannot remain passive in a case like this. Our gifts can save life if they are sent NOW. It is estimated that even the small sum of £1 will sustain the life of one refugee for one month. What amount will you give ? Will you send it to-day ?

ARMENIAN REFUGEES (LORD MAYOR'S) FUND

Bankers—**BARCLAYS BANK, LTD.**

Chairman—**ANEURIN WILLIAMS, Esq., M.P.** *Hon. Treasurer*—**Lieut.-Col. GREGORY.**

Hon. Sec.—**The Rev. HAROLD BUXTON.** *Secretary*—**The Rev. C. G. T. COLSON.**

Office—**96, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.**

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Some time ago I was constrained to join issue with the Editor of a contemporary—it was *The Young Man and Woman*—on the subject of the interpretation of certain Biblical passages. He had been reading or looking up Daniel XII., and had discovered that the Turkish year was 1335. Here obviously was the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy, and accordingly the readers of the magazine were assured that the matter admitted of no doubt. It was that Turkey would come to an end in 1917—the last possible date that fitted in with the 1335 theory. Of course, as the date drew nearer and Turkey showed no signs of throwing up the sponge, the inevitable hedging began to take place, and ultimately it was pointed out that, however improbable the statement appeared now, it would be found one year, perhaps, or two years later, that in October, 1917, the actual break-up of Turkey began.

⁂

No doubt it was a harmless pastime and less pernicious than a sixpenny competition, but it gave offence, I know, to the religious feelings of some people. Others besides the Editor of *The Young Man and Woman* have been trying hard at the 1335 days of Daniel xii. 12, and, of course, many had worked the time out to the end of March, the day varying according to the date chosen as the first day of the war—*i.e.*, for Germany or for ourselves. A correspondent in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, I notice, plumps for March 30, and argues that, as it was on that day that the German offensive was brought to a standstill, we have here the fulfilment of the prophecy in regard to the decisive battle of Armageddon. In other words, some well-meaning person comes forward to apologise for Daniel by explaining that the prophecy was really quite a good shot, and only wants a little latitude at one end or the other to make it to all intents and purposes accurate. I cannot help thinking that when Biblical prophecies are fulfilled they will manage the matter without elaborate explanations and adjustments by the limited intelligence of human beings.

⁂

"Turkey's Painful Position" was the heading over a paragraph in *The Times* a few days ago; and when I saw that the message referred to an interview granted by Hussein Jahid Bey to a German journalist I had a momentary hope that one Turk was waking to the truth. But I was disappointed as soon as I read on. The "painful position" to which the Vice-President of the Turkish Chamber alluded was the enemy occupation of Turkish territory. The "pain" appears to lie in the fact that in this matter Brother Turk stands alone among the Central Powers' gang: Hussein Jahid Bey would find the position less painful if Brother Bulgar were in similar plight. But if I may offer him a word of advice it is that he should not worry over the *present* position. The really painful time for the Turk will come when Dame Europa takes him on her knee—face downward—preparatory to punishment and expulsion from her school.

⁂

The *Vossische Zeitung* published recently some particulars of the activities of a certain "Indian Prince" who was described as "a leading member of the Indian Independence Movement." The individual referred to seems to have been quite useful to the Kaiser and Bethmann-Hollweg, to say nothing of the Sultan of Turkey and his Grand Vizier; for he was entrusted by them with many letters to the Ameer of Afghanistan and to Indian princes. Perhaps he had a weakness for playing at postman? More probably a deficiency of mental balance induced him to intrigue in order to make him feel important. Be that as it may, his goings and comings appear to have had little or no result. In fact, it looks like a case of "nobody seemed one penny the worse." This may give "rise to no little surprise" on the part of the Prince; but it will hardly surprise anyone else. The Ameer of Afghanistan is unlikely to be led into foolishness by the Kaiser's blandishments, even when they are embodied in "an autograph letter"; and the Indian princes who really matter have given ample proofs of their loyalty. The worth of the princely messenger boy may be gauged by the class of his friends. It was "not possible" for him to cross Russia until the Bolshevists gained the upper hand; but "Trotsky and Joffe showed him much sympathy." Just so! Now we know what manner of man he is.

⁂

The recent further exposure of the conditions under which Fort Rupel was handed over to the Bulgarians serves to show more clearly than ever how utterly ex-King Constantine ignored Greek sentiment and Greek interests in pursuit of his own objects. The fact that it was impossible to give instructions to the garrison until the last moment is highly significant. The garrison was doubtless a picked one; but, even so, it was feared that the old hatred of the Bulgarians could not be entirely smothered at the behest of Tino. And no wonder; for that hatred was the growth of very many years, while Constantine's policy was but a thing of yesterday; and while one was truly national and racial, the other was distinctly "international," in the worst sense of the word. Naturally Greece declines to give Tino any more pocket money.

⁂

I see that Halil Bey, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been orating again, and that he has protested, in the Turkish Chamber, against the British occupation of Egypt. "The sword," he finally declared, "will solve this question." Halil reminds me of that pertinacious legal gentleman who still went on arguing after his client was hanged. At least, I was under the impression that the sword *had* solved the "question," and that we were in occupation of the country referred to. Despite its dignity and fine phrasing, the protest seems, therefore, a trifle belated.

CORSAIR.

THE FUTURE OF ALBANIA.

Captain L. S. Barnes lectured before the Royal Geographical Society on April 8 on the future of the Albanian State. He said the subject was technical and controversial. His own qualifications for dealing with it depended partly on visits to the country and partly on information obtained from other people who had lived there. In the early spring of 1911 he had gone to Durazzo, thence to Tirana—the stronghold of the family of Toptani, of which Essad Pasha was a member—and thence to Kruje, the ancient capital of Skanderbeg. Later, when there was a revolt of the Catholic tribes of Northern Albania against the Young Turks, a grandson of Garibaldi had organised a band of volunteers to go to the assistance of the Albanians. Captain Barnes had joined in this, but the Italian Government, prompted by Austria, had vetoed the movement; and all that he had seen of Albania on that occasion was the country round Argyrocastro, near the Greek frontier, where he had spent a few days.

The map which Captain Barnes showed to illustrate his proposals gave Albania a considerable extension of territory on the north and some extension on the east. Of the northern area, he said that part of it had been given to Montenegro in 1880, but it was strictly Albanian territory. There was here no marked geographical boundary, for the mountains ran north and south, while the ethnographical line dividing Albanian from Montenegrin ran east and west; but this ethnographical line was well marked. Farther east the problem was more difficult. There, as elsewhere, his general principle was to endeavour to draw the boundary along the line of nationality; but the problem was complicated by the intermingling of races, and by the fact that economic, commercial, and strategical considerations had to be taken into account. The Kossovo vilayet was mainly inhabited by Albanians; but he proposed to leave it to Serbia, partly from sentimental and partly from commercial and geographical reasons. On the other hand, the whole basin of the White Drin should go to Albania. South of this, where the population was on the one side Albanian, and on the other Macedonian. there was a region where the Bulgarians had established schools, and the population had become sufficiently Bulgarian to warrant exclusion from Albania on ethnical grounds. For commercial and geographical reasons, however, it ought to be included in Albania. In the south of Albania the boundary line could hardly be bettered. The Albanians were dissatisfied because it excluded from their territory a district inhabited by pro-Albanian Vlachs; but, had the line been drawn otherwise, it must have included a much larger number of pro-Hellene Vlachs, or else have divided the Vlach community. The Greeks for their part claimed Argyrocastro, but without any warrant. The future Albanian State would have to be cantonal, and to a large extent patriarchal. Probably there would be a prince. Much would depend on who was chosen for this position.

Sir Thomas Holdich, who presided, said that Serbia would object to the inclusion of the whole basin of the Drin in Albania, for it was in this direction that Serbia looked for her outlet on the Adriatic. Mr. Cotton Minchin, ex-Consul-General for Serbia, said that Serbia should get her outlet on the Adriatic by a union with Montenegro. Miss Durham said that in most ways the frontier drawn by Captain Barnes was satisfactory. There were many good harbours available for the Jugoslav State if it was founded. It would not be a source of strength to Serbia to include within her borders a million hostile Albanians; for these were a virile and energetic race who had never been entirely subjugated.

The Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee is providing for the maintenance and instruction in British farming methods of a number of Serbian youths, who will be trained on farms in summer and receive scientific instruction at an agricultural college in the winter.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea, through enemy action, of parcel mails for the hospitals and fleet at Malta, containing parcels which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch, about February 20 last.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

MOSQUES AND THE MOOSKY.*

Shortly subsequent to the Ides of March, 1918, we accompanied this erudite, but poorly illustrated incursion into the Saracenic and the Arabesque, through alleys and lanes we know right well; but book-reviewing, during the Devil's Western desperation of Armageddon, has frowned upon our spirit of criticism until now. Now that the Devil has been exposed before Amiens, we can recommend this little book for the 1918-1919 bright Cairo winter mornings when countesses, arch-duchesses, and ladies from Chicago shall revisit the capital of Arab art. Mrs. Devonshire, who has been on her errand of mercy conducting wounded Tommy from Whitechapel, Adelaide and Dunedin around the narrow lanes of Masr-el-Ateeka, has produced a little Baedeker—the booklet here reviewed. More enterprising publishers would have done the cultured authoress better justice, and we are glad to learn that she is at work on a more ambitious volume.

Mohammedan architecture affords a most curious study; for the children of Ishmael, before they learned of Jewry and Christianity, were content with tents, an occasional block of stone, or hovels roofed with camel-dung or clay. How and why did they burst out into gems like the Alhambra and the mosque of Ahmed Ibn Tuloon? Or that beautiful modern kiosk of Ismail's palace at Ghezira? What is the answer? Christian—that is, Greek—slaves, compelled to a new poetry by a resolve to please their fanatical Arabian masters! The story of the Arabesque is full of the genius of these successors of the glories of Pericles—especially after the ignorant, uncultured Ottoman adopted the idealism of Mohammed. But let us not forget also the fires of Zoroaster and the cynic poetry of the Persian, or the fabled glories of Babylon and Nineveh. All these, apparently, the Greek could copy and refine; but the Pyramid of Cheops remains frowning down upon the Parthenon, and still more contemptuously upon Saracenic art. It has always seemed to us that the Sphinx says: "Away, you artists, with your baubles! Think again!" None the less, in our own rambles in the odoriferous Saracenic lanes of Cairo we have often paused, with our authoress, to admire this Arabesque audacity, faith and poesy, and have concluded—or do now conclude—that all things are beautiful in this ordered world; once it be rid of the foulness that now challenges it.

THE EXPANSION OF INDIA.†

This book aims at doing something to counteract a very real evil in modern Indian education, where the student is too often spoon-fed out of what are politely called text-books, though cram-books would be a more correct description. The writers have brought together a series of extracts, for the most part contemporary, tracing the development of frontier and political policy, so that the student can read and consider what Ellenborough, or Dalhousie, or Canning urged in defence of the policies associated with their names, and also some of the criticisms which their arguments called forth. The idea of the book is unquestionably good, and there is little fault to be found with its execution. Some of the extracts strike us as just a little "scrappy," while we doubt the advantages of including the smooth phrases of secondary writers like Edwin Arnold or Bosworth Smith, but, taken as a whole, the materials provided should suffice to give a valuable training in the study of facts and in drawing conclusions from the records of the past. The authors promise companion volumes dealing with internal and economic policy during the same period, and we look forward to the appearance of these, which are in our opinion even more urgently wanted.

SKETCHES OF BENGAL LIFE.‡

We hope this book may be taken as evidence that Sir Rabindranath's recent incursions into politics are not to deprive us of what we value much more highly—his light-bringing and thought-compelling sketches of life in Bengal, especially the Bengal of these days, when so much very new wine is being stored in such very old bottles. The sketches themselves are of the type with which readers are familiar, short and slight, with little plot, and based usually on a single incident: each one of them seems by itself to tell us little, but we finish the book with a feeling that we know the Bengalees rather better than we did before, and a sense of gratitude to the writer for the pleasure he has given us.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Arab of Mesopotamia: A Series of Brief Essays on Subjects Relating to Mesopotamia. By various writers. Edited by the Superintendent, Busreh Government Press. (Bombay: Times of India. 1s. 6d. net.)

The Just Claims of Italy: the Question of the Trentino, of Trieste, and of the Adriatic. Twenty-one maps and diagrams. By Whitney Warren. (New York: 50c.)

Mulberry Springs. By Margaret Storrs Turner. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s. net.)

Sonnets. By the Nawab Nizamat Jung Bahadur. (London: Erskine Macdonald, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

Malaria in Macedonia. By P. Armand-Delille and others. Edited by Sir Ronald Ross, K.C.B., etc. (London: University of London Press. 6s. net.)

The Little Blue Goddess. By William Le Queux. (London: Ward, Lock, and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

L'Occupation Austro-Bulgare en Serbie. By M. Novakovitch. (Paris: Berger-Levrault. 3 francs.)

Histoire des Relations entre La France et Les Roumains. By Professor N. Jorga. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4 francs 50c.)

TURK AND ARMENIAN.

The following passages are from a letter just received by the Armenian Information Bureau from Bishop Asilian at Jerusalem:—

"The Turks have taken from the hands of the Armenians the ancient monastery of Sis, the seat of the Armenian prelates. They have turned the monastery into a Turkish orphanage, and it is used by the Turks themselves as a kitchen and dining-room. The marble throne of the prelate is smashed to pieces. In the mausoleum of the ancient Armenian kings the tombs have been opened, and the valuables contained in the coffins stolen. The inscriptions and beautiful marble carvings on the monuments have been obliterated." The writer adds that "Adana and Marash are places of execution for the intellectuals and élite. Aleppo was a sorting station, whence denuded and utterly exhausted immigrants were herded off to meet their doom in the depths of Arabia. The daily death roll amongst these unfortunate people averaged 200 from sickness, and 300 from starvation."

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* "Rambles in Cairo." By Mrs. R. L. Devonshire. (The Sphinx Printing Press, Cairo.)

† "The Expansion of British India, 1818-1858." By G. Anderson and M. Subedar. (G. Bell and Sons. 4s. 6d.)

‡ "Mashi, and Other Stories." By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (Macmillan. 5s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. April. 12	1918. March. 30	Friday	1336. Rajab. 1	5678. Nisan. 30
13	31	Saturday........	2	Iyar. 1
14	April. 1	Sunday	3	2
15	2	Monday	4	3
16	3	Tuesday	5	4
17	4	Wednesday	6	5
18	5	Thursday	7	6

The Session of the Bulgarian Sobranje came to an end on April 8.

Athens Boy Scouts were reviewed by the Duke of Connaught on April 3.

Princess Zoe Ghyka, a member of the French Red Cross, has arrived in London from Roumania.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., has been appointed a director of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Dr. R. A. Cleveland, Chief Medical Officer, has returned to Cyprus, and taken up his duties at Nicosia.

Mme. Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Misu have left London for Townhill Park, Bitterne.

Lady Goold-Adams, the wife of Major Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams, Governor of Queensland, has given birth to a daughter.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith is to give a Rhodes lecture on the Egyptian law system at University College, London, on May 6.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. George Matthai to the Indian Educational Service as Professor of Zoology, Lahore.

Mr. Alan L. C. Stuart, president of the Larnaka District Court, is acting as King's Advocate during the absence of Mr. Russell, on leave in Egypt.

Lieutenant-General Sir H. V. Cox represented the Secretary of State for India at the funeral of General Sir A. Gaselee, which took place on April 3.

The Joint Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Scrap Metal and Free Gifts War Fund has sent £50 to the Indian Soldiers' Fund, for Indian prisoners of war.

The King of the Hellenes has appointed Captain C. V. Usborne, R.N., and Staff-Surgeon E. D. Rutherford, M.B., R.N., Commanders of the Order of the Redeemer.

Lieut.-General Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh and Lieut.-Colonel the Raja of Ratlam had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on April 4.

Dr. Miloutin Yovanovitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister for Denmark, arrived in London on April 5 from Corfu on his way to Copenhagen to take up his official duties.

The Duke of Connaught arrived in Rome from Greece on April 6, and was welcomed with the greatest enthusiasm, the crowds shouting "Long live Britain!" "Long live the Duke of Connaught!"

The Elsie Inglis (London) Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which left London at the end of February, has reached Salonika on its way to join the Jugoslav Division on the Macedonian front.

A Royal decree signed on April 1 calls up for April 16 the Greek Reserve Classes of 1909-1910 in Arta and Epirus, while artillery officers of the Reserve Class of 1907 have been called to the colours for April 18.

Sir James Meston, the late Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, who is to succeed Sir William Meyer at the end of August as Finance Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, has arrived in London on leave.

The engagement is announced between Captain J. W. Thomson Glover, Indian Infantry, attached Royal Flying Corps, son of the late David Thomson Glover, and Mrs. Thomson Glover, Richmond, Surrey, and Cicely Phyllis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Summers, Froyle Place, Alton, Hants.

The French Minister at Athens went to the Royal Palace on April 6 and formally presented to King Alexander the Insignia of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour conferred upon his Majesty by the French Government.

The Bucharest correspondent of the *Pesti Naplo* (Budapest) reports that owing to the complexity of the questions involved the ratification of the peace treaty between the Central Powers and Roumania is only to be expected in about six weeks' time.

The British and French Government sent congratulatory telegrams through their respective Ministers to the Greek Government on the occasion of Greek Independence Day, emphasising their satisfaction at Greece's participation in the great struggle on behalf of the world's liberties.

What is regarded as an official statement is published by the Bucharest *Tageblatt* to the effect that, even after the signature of the treaty with the Quadruple Alliance, the military authorities, both in Bucharest and in the provinces, will continue their work, and Roumanians must obey their orders.

Lieutenant J. Crawford, who was at Constantinople before the war, and who was in one of the first parties of Englishmen who arrived in London to join up, returned to London on April 5 from the Eastern Mediterranean, where he has been stationed for the past two years.

A Reuter telegram from Cairo dated April 3 states that Sir Reginald Wingate, the British High Commissioner, has been the recipient of messages of universal sympathy on the death of his younger son, Major Malcolm Wingate, who was killed on the battlefield of France on March 21. The Sultan called at the Residency to express his sympathy.

According to official information received, says *The Times* Athens correspondent, Greek volunteers from South-Eastern Russia have enlisted among the troops of the Caucasus Republic under Greek-born officers who were lately in the Russian Army. A second division of Greeks is being formed there, and fighting has already begun against the Turks.

On March 27 a son was born to Captain J. B. Barron, M.C., Worcestershire Regiment, and Mrs. Barron, who is a daughter of Bishop Blyth. Captain Barron is now on his way out to Palestine, to take up some special work for which his previous residence of seven years in Jerusalem and his knowledge of the country and the language, well qualify him.

Mr. H. Charles Woods, who went to America in November last, at the invitation of the President of Harvard University and to deliver a course of lectures upon "War and Diplomacy in the Balkans" before the Lowell Institute in Boston was the guest of the Canadian Clubs of Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto last month. At luncheons given to him by these institutions Mr. Woods spoke upon the danger of German domination in the East.

A series of conferences on "Serbia and Her Jugoslav Brothers" has been arranged by the Serbian Red Cross for April 19, May 3, May 17, and May 31, at 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.7. The Serbian Minister will preside on April 19, when Lady Swaythling will speak on "The Serbian Woman in the War." On May 3 Mrs. Aldridge will speak on "Experiences in Serbia and Macedonia," and the two subsequent addresses will be on "The Battle of Kaymakchalan and the Recapture of Monastir by the Serbian Army," by Lieutenant Pavle Aleksitch, and on "In Roumania," by the Hon Mrs. Haverfield.

Mr. W. H. Thomas, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, in an appeal for funds states that since Montenegro was occupied by the enemy his committee has been feeding and clothing between 7,000 and 8,000 prisoners interned in Austria, besides hundreds of refugees in France, Italy, Switzerland, and in this country. The funds of the committee are approaching exhaustion; in a month, unless assistance is forthcoming, the committee will be obliged to stop its work. Donations may be addressed to the hon. treasurer, Lady Roper Parkington, Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, W., or to Mr. W. H. Thomas, at 18, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)

needs £700 WEEKLY for Feeding Prisoners interned in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

It is notified in Army Orders that British Service officers in receipt of Indian rates while serving out of India and Mesopotamia who, while unfit for general service, are paid at the British rates laid down in the Pay Warrant, are entitled while so paid to draw the increased rates of pay and the allowance for children mentioned in the Royal Warrant of January 25 last. When the officer is passed fit for general service and resuming Indian rates of pay the allowance for children will cease.

The anniversary of Greek Independence Day was celebrated in London on April 7. At the Greek Church in Moscow Road a Te Deum was sung after the Liturgy, the Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiating. Among those present were the Greek Minister, the personnel of the Legation, and several Greek naval and military officers. The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius entertained at luncheon the principal members of the Greek community and the personnel of the Legation, and afterwards held a reception.

The Manchester Syrian Relief Fund has benefited to the extent of £1,000 as the result of an entertainment given by the Minnehaha Minstrels. During an interval Mr. Jebara, the hon. secretary, read a letter from Sir Edward Tootal Broadhurst, the chairman of the Manchester Committee, in which he said that few people had suffered more from the Turk than the inhabitants of Syria and Palestine. About half the population had already perished, and with the living remnant famine and disease were rampant. As our troops advanced relief could be given. Food, doctors, hospitals, medicine, and clothing were all needed. The fund now amounts to over £7,500.

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OBITUARY.

Colonel Henry Monteath Caine, late of the 27th Inniskillings and the Army Pay Department, whose death has just occurred at Camberley, served in the Mutiny campaign, for which he received the medal.

A Reuter message from Rangoon states that Mr. C. E. W. Molesworth, Assistant Commandant of the Rangoon Military Police, was sniped and killed on March 24 during the operations in the Chin Hills.

Major-General Thomas Maubourg Bailie, whose death has just taken place at the age of seventy-four, served for some years in India as well as in Malta, Gibraltar, and Egypt. He retired from the Army some twenty years ago.

Major Thomas Anthony Stewart Swinburne, D.S.O., Royal Engineers, who has been killed in action, entered the Royal Engineers in 1905, and served for six years with the Sappers and Miners in India, and saw active service in the Persian Gulf.

The Rev. Stephen Campbell, who has died at Cushendall, was Canon Missioner at St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, and was formerly vicar of St. John the Baptist, Clay Hill, Enfield.

Mr. W. S. Howard, late of the Indian Public Works Department, who died on April 4, at The Limes, Bayshill, Cheltenham, entered the service in 1859, was appointed Chief Engineer in 1888, and was subsequently Secretary of the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department.

We regret to announce the death in action, on March 21, of Captain and Brevet Major Malcolm Roy Wingate, D.S.O., M.C., R.E., younger son of General Sir R. F. Wingate, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and High Commissioner in Egypt. Educated at Winchester College, he obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers in 1912 from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. At the beginning of the war he went to France. He was mentioned in despatches in February, 1915, and again in March of the same year, and was awarded the M.C. and the Croix de Guerre. In the same year he received the D.S.O. "for conspicuous gallantry on numerous occasions under dangerous conditions, especially at Givenchy on January 27, 1915, when he led a small party and blew in the head of the enemy's sap at the White House." Subsequently he served on the Staff of the Engineer-in-Chief at General Headquarters as staff captain, and later on as staff officer. He considered, however, that his place was at the front, and asked to be allowed to return to a field company, which was eventually permitted. He was again mentioned in despatches in May and December, 1917, and was promoted to the rank of brevet major on January 1, 1913.

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DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

OGILVIE.—On April 3, 1918, at 111, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, London, S.E., the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Dawson, the wife of Lieut. Ogilvie, Seaforth Highlanders, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

LA FONTAINE—THRUPP.—On April 3, at St. Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, by the Rev. Henry Westall, Captain S. Hubert La Fontaine, M.C., second son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney La Fontaine, 10, Nottingham Place, W., to Agnes Helena, daughter of the late Rev. R. W. Thrupp and Mrs. Thrupp, St. Francis, Worthing.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918.

THE CONFERENCE AT ROME.

The Congress of representatives of the oppressed nationalities of Austria-Hungary now meeting at Rome is to be welcomed on two grounds: it should prove an object-lesson to all those who are tempted by ignorance to adopt the attitude that the Allies have no particular quarrel with Austria-Hungary to justify war with her *à l'outrance*, and it should enable the Italians and Jugoslavs to translate the general terms of their former understanding into a definite agreement embodying the territorial delimitations of the two countries in so far as the eastern side of the Adriatic is concerned. As was pointed out in these columns at the time, the preliminary conference held in London between representatives of Italian political parties and the Jugoslav Committee was content to establish a common ground for a future concordat. It disposed of the idea of insuperable antagonisms between the two peoples, and indicated the principles on which a common frontier might be traced to the satisfaction of both races. But until the actual boundary line has been drawn throughout its whole length, there is always the possibility of local friction endangering the success of the general agreement. It is to be hoped, therefore, that, although the Congress may be intended to serve a wider purpose, advantage will be taken of the occasion that brings representatives of Italy and the future Southern Slav State together to decide upon a frontier which can be embodied without further discussion by the Allied Governments in their settlement of the Near Eastern question. The link that brings Poles, Roumanians, Jugoslavs, and Italians together in conference is the fact of their joint oppression by Austria-Hungary. They meet to testify to a common determination to continue their struggle for liberty until it has been secured in the only form possible, and to pledge themselves to a common purpose in the future, when their new States shall have been set up and will form an effective barrier to the revival of Austro-German dreams of domination in South-Eastern Europe. The Rome meeting will at least convince those who are unacquainted with the inner history of the Dual Monarchy that among themselves the subject nationalities are satisfied with the justice of their respective causes. None is afraid of imperilling its own prospects by associating with a cause which may be shown to be artificial; for the story of the oppressed peoples of Austria-Hungary does not rest upon mere grievances or dubious disabilities, but is based on the public evidence of the Government's broken faith, persecution, and systematic tyranny.

The only point in connection with the Rome Congress that is open to challenge is that it should have been necessary in this, the fourth year of the war. No doubt the delegates of the different nationalities hope to inspire fresh strength and courage among their less fortunate compatriots who are still under Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction; but in the main their purpose would seem to be in the nature of propaganda work among the Allies. A variety of circumstances has given rise to the fear that the Allied Governments may allow themselves to be duped into the belief that a difference in the degree of guilt in connection with the world war as between Germany and Austria-Hungary may be held to justify a mitigation of the penalty to be exacted from the latter. In so far as there may be ground for this fear it is an indication that the Allies are still without a clear understanding in regard to their war aims or are prepared to allow these to deviate from fixed principles and become the sport of expediency or a subject for bargaining. This, indeed, has been the case in respect of the questions outstanding between the Italians and Jugoslavs. Although the value of the principle of nationality as a basis for the permanent peace of the world is better appreciated to-day than it was three years ago, the Entente Governments must have been well aware at the time of the conclusion of the treaty with Italy in April, 1915, that they were embodying in that document terms which could never be acceptable to their Serbian Allies. But in spite of the knowledge that Italy was indulging Imperialistic aims to an extreme degree the agreement was ratified and remained a potent cause of friction between some members of the Alliance. Changes of Government and the sound common sense of the parties concerned have made good the defects of Allied diplomacy. As was explained in these pages a few weeks ago by Mr. Richard Bagot, the extreme policy that was incorporated in the Treaty between Italy and the Entente Powers represented the aspirations of a single party and had not been approved by the great mass of the Italian people. The latter now realise that the formation of a great and independent Slav State, with proper access to the Adriatic, alone could ensure permanent peace, and are now about to lay the foundation-stone of complete political and social harmony and friendship between the two races.

The ignorance that failed to appreciate the extent to which the aspirations of the extremists among Italians and Jugoslavs overlapped is also responsible, it is to be feared, for the theory that Austria-Hungary is, perhaps, not so bad as she is painted, and that the Allies can come to terms with her without departing to any serious extent from the strict letter of the principles laid down in their published war aims. Such a theory is vicious in point of view of history and of common sense. The record of the Hapsburg Monarchy is a long story of political treachery, intolerance, and oppression. It shares to the full the guilt of Germany in regard to the origin of the war, and it is impossible to differentiate between the methods and the aims with which the war has been waged by the two countries. Germany's crimes have been perpetrated for the most part on conquered peoples in the name of war; Austria-Hungary has found scope for hers among the subjects of the Hapsburg Throne, in continuation of a policy long since accepted as the traditional method of Hapsburg rule. Nor is it reasonable to suppose that the Dual Monarchy under its present régime would cut itself adrift from Germany, if it could. Apart from the certainty of German revenge, it must realise that the step would be the inevitable prelude to the secession of those nationalities which it is striving so hard to keep within the Empire. A rule that has subsisted on force for so long must rely upon the same agency for its maintenance in the future. Accordingly, Austrians and Magyars continue to fight, as Count Czernin would have it, for their right to oppress their subject races, and are glad enough to be able to reckon upon Germany's powerful support. The joint testimony of Poles, Roumanians, Jugoslavs, and Italians is too emphatic to be set aside by vague recollections of dynastic friendships or sentiment based on an exchange of social amenities. The peace of Europe requires that the ill-assorted empire of Austria-Hungary should be split up into its component parts. If, when the possibility of self-determination has thus been attained, these elect to come together again, the resultant State can at least be relied upon to conform to the principles of sane democracy and not to be an instrument of one of the worst tyrannies.

THE CAUCASUS.*

ITS PEOPLE, HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND PRESENT POSITION.

By D. Ghambashidze.

II.

During the reign of Alexander II. the Crimean War broke out. It ended with very disastrous results for Russia. The Congress of Paris on March 18, 1856, deprived her of the right of interference in Turkish affairs and of the exclusive right of protecting the Christian inhabitants of Turkey. The Black Sea was neutralised, the size of the fleet reduced, and, what is more, Russia was forced to cede to Turkey the districts of Kars and Bayazid, also the southern part of Bessarabia.

During the Crimean War the mountaineers profited by the occasion to continue their attacks, and this time they were supported by the adversaries of Russia, with the result that the struggle was prolonged. Alexander II. appointed Prince Bariatinski as the first Viceroy of the Caucasus, and, as his assistants, the Georgian Generals, Princes Orbelliani and Melikichvili, who started various attacks on the strongholds of Shamil. On August 25, 1859, Shamil was defeated and taken prisoner, but his family were deported to Russia and his sons were given an education at the Military Academy in Petrograd. At the same time a movement began among the Circassians, who were being hemmed in among the mountains by the Cossacks. On June 13, 1861, they formed a Union and elected a Council of fifteen Eldermen. They divided their country into twelve districts and appealed for help to Turkey and to England through the British Consul, Mr. Dickson, at Soukhum. The Circassians were pressed from the North and from the South. From the South there were six Georgian regiments operating against them. At that time Alexander II. arrived on the spot and gave the command of the armies operating against the Circassians to the Georgian General Orbelliani. Prince Bariatinski went to Russia and General Orbelliani was appointed as Viceroy.

In 1864 the Circassians were finally defeated and pressed back towards the seashore. They were given the choice—either to submit or to emigrate to Turkey. Only 90,000 consented to remain, mostly old people; four hundred and eighteen thousand emigrated to Turkey. In this way the war with the mountaineers, which lasted forty years, terminated. Unnecessary cruelty was applied to the Circassians by the Russian Government in forcing them to leave their country and to emigrate to Turkey, the more so as their revolt against the Russian Government was chiefly caused by economic reasons, as the Cossacks were gradually depriving them of their lands, which they had cultivated with the greatest care. Even to-day in the mountains there are ruins of beautiful old orchards—witnesses to the peaceful occupation of the Circassians. The policy pursued was also unwise, as this colony of Circassians in Turkey always took a prominent part in every war against Russia and fought with the greatest fanaticism. It will be remembered, too, how cleverly Abdul Hamid created Circassian colonies in the Balkans, and how he used them against the Bulgarians.

In 1864 the autonomy of the Georgian province Abkhazia was abolished and the Georgian General Djemardjidze was appointed Governor-General of Dagestan. In the same year serfdom was abolished in the Caucasus. On January 4, 1867, the autonomy of the Georgian province of Mingrelia was abolished. In 1877 the Russo-Turkish War began. The Georgian regiments under the command of General Amiradjebi took the fortress of Ardahan. On November 6 the fortress of Kars was taken—the Russian troops were outside the gates of Constantinople, and the Treaty of St. Stefano was signed. Subsequently, at the Berlin Congress, this Treaty was abrogated, and Russia was forced to return Erzeroum to Turkey, but received permission to annex Kars, Ardahan and Batoum districts, being obliged by Article 59 to maintain Batoum as a free port.

These annexed provinces were the former territory of the Georgian kingdom under the domination of Turkey for two centuries. The Christian Georgian population of these places had been forcibly converted to Islam by Turkey, but they had always considered themselves Georgians by race, and when they were annexed the Georgian nobility asked the Russian Government for permission to open Georgian schools and to cement their relationship with their Christian brothers. This wise suggestion was not adopted, and the Russian Government, with unnecessary brutality, began to oppress the Georgian Mohammedans, forcing about 100,000 of them to emigrate to Turkey, in 1880, when they were received with the greatest courtesy by the Turkish Government and were settled around Broussa. In this way these fine representatives of the Georgian race were separated from their country for the further benefit of Turkey.

The Emperor Alexander III. abolished the viceroyalty in the Caucasus and appointed a Governor-General. In 1886 Batoum ceased to be a free port.

The military operations in the Caucasus had made the entire population a community of warriors, and up to 1874 the Georgian National Army remained intact and at considerable strength. In 1887 conscription was introduced, but it applied only to the Christian population, and relieved the Mohammedans of military duty. In 1900 Prince Golitsin introduced a law forcing the Georgians to do their military service in the remotest parts of the Russian Empire, where they suffered much from the cold climate.

On September 26, 1901, the jubilee of a hundred years' alliance between the kingdom of Georgia and Russia was celebrated in Tiflis, for which purpose the Grand Duke Michael Nicholaivitch arrived in Tiflis, and read the following manifesto of the Emperor Nicholas II.:—

> "On this glorious day of union of the Georgian kingdom with Russia I am filled with the greatest joy in remembering that great event of our history. A hundred years ago the Georgian King Heraklius II. voluntarily placed his kingdom under our protection, uniting it with our Empire with indissoluble ties. From the very beginning the Georgian people and nobility have displayed the greatest loyalty, and, with their bravery, have been instrumental in helping us to fight common enemies. In recognition of their valuable services, I beg to express herewith my Imperial thanks to the Georgian nation and the promise of my special attention and care to this brave nation, which is united with us by common ties of religion."

It was tragic that after violating the Russo-Georgian Treaty of 1783, and depriving the Georgian nation of its rightful position, Tsar Nicholas II. could find nothing to say but a few empty compliments, which were in no way taken as satisfaction of the national aspirations of the Georgians.

It is also worth mentioning that the Romanoff dynasty, especially throughout the nineteenth century, always proclaimed a special desire to act as defender of Orthodox Christian nationalities; yet on May 26, 1811, the independence of the Georgian Church—which had existed since 542 and had been respected by nearly all the Mohammedan invaders—was abolished, at the instigation of General Tormasoff. The Katholicos-Patriarch of Georgia, Antonius II., was invited to Petrograd under the pretext of conferring with the Holy Synod, and was never allowed to return to Georgia. The property of the Georgian Church, to the value of 700,000,000 roubles, was confiscated, and, out of twenty-eight bishoprics, only six were allowed to remain. An Exarch of Georgia was appointed by the Russian Holy Synod, and throughout the nineteenth century the Georgian Church was reduced to a dependency of the Russian Holy Synod.

In spite of unjust treatment the Georgian nation made remarkable progress, especially during the second half of the nineteenth century. Its literature considerably advanced; the number of daily papers and weeklies in 1913 was twenty-four, and the number of books published in the same year on various subjects was about 240 in 460,000 copies. It must be remembered that 75 per cent. of the total population can read and write, and there are many schools and libraries. Eighty-five per cent. of the total population is composed of peasants, whose chief occupation is agriculture (very intensive)—tobacco, wine, cotton, silk-growing, and other forms of high agriculture.

The co-operative movement is very strong in Georgia. There are about 400 co-operative societies, and nearly 70 per cent. of the peasants are members.

During the last eight centuries the nobility of Georgia has devoted its attention chiefly to military matters and

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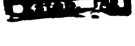
* The first part of this article appeared in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.



WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

the military calling. There were about 5,700 officers in the Russian Army—among them very distinguished generals, like Princes Bagration, Amilakhvari, Tchavachavadze, Orbelliani, Amiradjebi, and others. Prince Imeretinski acted as Governor-General of Poland, and through his wise rule won great respect among the Poles. Incidentally, he was instrumental in obtaining the Emperor's permission to erect a monument to the great Polish poet, Mickevich, in Warsaw. General Kazbek acted as commander of the fortress of Vladivostok, and General Orbelliani was Commander-in-Chief of the Russian troops stationed in Finland.

Among the Georgian Bishops the most celebrated was Bishop Gabriel, whose famous sermons have been translated into English by the Rev. D. Malan, of Oxford. There were also a great many Georgian Professors at various Russian universities—among them the celebrated physiologist, Professor Tarkhanoff; the philologist, Professor D. Tchubinoff, and M. Petrieff, the late Dean of Odessa University. Distinguished Georgians, such as Princes Tchavachavadze and Eristoff were members of the Russian House of Lords. M. Tseretelli, the celebrated Georgian deputy of the Duma, acted as one of the leaders during the present Revolution.

Among the great authorities on Georgia in this country may be mentioned the late Miss Marjorie Wardrop, and Mr. Oliver Wardrop, her brother, who together translated into English the celebrated Georgian poem of the twelfth century, entitled "The Man in the Panther's Skin." They were also instrumental in presenting to the Bodleian Library at Oxford a great number of Georgian books.

The Armenians.

The Armenians, like the Georgians, are an ancient, Christian, civilised race, whose independent kingdom was submerged by the Mohammedan invasion many centuries before the Georgian kingdom's loss of independence. Their real home is in Turkish territory, only a portion of it being situated in the extreme south of Trans-Caucasia. So long as their kingdom remained independent, the Georgians always offered hospitality to the Armenian refugees. The Georgian King Heraklius II. especially encouraged their immigration to Georgian territory. The residence of the Armenian Katholicos-Patriarch was at Etchmiadzin.

Until the first half of the nineteenth century relations between the Georgians and Armenians were very friendly, but after the war between Russia and Turkey great numbers of Armenian refugees penetrated Trans-Caucasia and also settled on Georgian territory, especially in the South, and quite a considerable number of them devoted their attention to commerce. On this and the agrarian question there has been growing animosity between the two nations, which has been sedulously fostered by the extreme party of *Dashnaktsutiun.* Whilst the Armenians had no other place of refuge from Turkey but Trans-Caucasia, the Georgian peasants found their own lands not quite sufficient for them; and this naturally produced great tension. This was the greater because for twenty years some of the Armenian political parties advanced an unjustified claim to the historical territory of Georgia. The Russian Government treated the Armenians in quite a friendly way until the end of the nineteenth century, when Prince Golitsin inaugurated a very harsh policy against them, forcibly depriving them of the property of their Church and closing the Armenian schools. During the viceroyalty of Count Voronstoff Dashkoff the Russian Government protected the Armenians.

The Tartars.

The Tartars who inhabited the Eastern part of Trans-Caucasia throughout the nineteenth century were of a somewhat low standard of civilisation. In 1906 they began to publish their first daily paper, called *Irshad.* At present the number of their dailies and weeklies is about twenty. Up to 1906 they had practically no published books; in 1913 the number of books published on various subjects was seventy-three—126,000 copies.

Baku became a great centre of national wealth of the Tartars, where they owned a very substantial portion of the oilfields; it also became a spiritual centre of pan-Islamic propaganda. They were in very close touch with the Young Turks of Constantinople, considerably assisted the revolution in Persia, and played a very prominent part in the general organisation of all Mohammedan races inhabiting the former Russian Empire. As a great many Armenians in Trans-Caucasia are mixed up with the Tartars, very considerable tension has been produced between the latter and the Armenians. This was cleverly utilised by Prince Golitsin, and was followed by the Armenian-Tartar massacres of 1904 and 1905.

In the religious sphere the Tartars enjoyed complete immunity from the Russian Government, and, what was more, up to the end of 1916 they were not called up for military service.

The Russian rule of the Caucasus, and especially of Trans-Caucasia, from 1903 up to the Revolution, was very greatly influenced by the policy of Count Voronstoff, who tried to protect one of the nationalities of Trans-Caucasia in preference to others. But the Revolution of 1905 and the Tartar-Armenian massacres placed him in such a difficult position that he had to present a confidential memorandum to the Emperor, explaining that it was impossible to govern big provinces situated so far from the centre of the Empire without some sort of self-government. The result of this memorandum was that his powers were considerably increased, and he was in the position of a little Tsar in the Caucasus. He devoted particular attention to the spread of Russian influence in the northern part of Persia, where his experiments produced such deplorable results for the Persian situation, and particularly for the unity of Persia. He also inaugurated a policy of construction of the Black Sea Coast Railway and of the electric railway along the Georgian military road to increase further the centralised system which has been so fatal for the progress of Russia. Throughout his rule in the Caucasus he was practically controlled by the members of the Caucasian General Staff, from which representatives of the local nationalities were removed.

The general staff referred to was busier with political matters than with military, particularly instigating the Kurds against the Armenians, increasing the number of police in the Caucasus, and, again, removing the local elements from the administration.

The Revolution of 1905 had a very great effect in Trans-Caucasia, where all the nationalities, like the Georgians and Armenians, advanced their claims to self-government. Particularly vital was the agrarian question on account of the very unjust policy of the Russian Government in withdrawing the Georgian peasants from the Black Sea shores and planting there the peasants from the interior of Russia, and giving the best part of the land to the retired Russian generals. It was quite obvious that such a policy must produce animosity, as there was not enough land for the Georgian peasants themselves. There was also a strong demand on behalf of the Georgians, Armenians, and the Tartars for recognition of their languages. Needless to say, the Russian Government turned a deaf ear to all these just demands, and further enhanced its policy of oppression. At the outbreak of the present war all the Caucasian nationalities responded to the call; and the suggestion was made to the Government by the Georgians and Armenians that their reserves should be confined to the defence of the Caucasus from the Turkish side, the more so as the difficult ground of the mountains required a special knowledge which they, as natives, possessed exclusively. But, instead of that, about 300,000 Georgian reserves were despatched to Poland and Galicia.

This policy was changed with the appointment of the Grand Duke Nicholas as the Viceroy of the Caucasus, who started despatching fresh Georgian and Armenian reserves to the Turkish front. The only result of this was a very substantial offensive, which was followed by the occupation of Erzeroum and Trebizond, and the greater part of Turkish Armenia.

Whilst the Grand Duke was actuated by the desire to meet the claims of the nationalities, so far as it was possible under autocracy, General Yudenitch began to pursue a very aggressive policy against the Armenians and Georgians. As soon as Turkish Armenia was occupied, thanks to the active participation of Georgians and Armenians, he issued an order that, in those occupied territories the Armenians and Georgians should not be allowed to settle, and he intended to create a Cossack colony in this district. It is difficult to understand how such a plan coincides with the widely spread policy of the Allies—protection of small nationalities!

In connection with the war it must be mentioned that although the Caucasus possesses deposits and raw material for producing huge quantities of ammunition, the Russian Government has not permitted the construction of a single ammunition factory, and the Caucasian front had to rely upon ammunition being transported from Archangel. There were many other anomalies during the war traceable to the same causes as operated in other parts of Russia, thanks to the autocratic régime. These are known to-day throughout the civilised world, and we do not need to enumerate them.

(To be continued.)

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Eastern Theatre of War. April 9.

Earl Curzon, in replying to a question by the Marquess of Crewe, stated that so far from our forces at Salonika having been increased, it was matter of common knowledge that they had been considerably reduced for the sake of the Western front. The Allied armies there, though operating in a secondary theatre of war, were performing military services of primary importance, desistance from which would have involved the abandonment of Greece, the restoration of King Constantine, and the handing over to the enemy of the most formidable group of naval and submarine bases to be found in the Eastern Mediterranean. Similarly as regards Palestine and Mesopotamia, he need not enter on that occasion into a defence of either of those campaigns. Those who attacked them seemed to forget that we were an Eastern as well as a Western Power, and that the pillars of our Dominions were planted at Cairo no less than in these islands. In those campaigns we had not only taken two capital cities, but we had forced the Turk to withdraw the whole of his fighting forces from Europe, and we had even compelled the Germans to spare not only a German field-marshal but a German unit to assuage by their presence the discomfiture of their Turkish Allies, an entire German battalion having been discovered only during the last few days in occupation of an important position to the east of the Jordan. No British troops had been taken from France for any Eastern theatre of war.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Arabia in the War. April 9.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Sir J. Jardine, said:—I will, with the permission of the House, describe as briefly as possible the course which the operations of the forces of our Ally, the King of the Hejaz, have followed since the declaration of Arabian independence was announced at Mecca in July, 1916. At that time the Turks had in Hejaz an army of 20,000 picked regular troops with a proportional complement of artillery and plentiful supplies of transport, food, and ammunition, besides having a military railway in direct communication with their northern bases. The Arabs who rallied to the standard of liberation were neither organised nor equipped with modern weapons; nevertheless the towns of Mecca, Taif, Jeddah, Yambo, Wedj, Akabah, and Toima were seized at the commencement of the national movement. Consequent upon this, numerous Arabian tribes and a number of officers and men, prisoners of war in our hands, joined voluntarily the army of the King of the Hejaz, and were organised by him into a permanent and disciplined force for the purpose of holding what had been won and extending the area of Arab independence. The result of the efforts of this national army under the leadership of the Shereefs Ali, Abdullah, Faisal, and Zaid is that the Red Sea coast of the Hejaz has been completely cleared of Turks along a distance of 800 miles; the military railway has been continuously interrupted; and severe losses have been inflicted on the material and rolling stock. The city of Medina has been blockaded for the last 12 months. The Shereef Faisal's force has advanced its front from Mecca to north of Tafileh, on the shores of the Dead Sea, a distance of some 800 miles, and General Allenby's recent raid at Amman had the effect of assisting the Arabs to maintain their position. The casualties inflicted on the Turks up to date are very considerable, and it may be safely said that from the declaration of Arab independence up to the present time the Arab forces have occupied, isolated, or accounted for fully 40,000 Turkish troops and over 100 guns. Although engrossed in this difficult military struggle for national liberty the Government of the Hejaz have been able to inaugurate a new era of civil order and justice unknown in the Hejaz since its subjection to Turkish rule. The National Arab Government have, moreover, succeeded in arranging for two consecutive pilgrimages to the Holy Places. On these occasions the pilgrims were, as never before, accorded comfort and medical care, and both pilgrimages were marked by a complete absence of epidemics or any of the usual concomitants of robbery, extortion, and disorder. In Eastern Arabia the Emir of Riadh, Ibn Saud, has proved our unswerving Ally, and has established the independence of the greater part of Nejd. The Emir of Hail is still personally under Turkish domination, but has not been in residence in his capital for a year.

Troops in Mesopotamia.

Mr. Macpherson, replying to a question by Sir J. Jardine about troops stationed at Ramadieh and Hit, on the Euphrates, said:—No sick or wounded are retained at Ramadieh or Hit. They are evacuated by motor ambulance convoy or boat to Dhibban, and thence by ambulance tonga trains to Baghdad, where there is ample hospital accommodation. Medical officers are present with units, field ambulances, and casualty clearing stations, but no nurses, for the reasons given above. Fresh vegetables up to full ration scale have been sent from Baghdad, as the quantity available locally is negligible. While troops are on operations no fruit is issued, but there are ample stocks of dried and tinned fruits in the area.

A Message from Serbia.

The Speaker reported the receipt of a telegram from the Serbian Parliament expressing their admiration of the heroic resistance of the British Army to the onslaughts of the enemy, their sympathy with the spirit of determination and sacrifice of the British nation, and their firm belief in the final victory of the Allied Forces. He added that he would send a suitable acknowledgment.

Roumania Still an Ally.

Mr. Morrell, on behalf of Mr. King, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether Roumania is now an allied or a neutral State, and whether Roumanian nationals in this country enjoy the status and privileges of citizens of a neutral power; whether he could give any information concerning the King of Roumania and the present seat of the Roumanian Government and court; whether the British Minister, recently at Jassy, remains in Roumania; and whether he has telegraphic and other means of communicating with the Foreign Office.

Mr. Balfour in reply, said:—According to the information in my possession, Roumania is still an Allied State, and Roumanian nationals in this country enjoy the status and privileges of citizens of an Allied Power. As far as is known, the King of Roumania and his Court are still at Jassy, which is also at present the seat of his Government. His Majesty's Minister is also there, and in almost daily communication with me by telegraph.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Strangulation of Roumania.

The real significance of the German conditions of peace imposed upon Roumania are well brought out in an article in the *Secolo* of Milan. Dealing first with the circumstances leading up to the signing or initialling of the treaty, the writer says:—

> The resignation of the Averescu Ministry, Mackensen's new "ultimatum" for the immediate resumption of the peace negotiations, and the presentation of a list of the persons who are to be banished are all facts which prove that outside a group of the Germanophile party in Bucharest, which is ready to accept anything, Roumanian politicians and public men generally do not wish to sign the so-called peace which the Central Powers intend to impose on their country. None of them could sign a treaty which would signify the complete subjection of their country to the Central Powers. Marghiloman, the chief of one of the Germanophile groups in Bucharest—the other is led by Peter Carp—would have liked to ascend to power after the signature of the treaty, but nobody was willing to assume the shameful task. So Marghiloman was compelled to assume power before the conclusion of peace.
>
> It is easy to understand this aversion, since Germany's peace conditions are so brutal that even the most ardent Germanophiles were unable to regard them as acceptable. This explains the reservations of Carp in these circumstances. Carp is a fanatical pro-German, but at the same time he is a proud man. Doctrinaire and tenacious, he was ingenuous enough to believe that Germany, in recompense for his devotion, would have been less harsh towards his country. Now he has an opportunity of convincing himself—others knew it long ago—that Gretchen is merely a character in literature, that German sentimentality does not exist, and that Germany has no pity for the vanquished. Not desiring to subscribe to the ruin of his country, Carp stood aside, leaving the road open for Marghiloman.
>
> In Roumania everybody knows that Germany's conditions mean the total servitude of the country to the Central Powers. These conditions are of a double nature—territorial and politico-economic.

After describing the territorial concessions, the article continues:—

> But the German peace conditions are not confined to territorial annexations. They include annexations of a novel kind, hitherto unknown in the history of humanity—namely, economic annexations of a very special character. Roumania will be compelled to sell to the Central Powers the surplus of her national production at prices fixed in advance. She will no longer be able to produce and sell freely to whomsoever she likes; consequently she will not be able to buy wherever she likes. One clause which is really monstrous concerns the oil-bearing region of the country. The whole of this district, which, beginning at the Carpathians, descends deeply into the Roumanian plain, will be declared an extra-territorial region and placed under the control of Hungary. Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey will superintend the refining of petroleum and divide the production between themselves, while Roumania, which has no other form of fuel, will only be entitled to a part of the production.
>
> The freedom of navigation on the Danube will exist no longer for Roumania, except under the strict control of the Central Empires. Driven from the sea, Roumania will not even be free on the Danube. Thus a whole country, with all its wealth and all its inhabitants is declared to be the monopoly of the conquerors.
>
> Judging from the conditions which have so far been made known by the Austro-German Press, there can be no doubt that the definitive treaty will reveal in all its horrors the impossible situation that has been created for Roumania. This treaty will be a model for the strangulation of a people. That Roumania is allowed to have an autonomous Government and a Roumanian administration is a matter of no importance; it does not alter the fact that the enslavement is a reality. As a result of the peace treaty Roumania will cease to exist as an independent country. It will be completely under the domination of the Central Empires. The latter, under the pretext of ensuring the carrying out of the clauses of the treaty, will impose on Roumania organs of control which will act with absolute

authority. Under a disguised form Roumania will become a German protectorate.

Future of the Balkans: Austrian View.

The following extracts from an article in the Austrian *Der Tag* are interesting as throwing light upon Austro-Hungarian hopes and aspirations regarding the future of the Balkans:—

The position with regard to Roumania is this. She has now lost the help of Russian troops and is much too weak to resist the Central Powers alone; so that she has fallen into their hands and must accept the terms of peace dictated by them. First and foremost, her breach of faith must be atoned for by the dethronement of her present royal house, and the reversion of the Crown to another line, which will give Austria and Germany full security for a hold in the future over Roumania's military and political position. Free navigation and traffic on the Danube from Orsova onwards, with the surrender of at least one of the mouths of this river to Austria and Germany, suitable reparation of territory and a corresponding war indemnity, even if this is given in part in material, goods of every kind and in metals, should be demanded. The Dobruja, which, with regard to position as well as population, belongs to Bulgaria, must be restored to her. If the efforts of the Roumanians living in Bessarabia to annex this country to Roumania could be happily furthered by the Central Powers the advantageous result would probably be that Roumania would be grateful for the unexpected enlargement of her territory and the re-union with her compatriots through the action of the Central Powers, and would find it much easier to transfer the crown to a loyal house agreeable to them. Roumania in the hands of one that did not assure complete security to the Central Powers, or was perhaps even secretly hostile would be a standing menace to East Hungary. . .

For the political reorganisation necessary in the Balkans the following is laid down. From Serbia, which with its murderous royal house kindled this awful world conflagration, by the assassination of our Crown Prince, and thereby burdened itself with immeasurable guilt, the full penalty must be exacted. King Peter, with all his criminal, curse-laden house must abdicate, Serbia must cease to be an independent State and must be organically split up. This must also be the case with Montenegro, equally guilty as she is of the origin of the world war; because the continued existence of these two eternal hotbeds of conspiracy would be too great a standing menace to the new political and military developments of the territories on the Danube of Austria and Hungary. Now Austria, as the conqueror, is in a position to get at the root of the evil, and this rare opportunity must not be missed, as any such neglect would otherwise be bitterly atoned for in the future. Serbia east of the Morava, the Lepenec and the Vardar, which is already to a considerable extent inhabited by Bulgarians, must be surrendered to our ally and friend Bulgaria, who can be trusted to possess the determination and strength to enable her gradually to absorb peaceably the Serbian population of this district. On the west of the Morava, Serbia together with Montenegro is to be annexed to Croatia, Bosnia and Dalmatia, with the exception of the southern regions, which are inhabited by Albanians, and therefore to be restored to them again. At present she is to have no parliamentary representation, but is to lie under a strict military rule in which she will have no free hand. This combination would remove once and for all the danger of frontier unrest from the Danube States, and would moreover in the same way bring about some fulfilment of the Great Croatian desire for a union of the Croatian Serb peoples. It would thus fittingly help to reconcile these to their fate as vassals of the Danube States, and this would be of the utmost value for the health and peace of the national relations of the latter. The loyal Croatians, Bosnians and Dalmatians would, therefore, owe these States a special debt of gratitude, and, supported by a Government that knew what it wanted, it would furnish a counter-balance to the somewhat preponderating population of the newly annexed territory.

Finally, with regard to Albania, the Danube States which as we have already mentioned, would avoid wherever possible the approach of distant foreign people, would scarcely tolerate the close society of this country with its particular population, which is neither Croatian nor Serbian, but composed of peoples essentially different from our own. On the other hand a great, strong and dependable Albania would be very useful to us. The parts of Serbia and Montenegro east of the Bulgarian river Morava, the Lepenec and Vardar and south of the Teplitza, the Ibar, the Reschka, Ludska and Moratschka, which are inhabited by Albanians but have been torn from their possession, would have to be annexed to Albania. This would enable her easily to absorb the foreign peoples of this region, and thereby a respectable State owing a debt of gratitude to us could be built up, which could be relied on to offer strong resistance to all foreign lust of occupation.

This independent Albanian State should be subject to a ruler who could be relied on as well disposed towards Austria and Germany and as an adherent of their policy, and certain economic privileges for Austria and Germany, notably in connection with trade with Salonika, should be secured to it. This would be an important factor in the solution of the Salonika problem. Turkey must remain in possession of her present territory in the Balkans together with Constantinople and the Straits.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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I hope British merchants and manufacturers will give careful consideration to Mr. Mawson's remarks in this week's issue as to the nature of the opportunities that await them in the development of Salonika. Those of them who read these columns will be aware that I have never ceased to urge the importance of the Near East markets after the war, not only on account of their commercial promise, but also because only by strenuous business competition on our part will it be possible to limit the "peaceful penetration" of the Central Powers in those important regions. As I have pointed out, various factors will combine to give trade in the Near East a southward trend in the future, and that in its turn will give an immensely enhanced value to Salonika, as in all probability the chief channel of Balkan trade. Needless to say, the possession of branches at that port would place our business houses in a vastly better position for entering the Balkan market as soon as the war ends, and what better time could there be for deciding to open branches there than the present in view of the projected reconstruction of Salonika on lines which will enable it to cope with probable developments.

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That, however, is the long view, and the immediate prospects to which Mr. Mawson directs attention are the openings for British capital in the rebuilding of Salonika and in the development of Macedonia. Both these projects, he points out, offer extensive fields for business enterprise, and it is to be hoped that his statement that the Greek Government will welcome British co-operation will serve to remove any doubts that may exist in the minds of British contractors as to whether it is worth while attempting to participate in the carrying out of the vast plans now under consideration. In this case one thing will probably prove a stepping-stone to another, and British contractors who decide to help in rebuilding Salonika and in developing Macedonia will naturally establish offices of some kind at the port as the most efficacious means of securing and conducting business, and once established there I think we may take it for granted that the field for business enterprise that they will see open to them will induce them to exchange temporary for permanent premises.

⁂

Mr. Mawson's estimate that Salonika will contain a population of half a million within the next twenty years, as against a pre-war population of only some two hundred and twenty thousand, suggests very forcibly the comprehensive character of the replanning of the city. The plans, which were made, he tells us, on the assumption that the whole city had been destroyed—by far the best method if the new city is to be really satisfactory—provide for the extension of the docks, railways, and warehouses, for an electric underground railway connecting the two railway termini, a new water supply, a main drainage system, electric power and light installations, the building of Government offices, etc. These schemes, together with the great housing programme that will be necessary, will give ample openings to British contractors; if only they will bestir themselves to secure the business that is literally waiting to drop into their mouths.

⁂

One effect of the reconstruction of Salonika, Mr. Mawson thinks, will be to make the port a manufacturing centre. This outcome seems very probable, since, as he points out, the rebuilding of the city will create an immense demand for certain materials and commodities which can readily be manufactured there. And it is only to be expected that this increase in the city's activities will be followed by developments in many other directions. In this connection Mr. Mawson mentions a few financial opportunities, such as insurance, the erection of large stores, and the establishment of factories for the export of the country's produce. In all these directions there are openings for British capital and British enterprise, and our business men will be sadly at fault if they neglect this unsurpassed chance of getting a footing in what may truly be called the gateway of the Balkans. I shall not comment on the present occasion on Mr. Mawson's remarks apropos of the development of the hinterland except to say that British firms established at Salonika will be in the most advantageous position to take advantage of the openings that will present themselves there and in the Near East generally.

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With the expenditure at £19,176,560, and the revenue at £19,244,000, the Bulgarian Budget estimate for 1918 shows a substantial advance on that for the previous year, when the totals under both headings were £17,519,134. Since 1914 the increase has been both continuous and rapid, as will be gathered from the modest Budget estimate of that year of £10,270,504 for expenditure and £10,279,800 for revenue; and the fact that the war has so far been responsible for an increase in the estimate of just under 100 per cent. must be making the Bulgarians wonder whether war is worth while after all, especially as the territories they have temporarily occupied only figure on the expenditure side of the estimate.

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The Indian Trade Commissioner, Mr. D. T. Chadwick, who is now duly established at 60, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, after some little delay owing to the many calls on the Office of Works at the present time, will have a great opportunity before him in the years immediately ahead of us, as it is quite certain that trade relations between India and this country ought to be greatly increased after the war. India's expected development will naturally mean that she will require larger overseas markets, and it is obviously a matter of Imperial concern that she should find the necessary trade openings as much as possible within the Empire. Her direct representation in the City by Mr. Chadwick, who will be responsible to the Department of Commerce and Industry at Delhi, should prove a most useful step to that end, just as the concurrent appointment in Calcutta of a British Trade Commissioner, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, is expected to promote the trade of the United Kingdom in India. Emphatically this is a case of organisation in time, and as a result there should be a rapid expansion in the exchange of commodities between the two countries as soon as trade conditions become normal.

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Some frank comments on Turkish finances are made in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, which says that the loan recently arranged in Berlin by Javid Bey was absolutely necessary to keep Turkey going, thanks to the protracted disorganisation of the whole economic machinery of the country. The writer goes on to say that there is at present a complete want of connection between Turkey's economic situation and its finances, and that the country is practically bankrupt. Even more interesting is the statement that "there is a marked antagonism to the German influence in business—an antagonism that makes it certain that Germany may in the future be a guest in the Turkish house, but never its master," which fully confirms my recent remarks on the subject of the changed attitude of Turkish business men towards Germany.

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An illuminating instance of the unnecessary extent to which the Empire was dependent on external sources for its supplies before the war is to be found in the case of the sugar industry. In 1913-14 the world's sugar production amounted to 18,731,000 tons, of which we were responsible for 3,281,000 tons. Of this meagre total India contributed 2,291,000 tons, and Egypt 69,000 tons, while the balance came principally from Australia, 255,000, and Mauritius, 250,000 tons. India, despite her comparatively large production, was not able to meet her own requirements, and in the year under review imported 100,000 tons from the enemy, besides taking large consignments from Java and Mauritius, while Egypt, previously an exporting country, also consumed its own crop

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The position of India and Egypt deserves special attention because both countries are admirably situated for the production of sugar on a vast scale, provided suitable encouragement is given to the industry. It was precisely because this was not done before the war that little progress was made in either country. As regards India, the duty on imported sugar of 10s. a ton was quite inadequate, and apart from that there was little or no encouragement for increased production owing to the competition of the State-

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aided industry of the enemy countries. During the war a considerable advance has been made, notably in Egypt, where sugar production has been immensely increased; but if this tendency is to continue in the future there would seem to be nothing for it but a system of bounties or some similar encouragement until the Empire has reached the ideal stage of producing all the sugar necessary for its requirements.

⁂

Presiding at the general meeting of the National Bank of India this week, Mr. Robert Williamson, the deputy chairman, said that the results of the year's working had been much better than were anticipated, though the difficulties referred to at the previous meeting still existed, and had increased. "They may be summed up," he said, "in a few words—short supply of tonnage, the high price of silver and scarcity of rupees, an insufficient supply of India Council bills, making it difficult for the banks to return to the East money brought home from there." It is naturally impossible to say what will be the effect of the continued incidence of these factors, but it is possible that the prosperity of local enterprises and undertakings in India to which Mr. Williamson pointedly referred may again prove a counterbalancing factor of considerable importance.

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Reference was also made to the satisfactory conditions in India by Sir Montagu Turner at the general meeting of the Chartered Bank. "As regards our business in India," he said, "it is satisfactory to note that the crop reports up to date are most satisfactory. The area under cultivation in the Punjab has increased; rain, which was needed, has fallen, and at present we may look forward to bumper crops. India as a whole is in a state of great prosperity. Her industries are thriving and her revenues are increasing." Needless to say, the operations of the Chartered Bank were conducted during the year under very difficult conditions, and in this connection Sir Montagu's statement should be noted that the chief aim and object of the bank "has been, in co-operation with other exchange banks, to finance, to the utmost of our resources, shipments of national importance from Eastern ports to this country." This drain on their resources, he pointed out, had not enabled them at all times to satisfy the full requirements of their friends and customers in the ordinary course of business. "All engaged in business," he added—"exporters, importers and dealers—have much to contend with, but we can only look forward to the time when war has ceased and trade has resumed its normal course. I might also refer to the scarcity of tonnage, which restricts operations and is felt at all points alike. That, unfortunately, is a difficulty which is likely to increase rather than to diminish in the next few months."

COMMENTATOR.

The Bondholders' Report.

Greek and Turkish Finances.

The Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders has just issued its forty-fourth annual report, for the year 1917, in which, as might have been expected, Greek and Turkish finances come in for considerable attention. Very little fresh light is thrown on Turkey's financial position in the report, while as regards Greece, the chief interest lies in the statement regarding an anticipated larger distribution for interest and amortisation in 1918. We give below some extracts from the report.

Greece.

The gross receipts from the Monopolies and the Piræus Customs, assigned to the bondholders in the arrangement of 1898, amounted to 60,056,960 dr. in 1916, against 58,231,475 dr. in 1915 and 63,087,551 dr. in 1914.

The net amount available in 1916 for increase of interest and amortisation, including balances from the previous year and interest saved on bonds redeemed, was 8,414,735 fcs., against 8,680,282 fcs. in 1915. Out of this sum the distribution in 1917 by way of increased interest, which was estimated in the council's last report at 24 per cent. of the original interest for the first two and 22 per cent. for the third groups, actually amounted to 22 per cent. for each of the three groups. As regards sinking fund, the actual distributions to the three groups agreed with the estimates—viz., 14, 14, and 16 per cent. respectively. It is anticipated that the distribution in 1918 by way of increased interest will be 22 per cent. to Group I. and 24 per cent. to Groups II. and III., and, by way of increased sinking fund, 14 per cent. to Group I. and 12 per cent. to Groups II. and III.

Turkey.

No report of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration has come to hand since that for the year 1914-15, summarised in the council's last annual report.

No reliable information is obtainable as to the receipts of the debt administration during the fiscal years 1916 and 1917. In foreign publications, however, the receipts for the first five months of these years were stated to have been £T2,173,145 and £T3,416,455 respectively, but it is not clear whether these figures include revenues other than those ceded to the bondholders, as in 1913-14, which was the record year, the receipts from the ceded revenues amounted to £T2,222,552 during the corresponding five months.

The following information with regard to the financial position of Turkey is based upon statements made early in 1917 by the Minister of Finance.

As regards debts contracted during the war, Turkey had borrowed about £T137,000,000 from Germany and about £T8,000,000 from Austria, while £T35,000,000 was due for internal requisitions, and for arrears of pay and of debt service, etc. In this way the debt, which before the war amounted to about £T150,000,000, would be increased to about £T330,000,000 by the end of the third year of the war. This was exclusive of a further £T50,000,000 promised by Germany, represented by German Treasury bills to be deposited with the Debt Council as security for a corresponding issue of paper money by Turkey. As regards this paper money, there had already been five similar issues amounting to £T85,000,000, covered partly by German Treasury bills and by deposits of gold in Germany and Austria of £T5,660,000. In consequence of these issues the value of paper money had tended to depreciate, and early in 1917 the Turkish gold pound was worth three, and in Aleppo, Baghdad, and other places, four and even five paper pounds, while of the £T50,000,000 of metallic currency, which ought to have been in circulation, there was no trace. Arrangements had, however, been made for maintaining the value of the paper, the Turkish Government having entered into an agreement with Germany by which it was provided that after the termination of the war the Turkish pound would be accepted by Germany as the equivalent of 18.50 marks.

As to revenue and expenditure, in the financial year ended February 28, 1917, the former had amounted to £T21,000,000, and the latter was estimated at £T83,000,000, showing a deficit of £T62,000,000, exclusive of interest on the loans contracted during the war, which is suspended during the duration of the latter. The Budget for 1917-18, submitted to Parliament in March, 1917, estimated the revenue at £T23,000,000 and expenditure at £T46,000,000. This latter figure had, however, been increased by the Chamber to £T53,000,000, making a deficit of about £T30,000,000, which the Government were authorised to meet by Treasury bonds, loans, issues of paper money, etc., and it was estimated that another thirty to forty millions would have to be added if the war lasted until September, 1918.

The service of the existing public debt would require £T21,000,000, as compared with £T9,000,000 before the war, and in order to meet it supplementary sources of revenue would have to be found. It was suggested that taxes on war profits might bring in a considerable increase of revenue, but the Minister admitted that such taxes would be difficult to apply.

The Minister added that Germany would ultimately be repaid her advances if she gave Turkey time, and he is also stated to have remarked that "neither the formidable total of the public debt nor the frightful figures of the Budget are calculated to inspire calm and serenity."

The Council desire to point out that, although some of the issues of paper money above mentioned are stated to be guaranteed by German Treasury bonds for an equivalent amount deposited in Germany in the name of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, the responsibility for their redemption in no way rests upon the latter, but upon the German Government. The debt council's signature merely testifies to the deposit of securities, and does not carry with it any obligation as regards the redemption of the said issues.

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SCIENCE AND COTTON.

Characteristics of Plants.

Dr. Lawrence Balls gave an interesting lecture on April 10, before the Royal Society of Arts, on "Some Instances of Applied Science in the Cotton Trade," in the course of which he said that the greater precision brought into the study of heredity by the rediscovery of Mendel's Law led to a class of work which was first exploited by Professor Johannsen of Copenhagen, known as pure line studies, or pure strain studies. Johannsen worked with beans, and showed that from cultures of bean plants, which were considered uniform from a horticultural standpoint, it was possible to isolate many separate kinds which differed, for instance, with regard to the average size of the seed they produced. When the author began his researches into the course of heredity in cotton in 1905, they had very little previous knowledge to guide them. A general conviction existed that the yield of the Egyptian cotton crop was deteriorating, and there was an impression (which they now knew to be erroneous) that this deterioration would be dealt with primarily by appropriate breeding of new kinds of cotton. They began by taking natural seed from single plants of the 1904 crop, and raising small families from these in 1905. Using methods suggested by analogy with previous experimental work, the detailed examination of these families showed in the course of 1905 that the commercially-grown seed with which they had started was very far indeed from being the seed of "pure lines" in Johannsen's sense.

In the first place, even though they were not able to examine more than a limited number of the characteristics of the plants, and although the families they raised were quite small, it was most unusual to find a family in which all the plants resembled one another. Now, the fact that a group of plants derived from a common parent was not constitutionally uniform, indicated that the parent plant must have been a hybrid, and this great abundance of hybrids thus detected in those plants of 1904, which they had taken at random to begin with, indicated that an appreciable amount of inter-crossing must be taking place between flower and flower under the conditions of the ordinary Egyptian field crop of cotton. Further, even with this rough material from which they started, they were able to show in 1905 that certain plants on their plot had undoubtedly originated through cross-pollination in the previous year, and not earlier. This work was extended to provide a numerical determination of the chance of crossing as compared with the chance of self-fertilisation, which chance was found to be approximately one in ten.

In this early stage of the researches it seemed (as indeed it was) much more useful to attempt to trace the working of Mendel's Law by study of these natural hybrids, or, better still, by the deliberate making of hybrids for experimental purposes, than merely to isolate pure lines. Further, their experimental work was directed primarily to the study of crosses between American upland cottons and Egyptian—practically an inter-species cross—rather than to inter-Egyptian crosses. The attempt was an ambitious one, and was only made possible by the enlightened attitude of the Khedivial Agricultural Society, and its then president, the late Sultan of Egypt. At the same time it was well worth the trouble, for in many cases they traced definite simple rules of inheritance on Mendelian lines through most complex phenomena, and in even more cases they found most complex inheritance in cases which, on the face of them, appeared to have been quite simple.

Introduction of New Cotton.

At the end of 1912 came an insistent official demand from the Agricultural Department, to which they had been transferred, for a new cotton to replace the deteriorated brown Egyptian or Afifi. One thing at least was perfectly obvious, in the light of their seven years' experience, namely, that it was the easiest thing in the world to introduce a new cotton. Alternatively, one of the most difficult things in the world was to predict what the agricultural behaviour of plants in bulk would be, from the behaviour of a few parent plants grown on a breeding-plot. Lastly, it was self-evident to them that to introduce a new variety of cotton in an impure state (however slight the percentage of impurity), or even allow it to become contaminated by natural crossing (much less by seed mixture), during its propagation from the breeding-plot to field cultivation, was simply to condemn one's work to the same failure which had sooner or later resulted with every other variety of cotton which had ever been developed in Egypt or anywhere else in the world. This meant, in practice, that a system of continual seed renewal was inevitable.

In developing this system, they had first to consider what cottons should be propagated as most nearly meeting the official demand. Obviously, the prime essential was that the strain should be a pure one; further, it was undesirable to introduce the use of any but Egyptian stocks. All strains brought from their deliberate hybrids of American or even Egyptian cottons were therefore ruled out, and they restricted their work to strains which had been obtained simply by choosing individual plants of commercial Egyptian varieties. These plants and their descendants had been self-fertilised for a number of generations, ranging from seven to two, and all their various characteristics measured, registered, and studied until such of them as had been original hybrids had been split down to purity.

Without entering into details, they might note that most of the transference of pollen from flower to flower in Egypt was effected by bees; if bees could be kept away, foreign pollen was also kept away, and so for the first stage they sowed the protected seed from single pure-strain plants in cages. For the following year (1913) the seed from these cages, again spaced at wide intervals so as to obtain the largest possible production of seed per plant, covered areas of 20 acres or so, and obviously could no longer be protected by gauze, so they endeavoured to deceive the bees by surrounding such areas with a belt of plants some seven to ten rows deep.

Such was, in outline, the system they devised, and this was to have been combined with a system of seed distribution year by year, so as to provide for continual and perpetual renewal of the seed of all Egypt year by year as a matter of pure routine from the handfuls of various suitable strains, maintained pure with all laboratory precautions at the Central Seed Station at Giza; the inevitable deterioration of a variety of cotton exposed to contamination in the field would thus be counteracted by continuous renewal year by year from the pure stock. With the departure of Mr. Holton, and then of the author, from Egypt at the end of 1913, this work was practically put in abeyance.

Length of Staple.

One of their most pressing needs at the present time was the provision of a language common to both the spinners and the growers of cotton, such that the grower could be informed exactly what kind of cotton the spinner requires. This language could only be synthesised by scientific study of the properties of yarn in relation to the hairs of which it was composed. It would have been gathered that the ordinary commercial crop of cotton was an impure culture, which, from the genetic standpoint, was so far from being a pure strain in Johannsen's sense that it approached rather to an analogy with humanity; for although each individual plant was not unique in constitution, yet there were innumerable differences existing within a single field. Amongst these differences were those relating to the length of the lint, over and above such modifications of lint-length as might be caused by environment. Further, these genetic differences took two forms: first, there were differences in what they might call the mean maximum length of the lint produced on any one seed, and, secondly, there were differences in the degree of variation in lint-length on different parts of the same seed. Consequently, in respect of the latter, a single plant (or equally a pure-strain population of plants) might produce most irregular lint, the hairs from one end of each seed being very much shorter than those from the other end, while every graduation was found between these extremes. On the other hand, suitably chosen pure strains were capable of making lint not only more regular in staple than were their present cottons, but might conceivably produce a greater degree of natural regularity than machinery could enforce.

In the ordinary way, the length was determined by examination of the lint cotton from which the seed had been removed in the process of ginning. The expert grader pulled a tuft of hairs from this lint in a particular manner, usually laid the tuft on his coat sleeve, and then assessed, with or without a measuring scale, the length of the tuft: in this case the length measured was the length of the majority of the longer hairs. Various methods had been tried in order to bring greater precision into these definitions. In 1863, Mr. C. O'Neill measured a few dozen cotton hairs one by one, and published the data obtained, which had been frequently quoted. Other similar sets of determinations had since been made, but the difficulty inherent in all these methods was that of sampling; it was extraordinarily hard to ensure that the hairs removed for measurement were free from even a moderately high "sampling error."

There was an alternative way of measuring length of staple, which practically disregarded the waste component, and being effected upon the seed-cotton was therefore useless to the users of the ginned lint. It began with the practice in America of combing out the lint hairs on either side of the seed in the form of two wings, and measuring the length of these two wings. When the author began his study of cotton, it seemed self-evident that this was a bad way of doing a good thing, for if the hairs were combed differently, so that they formed a halo round the seed with each hair lying approximately along a radius of the halo, and with the longitudinal axis of the seed lying in the plane of the halo, then the cotton which produced a circular halo with the seed in the centre was obviously more uniform than that which gave an eccentric halo, so that the method provided some indication of regularity of staple.

Apart from this, however, and confining their attention to the mean maximum width of the halo, commonly attained at the butt of the seed, it was found that this could be measured to within a millimetre, and, as data accumulated, they found further that by so doing they had obtained an unexpectedly precise method of lint measurement.

An Important Invention.

The limitation to the method was its inapplicability to ginned lint, and hence to all consumers' problems, while a further limitation resided in the fact that it gave a numerical statement of the mean maximum length only, and not of the frequency distribution of short hairs in the sample. This latter could only be assessed conveniently by eye-judgment. Consequently, some method was most obviously needed which would handle ginned lint; would handle it in sufficient quantity to blot out the sampling error; would determine, not only the mean maximum length, but also the distribution of lengths of all kinds; and, equally important, would do all these operations quickly. This method was now available through the invention of a comparatively simple mechanical arrangement which could be worked up to various degrees of operative complexity for the sake of making the mechanism automatic; a provisional patent had been obtained, and one form of it was able to be shown by the lecturer by the courtesy of his directors in the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association.

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COTTON SEED UTILISATION.

Value of Cotton Seed Flour.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In the article entitled "Cotton Seed Utilisation," appearing in your current issue, you draw attention to the distinction between the British and the American systems of milling cotton seed in the production of oil and cake, and you point out the difference, not only in the number but in the commercial value of the products obtained from the seed by the American method as compared with the British method.

All that you say is perfectly true, but it occurs to me that those of your readers who are not conversant with the history of cotton seed oil milling on both sides of the Atlantic may be left under the impression that the British seed crusher has persisted in his method in a spirit of pure conservatism, and has deliberately refused to march with the times. Such is by no means the case, but to go into explanations would be impossible in a letter. From a careful study of the conditions of the cotton seed oil industry, both in the United States and in Europe, for the last ten years, I may say that the seemingly irrational British method is the result of necessity rather than choice. The British seed crusher is by no means insensible to the superior character of the products obtained by decorticating cotton seed.

The changes in the conditions of the seed crushing industry brought about by the war have been so rapid and so remarkable that it has been difficult to keep pace with them. As has proved to be the case in many other industries, all precedents have been modified, and some have had to go by the board. Let us hope that it will prove to be the case also with a number of our time-honoured prejudices, and that they will perforce take to themselves wings and fly away.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable effects of "war-time emergencies" upon the cotton seed oil industry has been to bring into well-deserved prominence the value of cotton seed flour as a diluent for wheat, and indeed as a substitute for meat. This product is obtained by milling the residue of the kernels of the cotton seed (which, as you correctly described, are first of all separated, by the American method, from the containing envelope or shell of the cotton seed) after the oil has been squeezed out. The value of properly prepared cotton seed flour as a foodstuff for human beings has been well known in the United States for the past twenty or thirty years. It was first prepared by Col. J. W. Allison (one of the pioneers of the cotton seed oil industry in the United States) as early as the year 1876. This flour contains nearly five times as much protein as wheat flour. It is practically starch-free, whereas wheat flour contains a high percentage of starch, and it has from 7 per cent. to 10 per cent. of fat, as against 1½ per cent. to 2 per cent. of fat in wheat flour. These figures show that cotton seed flour should not properly be described as a *substitute* for wheat flour. It is, indeed, *sui generis* a foodstuff. and the fact that it is rich in the constituents in which wheat flour is poor, and *vice versâ*, places us in a position materially to reduce the proportion of wheat flour in our bread; to use a suitable quantity of potato flour, and yet, by the admixture of a comparatively small percentage of cotton seed flour, to maintain the protein and fat content of our loaf at the same figure as that shown in the all-wheat loaf.

In a paper entitled "Some Cotton Seed Products in their Relation to Present-day Needs," which I recently read before the Society of Chemical Industry (London Section), and to which you were good enough to refer in a recent issue of your journal, I dwelt in some detail upon this subject, and showed that a mixture of 5 per cent. cotton seed flour, 10 per cent. potato flour, and 85 per cent. wheat flour (percentages calculated on solids only) would—assuming a moisture-content in the bread of 35 per cent.—yield a loaf containing a little more protein and a little more fat than the average wheat loaf of pre-war days. I exhibited samples of loaves and rolls made from this formula, and also from a mixture containing 25 per cent. of cotton seed flour (6 per cent. potato flour and 69 per cent. wheat flour), which were baked by a London baker, with cotton seed flour obtained from the United States. The opinions expressed by members who tasted these samples of bread (the opportunity so to do was taken to the full extent of the samples exhibited) was that the bread was very palatable—in fact, it was said to resemble in appearance and texture a well-known proprietary bread.

Now, it is worth pointing out that the average wheat consumption in Great Britain for a period of years immediately preceding the war was something like 7,000,000 tons, of which the home crop afforded but 1-5th, so that we have been importing about 5,500,000 tons of wheat per annum. Were we in a position to use 5 per cent. of cotton seed flour and 10 per cent. potato flour, mixed with our wheat flour, we should be able to reduce our wheat imports by something over one million tons per annum.

Cotton seed flour fit for human consumption can only be obtained from properly decorticated cotton seed. Properly to decorticate cotton seed involves (in the only successful decorticating process known to-day) the presence of a considerable quantity of short cotton fibre or "fuzz" on the shell of the seed; such as is found in the woolly or upland varieties, as distinguished from the bald varieties of cotton seed. In order to mill this cotton seed to the best advantage, commercially and industrially, the short lint must be removed in three grades, as you have pointed out, therefore the production of cotton seed flour involves the whole question of "decorticating versus crushing whole," and it would appear that this subject is now engaging the attention of those chiefly concerned.

Since reading my paper I have received advices from the United States which indicate that the attitude of mind of the general public in that country in regard to the value and importance of cotton seed flour has undergone a rapid and significant change. In a leading article in the March issue of the *Cotton Oil Press* it is stated that "the public is not only ready for cotton seed flour, but the demand is already far ahead of the supply, and is increasing rapidly." The mill which hitherto was the only one that made a speciality of the manufacture of this flour is now being enlarged, and another factory started work during the month of February.

In view of the fact that the question of manufacturing cotton seed flour in this country may be raised before long, it is not only relevant, but important, to point out that in so vitally important a matter as a modification of a staple article of diet like bread, it is of correspondingly vital importance that certain standards should be laid down, and their observance insisted upon.

It is by no means sufficient merely to grind cotton seed cake to a very fine powder in order to produce a flour fit for human food. Such a matter as the preparation of a diluent for wheat should be most carefully supervised by competent authorities, and the observance of the proper precautionary measures in the milling of the cotton seed meal, necessary to ensure the production of a flour fit for human consumption, should be rigidly enforced by law.

Mr. John A. Todd (the well-known authority on cotton economics), in his work, "The World's Cotton Crops," gives facts and figures relating to the cotton situation in India, from which it may be concluded that that country offers the best prospect of a speedy increase in the supply of cotton, of which the world is now so sorely in need. He writes:—

> As a cotton-growing country, India has many great advantages. In spite of her enormous area, she is fairly well supplied with means of communication, especially by rail. Her population is enormous, with a density per acre in certain parts which is unequalled in any agricultural country in the world. Most of the native races are born agriculturists, and, although their standard of living has in the past been very low, they are quick to recognise the possibility of improving it, as cotton-growing enables them to do.

Your readers in India should thus be particularly interested in the present cotton situation. The ravages of the pink boll worm are seriously imperilling the Egyptian crop, and, so far, all attempts to get rid of this pest have proved unsuccessful. A great opportunity now offers for India largely to increase her importance as a contributor to the world's supply of cotton. It is well known that by careful selection and grading of the seed used for planting, the length of the staple produced in India could rapidly be increased, and in the interests not only of India herself, but of the British Empire generally, the authorities concerned would do well to act upon the recommendations expressed by such eminent experts as Mr. Todd. Dr. Lawrence Balls, and others who have made a life study of cotton economics.—Yours very truly,

E. C. DE SEGUNDO.

Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C.,
April 9.

According to the Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post*, the official Bulletin of crops shows that, generally speaking, the wheat is of good quality. In Lower Egypt the crops are slightly below the normal on account of the variable weather. The harvesting of barley has already commenced.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Uncertain Position.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The man-power proposals of the Government have had a disturbing effect upon trade in the market this week, and in most quarters there has been less initiative than for some time back. The uncertainty as to the position of affairs from a business point of view in the near future has increased. Producers have been slow to commit themselves to deliveries later on, and buyers have been nervous as to placing orders of weight. It is recognised that the extension of the military age will mean further injury to our export trade. News relating to the Egyptian cotton situation has been rather scanty, but the demand continues healthy. Rather more offers have been mentioned from Alexandria. Egyptian yarns have again advanced in price, and steady buying has occurred from day to day. Spinners as a body are more independent than ever. Without there being any general flow of business in piece goods for Egypt a fair amount of inquiry has been about. Much difficulty has been experienced, however, in arranging terms of fresh contracts. India has given rather increased support in light fabrics such as dhooties and jaconets. Occasional lines have been put through for China in well-known makes of grey shirtings. A little more activity has been reported for Java. The home trade continues to do well. There continues a famine of supplies of American yarns, and small lots for quick delivery have been sought after. Prices have again hardened. Rather irregular operations have occurred in shipping bundles.

Cotton Spinning Profits.

The cotton spinning trade of Lancashire at the present time is enjoying considerable prosperity, and it is estimated by leading authorities that never before in the history of the industry have spinners made more money than at the moment. Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of nineteen large concerns whose figures have been published since the beginning of this year. Six companies for three months' trading have reported a total profit of £28,920, whilst thirteen companies for the past six months have made £95,287. The share capital of these concerns amounts to £669,991, with loans of £273,197. After allowing for depreciation and interest on loans the profit on share capital works out at over 45 per cent. per annum, whilst on share and loan capital combined there is a gain of over 32 per cent. per annum. These figures are extraordinary, and it is expected that the June stock-taking results will also be very encouraging. A decided rise has occurred during the last few months in the prices of shares.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Machinery for Mesopotamia.

The great possibilities of Mesopotamia and Palestine as fields for the disposal of suitable agricultural machinery have often been pointed out in these notes. It is, therefore, satisfactory to hear that several British firms who specialise in the Eastern markets are already paying considerable attention to these fields, with a view to supplying them with suitable implements and machinery. In Mesopotamia, where irrigation is the main problem, a Directorate of Irrigation has been established in addition to a Directorate of Local Resources. Small irrigating pumps, driven by steam or oil, are being used on the banks of the Tigris, and encouraging progress has been made in the development of the country. It is anticipated that the yield this year will be 25,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of barley, in addition to fair crops of other grains. Tractors, threshing machines, and hand implements of several kinds have been sent from India and Australia as well as from this country. There is no doubt that when the country becomes more settled, there will be wonderful opportunities for those who pay careful attention to the special requirements of this comparatively virgin field.

Openings in Palestine.

In Palestine, according to a recent Reuter message from Jerusalem, although the British occupation only dates back a few months, local conditions have undergone a vital change and everywhere there is evidence of reviving industry and prosperity. What has contributed more than anything else to immediate relief has been the employment of thousands of natives upon the repair of roads. Everybody realises that a new era has dawned for the land. The Bedouin can graze their flocks in peace and security, husbandmen can till the soil with the knowledge that they will not be robbed of the fruit of their labour. The railway to Egypt will ensure them the easy disposal of their surplus yield and the means of satisfying their wants as regards imports from abroad. With these facts in view, British manufacturers ought to lose no time in taking advantage of business opportunities in that region, not forgetting that friendly foreign competitors are already in the field.

A Hand Plough.

With the cultivation of small plots of land or allotments for the production of food, in accordance with the Cultivation of Lands Order, a small and useful implement has been brought out which is apparently giving satisfactory results. It is a small hand-plough which, undoubtedly, will be of much interest to any smallholder or gardener in the East. This little plough weighs only 20 lb., and can be worked by one or two men, according to the texture of the soil, and will do the work four times as quickly as a spade. The only part liable to wear or breakage is the share, which can be replaced for 1s. The implement can be converted into a cultivator or a ridger in a few minutes, and the plough, with its full set of attachments, is only 70s. As an ordinary single-breasted plough the price is merely 40s. The handles fold up over the breast when the implement is not in use, so that it takes up very little storage space. It appears that inquiries concerning this plough are already being received from India and some parts of the Near East. The outlook, therefore, for its adoption and extensive use in the East appears to be as promising as it has been in this country.

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The Cairo correspondent of the *Times* reports that the Egyptian Supplies Control Board has fixed maximum prices for the new crop of wheat for each stage of production, both those to be paid to producers and those to be paid by consumers. The prices are approximately double those before the war.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT.

(Presented at the Sixty-fourth Ordinary General Meeting, 10th April, 1918.)

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £560,261 3s. 3d., inclusive of £157,465 10s. 2d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £84,000. The amount now available is therefore £476,261 3s. 3d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of One Pound per share, making Nineteen per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of Income-tax; to add £100,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £2,000,000; to add £25,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account £40,000, and to carry forward the balance of £167,261 3s. 3d.

A Resolution will be proposed that the fees of the Directors be increased to £10,000 per annum. The amount was fixed at £6,000 in 1906, and the business of the Bank has been very greatly increased since that date.

The Directors have to announce with regret the retirement of their esteemed colleague Sir Henry Stewart Cunningham, K.C.I.E., who for 2 years rendered valued service to the Bank as a member of the Board.

Sir Duncan Carmichael, of Messrs. Gray, Dawes, and Co., London, has been elected a Director, and the Shareholders are now invited to confirm his election.

The Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I., and Mr. William Foot Mitchell, the Directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. David Charles Wilson, F.C.A., and Mr. Henry Croughton Knight Stileman, F.C.A., again tender their services.

The Dividend and Bonus will be payable on and after Wednesday, the 17th April.

By Order of the Board,
A. S. HEWETT, Secretary.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st December, 1917.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital, 60,000 Shares of £20 each, paid up				£1,200,000	0	0
,, Reserve Fund				1,900,000	0	0
,, Notes in Circulation				925,991	16	1
,, Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies				19,349,345	14	8
,, Fixed Deposits				8,692,803	3	11
,, Bills Payable—						
Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches	£552,811	1	11			
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers against Security, per Contra	30,549	14	9			
				583,360	16	8
,, Acceptances on Account of Customers				1,255,976	4	3
,, Loans Payable, against Security, per Contra				532,500	0	0
,, Due to Agents and Correspondents				31,292	3	7
,, Sundry Liabilities, including Rebates and Exchange Adjustments				1,178,901	9	8
,, Profit and Loss				476,261	3	3
Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted. £6,150,453 14s. 4d., of which £5,518,488 12s. 10d. has run off at 25th March, 1918.						
Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, etc., £12,356,483 2s. 11d.						
				£36,126,432	12	1

Cr.

	£	s.	d.
By Cash in hand and at Bankers	£8,694,145	6	11
,, Bullion on Hand and in Transit	45,228	17	11
,, Government and other Securities	3,325,977	6	10
,, Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits	1,014,000	0	0
,, Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills	4,337,903	5	1
,, Bills Discounted and Loans	10,143,108	10	1
,, Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra	1,255,976	4	3
,, Due by Agents and Correspondents	221,146	1	11
,, Sundry Assets	125,493	13	2
,, Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches	516,959	19	1
,, Balance of Head Office and Inter-Branch Remittances, Drafts, etc., in transit	6,446,493	6	10
	£36,126,432	12	1

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1917.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Interim Dividend at 30th June, 1917				£84,000	0	0
,, Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—						
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date	£84,000	0	0			
Bonus of £1 per share	60,000	0	0			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund	25,000	0	0			
Bank Premises	40,000	0	0			
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account	167,261	3	3			
				476,261	3	3
				£560,261	3	3

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance at 31st December, 1916				£427,465	10	2
Less Dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1916	£84,000	0	0			
Bonus of 12s. per share	36,000	0	0			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0			
Officers' Superannuation Fund	20,000	0	0			
Bank Premises	30,000	0	0			
				270,000	0	0
				157,465	10	2
,, Gross Profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, Excess Profits Duty, and Bonus to the Staff	923,040	7	2			
Less:— Expenses of Management and General Charges at Head Office and Branches	520,244	14	1			
				402,795	13	1
				£560,261	3	3

T. H. WHITEHEAD, W. E. PRESTON, } Managers.
CHAS. R. HYDE, S. JONES, } Accountants.
London, 27th March, 1918.

T. CUTHBERTSON, W. FOOT MITCHELL, L. A. WALLACE, } Directors.

Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers, and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches, subject to there being no direct verification of certain Continental Balances which under present conditions cannot be obtained, and to the remark that full details and confirmation of the Inter-Branch transactions in transit at 31st December, 1917, have not yet come to hand.

D. C. WILSON, H. C. K. STILEMAN, } Auditors.

COMPANY MEETING.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

Increased Profits.

The sixty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China was held on April 10 on the bank's premises at 38, Bishopsgate, E.C., Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (the Chairman) presiding. Mr. T. H. Whitehead (one of the managers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said : Gentlemen,—I propose that the directors' report and balance-sheet and profit and loss account be taken as read. The report which I have the pleasure to submit for your approval to-day will doubtless be considered satisfactory in view of the prevailing conditions of stress and trouble under which we have to conduct banking operations. Our chief aim and object has been, in co-operation with other exchange banks, to finance to the utmost limit of our resources shipments of national importance from Eastern ports to this country. To this end the Secretary of State and the Government of India (as represented by the Food Commissioners at home and in India) have called upon the services of the exchange banks, who have loyally responded, and, we believe, have earned the approval of those in authority. With this enormous drain on our resources we may not have been able at all times to satisfy the full requirements of our friends and customers in the ordinary course of business, but we have done our best, in spite of lessened Council assistance. We have all recognised that in war times the demands of the nation are of paramount importance and must be met first and foremost. As might be expected, exports from this side to the East and Far East have declined considerably, which, by reducing the demand for bank remittances, have further increased our difficulties, and have forced exchange banks to rely more than ever on Council bills for laying down funds on the other side. All engaged in business—exporters, importers and dealers—have much to contend with, but we can only look forward to the time when war has ceased and trade has resumed its normal course. I might also refer to the scarcity of tonnage, which restricts operations, and is felt at all points alike. That, unfortunately, is a difficulty which is likely to increase rather than to diminish in the next few months.

Reserve Strengthened.

The statement of accounts now before you is specially noticeable in the fact that our proposal to add £100,000 to the reserve will bring that fund up to the satisfactory figure of £2,000,000, as compared with our paid-up capital of £1,200,000. It has been the consistent policy of the directors for many years past to add to the reserve, thereby assuring the financial stability of the bank and improving the value of the shares in the market. Further, it is in a measure owing to this consistent policy of husbanding our resources and building up our reserves that we are able to pay the handsome return which shareholders now enjoy. I feel confident that the policy pursued will meet with your hearty approval. Taking the figures of the report issued in 1906, you will find that the reserve fund then stood at £975,000, increased to £1,475,000 in 1907, partly by the addition of the premium on the new shares issued in that year, and gradually increased year by year up to the present figure. Turning to our balance-sheet, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on steadily expanding figures, pointing to healthy development all along the line. Our totals now aggregate £36,126,432 12s. 1d., as against £33,390,841 14s. 11d. at December 31 last year, an increase of £2,735,590 17s. 2d., and even these figures would, in the ordinary course, have shown considerable increase had our complete returns not been delayed by the shipping difficulties. Our current and fixed deposit accounts, now amounting to £28,042,148 18s. 7d., an increase of £5,338,052 12s. 9d., evidence the continued confidence our home and Eastern friends place in the stability of the bank.

Turning to our profit and loss account, our net profit for the twelve months was £402,795 13s. 1d., against £381,259 17s 10d. in the previous year, and after placing £100,000 to reserve fund, adding £25,000 to officers' superannuation fund and writing £40,000 off premises account (which latter item we considered necessary in view of our having had to acquire new premises at certain points to meet our increasing business), we recommend a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of £1 per share, equal to 19 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, and carry forward £167,261 3s. 3d., against £157,465 10s. 2d. brought in. While our profits have so largely expanded, our expenses have but naturally, under present abnormal conditions, increased also, but it is satisfactory to know that 30 per cent. of that increase is due entirely to the higher rates of exchange ruling in the East. With these remarks I beg to move the first resolution :—"That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted."

The resolution was seconded by Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., and was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved :—"That a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31 last, together with a bonus of £1 per share, both free of income-tax, be now declared, payable on and after the 17th instant." Lord George Hamilton, G.C.S.I., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

It was further unanimously resolved :—"That the remuneration of the directors, as from April 1, 1918, shall be the sum of £10,000 per annum, to be appropriated out of the funds of the company, as provided by clause 77 of the deed of association." The Chairman explained that it was not the intention of the directors to draw the full amount of the increased remuneration, as they wished to keep a little in hand in case it might be thought expedient in future years to add to the number of the board.

The election of Sir Duncan Carmichael as a member of the board was confirmed, and the retiring directors, Lord George Hamilton and Mr. W. Foot-Mitchell, were re-elected.

The auditors (Mr. D. C. Wilson and Mr. H. C. K. Stileman) were reappointed.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff at home and in the East terminated the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Mercantile Bank of India.

The report of the Mercantile Bank of India for the year 1917 states that net profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts and including £32,177 brought forward, amount to £208,182. The directors have added £50,000 to reserve fund, making £650,000, £11,000 to officers' pension fund and written £10,000 off freehold banking premises. They recommend a dividend on the "A" and "B" shares of 6 per cent., less income-tax, making 12 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 2 per cent., less income-tax, leaving £58,432 to be carried forward. Deposits appear at £9,812,321. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., 19th instant, noon.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Bank of England announces the numbers of 696 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two-and-a-half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898, which have been purchased for the Sinking Fund and cancelled.

The directors of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 9d. per share, less income tax at 5s., payable on April 22.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LTD.
ESTABLISHED IN 1836.
AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £30,000,000
(in 1,500,000 Shares of £20 each).
RESERVE - - - - £4,725,000
Chairman : WALTER LEAF, Esq. Deputy Chairmen : SIR MONTAGU TURNER, R. HUGH TENNANT, Esq.
HEAD OFFICE : 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.
Joint General Managers : F. J. BARTHORPE, J. W. BUCKHURST, J. C. ROBERTSON.
FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICE : 82, CORNHILL, E.C.2.
The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondents throughout the World.
SPANISH BRANCHES.—Barcelona: Paseo de Gracia 8 and 10. Madrid: Calle de Alcalá 43.
AFFILIATED IN FRANCE.—London County and Westminster Bank (Paris) Limited.
PARIS: 22, Place Vendôme. BORDEAUX: 22 and 24, Cours de l'Intendance.
AFFILIATED IN IRELAND.—Ulster Bank Limited.
All cheques on the Ulster Bank will be collected for Customers of this Bank, free of Commission.
EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

In the early part of the week there was here and there some improvement in Egyptian securities, but during the last few days the less satisfactory news from the front and the fresh man-power proposals have been weighing on the market, with the result that in some cases prices are again finishing lower.

It is not that there are any large sellers about, but under present conditions buyers are adopting a waiting attitude, and every small seller who comes along has a disproportionate effect upon the market.

Unifieds have been a firm spot, with buyers about round current prices, but with sellers few and far between; and the same remark applies to Egyptian 3½ per Cent. Prefs.

In Bank shares Agriculturals were at one time lifted, on some persistent buying, to 6 17-32, but they are finishing to-night only 3-32 better than last week at 6 13-32. Although nothing is yet officially known as to the dividend, it is generally believed that 8s. will be paid, as against 7s. last year. In Agricultural Prefs. there has again been a fair number of transactions at 6 13-16. National Banks have remained a nominal market in the neighbourhood of 17¾.

In Railways some sellers of Delta Lights came along to-day, with the result that the price dropped 3-16 to 6½, at which price some transactions were done.

In Land shares there has been a marking down in many instances on attempts to sell small lots of shares on an unwilling market. Aboukirs have dropped 6d. to 22s. 6d., Egyptians and Foreign Trusts 3d. to 10s. 3d., New Egyptians 9d. to 17s., and Delta Lands 3d. to 13s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets are 6d. easier at 26s., and Khedivial Mails 9d. down at 37s. 9d.; but transactions have been of quite a trivial character.

In Greek securities the market has continued exceedingly firm, with buyers about round current levels, but sellers scarce. Through an oversight, Greek Monopolies were given in our last week's list as unchanged at 51½, but, as a matter of fact, some pretty large transactions had taken place round 53: and at this latter price there were, and still are, unsatisfied buyers.

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BANK OF ROUMANIA.

The Earl of Bessborough, speaking on April 10 at the annual meeting of the Bank of Roumania, said the auditors had written that, owing to the circumstances which now existed in Roumania, it was not possible for accounts to be presented. The directors were unable to present the accounts for the year 1917, and he did not propose to recommend the payment of a dividend under those circumstances. At the present time all communication with Roumania was suspended, but when they were able to present a balance-sheet they would do so.

BANK AMALGAMATIONS.

The committee, presided over by Lord Colwyn, appointed to consider and report to what extent, if at all, amalgamation between banks may prejudicially affect the interests of the industrial and mercantile community, and whether it is desirable that legislation should be introduced to prohibit such amalgamation, is meeting every day this week.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended April 5.		1918. Week ended April 4.
Cattle markets	1,0'5	..	710
General markets	446	..	415
Receipts (£)	1,451	..	1,125
Total for year	22,342	..	16,331

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances &c,

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 3	April 10
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86½	86½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881............	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884............	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.........	49	53	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890............	56	57	57
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	4xd	4xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	71	71
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6 5/16	6 13/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	6 13/16	6 13/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank............	12	14⅞	14⅞
Bank of Athens............	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6⅝	6 9/16
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅛	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17¾	17¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6 11/16	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/-	22/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2¾	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13¼	13¼
Do. Pref.	4½	4¼	4¼
Daira Sanieh..............	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	13/6
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	10/6	10/3
Gharbieh Land Co............	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/9	17/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	45/-	45/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	3	3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord..........	1 5/16	26/6	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer..	11/16	39/-	39/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	38/6	37/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾x	3¾xd

BULGARIAN FINANCES.

The Bulgarian Budget estimate for 1918 places the expenses at 479,414,011 francs (£19,176,560) and the revenue at 481,100,000 francs (£19 244,000), allowing for a credit balance of 1,685,989 francs (£67,440). The items in the estimate are as follows:—

EXPENDITURE.

	Old Bulgaria. Francs.	New Bulgaria Francs.
Civil List, Court, etc...........	6,441,500	—
Audit Department	619,000	—
National Debt	128,178,173	—
Foreign Office..............	7,320,176	2,065,060
Interior	17,818,000	12,025,480
Education	37,102,002	3,615,480
Finance	13,840,990	10,497,000
Justice	9,477,070	5,289,750
War	104,600,050	—
Trade and Commerce..........	23,235,280	402,480
Agriculture..............	9,172,100	2,289,750
Public Works Department	10,210,320	3,463,440
Railways:—		
(a) Administration	41,177,529	9,911,940
(b) Posts and Telegraphs	12,780,220	6,479,900
	422,978,461	56,435,559
		479,414,011

REVENUE.

	Francs.
Direct Taxation	228,000,000
Indirect Taxation..............	116,000,000
Government Monopolies	12,000,000
Taxes and Dues	13,400,000
Fines and Appropriations......	57,000,000
Railways, Harbours, etc.	26,900,000
Crown Lands and Investments	10,500,000
Various Receipts	14,300,000
	481,100,000

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SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
March 27	110,000	150,000
March 28	180,000	410,000
March 29	140 000	130,000
March 30	240,000	360,000
March 31	210,000	100,000
April 1	100,000	120,000
April 2, 3	370,000	330,000
April 4, 5, 6, 7..............	490,000	740,000

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital - -	500,000
Reserve - - - - - -	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz. Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

GRANT & CHINN.

The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 363.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On the Western front the great battle continues with undiminished force, and its gravity increases as the enemy draws nearer the Channel ports. The Government has taken, very late indeed in the day, steps to meet the situation in the new Man-Power Act, which corresponds roughly with the German measure of August, 1916. It is understood that the new forces are to be enrolled at once, but the course of the debate showed that some uncertainty prevails in regard to the precise interpretation and effect of the Act. Meanwhile the national will remains adamant.

On the Eastern fronts there has been much activity, mostly of a minor character, in every theatre of war except Mesopotamia. In the Salonika area we have had successful encounters with the Bulgarians; in Palestine General Allenby has straightened his line by a slight advance. There have been some brisk encounters with the Turco-German forces, but these have failed to affect our positions, and since even the bulletins issued from Constantinople do not claim any great advantage, the results of the enemy's attacks must have been modest indeed.

The Turks have announced further advances along the road to Kars, and they are now in occupation of Batoum, while the German force which took Ekaterinoslav is also pushing its way farther east. It is clear that these two operations, although marching through widely separated districts, are linked up, in the view of the higher command, in order to threaten the Caspian and the Middle East; and in the same way an attempt is being made to cut Russia and Roumania off entirely from the outside world by the German contingent in Finland, which is apparently working for the seizure of the railway from the Arctic and the isolation of Archangel. It must be admitted that the Finns appear to have asked for the bait which they have so readily swallowed; but this is a mere subsidiary of the German plans for dominating the Middle East. The situation here is certain to develop rapidly during the next few months.

A report, unconfirmed but not improbable, states that Germany has imposed an indemnity of four hundred millions sterling on Roumania, and it is said that this demand was only made five days after the conclusion of peace. That the Central Powers would attempt to extort money as well as territory and economic advantages from their helpless opponent is very likely; for reparation Roumania can only wait on the victory of the Allies. But the news from this quarter remains conflicting and sparse. By one account, Bulgaria is still dissatisfied with her share of the spoil; by another, it is said that the peace negotiations are suspended owing to the intricacy of the questions at issue, a suggestion which may be partly derived from the fall of Count Czernin; by a third, in a Hamburg paper, it is stated that the cession of Bessarabia to Roumania is causing acute tension in the Ukraine.

As to this last, no actual information of the cession of Bessarabia to Roumania has been received. The Central Powers, as their record shows abundantly, are not likely to do anything to compensate an enemy for ravished territory; but they may be moved to action by the cynical theory that it is well worth while to sow dissension between Roumania and the Ukraine on the chance of catching some miserable fish in the troubled waters. As there is no mention of Bessarabia in the published peace treaties, it may be assumed that the whole question was postponed for further consideration; the fact, now generally admitted, that the expected supplies of grain from the Ukraine will not be forthcoming this year, is not likely to dispose either Berlin or Vienna to be over-indulgent to the statesmen of Kieff.

An interesting account of the peace negotiations between Germany and Roumania has appeared in *The Times*. The Germans insisted on a change of Government at the peace treaty, but King Ferdinand, although compelled to submit, held his head high, and told Baron von Kühlmann that an independent country had the right to any Government it chose. It was the fact that the Roumanian Army, deserted by its ally, could not have held out longer than a month which finally decided the Crown Council that peace was inevitable, unless the country was to commit suicide.

The political sensation of the week has been the publication of the Austrian Emperor's letter, indirectly addressed to the French Government a year ago, on the terms of peace. The authenticity of this remarkable document is incontestable, and is not seriously contested by Vienna; it admits that the claims of France to Alsace-Lorraine are just, that Belgium must be restored, and Serbia also. As regards both Russia and Italy the Emperor keeps silence. The letter may be read in many ways, but a very simple and natural solution suggests itself at once.

It is that the young Emperor, at the time of writing, was more anxious to get back the Italian provinces lost by his predecessor than to enlarge his Empire in the direction of the Balkans; and while the annexation of Serbia could only be recognised as a conquest, the annexation of Lombardy and Venetia—if he could get them—might be casuistically interpreted as a restoration of territory temporarily lost. But to do that he must try to place the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France on the same footing as the restoration of Venetia to Austria—which implies a rather larger ignorance of history than is usual at the present day—and by so doing he might have hoped to antagonise France and Italy, to increase his own dominions incidentally, and—what is of even more importance—to give Viennese policy a new orientation, or rather to revive an old one, by making friends of France and Austria, and thus emancipating himself from Germany.

We can all of us sympathise with the wretched young ruler who discovered so soon after his accession that he was Germany's vassal, and that his predecessor's policy had deliberately accepted that attitude. His desire to be independent of Berlin was credible and praiseworthy. But his policy was perhaps a little amateurish—a fault that is excusable, no doubt, in a young monarch. The real significance of his attitude is not in regard to any particular territorial adjustments mentioned in the letter, but in the wish to leave the German coalition.

The German answer to this will probably be a bribe as well as a threat. The Emperor Karl has eaten the leek, and received a certificate of good conduct from the Kaiser, which is presumably worth as much as such certificates usually are. The German reward will be in the shape of more territory, either in Italy or the Balkans; but the light which the letter has thrown on the Austrian Emperor's mind is that the Balkans do not tempt him, whereas Italy does. It remains to be seen whether he will obtain either. In any event, the accession of Baron Burian to the post so hastily resigned by Count Czernin makes it clear that the attempt to throw off German dominion for a French *rapprochement* has definitely come to an end, for Baron Burian, as a follower of Tisza, is an adherent of Berlin.

The Conference of the oppressed Austrian races at Rome, which was also attended by Mr. Wickham Steed and Dr. Seton-Watson, has accomplished useful work, and its influence will become increasingly visible. It has long been the traditional policy of Austria to set one Slav race against another by favouring one at the expense of a second, and then reversing the process when the time seemed ripe; but that policy was doomed to failure as soon as the Slavs came to an agreement among themselves and with the Italians, both of the unredeemed provinces and of the Kingdom of Italy. These essentials of union and progress seem to have been satisfactorily accomplished at Rome.

It remains now to translate this policy into action. If, as we believe, an independent Jugoslav State is essential to the settlement of the Balkans and to the security of Italy and Europe, and if, coincident with that policy, the emancipation of the Czechs and Poles should be carried out, it must be remembered that Vienna will do its utmost to maintain the old system of division between the Slavs. Some indication of this was given by the fomentation of discord between Poles and the Ukraine in the recent clause of the peace treaty regarding Cholm—which benefited the Ruthenians, the recent *protégés* of Berlin and Vienna, at the expense of the Poles—and similar attempts will be made to sow discord among the Southern Slavs, and between them and Italy, where German propaganda is still disquietingly active.

The Russian Government is still childishly innocent—or it professes to be, which is not necessarily the same thing. It has protested to Germany against the renewed Turkish outrages on the Armenians, for which, as it says quite truly, the blame must be given to Germany as well as Turkey. The Russian Government "ordered" the independence of Armenia some time ago, and proclaimed its will that a constitutional assembly should be set up to discuss matters with the Turks, and apparently with anybody else who happened to be there; the Bolsheviks now seem annoyed that nobody took the least notice of their order, while the Turks merely marched forward and destroyed whatever they chose.

The Germans appear to be engaged in the pleasant occupation of dividing the bear's skin before the bear has been killed. A Colonel Immanuel has been discussing German plans in the East, on the basis that Mesopotamia will be returned to Turkey at the end of the war, and that thereupon intercourse will be established directly between Berlin, Batoum, and Teheran. "The task of delivering Persia and Afghanistan from English influence will devolve on the German Empire," is the conclusion of this politician, but he prudently defers the fulfilment of that task until after the war. It is as well to have it in black and white that the German plans for peaceful penetration in the post-war period are already being matured.

Mr. Lloyd George's statement last week as to the number of our troops engaged in the Eastern area has revived, and even embittered, the unfortunate controversy between Easterners and Westerners. The latter, indeed, have given him the lie direct. There is no room in a note to discuss this everlasting question again beyond remarking that the Prime Minister's arithmetic sometimes partakes of the imaginative character we all admire so much in his oratory, and that his critics occasionally disguise something like pacifism under the guise of Westernism; but in this matter, at least, we are not the only sinners.

The Germans, by despatching forces to Palestine and the Crimea, and aiming, as they are now openly doing, at the conquest of Persia, are even more thorough-going Easterners than Downing Street. The Palestine campaign is the direct outcome of their threat to Egypt, and that threat could not be disregarded, unless we had been prepared to see the British Empire cut in two. The Salonika force, which is a more debatable question, is the sequel to our political failure in the Balkans in 1915-16. But if it had not been despatched, Greece would have been openly on the side of Germany by this time, and King Constantine would still have been in Athens instead of lamenting his lost pension in Switzerland. The adherence of Greece may not be a decisive asset in the war, but it is an asset nevertheless, for it is an earnest of a juster settlement of Balkan questions than would otherwise be conceivable.

In the leading articles of the *Baghdad Times*, which seem to echo the accents of a voice that was once not altogether unknown in Fleet Street four years ago, the question of Government versus private enterprise, so burning a topic on the Thames, is shown to be at least as important on the Tigris. The writer obviously belongs to the individualist school which goes, or rather went, by the name of Herbert Spencer before the world realised that the synthetic philosophy had something of the ridiculous as well as the ponderous; but he admits that Government enterprise in Mesopotamia has been successful, and that, too, quite apart from the transport of the armies, which is necessarily a Governmental enterprise. But the new methods of administration, of bringing law where there was anarchy, and making crops grow where was only desert, in other words, of evolving civilisation out of barbaric chaos, have clearly impressed the writer as an instance of successful State enterprise on a large scale. It is a pity that so few details of this constructive work, which only began after the capture of Baghdad last year, have yet been published in this country; and the *Baghdad Times* rises superior to the temptation to describe the changes which are daily taking place in their midst. Or it may be the censor who restrains their pens, since he even forbids the publication of the names of the units taking part in the local football matches.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 4.

The Question of Supplies.

An unexpected development has taken place this week in connection with the question of supplies. Mr. J. I. Craig, who was appointed Controller of Supplies last autumn, has resigned, and his place has been taken by Mr. W. Ross Taylor, Legal Adviser to the Ministries of Public Works, War, and Agriculture. Mr. Ross Taylor will have an advisory board to assist him, consisting of Mr. A. T. McKillop, Inspector-General of Agriculture; Mr. G. Burnett-Stuart, Director of Personnel, Ministry of the Interior; Mr. F. P. Watson, Assistant Controller of the Department of Supplies; and Mr. A. T. Loyd, Director of the War Trade Department. It is understood that there will also be a large committee consisting of the above-mentioned officials, representatives of the Army, and some Egyptian officials.

There is reason to believe that very drastic measures in connection with the question of cereals, which constitutes the most urgent matter at present, are under consideration by the Government, and it is highly probable that maximum prices will be applied not only to merchants, but also to the producers. In this connection it is interesting to note that a public meeting was held this week by the leading grain merchants, who explained their position and called upon the Government to extend the tariff law to the cultivators. The grain merchants are undoubtedly right in fixing the responsibility for the present situation on the agricultural element, which owing to its prosperous condition is able to withhold its surplus production from the market, if the price offered does not suit it, and which cannot at present be touched by the tariff law; the latter being applicable only to merchants.

It is satisfactory to note that the Government has realised the difficulty of the situation, and that it is taking steps to ensure that as equitable a solution as possible shall be arrived at for all parties interested in the question.

The Village Council.

In August last the Council of Ministers approved of the proposal for the creation of what were to be called village councils, and the Ministry of the Interior has now issued an *arrêté* laying down the conditions under which these new municipal institutions are to be created and the powers which they are to exercise. Village councils may be created in any village asking for their constitution, and they will be entirely under the control of the Ministry of the Interior. Each council is to consist of the Mamur Markaz (District Administrative Officer), the local Public Health Officer, and four elected members. The Mamur will be president, but the Mudir has the right at any time to preside at a meeting. The members of the council will be elected by those villagers who pay at least P.T.10 per annum in Ghaffir Tax, and who sign an undertaking to accept any local taxation which the council may decide to levy; and the minimum qualifications of a candidate to the council are that he is an elector, is twenty-five years of age, and can read and write. Each of the elected members is to hold office for four years, and every two years half of their number are to be replaced or re-elected. The functions of the councils are to collect the dues accruing to each of them, to carry out the scavenging work of their village and the upkeep of the roads, to control the water supply, the local lighting and sanitary arrangements, and the fire brigade, and to execute any work which the Ministry of the Interior may decide to entrust to it. Each council is empowered to levy local taxation to provide funds for the carrying out of its functions, but all its decisions in this respect must first have the sanction of the Government. Meetings of the councils must take place at least once a month, and their deliberations will not be public. In each village possessing a village council there is to be a permanent committee, consisting of two of the members and one co-opted member, who will hold office for one year, and who will carry out the administrative work and deal with the finances of the council. From this it can be seen that full effect is being given to the general desire that has manifested itself amongst the mass of the population for more direct participation in local government. On the manner in which the concessions now accorded are handled will depend the further advance in the direction of collaboration in the government of the country to which the Sultan made reference in his accession rescript.

Government Appointments.

I understand that Kaimakam T. Russel Bey will shortly be appointed Commandant of the Cairo City Police, in place of Colonel Harvey Pasha, who went on leave last autumn, preliminary to his retiring from the service; and that Bimbashi Archer will be promoted to the post of Assistant Commandant thus left vacant. Kaimakam Garvice Bey, Acting Commandant of the Alexandria City Police, is to be confirmed in that position. Sir David Semple, Director-General of the Department of Public Health, is retiring at the beginning of the new financial year, as also is his second-in-command, Dr. Cyril Goodman. The former will most probably be succeeded by Dr. Alexander Granville, who was recently appointed President of the International Quarantine Board at Alexandria, in succession to the late Sir Armand Ruffer. I understand that in that case he may combine his recent post with the Public Health one; this will pave the way for the amalgamation of the Quarantine Board with the Egyptian Public Health Administration, which must inevitably take place in the near future.

Prisoners of War's Daring Attempt at Escape.

During the past fortnight a very daring escape was attempted by Germans confined at the Prisoners of War Camp at Maadi. Suddenly one morning, so the story runs, an urgent telegram was received from Suez to the effect that five Germans had been arrested there, and that they admitted coming from Maadi. An investigation was at once opened. Later in the day a message was received from Giza, on the opposite side of the river, stating that four Germans had been found there, stark naked, as they had swum the river and lost their clothes on the way over. This left three prisoners still unaccounted for; two of these have since been recaptured, one as far north as Mehalla Kebir. The remaining one is believed to have been drowned in crossing the Nile. This is the first escape on any scale made by prisoners of war for some considerable time in this country.

◆

Egyptian papers received this week contain news of the death, at Mentone, of Mr. William Chevalier, who was for over forty years an official of the British Consulate-General at Alexandria. He retired on pension twelve years ago. He leaves three sons, all resident at Alexandria, and one daughter. Mr. Chevalier was seventy-four years of age. During his long residence at Alexandria he made many friends, who will much regret to hear of his death.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, March 23.

The Budget.

The Chamber of Deputies resumed its duties on the 12th inst., and the following day the Minister of Finance presented the Budget for the current year. He spoke of improvements made in the accountancy of the Ministry and explained his Budget, which shows a deficit of 211 millions of drachmas, the expenditure being 1,361 millions against receipts of only 1,150 millions. To meet this deficit there is the loan from the Allies of 750 millions, and it is proposed to issue Treasury bonds, which it is hoped will be taken up freely by the public. The decree prohibiting the remittance of funds out of Greece appears to be not without its drawbacks. There is evidently plenty of money in Athens, judging from the extent of gambling that has been going on at cards and on the stock exchange, and it seems a pity that one is not able to invest in foreign securities. The Government hope that the effect of the decree will be to encourage the purchase of Greek Treasury bonds, but, other means of investment being limited, there is not much encouragement to those inclined to be thrifty.

The Chamber has voted the sum of 1,600,000 drachmas per annum for King Alexander's civil list, and a yearly grant of 500,000 drachmas for the ex-King and 300,000 for the Queen-Mother.

Mobilisation Continues.

The gradual process of mobilisation continues. Two more classes, 1909 and 1910, have been called up. So, also, have nine classes of Jews and Moslems of Epirus.

Some excitement has been caused by the capture of five Greek officers who were recently landed by a German submarine on the coast of Peloponnessus, coming apparently from Switzerland to stir up trouble here.

Athens-Salonika Traffic.

Arrangements are being made to organise a service of fast trains between Athens and Salonika, and Parliament has been asked to vote a credit to improve the line. There is now a very large traffic on this line, as, apart from military requirements, practically all passenger traffic between Athens and Salonika is by land instead of by water as formerly. Travellers experience great difficulty in obtaining even standing room in the trains, and the scramble for places which occurs daily at the Piræus and Athens stations calls for some radical remedy.

Apart from meat, which is very scarce and difficult to obtain, there is a great improvement in the food question; arrivals of foodstuffs have been satisfactory, and local produce has become more plentiful.

New Archbishop's Pastoral.

On Thursday the new Archbishop Meletios Metaxakis took the oath before the King, and later on the ceremony of enthronement was performed in the Cathedral Church. In a long pastoral address which was subsequently delivered the Primate expressed a hope for certain reforms and greater learning in the Greek clergy, and laid emphasis on the necessity for faith. He spoke of his satisfaction at, and the importance of, the liberation of Jerusalem, and referred to Cyprus, which he knew so well and where anxieties for union with the mother country were so great. He said that Greece had the good wishes of England; that it only required Greeks to show by right conduct that they were aware of their rights, as well as their obligations; and that, after a period of misleading, Greece had again found her path of duty, and to-day understood that in taking part in the great struggle it was for her good. In conclusion, he said that Macedonia awaits its new liberators, Asia Minor its saviours, and San Sofia, in the Queen of Cities, its officiating clergy.

Cyprus and the Dodekanesos.

An article in the *Nea Ellas* says it is difficult for the Government to protest officially; but every Greek has the right to protest that their friends and allies, the Italians, by occupying the Dodekanesos and Northern Epirus, prevent the sons of these territories from offering their blood for their country and for the cause for which the Allies are fighting. In spite of the gratitude and the love which every Greek entertains towards very phil-Hellenic England (the article says), we do not think we shall be considered too insistent in wishing that Cyprus should be ceded to Greece at once, and that its people should be armed to participate in the common struggle. It is a blow to us (it continues) to see the Japanese and Chinese called upon to fight for the triumph of civilisation and humanity whereas there are 700,000 inactive Greeks in the Dodekanesos, Epirus, and Cyprus capable of placing in the field of battle two army corps, which could soon operate in neighbouring territories.

TOBACCO IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The question of tobacco growing as a new industry in Cyprus has been one of increasing interest during the last few years, and it may now be said that some definite conclusions have been reached. The success achieved by some Syrian refugees at Larnaca, who grew tobacco of two kinds in 1916-17 and made very large profits, led to an immediate and keen desire on the part of many Cypriots to follow the lead, just as, a few years previously, the successful working of asbestos on Mt. Troödos led to a rush of applicants for permits to prospect for metals in all directions. The villagers were no doubt exploited by the newcomers to a considerable extent, especially those who contracted to grow Latakia tobacco on their lands, but who received very poor prices as a result of their labours. To the Syrians referred to, however, is due the impetus that has been given to what may become a very important and opportune addition to Cyprus products. In Syria Cypriots have been proverbially regarded as dull and simple folk, just as the Bœotians were, of old, by the Athenians; but, as a matter of fact, many stories are current to show that the Cypriot can more than hold his own in quick-wittedness against people of other lands. Anyhow, there has been a veritable *kapnomania*, or tobacco madness, owing to the profits made by many growers, and in the ordinary course of things large areas of land would have been put under cultivation of the leaf.

The Government, however, foreseeing that the result might be unduly to diminish food-producing crops, decided that the planting of tobacco should only be allowed under licences to be issued by the six District Commissioners. Unfortunately, however, as only too often happens in Cyprus, the instructions given were not very clear. The cases of all applicants had to be fully investigated, and different views appear to have been taken in different parts of the island. There were great delays in consequence. The general impression created was that Government desired to restrict as far as possible the growing of tobacco, and even that it was prejudiced on principle against the new industry. The villagers, at any rate, very naturally took this view. Applications for licences had to be made by November 30, 1917, a very late fixture, as in many parts of Cyprus seed-beds should be prepared in December. Very few licences were, indeed, issued before February. A certain number of villagers, however, prepared seed-beds early, in anticipation of obtaining licences in due course, but at their own risk and under fear of prosecution. Then Government fixed March 1 as the limit for planting—the date being extended to April 1, and again to April 15, but not until numerous complaints had been made and deputations of growers had made urgent representations. The result of all this procrastination and misunderstanding has been not only that those who sowed lands at their own risk, or under doubt as to their liabilities, were able to demand excessively high prices for their seedlings, but also that a very considerable area of land in respect of which licences were eventually granted could not be planted.

All this has naturally given rise to a good deal of grumbling on the part of agriculturists, who, moreover, complain that preference has been given to capitalists, or to well-to-do persons, who can hire land and labour. It is true that a licensee is bound to grow a certain quantity of corn; but Syrians and others who speculate in tobacco growing no doubt concentrate their energies as far as possible upon the "weed." It is probable that if the regulations had been more carefully devised and carried out, double the amount of land might have been devoted to tobacco this year without prejudice to cereal crops and harvest work.

The important matter, however, is that tobacco growing has now been shown to be, under war conditions, a very paying industry, and full advantage should be presumably taken, at a time of decreasing imports, to encourage and establish it on a firm footing. Cyprus tobacco may yet make a name for itself and compete successfully with others after the war. It will be interesting to know what decisions will be arrived at in respect of some consignments of cigarette tobacco of the last crop yet to be despatched to London, where "Cyprus cigarettes" (not of island leaf) have been coming into favour of late years. It is already reasonable to assume that if a wise policy is adopted by the Government, the expansion of this industry should bring very great benefit both to the rural classes and to the revenue of the island.

PALESTINE'S FIRST NEED.

Although the political settlement of Palestine, with schemes for the repatriation of a large Jewish population (and for a kind of Hebrew republic under, perhaps, Anglo-Egyptian suzerainty), is mainly being canvassed at the present time, it is well that those responsible for the future of the country should not lose sight of the fact that the introduction of certain simple measures for the material benefit of Palestine is urgently needed, and that it will pave the way for the adoption of more ambitious political schemes.

The greatest of all Palestine's needs is afforestation. For centuries the land has been denuded of its trees, with most disastrous consequences. For the heavy rains at certain seasons, instead now of benefiting the soil, over more than four-fifths of its area carry away in rushing torrents down the wadys and the many streams which temporarily pour down the hillsides and ancient terraces much of the little soil that the almost sterile high lands and valley slopes have left on them. Experts in forestry and irrigation explain how the absence of trees tends to reduce such a country as Palestine to barrenness. The amount of moisture retained by trees is immense. Woods and forests would form a catchment for the rainfall, and in time, by the decay of their leaves, form a humus soil beneath which would be invaluable. There are trees of very rapid growth, such as the cotton wood, which are probably suitable for many districts, and for the few marshy, and therefore malarious, tracts the Tasmanian Eucalyptus, which can endure cold, might be utilised. Even as recently as the era of the later Empire the Roman Emperors held valuable forests in Palestine. Absalom, riding, was caught by the hair among the trees; but to-day one might gallop from Dan to Beersheba without having to duck one's head to avoid a branch. The hills need persistently clothing with vegetation, as the Germans have done at Kiaochou. For the more cultivable districts fruit-bearing trees should be utilised, and, to give shade along the roads, limes and trees which are found to flourish on the boulevards of Port Said and Alexandria.

Another measure which is no less necessary is the storage of water, not by gigantic engineering enterprises, but by the simple process of erecting small dams and interceptions across the higher reaches of wadys, and by such barrages, with spillways, to provide that all the year round some water for agriculture and for flocks and herds lower down should be available. This work would create a series of small lakes or reservoirs of from 500,000 to 2,000,000 gallons of water that would last through the dry season and add needed moisture to the air. The slopes of the wadys above the dams should be planted with suitable trees, and the stream would be rendered perennial. Such basins could be made the homes of innumerable waterfowl, geese, and ducks, that are most easily reared, and are useful exterminators of mosquitoes and flies.

The replanting of the country will be indefinitely retarded, if goats are not deported or kept strictly in compounds, for they foil all attempts at plant propagation by devouring the young shoots and leaves, and have helped to ruin many Mediterranean lands. Of course, wells and pumps are useful adjuncts and give immediate results in limited localities; but the writer's object is to produce a prosperous future at small expense. All these schemes, it is recognised, cannot be allowed to outgrow the supply of labour. On this point experience alone can decide whether requirements will be met by the Jews and by the Arab population adapting itself to the new conditions.

In Southern Palestine, towards Sinai and the Suez Canal, the first thing to do is to reopen the hundreds of natural springs in the wadys, which, under centuries of misrule, have been allowed to become choked up; and to replant the native shrubs and trees round them. The recent survey carried out by the Palestine Exploration Fund showed how, in Byzantine times, even all the districts round Beersheba and Pelusium and many parts of the Sinai Peninsula, by means of most careful water conservation and irrigation, supported a large population. *Gaffirs* must be appointed to prevent the camels of the Bedouin eating the early leaves. These animals since Great Britain has guided the destinies of Egypt have destroyed half the already too scanty vegetation in the valleys between Koptos and Kosseir.

These are not stupendous proposals, but they should produce a prosperous Palestine, with a happy peasantry. The country now possesses an advantage it never had before, in a first-class railway connection with Egypt. All the surplus agricultural small crops, grapes and vegetables, will find a ready market in the growing Egyptian cities and the shipping upon the Suez Canal. Egypt's population augments rapidly now that capital in that country is secure. One far-seeing man in London during the last five years has spent over £100,000 in a single date plantation near the Pyramids. Palestine, with Cyprus as its maritime guardian, is the hinterland for Egypt and the Canal. If Great Britain hesitates to bring it under her influence for her own benefit, she dare not neglect to do so for the sake of India and Australia, who have given freely of their best and bravest for the country and the common cause.

J. OFFORD.

SAMARIA AND GALILEE.

At Gresham College, in the City of London, on Mondays, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman is delivering a course of University Extension Lectures on Palestine, the course being arranged by the London University Zionist Society. Last Monday his subject was "Samaria and Galilee." Samaria, he said, was a much more fertile land than Judæa, which was a high and somewhat sterile plateau running up at points to as much as 3,000 feet. Going northwards from Jerusalem along the great high road, immediately you got beyond the bounds of Judæa you found the country more broken up, and very much more planted with olive and fig trees. The mountains were not so high, and there were wide open valleys. There was not the waterless wilderness on the east; and the western hills were covered with a soft chalky deposit, which produced rather a tame landscape, but provided a very good soil for cultivation, especially suited to the vine. The geographical centre of Samaria was Nablus—the name was an altered form of Neapolis—lying between the mountains of Gorizim and Ebal. Between these ran the great high road from the sea coast to the Jordan and the lands east of the Jordan. Both were sacred mountains. To Mount Ebal had been brought the stones of the Jordan; and Mount Gerizim was the sacred mountain of the Samaritans, as Zion had been that of the Jews. Its top was covered with ruins, amongst which were those of the ancient Samaritan Temple. The sect still existed, and once a year assembled on Gerizim to keep the Passover in precisely the ancient form that one may find described in the Book of Exodus. At one point between the mountains lay a vast natural amphitheatre, which, it was conjectured, was the site of the ancient reading of the law; and the traditional tomb of Joseph was near the spot where had formerly stood the ancient city which had been succeeded by Nablus. This site was venerated by Samaritans, Jews, Christians, and Moslems.

Nablus to-day was inhabited by fanatical Moslems, who dreaded the coming of the Franks; little boys threw stones at the traveller, while the father looked on smiling. Its industry was the manufacture of soap from the olive oil produced in the country around. The city of Samaria had anciently been a fortified place of very great strength. It had been destroyed by Sargon when the kingdom of Israel was broken up, and had not recovered its importance until Herod the Great made it one of his great and ornamental cities. In excavating its site a great number of potsherds had been discovered, scrawled upon with ancient Hebrew names and short remarks about property. It had been a very delicate matter to float away the dirt upon the potsherds without at the same time washing away the writing; this having been done, the script was found to be the same as that of Siloam. Many names in the Bible were found among the writings. Apparently they belonged to the time of Ahab.

The plain of Esdraelon was sometimes included with Samaria, and sometimes with Galilee. Its soil was rich, and if the rains lasted well into the hot weather, very good crops were obtained. Certainly Galilee was the most fertile part of Palestine, as well as by far the most charming. It had a more varied scenery, and was on the whole better supplied with water. In Upper Galilee, in autumn, when that land would otherwise be dry, there were tremendous dews. Haifa, on the coast of Galilee, would some day be the great port of Palestine. With a good bar out into the bay, it would probably be a better port than Beyrout. The railway from Haifa to Damascus nowhere passed over a greater height than 2,500 feet; that from Beyrout passed over a range of mountains 7,000 feet high, then descended into Syria, and then passed over another range 5,000 feet high.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE METROPOLITAN OF ATHENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—With reference to The Near East of March 29 (page 256) and of April 12 (page 294), I think you will find that Meletios Metaxachis, who has been elected Metropolitan of Athens, was Bishop of Kition (Cyprus)—see Cyprus Handbook, 1913—and *not* Archbishop, as that title belongs to the Archbishop of all Cyprus, and not to any of the local sees of Kition, Paphos, or Kyrenia.—I am, etc.,

Κγπρεος.

April 13, 1918.

JUGOSLAV DESIRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your report of the interesting lecture by Dr. May Dickson-Berry, at the Royal Victoria Hall, on April 2, the lecturer appears to have stated that the Serb, Croat, Bosnian and Dalmatian, were all "in sympathy with the idea of the founding of a great Jugoslav State." If for "State" the word "Federation" had been employed the accuracy of the assertion could not have been questioned. It is deplorable that so many persons who might have been supposed to have truer knowledge of the sentiments and aspirations of these peoples should have been captured by the ambitious ideal of one only of them. That it is not the desire of the Jugoslavs to be absorbed in a new "Great Serbia" has been abundantly evidenced by their own vigorous protests; note, for example, the second article in "Yougoslavie" (No. 1, February, 1918). The brave Montenegrins are not once mentioned in your report, though they are our Allies equally with the Serbians, and have as passionate love of freedom and independence as any nation in the world. They scornfully refused the offered bribes of Austria to remain neutral, and promptly entered the war in defence of their sister State Serbia, though it meant certain ruin for the time being. All who are familiar with these facts expected that the spirit of justice, to say nothing of generosity, would have assured for Montenegro constant recognition of her services and her rights. Instead of which she has suffered neglect even from the noble-minded, and infamous slanders from treacherous enemies.—I am, etc.,

Percy W. Ames.

77, Primrose Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.

GREETINGS FROM THE HEJAZ.

The following telegram has been received by the King from the King of the Hejaz:—"I crave permission to tender to your Majesty my heartfelt congratulations on the magnificent and unmatched gallantry which your Majesty's Armies on the Western front are displaying at the present time. That the banners of the true cause for which they are fighting with such undaunted bravery may be crowned with victory by the Almighty is my earnest prayer and wish."

King George replied:—"I am deeply touched by your Lordship's message. It breathes that spirit of confidence and unity of purpose which binds together all the Allied forces on all fronts and in all lands in an unshakable determination to achieve the liberation of mankind from tyranny."

The Hejaz Government telegraphed to the British Government:—"His Majesty King Hussein commands me to express his wholehearted admiration of the magnificent defence which the British Army is maintaining in face of the German Empire's desperate and unavailing offensive. His Majesty begs that his congratulations should be conveyed not only to the Commander-in-Chief, but as well to the gallant Commanders and troops serving under him."

The British Government replied:—"His Majesty's Government caused your Lordship's message to be conveyed to the British Commander-in-Chief and the Army Commanders and troops in France. The Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, and his Army Commanders, expressed their high appreciation of your Lordship's sentiments."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Readers may have observed that I have a very soft spot in my heart for diplomatists—probably because those I have met have been such pleasant company. At any rate, a friend who knows my weakness has sent me the following definition:—"When a diplomatist says 'yes,' he means 'perhaps'; when he says 'perhaps,' he means 'no'; when he says 'no,' he is no diplomatist." This may be very old, but it is new to me, and I find it amusing. It is based, of course, on: "When a lady says 'no,' she means 'perhaps'; when she says 'perhaps,' she means 'yes'; but when she says 'yes' she is no lady."

⁂

In the official statements regarding the fighting on the Euphrates, mention has been made once or twice of the islands that are so numerous below Anah. Haditha, for example, the first place beyond Hit at which caravans usually halt, is very pleasantly situated opposite islets that are thick with date-palms, and similar islets are to be seen in the neighbourhood of Fehami, the next halting-place. One report speaks of some of the enemy forces seeking refuge on these islands, and subsequently wading ashore, to surrender. The autochthones struck me as being very much at home in the water, the youngsters seeming to take to it as naturally as a duckling would. The river served as a road for them, and a villager wishing to call on a friend downstream would simply strip, tie his clothing into a bundle, to be carried on his head, and step into the water. Many of the people used a dried gourd to support them, and we often saw men and boys walking about carrying their floats under their arms. A point I noticed about these Arabs, as about others, was that on coming out of the water they made no pretence at drying themselves, but simply slipped into their clothes at once.

⁂

I heard the other day a new name for ex-King Constantine. It was "'Tino, the Trouserless," and it was the invention of an individual who holds republican views almost as strong as those which Mr. Lynch, the Member for West Clare, seems to delight in obtruding on the House of Commons. Whether the title will catch on I know not, but, being alliterative, it may do so; and if it does, it will probably annoy 'Tino considerably; for his sense of humour, never robust, appears to have died recently. The reference is, of course, to the ex-monarch's new garments that are lying in the shop of a London tailor, awaiting a permit for shipment. But for decency's sake, let us hope that the new name is not justified by facts.

⁂

What made me think of 'Tino was not his wardrobe, or secrets connected with it, but some remarks made by a Greek friend about those of his countrymen who had backed the wrong horse—put their money on "The Trouserless," in fact. It is not surprising that these indiscreet ones should now be bitterly regretting their lack of political judgment. My friend mentioned particularly Professor Lambros, who (he said) had been banished to some small island, the name of which I have forgotten. Lambros is probably one of the very least offensive of 'Tino's supporters; and a man of particularly mild character. But the islanders would have none of him. They protested that his presence in their midst would give them a bad name, and they regarded him—or affected to—as a most dangerous, dare-devilish kind of individual. And the end of it was that poor Lambros was compelled to move on.

⁂

A friend out East has earned my warmest thanks by sending me a copy of *The Palestine News*. It is the second number of the paper, and I gather that No. 1 was out of print almost as soon as it was off the machines. It is a truly creditable production, its twelve pages being full of good things—news that the soldiers will be interested in and articles that will not bore them. Personally, I found the column headed "Beersheba to Beeroth" quite fascinating. The title has a somewhat familiar air, and the writer of the stories—well, "he can tell 'em." He is interested in the habits of the local fauna—or so I gather from his notes in No. 2. The idleness of the local jackals and the intrusiveness of "those local blue rat-moles, who open tunnels in the tents of colonels and turn their faces towards the owner of the tent," provide him with material for philosophic reflection. And his unblushing attempt to convince his readers of the existence of "Palestine crocodiles" has, I observe, induced some unwary one to advertise for a pair of these monsters—or, on second thoughts, has it? Perhaps the advertisement is of his own insertion, intended to lend support to his shameless taradiddle. By the way, others of the "adverts." make suspiciously good reading. But one is truly pathetic; it is of an hotel, and it announces that: "Visitors will greatly oblige the Management by bringing their own Rations with them." There is a homely ring about that, is there not?

Corsair.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE INDIAN HOME RULE CAMPAIGN.

A stout bundle of the recent publications of the Bombay Home Rule League has been sent to us for review, and we may say at once that the various pamphlets furnish, when taken together, an interesting and enlightening view of the aims and methods of the movement. Campaign literature is a thing apart, and must be judged by its peculiar canons; having chosen your object, you have to make it attractive to the general public, and success depends partly on the selection of the motives to which you shall appeal, and partly on your ability to make people think that those motives have some organic relation with the object you have chosen. We have therefore to consider separately the object, the appeal, and the logic of these publications.

The object is definitely political, to secure a fundamental change in the Indian constitution and administration. We accept the statement contained in the first pamphlet that the organisers of the movement are not inimical to the preservation of British rule, a statement which we interpret to mean that they are content that what is technically called British sovereignty shall continue. Under this sovereignty they want responsible government, and the only thing which distinguishes them, on paper, from other politicians is that they want it to come more quickly. The grounds for forcing the pace are not clearly stated, and this part of the case would attract the attention of cross-examining counsel if the matter had to be fought out on forensic lines; but, speaking generally, the definite object of the movement is to bring about in a great hurry certain changes which most people agree must come by-and-by.

This object, however, does not of itself make a satisfactory appeal. The people whose support is sought for have but little interest in political changes, and some more powerful motive must be found if they are to be stirred to political activity. The organisers have evidently recognised this fact, and while some play is made with abstractions such as Truth and Justice, the real appeal is definitely to the pocket. Estimates of average income are deftly used to demonstrate that "hundreds of millions" of Indians yearly fail to make both ends meet, and almost all classes are told that under Home Rule they will be much better off than now; the upper classes will have dignified and lucrative posts, involving, indeed, "heavy responsibility and strenuous exertion," but still decidedly attractive; the "inborn warrior class" will find suitable careers in the Army, the Navy, and the Police; and the merchants will have markets in which "the Angel of Plenty shall crown the labours of her servants." There remain the masses, and here the bids for support are somewhat less liberal. The promise that "the labourer's food, and seed for the next sowing, shall be the first charges on the crops," sounds well, but means very little when it is analysed, and for the rest there are education, and village-government, and the other boons which towns are so apt to offer to that country of which they know so little.

Such is the appeal—definite pecuniary benefits for the classes, and vague generalities for the bulk of the population. It is carefully chosen to secure a maximum of effective support while avoiding any really dangerous commitments. Home Rule, if established at once, would undoubtedly mean an oligarchy of the classes, and the history of India for at least a thousand years justifies the conclusions that the oligarchs would share the spoils among themselves. To this extent the logic of the appeal stands above criticism: "Put us in power, and we will give you posts," is a straightforward offer, and an offer which would almost certainly be carried out. The case is somewhat different as regards the vaguer promises. We are not told, for instance, how the change will produce the profitable markets promised to the merchants, though a suggestion of protective tariffs is made in one pamphlet; while as to the poverty of the masses, we must really quote the argument at length. The writer of pamphlet No. 2, having established the fact that poverty exists, proceeds as follows: "Even with her present revenues much could be done for the good of India's children. But as the control of both income and expenditure is not under popular control, the progress of India is not the sole or main consideration. The remedy, therefore, is Home Rule." We are profoundly grateful for that "therefore," which puts the case in a nutshell. We grant the major premiss that India is poor, that her income is insufficient to provide all that the people can reasonably be said to need. To our mind that is the dominant fact in the India of to-day, and it ought to be the dominant consideration in the minds of India's rulers. It constitutes a clear call to action addressed to every section of the community. The Government is already pledged to a policy of active development, but the success of its efforts depends on the reaction of the people as a whole. The true lesson for India is this: "Save instead of spending; invest instead of hoarding; do the most and the best work you can, and bring up your children to do better work than their father." The Home Rule lesson is different: "Spend your time in political agitation, and see what good things will fall into your mouth." It is not an original policy; the same offer has been made in many countries, sometimes unsuccessfully, at others, as so recently in Russia, with somewhat startling results. It is now being made to India, and, as the papers before us show, it is being made with much persistence and with some measure of ability; we do not yet know what India's answer will be, but we can at least be confident that if she chooses to pluck the tempting fruit, it will be dust and ashes in her mouth.

A CREED IN THE MAKING.[*]

This book is accurately described by its title. It consists essentially of materials for study, and consequently literary criticism of the contents would be entirely out of place. Professor Browne gives us original or translated documents illustrating the history and progress of this new religion both in its Eastern home and in the United States, where it has gained a substantial body of adherents; the sources of the various documents are clearly stated, and the student is supplied with the information required to enable him to judge of their importance. To the ordinary person the effect of reading the book is somewhat as if the clock had stopped for centuries: at one time we are reading of miracles and martyrdom—the real thing, and no modern imitation—and at another of centenary celebrations in a Chicago hotel, including, as might be expected, a cinematograph exhibition. This confusion of the centuries, which will strike some people as grotesque, and others perhaps as verging on the profane, is, however, necessary for a correct appreciation of the significance of the movement, and the juxtaposition of such varied elements gives no ground for complaint. We notice that Professor Browne is not now inclined to lay great stress on the practical or political importance of the movement. He finds its chief interest in the light which it throws on the genesis and evolution of other religions, and whatever may be the ultimate results in the world of action, the facts embodied in these documents will always be important for the student of that fascinating subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Un Tel de l'Armée Française. By Gabriel-Tristan Franconi. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4 fr. 50.)

Souvenirs de Guerre d'un Sous-officier Allemand. (1914, 1915, 1916.) With a Preface by M. Louis-Paul Alaux (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4 f. 50.)

Asoka. By James M. Macphail, M.A., M.D. (London: Oxford University Press. Heritage of India Series. 1s. 6d. net.)

My Mission to London, 1912-1914: *Revelations of the Last German Ambassador in England.* By Prince Lichnowsky. With Preface by Professor Gilbert Murray. (London: Cassell and Co., Ltd. 6d. net.)

CZECHS AND JUGOSLAVS.

Writing in the chief Czech organ, the *Narodni Listy,* of March 31, Dr. Knamar, the eminent Czech leader and deputy, says: "The Jugoslavs and Czechs were never in a pleasant situation. Fate has raised them in the way of the imperialistic ambitions of their more powerful neighbours, and they have had nobody except themselves to protect them. The Czechs, like the Jugoslavs, stand in the way of the historical German expansion towards the Adriatic. The deep convulsions of the world war have moved our consciousness; and the ardent desire to be free and independent at last united us into a firm and indissoluble union. We have forgotten old misunderstandings because we know that the realisation of our claims and aspirations depend on the victory of one and the same idea; upon the salvation of humanity from new horrors of war by means of the destruction of every tyranny of one nation over another, and on the victory of the idea of self-determination and liberty of every nation. Strengthened by the spirit of self-conscious democracy, we both believe that victory is within our power, within our united firmness and perseverance. And so we shall go on fighting until we have attained our aims together, even against the overwhelming power of our common enemies, to the ultimate victory of right and justice."

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[*] "Materials for the Study of the Bábi Religion." By Professor E. G. Browne. (Cambridge University Press. Price 12s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. April.	1918. April.		1336. Rajab.	5678. Iyar.
19	6	Friday	8	7
20	7	Saturday........	9	8
21	8	**Sunday**	10	9
22	9	Monday	11	10
23	10	Tuesday	12	11
24	11	Wednesday	13	12
25	12	Thursday	14	13

Earl Curzon of Kedleston is confined to bed by a chill.

The Roumanian Minister is leaving Jassy shortly for London.

The Serbian Minister returned to the Legation in Queen's Gate on April 14 from Oxford.

A Bucharest telegram says that M. Konstantin Stere has been selected as Governor of Bessarabia.

On Monday, at 100, York Mansions, Battersea Park, Lady Richard Udny gave birth to a daughter.

The Countess of Minto has succeeded the Dowager Countess of Bradford as Lady-in-Waiting to her Majesty.

Mr. Henry Cowper Gollan, C.B.E., Attorney-General, Trinidad, has been appointed Attorney-General of Ceylon.

News of the union of Bessarabia with Roumania has provoked much indignation among all circles of the Ukrainian population.

It is announced that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, accompanied by the Prime Minister, will visit Constantinople next month.

Next Tuesday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Xénie, daughter of King Nicholas of Montenegro. She was born at Cettinje in 1881.

An American Red Cross Commission of sixty members has been sent to Palestine to co-operate with the British in the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund.

A. O. Williams Bey, Director of the Cairo Post Office, who was temporarily lent for duty to the Department of Supplies, has reverted to his duties at the Post Office.

We are pleased to learn that H.E. the Greek Minister, who was confined to his room at the commencement of the week by an inflammation of the eye, is now quite well again.

Dr. Trumbitch, President of the Jugoslav Committee, and Dr. Bozidar Marcovitch, editor of *La Serbie*, with a military commission of Jugoslavs, are about to visit the Italian front.

Mr. F. Ongley, Registrar-General in Cyprus, has retired, and has taken up work in London in connection with the war. Mr. Ongley is one of the oldest island officials in point of service, and has spent all his time in Cyprus.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowring, who left Cyprus on February 7 on medical advice for Egypt, returned on March 17. It will be remembered that Mr. Bowring suffered from so-called "Malta fever" for over two months. He returns much benefited for the change.

Mr. A. C. Hann, the manager of the Alexandria branch of the National Bank of Egypt, has been appointed Sub-Commissioner of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John for the Palestine area. Mr. Hann is proceeding to Palestine immediately to take up his duties.

The engagement is announced between Major John Wilberforce Hare, D.S.O., Royal Garrison Artillery, son of C. E. Hare, of St. Martin's, Lee-on-the-Solent, and Irene Victoria (Ivy) Eardley-Wilmot, daughter of Colville Eardley-Wilmot, late Ceylon Civil Service.

We regret to learn from letters received from Cyprus dated the middle of March, that the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, had been indisposed for a considerable time. He was able to transact business, but had been confined to Government House for some months.

Mr. Antoine Saktouris, Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General of Greece in Cairo, arrived in Khartoum on March 11, having been deputed by his Government to visit the Hellenic community in the Sudan.

A drawing-room meeting in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund was held at the Mansion House, Newcastle, on Thursday afternoon of last week, when an address was given by Miss Latham, London, of the British Field Hospital, who is at present on leave from the Balkans.

Mr. Sidney H. Wells, Director-General of the Department of Technical Education and of the Civilian Employment Bureau, Egyptian Government, recently underwent a slight operation at the Anglo-American Hospital. We are glad to learn that the operation was quite successful.

In order to mark the centenary of the conclusion of the first treaty between the British Government and the Bikaner State, the Maharaja has given three lakhs of rupees (£20,000) for war purposes, including one lakh from his privy purse. The King-Emperor has graciously accepted the gift.

Colonel Milivoy Picolaievitch had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on April 13, upon relinquishing his appointment as Serbian Military Attaché, and Colonel-Major Georges Ostoïtch had a similar honour on that day, upon his appointment as Serbian Military Attaché.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., Commissioner of Famagusta, Cyprus, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lukach, of the Curzon Hotel, London, and Miss Joyce Fremlin, only daughter of Captain J. L. Fremlin, 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse), and Mrs. Fremlin, of Green Elms, Mortimer, Berks.

The Rev. Arthur Cayley Headlam, D.D., whose appointment to be Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford has recently been approved by the King, was engaged, as a young don, in archæological work in Asia Minor, and in 1893 published "Ecclesiastical Sites of Isauria."

Public interest, says the *Morning Post*, in Athens is centred on the trial of MM. Meidanis and Xinpoulos, magistrates, and M. Chalcocondilis, editor of *Nea Himera*, charged with being implicated in the forgery of a letter from M. Venizelos to General Korakas, or in making use of a letter known to be a forgery, for political purposes.

Prince George of Serbia, Mme. Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, and the personnel of the Legation were present on April 13 at a demonstration of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Waterloo Place, to give a send-off to a contingent of the Transport Staff which is joining the Elsie Inglis Field Hospital in Macedonia.

The marriage took place very quietly on March 27, at St. Luke's Church, Parkstone, of Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Fergusson, D.S.O., R.H.A., and Dulce Alice Mollie D'Ewes, elder daughter of F. W. Allen, Indian Civil Service. The bride was given away by her mother and attended by her sister, Miss Marigold Allen. Major the Hon. Evan Baillie, M.C., R.H.A., was best man.

Mr. R. W. Frazer, the distinguished Orientalist, and late secretary to the London Institution, has been appointed secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, in succession to Mr. H. A. Rose, late of the Indian Civil Service. Mr. Rose was appointed to succeed Miss Hughes—who resigned on her marriage to Mr. Frazer in the late autumn—but lately vacated the secretaryship to resume his war work with the Indian Labour Corps in France.

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A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Egypt, between Lieut.-Colonel F. F. Carroll, D.S.O., Egyptian Army, of Moone Abbey, Co. Kildare, and Evelyn Edith Mary, only daughter of Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, and Mrs. Bernard.

Captain the Hon. James Neil Archibald Primrose, M.C., of Gt. Stanhope Street, W., and the Manor House, Postwick, Norwich, younger son of Lord Rosebery, M.P. for North Cambridgeshire from 1910, joint Chief Whip with Lord Edmund Talbot, who was killed on active service in Palestine on November 15, has left unsettled estate of the value of £135,295, including personalty of the net value of £125,217.

The *London Gazette* announces that Major-General George de Symons Barrow, C.B., Indian Army, has been made a K.C.M.G. in connection with the military operations in Palestine resulting in the capture of Jerusalem. Among other recipients of distinction in this connection are Temporary Lieut.-General Sir Henry G. Channel, K.C.M.G., C.B., who has been made a K.C.B., and Major-General Edward W. C. Chaytor, C.B., C.M.G., New Zealand Force, who has been made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Under the will of the late Mr. John Gorman Ford, of the Diplomatic Service, the British Museum has recently acquired a small but valuable collection of coins. Mr. Ford was chiefly interested in coins as specimens of Greek art, and the 164 pieces in the bequest are, with the exception of two late Roman gold coins, all Greek of the finer periods. The Greek mints in Sicily, especially Syracuse, and those in Southern Italy, such as Heraclea, Tarentum, and Metapontum, are well represented, says the *Times*. Of the last-named there is an apparently unique and hitherto undescribed coin bearing the head of Heracles with his club over his shoulder. Other parts of the Greek world were not neglected by the collector, and the Museum accordingly comes into possession of some exceptionally fine specimens of the coinage of the kings of Macedon from Philip II. onwards, and also of the Hellenistic kings of Syria. With the coins come a small torso of a nude Aphrodite in Greek marble, and some engraved gems.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Kaimakam A. Crawford Bey, Western Arab Corps, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army with effect from March 1.

Captain J. Esmonde-White, Royal Artillery, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the artillery.

Major Ernest S. Oliver, Army Veterinary Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army from February 17 with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudan Government. Major Oliver has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

The Alexandria Municipal Delegation decided last month, upon the request of the military authorities, to allow Mr. McLean, chief engineer of the municipal service, to go to Jerusalem and consider the measures proposed to be taken by the authorities there for introducing improvements into the Holy City.

Major R. F. B. Knox, Captain H. A. S. Whiteloche, and Lieut. W. A. Stewart have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted the first and third to the Sudan Government, and the second to the Medical Corps.

◆

OBITUARY.

Colonel George Adolphus Jacob, Litt.D., late of the Bombay Staff Corps, has died at Oakridge, Redhill, at the age of seventy-seven years.

The Rev. James Stone, vicar of Hildenborough, Tonbridge, whose death, at the age of seventy, occurred on April 13, at one time represented the Church Missionary Society in Southern India.

Deputy Surgeon-General James H. Loch, late of the Indian Medical Service, who has died at Guildford in the eighty-sixth year of his age, served with the Oudh Field Force in 1855 and at the Relief of Azamgarh in 1858, receiving the medal for his services.

The death occurred recently in India of Pandit Sir Sundar Lal, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E., in his sixty-first year. Besides being the leader of the Allahabad Bar, he took a prominent part in the affairs of Allahabad University, and at the time of his death was Vice-Chancellor for the second time. He represented the University on the Provincial Legislature, and was latterly a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. Sir Sundar Lal was the first Indian to be appointed to the Bench of the Judicial Commissioners Court of Oudh, and was also for a time a Judge of the Allahabad High Court.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1918.

EDUCATION AND POLITICS.

The recent outburst of political discussion has inevitably reacted on each and every branch of the Indian administration. Officials who have been hitherto content to spend their lives in the service of the silent masses have now been forced to realise that these masses must for the time being count for less, and that ideals and methods must be brought into harmony with the changed environment, in which ultimate authority is claimed, and in practice to some extent exercised, by the small minority conventionally described as the educated classes of the country. A new orientation has thus become necessary, and while every department is affected to a greater or less extent, there can be no doubt that the heaviest burden falls on the educational institutions, which are bound not merely to keep abreast of the time but to look a generation ahead, and mould their present methods to their estimate of future needs. The task is one which calls for hard and clear thinking, and it is unfortunate that this essential has not been very conspicuous in such pronouncements on the subject as have recently appeared in India. The current argument may be stated concisely in the following terms. It is admitted that the masses of the people must presently have votes: illiterate voting is an unsatisfactory business from almost every point of view; consequently, the most urgent necessity is the immediate extension of primary education. That argument is to our minds both fallacious and dangerous. The fallacy lies in the fact that the proposed measure will not meet the emergency. If there are not to be illiterate voters, then any substantial measures of political reform must be postponed for something like a generation, and that course is obviously impracticable; the decision to advance has been taken, and the advance cannot now be stopped. The danger lies in the fact that the educators are not ready. So far as the greater part of rural India is concerned, it is at present an open question whether the primary schools are harmful or merely useless, and only a short time has elapsed since the official recognition that the present need is for a policy of wide and bold experiment to devise a curriculum which shall at any rate be worth its cost. That policy will take time to carry out, and it would be little short of madness to discard it now, and force the discredited curricula on a population which is already familiar with their defects. The hard facts of the situation lead, therefore, to the confusion that the masses must learn to vote before they learn to read; it is for the authorities, on the one hand, to devise methods by which illiterate voting may be safeguarded for the time being, and on the other to push forward with greatly increased energy the experiments in primary education already determined on. Money must be freely spent for this purpose, and no time must be lost in utilising the results on the widest possible scale, but to press untried or discredited systems on a reluctant country would serve only to delay the attainment of the object sought.

To our mind the most pressing need for educational development arises at the other end of the scale. For the moment it is even more important to train leaders than voters, and the questions to be faced concern the high schools and colleges from which the leaders of the future must be drawn. The reality of this need will be apparent to anyone who has studied the proceedings of the Indian Legislative Councils. The student will find among the unofficial members of these bodies a high standard of eloquence and industry, along with a genuine if somewhat narrow devotion to the public interest, but he will find also, after allowing for a few conspicuous exceptions, a deficiency in mental equipment which goes far to sterilise these valuable qualities; he will find, in a word, that combination of earnestness and ignorance which, as we have so lately seen, may become the most potent force for evil known to the modern world. The ignorance of which we speak is not manifested merely in regard to concrete facts: it is of that deeply-seated type which results in an entirely false view of the current of affairs, and in a failure to appreciate the forces with which it comes in contact. India has no monopoly of this quality, but the past history of the country gives it a peculiar tone: the long centuries of absolute and irresponsible government, whether Hindu or Moslem, have left their mark so deeply that even the central idea of a self-governing State is as yet but rarely grasped; the professed democrat thinks instinctively in terms of autocracy, and regards the most complex problem as capable of solution by an authoritative word, a word before which the minority must silently bow. India needs better leaders, if she is to complete the long and perilous journey on which she has started.

Much might be written as to the apportionment of blame for this unfortunate position, but the time for that discussion has passed. The position exists, and it forms part of the environment in which political reforms have to be introduced. Its existence should be regarded, therefore, not as an excuse for wordy recriminations, but as a trumpet-call to fresh activities. The schools and universities throughout the country must recognise the need, and must equip themselves to meet it with the least possible delay. The emergency cannot be met merely by alterations in the curricula; changes of detail are doubtless necessary, but the most essential thing is the introduction of a new spirit, equally distinct from the old vocational attitude and from the chauvinism manifested in more recent years. There is no longer any room for doubt regarding the aim in view. It is to build up a great Indian nation, strong enough and sane enough to govern itself and to take equal rank with the other free nations of the Empire. In the effort to achieve this aim every schoolboy and every undergraduate has his part to play, not, as the present custom is, by noisy demonstrations in honour of some short-lived idol of the platform, but in disciplining his own mind and in equipping himself with habits of most thoughtful and careful study, habits which can later on be placed at the disposal of the nation. It is such training and discipline as this that the schools and colleges must be organised to promote. With all their admitted imperfections they have already rendered great services to the Indian people; they have provided the country with diligent and competent administrators, with lawyers, doctors, engineers, and other servants of the public. They have proved their ability to furnish vocational training of real value, and they have now to face the harder task of providing citizens worthy to take up the burden which is about to fall upon their shoulders. In one respect they enter on this duty at a favourable time, for the rising generation is characterised by the possession of an abundance of mental and moral energy such as has not been at the disposal of the country for many centuries. This outburst of energy, which it is the fashion to describe as nationalism, may prove to be either a blessing or a curse, and the schools and colleges will have a preponderating voice in deciding which result shall be attained. The stream is already flowing strongly, and the current gathers volume year by year. Is it destined by-and-by to devastate the wide plains in an uncontrollable torrent, or is it to spread over them more and more widely in orderly and fertilising streams? That, to our minds, is the real question confronting the educators of to-day, and its importance for the future of India is so great that all other problems, even the instruction of the masses, must, if necessary, be subordinated to its prompt and satisfactory solution.

THE CAUCASUS*

ITS PEOPLE, HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND PRESENT POSITION.

By D. Ghambashidze.

III.

Turning to the economic situation in the Caucasus, it must be mentioned that here again the old Russian Government has never given a chance to the inhabitants to develop properly the almost unlimited natural resources of the country. The Russian Government, whilst hampering the economic development of the whole of Russia, has placed exceptional restrictions on the economic development of the Caucasus. But, in spite of these restrictions, there has been considerable activity for the last twenty years. In order better to illustrate the situation we give here certain data:—

In 1913 the crops of cereals in the whole of the Caucasus yielded 204 million bushels. But with the proper application of modern methods of agriculture, the output could be increased at least twenty-fold. In the same year 190,000 acres were cultivated as vineyards, and there were about 210,000 small vineyard peasant proprietors. Forty million gallons of wine were produced. The quality of the wine is excellent, and in those cases where modern chemistry was applied it was as good as that of the French and Italian wines.

In the same year there were 19,188 tobacco plantations, mostly in the western part of the Caucasus, which yielded about 23,000,000 lbs. of tobacco leaf. The greater part of this crop was raised from Turkish seed, was of good quality, and capable of being blended with high-grade Turkish tobaccos. It is worth noting that the popular Russian cigarettes are all manufactured from the Caucasian tobacco.

In the same year in Trans-Caucasia 112,000 acres were used for growing cotton, and 150 million lb. of ginned cotton were produced. With the proper organisation of irrigation, especially in the eastern part of Trans-Caucasia, the crops could be increased at least thirty-fold.

Among other branches of agriculture, silk production is the most prominent in Trans-Caucasia. This industry has existed for the last thirteen hundred years, and there are about 3,000 villages and 400,000 families engaged in it. In 1913, 14,400 lb. of grain were cultivated and about 433 million lbs. of cocoons were produced, which were chiefly exported to Marseilles and Milan.

Around Batoum, on the Black Sea, there are tea plantations. In 1895 there were only six acres. In 1912 there were 1,700 acres. In 1895 only 85 lb. of leaf were obtained; in 1912, 1,106,597 lb.; in 1895, 20 lb. of tea were produced; in 1912, 268,540 lb. This branch of cultivation is still in the experimental stage, but there are vast possibilities for expanding it in the near future.

Bee-keeping is also one of the ancient occupations in the Caucasus. In 1912 there were about 26,067 apiaries, with 596,924 beehives, and the production amounted to 5,653,302 lb. of honey and 656,820 lb. of wax. It is worth noting that the Russian Holy Synod has not given a chance to the Georgian Church to develop this minor industry very considerably. Had the reverse been the case, the Caucasus could have supplied all the demands of the churches all over Russia for wax for candles. But considerable quantities of so-called wax (actually cerosene) have been imported from abroad.

In 1913 the numbers of the domestic animals in the Caucasus were as follows: Horses, 1½ million; mules, 160,000; cows and oxen, 5½ million; buffaloes, 638,160; sheep, 15,000,000; goats, 767,613; camels, 16,000; pigs, 980,000. Altogether about 20,000,000. The country has vast possibilities for cattle breeding.

In the same year 10,000,000 acres were covered by forests, chiefly oak, pine, birch, etc. There were also fine varieties of boxwood and walnut. This industry in the Caucasus has been very feebly developed, for the reasons indicated above. In 1913 there were about 17,700 small workshops, including also a few large factories which employed about 127,846 workpeople and produced goods to the value of about £20,000,000.

Mining is at present very feebly developed, but it could be made a most important branch of the economic activity of the Caucasus. The mineral resources of the region are vast. There is a legend among the people there that when God Almighty created the world he dropped all the minerals on the spot where the Caucasus is situated. The unexploited deposits of copper are practically unlimited. In 1912 there were fifteen copper refineries, out of which only nine were working. These produced 9,656 tons of copper. In the same year 26,000 tons of silver, lead and zinc were produced, 900 tons of iron, 9,000 tons of sulphur, and 68,000 tons of coal. Of particular importance is the manganese ore entirely produced in Georgia, of which in 1912 885,000 tons were exported abroad. Of this Germany had 275,000 tons. Altogether Germany took for ten pre-war years from 41 per cent. to 47 per cent. of the total quantity exported.

The importance of the great oilfields of Baku is well known. Baku is connected with the Black Sea port of Batoum by the Trans-Caucasian Railway and the pipe line. The total length of the Caucasian Railway is, about 3,500 miles. The trunk line from Batoum to Baku goes through Tiflis, and there is also a direct line from Tiflis leading to Tabriz, in Persia.

The outbreak of the Revolution of March, 1917, was enthusiastically greeted by all the peoples of the Caucasus, who were quite confident that their just outstanding claims would be at last realised. They watched patiently for a couple of months, but discovered, to their great disappointment, that those who were at the head of the Government in Petrograd did not pay much attention to the vital problems of Russia, preferring to indulge in oceans of beautiful phraseology.

For the first two months, whilst the Cadets were the actual leaders of the Provisional Government, the question of nationalities was not carefully considered. The Cadets were perfectly honest patriots, but they did not display the wisdom of the practical politician; and, instead of working for the conversion of Russia into united States—which would have meant its salvation, on account of the mixture of nationalities in the country—they proclaimed a centralised system of government. They appointed a special Commission, consisting of four members of the Duma—Mr. Kharlamov (Russian) (chairman), Mr. Tchenkeli (Georgian), Mr. Djaffaroff (Tartar), and Mr. Papajanoff (Armenian)—to administer the Caucasus, in place of the Viceroy, the Grand Duke Nicholas, who was recalled. This Commission was given very small powers to deal with local matters, and had to refer for decisions to Petrograd.

Later on came Kerensky's Government, and the question of nationalities became acute. The following nationalities advanced their claims for self-government, besides the Finns and Poles, who claimed complete independence:—the Esthonians, Letts, Ukrainians, Moldavians, Tartars, and Georgians. The Armenians proclaimed that the question of their future was of an international character, and, therefore, they were waiting for the peace conference to settle it.

The demands of the nationalities of the Caucasus for self-government were met by complete refusal, until they came to the conclusion that, unless they looked after themselves, Petrograd was not going to trouble about them. The Georgians, Armenians, and Tartars, therefore, arranged their National Assemblies, at which each nationality elected a supreme National Council. These National Councils tried very hard to work in harmony with the Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils, but they found it quite a hopeless task. In a country like Russia, where 85 per cent. of the peasants cannot read or write, it is sheer madness to attempt Socialistic experiments; and the Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils throughout the whole of Russia had on their executive committees practically every class, with the exception of workmen and peasants. The climax was reached at the Moscow Conference, when Prince Kropotkin made a very passionate appeal to transform Russia into a federated republic. But this appeal was made in vain—nobody seemed to care about it.

Meanwhile, the nationalities of the Caucasus continued the process of nationalisation. The schools were converted into national schools; the Georgians restored the independence of their Church, which suffered so much humiliation from the Russian Holy Synod from 1811-1917, and Bishop Kirion was consecrated as Katholicos Patriarch of Georgia. The Russian Holy Synod again started a tremendous campaign against the Georgian Church, and at the Moscow Church Council it was proposed to proclaim the Georgian Church schismatic. About twenty members of the Council, headed by the most eminent Bishop Andrew of Ufa, vehemently protested against the proposal as being contrary to Christian tradition and unjust to the Georgian Church as defender of Christianity for ten centuries, and left the Council. It is pleasant to know that the body of Russian ecclesiastics, who were for a long time governed by the imbecile Rasputin, should still have some fine personalities among them.

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* The first part of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of April 5, and the second part in last week's issue.

At the very beginning of the Kerensky regime the Georgians and the Armenians proposed that all their units on the Austrian and German fronts should be transferred to their native country, where they would form a national army corps. This very fair demand was supported by the Allied Governments, but it was not granted until three days before the fall of Kerensky's Cabinet.

In November of last year the Bolsheviks seized Petrograd and overthrew Kerensky's Government. This was a signal to the nationalities of Trans-Caucasia to break off all relationship with the Central Government, and, in the same way as the Ukrainians and the Don Cossacks, they formed a Trans-Caucasian Republic. The elected Government was composed of three Georgians, three Armenians, three Tartars, and two Russians, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister being Mr. Gegechkori (Georgian). The Georgian and Armenian troops were subject to the orders of this Government, and Trans-Caucasia was governed as a separate republic.

The mountaineers of the Caucasus and the Kuban Cossacks formed themselves into a distinct republic, with a joint Government, but it proved impossible for them to work together, as the traditions of Shamil still survived, and the differences between them, especially on the land question, were unsurmountable. There were sanguinary fights between them for some four months, which constantly increased in bitterness.

Finally, in December of last year the mountaineers separated themselves from the Cossacks, and constituted the independent Republic of Dagestan, in the north of the Caucasus. The President of the new State is a Lesgian, Colonel T. Tchermoeff, a striking personality, and one of the most progressive Mohammedans. The members of his Cabinet are also men of character. He invited representatives of the Georgian National Council to attend the congress of mountaineers in Dagestan, an historical spot where Shamil made his last defence.

At this congress the Mohammedan clergy, together with the celebrated Sheikh Najmudin, attended. This latter dignitary had been very active amongst the mountaineers preaching a "Holy War" against the Christians. Colonel Tchermoeff strongly insisted that he should abandon his fanaticism, not only as undesirable and dangerous, but also as highly insulting to the Mohammedan religion. In this way this memorable gathering provided a good object-lesson for the Young Turks of Constantinople, who want to compensate themselves for military disasters by organized massacres. The Trans-Caucasian Republic, and particularly the Georgian Supreme National Council, have achieved enormous success, thanks to the intelligent co-operation of Colonel Tchermoeff and other leaders.

With the commencement of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations and the Bolshevik comedy the Ukrainians sent a special delegation to negotiate peace with the Central Powers in order to safeguard themselves from being sold by the Bolsheviks. The Trans-Caucasian Republic, having its territory close to the Turkish frontier, was confronted with violent Bolshevik propaganda, and special agents of the Bolsheviks penetrated the purely Russian troops on the Turkish frontier and started a criminal propaganda amongst them, inciting them to murder the Georgian and Armenian Christian races, who refused to accept class warfare as a substitute for national self-respect. Unfortunately, the Russian troops began their devastating work; but they were promptly disarmed by the Georgian and Armenian armies, and most of them then left for the interior of Russia. The defence of Trans-Caucasia was left entirely to the Georgian and Armenian troops. The only danger was from the Baku Tartars, whose leaders were very busy propagating the Pan-Islamic and Pan-Turanian movements. In these circumstances the Trans-Caucasian Government had to sign an armistice with the Turkish military command, with the proviso that until the peace treaty was signed the Turkish troops would not be transferred to Mesopotamia.

THE MOSLEM WORLD.
Editor: S. M. ZWEMER, D.D.

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When the Bolsheviks at last signed peace with the Central Powers and Turkey they also agreed to cede Batoum and Ardahan districts, which are an integral part of Georgia, and populated by Georgian Mohammedans, and the Kars district, largely populated by Armenians; and also agreed to the reoccupation of the entire territory of Turkish Armenia by Turkey. This criminal act aroused great indignation amongst the Georgians and Armenians, the more so as the Trans-Caucasian Republic does not recognize the Bolsheviks, and could not allow them to negotiate with anybody on their behalf. The Turkish Government had not the courage to propose the above-mentioned cession of territory to the Trans-Caucasian Government direct, but arranged it behind their backs with the Bolshevik desperadoes. Immediately the Brest-Litovsk negotiations finished the Porte addressed a Note to the Trans-Caucasian Government, expressing its desire to enter into peace negotiations after the cession of the above-mentioned territories, which cover about 4,000 square miles. This offer was indignantly refused.

The Turkish Government next entered into negotiations with the demoralised sailors of the Black Sea Fleet, requesting them to bombard the Georgian towns on the Black Sea coast. Accordingly, a dastardly attempt was made on the defenceless port of Soukhum, where there is a large concentration in the hospitals of wounded and consumptive soldiers. Immediately after this a large Turkish force advanced on Trebizond and Erzeroum, and approached the old frontiers of Trans-Caucasia. This emergency was immediately met. The Georgian and Armenian National Councils concluded a defensive alliance, and, as is well known, fierce fighting broke out with the Turks. The Georgian and Armenian armies are operating together, and the entire population of Georgia has been mobilised. This heroic action is worthy of high admiration, for the Georgians and Armenians are completely isolated from any Allied assistance; and are threatened in the rear by the Tartars, who are in sympathy with the Turks. The struggle will be a fierce one. The Georgians and Armenians will show adventurers like Enver Pasha and Talaat Pasha that self-respecting nations, however small they may be, will not allow themselves to be treated in the same way as the Bolshevik rabble.

It is interesting to note the reasons which prompted Turkey to undertake this dangerous operation. First, she looks for compensation for those military disasters which Great Britain inflicted upon her by detaching Mesopotamia, the whole of Arabia, and Palestine. Secondly, she wants to establish direct contact with the Baku Tartars, in order further to extend her influence in Turkestan, and with the Mohammedans inhabiting the south-eastern part of Russia. Thirdly, there is the desire to utilise the Trans-Caucasian railways, and, through Baku, to penetrate to Afghanistan. She also claims that the Georgian Mohammedans who inhabit the Batoum district, which is an integral part of Georgia, ought to be considered as Turks. But she forgets that even amongst the Mohammedans the principle of nationality has been established as supreme. During the Balkan War Albania broke away from Turkey, in spite of 75 per cent. of the Albanians being Mohammedans. In this war the Arabs of Mesopotamia and Arabia are fighting against her, in spite of being better Mohammedans than the Turks, as it is certain that the Arabs are not only the originators of the Islamic religion, but much superior as a race to the Turks.

The Georgian Mohammedans in the Batoum and Ardahan districts number 200,000. They were forcibly converted from Christianity to Islam after the devastating wars with the Turkish invaders. They have the same blood as the Christian Georgians, and they will never consent to be separated from their race. There is ample proof of this in the fact that in the present war against Turkey in the entire Georgian army there are three divisions composed purely of Georgian Mohammedans.

This struggle will be watched with lively interest by the entire civilized world, and by all friends of small nationalities. It will create great suffering for the Georgians and Armenians, but these two races represent the traditions of many centuries of self-defence. Especially will the well-known bravery of the Georgians be demonstrated once more.

It is the sacred duty of the Allies to help the Georgians and Armenians in every way, so that they may not share the same cruel fate as other small nationalities who have suffered so bitterly in the present struggle.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Malta and the War. April 11.

Colonel Yate asked the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the speech delivered by the Governor of Malta to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Malta Militia on March 15, 1918, calling upon them to represent the honour of Malta in the face of the enemy and to form a battalion for active service at the front; whether only 150 men out of the whole of these two battalions responded to this appeal; and whether, under these circumstances, compulsory service will be forthwith introduced into Malta, and all men of military age and fitness called out for service, either in combatant units or labour battalions as may be deemed best?

Mr. Hewins (Under Secretary for the Colonies): No, sir. My attention has not been called to the speech in question.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Colonel Faber asked the Prime Minister whether it is possible to publish a list of our officers and men who are known to be alive and prisoners of war in Turkish hands; and whether, seeing the state of suspense that exists in the public mind about these prisoners, he can make any statement to alleviate it?

Mr. Macpherson: I regret I can add nothing to the full answer which the member for Central Sheffield gave on March 18 last to the member for North Dorset, except that the untraced British officer therein referred to is now found not to have been missing at Kut, and should therefore be excluded from the figures. All information we have is communicated to the relatives and all new information is published, and I am afraid to publish a new nominal list at the present time would only lead to misunderstanding.

Colonel Faber: Arising out of that, could my hon. friend furnish the names of those in the internment camp near Constantinople?

Mr. Macpherson: I will look into that, and furnish the names if possible.

Colonel Thorne asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that the Austrian military authorities are preventing parcels of foodstuffs being sent to our prisoners of war in Turkey; and if he will take action in the matter?

Mr. J. Hope: The transmission of parcels for prisoners of war to Turkey through Austria was stopped by the Austro-Hungarian Government for several periods last year, and has now been stopped since the beginning of March, the reason given being the congestion of traffic. Although his Majesty's Government are informed that the present stoppage is not likely to be of much longer duration, they propose to take action in order to put an end to it and to prevent similar stoppages in future.

Mr. Hume-Williams asked the hon. member for Sheffield (Central Division) whether Turkey has yet ratified the agreement as to an exchange of prisoners arrived at several months ago at Berne; and, if not, whether he can state the reason of the delay?

Mr. Hope: The Turkish Government has not yet ratified the Berne Agreement, but his Majesty's Government cannot believe they will not ratify it, seeing that it will be of no less benefit to Turkish than to British prisoners of war.

Mr. Hume-Williams asked when the camps in which British and Indian prisoners captured by the Turks are now interned were last inspected; and what is the most recent information received as to the numbers, health, and general condition of such prisoners?

Mr. Hope: The last inspection of internment camps in Turkey was that undertaken by the Swiss delegates of the International Red Cross Committee in December, 1916. As my hon. friend is aware, the agreement concluded with the Turkish delegates at Berne provides for the inspection of prisoners of war camps. Since the report of the Swiss delegates no further formal reports have been received, but a great deal of information reaches his Majesty's Government from various sources, and tends to shew that the treatment of British prisoners has, if anything, become somewhat better in recent times, but that they are suffering great hardships from the economic conditions prevailing in Turkey.

Baluchistan Air Raid.

Mr. Trevelyan asked the Secretary of State for India whether the statement that our aeroplanes have been bombing the tribal concentrations of the Maris of Baluchistan means that purely military posts have been attacked or places where women and children are liable to be present?

Mr. Herbert Fisher: The telegram received by the Secretary of State for India speaks of "tribesmen" and "an enemy gathering" of Maris having been bombed by our aeroplanes. There is no reason to suppose that places were thus attacked where women and children were likely to be present.

Friendly and Neutral Aliens.

Mr. King asked the Minister of National Service what is the present policy being followed towards friendly and neutral aliens who are men of military age in this country; and whether Roumanians and Russians are regarded as aliens of friendly or neutral nationality?

Mr. Beck: I would refer the hon. member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Tuesday, and to the answer given yesterday by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

King of Greece (Decoration). April 15.

Mr. Lynch asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Duke of Connaught utilised any war vessel in his journey to Greece to confer a decoration on the King; and, if so, by whose authority this was done?

Dr. Macnamara: Yes, sir; and by the authority of the Admiralty.

Mr. Lynch: Do the Government consider this a proper use for a warship, considering the present situation has been brought about by the attempts to bolster up that dynasty?

Dr. Macnamara: His Majesty's Government having called upon the Duke of Connaught to undertake this duty, we were bound to take steps to provide safe and proper passage, and did.

Prisoners of War (India).

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Report of the Swiss Red Cross Commissioners who visited India last year to investigate the condition of prisoners of war in that country has been, or will be, published or made available for perusal by members?

Mr. Herbert Fisher: The full Report of the Swiss Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, on their visits to the prisoners of war camps in India was published by the Committee in June, 1917, through the Librarie Georg et Cie., Geneva, and the Librarie Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine, Paris. Extracts of the report, together with a descriptive article by one of the delegates, have been published in pamphlet form by Messrs. Fisher Unwin. Copies of both publications have been placed in the Library.

Ex-King Constantine. April 16.

Mr. Lynch asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs would ascertain definitely whether the Greek Government had recently reduced the pension payable to ex-King Constantine; whether Constantine was believed to have instigated the plot discovered in Greece for the overthrow of the present Parliamentary system there; whether he had been in communication with his son, King Alexander; whether King Alexander had means of communicating with him; and whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs proposed to intervene in this matter.

Lord R. Cecil: I understand that the Budget Committee of the Greek Chamber have recommended the cancellation of the allowance allotted, though never in fact paid, to the ex-King; the answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative; that to the third and fourth parts is, so far as is known, in the negative. As regards the last part the answer is also in the negative.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Answering Sir R. Cooper, who asked if any attempt had been made to negotiate with the Turkish Government for the repatriation of British prisoners of war of over two years' standing; and, if not, whether negotiations to that end would be initiated, Mr. Hope said:—On the general subject of negotiations with the Turkish Government with regard to prisoners, I would remind my hon. friend of the fact that an agreement was signed between British and Turkish delegates at Berne some months since, but has not yet been ratified by the Turkish Government. The basis of this agreement is repatriation on grounds of health rather than length of captivity; and until this agreement is carried out it would seem premature to start fresh negotiations on another principle, apart from the inherent difficulties of the course suggested in the question.

Later, Mr. Hope, replying to Mr. Macmaster (U., Chertsey), said that in regard to the condition of British prisoners in Turkey, their treatment at the hands of the Turks appeared to have somewhat improved, but they were suffering very considerable hardships owing to the economic conditions that prevailed in Turkey. There was no limit on the amount of correspondence, parcels, or money which British prisoners of war were allowed by the Turkish authorities to receive, although money was not issued to the prisoners in large amounts at a time, and the delivery of everything sent from this country was subject to the irregularities and delays characteristic of Turkish administration.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir F. Hall asked whether, in view of the terrible privations to which these prisoners of war were exposed, the hon. gentleman would see that, if possible, steps would be taken to accelerate the delivery of parcels to them.

Mr. Hope: I think that every possible step that can be thought of has been and is being taken.

Mr. Hope, in a written reply to Colonel Sir Frederick Hall, who asked a question regarding the condition in which British prisoners are living in Yozgad, Turkey, states that the general conditions there are not different from those at other officers' camps in Turkey. The climate is healthy, and, apart from the high cost of living and the difficulty of obtaining certain supplies, the general conditions and the treatment of the prisoners are tolerable.

Stocks of clothing are constantly sent to prisoners other than officers at this, as at other, camps, by the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople. On December 7 last food and clothing to the value of £T25,630 were despatched to the various camps. The Government have no knowledge of the statements in the question regarding the inadequacy and poor quality of the food supplied to the prisoners. Food parcels are sent from this country, and, though they take long to arrive, the majority appear to reach their destination in due course. In all countries officer prisoners have to pay for their own food. There is no recent information of the price of bread at Yozgad. The price appears to vary considerably in different parts of Turkey.

Allowances are already made to all officers and men, in addition to their pay, to enable them to obtain the necessaries of life, and steps are being taken to increase them. Food is already sent from this country, but it is probably more desirable that clothing should be purchased locally, and this is done by the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople, who has better facilities for securing its delivery to the prisoners.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Lebanon.

In an article which appears in the *Queen* (April 6), and is entitled "The Glory of Lebanon," the author writes:—

The term "Lebanon" covers two high mountain ranges, separated by a plateau more than 2,000 ft. above sea-level. The eastern range is the Anti-Lebanon, grand, stern, barren, and swept by deep black shawods. Here there are fewer peaks, but a long line of ramparts stands turreted and pinnacled against the clear blue sky. As they drop lower and vanish southwards, Hermon rises up like a mighty giant, with patches of unmelted snow even in July. This is the Mount of Transfiguration, "high" and "apart." Though only 9,800 ft. high, Hermon looks down on almost the whole of Palestine. Seen from Galilee it appears to be a dim white cone, and this is also the shape of the wonderful shadow thrown by the mountain, at sunrise and sunset over the earth and up into the sky. On its summit once stood the Temple of the Sun, and facing it from the north were the Baal groves of the Anti-Lebanon, the "high places" of Scripture. One of them can be easily traced, and is regarded with superstition by the inhabitants of a village about a mile distant. A group of fine old evergreen oaks, with prickly leaves and furry acorn-cups, screens the remains of a semi-circular altar built of rough stones. Owing to a custom still prevalent, and probably of heathen origin, the spot is covered with fragments of pottery, and bears the name of "The Mother of Pieces," for when there is sickness in the village the natives go out to the Baal grove, carrying a new pitcher, which they shatter on the ruined altar to ensure the recovery of the patient. Not far from this village is a famous vineyard named after Bacchus, and within a ride lies the quiet nook where the Abana has its source.

On the Tigris.

The *London Magazine* contains an article "With the Flag to Bagdad," by Percy Kessel, an air-mechanic who, as a photographer with the forces, had many experiences in Mesopotamia which he did not enjoy. Here is one that befell him on the river steamer:—

After our tea we thought of bed, for it is the "early bird that catches the best spot." Some would have to stand all night. Talking sympathetically to one of the crew, I "wangled" a hammock for the night. With this slung between two posts on deck I was A1. Many others started turning in, and soon every inch of the deck was covered.

All went well for an hour or two, then a storm broke. The awning above us began to leak, and very soon we were all soaked. There was nowhere else to go, so we just had to stick it. Turning over in my clammy blanket, I dozed.

Presently—thud!

The rain had tightened my hammock-ropes, and the one at my head had given way.

With my feet still tied up to the deck-post, I slowly came to my senses.

Who was that groaning? The sound was very near, yet I could see nothing wrong. I put my hand out, and suddenly it dawned on me. I had fallen on top of the person who had been sleeping on the deck under my hammock. I wriggled to one side, made my apologies, and then went to sleep again, with my feet still held up to the post.

Amusing to read of, such things as these are not enjoyable to go through. They are, however, only minor troubles when one is taking part in a great war. The following passage shows that the German does not always foresee everything, as certain critics seem to imagine he does:—

The attempt to relieve General Townshend in Kut had failed, but preparations were soon in hand for another attempt. We still had wireless communication with the imprisoned army, which proved useful on more than one occasion. One morning the message came through that "Fritz" was just leaving his aerodrome. The German aerodrome was under observation by the British in Kut, and the enemy's goings and comings were reported.

The emergency pilot and observer for the day were immediately sent up, and when the Fokker arrived he had a hot reception. The machines wheeled round each other, with the guns barking.

Again they charged, banking out of each other's way just a second too late. The wing tips collided, and the machines staggered a second before they continued their flights. The fight was unfinished. The German flew away surrounded by shrapnel bursts from the anti-aircraft guns. Our pilot managed to land, and it was found that nearly two feet of the wing had been carried away by the collision.

Every time the enemy flew over he found some of our men already up and waiting. He began to "smell a rat," and soon afterwards the German aerodrome was moved to a more secluded spot.

◆

From an authoritative source Reuter's Agency learns that the statements appearing from time to time in the German Press as to any alleged success of the German propaganda in Afghanistan may be regarded as unworthy of attention. The facts are exactly opposite to what the Germans expected. The Amir has throughout the war adhered fully to his policy of the maintenance of neutrality, and his Majesty's relations with the Indian Government were never more cordial than at the present.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The discussion on bank amalgamations at the annual meeting of the Chambers of Commerce last week showed that the main reason for such opposition as there is to this movement is the fear that it may be injurious to the commercial interests of the country. No sense of hostility to the large joint stock banks was displayed, nor was it maintained that hitherto there had been any lack of support for local enterprises; but there was, on the other hand, a feeling of doubt as to the consequences of the establishment of money trusts. That this should be so is, perhaps, not unnatural in view of the immense responsibilities that will rest on the banks after the war. Not only will it fall to them to provide the wherewithal for the development of our industrial activities, but they will also have to maintain the balance between home industries and foreign enterprises. These aspects seem to me to strengthen the case for banking amalgamations, for it is surely obvious that the larger corporations will take the widest view of their responsibilities, and will not be liable to the fault of allowing the scales to incline too much either way.

⁂

The main feature of the meeting in question was an eloquent defence of amalgamations by Sir Edward Holden, who maintained that their effect would be to render more funds available for distribution among manufacturers to enable them to increase their outputs to the greatest possible extent at the end of the war. The withdrawal of foreign money at present employed here, he pointed out, is then likely to create a difficult position as regards exchange, for which the best, if not the only, remedy will be the rapid expansion in our exports of manufactured goods. With regard to this question and the problem of the reduction of the amount of artificial currency there can be no doubt as to the utility of combinations of strong banks. Evidently what Sir Edward had to say on the subject convinced the majority of his audience for the original resolution "viewing with apprehension" the series of amalgamations eventually was transformed into a recommendation that the Board of Trade should keep a watchful eye on any such schemes in the future.

⁂

In view of the fact that India is enjoying unprecedented prosperity at the present time, the Budget, which makes no provision for new war taxation or for increased war expenditure, can scarcely be said to err on the side of enterprise. The Indian financial position is, of course, one of peculiar difficulties which critics on this side are apt to under-estimate and make inadequate allowance for, but in the present case criticism of the Budget comes from India itself, where, judging by a message from the Karachi correspondent of *The Times*, there is considerable dissatisfaction at the financial proposals. "Considering the prosperous and peaceful state of India," the correspondent writes, "informed opinion regards India's financial effort as wholly inadequate and discreditable to the Government; moreover, the absence of further taxation and an active war campaign are resulting in a very dangerous rise of prices, most of the military expenditure being provided for by additions to and inflations of the currency."

⁂

The report of the Commission on Egypt's Commerce and Industry which was appointed a little over two years ago has now been issued. As it will in due course be the subject of detailed criticism in these columns, I will only say now that the commissioners appear to have done their work exceedingly well, and to have made a thorough survey of the varied factors involved in the commercial and industrial development of the country. Obviously two of the most important questions at issue are the kind of new industries that are suitable for Egypt and the value of State aid to industry in the shape of fiscal charges and bounties, and they both receive due attention in the report, as also do such subjects as technical education, the relation of the Egyptian Customs to the economic interests of the country, and the organisation of a department corresponding to our Board of Trade.

⁂

While on this subject, I may say that I think it much to be regretted that the report should only have been published in French, for it is obviously desirable that the Egyptian population should have every facility for obtaining information on a matter which concerns them so closely as the industrial future of the country. An Arabic translation would naturally have involved additional time and expense, both matters of some import at the present time, but in view of the importance of the subject dealt with it was certainly called for, and I regard the complaint of the Egyptian papers on this score as entirely justified.

⁂

I am glad to learn that there is a distinct possibility of the revival of tobacco growing in Egypt. The project has been under discussion for some time, and it may now be said to have reached a practical stage, as negotiations are said to be in progress between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance in regard to the selection of extensive areas of Government land for the purpose of experiments in tobacco cultivation. There seems no good reason why Egypt should not grow good tobacco, and if it is proved to be possible every effort should be made to encourage what would be a most valuable addition to the country's industries.

⁂

The report of Ransomes and Rapier, the Ipswich engineers and ironfounders, shows a record of good progress during the past twelve months, the net profits being £18,800, an advance of £2,700 on the previous figures. The dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., free of income-tax, and £5,000 is placed to the reserve, while the carry forward is £21,600, as against £17,400. With the present addition the reserve fund now reaches £73,000, and as the issued share capital is only £90,100 the position of the concern is very satisfactory.

⁂

Among the difficulties confronting Egypt just now is the increasing shortage of the manufactured articles for which the country has been dependent on Europe in the past. This shortage has given business people in Egypt an opportunity of showing what can be done in the way of substitution with the means at their disposal, and by all accounts they have proved quite ingenious in coping with the emergency. For instance, furniture, which has always been imported, is now being manufactured on a small scale in the country. This industry, of course, can at best be purely temporary, as the country has an insufficient supply of raw materials for the purpose, and I mention it merely as an indication of trade conditions there at the present time.

⁂

The outstanding feature of the trade of the Sudan in January was a remarkable increase in imports, the figures being £E432,836, compared with £E170,857 for January, 1917. Exports amounted to £E220,626, an increase of £E16,182 on the corresponding figures for the previous year, so that the Sudan commences the year with an adverse trade balance of £E212,210. India and Aden and Egypt are responsible for most of the increase in imports. Thus the Sudan imported goods to the value of £E177,382 from India and Aden as against £E7,875 in the previous January, while the Egyptian figures rose to £E137,135. Conversely, Great Britain's exports to the Sudan dwindled from £E56,224 to £E2,405. Egypt took practically the whole of the exports, her figures in this case and as regards imports into the Sudan, showing, our Cairo correspondent points out, an increase of 60 per cent.

⁂

The reports of the Mysore Gold Mining Company and its companion undertaking the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, which have just been issued, show that the two companies achieved somewhat different results during the past twelve months. The Mysore concern made a decreased profit of £404,296, the reduction being due to increased costs of working. The expenses of the Ooregum Company, on the other hand, were lower than before, owing to curtailment of development and reduction in the quantity of residue treated, while the output of gold constituted a record, and as a result the balance on the revenue account is £170,300, as against £167,400. Despite this favourable result, however, the dividends remain at 40 per cent. on the Preference and 30 per cent. on the Ordinary shares.

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

Increased Imports in January.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 10.

During January imports amounted to £E3,222,291 and exports to £E3,940,945. This is an increase in the former case of £E367,854, but a decrease in exports of £E1,437,681, the figures for January, 1917, having been respectively £E2,854,437 and £E5,378,626.

Imports.

The chief imports during the month were: Meat, £E109,148; coffee, £E48,972; tea, £E77,754; spirits, £E66,688; stationery, £E77,609; coal, £E328,973; textiles, £E1,428,160 (including cotton textiles) £E906,786, woollen ditto £E81,307, cotton threads £E67,964, sacks £E105,334, and ready-made underclothing and hosiery £E63,889); manufactured iron and steel, £E212,571; and tobacco, £E242,628. No sugar, petroleum, benzine or manures were imported during the month, rice imports fell from £E245,087 to practically nil, and tobacco decreased by £E85,856. On the other hand, coal increased by £E127,641 (the quantity, however, fell off by over 9,000 tons), textiles by £E727,581, of which £E456,858 was represented by cotton textiles, and manufactured iron and steel by £E109,824.

Exports.

Under exports the principal items were:—Eggs, £E90,983; cotton seed, £E150,215; sugar, £E168,906; cotton, £E3,377,078; and cigarettes, £E30,555. No oil cake was exported, cotton seed fell £E135,024 and cotton £E1,308,623, and the only increase of any importance was £E149,909 in sugar, whereof 3,400 tons more were exported during the month.

Increased Trade with Great Britain

Great Britain's share rose very considerably. In imports her total was £E2,092,482, or 64 per cent. of the whole, as against £E972,860 a year ago. Under exports her total was £E3,445,809, about 90 per cent. of the whole, as opposed to £E2,727,238 a year ago, when the gross amount was £E1,437,681 less. The Empire supplied all the coal, 90 per cent. of the textiles, and practically all the manufactured iron and steel and writing and printing paper. All the eggs, cotton seed, gold ingots, wool, senna and rags went to England, as well as 90 per cent. of the cotton and practically all the gum. Amongst the other countries the only increases of any importance under imports were France, who doubled her share to £E104,209, and Japan, who rose from £E16,697 to £E63,037. Under exports the falling off was even more general, and outside Great Britain the only increases were Greece from £E5,649 to £E68,386, and French Mediterranean possessions from £E2,134 to £E125,615 (due to sugar). Raw silver to the extent of £E279,739 came in during the month; of this all but £E1,319 was new coinage, supplied by the United Kingdom and India.

Imports of Cotton Piece Goods.

The January Customs return, from which the above figures are taken, contains a new table showing the quantity and value of cotton piece goods imported into the country. The table is divided into six sections—grey, bleached, printed, dyed in the piece, dyed in the yarn, and mosquito net. From this we see that the only categories where Great Britain had any competition were goods dyed in the piece and in the yarn, of which Italy sent small consignments. The details of the cotton piece good imports are only recorded from January of this year, so there will be no means of comparing with previous years.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan progressed during January. Imports into Egypt came to £E215,597 and exports to the Sudan to £E137,135, increases of 60 per cent. in each case. The chief imports into Egypt were live stock, £E71,735; maize, £E26,718; sesame, £E22,384; gum, £E46,132; charcoal, £E6 756; and senna, £E3,325. The principal exports from Egypt were sugar, £E22,390, and cotton textiles, £E21,476.

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WATER-POWER IN INDIA.

Future Possibilities.

Speaking before the Royal Society of Arts on April 18, on "Water-Power in India," Mr. Alfred Dickinson, M.Inst.C.E., M.I.E.E., M.I.Mech.E., said that the most important scheme thus far was that of the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Supply Company. It was frequently said that engineers lacked imagination, and that there was no such thing as romance in engineering. He believed that the Tata Hydro-Electric scheme disproved those statements. The general impression was that water-power was the utilisation of the water of existing rivers or lakes. The Tata Hydro-Electric undertaking was not of that character; it was a scheme to provide, approximately, 100,000 water horsepower from valleys which had from time immemorial been dry for nine months of the year, and where no water had been previously stored. The valleys were so dry that one of the initial difficulties in converting them into lakes was to provide water for use in building the masonry dams.

When the scheme was in process of development he was advised by engineering friends not to risk his reputation by being associated with "such a perfectly absurd engineering proposition," and on generally accepted engineering principles he admitted that if the scheme had been placed before him for advice he would have reported against it. Many looked upon the question, not as a serious engineering proposition, but as a fairy tale. But even in engineering the exception proved the rule. The Tata Hydro-Electric scheme could only be justified on that ground. This would be appreciated when it was stated that, even after the work of building the dams had been in hand for some very considerable time, the company were advised that the supply of water would be insufficient because the catchment area could not yield water to fill the lakes. Those versed in these matters would agree that the engineer did not lack confidence who advised that rain falling during the monsoon on a total catchment area of 22 square miles would be sufficient to enable, roughly, 100,000 water horsepower to be developed for 3,600 hours in each year, but it was confidence begot by experience and knowledge, and now justified by results. The catchment area was exceptional to the extent that almost all the water falling ran off.

His view was that the Indian Government should at once undertake a complete investigation of the possible sources of water-power in the Indian Empire, and the information obtained should be available for public use. Perhaps this would follow as a corollary of the investigations of the Industrial Commission now sitting in India.

Private enterprise had already done much, and was doing more. Messrs. Tata, Sons and Co., Bombay, had been the pioneers, and continued to lead the van. As a result of investigations made at their expense, it could now be demonstrated that, by constructing a dam across a valley in the Western Ghats, water from the Koyna River could be harnessed so as to provide approximately 300,000 h.p. continuously. The preliminary estimates of cost showed this scheme to be a thoroughly sound commercial proposition.

In his opinion this was a discovery of the highest importance to the whole of the East. If a Niagara had been announced the world would have been agog, perhaps more from a spectacular than a power-producing point of view. When the possibility of supplying 300,000 h.p. for every hour in the year is appreciated it would be seen that it was equivalent to supplying to industries during the normal working hours of 3,600 per annum no less than 730,000 h.p. for each and every working hour of the year.

Its Industrial Value.

He was investigating the possibility of utilising for power purposes the irrigation lake at Periyar, in the Madras Presidency. So far the investigations showed that a thoroughly workable and commercial scheme for the manufacture of nitrates on a large scale could be established. He was aware that power could be obtained from the Bari Doab Canal and the Dudh Sagar Falls, and he had every reason for believing very considerable power could be secured in many parts of India. The advantage of water-power development in India would be apparent to those interested in, and who appreciated the industrial awakening of this vast Empire, for water-power development could and would materially hasten that awakening. The rapidity of industrial and agricultural development would, in his view, be largely dependent upon a closer union between the East and West.

Although much had been done, to use a vulgarism, India's industrial possibilities had scarcely been scratched. It was well known that not infrequently the obvious was overlooked. His view was that so far as the captains of finance and industry of the West were concerned, they had not been altogether ignorant of the possibilities of industrial development in India, but hitherto they had not shown the necessary confidence by taking part in their helping forward rapid development. They had an opportunity to finance and construct the Tata Hydro-Electric scheme, but failed to appreciate its importance, and it was left to India to find the requisite capital, to the great advantage of the Indian investor, for it was the only electrical undertaking of magnitude which, in the first year of its working, had earned and paid a dividend on its full capital; and, although it was as yet incomplete, it was earning a profit of over £190,000 per annum.

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TRADE OF ARABISTAN.

Growing Importance of Mohammerah.

The following report on the trade of Arabistan during the year ended March 20, 1917, from the Acting British Consul at Arabistan, reveals a surprising development in the trade passing through Mohammerah during that year (says the *Board of Trade Journal*), the value of imports and exports having doubled as compared with the preceding year, and amounting to over £3,500,000. It is true that the decline in the value of the pound sterling accounts for a certain portion of this increase, and that the figures for the other ports, Bushire and Bundar Abbas, will, for the same reason, be far larger than in previous years; but such features as the large import of cotton piece goods (in volume they amounted to 5,000 tons), and the extraordinary increase in the use of the parcel post via Mohammerah are of exceptional note.

Mohammerah is the port of supply for the entire province of Arabistan and, to a very large extent, for the province of Ispahan and the Bakhtiari country as regards imported goods; and the port of shipment for goods from the interior of Persia. In normal years Russian goods are largely imported into Persia through the Caspian Sea. In 1916-17, however, owing to the conditions created by Turkish operations on and about the frontier of Persia, which necessitated the imposition by the Russian Government of severe restrictions on exports to Persia of the chief commodities, with the main object of preventing leakage of goods of Russian origin into enemy hands, the port of Mohammerah became practically the only port of supply of imported goods to the principal markets in central, northern and north-western Persia. Merchants of standing in Hamadan, Sultanabad, Resht, Teheran and Tabriz have had to depend on Mohammerah for part at least of their import trade.

Value of Trade.

The total value of the trade of the port during the year attained the unprecedentedly high figure of £3,665,961, as compared with £1,845,465 in 1915-16, an increase of £1,820,496, or 98.65 per cent. The value of the imports amounted to £2.572,036, as compared with £1,105,347 in 1915-16, an increase of £1,466,689, or 150.78 per cent.; while the total value of exports was £1,093,925, as compared with £740,118, an increase of £353,807, or 47.80 per cent. The following are the chief factors which may be said to have contributed towards this large increase in the value of the trade, especially the increased value of imports:—

(1) The deflection of a large part of the import trade of the port of Bushire to Mohammerah, owing to the closing of the Bushire-Shiraz route, by which considerable trade used in normal times to be done with Central Persia and Fars.

(2) Reduced import of goods of Russian origin, owing to restrictions imposed by the Russian Government on exports from that country into Persia.

(3) Increased freight rates on goods imported from the United Kingdom via India owing to there being no direct sailings to the Gulf Ports, and also the high freight rates on goods imported from India, which went far to swell the value of imported merchandise.

(4) The fact that a very large trade in piece goods and other light merchandise from the United Kingdom was done by the parcels post, the high rate of parcel postage greatly enhancing the value of such goods.

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the principal imports into and exports from Mohammerah during 1916-17, as compared with 1915-16:—

Imports.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	£	£
Cotton piece goods	262,628	1,366,743
Cotton yarn	28,810	96,192
Cast iron manufactures	417,066	257,412
Tea	108,693	189,115
Crystal sugar	39.053	154,555
Loaf sugar	34,526	57,650
Rice	29,892	98,205
Woollen, and woollen and cotton mixed, goods	4,253	26,524
Metals	30,607	54,972
Tissues of silk	1,348	11,001
Drugs	3,286	15,668
Spices	12,486	11,394
Indigo and other dyes	1,005	24,827
Chemical products	21,324	9,684
Haberdashery	3,987	13,192
Exports.		
Opium	102,038	194,481
Carpets	51,409	102,575
Tobacco	17,517	101,339
Gums	30,643	83,672
*Kerosene oil	393,811	472,150
Wool	43,325	58.924
Wheat	27,862	3,001
Almonds	21,743	13,552

* This figure is only a rough estimated value.

It should be remembered that a very small percentage of goods imported at Mohammerah is required for consumption in the town and suburbs, and that the importance of Mohammerah lies in the fact that it plays the part of a distributing centre for the principal towns in the interior of Persia. Goods for the interior are transported by river steamers and sailing craft up the Karun as far as Ahwaz. From Ahwaz they are forwarded by caravans to the Bakhtiari country, Ispahan, Teheran, Resht, Hamadan, Sultanabad, and Tabriz. Goods for consumption in the Khuristan district are forwarded from Ahwaz to Shustan by sailing craft and from Shustan to Dizful by caravans.

Imports from Japan.

One of the results of the war has been the placing on the market of considerable quantities of goods bearing Japanese trade marks. Most of the undermentioned goods are now imported into Arabistan from Japan.

Enamelled-ware, hosiery, handkerchiefs, haberdashery, glass and glassware, toys, cotton vests, beer, silk cloth, inferior woollen cloth, jute tissues, cotton thread (for sewing), safety matches, lampware, scent and soap and other toilet requisites.

It should be noted, however, that such goods are not imported direct from Japan, but from India, where they are apparently largely imported and re-exported thence to Persian Gulf ports.

Development of Parcels Post.

One of the notable features of the year under review has been the steadily increasing trade carried on through the parcels post by merchants in central and northern Persia. The gradual growth month by month of trade through this service shows that it may assume large proportions should the present unfavourable conditions in regard to tonnage continue.

Of the total number of 29,860 parcels received in 1916-17, 19,080 were cotton and woollen goods from the United Kingdom, and silk piece goods (of Chinese and Japanese origin) from India. Over 50 per cent. of piece goods parcels were Manchester cotton goods, such as white shirtings, dyed cotton goods, drills, etc.; about 40 per cent. were woollen goods from Bradford; and 10 per cent. contained Chinese, Japanese, and Indian silk goods. A considerable quantity of drugs was also imported, coming chiefly from France; sewing cotton from the United Kingdom and India; and footwear, hosiery, wearing apparel, stores, tobacco, and other light goods.

Merchants in the interior have realised that by means of the parcels post system they can get what goods they want in the shortest possible time, and they do not seem to mind the extra expense involved so long as quickness of despatch and safe arrival of the goods is ensured. The time that would elapse between the placing of orders to be shipped by steamer and the arrival of goods at destination would probably be from six to eight months under present conditions; when the difficulties of obtaining cargo space are very great, and at times insuperable. Goods imported by post are taken delivery of by firms in Mohammerah on behalf of merchants in the interior of Persia, and forwarded to Ahwaz by river boats or sailing craft. At Ahwaz they are made up into packages and forwarded to destination by caravan.

Customs Premises.

Up to March 20, 1917, the Customs House at Mohammerah possessed only one large closed godown, which was quite insufficient to afford cover and protection to the very large quantity of goods imported at the port; and on account of insufficiency of accommodation goods had to be stored in an open yard enclosed by fencing. Considerable damage was thus suffered by goods so stored, especially during the winter rains, and resulted in complaints on the part of the local mercantile community, whose crying need had always been for more godowns. The first signs of a prospective improvement in this direction were noticed about August, 1916, when the Director of Customs entered into a contract with a British engineering firm of Bombay for the erection of two corrugated iron sheds. About 80 tons of iron materials required for this purpose arrived from Bombay about the end of the year, and the erection of two sheds—one large, measuring 174 ft. by 59 ft. by 13 ft., and the other small, measuring 69 ft. by 59 ft. by 13 ft. were completed on May 10, 1917. These two sheds and the old large godown will, it is hoped, afford sufficient accommodation for all cargo and protect it from damage by rains.

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Greece is to receive a loan of £8.800,000 from the United States as soon as the Greek Parliament passes the necessary authorising legislation.

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Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

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Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."
ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piraeus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Ploughing by Gas-power.

Progressive landowners and agriculturists in the East, who have adopted modern methods of cultivation by the use of mechanical power, and especially those who depend principally on the employment of their petrol or oil tractors for seasonable field work, find themselves in a serious predicament just now owing to the fact that petrol is quite unobtainable and paraffin oil is very scarce and high in price. The fact that their confrères in the West are not in a better position is small consolation to them; and some have already covered up their tractors in their sheds, and brought out the mules, horses, and bullocks to haul the old implements again. It should, therefore, interest them to know that there is another suitable fuel for their tractors, which, in certain cases, would help them out of their predicament. It is the coal gas, popularly called "town gas," which they can use as a substitute with economy and success. In previous engineering notes we referred to the utilisation of coal gas as a substitute for petrol for motor-cars and other commercial vehicles, and mentioned various devices or attachments that have been invented for that purpose. A great number of motor vehicles have since been fitted with these attachments, and the sight of luxurious cars, heavy wagons, cabs, and all kinds of commercial vehicles with huge gasbags, or containers, on top running about in London and the country is now quite familiar. The latest advance in that direction is the equipment of agricultural tractors with the necessary devices and gas-containers which enable the tractor to be driven by coal-gas. This transformation does not necessarily interfere with the existing petrol or oil equipment. The equipment of an agricultural tractor with a gas container of the best known system has recently given such good results that the Board of Agriculture, it is said, is so interested in this development that it has had moving pictures taken of the tractor engaged in ploughing and other operations.

The Gas-Tractor.

The method of utilising coal gas as fuel for agricultural tractors is by storing the gas in flexible containers, carried on the top of the tractor, as in the case of ordinary motor-cars and other automobile vehicles using gas. This system of storing has the advantage of being the most economical, since it avoids the cost of compressing the gas, which is an appreciable item, as well as the slight loss in calorific efficiency. The flexible container is carried on a tray, supported by wooden uprights bolted to the tractor's frame. Its capacity is 250 cubic feet, and it is said that 500 cubic feet of gas will suffice to plough half an acre of fairly level land. As special conditions are usually made by gas companies for the use of gas for power purposes the cost of ploughing by this means is very low. There is no doubt that the system can be employed to great advantage by agriculturists within reasonable distance of a supply station. The practical radius from the centre of supply over which it is possible to carry on work can only be determined by experience. In the case of the tractor in question, the gas was carried to the field in a portable holder carried on a trailer, and containing sufficient to charge the flexible bag on the vehicle three times, or enough to plough about three-quarters of an acre. To the cost of the gas must be added the expense of the journeys with trailer between the field and the supply station, and this, of course, can be estimated with fair accuracy by the tractor owner, who can easily ascertain the distance over which he can afford to transport the gas to bring it well within the cost of other fuels. In the East the system will be particularly advantageous to landowners and farmers nearer towns where coal gas is produced, and these are numerous in the principal agricultural districts where tractors are used all the year round for various operations.

Engineering Developments.

According to reliable information, agricultural engineering firms in France are making great efforts to extend their production of agricultural machinery and implements, and most of them are enlarging their factories with a view to meeting the increasingly heavy demand which, apparently, is not only from France, but also from other countries, especially from the East. A new company has quite recently been formed under the title of the Société Lyonnaise de Construction de Machines Agricoles, with a capital of 4,000,000 francs. This will be by far the largest agricultural engineering concern in the country. It has been founded by a powerful group, which intends to carry on the manufacture of agricultural requisites on a very large scale. Similar preparations to extend the production of agricultural and other machinery, in response to a great demand from all quarters, are in progress also in other Allied and friendly countries, and British manufacturers should take note of it.

Machinery for Crete.

In previous engineering notes we have pointed out the importance of Crete as a market for all kinds of machinery and implements, and as a promising field for many engineering enterprises in connection with local industries, mines, tramways, railways, etc. Crete is a most fertile island, and her unique position in the Mediterranean offers great advantages from a commercial point of view. The island stands on the high road along which commerce between East and West is carried on, and in a position which places her within from a few hours to two or three days' sail of any market on the Mediterranean Coast, and particularly that of Egypt, which her agricultural products can reach in fresh condition. The island is famous for its olive oil, oranges, lemons, almonds, chestnuts, pomegranates, raisins (a considerable quantity of which is now imported annually into England), sultanas, wines, locust beans, valonea, soap, cheese, etc. In recent years the agricultural population has shown a remarkable desire to increase the use of modern machinery and implements. The British Consul at Canea, the capital of Crete, says, in a recent report, that the question of supplying agricultural implements and machinery for the use of the island is one which is likely to increase in importance in the near future. Already there has been a tendency in that direction, fostered by the Department of Agriculture, and side by side with the primitive methods of agriculture generally prevalent throughout the island, machinery of an up-to-date description is now being used. In Candia and the neighbourhood oil engines are largely in use, and have been imported almost exclusively from the United Kingdom. It would be well, however, for British makers to extend their consideration to Canea and the district, where a similar class of engine is in use for pumping water and for operating corn mills and olive presses. Before the war a German oil engine, which was the first to be introduced, maintained its hold on the market. In small accessories and parts our Teutonic rivals have paid great attention to local requirements, and established a remunerative trade. The implements and machinery, says the Consul, required in Crete are chiefly of the simplest description, such as small ploughs suitable for ploughing on hillsides, other types of light ploughs, with wheels and shafts proportionate to the small native bullocks, mules, and horses, small harrows, drills, mowing and reaping machines, thrashing machines, grain sorters, presses for forage and hay, and automatic windmills with water pumps.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Fall in Prices.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The marked drop in raw cotton rates has been the outstanding feature of interest in the market this week, and all other matters have been overshadowed by this development. Business in all quarters has been thoroughly demoralised, and the majority of buyers and sellers have decided to mark time until the outlook is clearer. Egyptian cotton prices have been easier in sympathy with the fall in American qualities. The change of sentiment has been chiefly due to the distinctly improved reports relating to the prospects for the crop in the States next season. Of course, the war news has had a depressing effect upon trade generally. So far as supplies are concerned, nothing particularly new has transpired relating to Egyptian cotton. In most counts and qualities Egyptian yarns have been firmly held, but here and there small concessions in price have been obtained where definite business has been offering. Less activity has prevailed in piece goods for Egypt than for some time back. Standard cloths for India and China have been slow of sale. Some producers of light fabrics, such as mull dhooties, have recently obtained relief as a result of the larger turnover for Calcutta. Numerous manufacturers have been quite indifferent as to booking fresh orders. American yarns have been very irregular in price when tested.

COMPANY NOTICES.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Tuesday, the 30th April, 1918, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1918;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of th Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 9th April, 1918), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In London—At the National Bank of Egypt,
6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 14th March, 1918

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the necessary number of Shares not being represented at the Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders held on the 6th April, the MEETING has been ADJOURNED until Thursday, the 25th April, at four o'clock, at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo. Shareholders desiring to take part in the General Meeting may deposit their Shares in London not later than the 19th April at the London Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

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WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)

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N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Mysore Gold Mining.

The report of the Mysore Gold Mining Company for the year ended December 31 last states that 307,126 tons of quartz were milled for 160,627 ozs. of bar gold; average 10.4 dwts. 261,299 tons of tailings treated for 26,705 ozs. bar gold; average, 2 dwts.; and 262,156 tons slimes produced 29,965 ozs.; average, 2.3 dwts. Total production, 217,317 ozs. bar gold (equivalent to 198,446 ozs. fine), of a realised value of £842,057. Deducting for royalty, etc., £49,347, and adding interest, etc., £11,022, total to credit of revenue account is £803,731. Expenditure on revenue account £399,436, profit £404,296. The amount brought in, less final dividend for 1916 and remuneration, was £3,678. Of the total of £409,066, expenditure on capital account (£100,137) and other items absorb £326,022, leaving £83,044. Final dividend for 1917 of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax at 5s. in the £, payable April 5, leaves £6,794. Royalty payable to Mysore Government on the final dividend leaves £3,955. Liquid assets appear at £53,309; reserve fund, not included, at £150,000; and materials in stores and in use £141,595. The reduced profit is mainly due to heavily increased costs, higher rate of exchange also appreciably affected working expenses. It is proposed that the first interim dividend in respect of 1918 shall be paid in October next and the balance dividend in April, 1919. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., April 25, 12.30 p.m.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30 last states that capital expenditure amounted to Rs17,880. The balance of net earnings, after providing for Debenture interest, estimated payment due to Government, etc., amounts to Rs2,19,766, which with unclaimed dividends to September 30, 1914, makes Rs2,20,339; Rs2,29,643 was brought forward, making Rs4,49,981. The directors recommend dividends of rupees six and annas eight per share on ordinary shares, and rupees two and annas eight per share on preference shares, carying forward Rs2,24,350.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions.

The report of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions Company for the half-year ended September 30 last states that capital expenditure amounted to Rs1,51,036. A debenture loan was raised amounting to Rs7,00,000. Both the lines were worked by the D.H. Railway Company on the terms of the contract—namely, at 50 per cent. of the gross earnings of the Extensions. The net earnings of the Extensions, supplemented by the rebate from Government, yields a balance of Rs1,11,585. The directors recommend a dividend of rupees two and annas eight per share, and to carry forward Rs2,210.

Rangoon Para.

The report of the Rangoon Para Rubber Estates for the year ended December 31 last states that as the result of a re-survey the total area of the estate is 3,194.18 acres, planted being 2,267.52 acres, and reserve land 709.11 acres. Of the planted area 2,201.09 acres will be in bearing this year. Thinning out has been continued, the number of trees removed in 1917 being 12,618. There has been a recrudescence of "black thread" disease, which, notwithstanding the energetic measures taken to deal with it, attacked 58,932 trees out of 183,421, necessitating tapping operations being suspended on these for about three months. Output was 362,580 lbs., being 42,580 lbs. in excess of the manager's estimate. His estimate for 1918 is 400,000 lbs. The profit is £13,824, and £184 was brought forward, making a total of £14,008. The directors recommend a dividend of 6¼ per cent., leaving to be carried forward, subject to manager's commission and bonuses to staff, £2,286. There is no liability for excess profits duty. Meeting, 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C., 23rd inst., 11.30 a.m.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The necessary number of shares not being represented at the ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of Egypt, held on the 6th instant, the meeting has been adjourned until the 25th instant, at 4 o'clock, at the head office in Cairo. Shareholders desiring to take part may deposit their shares in London not later than 19th instant at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

The ordinary general meeting of the Union Fonciere d'Egypte will be held at Alexandria on 15th proximo. Shareholders desiring to attend must deposit their certificates with the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger à Londres.

Burma Railways.—Transfer books of the 3 per cent. debenture stock will be closed from the 29th instant to May 14 inclusive.

The Debenture stock transfer books of the British Burmah Petroleum Company, Limited, will be closed from the 18th to the 30th inst., both days inclusive, for the purpose of the preparation of the warrants for the interest payable on May 1.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less income-tax), and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock of the company (free of income-tax) for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants will be posted on May 15.

The Bank of Athens announces that the annual meeting of the bank will be held in Athens on May 8.

INDIAN GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The India Office has issued the following statement, showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on March 31:—In India; nil; in England: Cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,000,499; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on March 31, 1918), £28,452,943; total, £34,453,442.

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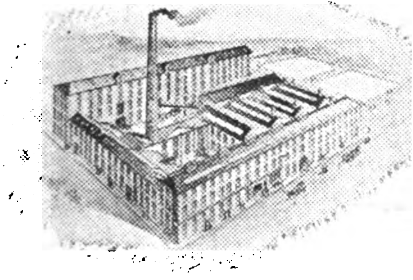

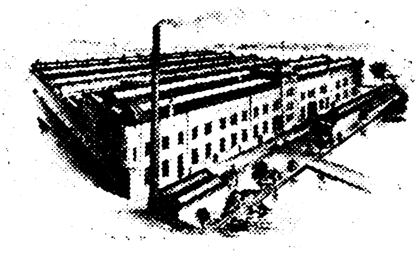

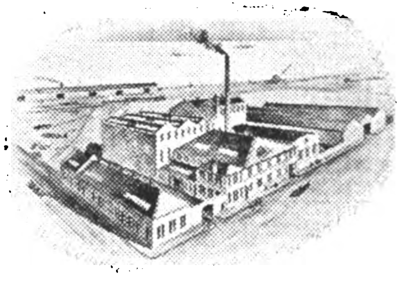

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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Business has continued on the smallest possible scale since our last issue. The tone has remained weak, and here and there, where a few shares have been pressed for sale, the decline in prices has been quite disproportionate to the business done. In ordinary circumstances, there might have been no alteration in prices at all, but at the present moment buyers are adopting a waiting attitude, and shares can only be disposed of if sellers are prepared to make substantial concessions. The military news from the Western Front, the Man-Power Bill, and the coming Budget have all been depressing factors, while Egypt has not been giving any support although all the conditions over there, and all the news received here continue to be most satisfactory. There also, no doubt, buyers are awaiting the course of events.

Egyptian Government stocks have remained unchanged, but, whilst some business has been done in Unifieds round the current price of 86½, there have been no transactions in 3½ per cent. preference, as sellers have been entirely lacking.

In Bank shares, apart from a transaction in Nationals at 17⅜, there was no other business done in this security, and the price closes ⅛ lower at 17⅝. Agricultural Banks are also 5-32 easier at 6¼, some trifling transactions having been carried through. Other banking shares are all unaltered.

In the Railway group Delta Lights have declined 1-16 to 6 7-16 on some few shares being thrown on an unwilling market.

In Land shares Aboukirs have dropped 1s. 3d. to 21s. 3d., Behéras ¼ to 13, Delta Lands 6d. to 13s., Foreign Trusts 3d. to 10s., New Egyptians 3d. to 16s. 9d., Sidi Salems 2s. 6d. to 42s. 6d., Union Foncières 1-16 to 2 15-16, and United Egyptian Lands 3d. to 1s. 3d.

In Miscellaneous shares some business has been done in Alexandria Waters round 12, a decline of ⅛, and Sodas have lost 6d. at 38s. 6d., but no business has been done in these. There has also been a decline of 3d. in Khedivial Mails to 37s. 6d.

In Greek securities the market has continued to be a very firm one, but no business has been carried through as there have been no sellers.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to January 31, 1918 (New Style: January 14 to February 13, 1918) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Jan., 1918		4,568,184	4,159,000
Do. do. do 1917		3,173,884	1.455,000
Estimated Receipts for 1 month (Law of Control)		2,408,333	891,666
Actual do. do., 1917		—	—
Do. do. do., 1916		—	—
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1 month	1918	+ 2,159.850	+ 3,267,333
	1917	+ 765,551	+ 553,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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of Egypt and the Sudan.
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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 10	April 17
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86½	86½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	57	57
Do. 5 % Fn ig., Ln., 1893	54	4xd	4xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71	71
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 13/32	6¼
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	6 1/16	6 1/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14⅞	14⅞
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6 11/16	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6½	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17¾	17⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¾	6½	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/6	21/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8⅝	13¼	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4¼	4¼
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/6	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/3	10/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/-	16/9
Sidi Salem Co.	9/16	45/-	42/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3	2 15/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	39/-	38/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	37/9	37/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¼xd	3¼xd

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MARCH 16.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	87
" " Div.	Frs.	109
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13¾
" priv.	L.E.	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	168
Bons de Panama	Frs.	124
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	92½
" Priv.	Frs.	108
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	90½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/32
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Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5 5/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	7¼
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Land Bank of Egypt	£	6¾
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
" Fondateur	£	555
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3¾
" Ord		41/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	21⅞
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	174
Egyptian Markets		27/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	470
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Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	320
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 7/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		41/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	712
" Fondateur	Frs.	815
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	390
" 1903 "	Frs.	291
" 1911 "	Frs.	280
United Lands	P.T.	9½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅜

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for eight days ended February 28.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
Feb. 21–Feb. 28	5,134	6,356
April 1–Feb. 28	197,234	257,751

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THE NEAR EAST.

No, 364.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There has been little movement on two of the Eastern fronts during the week. In Mesopotamia heavy rains have fallen, which appear to have stopped all operations, at least for the moment. In Palestine no particular activity has been reported, and the German official claim in the Reichstag to have "thrown the British back across the Jordan" seemingly refers to the British raid on the Hejaz Railway earlier in the month. It is amusing to notice that the Germans are imitating the Turks in trumpeting forth this feat, such as it was, as a victory. They may yet confer the same title on the latest raid, reported this week, by the Arabs on the same line, which must have been seriously damaged. This brilliant little feat of arms by our Allies yielded three hundred prisoners, and has no doubt rendered the Turkish position still more insecure.

Curiously enough, the greatest fighting activity in the East has been reported from Salonika, where a spirited offensive has been in progress. From the brief *communiqués*—the armies there seem destitute of war correspondents—it is evident that the Serbs and other Allied forces attacked the Bulgars with some success, and attained their objective. It remains to be seen whether this proves an isolated episode or the prelude of greater events.

The position of the peace negotiations with Roumania remains obscure. One report has it that Bessarabia is to be divided between the Ukraine and Roumania. Another suggests that the amount of the indemnity demanded after the preliminary peace details were settled is still undecided; but there appears no longer to be any doubt that an indemnity is to be insisted on, and, indeed, the German papers are now with one accord all talking of large indemnities from all the Allies. A third report has it that there is disagreement between the Central Powers not only as to the division of the spoils, which is natural, but as to the position of King Ferdinand.

So far as the spoils go, it is clear that Hungary and Bulgaria get the territory, while Germany secures the economic control—much to Bulgaria's disgust, which now realises the exact meaning of the curious phrase regarding the control of Constanza, and the reason for the recent activities of the Deutsche Bank in Bucharest. Germany, too, has apparently secured control of the produce of Roumania in food and petrol—the surplus is to be exported after a German-controlled commission has decided Roumania's own requirements, which will not be very generously calculated—and this point is of very considerable importance, in view of the shortage in the Central Empires and the failure of the Ukraine to relieve their necessities. There is no doubt that Roumania is to be drastically plundered, but the confession of the Burgomaster of Vienna, that Austria can only turn to Germany to relieve the food situation, shows that Germany, as was to be expected, has constituted herself plunderer-in-chief.

On the question of King Ferdinand, a curious statement has been published by the Vienna *Reichspost*, to the effect that the immediate reason for Count Czernin's resignation, or rather dismissal—the Austrian journal uses the two words alternatively—was not the Emperor's notorious letter concerning Alsace-Lorraine, as had hitherto been not unnaturally presumed, but differences of opinion regarding the negotiations with Roumania. "Count Czernin did not want to interfere with the dynastic question, and even pleaded that King Ferdinand should be left on the throne. That in this respect the Minister did not act in accord with the Crown will become evident by events," says the *Reichspost*, "in the immediate future."

We cannot pretend, of course, to say how far this report is accurate. The Austrian Emperor has got himself into a desperate tangle, and after his egregious subterfuges and contradictions, will seize any opportunity of extricating himself. This may be one more—is it the fifth or the sixth?—attempt to get the bucket of Imperial reputation out of the well of truth into which it inadvertently dropped. But except on this ground one cannot imagine the *Reichspost* being allowed to publish a report which could be easily contradicted—and up to the present no contradiction has been issued. On the other hand, if the report is untrue, it admits itself that the real facts will shortly be forthcoming.

It does not appear evident why the Emperor Charles insists on King Ferdinand's abdication, but the past sixteen months have sufficiently demonstrated that the latest of the Hapsburgs possesses a very curious individuality, which has not yet been completely analysed by the Chancelleries. It must be remembered that the Emperor offered the King a safe conduct through Austria to Switzerland; but, as in the case of a similar offer to the College of Cardinals electing a Pope, it was not stated that the safe conduct would be operative for a return journey. This may be the origin of the curious reports of King Ferdinand's abdication as a *fait* *accompli* which were spread through the whole European Press some weeks ago; but the part played by Berlin in these obscure matters does not yet appear. The rumours of Herr von Kühlmann's impending resignation in favour of the stiff Helfferich may be connected with this disagreement.

In this connection the remarks of Dr. Stresemann, of the German Reichstag, may be worth notice. After speaking of the objections raised to von Kühlmann's policy (which, he adds significantly, were not of an economic but of a totally different character, thus pointing to the dynastic problem), he goes on to say that during the Bucharest deliberations "the question of the balance of power in the Balkans and the neutralisation of the divergent interests of the four Central Powers was also discussed." This is highly significant. It admits, what we already knew, that the Central Powers' theory of Balkan reconstruction is planned entirely in their own interests; it simply excludes the idea that at any future time the Entente can have any interest in the subject, and it is quite evident that Russia, who has disembarrassed herself of a Balkan policy altogether, has also not been consulted.

These things are natural, knowing what we do of the temper of Berlin. But Dr. Stresemann's remarks indicate that there have already been differences of opinion as to this new policy. The Middle Europe scheme foresaw no difficulties as to the balance of power in the Balkans, and the divergent interests of Austria and Germany in the Near East, which have been patent in Vienna ever since Germany embarked on her Balkan policy, appear to have become marked again; while undoubtedly Bulgaria's interests, now that she has for the time being secured some at least of the territory she desired, are to have as little German control of her movements as possible. Bulgaria would prefer the hegemony of the Balkans centralised at Sofia, with no balance of power at all. These differences of opinion will be extraordinarily difficult to reconcile, if indeed reconciliation is possible.

The apparently inspired intimations in Germany that Dr. Helfferich is again to hold high office will be of interest to Roumania and Serbia. He is the nominee of the Pan-Germans, who are now triumphant all along the line, and it was he who in 1915 looked forward to the prospect of the Allies "dragging through the centuries the chain of the indemnities" which they were to pay victorious Germany. Dr. Helfferich might succeed in extorting more from Roumania, but even he would find it difficult to obtain from ruined Serbia that which is not there.

Ex-King Constantine seems at last to have become perturbed at the accumulating proofs of his treachery. On his latest exploits he is indeed silent, but he has been stung by the fresh revelations of the Görlitz affair and the surrender of the Greek army corps. The King has inserted a note in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* protesting against the accusations of M. Politis, the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, but stating that the exile "will not abandon the reserve imposed upon him by circumstances." This, of course, is no answer at all, or rather it is the answer of the prisoner in the dock who says he will reserve his defence when the fact is he has no defence whatever. If the King had had anything definite to say, no doubt he would have said it.

It is stated that on the return of the demobilised Roumanian soldiers from Moldavia there were great patriotic demonstrations in Bucharest, and a good many inflammatory speeches were made. All these were repressed by the German authorities, and in future all gatherings of demobilised men and tokens of sympathy are to be suppressed, while the demobilised are compelled to register themselves at a special office. It is said that these measures, which signify a continuance of German control after the war is over, have excited the indignation even of the few Roumanian Germanophils who were left. But what else did they expect? It is a piece of typical German policy.

The Turkish campaign in the Caucasus seems to have slowed down, the latest *communiqué* only reporting the capture of Ozurgeti, twenty-five miles north-east of Batum. The Ottoman reports in this region are far more laconic than those they issued from the Palestine front, possibly because there is no counter-*communiqué* from the other side; there is no hint of any opposition, although it is highly unlikely that the Turks are being welcomed everywhere as old friends. The Germans, on the other hand, operating in concert with the Turkish advance, although along a different route, are still pushing forward through the Crimea; the Russian Government has protested that the region of the Don Cossacks and the Crimea are the territory of the Petrograd Government and not of the Ukraine, and that therefore the German activities in the Ukraine must not be extended into those territories. Germany, with her eye on Persia and Afghanistan, will take about as much notice of this protest as the guillotine takes of the bone it severs.

It is satisfactory news that Turkey has now ratified the agreement for the exchange of prisoners between themselves and us. Full details are not yet available, but it was stated some time ago in the House of Commons that the agreement was more satisfactory than had been expected; a fact which may not be unconnected with the consideration that, whereas the Turks only hold ten thousand British prisoners, we hold fifty thousand of theirs. On the other hand, it is understood, all civilians over military age are to be repatriated by both sides, without limit, and a man for man exchange of civilians of military age. So far as the military are concerned, *The Times* announced some months ago that the agreement provided for the immediate preliminary exchange of 1,000 invalid British and Indian combatants against 1,500 Turks—an official standard of value into which it would not be too courteous to our enemies to inquire—and subsequent exchanges on the basis of a low schedule of disability similar to that existing in regard to internment in Switzerland.

The Egyptian Budget for 1918 is very satisfactory, and gives evidence of the well-maintained prosperity of the country, largely due, of course, to two factors—the increased price of cotton and the profitable presence of British troops. The latter can hardly be reckoned a permanent factor, but it is improbable that the high price of cotton will come down for many years, in view of the fact that the demand for cotton goods is everywhere increasing, and particularly that the United States now uses a far larger proportion of its own crop at home than ever before. This activity in America is not likely to cease, but is more likely to extend beyond its present development; for that reason, therefore, the British cotton manufacturers will have in future to rely more and more largely on cotton produced within the Empire, in which Egypt stands well to the fore as a cotton-growing country.

The fight for cotton is certain to be a severe one after the war. Not only are cotton goods now manufactured in India, but China is also building large cotton factories. Local circumstances and the price of silver happen to favour these factories being built at a cheap rate, and Chinese labour is also notoriously cheap; it is probable, therefore, that Asiatic production of the manufactured article will compete seriously with Lancashire in the future. With that factor to bear in mind at the selling end of the scale, and the new difficulty of obtaining the raw material from the United States at the buying end, any country which can supply Lancashire with cotton in increasing quantities and at a low price is certain to find a steady demand—a fact which will not be forgotten in calculating the economic future of Egypt.

Indian politicians are not likely, we fear, to be entirely satisfied with the official explanation of the Cabinet's refusal to allow the Home Rule delegates to visit this country. It is certainly unpleasant when you offer yourself for a visit to be told so bluntly that you are not wanted, and we can scarcely expect would-be missionaries to the British Demos to be content with having had an opportunity of converting Mr. Montagu. For ourselves, we still think a visit to this country would probably have done the delegates some good, a contingency to which the official explanation does not allude; but war is war, and we hope the politicians will take the refusal in good part, and will not desist from the endeavour to learn something about those parts of the Empire which for the present they are unable to visit in person.

They might, for instance, derive some benefit from studying the scheme for the introduction of village councils which our Cairo Correspondent described last week. It is, of course, too early to hazard a confident opinion as to the prospects of the scheme in question, but it presents certain features which are of particular interest to India. In Egypt the villages are to ask for the councils; in India, when councils are created at all, they are too often crammed down the villagers' throats. In Egypt, voters must bind themselves to pay the village taxes; in India it is commonly considered that no power to tax can be safely given. Thus any Egyptian councils which come into existence are likely to be genuine affairs, whereas the tendency in India is to generate institutions which under the guise of self-government are, in their actual working, the creatures of the local bureaucracy. Judged as a school of politics, the Egyptian scheme seems worthy of careful consideration.

To the advanced politician, however, who regards village councils merely as playthings, we may commend a study of the report of the Irish Convention, the ground covered by which will be found to be by no means unfamiliar. Ireland is nearly as much interested as India in the question of Civil Service appointments, and the recommendations on this point will be found suggestive, while Indians who are enamoured of the existing Legislative Councils will be glad to see the prominence given to the representation of "interests" rather than localities. The proposed Irish Senate would contain representatives of learning, religion, commerce, the landed interest, and minorities of various sorts, and, if it comes into existence, will closely resemble an ordinary Indian Council, though it will include one element—that of Labour—which has still to make its voice heard in India. It almost looks indeed as if India had been consciously selected as a model.

The most important lesson to be drawn from the Convention's report is perhaps less obvious. India has of late been making strenuous efforts to close deep cleavages of opinion by honeyed words, and in Ireland the same attempt has definitely failed. Irishmen, when they choose, can talk as sweetly as Indians, but the result of three months of effort is that the cleavage stands out as distinctly as before; it is a hard and an ugly fact, which we hope will one day cease to exist, but while it is there it must be recognised as an essential feature of the problem to be solved. The cleavages in India are not less deep, and it is folly to pretend that they can be ignored. We hope that they, too, will eventually disappear, but meanwhile there they are, and the success of the new constitution will depend very largely on its frank recognition of this fundamental fact.

Mr. Chamberlain's admission to the War Cabinet will be welcomed by the large body of Indian opinion which was quick to recognise his ability as an administrator during his term of office in Whitehall. Judged by the high standard which prevails in India and some other outlying portions of the Empire, the Cabinet has hitherto been by no means strong on the administrative side, and, with Lord Milner now engrossed in the duties of the War Office, there will be no lack of the work which Mr. Chamberlain can do so well; he will not win the war "off his own bat," but he will stand for that business-like concentration on essentials, without which the war is scarcely likely to be won.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 11.

The Duke of Connaught.

The Duke of Connaught returned from the Sudan on the 3rd inst., and has since had an extremely busy time. Every day he has visited some hospital or other military centre in order to present medals and decorations; and, in addition, there have been several official and social functions which he has had to attend. On the evening of his arrival from Khartoum the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate gave a dinner party at the Residency, when his Royal Highness invested the Sultan of Lahej with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Indian Empire and H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha with that of a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George. He also handed the insignia of the British Empire to the members of the Egyptian and Sudan Civil Services who were recently admitted to that Order. On Monday a garden party was given at the Residency. On this occasion H.H. the Sultan was present for a short time, and amongst the guests invited were the Sultania Princes, the Sultan of Lahej, the Ministers, Lady Allenby, and the Diplomatic Corps. The British community turned up in full force, and the gardens presented a very picturesque appearance. Prior to the arrival of the other guests, the Duke of Connaught held an investiture for the officers who had recently been appointed to or promoted in the Orders of the Bath and St. Michael and St. George; he also bestowed medals.

On the following evening the Sultan gave a banquet at Abdin Palace in honour of his Royal Highness, the guests including the Princes of the Sultania family, the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, the Ministers, the foreign representatives, the Advisers and Under-Secretaries, and the senior Army and Navy officers, as well as some of the leading British residents and their wives. On Wednesday afternoon an investiture was held on the racecourse at Gezira, where his Royal Highness afterwards reviewed the Cairo garrison. This function was a very interesting one, and was watched by a large number of residents, who were accommodated on the grand stand. In the evening another dinner was given at the Residency, the guests on this occasion including H.H. Prince Kamel ed-Din, Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, Yussef Wahba Pasha, Ministers of Public Works and Finance, Sir William and Lady Brunyate, and some of the leading Government officials. The Duke has now gone to Alexandria, where he is carrying out similar presentations of medals and decorations. It is understood that before leaving Egypt he will proceed to the Palestine front.

Vegetable Production in Egypt.

This week a vegetable show was held in Cairo under the auspices of the Egyptian Horticultural Society. The show, which was opened by H.E. Ahmed Hilmy Pasha, Minister of Agriculture, was very well attended, a large number of the visitors being Egyptians. The exhibits covered a wide range, and included the ordinary vegetables in daily use, as well as such better-class varieties as asparagus, etc. On the whole, they were very good, and, although some of the exhibits did not quite come up to standard, nevertheless, in view of the lack of attention accorded in the past by the Egyptians to vegetable production, they were satisfactory as showing that interest in the question is awakening. There is indeed every hope now that in the near future vegetable production will be carried out on an extensive scale. There is plenty of room for it, and the creation of vegetable gardens will certainly not interfere with the cultivation of the staple of production of the country. The whole question is receiving the very earnest attention of the Egyptian Horticultural Society, the committee of which is making great efforts to arouse public interest and encourage production, not only in Cairo, but also in the provinces through the Provincial Councils.

The show included a small exhibit of locally made cheeses, which were excellent both in appearance and taste, and certainly approached very closely to the standard of European cheeses. Dairy farming has been somewhat neglected in Egypt, and the country has to a very great extent been forced to depend on importation. The war has, however, very much restricted the foreign source of supply, and the agricultural authorities have taken due advantage of this opportunity to stimulate local enterprise. Judging by the small exhibit referred to above, a good future lies ahead of dairymen in this country, if they will only take the trouble to study the public taste, and also if only local consumers will encourage the effort which is now being made.

Civilian Employment with the British Forces.

Last summer I reported that a special bureau had been formed for the selection of civilians for work with the British Forces in Egypt, with a view to liberating some of the great number of able-bodied soldiers who had been up to then occupied with office and other non-active work. The bureau was placed under the direction of Mr. Sidney H. Wells, Director-General of the Department of Technical Education, and offices were opened in Alexandria and Cairo at the end of August. Considerable progress has been made with the project, and since October 11, the day on which the first candidate was approved, over 5,000 civilians have been passed into the employment of the British Forces quartered or based on Egypt. This figure does not include infirmary attendants, of whom not far short of 1,000 have been selected and appointed.

Thus the immediate needs of the military forces are being provided for, and considerable numbers of soldiers have been liberated for more useful employment nearer the front line. Egypt does not, of course, possess an unlimited supply of men and women qualified for civil employment, and there is every reason to fear that the demand will soon outstrip the supply. As, however, there exists a large reserve of untrained workers who, if properly prepared, could become of use in this connection, arrangements have very wisely been made to train up suitable men in adequate numbers to meet the demands, which are certain to be very great in the near future. Three schools have already been created, and are in full working order. One provides for the training of motor drivers, one for clerks, whilst the third is for servants for officers and messes. In addition, an increasingly large number of ex-apprentices of the trades schools are being taken over by the mechanical services of the Army.

The work entailed in selecting and appointing the candidates is very considerable; for not only has the usual routine connected with the registration and final allotment to be carried out, but credentials have to be carefully scrutinised, political antecedents have to be looked into, and each candidate has to be passed as medically fit. However, Mr. Wells and his staff, with voluntary assistance from outside, are managing to cope with their huge task; and the result must be regarded as eminently satisfactory, both from the point of view of the man-power scheme and of the young Egyptians themselves, who, in addition to finding remunerative employment, are being submitted to a discipline and an experience of British methods which, both materially and morally, cannot fail to be for their eventual good.

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE, JERUSALEM.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 1.

As an educational centre, Jerusalem used to rank next to Beyrout among the towns of Syria and Palestine. Prior to the war there was a large number of primary and secondary schools, all of which, with the exception of the Government and German schools and a few Jewish ones, were closed and ransacked during the upheaval. To British readers of THE NEAR EAST, especially those who had occasion to know the value of the great work done in Palestine by St. George's College under the efficient and sympathetic direction of the late Bishop Blyth, it must be highly gratifying to learn that this institution is soon to open its doors once more under the direction of Mr. Reynolds, who was sent from Egypt by Bishop MacInnes, the Bishop in Jerusalem.

This college admitted in the past both boarders and non-resident pupils, but it will now, temporarily, receive students only of the latter category. It is hoped, however, that as Bishop MacInnes has now gone to Jerusalem he will, with his great energy and far-reaching influence, soon triumph over present difficulties, and provide means for receiving also boarders.

ATHENS LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, March 30, 1918.

The Ex King's Spies.

The great German offensive is naturally being followed with very keen interest here, and fresh rumours crop up almost hourly, spread either by political factions or with a view to influencing the Stock Exchange. Considerable attention has, however, been devoted to the case of the two Greek officers who came to Athens from Goerlitz on a mission of espionage, and in the Chamber on Monday M. Venizelos made a statement regarding them. Their names are Jean Hadjopoulo and Jean Calamaras, and their story is as follows:—

Last December the ex-King's aide-de-camp Papparigopoulos arrived at Goerlitz and convened a meeting of all the Greek officers there. He told them that the ex-King, who had been obliged by the Entente to leave his throne provisionally, wanted to know the feelings of the officers at Goerlitz, and whether they were disposed to give him their support. Many declared themselves in favour of Constantine, but about seventy were not so demonstrative, and were then put under different treatment. Subsequently Papparigopoulos inquired whether Calamaras and Hadjopoulo would undertake a confidential mission, and they agreed to do so. Later they were taken to Berlin, where Papparigopoulos told Hadjopoulo that answers were required to the following questions:—(1) What is the feeling of the people towards the ex-King and Venizelos? (2) What is the importance of the Greek army, and to what extent is it Venizelist? (3) What is the strength of the Allies on the Macedonian front? (4) What is the number of the officers in the Army of National Defence? (5) Where are the Allied troops stationed? (6) What is the condition of communications, especially of railways? (7) To what extent are the Greek coasts surveyed by the Allies?

Arrangements were then made for the two officers' journey, funds were supplied, and in due course they found themselves on a submarine at Pola, which eventually landed them at Kiparissia, and thence they found their way to Athens.

The story of both officers is practically identical, with the exception that Calamaras was given four sheets of paper on which was supposed to be invisible writing. He was instructed to give these sheets of paper with his own hands to King Alexander, and the names of several men were given him for the purpose of getting into communication with the King. These mysterious sheets, it is said, have not been found, neither have they been delivered to the King. The men were apparently discovered in Athens quite by accident. A suspicious conversation in the street was overheard, and, being traced and watched, they were subsequently arrested, as were two other men, named Counoupis and Galabocas, and the sister of Calamaras, Antigone Anastassopoulo.

The Court Martial.

The court-martial commenced its sittings on Thursday, and the evidence produced on that day led to the arrest of General Pallis, formerly head of the ex-King's military household, who had been approached with a view to getting him to act as a medium for delivering the letter to King Alexander. In his speech for the prosecution the following day the Public Prosecutor commented severely on the ignoble part played by Constantine in this affair, and said that anybody who in his weakness had been indulgent towards him could after this no longer doubt his treachery. The Allies, he suggested, should modify their attitude towards him, and Switzerland, whose neutrality he had violated, should no longer grant him hospitality.

The verdict was pronounced at a late hour yesterday. The two officers and Counoupis, their accomplice, were sentenced to death; the woman was sentenced to penal servitude for life, and Galabocas, the other accomplice, to fifteen years' penal servitude.

Miscellaneous News.

On Wednesday a strike of the electricians at the electric power station deprived Athens and the Piræus of electricity, stopping the Piræus Railway runnings and the tramway services. Towards evening it was expected that the capital would be in darkness that night, but just as candles and other means of lighting were being sought for and brought into use an outburst of light indicated that the strike was at an end.

Spring is late in making its appearance this year: snow has again fallen in the neighbourhood, and cold weather continues. The continuous rains should not only allay the anxiety of a shortage of water this summer, but will doubtless have an excellent effect on the crops.

BAGHDAD: THEN AND NOW.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Baghdad, February 17.

The Coming of Law and Order.

Since the advent of the British, Baghdad has become a very different place from what it was under the Turkish regime. On the outbreak of war the condition of the town, bad enough at the time, became infinitely worse; Turkish levies, both in money and men, became heavier and heavier. The inhabitants feared to leave their houses even in daylight, and commerce consequently languished until, shortly before the British occupation, the bazaars were closed and deserted.

The situation, therefore, which the late General Maude had to deal with was a difficult one, and it speaks well for the ability and energy of those concerned with the administration of the district that one short month after the occupation normal conditions were restored; the hitherto dead city came to life, the bazaars were reopened and resounded with the cries of buyers and sellers, and the streets were thronged with contented and prosperous citizens. Law Courts, schools, and post offices were re-started under efficient management, and a civil police force was formed. The schools, under a local board of education, were much more sought after, and the attendance was larger in all grades than it had ever been before.

About six months before they evacuated it the Turkish administration, then under Khalil Pasha, decided to drive a wide road through Baghdad from north to south, with turnings which branched at right angles from it to the river. This project, which was completed very shortly before they left the town, and which has proved of great use to their successors, was carried out by the Turks with their usual high-handedness and lack of justice. The road, now known as New Street, was constructed without regard to rights or property; the owners of the houses which were demolished to make way for the road all lost heavily, and in some cases were entirely ruined.

Turkish Methods—and British.

The Turks, moreover, neglected the many old and historical buildings and monuments of the town, whereas we have executed such temporary repairs as will preserve them until they can be permanently restored. No large building operations can be undertaken at present, owing to the abnormally high cost of labour and materials. The sanitation of the city generally, and of the myriad narrow Eastern streets in particular, has improved beyond recognition, and the first to admit this beneficial change are the inhabitants themselves. The roads are also kept in repair, parties of the road-menders patrolling and mending them daily. This constant work of repair is very necessary owing to the absence of steam rollers and of an adequate supply of road metal.

Mesopotamia has not escaped the universal rise of prices, but there is plenty of well-paid employment for everyone; and although all imported goods are high-priced, and naturally hard to get, the local merchant manages to obtain a fair stock; and this branch of business is quite brisk. Since Mosul and Persia are at present closed as far as trade intercourse with Baghdad is concerned, the town cannot be as well supplied as it is in peace time, but the Expeditionary Force has brought a lot of money into the country, and there is a good demand for the available merchandise. This fact tends to counterbalance the rise in prices, and, as far as war conditions allow, life has resumed its normal course.

Relations with the Baghdadis.

Relations between the inhabitants of Baghdad and the occupying force are most cordial, in spite of the fact that the former have been somewhat inconvenienced by the occupation. Before leaving the Turks blew up and burned much valuable property, including the historical Bab-el-Tilism (Tilism Gate), which had been used as an ammunition magazine, and which was blown up at seven o'clock on the evening before they evacuated the town. This gate bore a beautiful inscription of the Khalif Nasir, dated A.H. 618 (A.D. 1221). It was a splendid octagonal tower, but the door had been bricked up ever since the time of Sultan Murad the Fourth, the Turkish conqueror who rode through it in triumph in the year 1638. Round the top of this closed gateway ran a remarkable decoration, consisting of a pair of dragons with the writhing bodies of serpents. They confronted one another with open jaws above the summit of the pointed arch, and between them sat, cross-legged, a small figure with a hand outstretched into each gaping mouth. Many people lost heavily through the destruction caused by the evacuating force, and though few have lost financially by the occupation, some inconvenience has unavoidably been caused to householders by the fact that a good many houses have had to be hired as billets and Government offices, owing to the impossibility—already referred to—of erecting permanent buildings. All billeting, however, has been done with as much regard to the wishes of the inhabitants as possible.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

TWO BOLSHEVIST CRIMES.

Presiding at a lecture on Russian Armenia, given on April 18 at King's College, Lord Bryce said that the Bolshevist Government had committed two acts which excited our regret and condemnation. They abandoned the front toward Turkey, and took no steps to secure that the Armenians and Georgians should be in a position to defend themselves against the brutal Turks. The other offence of the Bolshevists was to make a treaty with Germany by which they surrendered territory which was taken from Turkey in the war of 1877, in absolute contradiction of the principle of nationality which the Bolshevists professed and of their claim of the right of peoples to determine their government. The Georgians and Armenians were a valiant people; there were no better fighters in the world.

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SYRIA AND THE WAR.

By K. Jebara.

Since this terrible war broke out Syria has attained some prominence in the political world, and it is surprising that most people in England know so little about that ancient country and its people.

The Syrian coast stretches from Arish in the south to the Bay of Alexandretta in the north, about 350 miles in length; inland the country extends between 150 and 350 miles from the sea to Arabia and the Euphrates. Nature has endowed it bountifully, with a healthy climate, a copious rainfall in the season, and a fertile soil. The Lebanon, with a little attention to modern sanitation, might be made a health resort for East and West. Mr. Asquith was quite right when he said that the fairest land on earth was governed by the worst government on earth. It is difficult to give a correct estimate of the population, but it is computed at about 3,000,000. The majority is of Arab origin, but there is a considerable mixture of races, mostly on the coast, owing to the successive invasions and occupations of the Assyrian country by Persians, Greeks, Romans, Crusaders and others. Under any government but that of the Turks, which blighted the resources of all Western Asia, its population will in all probability increase threefold or fourfold in a century. We learn from authentic history that between 20 and 30 million people once inhabited this productive strip of land between the ocean and the desert. Every spot was cultivated; much that is now desert was once a veritable garden, producing all kinds of grain, fruit and other necessaries of civilised life.

In religion the largest proportion of the population is Mohammedan, of all sects, including Druses and Nosaries; but there are about three-quarters of a million Christians and about 150,000 Jews. Ever since the Turks came into possession of the country, four centuries ago, they pursued the policy of setting one sect against the other and of planting the seeds of hatred and bigotry in the hearts of the people. This resulted, as they foresaw and desired, in internecine strife and periodical massacres, in which the Christians suffered most.

The last organised massacre due to official instigation by the Turks took place in 1860, when about 40,000 Christians were put to the sword. Europe was then up in arms, and, thanks to the French Government, an armed expedition in agreement with the other Powers was sent to put the country in order. As one result autonomous government was granted to Mount Lebanon, where the great majority of the people is Christian. Since that period various missions, both educational and religious, from Western Europe and America have embarked upon benevolent work of one kind and another for the country; and thanks to the institutions established by them and the keen competition that sprang up between them, the inhabitants, first the Christian and then the Mohammedan, have been taught the value of education. They derived immeasurable benefits from the great institutions established at Beyrout, two of which, the American and French Colleges, are on a level with the Universities of Europe and America. These and other colleges have turned out into the world thousands of able men who have occupied prominent positions in politics, science, literature and trade. Some of them have helped the British Occupation in Egypt, as the late Lord Cromer testified in his books; and others have made their mark in the United States, South America—in fact, wherever they go.

This spread of education served to open the eyes of the people to the misgovernment of the Turk, and emigration on a large scale followed very quickly. It is computed that more than half-a-million Syrians left the country during the last thirty years; there are more than 10,000 in the United States, about 70,000 in each of the Republics of Argentina and Brazil, a large number in Australia and in Canada—in fact, in all parts of the world.

Long before the war started, even the Mohammedan population—especially the educated class—realized that there could be no progress for the country under the Turkish rule, and that the policy of the Young Turks was to Turkify all those who are under their rule, and to kill the new national spirit. They, therefore, as well as the Christians, began to agitate for some kind of home rule and autonomy. An appeal was made to the French Government, through their council in Beyrout, to intervene on their behalf with the authorities in Constantinople to grant them their request. This appeal was signed by about eighty men, representing the best, the most influential and the educated elements. Unfortunately, when the war broke out the Turkish Secret Police obtained access to this document; and, though absolutely harmless, it cost the signatories their lives.

Knowing well that the sympathy of the population, more especially of the Christian portion, is entirely on the side of the Allies, and as there was no one to protect them, the Turks wreaked their vengeance on the helpless subjects of the Empire. Time and space forbid going into details of the horrors perpetrated upon these Syrians—suffice it to say that in some districts, especially in Mount Lebanon, more than half of the population was done to death, mostly by systematic starvation, the Turks taking the food from them and sending it to their taskmaster, the German. This cruelty, visited upon defenceless people, has naturally stirred their compatriots abroad very deeply, and it is pleasing to record that the Syrians resident abroad have from the first been volunteering for service against the common foe. At first this volunteering was done quietly and in small numbers; but now, the Allies having signified their sanction through the French representative in Brazil and Argentine, the Syrian community there, also those in Egypt, Europe and America have formed themselves into associations, raised large funds to help a voluntary* movement, and called upon every one who can take up arms to proceed and fight on the side of right and justice, to help in liberating his country from the yoke of the Turks. We hope the day of deliverance is not far distant when Syria will once more take its wonted place amongst the civilised nations of the world.

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

The recent news from Palestine, though somewhat scanty, is very significant.

During the second week of April there was heavy fighting among the foot-hills of Samaria bordering upon the plain of Sharon. The Turks appear to have had their forces strengthened by the arrival of several battalions of Germans and by Turks from Mesopotamia. Clearly the Germans are beginning to feel uneasy at the way things have been going. Desertions among the Turkish troops have been increasingly frequent, and their long series of defeats have been telling upon their moral. The satisfactory thing is that, in spite of the stiffened resistance and the improved quality of the enemy's forces, progress—slow but sure—has been made. The fortified posts El Kefr, Rafat (with the adjoining Min Arara), and Berukin, all to the north of the deep and stony Wady Ballût, have been captured. It is a most difficult country, especially with respect to transport, but advances must be maintained in line. Attacks have also been made on our advanced posts astride the Nablus road.

On our extreme eastern flank, after the retirement of our large raiding party from Moab and Es Salt, the Turks collected considerable forces at Shunet Nimrin, at the entrance to the mountain pass to Es Salt, and also on the adjoining hill of El Haud. Apparently they believed that our withdrawal was a disorganised retreat, and that all they had to do was to follow up their "success" by driving us over the Jordan.

On the early morning of the 11th inst. they began by a violent bombardment across the river upon our advanced line on the Jericho-Beisan Road—some 9 miles north of Jericho—during which the Camel Corps came in for a considerable share of hundreds of shells rapidly delivered. This, however, was a diversion, and was met by heavy artillery response. The main attack was made against the Australian Light Horse, who had entrenched themselves behind wire entanglements to the eastern side of the Ghoraniyeh bridgehead. The attack was of a determined description, and was pressed with vigour the whole day long. The Australians, supported by our artillery on the western side of the Jordan, offered a magnificent resistance, and with comparatively little loss inflicted heavy casualties upon the Turks, many hundreds having been killed. The eighty-three of the enemy captured alone outnumbered our total losses.

Of course, we must be quite prepared to find the Turks circulating the news of this engagement as a brilliant success to *their* arms!

The Arab forces in the South meanwhile have been continuing to consolidate their position, and now Maan, on the Hedjaz Railway, is added to their captures. Further south their successes have been even more considerable.

E. W. G. M.

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The India Office issued the following on Tuesday:—

"The units of the Dera Ghazi Khan column of the force employed in punitive measures against the Marris are about to disperse to their stations.

"The Marri Nawab and several chiefs of important sections have come in, and the whole of the Khotran tribe have surrendered unconditionally."

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* I heard recently 400 volunteers have gone from Brazil.—K. J.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE JEWISH CHILD.*

This handsome volume of some 450 pages, written by a Jewish medical man of distinction, brings before the public, in an agreeable and often amusing form, a mass of facts concerning the folklore, biology and sociology of the Jewish people. It may in truth be called, as Sir James Crichton-Browne remarks in his introduction, a medley, but it is one at once "instructive and entertaining," especially to those—an increasing number—who delight in those traditions which make up the science of folklore.

Many of these ancient teachings contain gems of truth, others are purely mystical or speculative. The author will not carry many with him in his attempt to harmonise these ideas with modern scientific views, but the fact remains that the Jewish people under the spell of this lore has managed—often against the heaviest of drawbacks from their environment—to attain an infant mortality lower than their Christian neighbours, and an influence, too, out of all proportion to their numbers. Much of this doubtless is due to that profound interest, which seems instinctive in the race, in everything connected with marriage and the begetting and nurture of children. It has been their ideal to produce and perpetuate "healthy and beautiful men and women." The Jewish mother is bidden to suckle her child, and as a whole she is more careful than those around her in its infant welfare. The Jewish father's highest duty is his son's education, and, according to these precepts, he is to send him to school at six years of age. In earlier centuries, when elementary education in many lands was neglected and voluntary, the difference between the Jewish and Gentile boy in respect to mental training must have been great.

There is an interesting chapter upon "Purity of Descent," in which the unsettled question of how far the Jews are to be considered a "pure" or a "mixed" race is discussed. The verdict is given in favour of the former view. That head measurements are a fallacious guide is shown by the very various measurements among Jews in different countries. Is this a proof of intermarriage or almost entirely of environment? The American statistics of Professor Boas seem to be conclusively in favour of the latter. The results of intermarriage are illustrated by an interesting plate. The concluding chapter—on the "Biostatic and Physical Characteristics of the Modern Jewish Child"—is an able summary of scientific facts. No one can study this book without attaining a clearer insight into the underlying influences which have moulded this gifted race and ensured their survival and increase amid the nations of the world.

PALESTINE AND PROPHECY.†

It is evident that there is a boom in books on prophecy among a certain school of religious thought to-day, as the booklet on "Great Britain, Palestine, Russia, and the Jews" is one of a long series issued by the "Prophecy Investigation Society." The main part of this work, and certainly the most readable, consists of a series of addresses given many years ago by the late Canon Hoare of Tunbridge Wells; they are partly devotional and partly prophetic. Other chapters, which would be more correctly placed as supplementary notes, have been added quite recently. The main line of argument is well known. The Jews are to return to Palestine, where they will sooner or later be converted to Christianity; they will be invaded and afflicted by Russia, Germany and Turkey, as "it is not likely that the forthcoming peace that must soon be declared will be satisfactory to them." These Powers, therefore, after some respite, will unite to set things right from their point of view, and, after horrible afflictions, in which Great Britain is apparently—our Navy being "the Ships of Tarshish"—to come to the rescue, they are to be delivered by Divine intervention.

The programme may afford comfort to some minds who are assured of its certainty, but our "war aims" seek for something less pessimistic, and most students of the Bible to-day will disagree entirely with this line of argument.

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A summary of Prince Lichnowsky's disclosures has been prepared by Mr. C. A. McCurdy, M.P., under the title "Guilty." It is issued by the National War Aims Committee, and is being distributed gratis by Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

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* "The Jewish Child: Its History, Folklore, Biology, and Sociology." By W. M. Feldman, M.B., B.S. (Lond.). With an Introduction by Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S. (London: Bailliere, Tindall and Cox. 1917. 10s. 6d. net.)

† "Great Britain, Palestine, Russia and the Jews." A reprint of Canon Edward Hoare's "Palestine and Russia." Brought up to date with additional chapters by the Rev. E. L. Langston, M.A. (London: Chas. J. Thynne, 1918. 1s. 6d. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A WAR BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE NEAR EAST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The "War Bibliography for the Near East," published in your issue for March 1, was full of interest. It no doubt does not claim to be exhaustive. May I suggest the following additions?

"La Serbie d'Hier et de Demain," par Nikola Stoyanovitch. (Berger-Levrault, Paris et Nancy, 1917.)

"Le Monde Balkanique," par Alphonse Muzet. (Ernest Flammarion, Paris, 1917.)

"La Yougoslavie," par Pierre de Lanux. (Payot et Cie., Paris, 1916.)

"La Ville Convoitée: Salonique," par P. Risal. (Perrin et Cie., Paris, 1917.)

"Le Sort d l'Empire Ottoman," par André Mandelstam. (Payot et Cie., Lausanne and Paris, 1917.)

Of these the last is by far the most important. It is a book of over 600 large 8vo pages, richly "documenté." The author was First Dragoman to the Russian Embassy in Constantinople. His indictment of the present rulers of Turkey and their German masters should be read by all who are interested in that unhappy country.—I am, etc.,

Kremjan, Serbia, April 8, 1918. F. G. CLEMOW.

[We are greatly indebted to our correspondent for his letter and for the additions to our "War Bibliography," which certainly did not claim to be exhaustive.—ED.]

THE WOMEN OF SERBIA.

Lady Swaythling, speaking at a meeting at 9, Ennismore Gardens, London, S.W., last Friday, said that there was a Serbian proverb to the effect that the house stood not upon the earth, but upon the woman. In Serbian folk-lore woman was painted in the richest colours of poetic fancy and romance. In her relation to the great legendary heroes she appeared as the personification of purity and as endowed with every noble virtue. She wielded a mystic power over the unknown elements of the universe, and watched over the hero, guiding and protecting him. There was nothing erotic in this relationship; she was a sister to him, giving him the companionship of a sister's heart and soul. She shared in his heroic deeds and played an active part in finding solutions to the national problems with which he had to cope.

Serbia had a great past, and in the Middle Ages its women were justly celebrated for their love of learning, and were generous patrons of the arts. At the present day there was no branch in the economic life of that country in which the woman did not co-operate on terms of equality with the man. There was in Serbia a legal tradition that a certain proportion of a peasant's land, together with animals and tools, was inalienable from himself and family. Thus each family owned at least a part of its estate, and of that part the woman had the main direction. The majority of the people were of the peasant class. Here the women were engaged in agriculture. They dug, sowed, reaped, looked after the cattle, tended the gardens and orchards, took the goods to market, went to the forest and felled trees, and so on. In spring, summer and autumn the peasant woman was out of doors from morning until evening working on the land; in the winter she was busy all day long spinning and sewing everything that was worn by herself, her husband and children. This circumstance of the clothing being made entirely by the women accounted for the fact that to this very day the Serbian peasantry still wore their picturesque national costume. The Serbian woman took great pride in her work, which embraced everything even remotely connected with her house and the interests of her children; and it was rare to find one who was not familiar with her nation's history, or who did not know the names of the political and military leaders of her people, the great public institutions and the manner in which they were organised. Her greatest pride was to have one or two sons in the army. One phenomenon of Serbian social life in which the woman played a great part was the *zadruga*, a co-operative community based on family ties. In its most typical form this was only to be found among the Serbs. Order and discipline were its foundation, and very often it was under the control of the oldest woman, who assigned to each member his or her work. There were many highly educated women in Serbia—doctors, professors, architects, etc.; many official careers were open to them, and they had the same rights as the men.

His Excellency the Serbian Minister, who presided, said the Serbian woman had been a faithful companion to the Serb in his struggle for national liberty and independence. He also paid a tribute to the work that English women had done for Serbia.

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Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd., have published a full translation of Prince Lichnowsky's memorandum under the title, "My Mission to London" (price 6d. net), with a preface by Professor Gilbert Murray. The main contents of this famous document are too well known to need recapitulation here; but we would call attention to the advantage of having Prince Lichnowsky's testimony in a complete and handy form. It cannot be studied too carefully by Britons, and, indeed, by the world at large. There is no weightier treatise on the origin of the war.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. April.	1918. April.		1336. Rajab.	5678. Iyar.
26	13	Friday	15	14
27	14	Saturday........	16	15
28	15	Sunday	17	16
29	16	Monday	18	17
30	17	Tuesday	19	18
May. 1	18	Wednesday	20	19
2	19	Thursday	21	20

Prince George of Serbia visited the Serbian Minister on Saturday.

The French Ambassador was visited on Saturday by the Serbian Minister.

M. Spyridon A. Vaglianos, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has left London for Athens.

Earl Curzon is now much better, and left town on Saturday to spend the week-end at Hackwood, Basingstoke.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has left London for Aberdeen on short leave of absence.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant to the Military Attaché of the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Paris.

Next Friday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Helen of Greece. She is the eldest daughter of ex-King Constantine.

In response to Mr. Lloyd George's message to the Viceroy calling on India to redouble her efforts, the Nizam of Hyderabad has offered £100,000 to help in the war

The Bishop of Chichester has dedicated a memorial window in Lower Beeding Church, Sussex, to Captain Robert Egerton Loder, Royal Sussex Regiment, who fell in the battle of Gaza.

It is announced that Brigadier-General Percy Hamilton and Lieutenant-Colonel Markham Carter, Indian Medical Service. have been made Companions of the Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Mr. Page, Assistant Director of Steamers, is retiring shortly from the Sudan Government service. He is proceeding on an extended tour up the Nile to study the fuel and timber resources of the country.

As the result of the brutality of the Turkish soldiery and populace, the emigration into the Caucasus of Greeks inhabiting the Black Sea littoral is continuing, and is assuming the character of a general exodus.

M. Radoslavoff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, declared in the Sobranje that Bulgaria was greatly interested in the formation of an independent Albanian State, and would support all Albanian aspirations in this respect.

Dr. Edward Thomas Wilson, who died on Friday at Cheltenham in his eighty-sixth year, was the elder brother of the late Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, who commanded the Gordon Relief Expedition to Khartoum in 1885.

The marriage between W. P. Archdale, Barahat, Sudan, and Miss Alice E. P. Talbot will take place at St. Peter's Church, Cranley Gardens, on Saturday, the 27th instant, at half-past two o'clock. All friends will be welcome at the church.

Lady Roper Parkington, hon. treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, has just received 10,000 dollars from the Canadian Red Cross, Toronto; £100 from His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad; also a donation from Mrs. Lloyd George.

Lieutenant Alan Lubbock, R.G.A., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lubbock, of Sevenoaks, was married on Saturday afternoon to Miss Helen Mary Bonham-Carter, only child of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bonham-Carter, of Petersfield. The ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, and among those present were:—Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lubbock, Colonel and Mrs. Abdy, Captain Abdy, Mrs. Guy Lubbock, Sir Maurice and Lady Bonham-Carter, Mr. Henry Bonham-Carter, Miss Joan Bonham-Carter, Colonel and Mrs. H. Bonham-Carter, Mr. Walter Bonham-Carter, Miss Edith Lubbock, and Colonel and Mrs. Malcolm Bonham-Carter.

The Postmaster-General announces that considerable delay may be expected in the arrival of mails which left Egypt on April 4, containing about a fortnight's correspondence from Egypt and the Palestine front. Possibly some of the mails have been lost.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture proposes to create two posts of inspector-general, one for Lower Egypt and the other for Upper Egypt. It is rumoured that Mr. Cartwright will be appointed to the former, and Mr. Bergenstock to the latter, according to Egyptian papers just to hand.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King inspected a party of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain G. P. Taylor. The party is composed of men from the State of Manipur, on the North-Eastern Frontier of India, who are on leave from the front.

M. Repoulis, Greek Minister of the Interior, at the inauguration of a Workmen's Co-operative Bakery at the Piræus, exhorted the Greek workmen to emulate the patriotic example of their French and British comrades, who, he said, are now fighting not only for their own liberty, but also for that of the whole of mankind.

The Postmaster-General announces that, according to a communication received from the Swiss Post Office, the Hungarian Post Office is unable, on account of congestion, to accept parcels for transmission to prisoners of war in Bulgaria, and until further notice such parcels will not be accepted at post-offices in this country.

The marriage took place last Saturday, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, of Captain Richard Alfred Jennings-Bramly, R.F.A., only son of the late Major Alfred Jennings-Bramly, 19th Hussars, and Mrs. Jennings-Bramly, of Clarence Parade, Southsea, and Miss Ida Phyllis Baugh le Patourel, younger daughter of the late Paul Baugh le Patourel, civil engineer, Calcutta.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, very quietly, at Chesham Bois, Bucks, between Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Thomas, R.A., son of A. H. Thomas, of Gampola, Ceylon, and Kathleen Mary O'Connell Bliss, daughter of George Cecil Bliss, of Glenlyon, Agrapatana, Ceylon, and granddaughter of the late William Henry Bliss, of Oxford and Rome, and of the late Colonel George Hewett, C.B., Indian Army, of Hove, Sussex. No invitations are being sent out.

On the anniversary of the United States' entry into the war, King Nicholas of Montenegro telegraphed to President Wilson:—"We, Montenegrins, modest but faithful Allies of the Entente, can never forget the gratitude due to yourself personally for having inspired the minds of a great nation. You will permit an aged head of a country to send you his warmest congratulations and assure you of his admiration for your nation." President Wilson replied:—"Your gracious and welcome message comes to us as the voice of a nation in which the people of the United States have always had the liveliest interest, and with whose struggles and aspirations they have always felt a very genuine sympathy. We welcome it as the voice of a friend, and send to you in return assurances of our sincere friendship and of our confidence that we shall before long be associated in the final triumph of a just cause."

The retirement is taking place this month of Captain William Alfred Wheler, after 54 years' service with the P. and O. Company. Captain Wheler was born in 1843, and joined the P. and O. service as a junior officer in 1864 from the Indian Navy. In later years he held a number of important commands. *The Times* recalls that among the ships which he commanded was the Avoca, employed as a hospital ship for the Indian Contingent in the Egyptian War of 1882, and he was awarded for his services the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. He commanded the Geelong, which was employed by the Egyptian Government in trooping in the Red Sea between Suez and Suakin in the Egyptian campaign of 1885, and also the Coromandel when used as a hospital ship in the Ashanti campaign. He became commodore of the P. and O. fleet in 1901, his last ship being the Persia. In 1904 he was appointed the company's agent at Cardiff, from which position he is now retiring.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
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OBITUARY.

Captain Ernest Montague Money, of Minster-on-Sea, died on Saturday at the age of sixty-nine years. He joined the Indian Civil Service, Bengal Establishment, in 1871.

The death has taken place at Kurseong, Northern Bengal, as the result of a riding accident, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, of Mr. Robert Vickers Dixon, civil medical officer of Kurseong.

Major Mark Saurin Wynne, late of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, who died at Mellaston last week, near Pembroke, in his seventy-ninth year, served in the Afghan War in 1879, and was present at the capture of Ali Musjid, for which he received the medal with clasp.

Sir John Willoughby, who died in London last week, after a short illness, served in Egypt in 1882, and in the Nile campaign two years later. He took part in the cavalry charges at Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir. He was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with clasps.

Captain W. J. Berthon, late of the Bombay Staff Corps, who has died at Cheltenham, aged 78, was so like the late Lord Salisbury that he had had some curious experiences through being mistaken for him. He took part in the Persian Expedition, and later in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, but was invalided out of the Army in 1869.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel A. Keene, C.M.G., late Royal Artillery, died on Sunday at Guildford, aged sixty-three. In the Afghan War of 1878 he took part in the march from Quetta to the relief of Kandahar, receiving in recognition the medal and mention in despatches. Five years later he saw service in the Burmese Expedition, was again mentioned in despatches, and received the D.S.O.

Colonel Adolphus Vallings, late of the Indian Army, died last Friday at St. Leonards-on-Sea, aged eighty. He took part in the Sikkim Expedition in 1861, and later served on the North-West Frontier, and was present at the forcing of the Umbeyla Pass. He served also in the Dour Valley Expedition, in the Afghan War of 1878, and in the Mahsud Waziri Expedition. He was twice mentioned in despatches.

Mr. William Hoey, Lecturer in Hindustani to the University of Oxford, died on Sunday. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1870, and retired in 1900, most of the intervening thirty years being spent in the United Provinces. He was interested in archæology, and in this connection undertook some exploration work in the Gonda District; and was the author of some valuable historical books.

The death is announced of Major-General Charles Frederick Gregorie, aged eighty-three years. He entered the Army in 1855, and served in the Indian Mutiny, for which he received the medal and two clasps, and in the Egyptian War of 1882, for which he was regarded with the medal and clasp, the 3rd Class of the Order of the Medjidie, and the Khedive's Star. He was also mentioned in despatches, and received the C.B. He had been colonel of the Royal Irish Regiment since 1897.

Brigadier-General Harry Townsend Fulton, C.M.G., D.S.O., who died of wounds in hospital in France on March 29, was born in 1869. In 1894 he joined the Indian Staff Corps as lieutenant, being at the end of 1897 appointed to the 2nd Gurkha Rifles. He served on the North-West Frontier in the Malakhand and Mohmand Expedition in 1897-98, taking part in the operations in Bajour and in the Tirah campaign In the South African War he saw much service, and was mentioned in despatches. After service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Samoa in 1915, he went to France, where he served up to the time of his death. He was made temporary brigadier-general on March 1, 1916, and during last year was awarded the C.M.G., the Croix de Guerre, and the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel, and was twice mentioned in despatches.

Major-General Philip Durham Henderson, C.S.I., who died on Friday at 47, Warwick Road, S.W., was born in 1840, the second son of Major-General R. Henderson, R.E., educated at a private school, and joined the 2nd Madras Cavalry in 1857. In 1870 he was appointed an Attaché in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, and a year or two later was promoted Under-Secretary. In 1875-6 he was political officer on the Staff of the Prince of Wales during his visit to India, and was given the C.S.I. He was appointed general superintendent of the operations for the suppression of thuggee and dacoity in 1878, and from 1892 till 1895 he was Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg. He married in 1864 a daughter of the late Lieutenant-General P. Cherry, of the Madras Cavalry, and had two sons and two daughters.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

Ennor—La Fontaine.—On April 20, at St. Marylebone's, by the Rev. W. Alan Gardner, assisted by the Rev. J. H. Roberts, Frank Harvey Ennor, 2nd Lieutenant, Grenadier Guards, son of the late Adolphus Frank Ennor and Mrs. Ennor, of 20, Hyde Park Place, to Kathleen Louise, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney La Fontaine, of 10, Nottingham Place, W.1.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1918.

AUSTRIA AND THE ALLIES.

No attempt to explain away the wording of the Austrian Emperor's letter to his brother-in-law, Prince Sixte of Bourbon-Parma, is likely to invalidate the fact that an olive-branch was definitely held out to France. The theory that the message may have been sent in collusion with Germany may be dismissed as out of the question in view of the course of events since M. Clemenceau's disclosure was made. Austria-Hungary has played her part during the last twelve months in the German peace campaign, but the methods adopted have not done the violence to Germany's *amour propre* that was inflicted by the offer to support France's claims to Alsace-Lorraine, even though the word "legitimate" may have been, as we are now asked to believe, a translator's gloss. The underlying suggestion that the letter was not the outcome of the young Emperor's spontaneous initiative rests, no doubt, on a sound basis; but in their search for the inspiration the curious may find a more plausible field for speculation otherwise than in the north. It would seem to be generally accepted that the Emperor Karl does not take kindly to German domination; and in this respect, if report be true, he will have discovered even before his accession a fellow-feeling in the allied kingdom of Bulgaria. Whether his relations with King Ferdinand have at any time been close enough to allow the latter to assume the rôle of prompter there is no means of knowing; but it is not without significance that at least two of Germany's allies do not allow the glamour of her military support to affect their opinion of her political methods. For the time being, however, the chief interest attaching to the incident centres in the opportunity that it has given Germany of strengthening her hold upon the Dual Monarchy. The exchange of messages between the Emperor William and the Emperor Karl, the resignation of Count Czernin and the appointment of Baron Burian admit of no other explanation. Austria-Hungary has been brought to heel. When it was realised that both the Emperor and his Foreign Secretary were capable of bona-fide excursions into the realm of peace, distinct from the fictitious overtures required from time to time by German policy, the dangerous combination was broken up. Count Czernin is replaced by Baron Burian, who at least is a Magyar, and therefore may be expected to approach more closely to Prussian requirements.

For the Allies this very definite tightening of the German grip upon Austria-Hungary must finally dispel any hopes that may have been entertained of detaching the latter from her alliance. The process of enlightenment had already begun when it was found that Count Czernin could make no honest response to President Wilson's statement of the Allies' war aims. Special consideration, it is true, has always been shown to Austria-Hungary. This is accounted for in part by the subordinate position that she occupies in the Central Alliance, and by the enormity of Germany's crime against civilisation. But it is also the outcome of a failure to appreciate the real situation in Austria-Hungary and the manner in which she has ministered to German ambitions and made them possible. The tendency still exists apparently to think of the Dual Monarchy as a single nation, capable of keeping its present unity and maintaining an existence apart from Germany. Against this misconception may be set the fact that out of a population of fifty million the Germans number twelve million, the Magyars ten million, and together these twenty-two millions impose their rule on the remainder, who comprise, among others, twelve million Southern Slavs, five million Poles, four million Ruthenes, and three million Roumanians. If Austria-Hungary is to be made the enemy of Germany, what is to be the position of the twelve million Germans, at present the bulwark of Germany's domination of the Monarchy? Is it conceivable that a frame of mind which makes of these Germans and of the Magyars the ruthless oppressors of their fellow-subjects is going to discover cause for dissatisfaction with the Germany that enables them to maintain their hold over a more numerous population? But if some wave of feeling should pass through the land and sound the death-knell of the present system, must it not of necessity intensify the resolve of the subject nationalities to break away from all association with past tyranny and link themselves up with their kinsmen over the border? Their secession entails the break-up of Austria.

The Allies, therefore, must look beyond the gratification of the natural desire to detach the second partner of the Central Alliance. We may feel sure that Germany would not remain a passive spectator of Austria-Hungary's attempt to secede, and what support could be offered by the Allies to the latter? Moreover, what would be the position of the Dual Monarchy if separated from Germany? It must be ruined financially and in the whole economic sphere. Are the Allies to take the additional burden of its economic reconstruction upon their shoulders as a *quid pro quo* for peace with Austria? And on what terms could they agree to the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Hapsburg Government? Is it to remain the present dynastic State, still containing the seeds of all the troubles that have vexed Europe for a century and plunged the world into the present war, or are some paper assurances to be given in regard to self-determination for the subject peoples? No such assurances, we may feel confident, would be accepted by the nationalities concerned, and the Allies' agreement would be wrecked at the outset. The logic of the Allied position, it is to be feared, can only be brought home to the Central Powers as the result of a military defeat, which will compel them to accept the dissolution of Austria-Hungary. When that stage has been reached, it may be all to the good that the Emperor Charles should have shown himself more enlightened than the regime to which he has succeeded. The future of the dynasty may be in his hands at this moment; but it is more than probable that, unless his plans are being well laid now, the time will come when a decision on the subject will suddenly be removed beyond his control.

◆

THE "SICK MAN."

A correspondent writes:—The Ottoman Empire was estimated to extend, before this war, over 794,000 square miles, and to include a population of 21,180.000. Since it elected to throw in its lot with Germany, in 1914, it has suffered the following diminution:—

	Area in sq. miles.	Population.
Mesopotamia	65,000	1,500,000
South Syria and Sinai	15.000	500,000
Turkish Arabia	150,000	1,000,000
By Massacre, Starvation, Disease, Flight, and Battle	—	1,800,000
	230,000	4,800,000

The above figures are, of course, approximate. They tend to show that the Turk has lost more than a quarter of his territory and more than a fifth of his subjects. At this rate it is legitimate to say that Enver, Talaat, and Jemal Pashas have "backed the wrong horse." Meanwhile, on their right flank appears an Hellenic army about 300,000 strong, and yet their Prussian-driven, ill-fed, unmedicated troops totter forward towards the Caucasus to encounter Georgian resistance.

"LAW REFORM IN EGYPT."

In the issue of THE NEAR EAST for March 29 some extracts were given from an article with the above title contributed by a correspondent to the *Law Times*. The article consists mainly in an appeal to professional bodies, such as the Bar Council and the Law Society, to appear before the advisory committee now sitting in London for the purpose of considering the new legal system for Egypt and to endeavour to secure the adoption of English ideals and methods. The writer instances the laws as to land transfer and mortgages, and as to companies, as requiring reform; and also urges the adoption of certain reforms in procedure. These are all important matters, especially for investors, but it is proposed to treat of the subject from a rather different standpoint in the following note.

In the article in question the matter is approached from the legal point; it is, however, of such great importance to the world at large, and especially to the British business world, that no apology can be needed for dealing with it from that point of view, as it must be to the interest of British manufacturers, traders, and business men, both privately and through the chambers of commerce, to take their part in securing that the new laws and Courts in Egypt shall give adequate protection to business and commerce, shall discourage the dishonest trader, encourage fair dealing, and provide for the upright and expeditious administration of the law by the Courts and Court officials. What business man with experience of Egypt would say that the Mixed Codes and Mixed Courts are worthy representatives of these ideals in a British Protectorate? Every man of the kind could give examples from his own experience of the inadequate state of the law, of the facilities it gives to the dishonest trader to evade his just obligations, of the gross delays in the law courts, and of the defects of administration by the host of ill-paid minor officials. Take, for example, the question of bills of exchange. In every country that calls itself civilised a trader's credit and honour depend on his punctual meeting of his liabilities on bills, but in Egypt the allowing a bill to be dishonoured is only too often looked on as a means of obtaining an extension of credit. It is true we cannot make men moral by Act of Parliament—at least, not immediately —but we can and should, so far as possible, remove temptation from their path by making judgment follow speedily on the offence and by making the defaulter pay all the expenses of his suffering creditor. That brings us to the question of costs, which cries loudly for reform.

Who has not heard of dishonest debtors putting forward every kind of technical point and false suggestion and contesting a case to the last moment, on the chance of snatching a decision, or merely for delay, because they know that the the worst they will only have to pay the other side a few pounds for costs which very possibly run into hundreds, and which, if they were in England, they would have to pay? Having eventually obtained judgment, how is it to be enforced? The debtor, following the old-established Egyptian custom, may have hidden his money in a hole in the ground or otherwise made away with his visible assets, and there are no means of bringing him before the Courts to examine him as to his means, or, if it can be proved that he has means, *i.e.*, that he can pay, but will not, to have him committed to prison. It is true that if he is a trader—but only if he is a trader—he can be made bankrupt; but why should bankruptcy be limited to traders? There are many other classes who are not traders but yet enter into business dealings, and incur liabilities which they are unable or unwilling to meet. But when the debtor is made bankrupt there comes the administration of his estate. In Egypt this is entrusted to one of the Syndics (a body of gentlemen appointed by the Courts, but not paid by the Government), who are remunerated by fees or commissions out of the assets of the debtor's estate. This naturally leads to over-administration of the fat estates and neglect of the lean ones, with the consequent failure to investigate frauds, if the estate cannot bear the expense of investigation, a fault which was apparent in English Bankruptcy Law before Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's Act of 1883.

The delays and complications in effecting an arrangement or composition between a bankrupt and his creditors are also very trying. Speaking generally, the whole of the Bankruptcy law and administration require remodelling.

The above points are only referred to as examples of the defects in the existing system and in its administration, which must necessarily be reconstructed now that all residents in Egypt are to be governed by one law. There can be no doubt that Egypt expects, and would accept, a new system of law and legal administration based on English ideals and methods; and admirable mataerials for new codes can be found in English and Indian legislation.

One point is just mentioned in the *Law Times* article which deserves fuller emphasis. That point is the question of the language of the new codes and of the new Courts. That Arabic must be retained as the native language goes without saying, but in practice there must be a European language too, and most Englishmen will hold that that language should be English, with a transition period during which French (and possibly Italian) might be permitted as well. If the codes are drawn in English and cases are pleaded in English the pleadings and decisions will—even in the Courts of First Instance and at once, without awaiting the gradual influence of the Privy Council—be inspired by English ideas; but if a foreign language is used for the codes and pleadings the progress of such ideas will be retarded and hampered. If the codes and proceedings are in English, cases will come up on appeal to the Privy Council in their original language, whilst, if they are in any foreign language, translations will have to be made at great expense. English is even now one of the official European languages of the Mixed Tribunals, the others being French and Italian, and judgments have recently been delivered in English, but the present judges as a whole cannot be said to have encouraged the use of our language. The use of English in Egypt has grown enormously of recent years, and students of the younger generation have learnt English where formerly they learnt French or Italian. The change would be gradual. The present mixed codes and administration were established so recently as 1874; they are not native to the soil and have not existed long enough to obtain any element of permanency. The time has now come to get rid of the system of internationalism under which the administration of law in Egypt has hitherto been conducted and to substitute a British system.

TOURIST.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Prisoners of War at Changri. April 17.

Mr. J. F. Hope, replying to Colonel Burn, said :—The promise given by the Turkish delegates at the Berne Conference that the prisoners of war at Changri should be moved to another camp has been only partly carried out, as about half of them have not yet been transferred. An urgent remonstrance on this head was recently addressed to the Turkish Government. So far as his Majesty's Government are aware, there were no British officers at Changri for a long time before the transfer thither of those from Kastamuni in October, 1917. It is possible that the transfer has occasioned considerable delay in the arrival of parcels.

Revolutionary Movement in Bengal. April 18.

Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, replying for the India Office to Sir J D. Rees, who asked whether a committee of Indians and Europeans, with a Judge of the English High Court as chairman, had been appointed to investigate the revolutionary movement in Bengal, and, if so, whether it had submitted a report to the Government of India, said :—The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. The inquiry is as to the nature and extent of the criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India, and as to the legislation, if any, necessary to enable the Government to deal effectively with them. The Secretary of State is not aware that the committee has as yet submitted a report. Mr. Fisher added that the Judge of the High Court appointed was Sir Sidney Rowlatt, who was now in India for the purpose of the inquiry.

An "Indian Prince." April 22.

Sir J. D. Rees inquired whether the Secretary of State for India knew anything of a person described in the German Press as "the Indian Prince Mahendra Prato," who was said to have represented himself as an agent of the King of Afghanistan?

Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, said :—The person described as an "Indian Prince" is doubtless Mohendranath Pratap, the individual mentioned by the late Secretary of State for India in a statement made to the House on November 29, 1916, as having been sent to Afghanistan by the German Government. This individual has no claim whatsoever to the title of "Prince," being merely a small landowner from a British district in the United Provinces. His estates were attached by the Government of India in 1916.

The Turks' Prisoners of War. April 23.

Major David Davies asked whether the honourable member for Sheffield would say how many British and native troops had been taken prisoners by the Turks and how many of these had been officially notified as having died or who had never been heard of, and what percentage this figure is of the total number made prisoners by the Turks; and whether he had any information as to the fate of one officer and 635 other ranks and 2,600 of the rank and file of the native troops, which comprised about 40 per cent. of the Kut garrison captured by the Turks?

Mr. J. F. Hope, Lord of the Treasury, said: Of the British missing, including the Royal Navy and Colonials, 458 officers and 4,051 other ranks are known to have been captured by the Turks, of whom 14 officers and 1,497 other ranks have died; 596 other ranks are still untraced. Of the Indian natives missing, 221 officers and 7,169 other ranks are known to have been captured by the Turks, of whom five officers and 1,341 other ranks have died, and 2,600 other ranks are still untraced. Since my reply on March 18, 39 more British prisoners belonging to the Kut garrison have been traced. The 596 British and the 2,600 Indian natives, who are mentioned above as untraced, formed part of the Kut garrison.

Mr. Butcher asked whether the honourable member for Sheffield could state the reason why the sending of clothing to British prisoners of war in Turkey has been prohibited by the War Office; whether he was aware that the effect of this prohibition is to cause great suffering to those prisoners, who are frequently interned in cold places where warm clothing is essential; whether he was aware that the Dutch Minister at Constantinople has no clothing available with which to supply our prisoners; and whether permission could be given to the recognised care associations to send underclothing in reasonable quantities to these men?

Mr. Hope replied that the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and later the Netherlands Minister, advised the local purchase of clothing for British prisoners in Turkey, and stated they were able to provide what was necessary. In view of the very bad facilities for transport to Turkey, and great delays and loss incident to this method of despatch, the arrangements made locally were thought preferable, and had so far worked well. The Netherlands Minister had probably better facilities for distribution than could exist in the case of postal parcels, and up to last December he had despatched articles to various camps to the value of £T25.000. The Minister had been recently asked again by telegraph whether he could still make proper provision locally, and on receipt of his reply the question of despatch from this country could be again considered.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

"Side-Shows."

The military school of thought represented by the extreme Westerner is well taken to task in an article entitled "Side-Shows in the War," by Mr. Archibald Hurd in the April number of the *Fortnightly Review*. He begins by showing that the story of the growth of the British Empire is in the main a narrative of "side-shows." Canada was conquered as the result of one "side show"; the American "plantations" were lost in the course of another; India, as we know it to-day, is the fruit of other "side-shows." "Side-shows" gave us Australia, South Africa, the West Indies, and all the outer fringes of the British Empire which to-day constitute its strength as a group of trading communities dependent upon merchant shipping, and therefore requiring coaling stations in all parts of the world. At the outbreak of the present war it was Germany's aim to break up this far-flung Empire, and it was her firm belief, of which abundant evidence exists, that she had laid her plans well for breaking it up. Could we afford to ignore these plans? Mr. Hurd's view is as follows:—

> Our military force being exiguous, it is suggested that from the opening of the war onwards, and particularly after the new Army had been created, we should have poured every man at our disposal into France, without regard for the safety of the outer Empire, which was definitely menaced, and without endeavouring to counter the machinations of the enemy. India, Egypt, Malta, Gibraltar, and our interests in Persia, to say nothing of our position in the Far East and the Pacific—could we afford to leave them without protection? The best defence is offence; any other policy is folly. Only a Power with the command of the sea can use a small army effectively. On that principle our military organisation has been based, the Army being created for oversea expeditions. Once the seas are commanded, the Power with the predominant naval force can conceal its military movements; it thus obtains the advantage of surprise, and the advantage of surprise means that a very small military force can achieve a great objective. If the military force is used at short range, being employed where the enemy expects that it will be employed, it naturally follows that a much larger number of men must be used.

He cites three instances of sea-power being used at long reach. It is no argument, he adds, against the use by a maritime country of its main power to quote instances in which the objective was not attained. More often than not the policy has been good, but the execution bad. He considers that history in regard to the Dardanelles Expedition will record that the proposal to attack Turkey was a stroke of genius which, under proper management, would have succeeded, thus appreciably shortening the war. Here is his defence of the Salonika "side-show":—

> What would have been the course of events to Greece, if we had not given our adherence to the proposal to land troops at Salonika? Would a British officer to-day be organising the Greek navy? The First Lord of the Admiralty has told us that "at the request of the Greek Government, British naval officers are assisting our Greek Allies in the reconstruction and reorganisation of their navy and dockyards, and Captain Clifton Brown, of the British Navy, is head of the British Naval Mission to Greece and is Chief Naval Adviser to the Greek Minister of Marine, with the rank of Rear-Admiral in the Greek Navy. The reorganised naval forces of Greece are already co-operating in the war in the Mediterranean, and rendering increasingly valuable service to the common cause." At the same time the Greek army is being prepared to participate in the war on the side of the Allies. Should we be confronted with the present situation, if we had not utilised our sea power to land a force at Salonika? Is it an exaggeration to suggest that but for that action King Constantine would still be on his throne, co-operating by every means in his power with his brother-in-law, the German Emperor, the ports and islands of Greece being utilised as bases for submarines? It may well be that but for the Salonika expedition we should have had to abandon the Mediterranean, driven out by enemy submarines, as Nelson had to abandon it in his day. What, then, would have been the course of events in Egypt?

Then again as to Egypt and Mesopotamia:—

> In his War Diary, Mr. J. W. Gerard, formerly American Ambassador in Berlin, records, under date of June, 1916, that "The Germans expect that by September preparations will be finished, and the Suez Canal will be cannonaded, bombed, and mined, so that it will dry up, and then the Indian-Afghan troubles will begin." Would the British Government, in order to avoid the condemnation of indulging in "side shows," have been wise to take no steps to defend the Suez Canal and Egypt against the menace which the enemy offered? Do those critics who have been so forward in criticising British policy since the Kut incident, revealing wisdom after the event, reflect on the results which would have flowed from failure of foresight on the part of the British authorities? As it was, the Turks in force advanced up to the Canal, confident of penetrating into Egypt. Was it a mistake to throw them back and to adopt an offensive policy? If they had succeeded in their purpose, what would have been the outlook to-day for the British Empire with its main artery cut? It was one thing to evacuate the Mediterranean in the last great war, when the Suez Canal had not been made, and our direct east-and-west commerce was of small proportions; but if this war has taught us one lesson more than another, it is that we must maintain our position in Egypt, if we are to continue our beneficent work in India.

And Mr. Hurd's conclusion is as follows:—

> The present war has not been fought, possibly, as the elder Pitt would have fought it, but, on the other hand, we have utilised our sea power, and we have done so with fine results. Not only have the enemy's main fleets been neutralised and his commerce driven off the seas, but by the use of the seas we have been enabled to undertake a series of "side shows" which have brought to the dust the enemy's ambitions, have firmly re-established British power in the East as in the West, have contributed to convince Americans that this nation is not effete, and have reminded the peoples of the Dominions, with their ships and men with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, of the virtue which lies in the long arm of sea power. We might have fought this war as though we were a continental Power, throwing all our forces into the struggle in France when the new Armies came into being. But in that event what part would Italy be taking in the war? What would have been the fate of Greece? Would the British flag still fly in Egypt? Should we have the assurance that British influence had been supported in Asia Minor? And, finally, what would have been the course of events in India?
>
> The moral of this war is the moral of all the wars in which we have been engaged, namely, that our strength is drawn from the sea, and can be best employed by utilising the sea—the sea and secrecy. That is the legend writ large over the whole British Empire. When we are tempted to reflect on failures of policy during the past three and a half years we may well take courage, casting our eyes also on the other side of the record, where stand the triumphs which small military forces have achieved against overwhelming strong opponents at the end of the long tether of British sea power, nurtured in peace and sustained in war by a people who learnt from Napoleon that "England can never be a continental Power, and in the attempt must be ruined." We owe the British Empire to-day to "side shows," and the history of the British Empire holds the condemnation of the ignorant criticism which has recently found expression.

The Arab and "Kultur."

On April 15 *The Times* published an article "The Moslems of Jerusalem," contributed by a correspondent in Jerusalem. He writes:—

> The Moslems of Jerusalem, like all really religious people, are not bigoted. Fanaticism they leave to the pig-eating, brandy-drinking young Turk. Having long been in contact with Europeans and Americans, being well educated, often travelled, and knowing our record in Cyprus, Egypt, and India, they are the last people to listen to the preachments of a Holy War made in Germany and brought about by the Jacobin Clubs of Stamboul. Performances such as those of the German Baron von Perfall, who when stationed at Bethlehem in command of the Motor Lorry Column, with headquarters at the French Carmelite Convent, converted the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes into a latrine, tore up the books of the Convent library, destroyed the trees and vines belonging to the Convent, even pulling up the roots, did not impress them as proofs of German Kultur.
>
> The Armenian massacres and the oppression of the Arabs disgusted them with the "Liberalism" of the "inexperienced idealists" of Constantinople. Even the wilder Beduins of Eastern Palestine and Central Syria treated the unhappy Armenian exiles with kindness in comparison with the Turks.

The action of King Hussein of the Hejaz, and his successful campaign against the Turks had also a marked effect on Moslem opinion in Jerusalem:—

> The knowledge that a prince enjoying a high reputation for political sagacity and religious orthodoxy in the Arab world and of the lineage of the Prophet had dared both to protest against the political oppression and subversive religious innovations of the Turks, in the name of the Arab race, and to uphold this protest by force of arms on the side of the Entente Powers filled them with hope and enthusiasm. The leading Arabs in Jerusalem, far from regretting the past, seek profit in the opportunities of the present and look forward to development in the future which will show the world that the spirit which manifested itself in the great civilisations of Damascus, Baghdad, and Cordova has not yet died. It is their hope that the Arab race, now that it has awakened from the strangling nightmare of four centuries of Turkish misrule, will one day become self-respecting and respected by the world, and that it will prove that Islam must not be judged as a spiritual force by its perversion among the corruptions of Constantinople or the ignorance of Anatolia.

Articles to Note.

"The Battle that Won Samarrah," by Brig.-General A. G. Wauchope, C.M.G., D.S.O., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (April).

"A Policy for Turkey," by H. N. Brailsford, in the *Contemporary Review* (April).

"Jericho," by G. Robinson Lees, in the *Churchman* (April).

"Islam and the War," by Sir Valentine Chirol; "Greece and the Balkan Settlement," by Principal Burrows; and "Child Education in India," by Agnes R. Haigh, in the *Quarterly Review* (April).

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Enemy banking enterprise proceeds apace. The latest development is a combine by four Austro-Hungarian banks—the Land Credit Institution, the Credit Institution for Commerce, the Lower Austrian Discount Association, and the Hungarian General Credit Bank—for the purpose of forming an Austro-Roumanian bank, with its headquarters at Bucharest. The capital of the institution is fixed at 20,000,000 francs (£800,000), and the bank will undertake all kinds of financial business, including the financing of industrial enterprises and the granting of credits to agricultural concerns. In other words, it is intended to serve as one of the weapons for completing the economic penetration of Roumania after the war.

⁂

The satisfactory position in Egypt at the present time is clearly brought out in Sir William Brunyate's Note on the Budget of 1918. The balance of trade during the past three and a half years represents, he states, an addition of £E50,000,000 to Egypt's resources, and he points out that the effect of the prosperity of the country is reflected on every side, notably in the prompt repayment of mortgage loans. There has also been a marked decline in the demand for new loans, and this has enabled the mortgage companies to make extensive investments in Allied war loans.

⁂

It will be noted that Sir William says that the fuel situation in Egypt was mainly saved by the development of the Red Sea oilfields, and by the adaptation of engines to produce gas distilled from vegetable refuse. There are now grounds for hope that adequate supplies of oil will be shortly available. As regards Egypt's industrial development, he advocates systematic research, and instances the mineral possibilities of the Red Sea littoral and the manganese mines of the Sinai Peninsula as affording excellent scope for this purpose.

⁂

Evidently the plans of Greece regarding the rebuilding of Salonika in order to make it equal to coping with Balkan trade in the future have aroused the envy of the Central Powers, for the *Berliner Tageblatt* gives an elaborate explanation of the way in which Germany and her ally will "dispose" of Salonika. Bulgaria, says the *Tageblatt*, has demanded the cession of the port, but "this wish cannot be fulfilled because, in the event of England refusing to surrender Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Egypt, and the occupied districts of Palestine and Mesopotamia, Salonika is to be made a free harbour and a naval base of the Central Powers, while being left nominally in Greek possession."

⁂

No doubt, as Bulgaria sees the Central Powers absorbing territory right and left, she feels entitled to amend her own requirements. At the worst the demand may prove useful one day as an excuse for a rupture with her allies in the event of non-compliance with her wishes. If, however, she is set on obtaining Salonika she is scarcely likely to be satisfied with an explanation of the kind suggested by the *Tageblatt*. That is all there is to be said on this point, and with that we may leave the enemy Powers to compose their differences as best they may, and console themselves with further impossible schemes of aggrandisement. For Greece the episode must be interesting, if not entertaining. Our Allies are to be permitted to plan the development of Salonika, but Germany will only allow them the nominal possession of the port, which is to be used by the enemy for naval purposes and to direct trade into channels favourable to Germany. It is a pleasant scheme, and one which should remove the last vestige of doubt among the Greeks that, like the rest of the Allies, they are fighting for their very existence.

⁂

The statement of the Board of Trade that the orders given at the British Industries Fair amounted to nearly £1,500,000 is the best possible justification for this war-time innovation which we all hope will prove a permanent feature of the business life of this country. Even this total, excellent as it is, could, it seems, have been easily passed if the exhibitors had been in a position to take all the business that was offered. In the circumstances one may justifiably look forward to a great extension of the fair when normal conditions permit unrestricted exhibition of British goods.

⁂

Presiding at last week's general meeting of the Mercantile Bank of India, Mr. R. J. Black referred to the rapid progress and expansion of the bank during the last decade, and in particular during the past five years. Deposits had risen in twenty-five years from £1,138,163 to £9,812,320, loans and advances from £362,629 to £3,761,149, and bills receivable from £1,177,580 to £4,326,689. The first allocation to the reserve fund was £10,000 in 1896, and in the last ten years it had been increased from £210,000 to £650,000. Mr. Black further instanced the appreciation that had taken place in the shares, and pointed out that while the lowest quotation for the "A" shares was about £9 and for the "B's" between £3 and £4, to-day they both stood round about £32-£33.

⁂

Turning to the past year, Mr. Black said that the epoch-making event of the year was the disappearance of the 1s. 4d. rupee, and in this connection he stated that while the continued advance in silver last year pointed to this possibility, the further advance last week to 1s. 6d. came as a complete surprise to most of them. "Putting on one side any difference of opinion that may be held in regard to the legislation of 1899, I do not think," he added, "it can be gainsaid that fixity of exchange fostered confidence, and whatever happens in the future, the element of doubt which its removal, whether temporary or not, creates, will take long to subside. The immunity from anxiety over the fluctuations in exchange we have enjoyed so long no longer exists; the future, as in so many other things, is in the melting pot, and what it may have in store for us it is quite impossible to speculate upon. There is no improvement in the currency situation in India; the introduction of notes of a lower denomination than Rs.5 has perhaps hardly had time to show much perceptible effect, but it may still be necessary to take more drastic measures to meet the abnormal situation that has been created by the war."

⁂

The National Bank of Egypt made a gross profit during the past year of £767,144, an increase of no less than £142,000 on the previous figures. Besides providing for the statutory reserve, the directors propose to allocate £200,000 to a special reserve to meet contingencies, while the shareholders, in addition to the statutory dividend of 4 per cent., will receive a distribution of equal amount, making the dividend per share 16s., as compared with 12s. for 1916. The shares, which are of the value of £10 fully paid, stand at 13, so that the yield is not unduly attractive, but the high price of the shares is due to the belief that in due course there will be a considerably larger distribution. In the light of present events this view seems justifiable.

⁂

The Sudan Gold Field Company's profits on the past year's working show a decline of £7,879 13s. 8d. This is due in some measure, it is stated, to the larger tonnage of ore put through the mill for a practically corresponding quantity of gold recovered, "but is mainly accounted for by the unparalleled conditions prevailing, resulting in a serious shortage of native labour, the necessity to economise in the use of all supplies, consequent upon the uncertainty as regards deliveries of material and the risks attending sea transport, and particularly to the largely increased cost of all mining requisites." The directors have decided to make no distribution on account of the profit, as there is no immediate prospect of any mitigation of the adverse circumstances; indeed, it is suggested that there is a probability that they will become more accentuated during the current year.

⁂

Very rapid progress has been made by British Dyes, Limited in developing the dye-making industry in this country, and there now seems every hope that when the war ends the Germans will find their position with regard to this industry very different from the monopoly they enjoyed in the past. The whole question resolves itself into one of research work, and if the company obtains the support necessary for carrying out its comprehensive plans, the outlook will undoubtedly be very bright.

COMMENTATOR.

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Double Income-Tax.

The Case of Indian Investments.

It was not to be expected in the prevailing circumstances that this year's Budget would contain any concession on the vexed question of double income-tax. Equally it was scarcely in doubt that the question would again receive some passing notice, for the growing agitation against the imposition of this tax on Indian and Colonial investments during the past few years has made it almost impossible for a Chancellor of the Exchequer to pretend to ignore the presence of this grievance. As a matter of fact, it received its usual meed of attention—neither more nor less—for Mr. Bonar Law briefly indicated in his Budget statement that he would follow the principle adopted by his predecessor, and that the additional 1s. on the income-tax would not have to be paid where the combined tax amounted to 6s. That is no doubt all that can be hoped for at this juncture, for no one expects the Chancellor to abstain from utilising any source of revenue when the needs of the war impose so severe a tax on the national resources. It would have been better, however, if Mr. Bonar Law could have coupled with his reference to the subject some indication that the injustice of the system of double taxation as regards Imperial securities is recognised by the authorities, and that at the earliest possible moment steps will be taken to remedy this anomaly.

Unfortunately, it has to be admitted that the remedy becomes more difficult with each year that the war continues, for the sum involved is not a small one; on the contrary, it forms a very substantial contribution to the Exchequer. The possibility has to be faced, therefore, that post-war Budget requirements may make it impossible to surrender the whole of this sum for a number of years after the war. In view of that contingency, it is necessary to examine the incidence of this tax on various classes of Imperial securities with a view to determining whether any particular benefits would accrue from preferential treatment as regards remedial measures. Here it mav be stated that holders of Indian and Colonial securities suffer equal hardship from the tax, and have an equal claim to concessions, but at the same time an important distinction has to be drawn between the two classes of investors. Holders of Dominion securities can settle where they have financial interests if they choose, but India is unsuitable for permanent residence, and there is thus no option for those who hold Indian investments but to pay the double tax. Again, Dominion securities appeal to the general investor, while investors in Indian securities are drawn in the main from people with commercial or occupational connections with the country. A considerable proportion of those affected, indeed, are men who, in one capacity or another, have spent the best years of their lives in India, and it is but a poor return for their services to penalise their savings when they come to pass their retirement at home.

All these aspects and others are well-known, and it is therefore superfluous to labour them. It is necessary, however, to point out one further, and in our view a decisive, reason why as soon as the financial position permits any concession on the double income-tax Indian investments should receive prior consideration. As we have indicated above, British investors in Indian securities are drawn from a very limited class, and at the same time India is practically dependent on this country for capital, since Indians as a whole have not yet taken kindly to supporting commercial and industrial enterprises. They are certainly improving in this respect, but the fact that the Indian War Loan last year, which was given every support in the way of publicity, only realised a very moderate total, shows the ground that still has to be covered before India's development meets with due support at the hands of Indians themselves. As yet Indians are almost wholly unversed in the proper application of their capital, and their education in this respect will take time. Pending an alteration in their outlook, British capital will be the mainstay of India's advancement, and if this is to be available to the extent that will be needed if Indian industries are to be developed after the war in accordance with expectations, it is obviously essential that nothing should be left undone to render Indian investments as attractive as possible, and this presupposes the removal of the double income-tax.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Among a number of awards in response to applications made to the Board of Referees for increases of the excess profits statutory percentage announced in the *London Gazette* is the following:—Gold Mining in Egypt and the Sudan—Application was made by Atallah, Limited, and the Sudan Gold Field Company in regard to the business of gold mining in Egypt and the British Protectorate of the Sudan. The percentage is increased to 27½ per cent., plus 1 per cent. and 2 per cent. respectively.

EGYPT'S PROSPERITY.

Prospects of the Oilfields.

In a note on the Budget of 1918 (says Reuter's Cairo correspondent), Sir William Brunyate, Acting Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, says: "The phenomenal increase in the price of cotton is maintained, and the country continues to profit by the presence of the British Forces. According to the estimates for 1917, the cotton crop yield amounts to £E50,000,000, as against £E39,000,000 in 1916."

After dealing with the various difficulties which Egypt has had to surmount in regard to the supply of fuel, he declared that the situation was mainly saved by the development of the Red Sea oilfields and the adaptation of engines to produce gas distilled from vegetable refuse. The latter, he added, had proved to be a most valuable discovery, and was due to the researches of Mr. J. Wells, former Inspector-General of the Mines Department. "There is reasonable hope," continued Sir William Brunyate, "that an adequate supply of oil will shortly be available. For internal consumption the Hurgada oilfield, discovered in 1914, is now yielding 15,000 tons per month. The balance of trade for the last three and a-half years represents an addition of £E50,000,000 to Egypt's capital resources. This prosperous situation is reflected on every side and mortgage companies find their loans repaid in advance. Demands for new loans have markedly slackened, and thus these companies have been able to invest £E7,000,000 in Allied War Loans. Bankers state that cotton loans up country are below normal and owners generally are able to carry their holdings. The Empire Cotton Growing Committee in London is strongly pressing the resumption of reclamation schemes in the Nile delta, which were suspended at the outbreak of war, but the whole labour resources of Egypt have been placed at the disposal of the military authorities and an undertaking has been given that no new public works will be undertaken involving a serious call for local labour, except in cases of grave urgency. Therefore the resumption of this work is impossible until the military embargo is removed."

Sir William Brunyate, referring to the large increase in the National Bank note issue, says:—"Apart from the larger cash balances at the banks it is clear that notes are now taking the place of gold for purposes of hoarding, but as the increased note issue is now represented by British Treasury bills and other securities deposited in London, an increase in the hoarded notes represents a corresponding increase in the resources which Egypt is placing at the disposal of the Allies." The Financial Adviser also strikes an optimistic note regarding the industrial possibilities of Egypt and suggests a systematic policy of research, pointing out that the mineral possibilities of the Red Sea littoral and the Sinai Peninsula offer a large scope for this purpose, instancing the phosphate rocks already working on the Red Sea littoral and the manganese mines of the Sinai Peninsula. The creation of a Ministry of Communications for Egypt, he concluded, is now under serious consideration. On the whole Sir William Brunyate's note is a most striking document, and creates the most favourable impression concerning the present position and the future prospects of Egypt.

INDIAN COTTON SPECULATION.

A settlement has been found for the financial disturbance caused by reckless speculation in Broach cotton (says *The Times* Bombay correspondent, in a message dated April 14). The Government has undertaken to issue an ordinance fixing the price, if the trade agrees on a price. The trade has agreed on 712 rupees (£47 10s) per kandy, and an ordinance is expected to be issued shortly. Government assistance is conditional on measures to prevent these annual orgies of speculation, arising from the absence of a periodical settlement of differences and the narrowness of the principal forward contracts. Forward business in next season's crop is not permitted until a clearing house is established.

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GREEK CROPS IN 1917.

Western Greece Tobacco.

The crop of 1917 has been harvested and is now in the drying barns (says the United States Consul at Patras) in a recent report. It will not be ready to place on the market before May or June, 1918. And the better grades, which need considerable manipulation in order to prepare them for sale, will hardly enter the market before the fall of 1918, according to dealers' reports. The total crop, all varieties and grades, is now estimated to be about 13,500,000 lbs. The crop of 1916 was estimated at some 5,000,000 lbs., which was a decrease of about 15 per cent. from the normal crop, owing to unfavourable seasons. The great increase in the crop of 1917 is due to stimulation in production brought about by attractive prices.

The following table shows the estimated quantity of each grade produced in 1917, as well as the average prices of that grade per 100 lbs. quoted f.o.b. Patras, February 14, 1914, November 14, 1916, and December 31, 1917.

Grades.	Crop, 1917. Lbs.	Price per 100lb. Feb.14, 1914. $	Nov.14, 1916. $	Dec.31, 1917. $
Patofyllo..........	800,000	—	20.50	28.50
Tsembelia I.	1,200.000	24·28	52.25	(a)
Tsembelia II......	2,300,000	17.44	38.10	59.25
Tsembelia III.	2,400.000	10.60	22.90	45.50
Aromatic I........	3,000,000	40.01	68.25	123.00
Aromatic II.......	2,000,000	33.17	53.75	110.00
Aromatic III......	1,000,000	15.05	40·90	96.00
Basma	800,000	48.22	64.00	123.00

(a) None offered.

The movement of tobacco to the American market has been very active as compared with former years, despite the abnormally high prices. Tobacco invoiced through the Patras consulate during 1917 was declared at a total of 549,038 lbs. net, with a value of $900,682, as compared with 95,753 lbs. valued at $42,853 during 1916. The above values include all packing charges, together with all insurance, but not ocean freights.

By a law which became effective November 23, 1917, a tax in the form of an export duty of 2 drachmae per kilo (8¾d. per lb.) is laid upon tobacco exported abroad from any Greek province, except that of Argolis-Corinthos. Tobaccos from the latter Province have a duty of 1 drachma per kilo.

Citrus Fruit.

Information obtained from sources believed to be reliable places the Greek orange crop for 1917 at 44,000,000 oranges (says an American Consular report), the yield of the different districts being estimated at: Messenia, 7,000,000; Lacedæmon, 12,000,000; Epirus, 5,000,000; island of Crete, 20,000,000. Second in popularity and use, although grown in perhaps greater quantity, is the mandarin, the 1917 yield of which approximated 45,000,000 pieces—15,000,000 in Laconia and Hermoni and 30,000,000 in Crete.

Lemons were produced as follows: In Hermoni, 25,000,000; Cyclades, 5,000,000; Eubœa, 2,000,000; a total of 32,000,000. There was an excellent crop of lemons in Chios, but on account of the presence of phylloxera in the orchards, no exportation of fruit was permitted.

No statistics are obtainable relative to the crop of cedrats, as they are grown in northern Epirus, and communication with that portion of Greece is almost impossible. The citron crop, mainly produced in Crete, was excellent, but because of transportation difficulties and the scarcity of sugar for use in preserving, the crop is almost unsaleable.

Olives.

As was foreshadowed in a report from this office dated October 30 (says the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, Mr. C. M. Corepa), the Greek olive crop and olive oil yield has been seriously under the average. As a striking confirmation of this shortage may be noted the recent action of the Ministry of Revictualling and Supplies, which has raised the minimum price of olive oil from 3.20 drachmæ per oke (equal to 7s. 4d. per gallon), to 3.80 drachmæ per oke (equal to 8s. 8d. per gallon).

While it is possible that there is some hoarding of olive-oil and olives in the provinces according to the most optimistic estimate the olive-oil crop is perhaps 15 per cent. short, and the olive crop 10 per cent. below the normal production.

BURMA RICE CROP FORECAST.

The final forecast of the rice crop in Burma for the year 1917-18 states that the total area sown with rice in the province is estimated to be 10,702,443 acres, an increase of 132,199 acres over the area planted with rice in the year 1916-17 and an increase of 6,157 acres above the figures of the fourth forecast. The total matured area for the province is now estimated at 10,482,648 acres, against an area of 10,233,000 acres actually matured in the year 1916-17. For the whole province the yield is estimated at 95 per cent. of the normal, as against a yield of 93 per cent. finally fixed for 1916-17 after the crop had been threshed. The district figures indicate a provincial outturn of 92¾ million cwt. of cleaned rice, against last year's revised yield of 91½ million cwt., an increase of 1¼ million cwt. The surplus available for export is estimated at 2,700,000 tons of cargo rice, equivalent to 45¾ million cwt. of cleaned rice.

INDIA'S WHEAT CROP.

The area sown to wheat in Bombay and Sind, including the Native States, is reported to be 3,102,000 acres, as against the preliminary estimate of 2,609,000 and 2,879,000 acres last year's final total. The yield is estimated at 3,808,000 qrs., against 3,575,000 qrs. The total estimated yield in the Punjab and Bombay, the two districts for which so far estimates have been received, amounts to 20,015,000 qrs., against 16,800,000 qrs. last year.

INDIAN IMPORTS OF PLANTS.

The *Indian Trade Journal* of February 15, contains a copy of a Notification amending Notification No. 13C., dated November 7, 1917, in which it is provided, *inter alia*, that no plant shall be imported into British India by land or sea by means of the letter or sample post. The present Notification provides that sugar cane for planting, intended to be grown under the personal supervision of the Government Sugarcane Expert, may be imported by him by such post.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
April 13, 14	510,000	370,000
April 15, 16, 17	340,000	810,000

TRADE OF KHORASAN.

Marked Increase in 1916-17.

The value of the trade of Khorasan in the year ended March, 1917, excluding that through the parcels post, amounted to £3,339,702, as compared with £1,948,798 in 1915-16, says a Consular Report published in the *Board of Trade Journal*. The value of the trade through the parcels post rose to £283,694 from £30,282 in 1915-16. In estimating the importance of these figures the decrease in the local value of the rouble and the general increase in local prices must be taken into consideration.

The value of imports into Khorasan from India in 1916-17 was £120,239, as compared with £101,734 in 1915-16. The relative figures of imports from Afghanistan and Russia were £142,592 and £41,456, and £1,058,977 and £770,088, respectively.

The increase shown under Afghanistan was in reality an increase in imports from India; quantities of goods which had travelled from India by the Herat route, having been shown by the local Customs Department as imports from Afghanistan. The Herat route is the trade route to the East via Kariz. The distance between the two towns is 231 miles.

Imports from Russia.

It may be observed that the increases in value shown in the return of imports from Russia were in many cases accompanied by a decrease in quantity; the prices of certain articles having risen enormously. Where the reverse is the case, the aricles imported were of inferior quality. Certain articles appeared as fresh importations, such, for example, as "window glass"; these were imported to replenish exhausted stocks or in consequence of some prohibition which had been removed. Similarly, a large decrease or, in certain cases, an almost total cessation in the importation of an article represented the result of a prohibition newly introduced.

-- drawback of seven-eighths of the Indian Customs duty is allowed on goods exported to Persia, and the North-Western railway allows a rebate of two-thirds, and the East Indian and Oudh and Rohilkhund railway a rebate of one-third, of the freight on goods for Persia.

The value of exports to India by the trade routes fell from £22,357 in 1915-16 to £9,194 in 1916-17, the principal articles which showed decreases being manufactured silk and provisions; but there was a rise of £10,000 in exports to Afghanistan, which includes the value of such articles exported to India by the Afghan route. Exports to Russia increased from £975,356 to £1,968,322, the articles which were chiefly responsible for this being wool, cotton, opium, and dried fruits, all of which were requisitioned in large quantities for military purposes.

The only item which calls for special remark is the enormous increase in the value of the opium exported to Russia by parcel post. The price per lb. rose phenomenally, and a much larger amount was required for military use.

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Sir John Wolfe-Barry, chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company and Associated Telegraph Companies, and engineer of the Tower Bridge and other works, who died January 22 last, aged 81 years, left £225,033 net personalty.

TUCKEY'S
PURE MALT POT STILL
"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD.
SCOTCH WHISKY
"LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.
MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.
AGENTS FOR EGYPT: ISHERWOOD BROS., CAIRO.
THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."
CHARLES TUCKEY & CO., LTD., London Offices, 3, Mincing Lane, E.C.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Cheap Electricity for the Farmer.

The great advantages which the farmer obtains from the utilisation of electricity, when it is cheaply obtained, have often been pointed out in these columns in connection with various regions in the Near East, where electricity can be generated at a very low cost by the utilisation of the water-power from waterfalls and rivers. In Switzerland the farmers and peasants use electricity for many farming and domestic purposes at very cheap rates, whilst in America the price of electric power is within the reach of the purse of the poorest farmer, and, according to recent rates, a farmer can buy enough electricity with one penny to milk ten cows, churn 20 lbs. of butter, separate 1,400 lbs. of milk in a cream separator, do two large family washings, heat an electric flat iron for half-an-hour, run a sewing machine for four hours, pump water enough to last the family two days, and serve many other useful purposes. This is calculated at the rate of 10 cents per kilowatt-hour, the price usually charged in the United States, and a price which can be secured in Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia and elsewhere if the water force of rivers and waterfalls be utilised.

New Industries for Engineers.

The Minister of Reconstruction has appointed a committee of manufacturers and business men to consider the provision of new industries for the engineering trades. The duties of the Committee will be to compile a list of the articles suitable for manufacture by British engineers, which are either not made in the United Kingdom or were made in insufficient quantities, and for which there is likely to be a demand after the war.

An Appropriate Suggestion.

The Machine Tool and Engineering Association, which comprises some of the leading engineers of the United Kingdom, is preparing a report to be presented to the Minister of Reconstruction on the trading conditions which may be expected after the war. It is suggested that the Government should subsidise the industry to help it to fight American and German competition, and the proposal is meeting with a certain amount of support. At the annual meeting of the association recently, the project was ventilated and warmly recommended. The scheme formulated some two years ago, when ten British machine tool firms made arrangements whereby each should manufacture specific tools only in order to lessen internal competition, is now almost in working order.

Credit in Morocco.

Machinery manufacturers and exporters, who hitherto were not inclined to do business in the Moroccan markets owing to the long-credit system prevailing in that country, will be interested to hear that one of the results of the war has been practically to end that system. Almost all transactions are now conducted upon the basis of cash against receipt of shipping documents through local banks. For machinery, as well as other heavy goods, manufacturers require orders to be covered by confirmed credits opened in Europe or the United States. Moroccan buyers or merchants in such cases have been compelled to adopt this financial procedure, with the result that more ample facilities for banking and credit transactions between Morocco and Europe, as well as the United States, have been introduced.

Threshing Machines for Morocco.

Before the war, threshing machines of British make were in fairly wide use in Morocco. Some of them, operated by motor engines and used by native farmers in the country districts, have given satisfactory results as regards the quantity and quality of grain threshed. But it appears that the farmers find fault with them on the ground that they "do not tear the straw sufficiently small," as in the case of threshing done by oxen, treading out the grain in the primitive native fashion. This is a drawback from the Arab's point of view, as the straw broken by the feet of the oxen when threshing in the native way makes it tender and, in the farmer's opinion, sweeter and more suitable for fodder, the use it is put to in Morocco as well as in all other tropical or semi-tropical countries. The straw produced on the native threshing floor is the staple food for cattle and other animals during the dry months, and farmers think of that straw as much as of the grain, for sometimes, in case of shortage, they have to pay very high prices to obtain it from other farmers. The fault which the Moroccan farmers find with the British-made threshers is one which threshing machine manufacturers and exporters must take into consideration before sending out machines. Evidently some of the threshers which have been sent to Morocco are machines fitted only with straw-cutting apparatus, which can cut the straw in small lengths, but does not bruise it, a process which breaks and softens the hard straw and makes it similar to the straw produced on the native threshing floor. This is done by an additional fitting, the bruising apparatus, which works in conjunction with the straw-cutting arrangement. Thus, in taking an order for a threshing machine it is necessary to find out whether the machine is wanted with or without "straw cutting and bruising apparatus." New buyers or commercial houses which act for buyers living abroad do not always know these technical details, and as manufacturers receive and carry out the orders to the letter, disappointing results will often occur.

Enemy Preparations for Peace.

In an article on this subject, the *Neue Freie Presse* observes that Austrian and Hungarian financial houses have been considering various enterprises in the Balkans. A few establishments—sugar factories in Serbia and Bulgaria, a mill in Sofia, and a petroleum concern in Roumania—have been organised, and other plans are being worked out. Austrian manufacturers have made arrangements for the installation of machinery and plant which, in the case of certain large works, will involve the expenditure, within a comparatively short time, of a very large amount. The solution of machine work for manual work, begun under the pressure of war, will persist in peace-time. In coal-mining this transformation is very conspicuous. Electrically-propelled conveyances are replacing cars drawn by horses; and aerial ropeways are becoming common. In the State coal mines important mechanical plant has been installed. Similar transformations are reported by employers in other branches of industry; and from engineering shops it is announced that orders for cranes, lifts, etc., are so numerous that all of them cannot be executed. Agriculture alone, it is stated, is slow in adopting these new methods, for even now on quite large estates manual labour and horse-power are still used for driving threshing machines. But agriculturists are imbued with modern ideas.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP SOLD.

A Reuter message from Madrid states that the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and Spain at Cairo have agreed to the sale to Spain of the whole of the forthcoming Egyptian cotton crop and the remainder of the last crop, dating from August 1, 1917, at the price of 42 talari (£8 8s.) per cantar.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Still Unsettled.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has not yet recovered from the shock as a result of the slump in raw cotton rates last week, and trading has been of limited dimensions. The situation has been much discussed, but very irregular fluctuations continue to take place in raw cotton rates, and the changes are not easily accounted for. The tone remains unsettled, and buyers and sellers have not been at all in the mood to enter into negotiations of importance. Egyptian cotton rates have been much firmer than American descriptions. Difficulties in importing from Alexandria tend to increase, but the healthy demand on the spot in Liverpool continues. It is of interest to note that the Cotton Control Board has decided to take another census of raw cotton stocks in the hands of spinners. Egyptian yarns have been very strongly held. Full prices have to be paid for anything wanted. The engagements of producers remain very extensive. A quieter demand has again been experienced in cloth for Egypt. Something has been done in miscellaneous fabrics, but standard goods have not attracted much attention. Advices from India at the moment are not very encouraging, and dealers in the bazaars seem determined to carry on with such supplies as they have in hand until there is more certainty as to the future level of values in Lancashire. Demand for China has seldom been mentioned. More activity has prevailed in fine cloths and heavy materials for the purposes of the war, both the French and British Governments being in the market for substantial supplies. American yarns have tended to stiffen in price, and the scarcity of stocks has resulted in spinners being able to secure record prices for anything sold, but the turnover has been limited. There has not been much doing in export yarns.

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SILVER CURRENCY FOR INDIA.

In a written reply to Sir J. D. Rees, who asked what measures had been adopted to provide India with a sufficiency of metallic currency, the Secretary for India says:—Between February, 1915, and March 31, 1918, 214,000,000 standard ozs. of silver of the approximate value of £34,800,000 were purchased for coinage. By exchange with the Imperial Government the Government of India acquired in 1917 £3,000,000 in sovereigns in India, against the like amount previously held by the Secretary of State in London; and under an Ordinance of June 29, 1917, they also acquired £12,800,000 of gold imported into India by private importers. This year £2,000,000 gold bullion has been acquired in India from his Majesty's Government. I may mention, too, that a Bill has just been passed through the United States Congress empowering the United States Government to melt and sell 350,000,000 dollars to pay for imports and for other purposes. It is hoped that a portion of this silver may be shipped by the United States Government to India.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")

WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

"We cannot speak too highly of it." Lancet.

SARSAPARILLA

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—Medical Review.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st January, 1918.

LIABILITIES.	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
Capital:—					
Shares—496,000 Ordinary of £5 ..	2,418,000				
2,000 Deferred of £5 ..	9,750				
125,000 Preferred of £10 4% Cum	1,218,750				
		3,646,500	3,740,000	0	0
Debentures—£2,350,000............ (3½%)	2,291,250				
£4,220,000 guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	4,114,500				
		6,405,750	6,570,000	0	0
Sundry Creditors, etc.:—					
Interest accrued on Preferred Shares	4,062.500				
Interest accrued on Debentures in circulation..........	54,169.343				
National Bank of Egypt's remuneration, as per Statutes ..	19,568.824				
Sandries	105,313.596				
		183,114.263	187,809	10	0
Ordinary Shareholders' a/c	84,690 119				
Deferred Shareholders' a/c	43,422.109				
		128,112.228	131,397	3	2
Unclaimed Dividends and Interest		67,727 584	69,464	3	9
Staff Provident Fund............................		42,339.244	43,424	17	4
General Reserve Fund		557,276.242	571,565	7	6
Special Reserve Fund (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)..................................		31,686.350	32,498	16	5
Provision for Depreciation on Investments		191,000	195,897	8	9
Other Reserves against items per contra marked "a" to "d"		580,773.601	595,665	4	7
(N.B.—From certain of these Reserves a sum of £E18,280.324 in the aggregate, representing 1914/15 arrears of capital, will have to be applied after encashment to reconstitute the General Reserve Fund.)					
Interest on Loans accrued, due by borrowers after 31st January, 1918......................		78,248.437	80,254	16	2
Profit and Loss..................................		568,184.162	582,752	19	9
		£12,480,712.111	£12,800,730	7	5

ASSETS.	£E	£E	£	s.	d
Cash:					
Agencies	18,693.733				
Mixed Tribunals (Deposit Account)......................	1,950				
National Bank of Egypt	728,090.652				
Bank of England	16,318.400				
		765,052.785	784,669	10	5
Investments:					
Agricultural Bank of Egypt 3½% Debentures at cost	1,510,031.897				
Government Securities at cost . (The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st January, 1918, was £E3,110,737)	3,179,094.882				
197,471 Mortgage Cy. of Egypt, Ltd.. Ordinary Shares of £5 stg. each, of which £1 5s. 0d. paid, at cost	394,937.943				
		5,084,064.722	5,214,425	7	1
Advances against Securities		436,312.500	447,500	0	0
Investment of General Reserve Fund consisting of Government Securities at original cost ...... (The value of these securities at mean market price on 31st January, 1918, was £E399,155)		469,201.870	481,232	13	9
Sundry Debtors......................		43,593.994	44,711	15	9
Loans;					
On Mortgage, over £E1,000......	170,209.440				
Do. do. (B) £E1,000 and under	4,178,566.571				
On note of hand	1,314.660				
		4,350,090.671	4,461,631	9	2
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing balance of capital due by former borrowers........		52,811.983	54,166	2	9
Buildings, Land, Furniture and Printing Office		60,880 —	62,441	0	6
Discount and Expenses of issue 3½% Bonds (to be written off by 31st January, 1949).............		559,681.548	574,032	7	2
Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing arrears of loans (*a*)..	39,000				
Land acquired by foreclosure (*b*)..	57,024.749				
Debtors for land acquired by foreclosure, & resold. by the Bank (*c*)	80,962.702				
Instalments overdue (*d*): Capital: From 1914/15...... £E 94,298.973 From other years £E168,300.520 £E262,599.493 Interest £E141,186.657	403,786.150				
		580,773.601	595,665	4	8
Interest on Loans accrued, payable by Borrowers after 31st January, 1918		78,248.437	80.254	16	2
		12,480,712.111	12,800,730	7	5

THEO. LEVI, Chief Accountant. F. T. ROWLATT, President. R. G. WESTROPP, Managing-Director.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and certify that in our opinion it is a full and fair Balance Sheet, and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the Books.

Cairo, the 30th March, 1918.

RUSSELL, HARRIS & CO.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the period from 1st February, 1917, to 31st January, 1918.

	£E	£E	£	s.	d.
General Expenses	67,807.918				
Writing off, Depreciation, &c.	38,970.011				
		106,777.929	109,515	16	6
Directors' Fees..................................		2,535	2,600	0	0
National Bank of Egypt, as per Statutes		19 568.824	20,070	11	9
Debenture Interest, &c...........................		234,889.613	240,912	8	6
Interest on Preferred Shares....................		48,750	50,000	0	0
Loans and Instalments in Arrear Current Year		41,774.010	42,845	2	9
Repayment to the General Reserve Fund under Art. 41 of the Statutes		126,476.917	129,719	18	3
Provision for Depreciation on Investments		19,552.903	20,054	5	2
Reserve:					
Against Buyers of land expropriated through Tribunals, for the part representing arrears of loans (see letter (a) in Balance Sheet)		5,900 —	6,051	5	8
Reserve Fund		39,491.103	40,503	13	11
Special Reserve (provided by Article 40 of Statutes)..................		10,102.316	10,361	7	0
Amount available		568,184.162	582,752	19	9
		1,224,002.777	1,255,387	9	3

	£E.	£E.	£	s.	d
Loans and Instalments in Arrear on 31st January, 1917, recovered in 1917/18		305,189.573	313,014	18	11
Land Acquired by Foreclosure: Sales during 1917/18: (*a*) By Cash........ £E50,881.052 (*b*) By Instalments £E54,431.000 £E105,312.052 *Less* cost of Land acquired during 1917/18 .... £E35,716.872	69,595.180				
Debtors for Land Acquired by Foreclosure and Resold by the Bank: Encashments during 1917/18 ...... £E54,791.683 *Less* Sales by Instalments as above £E54,431.000	360.683	69,955.863	71,749	12	0
Interest Collected:					
(*a*) On Loans in arrear at 31st January, 1917.................	180,304.448				
(*b*) Interest on Arrears and Interest on Loans due in 1917....	439,568.449	619,872·897	635,767	1	6
Interest on Loans over £E1,000..................		14,716.446	15,093	15	10
Interest on Investments, &c.		187,329.881	192,133	4	3
Interest on Bank Account		26,938.117	27,628	16	9
		1,224,002.777	1,255,387	9	3

Chief Accountant,
THEO. LEVI.

Managing Director,
R. G. WESTROPP.

President,
F. T. ROWLATT.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Madras Electric Tramways.

The report for the year ended December 31 last shows a gross profit of £27,831. After debiting interest and London office expenses, making provision for the debenture stock sinking fund, and transferring £8,000 to depreciation and renewal account, there remains £13,522. Adding £4,315 brought in gives £17,837. The directors recommend a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax; transfer to general reserve fund £3,000; and carry forward, subject to excess profits duty (if any), £4,257. Traffic receipts and expenditure in Madras increased 10.3 and 6.8 per cent. respectively. Debenture stock fund sinking fund is now £9,129. Meeting, Dashwood House, E.C., 29th instant, 11 a.m.

Sudan Gold.

The report of the Sudan Gold Field Company, Ltd., states that 33,300 tons of quartz were milled during the year, which yielded 14,270 ozs. of bar gold, an average of 8.6 dwts. per ton. 22,000 tons of tailings treated produced 1,328 ozs. of bar gold, an average of 1.2 dwt. per ton. The total production of bar gold was 15,598 ozs. (or 14,115,464 standard ounces), of a realised value of £55,046. At December 31, 1916, £12,108 stood at the credit of profit and loss account, in respect of which a dividend of 1s. per share was paid on March 28, 1917, and after providing for the usual percentage to the directors and managers on such dividend, plus royalty due to the Sudan Government, there remained £4,936 to the credit of 1917. This, with the profit now shown of £11,194, placed at the disposal of the company £16,130. The following allocations have been made:—To income-tax, £1,478; to deposit provisionally with the Inland Revenue on account of excess profits duty for 1916, £3,561; to depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant, materials in store, etc., £3,440; to surface and mine works, £2,000; to mining and general expenditure, £4,000. This leaves £1,649 to be carried forward. There being no immediate prospect of any mitigation of the adverse circumstances contributing to the less favourable result of the past year's operations; indeed, a probability that they will become more accentuated during the current year, the directors have decided that it would not be advisable to make any distribution on account of the profit now shown. Of the very moderate amount of working capital at the disposal of the company, some £12,000 had to be deposited with the Inland Revenue on account of a claim preferred for excess profits duty. In this connection, however, it will be gratifying to the shareholders, as it is to the directors, that the appeal against this claim has resulted in an award by the Board of Referees entitling the company to a refund of the amount involved.

General Ceylon.

The report of the General Ceylon Rubber and Tea Estates, Limited, states that the accounts for the year to December 31, 1917, show a profit of £51,183. After providing for London charges, there remains £34,831 at the credit of profit and loss, to which has been added £32,082 brought forward, making a total of £66,913 to be dealt with, and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, which, with the interim dividend of 10 per cent., makes 20 per cent., free of tax, for the year. This leaves a balance of £30,313, which the directors propose to carry forward. The crops from the company's estates amounted to 1,363,764 lbs. tea, exclusive of bought leaf (13,460 lbs.), against 1,736,126 lbs. tea for the previous season. The estimates for 1918 amount to 1,572,600 lbs. tea. The rubber crop amounted to 1,085,478 lbs., against 901,963 lbs. last year, the average cost f.o.b. and net price realised being 10.76d. and 1s. 10.75d. per lb. respectively, against 10.25d. and 2s. 3.72d. for 1916. In accordance with the agreement for restricting rubber production, in which this company joined, the crop for the new season is confined to 868,000 lbs.

National Bank of Egypt.

The report of the National Bank of Egypt for the year ended December 31, 1917, states that the gross profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the bank's buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount and for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £767,144 1s. 6d. After deducting from this sum: For directors' fees, £6,400, for current expenses, £207,828 0s. 10d., there remains an amount of £552,916 0s. 8d. The directors propose to allocate: For depreciation of Government and sundry securities, £31,415 3s. 11d., for depreciation of securities deposited in guarantee for the Note Issue, £2,250, leaving a net profit of £519,250 16s. 9d. In conformity with Article 49 of the bank's statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital, £120,000, and 10 per cent. of the net profit must be passed to the statutory reserve fund, £51,925 1s. 8d. After these statutory deductions there remains £347,325 15s. 1d., to which must be added the balance carried forward last year, £22,179 19s. 7d., making a total of £369,505 14s. 8d. The directors consider it prudent to allocate to special reserve to meet contingencies a sum of £200,000, which leaves £169,505 14s. 8d. From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 4 per cent. on the share capital, which will absorb £120,000, and leave a balance to be carried forward of £49,505 14s. 8d. Each share will thus be entitled to a dividend of 16s., equivalent to 8 per cent. on the share capital. The general meeting was to be held at the head office of the Bank in Cairo on April 25.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India recommend a balance dividend for the year 1917 of 1s. 6d. per share, less income-tax at the rate of 5s. in the £, on both Preference and Ordinary shares, payable 27th inst. to holders registered 9th inst. The above dividend will make a total distribution for the year of 40 per cent. on the Preference and 30 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The directors of the Dooars Tea Company, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, less income tax at 5s.

The directors of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Limited, recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year to December 31, 1917, together with a bonus of 4 per cent.

City of Bombay Improvement Trust Four per Cent Guaranteed Debentures of 1900.—Coupon due May 1, will be paid from that date at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 9, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

The directors of the Assam Company have declared an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., or £1 10s. per share, less tax, on account of the 1917 crop, payable to holders on June 1.

The Bank of England is prepared to receive the coupons due 1st proximo on Egyptian Unified bonds. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office, 3, Princes Street, E.C.

The numbers are announced of 120 bonds, amounting to £6.560, of the Imperial Government of Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan, 1911, which have been drawn for redemption May 15.

The directors of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt recommend a dividend of 8s. per share on the Ordinary shares and £40 per share on the Deferred shares.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, free of income-tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year to February 28, payable on June 1.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 21 tons (previous week, 22 tons); Hurgada, 5,377 tons (previous week, 5,495 tons).

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INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to April 13 Indian Treasury bills were sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value Rs.15,61,95,000; six months' bills, Rs.20,32,65,000; nine months' bills, Rs.8,43,40,000; twelve months' bills, Rs.90,80,000; total, Rs.45,28,80,000.

Lionda and Company, Ltd.,
34, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.
Tel. Address: "EXPLIONDAC FEN, LONDON."
During the War, Tel. Address: "LIONDA THIRTYFOUR FENCHURCH, LONDON."

Export Department:
Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc., Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:
Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

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British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurances of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

Coal Exporters, &c.

SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., SALONICA, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."
ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.
ANNUAL MEETING to be held, in Cairo on Tuesday, 30th April, 1918.
It is proposed to recommend a Dividend of 8s. per Share on the ORDINARY SHARES and £40 per Share on the DEFERRED SHARES.
22nd April, 1918.

CLOSING OF TRANSFER BOOKS.
THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, Ltd.
Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER-BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to the 31st May, both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board,
GEO. H. SOUL, Secretary.
27, Clement's-lane, London, E.C.4., 23rd April, 1918

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED
WHITE
& BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale of Hanson's, London, England

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been a better tendency in our market this week and a revival of business, but so far buyers are feeling their way very cautiously in view of the probability of some further important fighting on the Western front. The better tendency has been contributed to in a very fair measure by a renewal of demand from Egypt in certain directions, and undoubtedly there would be a very general and marked improvement in prices on any very favourable news.

Unifieds have risen two points to 88½, and a similar improvement has taken place in Egypt 3½ per cent. prefs.; which are quoted about 74 ex div. City of Alexandria Bonds have also appreciated half a point to 79, at which price a small transaction was carried through.

In Bank shares Nationals have been the feature, rising ⅜ to 18 on a somewhat tardy recognition of the excellent balance sheet and profit and loss account. Agricultural Banks are also 3-32 higher at 6 11-32. The dividend is now officially announced as 8s., against 7s. last year, and the profits show a very large expansion which would have enabled a very much larger dividend to have been paid had the Board so decided. The result of the very conservative policy now adopted will be that a very large amount will remain in hand to equalise dividends in years to come, should that be necessary. There has been an enquiry also for the Preference shares of this Bank, which, as a result, have improved ⅛ to 6 15-16 after some business at 6 13-16. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also risen ¼ to 15⅛.

In Railways Delta Lights at one time changed hands at 6½, but they are closing unchanged. Amongst land descriptions, some small transactions have taken place in Aboukirs round the current price as well as in Delta Lands. New Egyptians have improved 6d. to 17s. 3d., and United Egyptian Lands are 3d. up at 1s. 6d.

Amongst miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are ⅛ up at 12⅛, after some business round 12; but Khedivial Mails are 6d. lower at 37s. Salts and Sodas remain unchanged at 38s. 6d., after having been down nominally to 37s. 6d.

In Greek securities the market has continued very strong, and in several directions prices are again higher; but practically no business has been done as there have been no sellers. Monopolies, 1890's, and Fundings are all a point higher at 54, 58 and 55, respectively. The 1914 loan has been marked up two points to 73. In nearly all cases there are buyers about at the current prices but no sellers.

◆

THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

According to the new regulations there must be two joint Governors of the National Bank of Greece. At a meeting of the shareholders of the bank in Athens M. Diomedes and M. Drossopulos have been elected Joint Governors of the Bank with the approval of the Greek Government. M. Diomedes is an intimate friend and supporter of M. Venizelos, having been Minister of Finance in the latter's Government, and is well known in Paris and London, which he has quite recently visited on a special mission. M. Drossopulos has been in the service of the National Bank for many years.

◆

M. Neicoff has been appointed Bulgarian Consul-General at Kieff.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances &c.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 17	April 24
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	79
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	86½	88½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74	74xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	57	58
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54xd	55
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	74–76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6¼	6 11/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	6 13/16	6 15/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14⅞	15⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6⅝	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6½	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17⅝	18
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 7/16	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/3	21/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13	13
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/-	10/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/9	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	42/6	42/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	2 15/16	2 15/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/3	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	38/6	38/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	37/6	37/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾xd	3¾xd

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. report that the average quotation for bar silver during the week ended April 18 was 46.875d. per ounce standard. The following are the latest Indian currency returns.

(In lakhs of rupees).

	Mar. 22.	Mar. 31.	Apr. 7
Notes in circulation	10,073	9,979	9,745
Reserve in silver coin and bullion	1,076	1,079	1,044
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,783	2,685	2,486
Gold out of India	67	67	67

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended April 12,	1918. Week ended April 11.
Cattle markets	976	724
General markets	398	461
Receipts (£)	1,374	1,185
Total for year	23,716	17,516

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 365. - Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The announcement of heavy rains in Mesopotamia one week seems now the invariable warning of a further military advance the next. The great chase of a couple of hundred miles or so a month ago followed a few days after a *communiqué* confined to meteorological matters; the advance towards Mosul, of which news was published on May 1, followed a similar routine. This new move has evidently been made in strength, and it is clearly of great importance. Kifri has been captured, and the Turks retreated towards Kirkuk, 150 miles north of Baghdad. But on April 29 our cavalry got astride the enemy's communications towards Tauk, and soon afterwards our infantry advanced against Tuz Khurmatli, and seized that town. Altogether 1,800 prisoners, a few guns, and some transport have been taken, and the pursuit of the Turks continues along the main road to the north, where it has now reached as far as the Tauk River.

This road, from Baghdad to Mosul, is the historic main route of traffic between Middle and Near East, the road by which the traders and conquerors for centuries have come and gone between Persia and Anatolia and Constantinople. Mosul itself lies 230 miles further up the Tigris than Baghdad, and British troops will probably soon be in occupation of the place, which is described by Sir Mark Sykes as a " foul nest of corruption, vice, disorder, and disease; neither art nor industry has flourished here for the last 200 years. The population is rotted by distemper, corrupted and rendered impotent by drink, stupefied and besotted by vice—the degradation is not only physical but mental, for tales are whispered of dark and hideous sorceries and incantations."

So evil a picture did Sir Mark draw of the place that he goes so far as to say that Mosul was a menace to the surrounding country, and that " the projectors of the new railway would do well to try to avoid the town." That was, of course, written some years before the war, when the last thing in the world that was expected was a British expedition up the Tigris; Mosul may not have changed much since then, but a British occupation would soon make a considerable alteration.

Some idea of the change it would effect may be gained by the despatch published in the daily Press from Mr. Candler in Mesopotamia, which usefully supplements the details given in last week's NEAR EAST by our own correspondent in Baghdad. The country is being rapidly drained and irrigated, and brought under cultivation, and the work of civilisation follows close on the heels of the Army. It is a revolution which will restore Mesopotamia to the rank of the great producing countries of the world, and make Baghdad again one of its leading commercial cities. There is no reason whatever why the process should not be extended further up the Tigris; indeed, it will be essential in the interests of the troops themselves that the first steps to that end should be taken immediately. It is, of course, unthinkable that this constructive work, which has made such great progress during the last year, should be abandoned at the conclusion of peace, or handed over to the Turks, who were incapable of beginning it, and would be incapable of maintaining it.

On the Palestine front General Allenby has again advanced north and east of the Jordan, and our mounted troops are within two miles of the Es Salt. Many prisoners have been taken, while west of the Jordan the village of Mezrah has been occupied. The Turks have reported a British request for an armistice, an example of imaginative fiction reared on a very slender basis of fact; further south our Arab Allies have again damaged the Hejaz railway and effectively occupied a section, fifty-three miles in length, to the south of Maan. The Turks must now find it increasingly difficult to put this line to military use.

The offensive on the Salonika front continues rather than progresses. Both sides have been active, and both sides—*mirabile dictu*—have claimed successes; the military critics have preserved a stolid silence. The upshot appears to be that the British, after doing some damage to the Bulgars, have again evacuated the unhealthy villages on the Struma which were given up a year ago.

The Turks have, meanwhile, reported the reoccupation of Kars, and in this connection the Petrograd report should be noted that a Turkish delegation has invited the Caucasian Republic to send representatives to Trebizond to negotiate peace with the Ottoman Empire. Since similar negotiations were begun, but apparently broken off owing to a divergence of opinion a few weeks ago, it by no means follows that the present invitation will result in any definite conclusion. The concerted German operations to the north, through the Crimea, have now reported the occupation of Theodosia, while the Russian Government in Petrograd shows itself increasingly disturbed at this advance through its territory —as also are the Germans, to do them justice, at the unexpected lack of food and booty in the Ukraine.

The Russian protests will probably be disregarded by Berlin, but that very fact may tend to hasten any regenerative movement in Russia, on which, however, it would be useless to build any hopes at the moment. A Cologne paper, meanwhile, reports that an extremely disturbed state of affairs exists in Baku, that the export of petroleum to the Black Sea ports has ceased, and that certain oil wells have been destroyed. Much as it goes against the grain to believe anything that is published in a German newspaper, there is probably an element of truth in this account. It will, of course, be made a pretext, if such were needed, for a German control of Baku; but the control was planned before the pretext was discovered.

The conference of oppressed Austrian races at Rome has been quickly followed by revolutionary outbreaks of Slavs, Czechs, and Poles in Austria itself. It is quite clear that the Austrian Empire as it stands is doomed, and the Emperor is evidently conscious of the fact. Much depends on his choice of alternatives—whether he subsides into the rôle of German vassal; attempts to stem the revolutionary tide by concessions to his non-German subjects, or simply drifts in the hope of something turning up. The first rôle certainly irks, the second does not attract him, the third is therefore more probable at this moment. But we may expect the drifting dinghy of Austrian statecraft to be violently agitated from time to time by its Imperial master as a fresh bend of the political river reveals some new racial snag.

Incidentally the political agitation in Austria has involved the Vatican. The Bishop of Laibach espoused the cause of the Jugoslavs, and it was subsequently stated that the Pope had ordered proceedings to be taken to discipline the patriotic prelate. A later denial by "a personage of Vatican diplomacy" that any such action had been taken did not read very convincingly; and, in view of the known influence of Austrian statecraft at the Vatican, it would be well to await further developments of the case. In the meantime the Bishop of Königgratz, in the heart of Bohemia, has also entered politics, and demanded the formation of an independent Slav State, including the German districts of Bohemia, Morava, and Silesia. It will be interesting to see whether this priest is also dealt with; Bohemia has not always been an easy country for the Church to control, and they have not forgotten history altogether at the Vatican.

The Germans have obligingly explained their ambitions in Asia to the world, and they have now made clear the position of Roumania in their scheme of eastern conquest. In the *Deutsche Politik* a writer indicates that "Germany's West Asiatic road is now fortified by the extension of Turkey and the incorporation of Roumania." While Turkey is emerging from the war with large gains from Russia—the losses to England are tactfully ignored—a "series of border peoples" has been created subsidiary to the Central Europe Alliance, and stretching from Finland to Central Asia. These will assist in "broadening Germany's narrow Balkan road through Bulgaria and Turkey to the broad coastal route through Lithuania and the Ukraine, and through Caucasia and Central Asia. The inevitable result is that Roumania, thus ringed in, must finally be incorporated in the connected system of Central Europe and Near Asia."

This writer, who at least does not suffer from limitation of vision, predicts that the Black Sea will become a Turco-German lake, and that, "in spite of Venizelos and Pashitch," Greece, Serbia, and Montenegro will be brought into the same system. This is only the beginning, however; there is to be "a further extension of the Turkish prestige into Central Asia. The December treaties spoke only of Persia; the March treaties now speak also of Afghanistan." And General Marshall, we may add, has in April done something more than speak—he has advanced another wedge between the Germans and their distant goal. It was, perhaps, an unfortunate moment for a German writer to prophesy the increase of Turkish prestige in Central Asia.

These views, which are undoubtedly shared by the German Government, will presumably be pressed upon the Roumanian Government. Herr von Kühlmann, who is reported by his enemies in Berlin to have found time for love as well as diplomacy during his recent visit to Bucharest, returned to that city last Sunday with Baron Burian, and the whole question of the peace negotiations with Roumania is to be gone into again. But various things have happened since the negotiations were mysteriously broken off—among others, that on April 9 the Bessarabian National Assembly voted for union with Roumania by 86 votes to 3, and a few days later the Bessarabian Minister proceeded to Jassy to present the homage of the Bessarabian people to the King and Queen of Roumania. Various celebrations have been held to commemorate the event, which springs freely from the desire of Bessarabia—to use the political slang of the day, it is an act of "self-determination."

How the German negotiators will take this act remains to be seen. There are some indications that they may oppose the union of the two countries, and it is also still possible that the Austrian determination to make King Ferdinand abdicate may be used as a lever to oppose the union. It is suggested, too, that Germany is bitterly disappointed, that even the Marghiloman Government has turned against it, and that it desires to place M. Carp in office, since he is relied upon as a thorough-going pro-German. The Carp Cabinet would not survive the evacuation of the German troops.

The German idea that Roumania may be considered as a "converted enemy," a theory adumbrated in *Deutsche Politik*, becomes increasingly ludicrous, and reminds one again of Prince von Bülow's proverbial remark, "Politically we Germans are asses." They may build magnificent schemes of domination in Near and Far East to their hearts' content, and they may control the economic and interfere in the political life of the countries concerned. But they will find themselves steadily confronted with a silent strike of all the best elements in the countries which they have humiliated, and at the first opportunity everybody will rise against them and curse them. The Germans have brought their fate upon themselves by their own acts, but for the time they are blind to its consequences. May they long continue blind to a system which has left them no friend outside Finland!

There have been one or two amusing episodes in Bulgarian politics. A suggestion appeared some days ago in a Berlin newspaper that Bulgaria demanded the cession of Salonika, but this ambition, it was said, could not be gratified, because, "in the event of England refusing to surrender Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, Egypt, and the occupied districts of Palestine and Mesopotamia (*sic*), Salonika was to be made a free harbour and a naval base of the Central Powers, while left nominally in Turkish possession." This admirable *non sequitur* might have passed as a joke—it has at least been appreciated in London as a pleasant jest—but the Bulgars took it seriously, and declared that they had no desire for Salonika; what they really want, according to Dr. Tontcheff, Bulgarian Minister of Finance, is a common frontier with Hungary, and part of Serbia—e.g., the Morava, "which suffices us."

For all that, it is matter of notoriety that Bulgaria desires Salonika, and has done so for years. But if Greece were to be dispossessed by the Central Powers, there is a more potent claimant in Austria, whom Bulgaria cannot well offend; hence this modesty. It appears that Bulgaria will also have to resign to Turkey the Karagatch railway and the left bank of the river Maritza as far as Kuleli-Burgas, this being demanded by Turkey in compensation for Bulgaria's acquisition of the Dobruja. There is clearly a certain amount of quarrelling still going on in the Central Alliance.

The categorical assurance which the United States Minister at Athens has made is certain to be well received in Greece, and to have a considerable rallying effect upon Greek public opinion, in the event of it having been at all influenced by the recent intrigues of King Constantine. The assurance is to the effect that the Government and people of the United States are determined that the integrity of Greek territory shall be preserved, and Greek rights secured in the final peace negotiations.

India will again be worthily represented at this year's meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet, at which the Secretary of State will be supported by the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Satyendra Sinha, the former speaking for the Princes, and the latter for the people as a whole. Sir Satyendra's selection needs no justification, for during last year's meetings he successfully established his claim to be regarded as a statesman of the Empire, and if any criticism is heard it will come from that section of Indian politicians who have borrowed the principle of rotatavism along with other Western ideas, and think that everyone should have his chance in turn. The theory is sound enough so far as politicians are concerned, but statesmanship is an altogether different matter; you may use up a new President of the Congress every year, but for the business of the Empire it is wiser to keep the best man when once he has been found.

For this reason we should have welcomed the return of the Maharaja of Bikanir, who visited this country a year ago. Autocrats have, however, duties which cannot be laid aside without more or less serious inconvenience, and since a new selection has been found necessary, no better choice could have been made. The Maharajah of Patiala, as the head of the Sikhs, stands for the modern fighting races of India, just as his predecessor represented the ancient Rajput chivalry, while his latest undertaking to raise three additional battalions of infantry furnishes fresh evidence, were fresh evidence needed, of his whole-hearted devotion to the cause of the Empire. His presence will strengthen the position which India has already secured in a region where action counts for more than words.

The announcement of these selections makes a noteworthy departure from precedent in referring to the "Indian States," entities which have hitherto been described officially by the dubious adjective "Native." We notice that a Bill recently introduced in the Legislative Council at Delhi provides for the elimination of this epithet in regard to the Army; it has already been discarded in ordinary administrative use, and may now be definitely written down as obsolete. May we suggest to Indian politicians and journalists that in recognition of this concession to modern sentiment they should abandon the use of the word "Colonial" as applied to the affairs of the Dominions? The two epithets stand on the same footing: etymologically and historically accurate, they have in process of time become distasteful to the people principally concerned, and that is an entirely adequate reason for their discontinuance.

We have referred to the representatives of the Indian States and the Indian people. Last year there was also a representative of the Indian bureaucracy, and the question is being asked why no corresponding appointment has so far been announced. Possibly Mr. Montagu, fresh from his visit to India, feels himself qualified to dispense with such assistance, or perhaps he is content to rely on the presence of Sir James Meston, who is supposed by the public to be enjoying a holiday in this country; but we suspect the true explanation to be that the men whose counsel would be best worth having are so fully occupied in their own provinces that it would be a mistake to bring any of them over unless the need were absolutely unavoidable.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 18.

The Duke of Connaught.

The Duke of Connaught spent several days in Alexandria, where he held a presentation at Mustapha Camp, in addition to being present at a mass Church Parade at the same place. He also visited the various hospitals, as well as Victoria College, which he inaugurated nine years previously. His Royal Highness then left by special train for Ismalia, where further inspections and presentations of medals and decorations took place, and whence he proceeded to General Allenby's headquarters in Palestine.

The Nile.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works, has returned to Cairo from his trip to the Sudan. The preliminary work which has already been started in connection with the Upper Nile projects is in full progress, and excavation of the foundations for the dams is proceeding apace. The operations so far carried out quite fulfil the expectations of the engineers. The Nile readings continue to be very satisfactory. The White Nile is very high compared with recent years, and parts of the river and its tributaries which are usually unnavigable at this date are still open to traffic. The prospects of summer water are excellent; which is very comforting in view of the extent to which the country now depends on its own food production.

Egypt's Contribution to the War.

The past will stand as an eventful week in the annals of this country. In the first place, we have had the vote of £E3,000,000 made by the Council of Ministers towards the War expenditure of the British Empire; and this has been followed by the announcement of the arrangement under which the cotton crop is to be purchased for account of the British and Egyptian Governments.

As regards the Egyptian contribution towards the British Exchequer, it has taken the form of writing off an amount of £E3,000,000, which appears in a special suspense account as a charge against the British Government. It should be explained that since the early days of the war the Ministry of Finance has kept a suspense account, to which have been debited the cost of all the services rendered and material supplied by the State Railways and other administrations to the British Army. It was understood that this account should not be settled until the conclusion of the war, when it would be easier to determine whether the items were a fair charge to the British taxpayer, and, if not, what proportion should be borne by the Egyptian Government itself. Although some of the work, executed primarily for the military authorities, was of a nature ultimately to benefit this country, and in the case of such items a portion, if not all of the cost might equitably be considered as chargeable to the Egyptian Treasury, for the most part the total of this account, which at present amounts to £E3,000,000, approximately, is undoubtedly imputable to the British taxpayer, and the decision constitutes a gift on the part of Egypt of that sum to Great Britain. In addition, the Budget for the new financial year is to have a credit of a further £E500,000 inscribed in it for the same purpose.

The reasons given in the Council for this decision are that, in view of the immunity enjoyed by Egypt from the terrors and sufferings inseparable from invasion and the benefits which the country had derived, thanks to the protection afforded by the British Army and Navy, the time has come for Egypt as a whole to make some greater contribution to the general cause. The spontaneity of the decision, which I have reason to believe owes its inception to the initiative of the Prime Minister, H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, and which was taken unanimously by the whole Council, is a very welcome sign. Combined with the fact that it has been received with open approval by all sections of the local community, it shows that the Egyptians, who have already displayed their sympathy by their generous contributions to the Red Cross, realise that Great Britain, in fighting for the liberties of smaller nations, is, after all, defending those of the children of the Nile, and that they are prepared to shoulder their share of the burden which the British Empire has assumed.

The Purchase of the Cotton Crop.

The announcement with regard to the cotton crop was not altogether unexpected. In the first place, the visit of the Commission, consisting of Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith and Messrs. Fountain and Carter, albeit nothing official was known outside, was considered as portending some decision in connection with the cotton situation; whilst it had been becoming more and more obvious to those who have been watching developments that the State purchase of the cotton-seed crop was bound to be followed sooner or later by a similar step in the matter of cotton itself. The conditions under which the scheme is to be carried out are most favourable to this country. The purchase price is a very generous one, and allows an ample margin of remuneration to the growers, who will find a ready and steady market for their cotton in the same manner as they have obtained one for their cotton seed since last September. In return for the limitation of its profits, the country is to be accorded equal rights with the Allies in the repartition of the coal and raw material which it requires. The provision for the division of any profit that may be derived from the sale of cotton between the two Governments and the allotment to the Egyptian Government of any profit resulting from any eventual increase of the sale price means that the Egyptian Exchequer will obtain its rightful share of the profits made hitherto by the middle-men out of the handling of the crop, of which not one penny piece could under the circumstances be touched by local taxation, either direct or indirect; whilst the decision not to raise the purchase price, in the event of an increase in the sale price being decided upon, is an exceedingly wise one, since it removes all motive for speculation, from which the local trade as well as the growers have suffered very much in the past. The Government has thus acquired control over the entire cotton crop, and, as the official explanation very rightly points out, the scheme, whilst providing ample profits for the grower and enabling Egypt to take her proper place in the pooling of resources adopted by the Allies, cannot fail in the long run to conduce to greater stability and prosperity of the country's most important crop.

As far as can be gathered at present the new arrangement has been most favourably received. All the details have yet to be worked out, but the composition of the Cotton Control Board is such as to afford an assurance that the scheme will be put into effect in a manner satisfactory to all elements concerned.

One important question will have to receive early consideration. It is the price which the growers ought to be paid for their crops on the field. The purchase price of 42 dollars is, of course, for ginned cotton at Alexandria, but many of the growers, especially the smaller fellaheen, who predominate, do not gin their own crops, but sell them in an unginned condition. The agricultural class is to-day not so driven to dispose of its crops in order to pay debt and tax instalments, etc., as it was prior to the war; and, therefore, the danger of its falling a prey to the middle-man is by no means so great; still, as the general policy nowadays is to protect both the producer and the consumer and to limit the profits of the intermediary, some step in the direction of ensuring the payment in the field to the grower of an equitable price for unginned cotton will have to be taken. As the Alexandria purchase price for seed is also controlled, this ought not to be difficult.

An interesting point in the official announcement is the mention that the Cotton Control Board will have power to make use of any storage accommodation which might be necessary. The local situation as regards stocks is still far from satisfactory, and since there appears little prospect of its being sufficiently relieved between now and the autumn by the provision of shipping to permit of the balance of the old crop of cotton and seed being exported, and since the retention of seed in the interior will seriously interfere with ginning operations and consequently with the smooth working of the scheme as far as concerns the growers and ginners, it follows that this provision of storage accommodation will have to be extended to seed as well as cotton. Thus the powers conferred on the Cotton Control Board will tend to assist the Cotton Seed Control Board in its work, and overcome the difficulties which it has encountered in connection with the reception of the cotton-seed crop in Alexandria.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, April 6.

The Duke of Connaught's Visit.

The visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to Athens has evoked much enthusiasm, and has been the outstanding event of the week. His Royal Highness, who was the guest of the British Minister, called on King Alexander soon after his arrival, and the call was returned in the afternoon.

The following day the ceremony of investing the King with the Order of the Bath took place at the Palace at eleven o'clock. Shortly before that hour four Court carriages proceeded to the Legation to convey the distinguished party to the Palace with several Government officials. The Duke was accompanied by the British Minister, the Earl Granville, and the diplomatic staff of the Legation, all in full uniform. At the Palace a detachment of Evzones rendered the honours. In presenting the decoration, the Duke said that he was particularly happy to have been deputed by the King of England to perform this duty, and that the King hoped this would be considered a pledge of the sentiments of sympathy which he entertains towards his Hellenic Majesty. The Duke hoped that his visit to Athens would be taken by King Alexander, as well as by the Hellenic people, as a proof of the long ties of friendship which unite the two liberal countries. In his capacity of Head of that Order he was particularly happy to present the insignia, and he assured his Majesty of his ardent hopes, as well as those of King George, for the prosperity of his Majesty.

Anglo-Greek Friendship.

In his reply King Alexander said he was profoundly touched by these kind expressions, and he thanked King George and the glorious British people for the honour they had been so good as to confer on him. The King said that powerful England will find in the Greek people and in himself a faithful ally and friend, and that the glorious but at present small State of which he is the head will do all that is possible with the view of responding to the noble friendship and sympathy of the English people.

King Alexander then conferred the Cross of the Saviour on Colonel Murray and Captain Ascherof, the Duke's aides-de-camp.

That afternoon the Duke visited some of the sights of Athens and had tea at the Palace. In the evening the King entertained him at dinner, the British Minister and several other distinguished guests being present.

On Wednesday a review of the Greek Boy Scouts took place outside the British Legation, proving quite a pleasant little function. In the afternoon a review of the troops stationed here was held on the Champs de Mars, and attracted large crowds, the principal streets being decorated for the occasion. That evening King Alexander dined at the British Legation, and the dinner was followed by a brilliant reception of the members of the diplomatic body, the naval and military missions of the Allies, and the staff of the Legation. The handsome uniforms and the beautiful dresses of the ladies made up a scene such as Athens loves, and Lord and Lady Granville's guests spent a most enjoyable evening.

The Duke left Athens the following morning. His visit was marked by great cordiality, and his three days' stay in the Greek capital should go far towards extinguishing the smouldering embers of pro-Germanism.

Easter Celebrations.

Easter was celebrated under a temperature more resembling Christmas, the surrounding mountains being covered with snow. Chaplain-Major Pilley, who officiated at Christmas, again came from Salonika to conduct the Easter services, and attracted large congregations on Good Friday and on Easter Day at St. Paul's Church. In the afternoon a double christening took place, the infant sons of Lieut. Arthur Hill, R.N.V.R., and of Mr. Albert Maltass being baptised.

THE CAPITULATIONS COMMISSION.

REPORT ON PAST YEAR'S WORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 1.

A highly interesting note on the work which it has been able to do so far has been published by the Capitulations Commission. This Commission, which was appointed in March, 1917, by decision of the Council of Ministers for the purpose of considering the reforms which the abolition of the Capitulations might render necessary, has been composed of T.E. Yussuf Wahba Pasha, Adly Yeghen Pasha, Abdel Khalek Sarwat Pasha, Ministers of Finance, Education and Justice respectively; Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser; Sir William Brunyate, Judicial Adviser; Mr. James Haines, Adviser to the Interior; M. Francis Laloe, Vice-President of the Mixed Court of Appeal; and M. Eduardo Piola Caselli, Sultanian Adviser. As a natural sequel to changes in the Financial and Judicial Adviserships, the gentlemen officiating in those capacities have replaced the original holders of those offices. Sir William Brunyate has acted as Commissaire Rapporteur, and M. J. Wathelet, Secretary to the Judicial Adviser, has acted as Secretary-General to the Commission, which has held no less than seventy-five sittings since its appointment.

Judicial Organisation.

A draft Judicature Law providing for the setting up in Egypt of a system of unified courts to take over the whole of the jurisdiction exercised by the Native Court, the Mixed Courts and the Consular Courts, as also the penal jurisdiction of administrative commissions, had been prepared, and the Commission's activities have been directed to the consideration of this project, the main lines of which are as follows:—

In matters of personal status the existing jurisdiction of the Mahkamahs Sharieh as regards Mohammedans is to be retained, but the Meglis Hasbys (Courts of Wards) are to be suppressed, and their jurisdiction is to be handed over to the new Courts. Likewise as regards non-Moslems, the councils of the religious communities are to be retained, but their jurisdiction in matters of guardianship and curatorship are to be assumed by the new Courts. The Consular Courts will provisionally retain their jurisdiction in matters of personal status concerning the subjects of the Capitulatory Powers so long as those courts continue to exist. As regards matters of personal status coming within the jurisdiction of the new courts, persons subject to that jurisdiction will have the right to claim the application of their own personal law.

The courts which it is proposed to set up include a Supreme Court sitting in Cairo, four Courts of Appeal, sitting in Cairo, Alexandria, Mansura and Assiut, eight Central Courts, sitting in those four towns as well as in Tanta, Zagazig, Beni-Suef and Luxor (or Kena), Mudiria Courts sitting in the Governorates and Mudirias, and Markaz Courts sitting normally in each markaz.

As regards jurisdiction to be enjoyed by the various new courts which it is proposed to set up, the Supreme Court will have powers going rather beyond those of a Court of Cassation and approximating those of a Court of Review. It will decide not only questions of law, but within certain limits also questions of fact, and it will be able to give a final decision on the whole case, if it is ripe for judgment. In addition, the Supreme Court will be entrusted with general supervision over the working of the inferior courts; it will take part in the preparation of their internal regulations, and it will exercise disciplinary control over the magistracy.

The Courts of Appeal will be entrusted with the service of the Courts of Assize and with the hearing of civil (including commercial) appeals from the Central Courts. The Assize Courts will consist of four magistrates, and an equal division of opinion as to any questions of fact, or as to the sentence, will be interpreted in favour of the accused.

The Central Courts will be entrusted with general civil jurisdiction in first instance, save as to matters within the jurisdiction of the Markaz Courts, and also with the hearing of civil and commercial appeals from the Mudiria Courts. The latter will be served by a judge of the Central Court delegated for the purpose, and will have civil jurisdiction up to £E200, and criminal jurisdiction in respect of offences not expressly reserved for the Assize Courts; the maximum sentence which these courts can inflict being fixed at three years' imprisonment. The Mudiria Courts judges will also hear civil and commercial appeals from the Markaz Courts, for the general supervision of whose work they are intended to be responsible. The Markaz Courts will also be served by judges sitting alone, and they will have civil jurisdiction up to £E50, with criminal powers up to three months' imprisonment (or six months in case of theft), or a fine of £E20.

It may be of interest to mention that the present system of Courts consists of Mixed Courts—a Court of Appeal in Alexandria, and Courts of First Instance in Cairo, Alexandria, and Mansura, with a delegation at Port Said; native Courts—a Court of Appeal in Cairo, Courts of First Instance in Cairo, Alexandria, Tanta, Zagazig, Mansura; Beni-Suef, Assiut, and Kena; ninety Summary Courts in the various Markazes, with civil jurisdiction up to £E150, and dealing with misdemeanours and police offences; Markaz Courts in each Governorate, dealing with minor misdemeanours and police offences; and 236 Cantonal Courts. Courts of Assize are constituted from among the Native Court of Appeal judges, and both the mixed and native systems have a Court of Cassation of their own. One interesting point about the proposed new Courts is that the defect in the existing system, viz., the absence of any jurisdiction of criminal appeal on facts, is to be remedied. The project provides for the resurrection of the Markaz Courts, which were suppressed, except in the Governorates, on the creation of the Cantonal Courts; but it is to be assumed from the wording of the note that the latter will still remain.

Judicial Safeguards for Foreigners.

Provision is made for judicial safeguards for the protection of foreigners, and a special chapter in the draft deals with this subject. Generally speaking, a foreigner entitled to privilege as such will have the right to claim that any civil or criminal case in which he is concerned shall be tried by a foreign judge or by a chamber in which the foreign judges are in the majority (in the case of an Assize Court one-half at least), and also that any inquiry into an offence committed by him shall be conducted by a foreign magistrate. Provision is also made for protection in the case of the issue of warrants for arrest, search, etc. In the case of the Supreme, Appeal, and Central Courts, where the President is an Egyptian the Vice-President will be a foreigner and *vice-versâ*.

With regard to the procedure to be followed in criminal cases, it is proposed that a preliminary inquiry shall be held by a magistrate whenever circumstances make such inquiry desirable before trial. Prosecutions will in general be in the hands of the Attorney-General's Department, the members of which will not be magistrates, but will be administratively under the Ministry of Justice. Before the Markaz Courts the Department may be represented by officers of the Judicial Police specially delegated for that purpose; private prosecutions before the Lower Courts may be permitted with the sanction of the Court and without its being necessary to claim civil damages.

The Commission reports that it has examined the draft law in connection with the various matters which have formed the subject of its discussions, and that practically the whole of the ground has been covered. Subject to the suggestion of minor amendments on points of detail, and to occasional dissent on other minor points by individual members, the draft as it stands has been unanimously approved by the Commission; and although it has throughout assumed that in the absence of practical unanimity on its part its recommendations will be subject to critical re-examination, in practice no such divergence of views has occurred as to call for the application of this principle.

The Commission has discussed at length the provisions as to the working of the new Courts in criminal matters. It approves the system of concurrent jurisdiction set forth in the draft, and with regard to the difficult and complicated problem of *flagrante delicto* it is of opinion that the powers entrusted to officers of the judicial police should be defined by reference both to the nature of the offence and to the standing of the various categories of officers. Much discussion has been devoted to the duties of the Attorney-General's department in the preliminary proceedings, the means of recourse open to the parties at the time of the inquiry, the relations of the penal to the civil action, the procedure to be followed when the author of the offence is unknown, the withdrawal and abandonment of prosecutions, the examination of accused persons, their right to give evidence, etc.; and with regard to the safeguards for the protection of foreigners the Commission is of opinion that those set forth in detail in the draft are adequate. The jurisdiction of the all too numerous patriarchates, vicarates, and rabbinates existing in Egypt, and the internal organisation of the religious communities and the administration of their property were discussed, and the Commission, while postponing making any formal proposals regarding these matters, nevertheless expresses the view that the jurisdiction of these bodies should be reduced as much as possible.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

BIBLICAL PROPHECY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have no intention of holding a newspaper correspondence with "Corsair," whoever that writer is; but in justice to myself I ask for space to reaffirm my statements: the 1335 prophecy in Daniel xii. 12 was fulfilled to the minute in October, 1917. The Holy Land passed out of the Turk's power, and Turkey fell, never to rise again as an Empire in the world. All that is happening now is smoke and noise at the end of the event. The Papal power was predicted to cease in July, 1870. It took place to the day, but the Powers of Europe did not recognise the fact for some time. Why does your contributor dabble in a subject he evidently knows nothing about? There has been no "inevitable hedging" on my part. If your readers wish to do me justice I ask them to read my two books, "The Bible and the War" and "Revelation in the Light of the War" (Garden City Press, Ltd.). My advice to "Corsair" is not to touch the subject until he has studied it. The people to whom a discussion of the contents of the inspired Word of God gives offence are not religious. "Corsair" is wrong in any such description of them, whoever they are.

I am, etc.,

Walter Wynn,
Editor, *Young Man and Woman.*

31, Temple House, Tallis Street, London, E.C.4.
April 26, 1918.

["Corsair's" reply to the above letter will be found on page 364.—Ed.]

BATOUM.

The port and fortress of Batoum, which is situated on the south-eastern shores of the Black Sea, and which the Turks claim to have taken on April 15, after stubborn defence by the Georgian Army, is one of the chief ports of Georgia and the whole of Trans-Caucasia.

According to the decision of the Berlin Congress in 1878, this town, together with the district of Batoum, was ceded by Turkey to Russia, and was occupied by her on August 28, 1878. In this way one of the oldest provinces of the kingdom of Georgia was liberated from the oppressive rule of the Turkish invader. At the Peace Conference of Brest-Litovsk the Bolsheviks surrendered Batoum to the Turks behind the back of the Trans-Caucasian Republic. This decision was not recognised by the Republic, and the Turkish invasion is being resisted to the utmost by the Georgian troops. In taking Batoum the Turks were very substantially assisted by the Black Sea Fleet, controlled by the Bolsheviks.

The port of Batoum has a population of 30,000 inhabitants, mostly Georgians. It is the residence of the Georgian Bishop of Batoum, and a most important point in the proposed Odessa-Batoum-Baku line leading towards Afghanistan and India, which the Germans and Turks hope to control. The port, from the time of its liberation from Turkey up to the beginning of this war, has been the chief town for exports from Turkestan, Persia, and Trans-Caucasia, and was also used as an importing centre for the same districts.

Its importance becomes more apparent when we consider that it is a terminus of the Trans-Caucasian Railway from Baku, which is about 600 miles long, and also of the pipe line connecting the oilfields of the Baku district. There is also direct connection by rail from Tiflis with an important town in the north of Persia—Tabriz. From Baku, across the Caspian Sea to Krasnovodsk, there is direct connection with the Trans-Caspian Railway line, leading towards the frontiers of Afghanistan and Chinese Turkestan.

It is obvious that if mastery of this district and lines of communication are obtained by the Central Powers they will have a quicker and more convenient road towards India, and thus be in a more favourable position to cause annoyance, if not anxiety, to the British Empire. The Allies should remember that small nations like the Georgians and Armenians are trying to defend this line, and that they ought to be given the necessary assistance without delay.

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The Zionist Commission recently returned to Jerusalem from a tour of several of the Jewish colonies in Palestine, where it was received with great enthusiasm, and found the population happy at their liberation by the British. The condition of the colonies, with the exception of Petach Tikvah, was satisfactory, but there is need of men, and cattle and equipment are lacking. It is considered that financial assistance for the purposes of reconstruction and reparation can best be rendered in the form of long-term loans. The Commission, however, is investigating the requirements of the colonies, and will report at a later date.

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EARLY BABYLONIAN LAWS.

Dr. E. W. G. Masterman is delivering a course of lectures on Tuesday afternoons at the London University, his subject being the Near East in Ancient Times. In his last lecture he gave an account of the laws of Babylonia as codified in the reign of Hammurabi—the Amraphel of the Bible—who reigned about 220 B.C. An extraordinary conical stone was found by a French explorer, M. de Morgan, having on it a representation of the great king making obeisance to Shamash, the Sun God. Arranged on the sides of the stone was an inscription. This had originally contained 282 columns, but six had been cut away by the King of Elam, who had captured the stone and taken it away to his palace at Susa. The code of laws was a perfect revelation of the state of civilisation to which the people had risen. It showed that regular judges were appointed, and that all the legal decisions of these judges were inscribed in archives, with the names of judge and witnesses. It was the law of the country that a legal decision once given was irrevocable. A judge who reconsidered a decision was liable to heavy punishment. If he had wrongfully inflicted a fine, he paid twelve times the amount. Assessors sat with the judge. A girl had not a free choice in selecting a husband, but marriage was extraordinarily sacred. The punishment for adultery was the drowning of both parties. The wife was by no means a chattel of the husband. If deserted, she had the right to marry again. Supposing he was captured by brigands or in the wars, if he had left property behind sufficient to support the wife, she had to wait for his return; but if he had left her indigent, she was free to marry again. A divorced woman and her children had to be supported. She could not be divorced because of an incurable disease. She could divorce her husband for misconduct, and demand the return of the dowry he had received with her on marriage. There was a class of temple votaries comparable to the vestal virgins of Rome. These had to maintain an especially high standard of virtue and propriety. If, for example, one of them was found going into a beershop she was liable to severe punishment. Class distinctions were very marked. There were three classes—nobles, slaves, and a kind of middle class, whose name suggests at once poverty and freedom. The slaves were not badly treated. A slave might marry a free woman, in which case the children were born free. He had the right to acquire property, and if he accumulated sufficient he might buy his freedom. If captured in war and then liberated, he was freed thereby from servitude to his original master. The wealthy noble class had at once special rights and special disadvantages. He who injured one of these was more severely punished than if his victim belonged to a lower class; but, on the other hand, a nobleman caught stealing was more severely punished than an inferior convicted of the same offence. The middle class were probably usually small traders, but presumably might rise to a higher position. There were two classes of merchants—those who went with the caravans and those who ventured their property but remained at home. If the travelling merchant was attacked by robbers and the property entrusted to him was carried off, if his payment was to have been by a share of the profits it was held that he had ventured his life and the other partner his goods, and that the partner who had provided the goods must bear the loss; but if the travelling merchant lost the goods through his own fault he had to refund their value. There were special laws for doctors and for builders. Many parallels and many contrasts suggested themselves between this early Babylonian code and the laws of Moses.

ZIONIST COLONIES IN PALESTINE.

Speaking at Gresham College, London, on Monday, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman gave some particulars of the Zionist colonies in Palestine. He said they had been started thirty years ago by a small band of Russo-Jewish students. Although without technical qualifications, adequate equipment, or knowledge of the country and its language, and despite being unaccustomed to hard work or the privations of the pioneer, they had laid the foundation of the modern Jewish settlement in Palestine. To-day the plantations in Jewish ownership in that country covered about 20,000 acres. Of these there were about 3,000 acres of vineyards, 2,250 acres of orange groves, 8,250 acres of almond groves, 2,250 acres of olive plantations and 3,500 acres of woods. The last were chiefly eucalyptus, and were the beginning of the re-afforestation of Palestine. The total value of the plantations was between £1,000,000 and £1,200,000. One thing, said Dr. Masterman, was very necessary; it was that the rights of the Moslem fellaheen should be preserved. These had no other land, and their ancestors had been in Canaan before even the first coming of the Hebrews. The villages they inhabited, with their olive and fig trees, and a certain amount of land, should be made inalienable, and the present generation should not be allowed to part with what should remain to be the inheritance of their children. There was a vast amount of land they never would develop, and it would be enormously for their benefit if Jewish colonies were established where they could get employment, and so minimise their present poverty; but if they were dispossessed they would form a great mass of discontented people little better than serfs. There was in the Orient the same feeling about land to-day as in the time of Naboth, and the fear of being dispossessed, together with a suspicion of England's intentions with regard to the Holy City, had greatly stiffened the Turkish resistance to our advance.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"MALARIA" (1) AND "ANTIMALARIAL WORK" (2) IN MACEDONIA.

These two little books deal from two different aspects with the most insidious of all the enemies of the armies of the Entente in Macedonia. They will reveal, to many for the first time, the terrible handicap against which our Salonika forces have been holding their own. Fortunately, recent discoveries, with which these writers deal, have brought this terrible disease within some degree of prevention and cure. Without our present knowledge on the subject our military occupation of much of this district might have been quite impossible. Even as it is, the account of the severer forms of malaria in the "Manual" is painful reading. This work, translated from the French, gives a succinct account of the diagnosis and treatment of malaria, which should be invaluable to our military medical officers on this and other of our Eastern fronts. Though on some minor points there may be disagreement—as both Sir Ronald Ross and Professor Laveran, two of the greatest living authorities, point out—yet the mere fact that the book comes with their approval should be a sufficient guarantee of its scientific accuracy and usefulness. The medical officer at the front needs something handy and portable for speedy reference, not an exhaustive and bulky text-book; and this is what is here provided. Although primarily intended for the professional man, the general reader will find much of interest in it.

The slim volume of "Antimalarial Work" is fascinating reading for all; certainly it is as much designed for the military and general reader as for the medical officer. It gives a graphic account, illustrated by many appropriate photographs, of the measures which are being taken to protect the army against malaria by destroying the sources of infection, and incidentally it makes an appeal for greater official sympathy and support—without which only very imperfect success can be attained.

It is now everywhere recognised that all malarial infection is carried from the sick to the healthy by means of the genus of mosquitoes known as the Anophelinæ. The best way, therefore, to prevent the spread of infection is to destroy these carriers of disease. An account is here given of the efforts made to destroy the fully-developed mosquitoes in the "dug-outs" and other places, and the more hopeful attempts to get rid of the larval forms by drainage of shallows and pools where the pests breed, or by killing them in these waters by means of petroleum. Those unfamiliar with this work, of such growing importance to European life in the tropics, would do well to study this account. In a land so full of lakes and sluggish streams as Macedonia it needs much enthusiasm, energy, and patience to fight such an uphill battle. Only next in importance is the isolation of the sick, so that mosquitoes cannot by feeding upon their blood receive the malarial plasmodia into their systems, and the destruction of these organisms in the patient's blood by means of quinine given prophylactically or curatively.

Malaria is a problem of such importance to the British Empire that all citizens of these isles should have some knowledge of the subject, and nowhere will they find more compressed and up-to-date information than in these two recent books.

A "RE-INCARNATION" NOVEL. (3)

In "A King in Babylon" we have a party of American mummers—"movie" actors seems to be the correct description of them—dumped in an Egyptian oasis, where adventures of the most kinema-dramatic nature come upon them thick and fast. The "leading man" and "leading lady," it transpires, had already been on this earth some thousands of years ago; and the former, who in his previous incarnation had been no less a personage than one of the Shepherd Kings of Egypt, had behaved in a particularly unchivalrous way to the latter, whom he had, in fact, had walled up alive. Frankly, we have no particular sympathy with either of them, although it is certainly a painful thing to think of an ex-Pharaoh reduced to the level of a cinematograph artist. It is quite probable, however, that readers with more modern tastes will find "Jimmy" Allen tolerable—even though he *is* "cursed with the fatal gift of beauty" (p. 28)—and Mlle. Roland agreeable, in spite of her temperamental eccentricities. For the author tells his tale remarkably well, and it is only because we dislike his material that we have not enjoyed the book thoroughly.

We must, however, protest against the caricature of an Egyptologist presented in Professor Davis. Egyptologists and excavators are a queer class, no doubt, but they are not quite so queer as this energetic professor. Neither do they have quite such a free hand in regard to their operations as the book would lead the reader to suspect: the Egyptian Department of Antiquities has a way of its own. Moreover, we cannot help wondering how pictures taken under the conditions described would prove at all convincing to any audience. But trifles like these should not be allowed to deter the reader from tackling the book for himself or herself. Ho will probably find it very enjoyable, and wonder what on earth the present scribe would have for his money!

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Great European Treaties of the Nineteenth Century." Edited by Augustus Oakes, C.B., and R. B. Mowat, M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem." By E. Donal Ward, B.A. (London: J. M. Ouseley and Son. 1s. 6d. net.)

"Wars and Treaties, 1815-1914." By Arthur Ponsonby, M.P. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"The Megalithic Culture of Indonesia." By W. J. Perry, B.A. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Albania and the Albanians." By H. Charles Wood. Reprinted from the *Geographical Review*. (New York: American Geographical Society.)

"A King in Babylon." By Burton E. Stevenson. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s. net.)

"With the Scottish Nurses in Roumania." By Yvonne Fitzroy. With illustrations from the author's photographs and maps. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

"Fairy Tales of Burma." By J. S. M. Ward, B.A., F.R.H.S. (London: Blackie and Sons, Ltd. 2s. net.)

"Serbia's Part in the War." Vol. I.: The Rampart against Pan-Germanism. By Crawfurd Price. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Dans l'Incendie Tropical." By Marcel Genlis. (Paris: Librairie Plon.)

"Palestine and Jerusalem." A Soldier's Handbook. By the Rev. H. Sykes, M.A. With two maps. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 10d. net.)

"The Spotted Panther." By James Francis Dwyer. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Syria and the Holy Land." By the Very Rev. Sir George Adam Smith, Kt., M.A., etc. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.)

◆

BAGHDAD THE PROSPEROUS.

Reuter's Agency is informed that, according to a telegram just received from Baghdad, the highly satisfactory results that have been produced in the Baghdad vilayet by a year of British military administration have not failed to make an impression on the local population. In the words of an Arab proverb, "The Arab's intelligence is in his eyes," and all can understand the picture that is presented this spring. The care which the military administration has expended on agricultural development and on irrigation is bearing fruit in abundance. On land which has lain untilled for many years the rural cultivators and the tribesmen now see crops ripening, and they compare the prospect before them with the harrowing reports of starvation which refugees have brought down from Turkish and Persian territory. By timely aid famine has been averted in the occupied territories on the Persian frontier, a region which the Turkish armies had devastated.

The energetic development of roads and railways and the improved sanitary conditions have gratified the townsmen, and in all places the civil population have welcomed the establishment of dispensaries for their use. Friendly relations prevail everywhere between the British troops and the civil population; the respect which our soldiers display towards local prejudices, and the readiness of all ranks to associate with the local population and to help them whenever they can, have created a most favourable impression. The tribesmen have witnessed the digging up and sowing of many hundred acres of land by the troops, and the use of artillery horses, and even mechanical tractors, to plough large areas.

A revival of trade is commencing. Merchants constantly express their satisfaction at the unprecedented security on road and river, by which they are profiting. The prices of commodities and the rates of transport are falling, despite the restrictions imposed by the war conditions. In the Busreh vilayet, in which we have now carried on the work of administration for three years, the normal conditions of peace prevail, and the inhabitants seem fully to realise that the British Government means well by the Arab race.

Without the co-operation of the tribal chiefs and local notables, through whose assistance it has been possible to make rapid progress, the results attained in both vilayets could not have been secured.

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(1) "Malaria in Macedonia." By P. Armand-Delille, P. Abrami, S. Paisseau and Henri Lemaire. Preface by Professor Laveran. Translated by Dr. J. D. Rolleston. Edited by Sir Ronald Ross (Military Medical Manuals.) (University of London Press. 6s. net.)

(2) "Antimalarial Work in Macedonia." By Drs. Willoughby and Cassidy. (London: Lewis and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

(3) "A King in Babylon." By Burton E. Stevenson. (Hutchinson. 6s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. May.	1918. April.		1336. Rajab.	5678. Iyar.
3	20	Friday	22	21
4	21	Saturday........	23	22
5	22	Sunday	24	23
6	23	Monday	25	24
7	24	Tuesday	26	25
8	25	Wednesday	27	26
9	26	Thursday	28	27

Count de Salis has been elected a fellow of the Arcadian Academy at Rome.

The Maharaja Dhiraj of Patiala has subscribed £50 towards the Ramsay Memorial Fund.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London on April 26 for Sharnbrook.

Major-General Sir Percy Cox arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday as the guest of the King and Queen, and left on Monday.

Sir Walter Lawrence and Lady Lawrence arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday as guests of the King and Queen, and left on Monday.

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society will be held on Tuesday, May 14, at 4 o'clock, at 22, Albemarle Street. Lord Reay will preside.

Lord Islington, who has suddenly been taken ill, underwent a successful operation on Tuesday at 17, Park Lane. He will not be out of danger until after Saturday.

The *Morning Post* has reason to believe that quite a month ago M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, submitted his resignation to the Greek Government, who have not yet signified their acceptance of it

The thirty-first exhibition of the Ridley Art Club will be held from May 4 to May 18 inclusive, at the Grafton Galleries. The exhibition, which will be open each day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will be in aid of the Serbian Red Cross.

In the Skupshtina on Sunday last, when Serbian war credits amounting to 250,000,000 dinars (about £10,000,000) were about to be voted upon, the Opposition left the Chamber, thereby leaving insufficient members to form a quorum.

Canon Heywood, Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in the Bombay Presidency, has been consecrated Bishop of Mombasa in Bombay Cathedral by the Metropolitan (the Bishop of Calcutta) and the Bishops of Bombay and Lahore.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in August, between the Rev. Percy John Ryall, B.A., of Burma, only son of the late Edwin Ryall, of Canterbury, and Maud, youngest daughter of Mr. J. P. Rowlands, of Liverpool.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. W. Cay Williams, the Leicestershire Regiment, attached R.A.F., and Mona, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Macarthy, Benwell Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The engagement is announced between Captain G. L. M. Clauson, General Staff Intelligence, Cairo, eldest son of Sir John Clauson, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., High Commissioner of Cyprus, and Lady Clauson, and Honor, only child of Mr. Ernest Innis Husey, M.V.O., and Mrs. Husey, of 24, Gloucester Square, W., temporarily at 290, St. James's Court, S.W.

Queen Alexandra, with the Princess Royal and Princess Maud, attended a memorial service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Monday to commemorate the siege of Kut-el-Amarah and those who fell in its defence and during captivity. Major-General Sir C. Townshend was represented by Lady Agnes Durham, and the congregation was a large one. The Bishop of Kensington gave an address.

At St. Paul's, Camberley, on Tuesday, the marriage took place of Lieutenant Francis G. Dyer, R.N.V.R., of Cheltenham College, second son of the late Dr. A. E. Dyer, Mus.Doc., and Miss Kate Madeline Farran, second daughter of the late Sir Charles Farran, Chief Justice of Bombay, and Lady Farran, of Brackendale House, Camberley. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. F. St. Clair Farran, was attended by Miss Esmé Farran, and Mr. W. S. Drew was best man. The Rev. J. C. Orr, Vicar of Whitwell, Isle of Wight (cousin of the bride), and Canon Waterfield, Principal of Cheltenham College, officiated.

A costume lecture on "Cities of Central Asia and Germany's Menace to India," with lantern slides, will be given by Miss Annette M. Budgett Meakin, F.R.G.S., at Wigmore Hall, on Thursday, May 9, at 6. Colonel the Earl of Denbigh will preside.

The Rev. A. G. Fraser, Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, Ceylon, and Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, had the honour of preaching the sermon on Sunday morning in the Private Chapel, Windsor Castle, when the King and Queen were present.

The engagement is announced between the Rev. Egbert Francis Odling, son of the late Tom Francis Odling, C.M.G., formerly of the British Legation, Teheran, and Gladys Victoria Woollerton, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Woollerton, of Wendover, Bucks.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Eric R. Burton, Indian Cavalry, only son of Frederic Walter Burton and the late Mrs. Burton, of Oxted, Surrey, and Gladys Gordon, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Frazer, of Bromley, Kent.

M. Michalacopoulos, Greek Minister of Agriculture and late Minister of War, is at present in London (Reuter's Agency is informed) on a special mission connected with the Greek Army. The Minister, who has been in Paris on similar business, expects to remain in this country about a fortnight.

The engagement is announced between Thomas Robert Druitt, Lieutenant, the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, attached R.E., only son of Mr. Thomas Wyard Druitt, F.R.G.S., and Cynthia Frances, daughter of the late Colonel G. F. Newport Tinley, C.B., C.M.G., Indian Army, of Tower Hill House, Kingsclere, Hants.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to appoint Honorary General his Majesty Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh, King of Siam, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., to be an Honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. The appointment is to bear date from April 1, 1918.

A telegram from San Francisco says that Herr Ropp, former German Consul-General at San Francisco, and Herr von Schack, who had been found guilty of violating United States neutrality by fomenting revolution in India, were yesterday sentenced to the maximum penalty of two years in a Federal penitentiary and fines of £2,000 each.

A public Rhodes lecture on "The Law and the Law Courts of Egypt" will be delivered at University College by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith on May 6. Lord Justice Swinfen Eady will preside. Admission will be by ticket, to be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary, University College, London.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Thomas Martland Ainscough, O.B.E., his Majesty's Trade Commissioner in India, eldest son of Mr. J. M. Ainscough, J.P., of Lindley Mount, Parbold, near Wigan, and Mabel Gertrude Lincolne, of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, third daughter of Mr. W. Lincolne, of Ely, Cambs.

A farewell dinner, over which Sir Horace Rumbold presided, was given on April 25 at Berne to Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Picot, who is leaving that place after having been in charge of the arrangements for British interned since May, 1916. Colonel Picot, who was formerly Military Attaché at Berne, at one time held a similar appointment in Teheran.

Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., will preside at an informal reception to be held by the President and Council of the Armenian United Association of London in the Savoy Hotel, Strand, on the Armenian Easter Sunday, May 5, when Mr. Ghambashidze will give an address on the "Alliance between the Armenians and the Georgians." Invitation cards may be obtained of the Secretary, Armenian Information Bureau, 153, Regent Street, W.1.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

According to the Athens *Hestia*, Count Bosdari, Italian Minister at Athens, has been recalled.

Bimbashi Archer, of the Cairo City Police, has been granted the rank of Kaimakam on promotion to the appointment of Assistant Commandant of the Cairo City Police.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Maurice Henry Weston Hayward, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Bombay High Court from May 20, 1918, on the retirement of Sir Stanley Lockhart Batchelor, Kt., I.C.S.

The appointment of Miralai Purvis Bey as Director of the Egyptian Coastguards Administration in succession to Lewa Hunter Pasha has been finally approved, with effect from April 1. Purvis Bey will be given the rank of Lewa (Major-General), and will be succeeded as Assistant Director by Kaimakam Morris Bey, of the Coastguards Administration.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile (2nd Class) on Rear-Admiral Jackson, C.B., M.V.O., and the 4th Class of the same Order on Commander Viscount Broome, R.N.; Commander Crocker, R.N.; Commander Stanley, R.N.; Lieutenant-Commander Pridham-Wippell, R.N.; Lieutenant Brand, R.N.R.; and Chief Gunner Frederick Charles Russell, R.N.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Brigadier-General Sir William Henry Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor of Jamaica, to be Governor of Ceylon. Sir William Manning retired from the Indian Army in 1910, after twenty-four years' service. He was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Nyasaland Protectorate, and held that position until 1913, when he went to Jamaica as Governor.

In an Army Order the Sirdar announced to the Egyptian Army the retirement of Lewa R.C.R. Owen Pasha, C.M.G., Governor of Mongalla, and referred to the eminent services rendered by him to the Egyptian Army and Sudan Government during the fifteen and a-half years which he passed in the Egyptian service. Owen Pasha held the appointments of Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Civil Secretary, Director of Intelligence and Sudan Agent, and during recent years the post of Governor of Mongalla and Officer Commanding the Mongalla District.

OBITUARY.

The Indian mail brings news of the death of Professor James Nelson Fraser, M.A., Principal of the Training College for Teachers in Government Secondary Schools, Bombay Educated at Rossall School, and Balliol College, Oxford, he was appointed Professor of English Literature in the Deccan College, Poona, in 1896.

Major Charles Willington Lane, M.C., Dragoon Guards, who died of wounds at a casualty station abroad on April 4, was the only son of Colonel and Mrs. Lane, of Rathkenny House, County Meath. In his early days in the Army he saw service in Egypt and India. He was serving in Northern Nigeria when the war broke out, and afterwards saw much fighting on the Western front.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis A. W. Armitage, D.S.O., West Yorkshire Regiment, attached Hampshire Regiment. He went to India in 1902, and took part in the North-West Frontier Expedition of 1908, for which he was given the medal. In the present war he saw much fighting on the Western front, and was four times mentioned in despatches. He was killed on April 22, aged 34.

Lieutenant Gerald B. Brown, M.C., S.C.S., son of Mr. James Brown, J.P., cotton master, of Mere Oaks, Wigan, died at Khartoum on April 21 from malaria, aged 26. He was educated at Bowden College, Cheshire, and at New College, Oxford, and was the captain of the Oxford University Hockey Team. On leaving Oxford he went to France for purposes of study, and on the outbreak of the war joined the Forces, being a lieutenant in the 5th Manchester Regiment. He saw service in France, and was awarded the Military Cross. After leaving France he was given an appointment in the Soudan Civil Service. Lieutenant Brown was one of five brothers who have served in the Army during the war.

Acting Lieutenant-Colonel Bertram Nowell Elliot, D.S.O., R.M.L.I., who was killed in the operations against Zeebrugge and Ostend, was born in August, 1880, and was granted his commission in the Royal Marines in 1898. The award of the D.S.O. was notified in the *London Gazette* on November 19, 1915, "for his services in laying mines and in charge of minefields in the Serbian rivers for several months. This work has very many times been carried on under the fire of the enemy's patrols, and always with a fine courage and much skill in organisation." He was decorated by the King of Serbia with the 4th Class of the Order of the White Eagle and the 3rd Class of the Order of St. Sava, and was mentioned in despatches for his services with the British Naval Mission in Serbia under the command of Rear-Admiral Troubridge.

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FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1918.

THE UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA.

Last week the United States Senate discussed the subject of American relations with Bulgaria and Turkey. A motion was submitted calling upon the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to report a resolution introduced last year declaring war upon Turkey and Bulgaria. In the end a substitute resolution was accepted proposing that the President be requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to inform the Senate whether there were any reasons against declarations of war on Turkey and Bulgaria. The mover of this resolution would seem to have had a conference at once with the President, for on the next day he announced that he did not propose to press the matter any further at this time. The incident is of interest, as it proves that President Wilson still holds to his contention that no purpose would be served by a declaration of war on Bulgaria by the United States, but that, on the contrary, his Government, by avoiding a formal breach, may be able to further the interests both of Bulgaria and of the Allies. There is reason to believe that information which reached the President shortly before the question was raised in the Senate will have confirmed him in this view. Public opinion in Bulgaria has not been allowed to lose sight of the fact that the country is not at war with the United States. Towards the end of last year a prominent Bulgarian newspaper published a leading article in which the United States were invited to assume the rôle of arbiter in the Balkans. Not only must this article have received the sanction of the Censor, but that formidable personage appears to have raised no objection to the same journal opening its columns to an American writer, who in reply suggested that, if Bulgaria were really fighting only for national unification and for righteousness, justice, and democracy in the Balkans, she should see that America was apprised of this fact and should let her cause become America's cause and her might America's might. In spite of the spirit of sturdy independence that King Ferdinand appears to have adopted towards his powerful allies, many things have helped to bring home to the Bulgarians that the glorious comradeship in arms on which the Emperor William likes to dwell in his speeches inevitably carries with it the economic and political domination of Germany. The object lesson provided by events in Russia will have satisfied them that they have as much to fear from their new patron as they ever had from Imperialist Russia, but with this difference, that, whereas in the past they could count on help from other quarters, now, as things are, they are in danger of being left entirely at the mercy of the Germans.

In these circumstances it is not unnatural that the Bulgarians should be reminded of the policy of reinsurance which commended itself to Bismarck as eminently sound statesmanship, and should begin to look around for a friend outside the Central Alliance. They will find President Wilson ready to meet them halfway. It is one of the ironies of the situation that so little should separate Bulgaria and the Allies. This does not imply that support will be forthcoming for every demand that has been put forward in Bulgaria's name; but where her claims can be shown to rest on a reasonable basis they are assured of more careful consideration than they met with in the fateful negotiations of 1915. The alacrity with which she has repudiated any claims to Salonika suggests that she realises now that other things than territorial acquisitions have to be taken into account. If the war ends with the Central Powers victorious all along the line in the East, there cannot be the least doubt that Bulgaria's position in the world scheme will be as unenviable as that of the Ukraine or Lithuania. This fact can no longer be disguised from the Bulgarians. They have been content to leave the direction of their foreign affairs in King Ferdinand's hands hitherto, and they may have no reason to be dissatisfied with the policy that has given them more than they anticipated. That policy, however, consisted merely in taking the line of least resistance. On the strength of Germany's help Bulgaria has achieved some remarkable conquests, but she stands committed to remain a vassal of Germany and to pretend a friendship for Turkey which she does not feel. It is one thing to put up with inconveniences for the duration of a war; it is a very different matter to accept them as a permanent feature of the national life. The Bulgarians were doubtless elated at first by the conquest of the Dobruja; but their exhilaration will have been chastened by the terms on which that territory is to be held with reservations in Germany's favour, and by the fact that they have to surrender to Turkey a strip of territory on the Maritza River. It would seem as if King Ferdinand held out as long as he could against this concession to the Turks; but as the handing over of the Dobruja is the *quid pro quo*, he has no option in the matter. For the thinking section of the Bulgarian people the question now arises, whether the line of least resistance can stand as a permanent policy; in other words, whether, now that they have proved to the world their determination to win back the territory they claimed, they will not find that their real interests lie elsewhere than as a mere stepping-stone for German ambitions.

Perhaps the most difficult part of any scheme of action that President Wilson may have in contemplation will be to secure complete acquiescence from the countries in the Balkans that are our Allies in the settlement that will meet Bulgaria's legitimate aspirations. In this question, however, the guiding principles are clear and unmistakable. The widest scope must be given to the claims of nationality, and the future harmonious development of the Balkans as a whole must be kept sedulously in mind. The Bulgarian people are not likely to proclaim the fact from the housetops, but they must have realized now almost as fully as the Allies that German domination in the Peninsula will be prejudicial to friend and foe alike. The more Germany's aims in the West are thwarted by the Allied resistance, the more will she look to the East to recoup herself for her war losses. That stern necessity will leave her little room for studying the interests of the small nations standing in her way, and where she is free to work her own will the country that opposes her designs by claiming some measure of independence is likely to suffer more than those that are already humiliated and under her control. Some such considerations as these must have passed through Bulgarian minds; the leaven will work the more rapidly when it is found that Germany's prodigious sacrifices on the Western front are failing altogether to achieve her purpose. The moment, therefore, is opportune for meeting any overtures, however tentative, on the part of Bulgaria; for the Allies have nothing to lose from a clear statement of their position and their intentions in regard to the Balkans.

GERMAN EMIGRATION POLICY AND EASTERN EUROPE.

By D. MITRANY.

Germany's anxiety to conclude a separate peace with the Ukraine was generally regarded as being due to a desire to secure supplies of corn, and that, no doubt, was the immediate aim. But, in addition, the Germans very probably aimed at gaining anew a foothold in Eastern Europe, which they hoped to dominate and which the circumstances of the war had almost completely emancipated from their influence. Close connections between the Ukraine and Germany would secure to the latter a plentiful supply of cereals and of a varied mineral wealth, as well as a valuable market for German industry; not to speak of an alternative route to the Near East by way of the Black Sea. In view of all these possibilities, it is not without interest to survey the method of quasi-colonisation of which Germany made use in the past, and which she is likely to adopt again in the future, in order to bring under her influence the economic life of the newly-formed States of Eastern Europe.

The political power of the German Empire, the rapid development of its industry, and the liberal policy of its private finance, should have sufficed to secure for Germany a preponderant position in the economic life of the countries concerned. But the Germans were not satisfied with entering into commercial and political agreements; they transplanted into those countries a numerous and very able German population, which linked them securely to the Teutonic Empire. The process is an old one, and has undergone an interesting transformation since its incipience: while in more recent years it had supplied a somewhat transient town-population, mostly merchants and clerks, which made up to some extent for the deficiency in a trading middle-class that characterises the agricultural countries on the Lower Danube; originally it aimed at establishing permanent agricultural colonies of German settlers.

It is interesting to find that the first to direct attention to the possibilities for colonization offered by south-eastern Europe was von Moltke. In 1835, when a captain in the Prussian Army, von Moltke was called to Constantinople to assist in the reorganization of the Turkish Army. He travelled by way of present-day Roumania, crossing the Danube at Giurgiu, and recorded his experiences and impressions in his "Letters on Conditions and Events in Turkey," written between 1835 and 1839. In one of these letters, written in October, 1835, from Bucharest, he complained that "so many of our compatriots emigrate in order to seek a better existence in foreign continents, while hardly any attempt to draw upon the sources of wealth of this rich land, where, if only security were established, all labour would find ample reward."

Moltke's letters were not published until 1841, but very probably they were known before that date to the celebrated German economist List, for we find him developing the same thesis in almost identical words in his principal work, entitled "A National System of Political Economy," which also was published in 1841. In the last pages of this book, after deprecating the preference which German emigrants give to North America, he urges that they should be systematically directed instead to European Turkey and the regions on the Lower Danube, for "in no direction so much as in this is the emigration of Germans so easy for individuals to accomplish, or so advantageous for the nation." What repels the emigrant is the insufficient security offered by those regions; but List considers that the German States, in alliance with Austria, should be able to exercise such influence with Turkey as to bring about an improvement in the public conditions of those countries and make them more attractive to the German emigrant, "especially if the Governments themselves would found companies for colonization, and take part in them themselves, and grant them continually their special protection."

List's works and teachings exercised a powerful influence in their time, and therefore one is probably justified in assuming that the arguments quoted above were responsible for the various steps which the German and Austrian authorities took in the 'fifties of the last century for the purpose of extending their influence in Roumanian regions. About that time two papers and several printing-presses were started by Germans in Bucharest, and for the first time the German and Austrian colonies in that town were granted the formal protection of their respective Governments. But even more significant is the fact that a small colony of German agricultural labourers settled down on farmed land in the neighbourhood of Braila in 1842.

The perpetual struggle which the Roumanian peasant has had to carry on against foreign invaders has caused his piece of land to mean more to him than a mere means of existence: in it are rooted all his spiritual and national liberties; he holds tenaciously to it, and generally prefers to starve on his own piece of soil rather than enjoy a prosperity elsewhere. In the circumstances it is not surprising to find that the German colony near Braila failed to prosper, and a few years after its establishment its members, about twenty families in all, acquired land and moved into the Dobruja. That province then still formed a part of the Ottoman Empire. It was a barren region, the perpetual battle-ground between Russians and Turks, and consequently sparsely inhabited by variegated groups belonging to the neighbouring peoples. Here the Germans found suitable conditions of settlement, and to the original settlers were added in subsequent years a few more colonies, such as those of Atmagea (1848), Catalin (1853), Cincurova (1859), Fachri, in the Southern Dobruja (1874), etc., etc. These colonies have remained in existence to the present day. Their villages make a pleasant impression, and not only do their members speak German, but they have even maintained the dialects of the regions whence they came.

That there was not merely a question of finding a place in the sun for a certain surplus of population is shown by the great number of private and public organizations bent upon furthering colonization, which grew up in Germany about the middle of the last century. In 1847 Prussia endeavoured to interest the other German States in a common scheme for colonization, and only the political circumstances of the time prevented the National Convention of 1848 from taking into discussion a bill specially prepared by the Committee of National Economics. The idea of creating a department of State to organise colonization was also raised in the Bundesrat. Fifteen private organizations already existed at that time for the furtherance of colonization; their representatives, together with a large number of German economists and politicians, met in a congress of the National Central Committee for German Colonization, which was founded in 1848. The burden of the prolonged discussions of that congress was the diverting of emigration from the West to the East, with a view to ensuring to Germany undisputed domination on the Danube from the source to the sea.

But all these efforts were bound to fail. The appalling and uninterrupted chain of struggles of which the European Near East has been the scene have given a national importance to all such institutions as the Church, the schools, etc., and to property in land more than anything else. Land was the only possession which the perennial invaders could not bear away with them; and there is, therefore, nothing which the peasant more resents than an attempt on the part of such invaders to get hold of the land by settlement. This is strikingly evidenced by the racial purity maintained by the various peasant populations, notwithstanding the variegated character of the numerous invaders who swept over those regions. It is also evidenced by the epilogue of the German efforts in that direction. According to a Swiss journal (*La Liberté*, Fribourg, February 2), a Hungarian concern is now engaged in transplanting the German colonists from Dobruja to Transylvania with a view to re-populating certain districts.

That seems to put an end to the German dream of establishing permanent outposts on the Lower Danube. But the Germans have not unnecessarily persisted in a scheme which they must have long since recognised as futile. From a more intelligent consideration of the circumstances there resulted a complete change in the type of emigrants who found their way towards Eastern Europe, and in the character of their settlement, and in this new aspect German colonization has been largely successful. But this point will be dealt with more fully in a subsequent paper.

◆

THE RED CROSS IN PALESTINE.

In a report addressed to Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, Dr. Alexander Granville, British Red Cross Commissioner at Alexandria, gives some particulars regarding a visit of inspection to hospital and medical units on the Palestine front. He writes:—

"I was particularly pleased with all that I saw, and found everyone in authority loud in their praises of the work which the Red Cross had done to assist in alleviating the sufferings of the sick and wounded.

"We have a splendidly situated base store at Kantara, which feeds our depots at Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez, as well as the hospital and medical units from Kantara up to Rafa. In Jerusalem we have a particularly fine store in a building which has been generously placed at our disposal by the Mother Superior of the Marie Reparatrice Convent. In Jaffa we have been given the use of a very well situated house for our stores and officers.

"Our Red Cross invalid kitchens at El Arish are a great success. We have two excellent cooks running these kitchens, and the work which is being done by them is particularly noteworthy. I hope to be able to establish very soon two other Red Cross invalid kitchens on this front. I returned to Alexandria feeling sure in my mind not only had we gained the confidence of everyone with whom we had come into contact, but that the Red Cross had established a reputation of being where we were most wanted, and willing to do what was expected of us."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

When I was a small boy we were taught that Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo declared that the British were beaten but did not know it—or words to that effect. We were also taught, I think, that at the opening of the battle, when he found our army facing him, instead of retreating, he exclaimed, exultantly: "I have them now!" Subsequent events showed that even so great a man as Napoleon may make mistakes; and if to-day the mere Man in the Street fails to realize that we were beaten at Waterloo, we can hardly be surprised. Similarly, if I remain a little sceptical about certain persons' readings and renderings of prophecies of Daniel—not, be it noted, about the prophecies themselves—I believe that most of my readers will pardon my presumption.

⁂

These remarks have been called forth by a letter addressed to the Editor by the editor of the *Young Man and Woman.* The epistle referred to will be found on another page, and readers will doubtless consider that it speaks quite eloquently for itself. But the writer must pardon me if I remain unconvinced that his statements are correct even when he "reaffirms" them. I have no wish whatever to "dabble" in the subject of the prophecies—I confess quite frankly that I "know nothing about" them; but it seems to me that I am not alone in that respect—and my comments and criticisms have been concerned only with the readings of those who profess to interpret them. In the circumstances, I trust that the writer of the letter will excuse me from reading his two books on the subject, the titles of which (with the publishers' name) he gives in full in his communication. While thus declining to benefit by the advice so freely tendered, I shall continue to feel myself at liberty to touch upon the subject if I feel so disposed. For, after all, I have already discovered that even those who *have* "studied" it do not always see eye to eye on more points than one.

⁂

The title, "People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs," is certainly a resounding one, and its present holder—who is, of course, M. Tchitcherin—evidently tries to live up to it, so to say. At any rate, his despatches and communications generally are usually very pompous in their wording, if they fail to carry with them that weight which is lent to such things by the presence of force behind them. But now and again one wonders whether he is not bent on enlivening them with a joke. For instance, when, in protesting against the burning of a village (Russian) and the massacre of all its inhabitants by the Germans, he refers to Germany as "a civilised country," how are we to take it? Is it irony? *Is* it a joke?—One would not ask the question in connection with such an outrage, if M. Tchitcherin were not a Bolshevist.—Is it flattery? Or is it just a proof that the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs is a victim of the habit of using cant phrases?

⁂

Mr. Somers Clarke has sent to the *Egyptian Gazette* an extremely interesting account of some events that occurred at the funeral of "a much respected sheikh," who died on February 28 at a village named Hilal. During his lifetime the only supernatural gift the sheikh appeared to possess was the power to influence sparrows, being able to protect the crop from their depredations, in some way not clearly specified. But, dead, he developed extraordinary powers indeed. His body was just about to be placed in the grave, when the bearers "felt themselves impelled" to carry the bier back again to the sheikh's house. And that was but the beginning of the manifestation of this strange force. The bearers were moved, by the same power, to enter the house of the skeikh, to leave it again at once, to set the bier on the ground while a *fat'hah* was recited, to parade the streets of Hilal with their burden, to return to the cemetery and the graveside. But even then the sheikh was not content. Back to the village went the procession, the bearers being now "impelled to make rapid turns, like the revolutions of a wheel." Then, "after they had returned to Hilal and manœuvred about a little, they were suddenly impelled to leave Hilal and go across the desert to a little village called Nusrab, which lies to the south."

⁂

At Nusrab the alleys were promenaded, as at Hilal, until, "arriving at an unoccupied place behind the Mosque, the bier became overwhelmingly heavy, so it was set down upon the ground, the *fat'hah* was recited, and then a Zikr was held by a ring of people standing around, lasting perhaps three-quarters of an hour. This concluded, the impulse again fell on the bearers and the procession returned to Hilal." Here the bier was placed on the floor of a rest house, where "it remained firmly fixed," until a son of the sheikh, who had come from Luxor, had "made his appropriate lamentations" over it. Thereafter, "the bearers with perfect ease removed the bier, carried it to the grave and completed the burial."

⁂

Now, what can one make of such a tale? Personally, as Mr. Somers Clarke clearly accepts the account as accurate, and as I have faith in his judgment, I am ready to believe that the events recorded really took place. My theory is that they were the results of hypnotism of some kind—or thought transference may be the better expression. Some one in the crowd of mourners probably thought that the sheikh would not like to be buried without his son having "made his appropriate lamentations," and the rest followed more or less automatically. For, as Mr. Somers Clarke points out, there is a belief amongst the Egyptians that the spirit of a holy man will often impel the bearers of his corpse in some particular direction. Lane, in his "Modern Egyptians," refers to this belief, and gives a somewhat startling example of it, which Mr. Somers Clarke reproduces. For the rest, we may all form our own opinions; and as to the truth of the matter—Allah knows!

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Dr. Seton Watson. April 25.

Colonel FABER asked the Prime Minister if he would state if the position of Dr. Seton Watson in the service of the Government is a confidential one in which he has access to State Papers; whether he was or had been attending the Jugoslav Conference in Rome or had been in Rome whilst this conference was sitting; and, if so, whether, in view of his anti-Montenegrin sympathies, some explanation could be given of his association with a propagandist movement against Montenegro, an Allied State?

Mr. BONAR LAW: Dr. Seton Watson, as already explained in reply to a former question, is at present in Italy on confidential Government service. His Majesty's Government is not aware that Dr. Seton Watson is taking part, or has ever taken part, in any propagandist movement against any Allied State.

Flax and Cotton Supplies.

Brigadier-General CROFT asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether there is a shortage of flax and cotton supplies; and, if so, whether he would give an undertaking that no linen and cotton products should be permitted to leave this country except for purposes in Allied countries?

Lord WOLMER (on behalf of the War Trade Department): The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part, His Majesty's Government are not prepared to accede to the recommendation of my hon. and gallant friend that the export of linen and cotton products should be discontinued except for purposes in Allied countries. This would even exclude exports to India, the Dominions, and other British Possessions. The prohibitions affecting the export of linen apply to all destinations, and the export of linen goods suitable for war purposes is only allowed under licences which are restricted to the Allies and British Possessions and Protectorate. As regards cotton, adequate supplies are at present available for home use and that of our Allies. Exports to other countries have been greatly reduced, and are being carefully watched.

"Turkish" Cigarettes.

Sir BERTRAM FALLE asked the President of the Board of Trade if he was aware that there are quantities of Turkish and Egyptian cigarettes for sale in this country notwithstanding that we are in the fourth year of the war; and if he could say where all this tobacco comes from, if from heavy stocks or what other source?

Mr. WARDLE: There is a small and rapidly diminishing quantity of pure Turkish and Egyptian cigarettes beng manufactured in this country from stocks imported prior to the outbreak of war. The majority of so-called Turkish and Egyptian cigarettes are made largely from a similar type of tobacco grown in Greece, Cyprus, Nyassaland, China, and Japan.

Prisoners of War in Turkey. April 29.

Mr. PETO asked whether, as the Berne Agreement of December 28, 1917, had now been ratified by the Turkish Government, negotiations would now be commenced forthwith with a view to arriving at an agreement for the mutual repatriation of all officers and men of the Navy and the Army of the two countries

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who had been prisoners of war for a period exceeding eighteen months.

Mr. J. F. Hope: No agreement exists with any enemy country for the repatriation of such prisoners, but only for their transfer to a neutral country. His Majesty's Government consider that it would be preferable to await the results of the Berne Agreement, now ratified by the Turkish Government, before considering so complete a departure from previous Allied policy as is suggested by my hon. friend. Transfer to a neutral country is, I fear, impracticable in the case of British and Turkish prisoners, as has been already stated.

Mr. Hume-Williams asked who would choose the first 1,000 prisoners who are to be repatriated under the recent agreement; when the 1,000 have left Turkey, who is to choose prisoners for repatriation from among the remainder, and what standard of sickness will be applied; and whether it will apply to all who now or in future may be within the standard.

Mr. J. F. Hope: The first 1,000 British invalid prisoners of war to be repatriated from Turkey under the Berne Agreement will be chosen by the Turkish authorities without the formality of official medical inspection, in order to save the time which the latter would necessarily take. The Turkish authorities may, of course, be expected to choose for repatriation those prisoners whose state of health renders them least likely to be of use to his Majesty's Government, and these will naturally also be the prisoners whose state of health renders their repatriation most urgent. We assume that the Turkish authorities in making the selection will avail themselves of the opinion of the British medical officer prisoners. After the repatriation of the first 1,000 the selection for repatriation will be made by medical commissions composed of two Turkish doctors and one British prisoner doctor. The standard of disability for repatriation from Turkey under the agreement is the same as that in force with Germany for the purpose of transfer from that country for internment in Switzerland. It will apply to all prisoners who now fall, or who may in future come to fall, within its terms.

Mr. Hume-Williams further inquired whether any arrangements had yet been made with the Netherlands Minister in Constantinople or with any other representative of a neutral Power to visit Turkish camps where prisoners of war are interned in pursuance of the recent agreement; and, if so, what the arrangements were and how soon the inspection would be made.

Mr. J. F. Hope said that immediately on the receipt of news of the ratification of the Berne Agreement by the Turkish Government the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople was requested by telegraph to take steps to carry out its provisions in regard to the inspection of internment camps by his representatives. As the Dutch Government were kind enough to appoint two gentlemen to their Legation at Constantinople for this duty some time ago his Majesty's Government hoped that the inspections would be able to be carried out at an early date, but they had no positive information on the subject.

ITALIANS AND JUGOSLAVS.

At the conference held in Rome on April 8, 9, and 10, which was attended by recognised spokesmen of the subject nationalities of the Central Empires, the following resolutions, we are informed by the Italian Information Bureau, were passed unanimously:—

"The representatives of the nationalities subjected entirely or in part to the rule of Austria-Hungary—Italians, Poles, Roumanians, Czechs, Jugoslavs—have agreed to affirm their principles for common action in the following manner:—

"I.—Each of these peoples proclaims its right to constitute its own nationality and unity as a State, to secure this and to attain to full political and economic independence.

"II.—Each of these peoples recognises in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy the instrument of Germanic domination and the fundamental obstacle which hinders the realization of their aspirations and their rights.

"III.—The Assembly therefore recognises the necessity for a common struggle against the common oppressors, in order that each people may achieve its full liberation and complete national unity within the limits of free unity as a State.

The representatives of the Italian nation and of the Jugoslav nation agreed in particular as follows:—

"I.—In the relations between the Italian nation and the nation of the Serbs, Croatians, and Slovenes—known also under the name of the Jugoslav nation—the representatives of the two peoples recognise that the unity and independence of the Jugoslav nation is a vital interest of Italy, just as the completion of Italian national unity is a vital interest of the Jugoslav nation. For this reason the representatives of the two peoples undertake to do all that may lie in their power so that both during the war and at the time of concluding peace these final ends of the two nations may be completely reached.

"II.—They declare that the liberation of the Adriatic Sea and its defence against the present or eventual enemy is a vital interest of the two peoples.

"III.—They undertake also to settle amicably and in the interests of the future good and sincere relations between the two peoples the various territorial controversies on the basis of the principle of nationality and of the right of nations to decide their own fate, in such a manner as not to injure the vital interests of the two nations as they will be defined at the moment of concluding peace.

"IV.—Groups of one nation which will have to be included within the boundaries of another will be guaranteed the right to the respect of their language, their culture, and their moral and economic interests."

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Islam and the War.

The current issue of the *Quarterly Review* contains an instructive article on the Moslem attitude towards the war, by Sir Valentine Chirol, who has had a special opportunity of studying the subject at first hand in India. After analyzing the position of Islam in the world and referring to the deep-laid plans of Germany to enlist Moslem support by means of Pan-Islamism, Sir Valentine Chirol discusses how it is that Pan-Islamism, when put to the supreme test, has so far failed. He continues:—

> Amongst the more general causes of its failure must no doubt be reckoned the fatalism common to most Orientals, and especially characteristic of all Mahomedans, which leads them to accept all things—including alien rulership—as preordained. Nor had they any serious grievance against their alien rulers, who as a rule scrupulously respected their religious and domestic customs, and where, as in India, they formed only a minority of the population, effectively guaranteed their rights against the encroachments of other communities. So far as material prosperity is concerned, they were unquestionably far better off under their alien rulers than their co-religionists under Mahomedan rulers. Least of all had the Mahomedan troops, who "eat the salt" of alien rulers, any cause to be discontented with their lot. The Indian sepoy and the Algerian spahi—which are only different forms of the same word—had generally far more confidence in, and often far more personal devotion to, their Christian officers than to those of their own stock. Even in the Russian service Mahomedans were exceptionally well treated, and sometimes rose to very high rank—much higher than they could attain to in the British or French services. The Mahomedan, moreover, has an innate respect for constituted authority; and though at times he may "see red" and break through the accustomed bonds of discipline, there was nothing at the first outbreak of war to tempt him to incur the tremendous risks of disloyalty. For when the war began it involved only two groups of European Powers—infidels all in the eyes of the orthodox Mahomedan; and though in India particularly our alliance with Russia was distasteful to him, there was nothing to attract him towards Germany. Many Indian sepoys, indeed, retained a vivid memory of the overbearing attitude of the Germans in China during the joint operations against the Boxers, and of their brutality towards the unfortunate Chinese people.

The fact is that Pan-Islamism lost much of whatever vital force it possessed when Abdul Hamid disappeared and "Young Turkey" came into power with the Constantinople Revolution of 1908. The seal was put upon its discomfiture by the action of the Shereef of Mecca, of whom Sir Valentine Chirol writes:—

> The valuable services which the King of the Hejaz has rendered to us in the field, and especially by shutting off the Turks and their allies from all access by land to the Red Sea, where they had hoped to establish fresh bases for their mines and submarines, have been, perhaps, less important than that which he rendered to us in refusing from the very first to endorse the Constantinople *Jehad*. Had he endorsed it, the effect in Arabia itself would have been electric.

The article proceeds to survey the effects of the war on the Mahomedan peoples outside Turkey. Of Persia it says:—

> Hatred of Russia rather than any Pan-Islamic sentiment drove the majority of the people of Persia to side, so far as they could safely venture to do so, with the Turks and their Germanic allies. The masses in Persia are fervent Shias, whereas the Turks are Sunnis; and the memory of the extortions practised upon him by the Turkish authorities at Kerbela rankles in the soul of every Persian pilgrim.

The subject of Pan-Turanianism, which the article next discusses, has already been dealt with at length in the pages of The Near East, and Sir Valentine Chirol confirms the view that the collapse of Russia opens up to Pan-Turanianism unexpected possibilities of political expansion.

> The position in the Middle East may thus be modified in the immediate future to our serious disadvantage, and open up even

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the borderlands of India to Turco-German aggression. But the alliance between Pan-Germanism and Pan-Turanianism can hardly be permanent, and there are elements of weakness in Pan-Turanianism itself which are bound in the long run to defeat the achievement of its programme. Its most enthusiastic exponents in Constantinople admit that Turkey cannot hope to ride both horses—Pan-Islamism and Pan-Turanianism—at the same time, and they declare quite openly that, of the two, the Nationalist horse is the one they must run to win. They can only use Pan-Islamism as a pace-maker. They are, in fact, conscious that between the two ideals there is a conflict which may be postponed or smoothed over for a time, but is ultimately inevitable. There are, indeed, signs that in Turkey itself all the elements of a conflict are already present, though the war keeps them for the present under restraint. Such measures as the diversion of the revenues administered by the Department of the Evkaf from the time-honoured purposes of pious foundations to the creation of a "National" Bank, and other undertakings for the economic restoration of the country on "National" lines; the transformation of the *Medresses*, or schools, in which little else but the Koran and Mahomedan theology have been expounded, into "National" schools for the teaching of "Turkology" and other profane sciences; the transfer to the civil courts of a considerable portion of the jurisdiction hitherto reserved to the *Sheria*, or religious courts, are measures which profoundly affect not only Mahomedan orthodox traditions, but many powerful vested interests. To the innate conservatism of the Turkish masses all the social innovations of the Nationalist movement must be as repugnant as to the higher classes the breach effected in the seclusion of the harem by the appearance of women in public life, or the appointment of a notorious agnostic to the high office of Sheik-ul-Islam.

* * * * *

Amongst Indian Mahomedans one may safely assume that the very slight impression made by Abdul Hamid's Pan-Islamic propaganda, already weakened before the war by the Turkish revolution and the dubious orthodoxy of the Young Turks, will prove to have been entirely wiped out both by Turkey's active co-operation with Germany in a war of which they have shared the sacrifices and the glories with the whole British Empire, and by the open substitution of Nationalist for Islamic ideals in the Pan-Turanian programme.

Unless the power of the ruling clique in Constantinople is finally crushed during the war, Pan-Turanianism may be a disturbing element for many years to come in Western and Central Asia. But it cannot conceivably repair the breach which its alliance with Pan-Germanism has made in the House of Islam so long as the vast majority of the world's Mahomedans, who have loyally stood to their allegiance to the Western Powers in the face of Turkey and turned deaf ears to the *Jehad* she has vainly presumed to preach, have a firm and continued assurance that their religion is as safe in the hands of their non-Mahomedan rulers as are their temporal interests.

Articles to Note.

"The Entente and Austria," by A. H. E. Taylor; and "Constitutional Reforms for British India," by St. Nihal Singh, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

"An Escape from Turkey in Asia," by Captain E. H. Keeling; "Ahmed Deen: A True Story of the Indian Frontier," by General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G.; and "Some Months in Bessarabia," by a Member of the Scottish Women's Hospital, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (May).

"Safe from Democracy?" by Sir J. D. Rees; "The Russian Débâcle and the East," by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, in the *Nineteenth Century* (May).

"Indian Ideals and Present Day Realities," by Nicol Macnicol, D.Litt., in the *Contemporary Review* (May).

"A Turkish Prisoners of War Camp," in the *Windsor Magazine* (May).

GREEK AND SERBIAN DECORATIONS.

The following decorations have been conferred by the King of Serbia and the King of the Hellenes on officers of the British Naval Forces for distinguished services rendered during the war. The King has given unrestricted permission to the officers concerned to wear the decorations in question:

CONFERRED BY THE KING OF SERBIA.

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Grand Cross.

Vice-Admiral E. C. T. Troubridge, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.

CONFERRED BY THE KING OF THE HELLENES.

Order of the Redeemer.

Grand Commander.—Vice-Admiral Sir C. F. Thursby, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.; Vice-Admiral A. H. Christian, C.B., M.V.O.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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I would call attention to an instructive article, which appears on the next page, on the subject of India's currency problem. The absorption of currency in that country has long been a serious problem in finance, and it tends to become still more so in view of the present position of silver. Unfortunately, the larger the circulation of money the greater the amount available for hoarding, and the well-informed writer of the article suggests that only a year of scarcity is likely to release the hoards to any considerable extent. The subject has a political side, for if the confidence of the native were shaken by fear of political developments in the direction of giving more authority to those whom he has no special reason to trust, his purse-strings will be tied all the tighter.

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A sentence in a Chamber of Commerce *Journal* recently caught my eye. It read: "Our industrial salvation lies in looking to the East." Naturally I was compelled to read the whole article that led up to this eminently satisfactory dictum; but hardly followed the lines I had anticipated. The burden of the writer's remarks was to the effect that the shortage of shipping was likely to act as a tremendous stimulus to production in India, Japan, and China, because the fewer imports of manufactured goods would compel the Middle and Far Eastern countries to break out into industrial activity. Accordingly he took a very gloomy view of our economic outlook, unless the construction of ships was considerably accelerated.

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This, to my mind, does not look at the picture in the right perspective. By all means let it be Ships, More Ships, and Still More Ships, in order that British products may reach overseas markets. But we cannot adopt the view—at least as far as the Middle East and India are concerned—that industrial activity in those parts is to be viewed askance, and, if possible, thwarted. After all, there are still undeveloped markets in the world, and competition is not necessarily unhealthy. The British manufacturer does not have to rely upon the absence of competing goods to capture or to retain his market. In so far, however, as the writer in the *Journal* preached the gospel of "Up and doing" he was on safe ground. He might have added that, if the development of industry he was inclined to dread did materialise, the British manufacturer might still find new outlets for his goods in the Middle and the Near East.

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I am surprised to find that a good number of people still look upon the Near East as a region that will remain under the domination of the Central Powers, virtually to the same extent, if in a different manner, as it is at present. There could be no more hopelessly mistaken idea. The Allies would not have achieved victory if that were the case. I much prefer the robust faith of an Oxford professor, who reminded his audience that among the gains of the war was to be reckoned the fact that after the war the English language will have such a position as it has never had before. Armed ruffians, he said, can do some things, but one thing they cannot do; they cannot endear their language to those who have suffered from their violence. He thought that neighbourhood, kinship, and the necessities of commerce might retain for the German language a certain measure of custom in Sweden, Switzerland, and Holland, but he could not imagine Serbia, Norway, or Denmark being content to speak German. Then came this gem: "For the most part Germans will have to be content to be addressed in their own tongue only by those who fear them, or by those who hope to cheat them."

⁂

This is surely a shrewder estimate of the attitude of the Balkan countries towards Germany and Austria-Hungary. Even Bulgaria and Turkey, I feel fairly confident, will want a holiday from Germany and all her ways, while Roumania and the whole of the new Jugoslav State will loathe the sight and sound of all things German. That will not mean that they will be content to go permanently without the manufactured goods they need, but it does mean that they will ask for and expect to be supplied with British, French, or American goods. I should like to see manufacturers and merchants realising this fact and acting upon it. Not only will it be to their interest to cater for these markets, but it will be more or less of a bounden duty, with a view to enabling the peoples of the Near East to retain their self-respect and develop their capacity for withstanding the German thrust towards India.

⁂

In this connection attention may be called to the report that a number of great German and Austro-Hungarian concerns have formed a huge combine under the name of the *Europäische Handelsgesellschaft* at Bremen. The objects of the new organisation are said to be: To control and centralise the import trade of war products, animals, vegetables, textiles, minerals, and all kinds of raw materials from Russia, Persia, China, Roumania, and Finland; to organise a boycott and undermine the financial and commercial position of the pro-Entente neutrals. Officially the company will be liquidated, we are told, at the end of one year after peace is signed; but it will then enter upon an unofficial existence. I hope our pacifists, who inveigh against the enormity of contemplating the introduction of economic safeguards against Germany after the war, will note this indication of the lamb-like policy their friends are likely to adopt.

If any Egyptians are still in doubt as to the relative advantages of the British and the Turkish connection, they will do well to study the financial and economic positions of the two countries. Tables of retail prices at Cairo and Alexandria between 1916 and 1918 show an increase in the index numbers from 108 to 205 at the former, and from 130 to 210 at the latter, 100 being taken as the price of each commodity in July, 1914. The articles showing the worst records are flour (294 for Cairo, 341 for Alexandria in February, 1918), soap (320 and 233 respectively), and bread (313 for Cairo). In a recent *exposé* of the situation in Turkey Javid Bey, the Minister of Finance, stated that whereas the increase in the cost of living since the outbreak of war was 124 per cent. in Berlin, 178 per cent. in Vienna, in Constantinople it was no less than 1970 per cent.

⁂

He explained that a man, who before the war could live on £T2¼ a month, could now only satisfy the same needs with £T41. As individual instances of the increase in prices he cited corn, which had risen 500 per cent., and petrol 2,000 per cent., when paid for, that is to say, in metallic currency; but in the case of paper money, which is presumably the ordinary medium of exchange to-day, the relative increase would be three times as much. The whole economic outlook in Turkey is considered to be sufficiently gloomy to call for the most drastic measures after the war for restricting and controlling not only exchange matters, but also all commercial operations with foreign countries.

⁂

It was quite obvious that the report telegraphed from Madrid last week that the Egyptian cotton crop had been sold to Spain was incorrect, for, apart from the fact that Spain could have no conceivable use for so much cotton, it would be unthinkable that the Allies in general and this country in particular could afford to dispense with this source of supply. It now appears that the report was based on a misunderstanding, due to the misinterpretation of a Spanish official telegram from Cairo.

⁂

A summary of the work in Ceylon of the Industries Commission up to date makes it evident that there are excellent prospects for starting new industries in the island. Unfortunately, the fuel question is bound to be a serious handicap to all industrial developments in Ceylon, and in the circumstances I am of opinion that the soundest policy for the present, at any rate, will be to concentrate on improving industries already established in the island in preference to attempting any new departures.

Commentator.

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THE INDIAN BUDGET AND THE CURRENCY PROBLEMS.

The Hidden Hoard.

The Financial Statement for the ensuing year was submitted to the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, on March 1, and full particulars were received on this side about three weeks ago. Affairs at the front and the tension which preceded the announcement of the Home Budget have been so much more prominently before the public that consideration of the financial position in India has had little attention, but a brief study of the situation discloses many points of special interest. In the first place the retiring Finance Minister has to be congratulated upon the highly satisfactory surplus shown by the previous year's figures, a welcome result which no doubt had some influence with the Indian Government in their decision not to impose any increase in taxation for the current year. Sir William Meyer in his valedictory remarks refers to the difficulties and anxieties caused by the war in Indian finance, but apart from this, important factor, internal conditions reflect the prosperity with which India has been favoured during a succession of years of plenty.

One of the most striking points in his speech relates to the continued heavy absorption of currency. During the previous year the net issue to the public was 35 crores of rupees and for the current year as much as 24 crores had been issued already in addition to over five millions of sovereigns. This disappearance of coin has been one of India's problems for years, and it may well be asked where does all this currency go to. The only answer to this enquiry is that the well-known hoarding propensity of the native of India has been developed during the war, and the rupees are held up in hoards. It must also be borne in mind that large amounts of rupees have been shipped to East Africa and Mesopotamia for the requirements of our Forces, but the total has been spread over many months and is not sufficient to affect the general position.

It is hard to believe that such an enormous accumulation of wealth is lying idle, but it is a fact beyond dispute that this practice extends from the highest in the land to the lowly cultivator. It was hoped that the establishment of Swadeshi Banks would gradually educate the native to trust his savings to their care, but the collapse of a number of these institutions some years ago aroused suspicion and distrust which will take years to allay. No doubt a certain amount of rupees has gone into the melting pot for ornaments, but only to a trifling extent. In the case of sovereigns, however, they have been largely disposed of in this manner, and it was stated only recently in the *Times of India* weekly money article, that it was computed that as much as 30 million sovereigns had been melted down during the past three years.

A series of bounteous seasons has brought prosperity to the country and a considerable accession of wealth to the people. Having been accustomed to buy silver and silver ornaments in the neighbourhood of 75 rupees per 100 tolas, the native declines to buy at the present abnormal price, and prefers to conserve his rupees until the day when silver comes back to his level. The same may be said of piece goods, for which the demand has sensibly shrunk owing to higher values.

This absorption of currency is the most serious problem in finance which has confronted the Indian Government in recent years. If gold were available freely, it would readily displace rupees, but the scarcity of the yellow metal is probably felt more acutely in India than elsewhere, and ordinary sovereigns have long stood at a premium of 1½ to 2 rupees.

In this connection the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in India is a step forward—long advocated in certain circles. The Mysore gold output provides a supply which can now be treated and coined in the country, thus eliminating the risk and expense of transit and insurance to and from London. The lack of a refining plant has been felt in Bombay for many years, and this will no doubt form part of the equipment of the Mint. So far as the outlook is concerned the Indian Government has now completed arrangements for a large supply of silver to augment the shrinkage in the currency. It has recently been announced that they have secured from the United States Government 150,000,000 ounces, which is the larger portion of the amount at the disposal of that Government, owing to the melting down of 350,000,000 silver dollars sanctioned by the Senate. With the price in America practically fixed at a gold dollar per ounce very little variation need be expected in the London price, which now stands slightly under the parity at 49¼ pence, so that the Exchange Banks may consider themselves fairly safe against a repetition of the surprise which faced them a few weeks ago, when the Secretary of State suddenly raised rupee rates one penny.

It is to be hoped that the troubles surrounding the currency question in India have thus been surmounted for some time, and it is only reasonable to assume that a certain proportion of rupees will gradually flow back to the Treasuries during the slack months of the Monsoon. It cannot be expected, however, that conditions will approach anything like their normal state so long as the war lasts, unless perhaps in the event of a year of scarcity in India, which would undoubtedly have the effect of loosening the purse strings and releasing rupees from their hidden hoards.

◆

CO-OPERATION IN INDIA.

The Department of Revenue and Agriculture of the Government of India has issued statements in book form showing the progress of the co-operative movement in 1916-17. The number of societies rose to 23,036, as against 19,675 in 1915-16. These comprised 757 central societies (including provincial banks and unions) and 21,070 agricultural societies (including cattle insurance and re-insurance societies), as against 605 central and 18,051 agricultural, and 1,019 non-agricultural societies in 1915-16. The membership at the end of the period was 1,045,425, as against 918,436 in the previous year, and the capital was Rs1,223 lakhs, as against, roughly, Rs.1,032½ lakhs.

INDIA'S SILVER HOLDING.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. report that the price of silver has now reached a point at which silver costing a dollar per fine ounce on the other side of the Atlantic can be supplied to this market at a reasonable profit (insurance, carriage, etc., included). Unless something unexpectedly happens, future movements of the price are likely to be on a very limited scale. An important act of legislation has been passed by the United States Senate, which, while demonstrating the cordial co-operation in finance between the United States of America and Great Britain, relieves the strain of providing silver for Indian coinage. The Bill grants power to melt 350,000,000 silver dollars (about 271,000,000 fine ounces), and to dispose of the bullion, to be replaced by subsequent purchases. As information has been cabled from India that the Indian Government has secured 150,000,000 ozs. from the United States Government, a further 121,000,000 ozs. are available for such purposes as the United States Government may decide. The amount of 150,000,000 ozs. is sufficient to provide 4,363 lakhs of rupees, a sum which should be adequate to meet currency demands for some considerable time. It was announced in Parliament on the 24th inst. that about 198,000,000 fine ounces had been purchased for coinage between February, 1915, and March 31, 1918 (average price 39.03d.). The holding of silver by the Indian Treasury on January 31, 1915, was 3,030 lakhs, and on March 31, 1918, 1,079 lakhs—a reduction of 1,951 lakhs. As 198,000,000 ozs. of silver can be minted into 5,760 lakhs of rupees, the net absorption in the period mentioned was 7,711 lakhs. Therefore, even at the high rate of absorption indicated, 150,000,000 fine ounces of silver would suffice to maintain the silver holding at the same level for about 12½ months.

Below are given the latest Indian currency returns :—

In lakhs of rupees.

	April 15.	April 22.
Notes in circulation	10,183	10,198
Reserve in silver coin and bullion	1,259	1,169
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,330	2,300
Gold out of India	45	45

Under an Ordinance passed in India on April 15, the silver holding includes silver in or en route from the United States.

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BAKU OIL WELLS.

According to a Reuter message from Amsterdam the Berlin correspondent of the *Koelnische Volkszeitung* says that an extremely disturbed state of affairs appears still to prevail at Baku, as a result of which the export of petroleum to the Black Sea ports has ceased. It is also reported that the oil wells have been destroyed.

Mr. Walter St. D. Jenkins, Assistant Director of Navy Contracts, has been appointed by his Majesty's Government as one of the Government Directors on the Board of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd.

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

February Imports and Exports.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 1.

The Customs returns for February show an increase in both imports and exports as compared with the corresponding month of the preceding year. During the month imports came to £E3,750,381 and exports to £E3,918,067, as against £E2,174,750 and £E3,730,287 in February, 1917. So far this year imports are £E1,943,485 up and exports £E1,249,901 down on the figures for last year.

Imports.

The chief items under imports were hides, skins, and tanned goods, £E38,003, of which 60 per cent. came from England and 30 per cent. from France, rice £E25,689, wheat and maize flour £E43,873, and natural indigo £E32,110—all these from India—coffee £E47,714, two-thirds from India, tea £E36,380, of which 90 per cent. from British Far Eastern possessions, stationery £E109,191, of which 60 per cent. came from England, matches £E145,163, two-thirds from Sweden and the rest from Japan, coal £E746,382, and soap £E51,257, all from England, medicinal preparations £E49,898, of which 80 per cent. from England, and textiles £E1,591,240, two-thirds were sent from England, who supplied (with India) all the cotton yarn and thread, all the woollen textiles and 90 per cent. of the cotton piece goods, India as usual sending all the sacks (£E157,497), manufactured iron and steel £E108,709, of which over 90 per cent. came from England, and tobacco £E195,853, which came as to 60 per cent. from Greece and 13 per cent. from Japan.

Exports.

The main heads of exports were eggs £E71,876, hides and skins £E39,065, cotton seed £E139,541, sugar £E100,484, gum £E31,557, cotton £E3,407,150, and cigarettes £E34,786. England took all the eggs, cotton seed, 20 per cent. of the gum and two-thirds of the cotton. Over 80 per cent. of the sugar went to French Mediterranean possessions and 14 per cent. to India, which also took all the small quantity of salt exported. America took 15 per cent. of the cotton, and Italy 8 per cent., the rest being divided between Spain, Switzerland and France. No cotton cake or wool was exported during the month. Cotton exports increased by £E376,207 in value and 66,985 cantars in volume; sugar fell off by £E48,329 and 2,415 tons.

Great Britain's share is steadily rising. Compared with February, 1917, her sales to Egypt very nearly trebled, whereas the total imports only rose by 70 per cent., whilst her share of the exports increased by 60 per cent., as against an increase of but 5 per cent. in the total figure. Indian imports quadrupled during the month, but Australian decreased very much, owing to a fall in meat imports. All countries showed a diminution in imports with the exception of France, Japan and Sweden, whilst under exports Spain and Italy were the only countries which had any marked increase, the rest for the most part having very considerable decreases.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan continued to be satisfactory. Imports from that country into Egypt amounted to £E212,064, as compared with £E167,883 during the previous February, and exports in the opposite direction rose from £E89,440 to £E116,112. The chief imports into Egypt were maize £E26,481, dried french beans £E12,143, sesame £E19,490, gum £E44,664, charcoal £E5,462, and livestock £E70,145. The principal exports from Egypt into the Sudan were refined sugar £E15,765, cotton piece goods £E16,047, and tobacco £E13,277.

A NEW COMPANY.

Egyptian Vegetable Produce, Ltd., 52, New Broad Street, E.C.—Registered April 19 to carry on the businesses of growers, buyers, preservers, of de-hydration or other processes, bottlers and packers of fruit, vegetable, and other perishable produce, etc. Nominal capital £35,000 in 50,000 £1 participating preference shares and 100,000 1s. ordinary shares.

EGYPTIAN CROP REPORTS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in March :—

COTTON.—Although changeable, the weather has been on the whole favourable. Water supply has been abundant. In Upper Egypt and the southern part of the Delta the greater part of the area intended for cotton has been sown. Germination has been regular, but the cold weather at the beginning of the month slightly checked the growth of the early-sown cotton, which was also somewhat damaged by rain, thus necessitating some resowing. Slight local attacks of mole cricket, cut-worm and sore-shin are reported, the last-mentioned necessitating an additional small amount of resowing.

WHEAT.—The crop, on the whole, has not been adversely affected by the variable weather which ruled during the month of March. Damage from rains at the end of February and in the course of March is very limited and confined to the recently-watered low-lying lands. Water supply plentiful. Baladi wheat, especially the late-sown, is seriously attacked by rust in several provinces, and particularly in Sharqîya, Qalyûbîya, Beni Suef and Gîza, where the damage caused is reported as being considerable in places. The Hindi wheat is remarkably free from this pest. The attack of smut, while general, does not appear to be doing much harm. Early plants are in their ripening stage and the general condition of the crop is satisfactory; in spite of the rust attacks mentioned above the notation figure for country remains unchanged.

BARLEY.—The weather has been favourable though variable, and the showers of rain had no damaging effect on the crop. Water supply ample. Attacks of rust and smut are slight and of no great consequence. The crop is well advanced and on the verge of maturity.

BEANS.—The weather, on the whole, has been favourable, the rainfall during the month having done more good than harm. Some trifling damage was caused by high winds in Daqahlîya. Water supply sufficient. Rust is fairly common but the damage done is insignificant. The predominance of broomrape has only been noticed in local areas such as in parts of Sharqiya, Qalyûbiya and Minya, where small areas under beans have been destroyed by the parasite. The bean crop is distinctly better than last year.

ONIONS.—Weather favourable and water supply ample. A weak attack of mildew is reported from Beni Suef, and damage is slight. The crop is maturing, and harvesting of the ripe onions has taken place on early-sown areas. An average yield per feddan is expected.

LENTILS.—The crop is healthy and in a satisfactory condition. Harvesting has commenced in Asyût and the provinces further south.

SUGAR CANE.—The delivery of last year's crop to sugar factories is practically over. Preparation of the land for the new crop and planting are in full swing. Owing to the restriction of cotton acreage, the area under sugar cane this year is expected to considerably exceed that of last year. Weather conditions are said to have materially reduced the sugar content of the canes coming to the mills at present.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the week have been very perplexing. A further slump in American cotton rates has occurred. The tone in Liverpool and New York has been very unsettled. Spinners and manufacturers here have stood their ground remarkably well, and buyers of yarn and cloth have found it practically impossible to obtain any concessions in price. Business has been of restricted dimensions, neither buyers nor sellers being disposed to enter into negotiations of importance. Numerous rumours have been circulated, followed by contradictions. We are undoubtedly passing through a very anxious time for all engaged in our industry. Egyptian cotton prices all round have been well held. There is no particular news relating to the crop. Yarn producers are exceedingly busy, and in most counts and qualities demand exceeds supply. In cloths suitable for Egypt there has been no activity worth mentioning. Favourable advices have been received as to the conditions in Cairo, but the confidence of shippers as to placing orders with manufacturers has been destroyed. The turnover in certain light fabrics for India has been fairly substantial, and some producers of mull dhooties and jaconets are now more deeply sold. Scarcely anything at all has been done for China and the minor markets of the Far East. Printing cloths have not attracted much attention for South America. Some manufacturers, owing to the scarcity of yarn, are now reducing their production from 60 to 50 per cent. The position of supplies of American cotton has caused increased apprehension. Of the stock in Liverpool, of 200,000 bales only 30,000 bales are unsold. Spinners of American yarns have been very independent. Stocks at the mills are non-existent, and producers can afford to dictate terms of fresh contracts to their customers. Only a sorting up trade has transpired in shipping yarns.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Repairing German Ships.

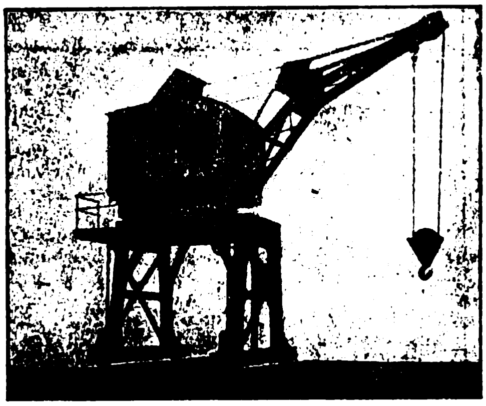
It seems that the reason for the extraordinarily rapid repair of the German ships in the United States harbours is that American engineers discovered a method of welding the fractured cast-iron without removing any part of the damaged machinery from the ships. The process is so very efficient that the repaired parts, it is asserted, are now stronger than before.

A Hemp Harvesting Machine.

Hemp is an annual plant, the woody fibre of which constitutes the hemp of commerce. The plant grows generally to a height of 5 to 9 feet, but in the East it seldom reaches the latter height. When fully grown the stalks are harvested by hand in a rather primitive way, tied into bundles and steeped in water for some days; afterwards they are spread on the grass to bleach. The subsequent operations of cleaning, heckling, spinning, etc., in order to make it into twine, canvas, sacking, etc., are so tedious that peasants in the East, when they wish to speak of something difficult, often use the expression "as troublesome and tedious as the manipulation of hemp." Harvesting hemp by hand is a difficult operation, and peasant labourers are not always willing to undertake it, hence, apparently, the restriction in the cultivation of the plant in some parts in the East, where proper machinery has not yet been introduced for the purpose. In recent years special machinery has been introduced for certain operations after harvesting. As a rule, the machinery is similar to that used for flax, which has been described in previous notes. Flax harvesters, however, are not always suitable for harvesting hemp; therefore a new hemp harvester which has recently been brought out will interest hemp growers in the East. This harvester has been devised with the idea of enabling hemp to be grown on a large scale. The hemp harvesting machine is of necessity much larger and heavier than a wheat or flax harvester, for hemp at its best, as mentioned above, grows to a height of from 5 to 9 feet. This height, which produces the best fibre, necessitates a wider platform on the harvester, and the reel has to be much higher and fitted with special fans. A heavy knife, with special guards, is also essential. In order that the hemp may be spread on the ground so that it can ret properly, and so that each swath may be moved out of the way of the horses and the harvester on its next round, the hemp is moved to the right and placed down at right angles to the machine. A circular carrier accomplishes this purpose, and this mechanism lays the hemp in a nearly straight line, and at almost a perfect right angle to the harvester. Three machines are required to complete the cycle of harvesting hemp and producing the fibre. The retting process requires from two or three weeks to two or three months, depending on the humidity and temperature. Then when this process is complete, the hemp-binder picks up the hemp and ties it into bundles. These are shocked in a similar way to the treatment of maize, with the exception that the shocks are made more open to permit a freer circulation of air. When the shocked hemp is ready it is taken to the breaker, and from the breaker it goes to the scutcher, which combs out and removes the pith and pulp from the fibre.

A New Wheel-less Plough.

A new plough which has recently been brought out, and is attracting considerable attention, will undoubtedly interest numerous agriculturists in the East, who, as a rule, complain that mechanical ploughs or tractors are too liable to get out of order, or to break down, especially when operated by unskilful hands. This new plough is made as a unit with the tractor, and one of its most noteworthy features is its extraordinary lightness of draught, due to its light weight and the design of breasts and shares. Primitive simplicity, combined with modern efficiency, has evidently been one of the chief aims of the designers, for it is constructed of less than half the number of parts to be found in other one-man ploughs. It weighs only about a third of other implements of the same capacity; it is wheel-less, and the quality of its work is, according to those who have seen it at work, all that could be desired. It is a two-furrow plough, but by merely moving a rocking lever one furrow can be "cut out" and the headlands marked off with one furrow only. When the plough strikes any ordinary obstruction it rides over it; and if the share should get underneath a stone or a tree root a safety pin breaks and saves the plough. Owing to this pin, and to a number of other features incorporated in the design, ploughing can, it is said, be carried on at a speed hitherto unknown in this country. By moving the rocking lever to the desired extent, when laying out a field, the inside furrow can be made to plough shallow and the outside one deeper, so that a "back" can be thrown up as perfectly as with a horse-drawn implement. A control-lever beside the driver not only lifts the plough at the headlands, but also regulates the depth of work, which can be adjusted whilst the tractor is in motion. In finishing headlands, a great advantage is claimed for this plough. The large disc coulters on the implement prevent the loose sods at the furrow ends from choking up. The entire construction is, it is claimed, so strong and simple that it is practically impossible for anything to go wrong, and any novice can handle it.



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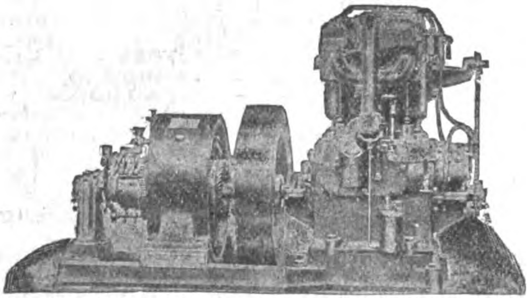

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Burma Chemical Industries.

The report of the Burma Chemical Industries, Ltd., just issued, shows a total profit for the year of Rs.96,664, and a dividend of 22½ per cent. is recommended.

Ionian Bank.

The report of the Ionian Bank, Limited, states that the net profit, after payment of all expenses and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of securities, losses, and for excess profits duty, amounts to £72,884, to which has to be added £7,147 brought forward, making a total of £80,031, out of which an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, absorbing £14,567, was paid on September 18, leaving a balance of £65,464. From this sum the directors have placed to reserve £10,000, bringing it up to £85,000, and added £3,837 to staff pension fund, bringing that fund to £20,000. They have further deducted £23,070 for the purpose of reducing to market value the £76,900 Greek Government Guaranteed Two and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898, held by the bank and deposited with the Bank of England under the Greek law of 1898 relating to specie advanced against forced currency. By this step two items disappear from the balance-sheet which for some time have appeared in previous ones; on the debtor side £3,076, the reserve to reduce to par the book value of these bonds, and on the creditor side their book value, £79,976. Henceforth this security will appear under the head of investments, although held by the Bank of England under the joint control of the International Financial Commission and this bank. There remains a balance of £28,557 to be dealt with, and the directors recommend a final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., free of income tax (making a total distribution for the year of 7 per cent.), which will absorb £19,423, leaving £9,133 to be carried forward. The dividend and bonus, if agreed to, will be payable on and after May 14.

Aboukir.

The report of the Aboukir Company for 1917 states that the only sale was that of 14 feddans 1 7-24 kirats. The rent roll for the three Aboukir divisions and the Bourlos Estate for 1918 (figures for 1917 in parentheses), is as follows:—Total area, 12,184 feddans; area let, 7,676 feddans (7,230); rental, £E38,395 (£E33,671); average mm., £E5,000 (£E4,660) average rent £E5 per feddan. The trading profit was £21,096, against £407 in the previous year, and balance of payment to Egyptian Government on their taking over the main canals and drains was £6,154, while provision for income tax was £1,700, leaving £13,152; £588 was brought in, making £13,740; added to reserve £10,000, leaving to be carried forward £3,740. The directors are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

The report of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt for the year ended January 31, 1918, states that the net profits for the financial year 1917-18 amount to £E1,047,462.935. After deductions for various services there is left a balance of £E447,284.162 available to the extent of one-half (£E223,642.081) for the ordinary shares and one-half for the deferred shares.

The amounts therefore available for dividend on the ordinary shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 1, 1917, £E80,978.627; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E3,711.492; total, £E84,690.119; to which must be added, for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900, and the further amount available, £E223,642.081, making a grand total of £E429,232.200. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 8s. per annum for the financial year 1917-18, amounting to £E193,440, and to carry forward the balance of £E235,792.200. The amounts available for dividend on the deferred shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1917, £E41,519.161; interest for the year accrued on the above balance, £E1,902.948; and the further amount available, £E223,642.081, making a total of £E267,064.190. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £40 per share, amounting to £E78,000, and to carry forward the balance of £E189,064.190. In view of the important balances carried forward from 1916-17 to the credit of the ordinary and deferred shareholders, the directors consider that interest should be credited for the year on such sums. As regards the proposed dividend, they strongly recommend a further increase of the amounts to be carried forward for the same considerations by which they have been guided in fixing the dividend of last year. The large collections of 1917-18 are due to exceptional causes and cannot be regarded as normal; it is advisable therefore to ensure, if possible, some uniformity in the dividends for the years to come. On January 31, 1918, the total arrears outstanding were £E403,786, against £E817,254 on January 31, 1917. Of this sum £E141,186 represent interest. The whole of the remainder, viz.: £E262,600, representing capital overdue, has, as required by the Statutes, been deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution.

The sums collected during the past year from the annual instalment due and from the arrears of past years are considered satisfactory. £E629,994 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E702,019, and £E485,493 from the arrears, making a total collection as regards these two items of £E1,115,487. The company's encashments therefore exceed the annual instalment by £E413,468, and the total of outstanding arrears is decreased by this amount. The war has brought great agricultural prosperity to Egypt, and it is chiefly due to the high prices realised for agricultural produce that the arrears have been reduced to £E403,786 as compared to £E817,254 last year and to £E1,394,546 at which they stood on January 31, 1915. There is every reason to expect that the cereal crop of the year under review will be sold at good prices, and that the 1918 cotton crop will be realised at prices considerably higher than those prevailing before the war, owing to the arrangements made by the British and Egyptian Governments.

The agricultural prosperity of Egypt owing to the war is also shown by the result of the land sales during the past year. The area of land which the Bank found it necessary to acquire during 1917-18 was 1,144 feddans, as compared to 2,610 feddans in 1916-17, and we have sold 3,646 feddans as compared to 2,923 with previous year; the land holding has thus decreased by some 2,501 feddans.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Company announces that coupons No. 9 of the Ordinary shares and No. 1 of the Founders are now payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., the former at piastres 28 per share, and the latter at piastres 2.5, both at 97½ rate of exchange, less tax.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Limited, will be held at the offices of the company, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., on May 13.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 20 tons (previous week, 21 tons); Hurgada, 4,796 tons (previous week, 5,377 tons).

Lionda and Company, Ltd.,
34, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.
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Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc., Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:
Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

Chartering and Insurance Department:
British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurances of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

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SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., SALONICA, GREECE.
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ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

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WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*
SARSAPARILLA
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
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The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

ON 'CHANGE.

Throgmorton Street, Tuesday evening.

Our Stock Exchange being closed to-morrow, this has been a very short week. On the whole the market has been firm, with a small amount of business passing at steady prices, and, with any assistant improvement in war news, the market looks ripe for a general advance.

Egyptian Government stocks have continued in strong demand, and a certain amount of business has been done round current prices; but had sellers been more numerous, the business transacted would have been on a much larger scale.

In Bank shares Agriculturals are 1-32 firmer at 6⅜, at which price a few hundred shares changed hands to-day. Agricultural Preference have again improved 1-16 to 7, there having been a small persistent demand for these shares. In Anglo-Egyptian Banks a fair number of shares have changed hands round 15⅛, and Land Banks have improved ⅛ to 6⅝; but no business has been carried through, as there have been no sellers.

In Land shares Aboukir, in spite of the excellent report and accounts issued to-day, have dropped 6d. to 20s. 9d. The report shows that the debt to the bank has been reduced by half to about £19,000, and that the profits for last year could have provided a dividend of over 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and this practically without any sales of land whatever. Allotments are unchanged at 4⅛ ex. dividend. The rate of 7 per cent. paid on these shares as against 3½ per cent. last year was a very pleasant surprise as well as the initial dividend of about 6d. per share on the deferred shares. In Delta Lands some 500 shares or so were done round the current price. Gharbieh have been wanted at 1 13-16, but there are no sellers under 2. In New Egyptian some transactions have taken place between 17s. and 17s. 6d., and a fair amount of support has come from Egypt. For Behéras and Union Foncière there are some buyers at low prices, but sellers show no disposition to reduce their limits.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares Khedivial Mail are again 6d. lower at 36s. 6d. and some small transactions have taken place in Markets, Salts and Alexandria Water at about current values.

In Greek securities the market has again been very strong, but practically no business has been done. Monopoly and Funding have risen a further point to 55 and 56 respectively without satisfying buyers. In the other Greek stocks there are also buyers round last week's prices, but no sellers. Ionian Banks are up ½ to 5 on the very excellent report just issued, a dividend of 7 per cent. free of tax being paid as against 6 per cent. last year.

◆

Indian trade returns for March show that, as compared with last year, imports decreased by £1,640,000 and exports by £1,034,000.

The British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt has altered an article of its Statutes with a view to permitting "any person, or firm, not being British subjects, to subscribe to the 'Monthly Journal,' such subscription not constituting any right to membership, or attendance at any meeting of the Chamber."

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended April 19.		1918. Week ended April 18.
Cattle markets	825	..	719
General markets	360	..	410
Receipts (£)	1,185	..	1,129
Total for year	24,901	..	18,645

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 24	April 30.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	79	79
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	88½	88½
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	74xd	74xd
Greek 5%, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5%, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	54	55
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5%, 1890	56	58	58
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	55	56
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73
Do. 5% Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74–76	77
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 11/32	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	6 15/16	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅛	15⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6⅜	6⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	5
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6½	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18	18
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 7/16	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72¾	72¾
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/3	20
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4¼	4¼
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	10/-	10/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	42/6	42/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	2 1/16	2 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	38/6	38/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	37/-	36/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾xd	3¾x

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
April 23, 24	300,000	360,000

INDIAN RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Amount and increases or decreases shown in the traffic returns of the following companies for the week ending at the date mentioned:—

	Amount. Rupees.	Inc. or Dec. Rupees.	Aggregate Inc. or Dec. Rupees.
Burma (March 2)	5.53,453	– 7,223	+ 61,708
Great Indian (April 20)	24.76,600	+77,400	–2.41,900

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—At the adjourned Ordinary General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt, held in Cairo on the 25th April, 1918, a DIVIDEND of 16s. per Share was DECLARED PAYABLE on the 30th April, 1918, for the year ended 31st December, 1917. Coupon No. 24 will therefore be payable forthwith. Forms for listing coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

THE

GENERAL ANGLO-SERBIAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED,

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Correspondence is invited from those interested in SERBIA and the BALKAN STATES, or contemplating business with these countries when communication is restored.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Paid up Capital - -	**500,000**
Reserve - - - - -	**710,000**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - -	**£600,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - -	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND - - - - -	**75,000**

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	**£650,000**
RESERVE - - - - - -	**£190,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - -	**Rs.50,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

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By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

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The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 366.—Vol. XIV.   FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On the Eastern fronts the week has seen an important development of the operations in Mesopotamia. Last week our forces pushed forward on the road to Mosul; it is now reported that they entered Kirkuk on May 7 without opposition. The Turks retired before our advance, leaving 500 men behind in the hospital, and also three damaged aeroplanes. Kirkuk is about two-thirds of the way on the road to Mosul; it remains to be seen whether the Turks intend to give further ground. It was obvious from the British announcement issued last week that our advance was not intended as a mere reconnaissance.

In Palestine, on the other hand, our troops have met with a check. For the second time within five weeks they pressed east of the Jordan to the south of Es Salt. German and Turkish prisoners were taken, but in the course of these operations a mounted brigade was attacked by a superior force of the enemy, and compelled to fall back, while the horse artillery batteries supporting the brigade had to abandon nine guns.

The fighting continued for several days, and it was announced on May 6 that the situation had altered to our disadvantage. The enemy appears to have been reinforced by troops brought down by the railway from Damascus, and this left no option but to retire. We hold the bridgehead across the river, and the operations of these few days have given us nearly a thousand prisoners; but the fact remains that we have not succeeded yet in the trans-Jordan campaign.

It is suggested that the Turks have weakened their Mesopotamian front by the withdrawal to the Palestine area of the two German divisions which were understood to have been sent there. What the truth of that may be we cannot say; if it is the fact, it would explain the lack of resistance shown to the Mesopotamian force in its famous ride forward a few weeks ago; and it would also indicate, of course, that in the opinion of Berlin the road to Egypt is, for the moment at least, of more importance than the road to the Persian Gulf and India. That may be due entirely to military considerations, as it is quite likely that the Germans preferred to defend Palestine rather than Mesopotamia on the score that it affords shorter and more rapid transport; but it is worth noting that it coincides with a political push by the African party in Berlin, where the Zimmermans and Solfs have been very vocal of late.

An article in the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* has some bearing on the increased Turkish activity in Palestine. Major Endres, in that paper, states that General von Falkenhayn is no longer in charge of the Turco-German operations, and has been replaced by General Liman von Sanders, who was formerly head of the German military mission at Constantinople. Falkenhayn has, or had two years ago, a considerable war reputation, but when he was sent from Berlin to Aleppo it was suggested that this was a species of Stellenbosching. Apparently he has not justified himself in Asia Minor—certainly the Turkish disasters of last year reflected no great lustre on him—and he seems now to have come altogether "unstuck." Whether his successor will be able to arrest the military decay of the Ottoman Empire seems problematical.

As to the British forces opposing him, it would obviously be improper to do more than place on record General Maurice's much-discussed statement regarding the Prime Minister's recent declaration. On April 9 Mr. Lloyd George said: "In Mesopotamia there is only one white division at all, in Egypt and in Palestine there are only three white divisions, the rest are Indians or mixed with a very, very small proportion of British troops in those divisions—I am referring to the infantry divisions." "That," says General Maurice, laconically, "is not correct." Further comment on the General's correspondence and the Prime Minister's accuracy seems undesirable. The whole subject will be discussed in the House of Commons, probably with the usual heat and absence of light which distinguishes current home politics.

On those portions of the Eastern fronts in which British troops are not engaged the Germans have been more active than the Turks. They have announced the capture of Sebastopol, and also of Taganrog, which lies forty miles west of Rostoff-on-Don, on the Sea of Azov. and they have secured the great Donetz coal-mining area. Incidentally they have seized the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Russian merchant vessels, so that the Black Sea is now in effect a German *mare clausum*, as was foreseen.

How this procedure can be reconciled with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by no means appears; it must in fairness be admitted that it does not trouble the Germans in the least. The Petrograd Government has issued another protest, but protests not backed by force are utterly useless; the Ukraine Government is said by the Germans to be headed by a convinced pro-German. Presumably they saw to it that such a person was placed at the head of affairs at Kieff, in order to fulfil their aim of turning the whole country into a German province. But the German aim is fixed further afield: the Ukraine is only the high road to the East, and the enemy are certainly taking up the attitude that high roads are made to be trodden on.

Whatever ambitions the Germans may cherish further East, they cannot be altogether comfortable as to the reception they will obtain in Persia—if they get so far. Persia has this week announced that the 1907 treaty is no longer operative, as indeed it ceased to be in fact when the Russian Government, one of the chief signatories, collapsed; and the Shah has also contributed a hundred thousand dollars to the American Liberty Loan through the United States Minister at Teheran. Subscription to a loan, as the Germans will not need to be reminded, is usually looked upon as a sign of sympathy with the cause the loan is intended to assist, and is a step which indicates at least an attitude of benevolent neutrality on the part of the subscriber.

The German peace terms to Roumania are even more harsh than was at first anticipated. They include (a) the surrender of territory, (b) the limitation of internal sovereignty, and (c) the surrender of economic control. Each point demands separate consideration. As regards territory, the soil ceded by Roumania appears to coincide roughly with the details already published in THE NEAR EAST; the inhabitants of those regions are to have the option of choice regarding their nationality. If they choose to become Austrian, or Bulgarian, presumably the path will be made fairly easy for them; if they declare themselves Roumanian, they will probably have to realise their property for whatever it will fetch, and quit the country. So much for the Austrian talk of "no annexations"; Roumania cedes territory and obtains nothing.

As regards the second point, the German-Austrian armies are to continue in Roumania for some time after the conclusion of peace—a fact which should be remarked by those who still maintain that the Germans are short of men on the Western front—while the Roumanian armies are to be demobilised, and their peace strength is stated in the treaty. The last time on which such a humiliating condition was exacted was when Napoleon imposed it on Prussia over a hundred years ago; a condition of this kind, it need hardly be said, is fundamentally different from paying an indemnity or handing over a fleet or munitions of war. These last only affect the present; the limitation of future armaments touches the future, and is, therefore, a distinct limitation of national sovereignty.

As regards the economic conditions, which will be examined in detail next week in our commercial columns, they carry out in commerce the same limitation of sovereignty as the army conditions do in the military sphere, but even more drastically. Roumania will at least be in control of the army that she is allowed to maintain; it is doubtful whether she will be able to control her commerce. It is true that she is to have "an assured trade route to the Black Sea" by way of Constanza, but how far the assurance will hold good, and what, in any case, it will be worth when the Black Sea is in Turco-German control, and Roumanian produce is controlled by a German-Austrian Commission, is more than dubious.

The Germans are good imitators. They have formed a Committee for the purpose of furthering Jewish colonisation in Palestine. But the Committee (which includes such men as Dr. Delbrück, Count Westarp, and Herr Erzberger, the Catholic and author of the now notorious peace resolution) is in any event a little late in the day; it is not to include any Jews among its members, which is a tactful recognition of Jewish disabilities still existing in Germany; and it is to work within the limits of German Oriental policy, which means that German interests will be considered first and those of the Jews, who, after all, arrived in Palestine even before the Kaiser, very much last. We need not expect much of this project.

A grandiloquent scheme has appeared in a Swedish newspaper, the *Folkets Dagblad*, which professes to derive its information from Finnish politicians who are pushing Germany's interest in what is now becoming a German province. It is suggested that the Finnish railway system should be enlarged, and direct communication be established between the North Cape and Constantinople; by which means Germany would hope to cut off Russia altogether from Western Europe, and obtain a line of subsidiary states along her eastern border from the Arctic to the Caspian. It is further suggested that Japan might be given Siberia, if she joined this Alliance—and incidentally deserted her Allies. (The recurrence of this suggestion for an alliance between Germany and Japan proves quite clearly that Berlin desires it, but why she should consider it necessary to insult Japan on every occasion by presuming her desertion of her Allies is not clear.)

The Finns are a cultivated race who, to spite Russia, love Germany, and seem likely to elect a German prince to be their king; but, although love in this instance is particularly blind, the rudiments of sanity should still be left at Helsingfors. The fantastic idea of a north-south railway from Finland to Turkey, which would have hardly any traffic, should not deceive them; what is intended is that Finland and Lithuania should become German colonies in the Baltic, as Turkey and the Ukraine are on the Black Sea. It is very extraordinary how exactly German policy is now reproducing the methods of Napoleon in setting up a whole series of paper states, with paper constitutions, in order to provide against any restoration of the fallen enemy. These paper states had the stability of paper a century ago—there is no reason to suppose they will be much more stable now.

A curious statement has been made by M. Radoslavoff in the Sobranje to the effect that Bulgaria is greatly interested in the formation of an independent Albanian State, and will support all Albanian aspirations in this respect. Exactly what Bulgaria's special interest in Albania may be it would be difficult to define; but the remark was probably made in order to warn Austria, which has her own ambitions in this part of the world, that she will have to reckon with Bulgaria in the settlement. One cannot conceive that the warning will have much effect in Vienna, where they understand well enough that a good many other people besides the Bulgarians will have a voice in the future of Albania.

The official announcement of the results of the War Conference at Delhi cannot, we fear, have told very much to the man in the street, but when carefully examined it will be found to bring out clearly the essential conditions governing the war-activities of India. To put it quite shortly, India is possessed of resources which are actually great, and potentially almost unlimited, but the supply is to a large extent unorganised, while compulsory organisation is in most cases ruled out by obvious considerations. That being the case, reliance must be placed largely on social pressure: opinion must be informed, or even created, and the energies of individuals must be set to work so as to produce the maximum result. The function of the Delhi Conference was to press forward organisation on these lines, and not to produce immediate results of a sensational kind.

Looking at the problem in rather greater detail, we may classify the resources of India as men, money, and essential supplies. As regards men, a *levée-en-masse* is obviously out of the question, while conscription limited to the classes of known or suspected military value would be so exceedingly invidious that it must be regarded only as a last resort. There remains the quota-system, which has been adopted during the past year with startling results, the usual number of recruits having actually been multiplied thirty-fold. That is a great achievement, but the success has been very unequal; some tracts have done magnificently, while others have fallen far behind the quota they were asked to produce, and the obvious need now is to stir up the people of influence in these defaulting districts. If all can be brought into line with the best, the needs of the situation will probably be met.

The position in regard to money is substantially the same. Any attempt at a compulsory levy of capital would be doomed to failure in a country where money is so very ready to go underground; but last year, and largely as the result of social pressure, India lent over thirty-six millions sterling, or well over sixty millions, if Treasury Bills are taken into account, an enormous figure compared with the two or three millions for which Financial Members used to beg in times of peace. In this case, also, as in the case of recruitment, the achievement was very far from uniform; some provinces did splendidly, but others have been very backward, and the task to be attempted this year is to bring the average up to the best, ensuring a real success for the loan which is to be issued, and, we hope, bringing back some portion of that silver, the absorption of which presents at the moment one of the most urgent problems before the Administration.

As for other essential supplies, the work of the Indian Munitions Board has already borne abundant fruit, and the hope is now justified that while these activities have been directed primarily to helping in the war, they have also laid the foundation of a large and permanent development of production. Here, again, energy must be organised to cope with the difficulties attendant on the supply of labour and capital, and to ensure a local market in the numerous cases where efficient production depends on a large turnover. And so we reach the conclusion that the main need in India now is the widespread and intensive organisation of much energy which has hitherto run to waste, and that formula will be found to cover the most important recommendations of the Conference.

Englishmen, who do such things almost instinctively, may ask what is the necessity for all this to-do. The answer is that India's natural bent is towards improvisation rather than organisation. Previous Governments could put enormous armies in the field, but could not keep them there for more than a few months; they established great charitable and educational foundations, and let them fall into swift decay; throughout the history of the country the twin principles of creation and destruction have gone hand in hand. For some time now India has been learning the meaning of the new commandment which bids us "keep on keeping-on," but until the lesson is finally mastered, her immense potentialities will never be entirely realised.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE.

A Reuter's message from Salonika, dated May 4, announces that the British Commander has issued a special Order of the Day to the Salonika Force containing the recent communication from Queen Mary embodying her message from the women of Great Britain at home to the men of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and the Commander-in-Chief's reply. The latter is as follows:—"In the name of the Army under my command, to whom I have communicated your Majesty's gracious message, I desire to convey to your Majesty and the women of the British Empire our thanks for your prayers, our admiration for your courage and sacrifices, and our pride in the confidence you place in us."

Among other messages received in reply to the Queen's letter is the following from the Commander-in-Chief in India:—"The Army and Air Force in India are profoundly touched by your Majesty's gracious message. With the help of God we will not fail to be worthy of the trust you have confided to us."

From Mesopotamia comes the message:—"Your Majesty's kind and gracious message has profoundly touched the hearts of all ranks in Mesopotamia. We realise only too well what a noble part the women of the British Empire are playing in this gigantic struggle for the liberty of mankind, and cannot but admire the fortitude with which all are facing the trials imposed upon them. Our sympathy and thoughts are with you, and will be to the end. May God keep you safe and sound until we return."

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 25.

The Question of Supplies.

The question of the control of supplies has now been put on a proper basis. An agreement as to the policy to be followed and the form of control to be set up has been come to between the Egyptian Government and the military authorities, who are interested in the matter not only from the political standpoint but also from the point of view of their own supplies; and a notice has been issued over the signatures of the Prime Minister, H. E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, and the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Edmund Allenby, confirming the creation of a Supplies Control Board, about which I wrote you in a recent letter. The new Board is composed as follows:—Mr. W. Ross Taylor, president; the Director and Deputy-Director of Supplies and Transport, military members; Messrs. A. T. McKillop, G. E. Burnett Stuart, F. P. Watson, and A. T. Loyd, civilian members; and Gaafar Pasha Wali and Mohammed Shafik Pasha, Under Secretaries for the Interior and Wakfs respectively, as consultative members. The President is the executive officer of the Board, which will report through the Financial Adviser, Sir William Brunyate. The new Board has had conferred on it, by decree, the powers hitherto enjoyed, first, by the Tariff Commissions which were set up in each Mudiria and Governorate at the beginning of the war for the fixing of prices of foodstuffs and articles of prime necessity; secondly, by the Supplies Commission, which, until last autumn, was entrusted in an advisory capacity with the supervision of all questions of supplies; and lastly, by the Department of Supplies, which was created last September on the proposal of the Supplies Commission. All orders issued under the authority of the Supplies Control Board will be deemed to be orders issued under Martial Law.

There is no doubt that proper action has at last been taken in this very important matter, and that the concentration of control in the hands of one body, having full executive powers, is far more likely to lead to a satisfactory handling of the critical situation and a successful solution of the problems with which the country is faced than the splitting up of authority, with its consequent overlapping and lack of co-ordination. The new Board has a stupendous task before it, but as it will enjoy executive powers, backed by the military authorities, and in addition will be able to draw on every administration and community for advice and assistance, it starts with every advantage, and should come through the ordeal with benefit to the country and credit to itself.

Enemy Airship off Egyptian Coast.

The military authorities have issued an official *communiqué* announcing that a hostile airship had been observed off the Egyptian coast, and warning the public of the possibility of an air raid from the direction of the sea. At the same time detailed directions have been published as to the rules to be observed in the event of such an attack taking place. Since Thursday Cairo and the other towns and cities have been in darkness at night, but the news of the danger of a raid has left the public everywhere very calm. No further information has been afforded as to where the airship was seen or whence it had come, but the general opinion is that it has its jumping off ground somewhere near Aleppo, and that the main object of its appearance is to do scout work for the German and Austrian submarines.

The Bishop in Jerusalem.

Bishop MacInnes has returned from Jerusalem, where he was enthroned as Anglican Bishop on Sunday, the 17th inst. By all accounts the ceremony was most

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impressive. It was attended by representatives of all the churches, Eastern as well as Western, including delegates of the Jewish and Moslem communities, the civil authorities, the Military Governor and his staff, representatives of the various missions, and masters and pupils of the schools. The Bishop, who was attended by his domestic chaplain, the Rev. J. Wright, the Rev. Ibrahim Baz, of the Church Missionary Society, and the Rev. Waddy Stacey, of the Australian Imperial Forces, was met at the entrance to the Cathedral by the Sub-Dean, Canon Hichens, the clergy, and the choir. After a few prayers the Military Governor, Colonel Storrs, read the King's mandate authorising the consecration and assigning to the Bishop the care of the Anglican Churches throughout Syria, Palestine, Egypt, the parts about the Red Sea, the Sudan, Cyprus, and parts of Asia Minor, which was followed by the reading of the Archbishop's certificate by Canon Hichens. The Bishop next made the solemn promise to keep the charge committed to his care; and he was then solemnly enthroned. After a few more prayers he delivered the sermon, first in English, then in Arabic, and the service concluded by the reading of some Arabic collects and the Benediction.

Dr. MacInnes, who is now in Cairo on a short visit prior to returning to Palestine, appears to have been delighted with the reception accorded him. He was cordially welcomed by all the religious communities, the heads of which showed themselves very friendly disposed. This was especially the case of the Grand Rabbi and the Mufti, the latter of whom was only prevented by illness from attending the enthronement ceremony, and sent prominent members of his family to represent him. It is interesting to note that it was at the Mufti's personal request that the Bishop delivered a short address in Arabic after his sermon.

In the course of his tour it was only natural that the Duke of Connaught should visit the Cathedral, and it is noteworthy that he, for the first time, visited the chapel dedicated to St. John of Jerusalem, for the decoration of which, at his suggestion, subscriptions were collected from the Knights of the Order. This is the chapel where in the early days of the war the Turks carried out excavations in order to find the "canons" which they had been informed were in the Cathedral. Your readers will recollect the story, and many of them no doubt have regarded it with some incredulity. His Royal Highness has, however, had an opportunity of seeing the excavations, and of being told the story first hand by Canon Hichens, who received the Turkish emissaries on that occasion.

The relief fund is doing very good work, and is actively assisting the Military Administration in alleviating the distress existing in Palestine. Very great difficulty is being experienced in getting up supplies and in obtaining workers, and it is at times impossible to meet all the calls made on the fund.

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THE MARRIS' REPENTANCE.

The India Office on Saturday made the following announcement:—

The Marri operations have been successfully concluded. Government terms were announced at Kahan on May 2, and were signed by the Marri chief and tribal headmen. The former, on behalf of himself and the tribe, expressed contrition for their late misdeeds and guaranteed good behaviour for the future. The withdrawal of the troops from the Marri country has commenced.

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General George Scriven, Attaché to the United States Embassy at Rome, pays a tribute to the work of the Italians in that part of Albania, Macedonia, and Epirus which is occupied by Italian troops. "Without the Italian occupation," he says, "the poor Albanians would have starved; the Italians have given them employment, food, education, security."

BACHELOR, Anglo-Indian, retired, having large Orchard, Garden, etc. (Bucks), and interested in small agricultural pursuits, wishes to meet with another (with small capital) to
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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

A Dangerous Pest.

The British community has suffered a loss, under very sad circumstances, by the death of Mr. Euan Lucie Smith, of the Chief Secretary's Office, and Clerk to the Legislative Council, who has died from the effects of a bite from an insect called the sphalángi, a dangerous flying pest, something like a large winged ant, which is much addicted to feeding on the carcases of dead goats and sheep that have succumbed to anthrax. Peasants, as a rule, leave them exposed instead of burying them. The native belief is that the insect itself secretes a poisonous virus, but Dr. (now Captain) G. A. Williamson, when District Medical Officer at Larnaca, made a special study of cases treated in the Larnaca Hospital, and, in a paper contributed to the *British Medical Journal*, claimed to have proved conclusively that they were caused by the anthrax bacillus transmitted as stated. Villagers not infrequently fall victims to the effects of sphalángi bites owing to their failure to obtain immediate medical attendance; but this is the first time that a British resident has been bitten with serious or fatal results, or perhaps at all. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Lucie Smith, a daughter of the late Archdeacon Spencer, who was, for many years Chaplain and Director of Education in Cyprus.

The Ex-Bishop of Kition.

The appointment of the Greek Bishop of Kition, Meletios Metaxarkhes, to be Metropolitan of Athens, deprives the Orthodox Church of Cyprus of its foremost prelate. Meletios has long been regarded in Greece as one of the ablest members of the Eastern Orthodox hierarchy. He was appointed Bishop of Kition, which includes Larnaca and parts of the Limassol districts, about ten years ago, and came to Cyprus at the same time as his friend the Bishop of Papho. He at once took steps to bring about a better state of things in the island church, which admittedly stands in need of drastic reforms. One of his best works has been the establishment of a seminary for the education of priests at Larnaca; the raising of the standard of qualifications amongst parochial clergy being one of the most pressing needs. The Bishop is a man of fine presence and speaks French. He has supported the agitation for union with Greece. The British Press in general has inaccurately stated that the Archbishop of Cyprus had been appointed to Athens. The Archbishop is Kyrillos Basileon, elected in 1916.

During the temporary absence of the Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, Mr. Stanley Fisher, Puisne Judge, has been acting, Mr. J. R. Holmes taking the place of Mr. Fisher.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Following the signing of the Russian peace the Central Powers presented an ultimatum to the Roumanian Government. Roumania was threatened with a new offensive, unless peace negotiations were entered into without further delay. Thereupon M. Bratianu and his Government resigned, leaving to General Averescu the task of forming a new Government and negotiating peace. But it is in no way clear so far what was the effect of the ultimatum upon Governmental circles. There are two versions. The more widely accepted statement is that all the members of the Cabinet, Liberals and Conservatives, were in favour of the continuation of hostilities, and that they were supported in this by strong influences in high quarters. But General Averescu, who possessed the confidence of the Army, strongly argued in favour of peace negotiations, and the political leaders preferred to resign rather than act against the opinion of the most responsible military leader.

That version does not harmonise, however, with a semi-official *communiqué* published in *L'Indépendance Roumaine*, which formally stated that the resignation of the Cabinet was due to differences of opinion which had arisen *within* the Government (of which General Averescu was not a member), as to the reply to be given to the German ultimatum. It is suggested that M. Bratianu and his Liberal followers pleaded for peace, whereas M. Také Jonescu urged that they should fight to the end, withdrawing, if need be, into Bessarabian territory. There is one circumstance which seems to lend colour to the latter interpretation of events. Upon assuming office General Averescu, a non-party man, called together all the members of Parliament who were in Moldavia at the time, in order to explain the situation to them, and ask for their support. At the meeting M. Bratianu, on behalf of the Liberals, M. A. C. Cuza, on behalf of the "Union of Members of Parliament," and M. Trancu-Jaski, on behalf of the Labour Party, pledged their support to the Averescu Government. But neither M. Take Jonescu nor any of his followers rose to take part in the discussion. It is impossible for the time being to find out the plain truth, but one thing is certain, that internal politics influenced as much as the external situation the reply given to the Central Powers.

As to the peace negotiations, the fact that the Allied Powers agreed to M. Mishu's departure from London is being interpreted as meaning that Roumania was allowed a free hand in her dealings with the Central Powers. There are even rumours abroad that all military and political conventions between Roumania and the Allies were denounced as early as the beginning of February. (This stands in contradiction to Mr. Balfour's recent statement that, "as far as treaties could make her," Roumania was still, an Ally.) In the end neither General Averescu nor M. Mishu was selected to deal with the Central Powers, the task being deemed more fit for their Roumanian friends, MM. Marghiloman, Arion, etc. The Roumanian peace delegates were M. C. Argentoianu, Minister of Justice, General Lupescu, MM. Burghelea and Papinin, Ministers Plenipotentiary, and Colonel Mircescu.

It is not difficult to anticipate what the result of the negotiations will be.* The following quotations from the *Bukarester Tageblatt* read very much as an excuse in anticipation of the conditions to be imposed upon Roumania. The economic measures, the paper says, will only mean a strengthening of the relations which existed between Roumania and the Central Powers before the war, "and this cannot be a drawback for the country, since its economic conditions and geographical situation indicate that it must remain in the closest economic relations with the Central Powers, which are in a position to buy all her products and give her in exchange all she needs. . . . It is difficult to find a parallel in the world's history of a treatment so mild as that of Roumania by the Central Powers, especially as it was due to no other reasons than moderation. Russia, which was accustomed to keep what she conquered, and England, who by conquest formed an Empire, would have dealt differently with a country in a situation similar to that of Roumania. . . . What has saved Roumania is the desire of the Central Powers to restore her to her economic and political destiny, which make of Roumania a link in the Central-European system." M. Stere, however, the editor of the pro-German *Lumina*, utters the truth in a sigh, when he says that "this is not the moment to recount what the war has cost us until now. What it will cost us henceforward is much more painful. . . ."

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THE LATE MME. JONESCU.

We much regret to announce that Mme. Jonescu, wife of M. Také Jonescu, the prominent Roumanian statesman, died last Friday night, May 3. The previous day, when riding in Hyde Park, she met with an accident, her horse falling, when near the Serpentine Bridge, and throwing her badly. She was at once removed to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where it was found that her skull was fractured and that she was suffering from other injuries.

Mme. Jonescu was English by birth, her maiden name being Smith, and before her marriage she resided in Brighton with her mother. She met M. Jonescu on his first visit to London, and after their marriage she went to live in Bucharest. There she very soon identified herself with her husband's countrymen and his political interests, and gradually acquired a position as a recognised leader of society in the Roumanian capital. As *The Times* correspondent formerly in the Balkan Peninsula writes:—"It was no easy task for the foreign wife of a young politician, possessing no foothold in the dominant oligarchy, and to whom the path of promotion also was closed among the coterie of the so-called 'Liberal' Party, to achieve social distinction in the exclusive and somewhat narrow and unsympathetic *milieu* in which she found herself and to establish her position as one of the leading hostesses in Bucharest, and thus contribute materially to the success of her husband's career. Yet Mme. Jonescu founded a *salon* which became the centre of all the most distinguished elements in the Roumanian world of politics, diplomacy, science, and literature. Remarkably handsome in her youth, a brilliant musician, a gifted linguist, and an accomplished horsewoman, she was also a capable politician, fully acquainted with all the problems of home and foreign politics." It was in her summer residence at Sinaia that the now celebrated first "Treaty of Bucharest" was signed. She was a favourite with the late Queen Elizabeth of Roumania ("Carmen Sylva"), and was held in high esteem by Queen Marie and other members of the Royal Family.

When war broke out Mme. Jonescu's sympathies were, of course, with the Entente, as were her husband's; and very soon they took a practical turn in work on behalf of the sick and wounded. British prisoners in Bulgaria especially had cause to be grateful to her for her exertions on their behalf; and the British Red Cross Mission returning from Serbia found a very war mwelcome at her house.

She came to this country a little over a year ago, having to make a long and roundabout journey, which resulted in a breakdown. Lately she recovered sufficiently to resume some of her activities on behalf of Roumania.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

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GEORGIANS AND ARMENIANS.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., presided at a lecture given last Sunday at the Savoy Hotel by Mr. Ghambashidze to the Armenian United Association of London. Mr. Balfour by letter conveyed his deep sympathy with the Armenian and Georgian peoples, and his great satisfaction at their attainment of that unity of purpose which provides the surest guarantee of the fulfilment of their legitimate aspirations.

Sir Mark Sykes said the occasion was historic so far as England was concerned, for it was the first on which the Armenian and Georgian peoples had met on a common platform. Out of the war they had seen a growing *rapprochement* between the Zionist Jews and the Arabs. He hoped they were at the beginning of a great alliance of the Zionist Jews, the Arabs, the Armenians, and the Georgians.

Mr. Ghambashidze said that, though deprived of Russian protection, Armenians and Georgians were still struggling against hopeless odds for justice and freedom and the arrangement of nationalities according to human rights. Cut off from aid, their women were working the guns, and the men were fighting in the plains, while the Russian soldiers under the Bolsheviks were looting and killing in the villages. While defending their blood-soaked lands to the last, they continued to stand against German expansion to the Persian Gulf. They might easily join a new Russia formed into confederated States, but there must be no talk of autonomy under Turkish protection.

In connection with this meeting, it is of interest to note that the Committee of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Armenian Refugees have a party of relief agents on the Caucasus front who are doubtless engaged in tending the sick and wounded at this moment. This unit was sent out in 1916 under the Rev. Harold Buxton, and is now headed by Mr. Alfred Backhouse. No direct news of the party has been received since January, but information received from the U.S.A. Consul in Tiflis during March suggests that all hands are vigorously occupied in Red Cross and ambulance work.

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M. Henri Bergson (according to the "Jewish World") has offered to Dr. Weizmann his services as member of the Faculty of the Jewish University which is to be established in Palestine.

According to an Athens telegram, Colonel Hazzopoulos, Commander of the Fourth Greek Army Corps, which surrendered to the Germans and was interned at Görlitz, was murdered as a result of a conspiracy among some of the officers of the corps, who appear to have taken sides against ex-King Constantine, and was not, as stated by the Germans, due to apoplexy.

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*Our correspondent wrote before the text of the treaty was known.

THE YEMEN IN EARLY DAYS

It is not often that those interested in the history of pre-Islamic Arabia have an opportunity of perusing a new biographical and historical epic composed in the middle of the fifth century. Such an event has now occurred by the publication by Signor Eugenio Griffini of what he terms "Il Poemetto di Qudam Ben Qadim, Nuova Versione Della Saga Jemenica del Reggente 'Abd Kulal." This title conveys the fact that Signor Griffini has identified Qudam Ben Qadim with the governor 'Abd Kulal, who acted as Regent of the Yemenite kingdom during the minority of Tubba-'al-Asgar; and whose tomb is extant in Yemen.

In 1883 Messrs. Brill, of Leiden, printed a catalogue of Arabic manuscripts in a private collection from Medina, among which was a poem "by Qadam I. Qâdine el Hamdar" which bore a colophon stating that it was copied in the year 1140, equivalent to A.D. 1728. This text is, therefore, a late one, and hence defective in many respects. Signor Griffini, for the purpose of his edition, has been able to avail himself of two better manuscripts. One of these is an Arabic codex recently acquired by the Ambrosian Library, dated 1055 of the Hegira (A.D. 1645); the other is in Signor Griffini's possession, and is a copy of some much more ancient recension made at Sana'a in the Yemen in 1915. The triple texts comprise a total of 119 verses; all of which except six occur in at least two of the texts. The Arabic text occupies twenty-five pages of the "Revista degli Studi Orientali" of Rome's University.

The epic poem contains a description of Qudam's views upon religion and ethics, laws and constitution, government and administration; also a summary of the history of North Arabia, the art of war, and notices of famous personages in ancient Yemen. This internal history of early Northern Arabia, with the names of its sheikhs, princes, and kings, with their wars and deeds, also gives a good deal of geographical information. Then follows an autobiography of Qudam with genealogy the account of his death being necessarily pseudepigraphic. Some views which the poet expresses upon the history and affairs of foreign countries are of more interest to us, perhaps, on account of an expedition made by the Yemenites against the Byzantine Emperor (or Empress); of another against the Persians, and one to Babylon; also of some sort of embassies or communications with India, Tibet, and China. The temerity with which these Yemenites undertook hostilities against great powers like Byzantine, Rome, and Persia foreshadows the tremendous war power which was to carry the Arab followers of the Prophet over Syria and Egypt like a whirlwind and ultimately to the banks of the Indus, the Danube, and the Rhone.

The religion of these pre-Moslem Zaidites was monotheistic. They adored Allah only, and considered themselves connected with the family of David, and tribe of Joseph. But, mention is made of adoration at one time of an idol called Budd. Noah prophesied that Japhet should "dwell in Shem's tents and Ham be their servant." The Arabic Shemites in fulfilment of this have never been the servants. The Turks have endeavoured to make them serfs of Japhet, but the victory of the King of the Hejaz has again restored them to their promised position.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

EGYPTIAN LAW AND LAW COURTS.

Speaking at University College, London, on Monday, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith said that for practical purposes Egyptian law might be divided into law applicable to foreigners, either among themselves or in relation to natives, and law applicable to natives only. The foreign population numbered only two hundred thousand out of twelve millions; but were much more important than these figures suggested, because of their wealth, intelligence, and political importance. The whole law in relation to them hinged on the Capitulations, privileges of a legal and fiscal character, one effect of which was that foreigners were not subject to the local law or law courts. Consular Courts were maintained by the various foreign nationalities, and it was still the case that when the disputants were of the same nationality they resorted to their Consular Court. Formerly, when they were of different nationalities, recourse was had to the court of the defendant, but a Commission which sat in Constantinople in 1873 had led to the establishment of the Mixed Courts to try cases between foreigners of different nationalities and between foreigners and natives. These courts had also jurisdiction between foreigners of the same nationality when land was involved. The Mixed Courts began to sit in 1875, and a code was promulgated for them to administer. It was in the main a copy of that of Napoleon, but did not contain any family law, that matter being reserved to the Consular Courts. On the other hand, there were in it certain laws for the protection of foreigners not to be found in the original on which it was modelled. Until recent years it had been very difficult to get this code amended in any way, for the consent of every signatory Power had to be obtained. The ordinary method of revising the code had been for the Egyptian Government to present to every Government concerned a statement of the reforms required, and for a Commission to be formed to consider these reforms. This system was a most unpractical one, for the Commission consisted of diplomatic members unversed in law and of legal members who knew little of the country, and who, moreover, were so busy with their own affairs that they had not time for the Commission. The result was that such Commissions sometimes dragged on for years. As the result of negotiations carried on from 1904 to 1911, this cumbersome system had been practically superseded by another one, which consisted in having further recourse to judges and legislators. This had enabled the passing of certain laws of too controversial a character to be got through the international Commissions. Of these laws the most notable was the Homestead Law of 1912, which established the immunity of the homestead if the area did not exceed five feddans. This law was due to Lord Kitchener, and was based on the Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900. The legislation applicable to foreigners was practically a system of pure French law, French case law and commentaries being elements of it. Only French was employed. Egyptian native tribunals had been established in 1883, but very little of the original scheme survived. In native courts the proceedings were in Arabic. A comparatively recent innovation had been the establishment of cantonal courts, consisting of local notables, on the model of the Courts of Justices of the Peace in England. Lawyers had not looked favourably on the proposal to entrust the administration of justice to men without legal training, and sometimes hardly able to read and write; but Lord Kitchener, who had originated the idea, persisted with it, the courts were established, and had proved a great success.

ARMENIA'S AWFUL AGONY.

The following telegram from Tiflis, dated March 29, 1918, explains the need for prompt, vigorous and generous action:—

"There is extremely critical political situation in the Caucasus. The Turkish advance terrifies the Armenians. There is danger that the whole Armenian race will be exterminated should the combination of these forces be successful. Should the Armenians be rightly directed and financed there is among them great potential military force, and this would furnish a reasonable hope that the race might be preserved by their own efforts. I am about to leave now for the front to build up a system of transportation by ambulance to reorganise and maintain hospitals. My appointment as Red Cross Commissioner has been requested by Consul Smith. Men from the locality who are available will be able to relieve great suffering. There is no one else to meet the necessities. To make a beginning the sum of $400,000 and $100,000 monthly will be necessary. Everyone is working beyond his strength, but nevertheless they are enthusiastic and their strength is good for relief work."

(Signed) YARROW.
American Red Cross Commissioner.

Our own agents are on the spot and working with the American Red Cross Society.

Please send your help to the

Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund,

96, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

◆

At a sale held at Chipping Norton recently in aid of the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, a set of Nos. 1 to 4 of the first daily newspaper printed at Baghdad for the British troops was sold for £10.

A Greek naval officer, in an article in the "Hestia" on the British raid on the Flanders coast, says:—"We must bow to this marvellous British achievement. At Chios one of our heroes, Kanaris, held a torch that burned a fleet; but at Zeebrugge every cabin-boy became a Kanaris."

M. Venizelos, speaking to the Deputies who were returning to their constituencies for the Easter holidays, expressed absolute confidence in the final victory of the Allies. "Go and tell the Greek people," he said, "that everything goes well."

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of M. Laloe, Vice-President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, for preparing the project of a law to govern the barristers of both the Native and the Mixed Tribunals when the project of unifying the Courts of Egypt has been finally passed.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WISE SAYINGS OF MR. ASQUITH.[*]

When a politician reprints his public speeches he rarely succeeds in interesting readers of the day, because such utterances relate to phases in history which have lost their importance. Moreover, the war now raging has thrown all previous events out of focus; we lay down the record of many a busy life with astonishment that the doings that filled it should have been so trivial. Mr. Asquith's first essay in literature gives unqualified pleasure, because none of the addresses which it reproduces trench on the domain of controversial politics. They display a degree of general culture amazing in one who, to quote the modest preface, "spends most of his days and nights in the Law Courts and the House of Commons"; they have equal value for the man of letters and the man of affairs. Every journalist may profit by absorbing the late Prime Minister's chapter on "Criticism." "Partizanship," he writes,

> which in the active conduct of public affairs is an almost indispensable motive power, is fatal to the wholesome exercise of the critical faculty. The moment the critic becomes the disciple, or, still worse, the propagandist, of a school—the moment he assumes the prophetic mantle and begins to deal in sentences of excommunication and threats of anathema—he abdicates his proper function, which is that not of a preacher, but of an interpreter.

Regarding "Biography," again, he opines that "no picture of a man, whether by himself or others, is either true or adequate which does not give us also his environment"; and that the few really great biographies which have as yet appeared "bring comfort, enlarge sympathy, expel selfishness and quicken aspiration." Of the English Bar, Mr. Asquith speaks as an expert, and explains the solidarity of a powerful profession by remarking that:—

> The arduous struggle, the blows given and received, the exultation of victory, the sting of defeat, which are daily experienced, far from breeding division and ill-will, only bind us more closely by the ties of a comradeship for which you would look in vain in any other arena of the ambitions and rivalries of men.

Our author is on less familiar ground when he endeavours to account for the vogue attained by Edward Fitzgerald's "Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam." He ascribes it to the fact that, "apart from the strange fascination of the metre, there is, within a narrow compass in point of bulk, a wholeness and completeness in Omar which belongs only to the highest art. Now, every student of trans-ancient literature knows that Fitzgerald's book far transcends the limited horizon of Omar Khayyam's muse; that its author, after saturating himself with Persian poetry, distilled into his version its very quintessence. The qualities which Mr. Asquith praises are in sooth the fruit of a European's genius. But the popularity of his immortal booklet is easily explained. It saw the light at an epoch when pessimism was very rife. His contemporaries were beginning to ask themselves whether Bacon was not right in deeming the "mechanical arts and merchandize," which had been their waning century's pride, symptoms of national decadence. The teachings of a genial epicurean found echoes in many a soul which was drifting without guidance in an ocean of wrecked beliefs. Mr. Asquith's quotations are, perhaps, the most felicitous feature in a book which has not one dull page. Besides proving his erudition, they have been selected with a degree of literary taste which is not its invariable accompaniment. There is, indeed, a notable omission, probably due to the author's innate modesty, and many readers will hope that future editions may be graced by his portrait in the picturesque garb worn by rectors of a Scottish University.

F. H. S.

SECRET SERVICE UP TO DATE.[†]

A detective story with absolutely nothing missing, whether it be viewed in the light of the conventional canons or of the time of its appearance. Interest is sustained throughout, and the author by dating his narrative before the war successfully camouflages his designs. We are plunged into a most picturesque tragedy, encouraged to find a different perpetrator at every turn, and when thoroughly bamboozled we are brought up against the fact which we had completely forgotten, in the interest of the plot, that the author is Mr. William le Quex. All is then explained, and the reader can at once tell himself that he might have told himself so. The *mise-en-scène* is cleverly worked out, and certainly some people will be kicking themselves that they did not think of it before Mr. le Quex did. "The Blue Goddess" belongs to Egypt, and Near Easterners should read the book.

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[*] "Occasional Addresses, 1893-1916. By the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith." (Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London, 1918. 6s. net.)

[†] "The Little Blue Goddess." By Wm. Le Quex. (Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.

THE GOAL OF INDIA.[*]

In these days every lover of India has his vision of the "goal" and of the "path" by which it may be reached. The politician looks for parliamentary institutions, the economist thinks of a higher standard of life, the statesman hopes for a new and mighty influence for good, in a world where such an influence is assuredly to be desired. Mr. Holland sees the realization of all these visions in the Christianization of India—not, of course, in the progressive subjection of the country to the domination of external missionary societies, but in the growth of a great national Indian Church, in which the spiritual gifts of the people may at last find that full expression for which they have never ceased to strive. It is a noble vision, and it may one day be a reality. But, however that may be, this presentment of it deserves careful study by everyone who wishes to understand the nature of the forces now at work in India. On the whole, Mr. Holland has succeeded in his difficult task. His book is at times a little breathless, and specialists might question some of his statements on particular matters of fact, but its general effect is in our opinion substantially true, and the union of insight and sympathy by which it is marked should set a standard for discussions of the kind. The writer steadily tries to see the best in the objects of his criticism, and if his charity momentarily fails him in dealing with the unwholesome movement inspired by Mrs. Besant, we at least have no quarrel with him on that score, for by no possibility can our own charity be stretched so far. The difficulties in the way of an Indian Church are by no means ignored, though we estimate some of them more seriously than Mr. Holland seems to do; at any rate, there is no question that the "unhappy divisions" of Christianity constitute most formidable obstacles to its progress among a people trained to refine and distinguish unnecessarily even in the ordinary run of affairs, and there are some grounds for the pessimistic anticipation that India may contribute an increase of sectarian bitterness rather than that unity to which the West has not yet been able to attain. Pessimists, however, can spoil any vision, and this book should be regarded as an inspiration rather than a treatise. As such it is well worth reading.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Serbian Grammar." By Dragutin Subotii, Ph.D., and Nevill Forbes, M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Jerusalem: The City of Many Sieges." By Robert Williams, F.R.I.B.A. (Alexandria: Whitehead, Morris and Co. (Egypt), Limited. £T6.)

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[*] "The Goal of India." By Rev. W. E. S. Holland. (London: United Council for Missionary Education, 8, Paternoster Row. Price, 2s. net.)

EDUCATIONAL.

ROYAL SCHOOL
FOR
Daughters of Officers of the Army.

Patrons:
Their MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN
and HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.
Chairman: LT.-COL. A. GRUBB, J.P.
Vice-Chairman: SURGEON-GEN. SIR WILLIAM TAYLOR, K.C.B.

Daughters of Officers of the Army are admitted to the above Schools according to the circumstances of their parents, at rates of £20, £45, £65, and £80 a year. Granddaughters of Officers are admitted at £45, £65, and £80 a year according to circumstances, and a limited number of daughters of civilians are admitted at £120 a year when there are vacancies. There are 15 Scholarships, open to competition, in the School, of amounts varying from £10 to £20 up to one of £50.

As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, COLONEL (late R.E.), Secretary.
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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East and of Africa, and on Oriental and African Religions and Customs.

For particulars, apply to E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1336.	5678.
May.	April.		Rajab.	Iyar.
10	27	Friday	29	28
11	28	Saturday........	30	29
			Shaaban.	Sivan
12	29	**Sunday**	1	1
13	30	Monday	2	2
	May			
14	1	Tuesday	3	3
15	2	Wednesday	4	4
16	3	Thursday	5	5

Lord Islington is making most satisfactory progress.

Abdul Aziz, the former Sultan of Morocco, has left Nice after a prolonged stay.

H.I.M. the Shah of Persia has bought 100,000 dols. (£20,000) worth of United States Liberty Bonds.

M. Pavle Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has returned to London from Aberdeenshire.

A further sum of £750 has been remitted by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to the Armenian Relief Fund.

Lord Oranmore and Browne, who left London for Ireland last week, has returned to 12, Cavendish Place.

Lord Robert Cecil has been suffering from a chill, and has been absent from the Foreign Office for a few days.

The Greek Government has conferred the Order of the Saviour on Hussem Rushdi Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt.

Captain Matila Costiesco Ghyka, Assistant to the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

On Sunday afternoon, the Serbian Easter, H.E. the Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch received the members of the Serbian colony at the Legation.

The Imperial War Museum have selected a coloured plate of the picture, "The Rout of the Turkish Invaders," by A. O. Lamplough, to be included in their collection.

Lady Cheetham has been appointed Principal Commandant of the V.A.D.'s working in Egypt and Palestine under the joint V.A.D. Committee of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John.

On Monday evening, May 13, at eight o'clock, in the Theatre of the Royal Geographical Society, Burlington Gardens, W., Mr. MacLeod will lecture on "The Achievements of France in Morocco."

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius entertained at luncheon on Sunday at the Legation M. Michalacopoulos, the Greek Minister of Agriculture, Mme. Michalacopoulos, and the *personnel* of the Legation.

Under the auspices of the Persia Society, Professor E. G. Browne, M.A., will lecture next Monday afternoon (May 13) at 22, Albemarle Street, his subject being "Sidelights on the History of Mediæval Persia."

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, left Khartoum in the middle of last month for a trip on the White Nile, during which he purposed visiting the White Nile, Upper Nile, and Mongalla Provinces.

Judge Halton has accepted the appointment of Commissioner in Cairo under the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, in succession to Colonel Sir John Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who has resigned the post on leaving Egypt.

The engagement is announced between Captain Hubert Stanley Kreyer, D.S.O., the Yorkshire Regiment, younger son of Lieut.-Colonel F. A. C. Kreyer, Indian Army (retired), and Mrs. Kreyer, Armidale, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, and Alice Leonie, second daughter of the late Captain J. H. H. Berkeley, late 83rd Regiment, and Mrs. Berkeley, Queen Alexandra's Court, Wimbledon.

In celebration of the Serbian Easter a Serbian service was held at the church of the House of Charity for Distressed Persons, Greek Street, Soho, last Sunday. The Rev. Father Nicolai Velimirovitch officiated. The congregation included the Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch, M. and Mme. Gavrilovitch, M. Pavle Karovitch, Colonel J. Nicolaievitch, Mlle. Vouka Nicolaievitch, Mlle. Zora Nivolaievitch, Colonel George Ostoitch, Military Attaché, and several members of the Jugoslav Committee.

Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Zwemer have left Egypt for America on furlough in order to secure educational advantages for their children. While in America their address will be care of the Board of Foreign Missions, 25, East 22nd Street, New York City.

Sergeant-Major Flora Sandes, attached to the 2nd Serbian Infantry Regiment, left London on Monday to rejoin her regiment at Salonika, after a few months' sick leave. While home on leave she has worked for Mrs. Haverfield's Fund for providing comforts for Serbian soldiers and prisoners.

On Monday evening a Serbian literary dinner was held at the Lyceum Club. Mrs. Dickinson Berry presided. Mr. Herbert Carter recited Serbian poems, Miss Helen Rootham sang Serbian songs, and Mr. Edward Russell, an American worker with the Serbian Red Cross, spoke on "Serbian Art and Poetry."

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between James Douglas Scott, late second lieutenant R.F.A., third son of the late R. Scott and of Mrs. R. L. B. Gall, of 2, Minto Park, Calcutta, and Bridget Violet, second daughter of J. A. Penfold-Wyatt, of Harsfold Manor, Winsborough Green, Sussex.

The marriage arranged between Captain Lionel S. Williams, District Frontier Administration, Egypt, youngest son of Colonel R. B. Williams, C.B., late Somerset Light Infantry, and Mrs. Williams, of Pinkhurst, Lustleigh, Devon, and Sylvia Pauline, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. De Gay, of Melbourne, Australia, will take place shortly in Egypt.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Trevor, C.S.I., C.I.E., eldest son of Sir Arthur Trevor, K.C.S.I., 16, Harcourt Terrace, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Peers Dimmock and Mrs. Dimmock, 23, Homefield Road, Wimbledon, will take place at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon, on Saturday, June 1, at half-past two o'clock.

Last Friday being Good Friday according to the Greek Calendar, a special service was held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, in the evening. Dr. **Pagonis**, the Great Archimandrite, officiated, and among those present were the Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the *personnel* of the Legation, M. Michel Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché, and many members of the Greek colony.

The marriage is arranged to take place at St. George's Church, Camberley, on Thursday, June 6, between Lieut. Charles Eyres Lushington, R.F.A., eldest son of Mr. C. M. Lushington, C.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Lushington, of Shalbourne, Camberley, and Veronica R. Hammond, younger daughter of Colonel Sir A. G. Hammond, V.C., K.C.B., D.S.O., late Commandant Q.V.O. Corps of Guides, Indian Army, and Lady Hammond, Sherborne House, Camberley. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The Zionist Commission in Palestine has created a relief department, under the presidency of Mr. Leon Simon, a member of the Commission, for the administration of relief of Jews in the Holy Land.

The annual meeting of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society was held on Friday, May 3, at the Caxton Hall, Sir W. Mackworth Young, K.C.S.I., presided, supported by the Hon. Lady Peek Sir Robert Williams, Bart., Bishop and Mrs. Copleston, and others.

Lord Inchcape presided over the annual meeting of the Strangers' Home for Asiatics, held last Friday at the institution in West India Dock Road. Among those present were:—Lady Inchcape, Lady Wyllie, Lady Barr, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Dunlop Smith. In the course of his remarks Lord Inchcape spoke highly of the fine services and gallantry of native seamen in the mercantile marine during the war. During last year 1,236 Asiatics were admitted to the home, mostly from torpedoed vessels, and 170 of them were entirely destitute.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W. 1.

The May number of the *Zionist Review* contains many interesting features, one of them being an article by the famous literary critic, Georg Brandes, a man of Jewish birth, but until recently entirely estranged from his people, who gives reasons for his belated, but whole-hearted adhesion to the Jewish national movement.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King inspected a party of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain J. McPherson and Captain H. W. Alderson, Indian Army Reserve of Officers. The party is composed of men from the Ranchi District of the Province of Bihar and Orissa, who are on leave from the Western Front.

The systematic pillaging of the Macedonian, Greek, and Serbian provinces occupied by the Bulgarians continues. According to a recent decree, vacant properties and various objects without owners are declared the property of the State, which disposes of them as it pleases. Bulgarian officers and officials are now either murdering or expelling the owners and then sending the goods to Sofia.

According to a copy of the *Patris* received last week the Anglo-Hellenic Society of Athens at its annual general meeting elected as president M. Delta, and as members of the Executive Committee Messrs. Butler, Cottrele, Petrocochinos, Carousos, Calopothakis, and Damalas. At the same meeting it was decided to affix a commemoration plate on the old house "where Lord Byron saw and loved the Maid of Athens," and another on the house in which General Church died.

Considerable confusion is caused, the War Office announces, by the use, in the address of parcels, etc., for members of the expeditionary forces, of initial letters only to represent the title of the force with which the addressee is serving. The public are therefore strongly advised invariably to write in full the postal titles of the Expeditionary Forces, which are as follows:—British Expeditionary Force (France), Italian Expeditionary Force, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, Egyption Expeditionary Force, East African Expeditionary Force, and Salonika Force.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to confer the 3rd Class of the Order of the Nile on Miralai C. H. Little Bey, D.S.O., Miralai E. A. T. Bayley Bey, D.S.O., and Miralai F. de W. Harman Bey, D.S.O.

The Sultan of Egypt has issued his order for the appointment of Ismail Sidky Pasha as President to the Sultanieh Geographical Society. This post, which was formerly filled by his Highness, has remained vacant since his accession to the throne.

Egyptian papers received this week announce that Major Pringle, Chief Inspector of Stores, Ministry of Finance, is retiring shortly from the service on pension, and will be replaced by Mr. Bowden-Smith, Assistant Chief Inspector of that Department.

With reference to the reported resignation of M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister to the Court of St. James's, it is officially stated that the Greek Government have refused to accept the resignation, the reasons which induced it having now been satisfactorily removed. This announcement will be received with sincere pleasure in London, for M. and Mme. Gennadius are both extremely popular.

OBITUARY.

It is announced that Major Ralph de Seton Dudgeon, Indian Army, Controller, Military Finance, died at Lahore, on April 29, of enteric fever.

Lady Playfair, widow of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Robert Lambert Playfair, K.C.M.G., for thirty years Consul-General at Algiers, died on Thursday at St. Andrews.

Captain Edward Gerald Lawton, East Surrey Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, has been killed on active service. Aged 28, he was the second son of Mr. J. H. and Mrs. Lawton, of Kew, and was educated at Harrow and Sandhurst. He joined the East Surrey Regiment, with which he went to France in August, 1914, and fought at Mons, Le Cateau, and the first battle of the Marne, where he was wounded in both arms. After leaving hospital he returned to France in September, 1915. He was transferred to the Egyptian Army in March, 1916, and took part in the fighting in which it was engaged. On April 12, while engaged on active operations, he was ambushed, and received a spear wound in the left side, and he died the same evening. He had the Mons star and ribbon.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATHS.

Maltass.—On May 4, at the Norland Hotel, Grandville Square, Neville Edward (formerly of Constantinople), aged 58.

Thomson.—On May 6, at 1, Marine View, Kingsway, Hove, after a long illness, Gladys May Thomson, daughter of Mrs. Olivia A. Thomson, of Constantinople.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.
WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.
OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—
NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
FAMAGUSTA—Savoy Hotel.
FOR SUMMER SEASON—
PLATRES—Platres Hotel. 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.
TROODOS—Olympus Hotel. 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.
Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.
Excursions to Mount Troödos.
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PERSIA AND HER FUTURE.

An interesting communication has been made by Persia's representatives abroad to the Governments to which they are accredited. The Persian Government, it is announced, regards as null and void all treaties imposed upon it in recent years, especially the treaty of 1907 between Russia and Great Britain regarding their respective spheres of influence in Persia. Whereas, the Note continues, other treaties may subsequently be revised, this shall not be the case in regard to the Treaty of 1907, which, together with its appendices, is to remain definitely annulled. A variety of considerations may have prompted the Persian Government to take this step at the present time. If it is an indication that, with the restoration of order by the agency of General Sykes's gendarmerie, Persia begins to feel stronger politically and hopes to prepare the way for her national development, then the pronouncement is to be welcomed. The Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907—to which Persia herself was not actually a party—was not intended to survive the present war. Before the revolution the Russian Government had virtually conceded the point, and it was understood that the Persian question was the subject of negotiations between Russia and Great Britain. The Russian revolution gave the Agreement its *coup de grâce*. Consequently the denunciation of the treaty by the Persian Government has only a *pro forma* significance, and was assured of the British Government's approval, if the Teheran authorities saw fit to conform with diplomatic usage by consulting it before taking action. The moment for the step is not inopportune, in view of the situation in Russia. For the Bolshevik Government the affairs of Persia have no interest whatsoever; and it is to the advantage of the three States concerned to have a superannuated agreement out of the way. Strictly speaking, Persia has neither the right nor the power to dispose of the Anglo-Russian Agreement in this or any other manner; but in the existing circumstances her action may be allowed to stand. It has the advantage of simplifying the position in Persia at a time when no diplomatic relations exist between Great Britain and Russia.

Unfortunately for Persia and for Great Britain, the declaration that the Agreement of 1907 is null and void does not solve the Persian problem, which still has to be faced by both countries. That Agreement was intended to serve a double purpose; it aimed at an amicable settlement of all outstanding questions likely to disturb good relations between the two contracting parties, and at the same time it was hoped, at least by Great Britain, that it would prepare the ground for better conditions in Persia. This expectation, it is well known, was not realised. Commenting upon a Blue-book on Persia published in July, 1913, Lord Curzon said: "The picture delineated in this Blue-book of Southern Persia is a picture of a country in the throes of dissolution, given up to rapine and brigandage, where trade is at a standstill, where armed bands rove about the country doing as they please, where British officers are fired at and robbed, and in one particular unfortunate case an officer was killed; a country where the central Government is impotent and local Government ignored." The conditions in Northern Persia, Lord Curzon pointed out, were different; not that there was no insecurity, but life and property were relatively safe owing to the presence of an overwhelming force of Russian troops in that part of the country. Until the formation last year of the South Persian Rifles, under General Sir Percy Sykes, there had been little or no improvement in the general situation. The Central Government proclaimed the neutrality of Persia, but it was as powerless to prevent lawless bands from doing the bidding of Germans and Austrians as it was to keep North-Western Persia from becoming the battlefield of Russians and Turks. Recent events, however, have introduced one important modification in the Persian problem. To-day the interests of the parties concerned—Persia and Great Britain—are identical; formerly, when Russia played the dominant part, this assurance could not be given. With the elimination of Imperialist Russia, and with its Bolshevik successor repudiating all interest in anything outside a class war, Great Britain is now at liberty to pursue her own policy in regard to Persia. That policy remains to-day what it was seven years ago, when Lord Morley described it as being "faithful to the good of Persia; to lose no chance of easing the distracted situation in which the Persian Government now is, by counsel, attention, and such assistance as from time to time we may consider it prudent to give." In a word, Great Britain desires to see a strong and a settled Persia; strong, in order that she may be able to manage her own affairs and to resist foreign encroachment; settled, in order that trade may revive and the country advance towards financial independence and material prosperity.

Great Britain's policy for Persia is also the only one that the country, if rightly advised, would choose for itself. The two chief obstacles in the way of the adoption of this policy are the Germans and the Young Persians. In the exhilaration born of freedom from Russian domination in the north there is the danger that the Young Persians, who politically are still very young, may feel that the moment has come to throw off all restraint and to conduct the affairs of the State in their own way and for their own benefit. They can count upon receiving every encouragement in this course—from the Germans. Persia in their hands would speedily share the fate of Bolshevist Russia, if Great Britain were content to look on and maintain a passive attitude. To prevent this disaster from overtaking the country Great Britain must be at pains to avoid the Allied policy of *laissez faire* which allowed the Russian revolution to pass into the hands of the Bolsheviks. No policy that the British Government might adopt in regard to Persia is likely to be mistaken for a perpetuation of Russian methods. It will be to Germany's interest to have British policy misrepresented in this light; but the good sense of the better elements in Persia will satisfy them of the sincerity of Great Britain. No mere reference to Persia's great past is going to be of help to her at the present time. She has been proved so bankrupt of administrative capacity that she will have to begin her lessons in statecraft all over again. To her present bureaucracy she owes in the main her dissolution, and it is too much to expect that a mere handful of half-baked students are to prove equal to the task of administering the whole country on sound lines. To bridge over the period between the elimination of the old corrupt official and the time when an adequate Civil Service will have been trained to take charge the Persians must accept the assistance of those who have had more experience in successful administration than they have. The suggestion, however, will not necessarily come from them. Unless the British Government is prepared to be always at hand with advice, there is the danger that the government of the country will pass into the hands of those who shout loudest, and whose chief conception of statecraft will be to repudiate all help from without. Such a course must once more open the flood-gates of anarchy and gravely imperil the peace and welfare of India.

GERMAN EMIGRATION POLICY AND EASTERN EUROPE.

By D. MITRANY.

The interesting attempts made by the German world in the first half of the nineteenth century to extend its influence over Eastern Europe by means of agricultural colonies, especially along the main lines of communication, have been sketched in a previous article.* They failed because the bond which ties the peasant population of those regions to the soil is as much national as economic. An economic bond could be unloosed by a favourable exchange of economic advantages; one forged by national sentiment can be broken only by force. In other words, the Germans could have settled on the Lower Danube only by displacing the native communities, a task by no means easy.

Failure did not lead, however, to the abandonment of the policy, which was only "reconstructed," in keeping with the conditions prevailing in south-eastern Europe, and in that new form was largely successful. For its understanding it is necessary to say a few words with regard to the social evolution of those populations, considering primarily Roumania, though the facts apply to a large extent also to the other states of south-eastern Europe.

For nearly five centuries the regions on the Lower Danube were under Turkish domination. During that period the officials were recruited almost to a man from among the Turks and the Greeks, which two nationalities also reigned supreme in the economic life of those countries. The native population supplied the large mass of peasant serfs, and the considerably smaller class of landowners, the so-called *boyards*, the chief of whom occupied various honorary, if influential, functions at the Court. When the Roumanians succeeded in freeing themselves from the Turkish suzerainty, the Russian protectorate, and the Greek economic domination, these various foreign elements disappeared, the limited better-educated and socially higher class of the native population came to the leadership and took possession of political power and functions; whereas the illiterate and impoverished peasantry found itself unable to take an active share in the new order of things. The economic development which followed upon the liberation of these rich lands from the omnivorous domination of Turks, Russians, and Greeks, was so rapid that it did not allow of a normal growth of a national middle-class of traders and artisans, with the result that the place was again occupied by foreigners, this time Germans from Austria and Germany, Jews from Russia and Galicia, and, to a smaller extent, Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians, and Italians.

The neighbouring Saxon colonies in Transylvania have at all periods provided a certain number of artisans, merchants, and members of the liberal professions to the Roumanian countries. But only a few of them remained, for during the four centuries of Turkish domination conditions were so insecure that often the best thing that could happen to these artisans was to get home again with nothing in return for their services. By the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century Turkish dominion began to decline in the Roumanian countries, and the greater security and abundance of work and money which prevailed during the Russian occupation (1828-1834) attracted many skilled workmen from across the Carpathians. This movement and the circumstances which induced it were emphasised after Roumania was placed under the protection of the Great Powers (1858), and especially after the accession of the German Prince, Carol of Hohenzollern, to the Roumanian throne (1866). Various subsequent events further strengthened it. As a result of the tariff war which broke out between Austria and Roumania in 1886 the industry of Transylvania and Bukovina suffered heavily. When, therefore, the Roumanian Government in 1887 introduced a law intended to further home industry many manufacturers from those provinces settled or founded branches in Roumania. Thanks to the character of German banking, the movement has since been a continuous and a growing one, naturally resulting in a great influx of German clerks, artisans, and engineers.

This peaceful invasion was assisted by the fact that the Roumanian peasant, who is deeply attached to the land and disinclined, on account of social and climatic circumstances, to regular work, settles down with difficulty to industrial labour. On the other hand, the ideal of the middle and upper classes is politics and officialdom. As M. Carp, sometime Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party, once put it:—"The Roumanian is born a bursar, lives an official, and dies a pensioner." If not welcomed, the Germans were, in these circumstances, tolerated. In 1910 their number reached a total of about 50,000, Bucharest alone (350,000 inhabitants) giving hospitality to about half that number. A German writer candidly remarked a few years ago:—"One should only try to imagine what an enormous economic and political difference it would necessarily make if, instead of Germans, there were as many Englishmen living here." It must be observed, however, that only about one-third of this total are citizens of the German Empire; the majority are Austrians, including a small number of German-Swiss. The banking, transport, and insurance industries absorb the majority of these German clerks, all of them industries which control the trade and offer the best opportunities for becoming acquainted with the economic and social life of the country. Those who after a few years return home become valuable collaborators with the German merchants and manufacturers, who are ever anxious to adapt themselves to the particular taste and requirements of the various markets. Those who remain preserve their language and customs unimpaired, are faithful customers of German industry, and contribute to the constant expansion of the consumption of German products. The German and Austrian Governments establish and support German schools for the benefit of these emigrants, and they are in general the object of much attention.

When contrasted with the departed foreign element, the qualities of the German newcomers could not fail favourably to impress the native population. They and the educational associations they set up were able to exert a powerful influance on the budding spiritual life of Roumania, the more so because England and France short-sightedly neglected the new independent countries in the European Near East, which they could easily have brought under their intellectual influence, since the political emancipation of those regions sprang from, and was fostered by, French and English liberal ideals. Further—and here it should be pointed out that Austrians formed the large majority of the Germanic population of Roumania—the various German institutions and associations set themselves the task of creating a "spiritual home" for the numerous German colonists, and of giving those natives who desired it the opportunity of getting into touch with German civilisation, but wisely refrained from making this connection oppressive or from interfering in Roumanian affairs. That such a policy was not fulfilling the intentions of the politicians in Berlin is evidenced by the attempt which was made after the events of 1870-71 to bring the German community of Bucharest under the dominating influence of a small minority composed of citizens of the new German Empire, in the main Prussians. Defeated then, the "Imperialists" returned to the charge a few years before the war, and tried to put to use the increasing financial needs of the community. The attempt was strongly opposed by the majority; "for, if successful," wrote a well-known member of the interested party, "the Germans of this country would then have lost the only place where common activity with a higher ethical end in view still existed, and, sooner or later, our community would become exclusively 'Prussian,' a result to which the Germans of Bucharest cannot look forward. . . ."

The same writer admitted that, after a close intercourse of over half a century, "respect for everything German had increased, but not love." The strenuous efforts made by the Germans during the war to increase their influence with the populations of occupied territories will no doubt lead to a similar result. The peoples of South-Eastern Europe, who have hardly emerged from a long and noxious foreign domination, naturally revolt at any attempt to establish another foreign influence among them, however efficient and polished the new agent may be. If they desire a warmer welcome, the leading classes of Germany must abandon the idea that the small and new States of Eastern Europe are convenient appendices to the German economic machine. Not even the Bulgarians will submit to that, once the alliance with Germany has ceased to be a paying concern. The Serbians, the Roumanians, and the others are, sometimes extravagantly, jealous of their independence; and unless they are short-sightedly neglected by the Western democracies they will always prove, even to the modern Teutonic Knights, that in the end spirit is more powerful than organisation.

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* Published in THE NEAR EAST of May 3.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

That the Germans have an absurdly high opinion of themselves, their merit, and their *Kultur*, we all know quite well by now; and we have learned, with as much amusement as surprise, that they look down on all other peoples—not excluding their Allies—with contempt. But even so, it is amazing to find them so careless in the matter of concealing that contempt. Even a thick-headed Prussian, one would have thought, would have had sufficient sense to imitate the gentleman in "Aunt Jack," who, when he was told by the magistrate that he would be committed for contempt of court, replied: "But, your Worship, I expressed no contempt. On the contrary, I carefully concealed my feelings." But no! The German, so far from troubling to conceal *his* feelings, seems, when those feelings are super-mannish, to revel in revealing them. We remember, for example, the pig-breeding circular of the affable gentleman in East Africa—was it not? And now we have the polite correspondence unearthed in Persia.

⁂

The Fates certainly do seem to be unkind to those Germans who commit their thoughts of other people to writing. In this case we have a German official, Herr Wustrow, who was at one time a German Vice-Consul, and later Dragoman to the German Legation at Teheran, girding ferociously at a people with whom he and his fellow-*schweinhunde* have—as yet—no quarrel. This apostle of *Kultur* compares the Persians with jellyfish; he calls them "scum"; he considers that they "can only be tamed by force"; and he insults them generally with truly German thoroughness. His efforts are ably backed by those of another German agent in Persia, a Doctor Niedermayer, who describes the Persians as "incredibly gross swine" and a "scum of a people." Both these gentlemen (!) were, I understand, employed in endeavouring to stir the Persians up against ourselves and our Allies; and it is safe to assume that when it suited their purpose they indulged in flattery of the grossest kind. If they victimised any Persians with their "pretty talk," it would be interesting to know what the victims thought of the revelation of their "well-wishers'" true feelings.

I have already expressed my admiration of the ingenious gentlemen who prepare the Turkish *communiqués*, and my indebtedness to them for much harmless amusement. Since my acknowledgment, however, fresh gems have been forthcoming. There was, for instance, that artfully-worded message which, almost sympathetically, indicated that Aden, besieged by the gallant forces of the Turk, was in a state of semi-starvation at least. Unfortunately, I have mislaid this choice bit; but I remember that the artist in words who created it had evidently had his eye on an audience that might, perhaps, forget that:—(1) Aden is on the sea; and (2) that the British Navy still manages to keep the seas open for traffic. It must be very awkward for a conscientious Turk to hold the balance even in face of such unpleasant facts. If only he were a German, trifles of this kind would not, of course, worry him in the least.

⁂

It is just when the *communiqués* have to make some reference to naval matters that they are most intensely amusing. They maintain their principal characteristics still; but one feels that their perpetrators are not sufficiently sure of their ground to do anything thoroughly artistic in the way of lying. Perhaps they are a little frightened by the number of funny stories that have been told about the Turkish Navy at any time during the past half-century or so. At any rate, they are extremely discreet. Thus we find that the report of May 4, which chronicles the German occupation of Sebastopol, does not actually state that the Sultan's Navy took any part in the "capture" of the Black Sea Fleet that used to be Russian; but it tries hard to suggest that such was actually the case: "The Sultan Selim (ex Goeben) and the Hamidieh, as well as some of our torpedo-boats, arrived in the roadstead of Sebastopol on the evening of May 2, after having made a very difficult passage across the minefield." After that, of course, there was no more to be said: the Russians hauled down their colours to the daring Turco-Germs. At least, that is the suggestion conveyed to my mind. As an essay in the art of *suggestio falsi* it is not altogether to be despised.

CORSAIR.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

On the Watch.

In a leading article *The Times* (May 3) refers to the advance in Mesopotamia, and expresses the opinion that: "The advance of Sir William Marshall's right flank in Mesopotamia, of which further details were published yesterday, is presumably not a challenge so much as a further measure for the protection of Persia." After reviewing briefly the recent operations, the article concludes:

> Now that the Russian troops have withdrawn from this region, it becomes more than ever necessary to take such precautions as are possible in order to stop the entry of small mobile forces of the enemy into Persia. In all such movements the principal object in view is to prevent the approach of hostile bands towards the Afghanistan frontier, where they seek to penetrate in the hope of fomenting strife. Probably we cannot block all the routes, but we can do a great deal to thwart the schemes which are undoubtedly being planned by the Germans and Turks.

War-Time Prices.

An article entitled "Jassy in War Time," which was published in *The Times* last Saturday, contained some startling figures of the increase of population in the capital of Moldavia as a result of the exodus from Bucharest, and of the consequent high prices of all kinds of foodstuffs and many articles of necessity. Thus we are told that useful things—

> such as socks, stockings, and leather, which were sold at fabulous prices, such as 10 lei (8s.) for a handkerchief, the same sum for a pair of socks (worth about 1s. 6d.); 250 lei (£10) for a piece of leather, just enough to make a pair of shoes or regulation boots. In August two shops with provisions were opened. A few of the prices will show what real shortage means:—A pound of ham (sometimes uneatable), 35 lei (£1 8s.); a pound of cheese, 32 lei (£1 6s.); a pound of butter, 52 lei (just over £2).
>
> All these prices were willingly paid, for there was plenty of money, but even the richest of the population had nothing to wear or eat. The Government could not intervene, for it would have stopped even this trade, which proved to be better than nothing.

A little later we read: "When the Maximalists came into power, and every village considered itself a free and independent body, one could buy food in Bessarabia by bribing the president of the local Soviet. But this did not last very long, for the population became very hostile to the Roumanian raiders, on account of the enormous increase of prices." The lot of the poor, who naturally suffered most, was pitiable indeed:—

> Underfed, crowded in small dirty rooms, having to spend a hard winter without wood and a hot summer without water, the people presented a really pitiable appearance. The epidemics were terrible, especially of spotted typhoid, in the winter and spring of 1917. In Jassy alone there were over 15,000 cases, and if the scourge was stopped after three or four months it was due to the extraordinary devotion and self-sacrifice of the Roumanian and French doctors. More than 150 Roumanian doctors and about ten French doctors and nurses paid with their lives for their devotion. Special food and medicines were very scarce, and the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem rendered most valuable service by supplying the hospitals and the civilian population from their stores, thus helping to save many lives.

But, the article concludes:—"In spite of this awful misery life went on gaily at Jassy. The streets were crowded with people promenading, and in the theatres and cinemas there was never a seat left unsold."

Martyred Roumania.

Right up to the time of her death Mme. Take Jonescu lost no opportunity of working for a more complete understanding in this country of Roumania and the Roumanians The *Observer* of April 23 contained an article from her pen, entitled "The Tragedy of Roumania." It begins:—

> A relentless and tragic fatality has pursued Roumania from the first fortnight of her entering into the war. At the beginning, when the armies advancing victoriously in Transylvania and counting on the stipulated offensive at Salonika to occupy her Danubian neighbour, were hurriedly recalled to stem the Bulgarian advance, facilitated by General Sarrail's failure to undertake the awaited offensive, and by the inability of the small Russian contingent to render effectual aid. Again, when the divided army, outnumbered by von Mackensen's immensely superior forces, was forced back into the plains, and the Russian reinforcements arrived too late and in insufficient numbers to avert the fall of the capital and the retreat into Moldavia. Finally, when the reorganised Roumanian Army, successfully holding the line of the Sereth, and inflicting enormous losses on the German divisions, were compelled by events on the Russian front to stop the victorious offensive, rendered futile, even dangerous, by the defection of Russian arms in Bukovina and Galicia. The subsequent Bolshevik declaration of war completed the impenetrable ring of Roumania's enemies, and closed the only available outlet for her armies seeking a passage of retreat.

Very few readers will disagree with the writer's description of Roumania as "this martyred nation"; and we fear that her suggestion that, amidst the great events on the Western Front, the details of the terms that Roumania has been forced to accept "have not received the attention they would have obtained at any other moment."

> The territorial exactions, picturesquely described by Count Czernin as rectifications of frontier, deprive Roumania of about 250.000 square kilometres, or, approximately, a fifth part of the country. Taking into consideration the total land surface, these annexations represent what for France would mean the loss of seventeen departments, or for Germany the sacrifice of Bavaria, Wurtemburg, and even also part of the Grand Duchy of Baden.
>
> But more important even than the actual extent of the districts wrested from her is the nature of the lands claimed, which constituted Roumania's natural protection against a powerful and aggressive neighbour. Those rocky passes, more efficacious than any artificial fortresses, are now declared strategically necessary as a safeguard for the Austro-Hungarian Empire of 60 millions against the attacks of the 7½ millions of Roumania's inhabitants, and the infinitely smaller nation loses every strong position available for resistance to so formidable and unscrupulous a foe. In future the entire country is strangled; the mountain barrier forming a protective frontier now bristles with the enemy's cannon, and is transformed into a perpetual menace.

The article concludes:—

> May the spectacle of Roumania's fate furnish one more lesson to the pacifists of this and every belligerent country! Though at the first mention of peace the Conservative Ministers of the late Coalition Cabinet resigned *en bloc*, there is no doubt that the Prime Minister was offered relatively acceptable terms as a basis in order to induce him to enter into negotiations; but once the unwary fly had fallen into the poisonous web the German spider, as in Russia, progressively augmented his pretentions. The newly formed Cabinet under General Averesco's presidency was unable to accept the monstrous conditions put forward Only the few pro-German politicians, representing no significant portion of the nation, could be induced to affix their names to the document sacrificing the honour and the independence of their country.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Delhi Conference.

May 1.

Mr. Fisher (Minister of Education), replying to Sir J. Rees, said:—The Delhi Conference has been held in response to the Prime Minister's message inviting the Government and the people of India to redouble their efforts in the common cause. The Viceroy's object in convening it was to invite the co-operation of all classes in sinking domestic discussions, in securing their active support of measures for developing the man-power and resources of the country, and in cheerfully bearing the burdens necessary to that end. Particulars as to the offers made by the Indian princes and ruling chiefs have not yet reached the Secretary of State.

Surgeon-General MacNeece.

Mr. Macpherson (Under Secretary for War), replying to Sir Watson Cheyne, said:—The Army Council have received and considered a statement by Surgeon-General MacNeece in regard to the findings of the Mesopotamia Commission in his case, and they have formed the opinion that no blame can be attached to him in regard to the manner in which he carried out his duties in connection with the medical services during the campaign.

The Kut Prisoners.

May 6.

Major D. Davies asked whether the Government had any information of the fate of the 596 British troops and 2.600 native troops who were taken prisoners by the Turks in Kut; whether the Government had reason to believe that these men had met their death other than in action or through sickness; and whether they would take steps to secure this information from the Turkish Government.

Mr. J. F. Hope: I regret that no further information has been received regarding these prisoners. It is feared to be only too likely that the majority succumbed on the march into the interior. As regards the last part of the question, we have repeatedly urged the Turkish authorities to keep us supplied with full information regarding all prisoners in their hands, and the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople has quite recently been requested to press for information as to all prisoners of whom no news has yet been received.

Enemy Missionaries in India.

Mr. H. A. L. Fisher (President of the Board of Education) informed Sir A. Fell that early in 1916 the Government of India, in accordance with a policy then decided on, repatriated the great body of missionaries of enemy nationality. Exceptions were allowed only in cases where, by reason of age, sex, prolonged residence out of Europe, or other similar circumstances, removal from India was unnecessary and would have been a hardship. Missionaries of Swiss nationality in India, so long as their conduct was irreproachable, enjoyed freedom of movement as did other neutrals. The authorities had full powers to deal with any

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foreigner who wrongfully described his nationality or was found to work adversely against British interests. There was no reason to think that the measures taken by the Government of India to eliminate German interests and influence from India had been ineffective. There were certain factories in Southern India connected with a well-known mission under German influence in which Swiss agency was employed, but steps had been taken to secure the elimination from those concerns of German capital and influence.

Turkish Prisoners of War. May 7.

Mr. J. F. HOPE, answering a question put by Mr. Butcher, said that one officer and eighty other ranks had been repatriated as invalids by the Turkish Government under an agreement come to before the ratification of the Berne Agreement. All arrangements had been made to return under the same agreement a corresponding party of about 100 Turkish invalid combatants from Egypt—some of them had, in fact, embarked—when typhus broke out. He was informed that it had been impossible to find transport for these men since all fear of infection ceased, but that every endeavour would be made to send them to Turkey as early as possible.

◆

REMITTANCES TO PALESTINE.

A general licence has been granted by the Treasury authorising remittances to the occupied parts of Palestine, provided that they are made either through the Post Office attached to his Majesty's Forces operating in Palestine, or through Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, or a branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, or of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, or of the Anglo-Palestine Company, Limited, for the time being authorised to carry on business in Palestine.

◆

Special Roumanian Missions visiting England, France, and America have been recalled by the Roumanian Government to Jassy.

Speaking at Liverpool on Monday, the Earl of Denbigh said that the dangers of the East were as great as those of the West, and if this country were so foolish as to agree to any peace which merely secured the evacuation of Belgium and France and gave Germany a free hand in the Near East we had been simply putting our heads into a noose. It was as great, if not a greater, part of the German scheme of domination to squeeze Great Britain in Egypt and India as it was to squeeze Belgium and France in relation to their Channel ports.

PALESTINE: A MOSLEM VIEW.

Members of the Moslem community resident in England have submitted to Mr. Balfour, as Secretary of State, a representation of the feelings of the Moslem subjects of his Majesty in regard to the future of Palestine. They point out that through a period of 1,800 years the followers of Judaism have had no vestige of claim to the land "of which they had possessed themselves some centuries before their dispersion by the slaughter and despoilment of its original inhabitants." They submit that during the 1,300 years, excepting the short interruption when the Crusaders held the country, the Moslems have acted with justice and toleration towards other creeds and peoples; indeed, that the Jews have always enjoyed greater toleration in Moslem lands than in most Christian countries. But as regards Palestine, they protest against any proposal to place Jews in a privileged position in respect to the other communities, "the spirit of exploitation, for which the Jewish race is singularly distinguished," being likely to bring them into collision with their neighbours. The petitioners submit that "should it be considered necessary, under the right of self-determination, to create an autonomous State in Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital, it should be a Moslem State, with a Council consisting of members representing the Jewish, Christian, and Moslem communities in proportion to the number of their followers, with equal rights and status for all its citizens, and equal opportunities for free development without artificial political backing for any one community."

◆

EGYPT'S WAR CONTRIBUTION.

The Government has sent the following telegram to the High Commissioner for Egypt in response to the Egyptian offer to contribute immediately £3,000,000 in respect of war expenditure already incurred, and to provide a further £500,000 in the Egyptian Budget for 1918-19, as reported in our Cairo Correspondent's letter last week:—

"You should convey to the Sultan and to his Ministers the warm thanks of his Majesty's Government for the generous contribution which Egypt is making towards the cost of the war. You should express the lively satisfaction of his Majesty's Government at this signal proof of Egyptian goodwill and loyalty towards the Protecting Power, under whose guardianship Egypt has remained safe and prosperous during the present times of general adversity, and is assured of her continued welfare and prosperity in the future."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The terms of the disastrous treaty forced on Roumania by the enemy Powers have now been published. I shall reserve detailed comment on them until next week, and will merely say now that, especially as regards economic conditions, they are very much what was expected. In other words, Germany and her ally have succeeded in the complete humiliation of Roumania—for the time being.

⁂

The report of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt is in every way a most promising document, and bears incontrovertible witness to the prosperous conditions now existing in the country. Only three years ago the arrears of annual instalments of loans due to the bank amounted to £E1,394,546; this total has now been reduced to £E403,786, and the additions under this head in the past year were trifling. The net profits show a further large increase of £E187,610, the figures being £E1,047,463, as against £E859,853. The ordinary dividend is raised from 7 to 8 per cent., and the deferred dividend is maintained at £40 per share, to which it was raised from £15 per share in 1916. The bank anticipates a continuance of favourable conditions for some time, but is not unmindful of what may happen after the war, and with a view to uniformity in regard to future dividends, the balance to the credit of ordinary shareholders has been increased from £E80,978 to £E235,702, and that of the deferred shareholders from £E41,519 to £E189,064.

⁂

The death of Mr. N. E. Maltass, London agent of the Imperial Ottoman Tobacco Regie, removes one of the best-known and most popular members of the British community concerned with trade in the Near East. His connection with the Near East may be said to have extended over a lifetime. He was born at Smyrna, and was in business there for a number of years, subsequently coming to London. Then he went out to Constantinople, where he was agent for the Leyland Line and for the Royal Insurance Company. Two years in Calcutta as agent for another insurance company followed, and then Mr. Maltass returned to London for the same company, and eventually obtained the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Tobacco Regie. Mr. Maltass, who materially increased the business of the Tobacco Régie, was very successful throughout his business career, and in every post was held in high esteem because of his great business capacities, which at all times enabled him to carry out the duties required of him with distinction.

⁂

For lack of space I have to hold over until next week particulars of this year's Sudan Budget. The figures for revenue and expenditure are £E2,255,000, an advance of, roughly, £E450,000 on the previous figures. Needless to say, the Budget is the largest in the history of the Sudan, and it is most satisfactory to know that the increasing expenditure inevitable in the case of a young country like the Sudan is more than compensated for by the revenue returns due to the rapid development of the country.

⁂

Considerable interest attaches to the annual report of the Deutsche Bank on account of the references that are made to the bank's extensive interests in the Roumanian oilfields. These, the report says, owing to events in the Balkans and Russia, will "prove of special importance to the Deutsche Bank in view of its close identification with the Steaua Romana Company." German prospects in Roumania compared with the previous year, the report adds, "have very considerably improved, and the Deutsche Bank has been directly benefited through being enabled to dispose in Holland of moderate amounts of its holdings in Roumanian petroleum shares." This liquidation is decidedly interesting, as it can scarcely be taken for an indication that the astute financial house entertains any great expectations of the exploitation of Roumania as a result of the war. On the contrary, it rather suggests profit-taking in anticipation of an inevitable slump in the market.

⁂

No less worthy of note is the passage in the report referring to the bank's interests in Asiatic Turkey. For obvious reasons it is difficult in this case to display even the dubious optimism which has prompted the bank to reduce its interests in Roumanian oil shares. But the Deutsche Bank has never been other than courageous, and so we are told that the position is "no less favourable" than in regard to Roumania. Here, too, this excellent forecast is subjected to a gentle process of watering down, for it is added that with regard to the Baghdad undertakings the bank's interests have for years been "assessed at such figures that losses thereby can hardly accrue to the Deutsche Bank." In plain English, the bank has "cut its losses" on the Baghdad line.

⁂

Apropos of the reference last week to the growth of the co-operative movement in India, it is interesting to note that there are signs that the movement is also gaining ground in Egypt. It may, of course, only prove to be a temporary revival, but the indications point otherwise, and I shall not be surprised if, within a few years, the co-operative movement is firmly established in the country. It is certainly just what the fellaheen require to relieve their economic difficulties.

The strong position of the National Bank of Egypt was brought into clear relief by the speech of Mr. F. T. Rowlatt at the annual meeting last month. The net profits amounted to £519,250 16s. 9d., as against £313,533 6s. 2d. for the previous year, and this substantial increase would have permitted a much larger distribution that 16s. per share Very wisely, however, in the prevailing circumstances a conservative policy was followed and £200,000 of this amount was placed to the special reserve, while the carry-forward was £49,505 14s. 8d., as against £22,179 19s. 7d. in 1916. As the indications point to the continuance of the conditions in Egypt which are so favourably reflected in the balance-sheet shareholders have every reason to regard the future with considerable confidence.

⁂

For years insistence has been laid in these columns on the need for the establishment of English as the official language in Egypt, and at last, judging by a resolution of the Egypt, Levant, and North Africa section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce (which will be found on another page), business men in this country are beginning to realise the advisability of the change. "Tourist," in The Near East of April 26, pointed out the value of the adoption of English for use in the Courts, and I subscribe to his view that the time has come for ending the system of internationalism which has in the past not only hampered the work of the Courts, but has also proved a grave inconvenience as regards the promotion of trade between Egypt and this country. It would be difficult to find a more propitious moment for the change, and I am sure in making the alteration we should have the heartiest co-operation of our Allies, who would be the first to facilitate anything that would tend to improve conditions in the country.

⁂

The chairman's address at the recent annual meeting of the General Ceylon Rubber and Tea Estate is of considerable interest from the light it throws on the present situation in the tea industry. The company's tea crop last year amounted to 1,363,764 lb., a decrease of 372,362 lb. on 1916, this being due to a bad autumn season, and also to the increasing influence of the rubber shade. Owing to this shortage, and also to the rise in the cost of material, etc., the f.o.b. costs were .85d. more than for the previous season, and the net average obtained was just over 8.38d., against 8.46d. As regards the disposal of the crop, it was stated that the Food Controller anticipated being able to take 66 per cent. for the United Kingdom, and it was thought there would be no great difficulty in selling the remainder locally or in other countries.

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THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 1.

The Council of Ministers have now approved of the Budget for the ensuing financial year. Once again the figures constitute a record. Revenue has been fixed at £E22.900,000 and expenditure at £E23.250,000, leaving an estimated deficit of £E350,000 to be debited to the general reserve.

The following table gives an interesting comparison of the Budgets just prior to the war and during the last two years, with the actual results obtained:—

Estimate.

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
1913-14	16,130,000	18,614,000	2,484,000
1914-15	17,588,000	18,162,000	574,000
1915-16	14,756,000	15,900 000	1,144,000
1916-17	16,530,000	16,630,000	100,000
1917-18	19,525,000	19,525,000	—
1918-19	22,900,000	23,250,000	350,000

Actual Result.

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
1913-14	17,703,898	17,659,961	+ 43,937
1914-15	15,389,124	16,857,783	−1,468,869
1915-16	17,759,418	16,594,666	+1,164,752†
1916-17	19,927,274	17 240,606	+2,686,668
1917-18	17,088,271*	13,732,346	+3,355,965

* For nine months ending December.

† Apart from this surplus an amount of £E1,270,407 was written off depreciation of reserve securities.

These figures show that revenue has consistently been fixed in the Budgets at figures which in every case have proved to be below the actual amount eventually collected during the whole of the preceding financial year, and that the actual results have, especially since the war, turned out to be very much better than the estimates. The new estimates are about £E6,000,000 more than the total collected during the nine months ending December 31, 1917, and, whilst it is impossible to say whether that difference will be collected during the remaining three months, there is every reason to expect that the final figure will not be far off the 1918-1919 estimates.

Revenue.

The increase in revenue over the estimate for the preceding year—an increase which amounts to £E3,375,000—is made up as follows:—Customs, tobacco, and Excise duties, £E1,060,000; judicial fees, £E191,000; railways, telegraphs, and telephones, £E2,156,000; State domains, £E122,000; ghaffir cess, £E156,000; interest on investments, £E148,000, a falling off having been budgeted for in ports and lights dues (£E39,000), miscellaneous receipts (£E194,000), and extraordinary receipts (£E244,000).

Of the increase in direct taxes, the new sugar Excise accounts for £E634,000, the balance being due to the rise in the value of Customs entries. The continued prosperity of the people is certain to bring about an increase in land transactions, hence the higher estimate for judicial fees. The high prices which all crops have been commanding, and will continue to command for some time yet, has justified an increase in the expected receipts of the State domains, the total for which at the end of the nine months up to December 31, 1917, was within £E40 of the figure fixed for the whole of the new financial year. Of the increase recorded against railways, etc., £E200,000 is represented by the estimated revenue from the telephone system, which the Government has now taken over, whilst all but £E7,000 of the balance is to come from the increased rates for passenger and goods traffic. The increase in the ghaffir cess is set off by a corresponding increase in the pay of the force, whilst the higher proceeds from investment of funds is due to the Government's participation in the profits on the bank-note issue. The decrease in ports and lights dues is owing to the continued shipping restrictions; miscellaneous receipts are expected to fall off owing to no profits on the coinage of silver being foreseen (indeed, it is feared that no silver will be procurable); whilst the decrease under extraordinary receipts is due to the fact that last year's Budget included credits resulting from the closing of certain special accounts, the balances of which were passed to this head of revenue.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for the new financial year includes the £E500.000 voted the other day by the Council of Ministers as Egypt's contribution during 1918-1919 towards Great Britain's war expenditure, and also £E564,000 to be paid to the smaller employees as war gratuities. The remainder of the increase of £E3,725,000 is due to the great rise in the cost of material, food, fuel, and labour. In its covering note the Finance Committee gives an interesting table showing how the increase is divided up under the various heads. Thus we find that whilst maintenance of canals, drains, buildings, and roads, etc., account for £E118,433, stores, uniforms, and rations figure for £E447,969, and fuel for £E1,048,761, or nearly double what it stood at in the previous Budget.

Turning to departments, we find that the following are the main increases:—Survey, £E48,372, due to the necessity of increasing the staff in order to cope with new duties, chiefly those of recording crop areas; Government Press, £E49,512, due to the high cost of paper; Mecca and Medina caravans, £E43,020, due to the extra cost of the wheat sent every year to the Hejaz; Frontier Districts Administration, £E133,798—the total last year was £E88,041—(this is the Administration formed to deal with the new territories acquired on the frontiers since the war. Its creation has reduced the work of the coastguards; the latter, however, have now been entrusted with the administration and development of the fisheries, which require very considerable and close attention). Public instruction, £E110,875, of which £E45,000 is for food, £E13,500 for supplies, stores, etc., and £E37,000 is for salaries; Public Health, £E70,972, due to high cost of food and stores, which is the same cause for the increase of £E48,615 in the Prisons estimates; Irrigation, £E170,649; Agriculture, £E38,761, of which £E25,000 is for new works, and £E15,000 for measures to combat cattle plague; State Railways, £E1,085,221, of which £E950,000 alone is for extra cost of coal. (In this connection it is interesting to note that the estimated net revenue of the railways, £E1,204,000, represents about 4 per cent. on its capital value); Telephones, £E140,000; Ghaffirs, £E142,823, covered by the increase in receipts already referred to; and War Office £E117,845 due for all but £E17,000 to the extra cost of provisioning the Army. (The note adds that this increase would have been greater but for the difficulty in obtaining military stores at the present time.)

As already mentioned, this year's Budget is a record one. The figure fixed for the revenue is about £E5,000,000, or 30 per cent. in excess of the actual revenue realised in 1913-1914, and £E3,000,000 above that of 1916-1917, the last complete year recorded so far. The note of the Finance Committee points out, however, that the apparent growth of revenue in recent years is to some extent misleading. A comparison, for example, of the year 1916-1917 with one like 1905 affords no reliable guide to progress or the reverse, unless due allowance is made for the different features in the Budgets or accounts under comparison.

The year 1905 produced a total actual revenue of £E14,810,000, or £E5,117,000 less than the total receipts of 1916-1917, but in the former year items representing in the aggregate £E601,000 were paid direct into the reserve, whereas in 1916-1917 and subsequent years they have been included in the general revenues. Similarly there have been many other alterations in sources of revenue and in the manner of accounting. These changes materially affect any attempt at comparison; and such comparison, if all these different features were taken into consideration, would show that the growth in revenue has been nowhere near so great as it would appear to be.

Moreover, the expansion in the accounts rendered during the past three years has been brought about by the fact that both sides have been inflated by the same abnormal causes, which cannot, however, be expected to continue once the situation created by the war has disappeared. There is indeed every reason to expect that the revenues will undergo a considerable diminution after the war; for, in the first place, Customs rates have in certain instances been raised purely as a war measure and values have been enhanced by the state of the world's market and shipping, with the result that the dues collected have been artificially inflated; secondly, railway traffic has been increased by the carriage of stores and men for the Army, and the public rates have had to be raised to meet the extra cost of fuel, etc., but if, as may be anticipated, agricultural and commercial prices fall after the war, the high rates introduced to make the railways pay may become too onerous to maintain; thirdly, a drop in the value of agricultural commodities will also necessarily affect the returns from the State Domains, whilst the profit from the note issue, amounting this year to £E500,000, cannot be looked upon as a permanently recurring item of revenue.

In these circumstances, therefore, although the present situation reflects an extraordinary condition of prosperity, it would be wrong to take too optimistic a view of the future. It is true that the factors which will operate to bring about a reduction in the revenue will also similarly influence State expenditure, but it is by no means certain that the reduction in expenditure will be simultaneous with or proportionate to that recorded in revenue. Moreover, maintenance work, repairs, etc., which have had to be stopped since the outbreak of war and the non-execution of which has naturally reduced present

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expenditure, will have to be taken in hand immediately peace conditions intervene, and as a result the post-war budgets will be laden with the additional expenditure which the postponement of this necessary work will have entailed.

There is, therefore, every prospect of a very serious situation confronting Egypt when peace conditions set in once more. Whilst the level of the expenditure may have to be maintained, it is almost a foregone conclusion that funds will only be secured to meet these charges if fresh sources of income are created. The imposition of an excise duty on sugar and the arrangement for the State purchase of the cotton crop and the limitation of cotton prices with the proviso that the Egyptian Government shall benefit from any profit derived from the eventual sale of the cotton thus purchased, although they are merely war measures, may be regarded as paving the way towards securing to the Government a greater and more direct participation in the prosperity of the country than it has been possible for it to obtain hitherto. In this respect there are considerable sources of revenue as yet untapped, and the injustice of the present state of affairs is patent; its adjustment would be so beneficial to the country in general that the financial authorities can be certain of every support in any scheme imposing on all elements trading in this country an equitable contribution to the cost of administration and of carrying out the various projects which are vital to its development and its future welfare, and from which those elements will be amongst the first to benefit.

◆

INDIAN DUTY ON EXPORTED INDIGO.

An Act has recently been passed providing for the levy of a cess on indigo exported from British India. The Act, entitled the Indigo Cess Act, came into operation on April 1. It provides that there shall be levied on all indigo produced in India and exported from any Customs port to any port beyond the limits of British India or to Aden, a cess at the rate of one rupee per maund of 82,2 lb. avoirdupois, provided that where any preparation of indigo mixed with any other substance for use as a dye is so exported, the cess shall be levied on such proportion of the total weight of such preparation as the Governor-General in Council may determine by rule under this Act. The proceeds of the cess collected under this Act shall be applied to meet the cost of such measures as the Governor-General in Council may consider it advisable to take for promoting research in the interests of the indigo industry in India.

EGYPT'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Use of English Advocated.

The *Monthly Record* of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce states that the following letter was addressed to Sir F. R. Wingate, High Commissioner for Egypt, on April 6—a copy being sent to the Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Egyptian Legislation :—I subjoin copy of the resolution supported by the Board of Directors of this Chamber, which has been unanimously adopted by the Egypt, Levant, and North Africa Section of the Chamber. The Board of Directors realise that British interests suffer a grave disadvantage owing to the fact that the English language is not the official European language of the country—French or Italian having the preference in all legal proceedings. This is a manifestly incongruous state of affairs in view of the British protectorate over the country, and my Directors certainly consider that the time has arrived when a change should be made in this respect.

The resolution is as follows :—"That the Egypt, Levant and North Africa Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce strongly urge the Capitulations Commission and the Advisory Committee on Egyptian Legislation to recommend (*a*) the establishment of English as the official European language of Egypt at the earliest possible moment; and (*b*) the incorporation in the Egyptian legal code and procedure of such items of English Law and procedure as may be practicable."

I am earnestly to commend this subject to your notice. A copy of this communication has been addressed to Mr. Liddell, Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Egyptian Legislation in London.

In acknowledging this letter on April 9, the Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Egyptian Judicial Reform stated that the Committee were already giving their attention to both these points raised by the Chamber.

◆

AMERICAN SILVER FOR INDIA.

Several consignments of silver bullion derived from the melting of silver dollars under the authorisation of the Pittman Act are now on their way to the Calcutta Mint, says *The Times* New York correspondent in a message dated May 3. At New York, $25,000,000 (£5,000,000) have already been melted. The Government is freely purchasing silver in the open market at $1 an ounce.

The importation of articles of luxury into Greece is being prohibited.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Unchanged.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The conditions prevailing in the market have not shown any distinct change. Spinners and manufacturers have ignored the ups and downs in raw cotton rates, and remain firm in quotation. Fresh business has not been sought after, and buyers have not been in the mood to operate with any freedom. As anticipated, the workpeople in all branches of the industry have decided to apply for an increase in wages, the demand being for an all round advance of 30 per cent. It is expected that some amicable settlement of the claim will be arranged. The question of supplies of American cotton continues to be much discussed, and it is understood that some members of the Cotton Control Board have had interviews in London this week with the Board of Trade and the Ministry of Shipping. In local trade circles it is believed that a further cut in production is inevitable in the near future. The prospects for the Egyptian cotton crop continue generally healthy. Egyptian spinners continue to meet with an encouraging demand for both carded and combed yarns. The question of delivery now and again prevents contracts being arranged. Prices, if anything, have rather tended to go against buyers. There has not been much activity in piece goods for Egypt. Some leading exporters have found it necessary to make provision for the future, but there is hesitation in paying to-day's prices for lots of weight. Only a miscellaneous business has been done for India. Operations for China have been very limited. American yarns have been well held in price with a steady demand. Sales have been restricted owing to the small supplies offering. Not much has been done in yarns suitable for shipment abroad.

◆

INDIAN COTTON CROP.

The final general Memorandum on the Indian cotton crop of 1917-18 has been published by the Director of Statistics for the Government of India. It deals with the final reports on the early and late crops. The total area reported under cotton is 24,781,000 acres, which is 3,036,000 acres, or nearly 14 per cent., more than the revised figure of last year. The total estimated yield is 4,036,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, which is 10 per cent. below the revised figure of last year, when the yield was 4,502,000 bales. The yield per acre in 1917-18 is given as 65 lbs., as compared with 83 lbs. in 1916-17.

The *Coupons Bulletin*, published by the company of official stockholders in Paris, makes no mention of the detachment of coupons of the Roumanian loans of 1896 and 1898, which fell due on May 1.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Paper Bottles.

A machine has been invented capable of manufacturing paper milk bottles at the rate of 5,000 per hour. It is 90 feet long, and costs over £3,000. Wood pulp is the raw material employed. The process does not require high-priced paper pulp; any fibrous wood is said to work equally well. One ton of pulp will produce 60,000 bottles. Owing to the low cost of manufacture the paper bottles are said to be cheaper in the long run than the glass bottles now in use. Only three men are required to work the machine, and from beginning to end the milk bottle is handled only by steel fingers, and it is claimed that the apparatus meets all sanitary requirements.

A Milk Powdering Machine.

With the restrictions on the sale of milk and the higher prices of this commodity in consequence a large field has been opened for the sale of milk powder; for this product takes the place of fresh and condensed milk in the household, and is extensively used in the manufacture of chocolate, biscuits, confectionery, etc., and for making various chemical and pharmaceutical preparations. In the Near East, where sheep and goat's milk is mostly used, fresh milk is generally obtainable in the spring and summer when it is abundant, while condensed milk is a luxury. A new machine therefore for making milk powder from full as well as from skim milk will be of much interest to many people in the East, as well as in this country, who in view of present circumstances may decide to take up such an interesting and promising industry. This new machine reduces the milk to powder by passing it between steam-heated rollers, and is capable of dealing with from 90 to 100 gallons of full milk, or from 135 to 145 gallons of skim milk per hour.

Bullet-proof Glass.

"Triplex glass" is the name of a material which is now being extensively used for motor-cars and aeroplanes where safety is a consideration. It consists of two layers of ordinary glass with a layer of xylonite sandwiched in between. Certain transparent cements are added, and the whole is welded together by very high pressure. The resulting material is quite transparent, but so tough that a Mauser rifle bullet fired at 25 yards has failed to perforate it. It cannot be cut through even with a diamond. The possibilities of such a material are obviously immense, and it is already being used in a variety of directions, such as for armoured cars, port-holes in mine-sweepers, and observation panels in airships, etc. It may also be used in the near future by railways for the windows of carriages, as when an accident happens serious injuries are often sustained owing to broken glass.

Openings in Mesopotamia.

Firms manufacturing agricultural implements are now beginning to realise the immense possibilities that lie before them in connection with the development of Mesopotamia. The climate of Mesopotamia is so propitious and the soil so rich and conducive to cereal raising that it is possible to get two or three crops in the year, and it has been recently stated by well-informed British authorities that in the future the country "will become one of the finest wheat fields in the world." There is every prospect, it is declared, that Mesopotamia will provide a market of great value to our implement firms, and the British possession of Baghdad is clearly as important from the trade as it is from the political point of view. In this connection it is worth mention that already there is talk of considerable buying by the British Government of scythes, spades, forks, rakes, and hoes for use in Mesopotamia.

New Industries Committee.

In previous Engineering Notes a brief allusion was made to the newly-appointed committee of manufacturers and business men to consider the provision of new industries for the engineering trade. According to recent information, we understand that the duties of the committee are to assist the engineering trade in dealing with the problems which will inevitably arise in the establishing of new industries, in order to provide employment for the new labour and plant which have come into being during the war. It is important for the trades generally, as well as for the individual manufacturer, that the committee should be informed of all new projects for expansion of business after the war, to secure as far as possible supplies of materials, and to prevent the disappointment and failure that might result if a number of concerns, ignorant of developments contemplated elsewhere, devoted their energies to the same article, thus creating a production in excess of actual requirements. It is noteworthy that the gentlemen who are giving their time to the work of this committee are themselves manufacturers with experience in the industries, and their fellow-manufacturers will be invited to state what are the difficulties which they anticipate in extending their industries after the war, in order that, so far as may be practicable, they may secure the assistance of the Government in overcoming these difficulties. Manufacturers will be encouraged to rely upon their own efforts, and upon good organisation and management, rather than upon protective tariffs which involve a political issue not within the purview of the committee.

Preparing Serbian Agriculturists.

In dealing with industrial and agricultural prospects in Serbia after the war, we referred to the instinctive industrialism of the Serbians, and to the well directed energy which they are displaying for anything that may be conducive to the regeneration of their country. Another proof of this timely and well-aimed energy and decision is the preparation of competent agriculturists for their country. Serbian boys have arrived in this country to learn the principles of scientific agriculture. They will work on farms during the summer and enter agricultural colleges next winter for the theoretical side of the work. After that it is hoped they will be able to return to Serbia as missionaries in agriculture, charged with the duty of restoring Serbian agriculture.

Prize for Mixed Oil Fuel.

According to a recent announcement the Government has decided to offer a prize of £2,000 for a process of making a mixture of dehydrated coal tar with mineral petroleum oils suitable for Admiralty use as a fuel oil. This is to be awarded to the first competitor submitting a successful process which is capable of ready and economical application without undue absorption of material and labour. The process may be provisionally protected and patented, but the Government must have free use of it under the patent. Further particulars may be obtained from the Controller, Munition Mineral Oil Production Department, 8, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

BATOUM.

The Black Sea port of Batoum, which the Turks have now captured, affords a good illustration of the ousting of British trade by Germany. From 1884 to 1900 some 75 per cent. of the exports and imports were controlled by Great Britain, but during the ten years prior to the outbreak of the war German control had monopolised 65 per cent. of this trade, and Great Britain's share was reduced to 7 per cent. The bulk of the German trade, however, continued to be carried in British bottoms.

From 1884-1914 the following products were exported to the countries of Western Europe from this port :—

Petroleum, 22,661,532 tons; manganese ore, 1,676,824 tons; wool, 99,832 tons; liquorice root, 369,563 tons; grain, 406,265 tons; silk cocoons, 23,451 tons; oil cake, 76,100 tons; tobacco, 2,796 tons; albumen, 7,520 tons; hides, 5,363 tons; lucerne seed, 9,460 tons; salt, 3,650 tons; almonds, 5,692 tons; cotton seed, 40,661 tons; walnut logs and boxwood, 65,053 tons; carpets, 23,800 tons; other articles, 331,998 tons. Among the chief imports were tin plates, timber, bricks and tiles, metals, machinery and hardware.

The returns of shipping of all nationalities which entered and cleared in the foreign trade of the Port of Batoum from 1883-1914 were as follows :—

	Vessels.		Tonnage.
British	4,287	....	7,362,326
Austro-Hungarian	1,914	....	2,271,322
Belgian	647	....	1,145,399
Dutch	68	....	146,608
French	2,002	....	3,324,488
German	1,074	....	1,760,256
Greek	2,172	....	1,225,346
Italian	531	....	604,723
Norwegian	110	....	158,808
Russian	7,375	....	4,417.255
Danish	125	....	143,541
	Sailing Vessels.		
Turkish	17,769	....	692,912

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CYPRUS CROP PROSPECTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

The barley harvest, which approaches, should be satisfactory. It is hoped that the rainfall will have been sufficient to fill the springs, and that the summer crops will fare better than they did last year. Shipping difficulties are most aggravating for carob merchants while record prices are being offered in many foreign markets that are badly in need of them. There have been some fresh consignments of tobacco to London, and it is hoped that favourable reports will be received regarding them, as many hopes are based on the future of the new industry, especially, of course, in respect of the leaf, which is being offered for the manufacture of cigarettes.

POWER LINE TO MOROCCO.

Regular Service of First-Class Steamers taking cargo to and from **London** and **Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi** and **Mogador.** Loading Berth—Morocco Wharf, Wapping.

SAILINGS FORTNIGHTLY.

The hulls of the above steamers are insured under the Government War Risk.
For Rates of Freight, Sailing Dates, etc., apply to **THE POWER STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.** (James Power & Co.),
158, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegraphic Address—"Pouvoir," London. Telephone—No. 1525 Avenue and 2541 City

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.

Established 1894.

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

HEAD OFFICE: 17 and 18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. **Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000**
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. **Reserve - - - - - £220,000**

Directors:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.
Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON.
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.
CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Secondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

COMPANY MEETING.

National Bank of Egypt.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on April 25 at the head office of the bank in Cairo, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt (the Governor) presiding:

The chairman said:—Gentlemen,—We have the pleasure of submitting to you the balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year 1917. After providing for general expenses and depreciation on securities, the net profits amount to £519,250 16s. 9d., as compared with £313,533 6s. 2d. for the previous year, and we propose to dispose of these profits in the following manner:—To statutory reserve, £51,925 1s. 8d.; to special reserve, £200,000; for an 8 per cent. dividend to the shareholders, £240,000. This will leave, including the £22,179 19s. 7d. brought forward from the former year, £49,505 14s. 8d. to be carried forward to the profit and loss account for 1918.

As the war continues, and bearing in mind our balances with banks in enemy countries, we feel we cannot be wrong in acting cautiously by proposing to put £200,000 to the special reserve. At the end of 1917 you will observe that we only had to depreciate securities by £33,000, whereas at the end of 1916 we had to depreciate them by £115,000; therefore the profits for 1917, before depreciation of securities, are £124,000 more than the corresponding profits for the year 1916. Our various securities are valued at a quotation not exceeding that on December 31, 1917.

Turning to current expenses, you will notice that they are £18,000 higher than the figure for 1916. Salaries and bonus to the staff account for £10,000 of this increase—an item that we are sure, under present circumstances, will have your full sympathy, The extended bank-note circulation has naturally entailed extra expense, and an exceptional though small sum is accounted for by maintenance of Alexandria warehouses.

I think, gentlemen, that we may look upon the results of the year as quite satisfactory; the conditions that obtained in 1916 have been continued and further accentuated in 1917. The high prices realised for Egyptian produce, the favourable trade balance, and the disbursements connected with the requirements of the army have resulted in a considerable development of the bank-note circulation and of the deposits with the bank. By investing in British Treasury Bills and meeting the increased demand for financing the cotton crop we have been able to make profitable use of the extra money at our disposal.

We alluded above to the increased amount of money lodged with the bank owing to the present economic conditions: our balance-sheet totals to £28,024,000, as compared with £21,626,000 on December 31, 1916. On the assets side, the total of £8,121,000 of Government securities is represented as to £7,300,000 by British Treasury bills for the most part, by War Expenditure Certificates, and National War Bonds—the remainder by first-class Government securities. The Government securities, London acceptances, money at call and short notice in London, bankers' accounts, and cash amount to £19,000,000 Our advances on merchandise, chiefly cotton, amount to £4,500,000, and beyond this we are owed by the Cotton Seed Control Board for the purchase of cotton seed over £1,000,000 under the responsibility of the British Government This item is included in the figures of £1,736,000 under the heading of advances otherwise secured. Our other loans call for no special remark.

We regret to say that, owing to the bad state of his health, Mr. C. de Tschudi has found it necessary to resign from the board of directors. We have enjoyed his sound judgment and friendly collaboration since the foundation of the bank in 1898, and we are certain you will join us in wishing him many years of well-earned repose. We have the pleasure to say that Mr. H. E. Barker, of Alexandria, and Mr. Robert Rolo, of Cairo, have accepted our invitation to join your board of directors. We have only to ask you, in accordance with the statutes of the bank, to kindly confirm these nominations. No members of the board fall for re-election this year. We have recently lost the services of Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, who for many years was sub-governor of the Bank in Alexandria; he has taken up an important post as manager of the British Trade Corporation. He has gone with our gratitude for valuable services, and our best wishes for his future. We have had the pleasure of promoting Mr. Hornsby to the post of sub-governor in Alexandria. We cannot better conclude these few remarks than by expressing to the sub-governors, managers, and staff our sincere appreciation of their services.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Eastern Bank.

The report of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., for 1917, states that the gross profits, after providing for contingencies and including the balance brought forward, amount to £143,853, and after deducting expenses of management, directors' and auditors' fees, there remains £77,918. A dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less tax, was paid on March 28, absorbing £42,000, and the directors now recommend placing £20,000 to reserve fund (making £90,000), and to carry forward £15,918. The branch has been reopened at Baghdad, where the bank has been appointed bankers to the Government of India. The balance-sheet shows:—Reserve fund, £70,000; current and deposit accounts, £5,049,972; bills payable, £298,368; acceptances, £204,628; loans payable against bills and securities, £440,000; cash on hand and at bankers, £2,039,453; bullion on hand and in transit, £156,654; British and Indian Government and other securities, of which £35,000 London County Council 3½ per cent. stock has been deposited as security for Indian Government accounts, £236,090; bills receivable, £2,154,068; loans receivable and advances, £1,868,001; sundry accounts, including exchange adjustments, £152,063. Meeting, 4, Crosby Square, E.C., 15th instant, 12.30 p.m.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 1¼ per cent. (or at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum), less income tax, from surplus profits, in addition to the interest guaranteed for the half-year to June 30, 1918—namely, £1¾ per cent., less income tax, making a total distribution for the half year of 3 per cent., or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

The directors of the Bombay Gas Company, Limited, recommend a final dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent (less income tax), making, with the interim dividend of 3½ per cent., a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year 1917, payable on June 1.

The transfer books of the Eastern Bank will be closed from May 14 to May 30 inclusive.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 13.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	18
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	88½
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	103
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	12¾
,, priv.	L.E.	$4\frac{1}{16}$
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	170
Bons de Panama	Frs.	119
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	84½xd
,, Priv.	Frs.	104xd
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	92¾
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	$2\frac{9}{16}$
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	$1\frac{5}{16}$
Building Lands of Egypt	£	$1\frac{13}{32}$
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	$2\frac{11}{32}$
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5⅝xd
Bonded Stores	L.E.	7¾
Unifiée	L.E.	89⅝
Privilégiée		77½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	$6\frac{11}{16}$
Nungovich Hotels	£	5½
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
,, Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅛
,, Ord		36/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	18¼
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	$4\frac{1}{16}$
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108xd
,, Jouissance	Frs.	164xd
Egyptian Markets		27/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	410xd
,, Div.	Frs.	380xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	270
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	$5\frac{1}{32}$
Egyptian Salt and Soda		35/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	705
,, Fondateur	Frs.	815
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	390
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	296
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	8⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		$\frac{21}{32}$

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EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for eleven days ended March 31.

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
March 21-March 31	6,127	..	8,890
April 1-March 31	215,107	..	283,824

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
April 29, 30	350,000	650,000
May 1, 2	250,000	400,000
May 3, 4	180,000	250,000
May 5, 6	350,000	510,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended April 26.		1918. Week ended April 25.
Cattle markets	781	..	706
General markets	357	..	401
Receipts (£)	1,138	..	1,107
Total for year	26,039	..	19,752

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All commodities in Turkey are being sold at exorbitant prices. The average price of meat is 6s. a lb. The value of landed property has increased three and four fold.

Lionda and Company, Ltd.,
34, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.
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Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc., Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:
Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

Chartering and Insurance Department:
British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurances of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

Coal Exporters, &c.

SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., SALONICA, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."
ATHENS HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA & CO., STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS, GREECE.
Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

This has again been a very quiet week as far as actual transactions are concerned, but the tone has been a good one and prices are mostly firm. In Egyptian Government stocks Unifieds have been dealt in round 86¾ ex. div., which is practically the same as last week's price of 88½ cum. div. The 3½ per cent Prefs. have been done for a few thousand pounds at about current prices. City of Alexandrias have again been in demand, and the price has been raised one point to 80.

In Bank shares some transactions have taken place in Nationals round 17 5-16 ex. div., which is about ⅛ down; but Agriculturals have remained firm and Agricultural Prefs. have been in constant demand throughout the week, closing 1-32 higher at 7 1-32. For Anglo-Egyptian Banks also there has been a steady demand and the price is 1-16 up at 15 3-16.

In Land shares some small transactions have been put through in Aboukirs and Behéras; but both close unaltered, although at one time Behéras were ¼ higher at 13¼. Behêra Prefs. are quoted 4⅛ ex. div., which is the same as 4¼ cum. div. last week. In Delta Lands some few hundred shares have again been dealt in round 13s. New Egyptians have been steadily enquired for during the week but there has been no change in the price. Sidi Salems have come to life again, and the price has improved 1s. 3d. to 43s. 9d. on the publication of the report and accounts for 1917. United Egyptian Lands are 1½d. firmer at 1s. 7½d., there being a fairly substantial buyer about and sellers rather scarce.

In Miscellaneous shares there have been no changes in price worth recording, but a certain amount of business has been transacted in Salts and Khedivial Mails.

Greek securities have continued a strong market, and a further advance has taken place in several directions. Business, however, has been on an exceedingly small scale owing to the lack of sellers. The 1881 and 1884 loans are 2 points higher at 62. Monopolies and the 1890 loan are both one point higher at 56 and 59 respectively. A small transaction in Currant Bonds took place at 93, but otherwise there are no sellers under 95. Ionian Banks have risen ¼ to 5¼, and some fair transactions have taken place in Piræus Athens Peloponnesus 4¼ per cent. railway bonds round 70½ ex. div.; at which price there are further buyers.

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INDIAN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The latest Indian traffic receipts are shown below. Except where otherwise stated the figures relate to the preceding week:—

	Amount. Rs.	Inc. or Dec. Rs.	Aggregate. Inc. or Dec. Rs.
RAILWAYS.			
East Indian (April 27)	26,86,000	+3,25,000	+3,83,000
Bombay, Baroda .. (April 27)	18,84,000	+3,05,000	+8,83,000
Delhi Umballa.. (April 30)	96,100	+ 20,310	+ 52,775
Gt. Indian Penin. (April 27)	25,58,200	+ 93,200	+1,48,700
TRAMWAYS, ETC.			
Calcutta..............	72,339	+ 7,305	+ 72,121
Madras (two weeks April 30)............	42,911	+ 26·4%	+ 16,2%
Calcutta..............	76,018	+ 8,582	+ 80,703

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.

Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. April 30	May 8
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	79	80
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88½	86¾xd
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74xd	74xd
Greek 5 %, 1881...............	57	60	62
Do. 5 %, 1884...............	56	60	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887........	49	55	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890...............	56	58	59
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	56	56
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	77	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7	7 1/32
Anglo-Egyptian Bank..........	12	15⅛	15 3/16
Bank of Athens...............	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	6⅜	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	5	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	18	17 5/16xd
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 7/16	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72¾	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	20/9	20/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13	13½
Do. Pref.	4½	4¼	4⅛xd
Daira Sanieh.................	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/–	13/–	13/–
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/–	10/–	10/–
Gharbieh Land Co.............	1¾	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	42/6	43/9
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	2 1/16	2 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord..........	1 3/16	26/–	26/–
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	11/16	38/6	38/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	36/6	38/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾	3¾

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT.

The necessary number of shares required to pass the Resolutions at the Fifteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, held in Cairo on Tuesday, the 30th April, 1918, not having been represented thereat, notice is hereby given that the FIFTEENTH (ADJOURNED) ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the said Bank will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Thursday, the 16th May, 1918, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among others things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report.

Receiving the Auditors' Report.

Approving the Accounts for the Period ended 31st January, 1918.

Declaration of Dividends.

Election of Directors.

Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration.

And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of five shares has the right to attend the General Meeting provided the shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the shares in London is the 8th May, 1918), when cards of admission and proxy forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt.—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.

In London.—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 30th April, 1918.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the fortieth ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be HELD at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on MONDAY, the 3rd June, 1918, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their Share warrants in London before the 20th May, 1918, or in Alexandria before the 30th May, 1918, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, the 15th April, 1918.

By order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY (Cairo)

The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be HELD in CAIRO on the 31st May, 1918. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their Share-Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than the 16th May.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan,

CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "*TUBULAR.*"

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 367.—Vol. XIV.
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

General Marshall's forces in Mesopotamia continue to advance, and the mounted troops operating on the Kifri-Mosul road are now within eighty miles of the latter town. In the fortnight that has elapsed since the capture of Kifri they have covered a hundred miles. The fact that nothing has been heard for a long time of any force on the Tigris above Samarra will have been noted. An advance up the river from this point, though not impossible, would be a stupendous undertaking. It would seem as if the Turks, in view of their shortage of troops, had had to choose to which of the two theatres they would divert such reinforcements as they could muster. They decided not unnaturally that the graver menace threatened them in Palestine; a further factor may have been the unwillingness of the German Command to allow German divisions to be sent to Mesopotamia. General Marshall has known how to take advantage of his opportunities.

At Altun Keupri, which was reached on May 11, British troops are advancing further north than a point on the Turco-Persian frontier which was the scene of constant encounters between the Turks and the Russians. The enemy's object was probably to rouse the Persian frontier tribes against the Allies, rather than to undertake from here any serious invasion of Persia, and he effectually kept General Baratoff's forces tied to this region. If any Turkish troops remained after the disappearance of the Russians, they will hardly have waited for General Marshall to reach Altun Keupri. Not the least useful effect, therefore, of the Mesopotamia advance will be to relieve the Persian frontier of Turkish pressure. By this time the border tribes will have been able to revise the opinions of the British that they may have formed on the evidence of Turkish and German agents. News from Baghdad and the reports of their own countrymen who have been in contact with Sir Percy Sykes' South Persian Rifles will now be supported by the most convincing of arguments, a British advance and a Turkish retreat. The operations against Turkey may be a "side-show"; but they are doing invaluable work for the settlement of the Near and Middle East after the war—a cause which ranks second in importance only to the winning of the war.

In Palestine General Allenby has not yet succeeded in liquidating the position created by the enemy's appearance in strength between the Jordan and the Hejaz Railway, and possibly there may have to be a new orientation of our strategy before any striking developments can be expected. As we still hold the bridgeheads over the Jordan, the offensive rests with the British Commander, who has evidently succeeded in drawing a large portion of the enemy's reinforcements to this district. But the course of the campaign suggests that sufficient allowance had not been made for Turkey's powers of resistance in difficult country and when stiffened by German troops. Mr. Lloyd George's statement that in Egypt and Palestine there are only three white divisions, the rest being Indians "or mixed with a very, very small proportion of British troops in those divisions" had been challenged—as we saw last week—by General Maurice. The Prime Minister was able to show that his figures were based on an official report, and were strictly accurate for the moment at which the report was submitted to the War Cabinet. He added: "What really happened was this. Orders had been given for the change to take place at that time, and the change was not complete." From this it has to be inferred that before long there should be an improvement in the position in Palestine.

The terms of the Bucharest Treaty are discussed elsewhere in this issue, but attention may be called to the fact that the policy of which the treaty is the exponent is endorsed practically by the whole of such public opinion in Germany as is articulate these days. For the Pan-Germans indeed the conditions imposed on the Roumanians are not severe enough; but in general there is complete satisfaction that Germany should have discarded the hypocrisy of the Reichstag resolution and made up her mind to extract all she can from the conquered country. The most important document is the special Economic Treaty, which contains the Petroleum and the Economic Agreements. According to the latter, Roumania has to sell to Germany and Austria-Hungary the surplus production of 1918-19 of all kinds of grain, including oil seeds, fodder, pulse, poultry, cattle, meat, fibrous plants, and wool. She is forced to agree further to sell the surplus of this production to the Central Powers for the seven years subsequent to 1919 should Germany and Austria-Hungary require this surplus.

The average non-German will be left in amazement at the mentality revealed in the terms imposed on Roumania. There were some—if not actually a good number of—pro-Germans in the country both before the war and up to the peace negotiations. It will be difficult to believe that there will be any when the full significance of the Treaty has sunk deep into the

Roumanian mind. Here, then, is Germany toward the close of the fourth year of the war deliberately extending the policy of "oppressed nationalities." The doctrine is conveniently expressed by the inevitable professor who declares that the proper maxim for Germany is "to extract from the situation as much material advantage as the military state of affairs permits."

It may be from a feeling that they have somewhat overshot the mark that the German Government have now notified the Commissaries of the Russian people that Roumania has annexed Bessarabia with the approval of the Central Powers. The Roumanians will, perhaps, be well advised to fight shy of a gift proffered under such conditions. Their claims to Bessarabia are admitted, but effect should be given to them with the mutual consent of the peoples concerned, rather than at the bidding of Germany and Austria-Hungary, with a view to covering their own spoliation of Roumanian territory. Doubtless the Roumanians will adopt the same attitude to their annexation of Bessarabia as they have manifested to the Bucharest Treaty. They will wait and see, and will take their stand with King Ferdinand, who still retains "every hope in the future of my brave and valiant people."

Certainly the Bucharest Treaty marks the high water of German ascendancy in the war, for it coincides with an important meeting between the Sovereigns and chief statesmen of Germany and Austria-Hungary, at which the German hold on the Dual Monarchy as it has been evolved by the course of events is consolidated and regularised. In official phraseology the old alliance between the two countries has been extended and deepened. There is reason to suppose that the effect of the meeting at the German headquarters has been to intensify Austria-Hungary's political, military, and economic subjection to her powerful neighbour. Thus Germany has realised her Central Europe scheme as far as Austria-Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Turkey are concerned. The uncertainty of the latter's future in view of possible developments in Palestine and Mesopotamia has made it necessary to aim at an alternative extension through Russia and across the Black Sea. If she is allowed to keep this *bloc* under her domination, she can regard with equanimity sacrifices in the West.

Attention is at last being directed in Bulgaria to that country's position in regard to the war, and particularly to financial questions. Last month the *Preporetz*, the organ of the Democratic Party, pointed out that the credits voted during the present war amount to over four and a-half thousand million levas. To this sum have to be added war credits of nearly a thousand million levas for 1912, which, with the consolidated debt, bring Bulgaria's indebtedness up to six and a half thousand million levas. There has been a satisfactory gain of territory; but it entails expenditure for administration, to say nothing of possible assistance "to the suffering populations." Another grievance is to be found in the fact that the two divisions that took part in the action against Roumania "returned with empty sacks," and no great confidence is felt in any ultimate settlement with the other members of the Central Alliance. As the war continues Bulgaria's financial burden grows. At this point the Democratic organ is led to reflect that for Bulgaria the war is really over; it leaves the position of the Central Powers unspecified, but it adds: "When will the war end? Our neighbours the Turks will require at least another year to turn the enemy out of their country. And how long will they need to strengthen the newly acquired territories of Batoum, Ardahan, and Kars, which they are only now entering?"

The report that Bulgaria has been induced to make territorial concessions to Turkey acquires added interest from a perusal of the Bulgarian Press prior to the announcement. Feeling on the subject was clearly running high in the country, and the Press of all shades of opinion was reading some pointed lessons to the Turks. In the end a compromise was arranged, but it may be doubted whether it has been regarded in Sofia as a permanent solution of the difficulty. Bulgaria seems destined to have an unfortunate experience with regard to "scraps of paper." She can point to her treaty with Serbia and to the London Agreement. It was mainly to remove her grievances in respect of these undertakings that she entered her present alliance, and now she finds that yet another signed arrangement has to go by the board. The incident will not endear either the Germans or the Turks to the Bulgarians.

In her search for the commodities of which she is deprived by the Allied blockade Germany is pressing farther East, as if on the principle that, if only one-tenth of the normal acreage in the conquered territories is now under cultivation, she must proceed to lay hands on ten times as much as might otherwise have satisfied her. With Rostoff in their possession, German troops are now in direct railway communication with the Baku oilfields. The agricultural resources of this portion of the Caucasus are considerable, and it is reported that there is still a large accumulation of grain stocks in the country. It is unfortunately not within the power of the Allies to cope at present with German designs in these regions. No doubt the expectations in regard to grain will be disappointed here as they have been elsewhere; in any case, difficulties of transport increase as the German foraging parties go farther away from the Fatherland. Organisation and forced labour will do much; but until Russia, with or without Japan's help, takes the remedy in her own hands, the Allies are powerless.

Mr. Montagu has concluded his six months' visit to India, and is back again in England. He has adhered strictly to his "terms of reference," which stipulated for a free and informal exchange of opinion with the authorities and with representatives of all shades of political thought in India. So far as is known, everyone who had his say to say has said it, directly or vicariously. Mr. Montagu listened to the speakers and read the memorials of those who elected to submit their views in writing. Whatever opinions he may have formed have now to be considered by the British Government, and will in due course be referred to Parliament. The main lines of the policy to which practical effect has yet to be given have already been set down; they are directed towards increasing "the association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions, with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire."

Reports from India bear witness to the stimulating effect of the Delhi Conference. As was suggested in these columns last week, India's war effort has suffered in the past from lack of organisation. To remedy this state of affairs recourse must be had to educating public opinion in regard to the need for a greater effort and to the co-ordination of the energies of individuals. The experience of Great Britain has proved the need of a publicity bureau, and India is now to have one of her own. By the formation of Provincial, State and local committees it is hoped that a generous rivalry will be encouraged both among the political divisions of the country and among unofficial bodies. The proposal has been made to raise half a million recruits during the present year, and with a judicious allocation of this number between the several Provinces and States the scheme should be capable of realisation without difficulty.

In the midst of this rally to the Imperial cause it is inevitable that the "small band of extremists" should make an effort to gain a hearing for themselves. It may be well not to ignore them, however much they prove to be out of touch with the sentiment of the country; for it has to be remembered that it is in part due to their propaganda in the past that the need for publicity work of a different kind is established now. They will, no doubt, be powerless to resist or check the results of the Delhi Conference; but they may be shrewd enough to take cover behind more moderate opinion in an attempt to use the emergency as a case for bargaining, and offer help on condition that their demands are granted.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 1.

His Highness the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan celebrated his birthday on Tuesday last, and the day was kept as a Government holiday by all the administrations. A reception was held in the morning at Abdin Palace. There was a very good attendance, especially of notables from the provinces, and amongst the earliest callers was the High Commissioner. On this occasion the Sultan conferred a number of grades and decorations on Government officials and provincial notables; this is the first general list of honours since the accession of his Highness last October, and the first issued since December, 1916. These honours are not in recognition of any war work: in the case of notables they are bestowed for the prominent part they have played in the administration of their districts; whilst those conferred on officials are in recognition of their services in their particular posts, and are based on the salary each draws. The present list is an exceedingly small one, it having been decided to restrict very drastically the number of officials and notables on whom honours should be bestowed on these occasions. At one time—not so very long ago either—it was quite usual to offer an official a decoration if it were not possible to give him an increase in salary, or even to refuse him an increase on the score that he had had a decoration recently. Fortunately, under the Sultanian *régime*, such procedure no longer holds good, and a commendable effort is being made to raise the tone of Egyptian grades and decorations by laying down very definite limits within which such honours may be bestowed and, what is still more important, adhering strictly to them.

The Zionist Movement.

The members of the Zionist mission have arrived here and have been very busy preparing for the work which lies ahead of them. The mission consists of Dr. Chaim Weizmann (president), Dr. M. Edler and Messrs. Leon Simon, Joseph Cowen, and Israel Sieff (secretary). Major the Hon. Ormsby Gore and Captain James de Rothschild accompany the mission as *liaison* officers. A most enthusiastic reception was accorded these Zionist delegates by the Jewish communities in Alexandria and here, and every effort has been, and is still being, made to assist them. They were received in special audience by the High Commissioner, and subsequently were entertained to luncheon by him together with the leading local Zionists. The mission is leaving very shortly for Palestine.

The Cairo Racing Season.

The Cairo racing season, which started on October 27 and has continued every week since, came to an end this week. It has been a very successful one, and we have had some excellent racing, though at times, owing to constant running, some of the horses have shown decided signs of getting stale. On the whole, however, the scheme of holding weekly meetings alternatively at Gezira and Heliopolis has been satisfactory. The two racing committees are to be congratulated on the success of the season, which has very much improved the financial position of their clubs. It is also satisfactory to hear that under the arrangement made at the beginning of the season, when it was decided that a substantial portion of the net proceeds should go to war charities, the latter will benefit, in the case of the Gezira Sporting Club alone, by about £E4,000, very little of which, let it be noted, would have gone to those objects if the opponents of racing in this country had had their way.

The "Capitulations" Note.

The details given in the note issued by the Capitulations Commission show that it has covered a very considerable amount of ground during the eleven months which have elapsed since its first sitting (April 5, 1917). The progress made is all the more remarkable, seeing that the members as well as the outside authorities, whose opinion and collaboration have been sought, are all unusually busy men, whose work had already been markedly increased by the war. It is also very satisfactory to note that the Commission is working so harmoniously with the outside elements which are so vitally interested in the reform contemplated, and the cordial co-operation of which is so essential to the successful elaboration and introduction of those reforms.

So far, apart from certain references in the Greek press, generally approving the principles enunciated in the note, and an article in *Wadinnil* drawing certain deductions from the statements made therein, the local press has made no comments. There are possibly three reasons for this unusual silence of the fourth estate. In the first place, there is on the part of most people an earnest desire not to hamper in any way the important work which the Commission is doing; secondly, all available space, especially at the present juncture, is taken up by the war news and comments thereon; and, thirdly, there is no doubt that fear of the Censor is causing people to refrain from publishing the views they might have to offer on the subject. Whatever the reason for this unusual silence, it is a matter for sincere regret that no comments are being made; for any reasoned and moderate discussion in the local press could not fail to be of material assistance to the Commission in the execution of the immense amount of detail work which still lies before it.

THE CAPITULATIONS COMMISSION.

REPORT ON PAST YEAR'S WORK.—II.*

(FROM OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

The Bar.

The Judicature Law provides for the fusion of the existing native and mixed Bars. The Commission recommends that a Bar Council be created in connection with each Court of Appeal, with power to create delegations in connection with the Central Tribunals, which may ultimately be formed into separate Bars. The Bar attached to the Supreme Court will be subject to special regulations. The members of the existing Bars will be admitted as of right to the new Bar, but for admission in the future it will be necessary to follow an adequate course of study and to obtain the required certificates, in addition to which an examination will follow the period of apprenticeship. The Bar Council will have control over admissions and discipline, subject to an appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Foreigners will be admitted to the Bar upon any full qualifications accepted by their respective countries of origin; they will have the right to be admitted as apprentices either upon an Egyptian qualification or if they possess certificates opening the profession to them in their own country. Foreign advocates would be entitled to a representation in a fixed proportion in the Bar Councils, and in Cairo and Alexandria, if the President is an Egyptian the

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* The first part of this article appeared in THE NEAR EAST of May 3.

Royal Exchange
ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.

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Vice-President would be a foreigner, and *vice versa*. The Commission is also of opinion that, if the Mixed Bar so desire it, discipline over foreign advocates might be entrusted to committees comprising, whenever possible, a majority of foreigners.

Civil and Penal Legislation.

The Judicature Law lays down that the new Courts shall not commence working until after the promulgation of a Penal Code generally applicable in Egypt, and also of new Codes of Criminal and Civil Procedure. A draft Penal Code had already been prepared by a committee sitting at the Ministry of Justice, and this draft was referred to a sub-committee, which has made considerable progress with its task, whilst in the matter of civil procedure the Commission acknowledges that it has been much aided by the work of a Commission which sat before the war, at the same Ministry, to deal with the revision of the Code of Civil Procedure. As regards the latter, certain matters of fundamental importance have already been discussed. The Commission considers it essential that in all civil and commercial cases the issues both of fact and of law should be cleared up before the case is heard in open Court, and for that purpose it is in favour of attaching to the Central Courts registrars with some of the power of assistant judges. The Commission is also satisfied that the administration of justice has heretofore been hampered by the exclusion of evidence of the parties themselves and, before the Mixed Courts, of their relatives and servants; and it is in favour of the conduct of civil cases upon the basis of the parties being required under criminal sanction not knowingly to mislead the Court on questions of fact. Should this principle be adopted the Commission is of opinion that a summary procedure might usefully be introduced for the enforcement of practically undisputed claims.

Civil and Commercial Codes.

At the outset of its labours the Commission decided that a satisfactory revision of the existing legislation could be accomplished only if members of the Bench and the Bar and representatives of the commercial and banking establishments were associated with the work. It has endeavoured to carry out this idea, in the first place, by nominating sub-commissions, upon which are serving representatives of the elements mentioned, and, secondly, by drawing up and distributing among those willing to assist lists of questions on matters of special importance as to which expressions of opinion were particularly desired. Thirty-five judges of the Mixed and Native Courts and thirty-six advocates have offered their services, indicating the subjects on which they consider they could usefully collaborate. Two lists of questions have been distributed and have produced a considerable number of answers which are of very great value; and the Commission, in taking this opportunity of expressing its gratitude for the ready assistance given and its recognition of the impartial spirit in which the replies have been given, regards this feature as showing that it is working in perfect harmony with the leading representatives of opinion in Egypt.

Regarding civil law, the Commission is of opinion that the matter calling for most urgent consideration is the law of property in land. A *questionnaire*, with special reference to real securities in general, and consisting of 68 questions dealing with mortgages, pledges of land, rights of privileged creditors, procedure in execution of creditors' right over land, etc., has been prepared and freely distributed amongst judges, lawyers, chambers of commerce, mortgage banks, and others, with a view to eliciting expressions of opinion as to the defects in the existing legislation and the practical needs which it fails to meet. In view of the importance of the subject the replies will be published. Another question calling for serious study is the organisation of land registration. The International Commission of 1903 and the technical sub-commissions set up by it drafted two laws for establishing land registers and for creating registers of title to land, and these drafts have been re-examined by the Commission. The question of the unified land registries necessary as a consequence of the unification of the Courts, the notarial offices, the system of entries in the land registers, and, in particular, the methods by which rights of succession to real property will be dealt with, have been studied, and a sub-commission has been appointed with a view particularly to the study of questions of practice which have an important bearing on the solution of these questions. This sub-commission has already pointed out that the draft laws made inadequate provision for the practical difficulties that arise in the delimitation of registered plots or for those relating to the *personnel* necessary for the application of the law.

The Law of Obligations.

At a very early stage in its discussion of the Law of Obligations the Commission raised the point as to whether it was desirable to preserve the peculiar and privileged position secured to traders by the existence of a separate commercial code, and it decided that in the modern world no sound reason exists for such preservation. In support of this conclusion the precedent of England, as also of certain modern codes, and the opinion of several eminent jurists and considerations based upon the special position of Egypt and its present practical needs are cited. The Commercial Code will therefore be abolished, some of its provisions finding a place in a Code of Obligations applicable to traders and non-traders alike, and others being dealt with by separate laws. Of the latter, that relating to Commercial Paper has been made the subject of a *questionnaire* distributed among the principal banking institutions and various specially selected members of the Bench and Bar. As the note states, it is generally recognised that the existing law on the subject is defective, and reform has long been called for. The provisions of the draft uniform law adopted at the Hague Conference of 1910 and the English Bills of Exchange Act, 1882, have been taken as the bases of the suggested reforms, and the numerous replies received are unanimous in demanding serious alterations in the existing legislation, a pleasing feature about them being that the respondents manifest no bias in favour of the special legislation of their own country.

The note points out that in view of the political situation in Egypt it is more especially to British precedents that Egypt ought to look for filling gaps and remedying defects in her existing legislation, and that this being notably the case in commercial matters upon which there has been recent English legislation, the Commission has adopted this point of view in dealing with the question of bankruptcy. The unification of the commercial and civil law leads naturally to an extension of the principles of bankruptcy to all insolvent debtors, whether they be traders or non-traders. The sub-commission appointed to study the reforms necessary in this connection in bankruptcy procedure has already reported. The important changes which it proposes are drawn almost entirely from English Bankruptcy Law, and have been generally approved by the Commission.

The question of legislation regarding trade-marks, in connection with the inadequacy of which merchants have made repeated complaints, has also occupied the attention of the Commission. New legislation based upon the English Law of 1905 is proposed, and the sub-commission to which the preparation of a draft law was entrusted has already submitted its report. Likewise in connection with the question of commercial frauds, as to which urgent complaints have been received, a sub-commission—on which mercantile interests are largely represented—has been appointed, and its report, the Commission expects, will throw much light upon existing commercial conditions in Egypt. Finally, a *questionnaire* on partnership and a law dealing with the organization of chambers of commerce and of stock and produce exchanges are in course of preparation.

Administrative Law.

The Commission has also discussed the question of the revision of the whole body of administrative regulations, at present notably defective and incomplete, owing to the existence of the Capitulations. A detailed *questionnaire* has been prepared and distributed to the departments concerned, and a special sub-commission has been appointed to advise the latter and control the revision of the regulations in order to secure uniformity and consistency. Pending the completion of this work, the Commission has taken steps with reference to certain special reforms. A sub-commission has been appointed to study the question of local administration, and another to inquire into the little-known and ill-protected customary village rights, the disappearance of which, as the note points out, would be regrettable from both a social and political point of view; and to report both as regards the communal rights not recognised by the Code and the customary rights affecting land situated in the bed of the Nile, as also the question of compensation to be granted for land washed away by the Nile. Finally, seeing that the irrigation system forms the economic basis of the country's prosperity, the Commission has undertaken a re-examination of a draft law on irrigation, prepared some time since by one of its members; and the principles resulting from the discussion which have ensued, and which ranged over the whole matter of the relations between the Irrigation Department and individuals, will serve as a guide to the lines upon which administrative legislation should proceed.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King inspected a party of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Indian Labour Crops, under the command of Captain H. S. Muggridge, Indian Army Reserve of Officers. The party is composed of men of the United Provinces, who are on leave from the Western front.

AMERICAN GREEKS AND THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

New York, April 22.

Seldom, if ever, before have New York's Hellenes demonstrated their patriotism and loyalty to their adopted Motherland so strikingly as during festivities held last week in commemoration of two historic events—the anniversary of the proclamation of the Independence of Greece, in the year 1821, and of the declaration of war against Germany by the United States a year ago.

One of the manifestations of this feeling took the form of a dinner, given at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, in honour of the well-known Philhellenist, Mr. William Harman Black, Special Corporation Counsel of the City of New York. This dinner was given by the members of the Greek-American National Union, and Mr. D. J. Theophilatos, chairman of this patriotic body, and also of the Committee of the Greek-American Boy Scouts, acted as host and toastmaster. Among the guests were:—

Mrs. Lillian R. Sire (Chairman of the Reception Committee), Mrs. Mary M. Lilly, Mrs. Sava Kehaya, Mrs. James Moran, Mrs. John J. Boylan, Mrs. J. O'Leary, Mrs. Helen Volga, Miss Alexandra Pilalas, Miss Helen Vlasto, Miss Maria Vlasto, and Miss Alkmini A. Stathopoulos, the Hon. Francis Caffey, the Hon. Edward Swann, the Hon. Peter Hendricks, Senators J. J. Boylan and James A. Foley, Mr. Theodore P. Shonts, Mr. Frederic B. Lynch (Chairman of the Democratic Party of the United States), Mr. N. Bistis (Secretary of the Greek-American National Union), Hon. David Hirshfield, Mr. G. Gordon Battle, Mr. Solon Vlasto, Mr. Ery Kehaya, Mr. Sava Kehaya, Mr. N. E. Marcoglon, and Mr. A. D. Barouxakis.

Mr. D. J. Theophilatos paid a tribute to the valuable work successfully carried out by Mr. Harman Black as the principal organizer of the Greek-American National Union. Afterwards he proposed a toast to the glorious land which more than half-a-million Hellenes had adopted as their own, the great Republic which entered the war solely in defence of the rights and liberties of mankind. This toast was received with repeated and enthusiastic cheers for America and her President.

The most impressive feature of the demonstrations, however, was a great meeting, of some 6,000 or 7,000 people, held in the Carnegie Hall, which was filled to overflowing. This was organized by the Committee of the Greek-American Boy Scouts, for the double purpose of raising funds to purchase tobacco for the American boys in the trenches and of "boosting" the third Liberty Loan. A patriotic drama was followed by a drill display by the Scouts—a display which did great credit to them and their instructor, Major P. Siori.

Mr. D. J. Theophilatos, the first of several distinguished speakers, emphasized the spontaneousness of the American Hellenes' loyalty to their beloved Motherland and the enthusiasm with which they are rallying to her "Star-Spangled Banner." The Hon. J. J. Boylan, Senator, and Mr. G. A. McDonald, Vice-President of the Mayor's Committee for the National Defence, delivered stirring patriotic addresses, which were received with hearty applause. Mr. W. H. Black, the last speaker, at the close of his remarks, expressed America's wish that Greece, fighting by the side of America and her Allies, should as soon as possible see her capital transferred from Athens to Constantinople as recompense for the blood that she, too, may shed in the common cause.

No dream has for years penetrated the spirit of Hellenism throughout the world as has that of Constantinople becoming the capital of a greater Greece. Therefore the suggestion of Mr. Black that this cherished ideal of a noble race may now be on the threshold of fulfilment electrified the thousands of Greeks who were present. They sprang to their feet, waved hats and handkerchiefs, and cheered long and frantically for America and President Wilson and for their Allies, France and England.

FOR DISABLED GREEK SOLDIERS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It will be remembered that during M. Venizelos' recent visit to London Sir Lucas Ralli handed to him a cheque for £5,000, to dispose of as he might see fit. At a recent meeting held in Athens in connection with the formation of a society for the assistance of soldiers crippled in the war, M. Venizelos, speaking in support of the measures proposed, said: "Allow me to add that, as there will be a need of money from the very first, I place at the disposal of this society £3,000. This does not come from my own pocket. Sir Lucas Ralli in London placed £5,000 at my disposal, and of this I devoted £2,000 for the purpose of founding a Chair in Modern Greek at London University. The remaining £3,000 I place at this society's disposal. Allow me also to add the widow's mite, another £20 (500 dr.) from my own purse."

THE WORK OF FRANCE IN MOROCCO.

Lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday Mr. Norman McLeod said that previously to 1911, when the work of penetration by the French began, Morocco, although so close to Europe, was cut off from it by racial and religious antagonisms, and dwelt in a state of isolation which had lasted four hundred years. The social, economic, and administrative life of the cities was that of mediæval Europe, but without its good humour; in the country the population was in the tribal stage of development. In the interior there were no railways, telegraphs, newspapers, or other conveniences of modern civilisation; indeed, no wheeled vehicle was to be seen, except a little stage coach belonging to the Sultan; and there were no roads suitable for wheeled vehicles. The difficulties of travel were aggravated by the fact that about two-thirds of the country was normally occupied by tribes at feud with the Government. When a stretch of such unfriendly country lay between the traveller and his destination, he went by a circuitous rout or paid blackmail.

The lecturer gave statistics showing the work that had been done chiefly in the last six years, four of which have been years of war. In 1912 there had been no ports, only open roadsteads; now the ports were furnished with quays, stores, sanitary services and the like; and the deep sea port works at Casablanca were three-quarters finished. Casablanca had grown into a well-equipped town with 82,500 inhabitants, of whom 37,500 were Europeans. In 1912, except that a short line from Rabat to Casablanca was in the early stages of construction, there were no railways whatever. Since then 511 miles of light military railways had been laid, and about 100 miles more were under construction; while the permanent wide gauge railways that were to supersede these were in the survey stage. As to roads, apart from 700 miles of caravan track made practicable for wheeled vehicles in dry weather, 514 miles of first-class roads and 41 miles of second-class roads had been made; 564 miles of first-class roads and 61 miles of second-class roads were under construction, and 216 miles of first-class roads and 178 miles of second-class roads were under survey. The added figures of exports and imports for 1911 had amounted to £5,880,000, those for 1916 were £12,434,000. Post offices had increased from 56 in 1913 to 138 in 1917; mails went by rail or motor now in as few hours as they used formerly to take days. The postal traffic had increased from 2,371,224 items in 1912 to 13,624,881 items in 1916. There were 2,338 miles of telegraphs. In 1912 there had been 9 French primary schools for Europeans, 14 Franco-Arabic schools for Moors, and 14 Franco-Jewish schools. In 1917 there were 83 French schools, including some secondary schools, 62 Franco-Arabic schools, including a Franco-Arabic college at Fez, and 35 Franco-Jewish schools. As to public health, apart from British missionaries and a few European doctors and dispensaries in the coast towns, until 1912 every disease had its way unchecked; now there was a complete medical service for most of the country, and in 1916 there had been no less than 900,000 medical consultations at its establishments.

In the course of a short discussion that followed, Mr. Cunningham Graham described his own experiences in Morocco. He said that when he first visited the country the journey from Tangier to Fez took eight or ten days if the roads were good. At last you emerged upon a little plain, and in a gulley of the hills like a white cloud Fez burst upon you. Its brown, granulated walls hemmed it in. It was entered by horse-shoe arches over which were generally the heads of rebels. Up in the pure sky shot the minarets. Palm trees waved. There was no noise, dust or smoke; it was a city of Arabian nights—beautiful as a dream, and unlike any other in the world, excepting, possibly, the cities of Central Asia. You entered the town and the spirit of your dream was altered. There were press, hurry, commerce, mules, crowds of men in every direction,and narrow streets like sewers in which all the filth of all the houses was thrown out. Unburied horses and mules lay at the corners in the outskirts of the town. Life was of no value. He remembered talking to a reaper who had come from the wildest part of Morocco, and who had lived in Algeria. He asked him which country he preferred. The reaper replied: "Algeria. That is a country. The Government does everything for the people. I was there at the fête of the Republic. The first day we had the races, the second day I went to the theatre, where a hundred Christian girls, each of them worth four thousand francs, danced. But the third day was the best; they brought out a French soldier and cut off his head with a machine!" Such was the attitude of mind of this Moor that he had taken an execution for an entertainment.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

In forwarding his account of the *Bonnet Rouge* trial on May 3, the Paris correspondent of the *Times* made use of an expression which has given me quite a lot of pleasure. Certain information, he writes, "was conveyed to the German authorities by a band of spy Pashas surrounding the Khedive." That "band of spy Pashas" is a masterly touch. On the programme of an opera-bouffé it would make the fortunes of the piece. How the late W. S. Gilbert would have enjoyed its piquancy. Can you not see him describing his leading villain as, say, "Boko Pasha . . . Leader of a gang of spy Pashas," and giving us a glorious chorus of the said S.P.'s? But I wonder what Abbas Hilmi would think—nay, does think—of it all?

⁂

A correspondent who has read Mr. Somers Clarke's account of strange happenings at the burial of a sheikh at Hilal, in Egypt, has written me a most interesting note on the subject. From this I gather that the records of Ancient Egypt contain accounts of similar happenings in the days of the Pharaohs. Indeed, one of the Pharaohs is credited with a performance which quite puts in the shade any modern examples of the kind. For my correspondent tells me that on a *stela* from Abydos it is stated that "in the temple there of the deified Pharaoh, Amosis I., in the fourteenth year of Rameses II., the statue of the dead King god 'made a divine decision in a legal dispute.'" This the deceased monarch did by "having his statue carried by the temple priests upon a 'divine barque' or ark, like the sled bearing the Ark of the Covenant." My correspondent does not quite remember how, but he thinks that the dead King, by "weighing on" the priestly bearers, guided them to the culprit's house. At any rate, on arriving thereat the burden suddenly became so heavy that "the god's indication of the guilty party could no longer be denied." I should have liked to know what the crime in question was, and how King Amosis came to be interested in it. But my correspondent does not tell me, and I expect that the *stela* contained no details of the kind. When a scribe set out to carve a story on stone he had no soft job, and I suspect he was always tempted to "skip." But, even as it stands, the story is quite interesting, and it affords another instance of the survival of old beliefs and old, old customs in the Nile valley.

⁂

When Baron von dem Bussche told an interviewer that Germany and her allies would always be glad to help forward Jewish aspirations—or words to that effect—I ventured to suggest that the Chosen People, who are usually credited with some astuteness, would take such protestations at their true worth. Events have justified my judgment: almost weekly there have been examples of the enemy's "consideration" for the Jew, and of the Jew's appreciation. As a recent illustration take the following Reuter's message:—

> Amsterdam, May 2.—A Vienna telegram to the Jewish Correspondence Bureau states that the Austrian authorities have closed all Zionist headquarters and meeting places in Cracow. In Vienna many Socialist Zionists, even young students, have been arrested, and the pro-Ally Zionist Society there has been dissolved.
>
> These facts, remarks the Bureau, shed a singular light upon the Government's semi-official declaration that it was favourably disposed towards Zionism.

Vienna, like Berlin, will have to "try again." *Some* birds cannot be caught by putting salt on their tails, though that method may be effective with the Turkey.

⁂

That enterprising journal, the *Basrah Times*, is now publishing an illustrated supplement. The pictures are reproduced entirely at the Government Press, Busreh, and many of them, one gathers, are from photographs submitted by readers of the paper. In the copy which lies before me as I write (that for March 25) the selection of subjects is distinctly good, and most of the pictures possess a clearness that is often lacking in certain of the cheaper illustrated papers published in this country. One of the larger pictures shows "A Football Group at Ezra's Tomb," a blending of East and West, of Old and New, that is rather startling. Another depicts "An Arab boy, with his miniature *dhows*, made of kerosene tins." This serves to show that Arab boys are not unlike British boys in their tastes in soms ways—a fact which I had observed for myself some time ago. And then we have two views of that fraudulent "Garden of Eden"—Kurnah. One shows "The Reputed Tree of Good and Evil"; the other, "Serpent Alley (leading out of Temptation Square)." With all due respect, I would suggest that there is something wrong with the last heading. Surely, the Serpent is usually supposed to have led *to*—not "out of"—Temptation Square. But perhaps nobody ever gets led into temptation (square) in Kurnah nowadays?

ARMENIA'S AWFUL AGONY.

The following telegram from Tiflis, dated March 29, 1918, explains the need for prompt, vigorous and generous action:—

"There is extremely critical political situation in the Caucasus. The Turkish advance terrifies the Armenians. There is danger that the whole Armenian race will be exterminated should the combination of these forces be successful. Should the Armenians be rightly directed and financed there is among them great potential military force, and this would furnish a reasonable hope that the race might be preserved by their own efforts. I am about to leave now for the front to build up a system of transportation by ambulance to reorganise and maintain hospitals. My appointment as Red Cross Commissioner has been requested by Consul Smith. Men from the locality who are available will be able to relieve great suffering. There is no one else to meet the necessities. To make a beginning the sum of $400,000 and $100,000 monthly will be necessary. Everyone is working beyond his strength, but nevertheless they are enthusiastic and their strength is good for relief work."

(Signed) YARROW.
American Red Cross Commissioner

Our own agents are on the spot and working with the American Red Cross Society.

Please send your help to the
Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund,
96, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

◆

JEWS IN TURKEY PERSECUTED.

The brutal maltreatment of the Jews in Palestine under the Turkish régime is known to all the world, but little has hitherto been heard of the outrages practised in Mesopotamia. There is, however, an enlightening and perfectly authenticated report of Turkish methods in Baghdad. All the Jews were ordered to hand in their gold and silver money, and were given notes in exchange. These notes were already depreciated, and the sudden flooding of the market with additional paper produced a state of chaos. Inevitably, with a paper currency so debased as this, the whole credit system collapsed, and trading became almost impossible. The Turkish Government became annoyed at this, and sharply rebuked the local officials. The latter, resolved to remove this stigma on their efficiency, summoned a number of rich Jews to the Court of the Prefect of Police one night, and accused them of trafficking in the notes, which was construed as a deliberate attempt to impair the credit of the Turkish Government. The Jews were tortured and murdered, and their bodies thrown into the Tigris. Some of their mutilated bodies afterwards floated ashore. All this was discovered when the British entered Baghdad.

In the case of the persecutions at Aivali, it was found beyond all doubt that these had been directly instigated and organised by the Germans. The Turks even owned to this. There is little doubt that these atrocities on the Jews are indirectly the work of the same hand. Doubtless their suggestions find a ready welcome at Constantinople. A German general is in supreme command at Aleppo, and his consent would have to be gained.

◆

The Secretary of State for India in Council has decided that five prize cadetships at the Training College, Wellington, shall be offered at the Army Entrance Examination, which will commence on July 2, to the candidates who pass highest on the successful list, and who select that Training College as their first preference. These prize cadetships will carry the remission of the sum of £35 ordinarily required in aid of the contingent expenses and an outfit allowance of £65 in lieu of the present £50.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

MAGYARIZATION.*

It is of urgent and supreme importance that England and France should accept the plain fact that the Magyar, the Hungarian, is nothing but a Hun. He is the A.D.C. of the Prussian. He is the half-brother of the Ottoman. He is the *cousin germain* of the Bulgar. Unless Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau understand this hard fact—as certainly the latter understands it—the world will never be "safe for democracy." During a whole generation no Hungarian nobleman must ever be allowed to set foot across the doormats of the Jockey Clubs of France and England. The day of be-ribboned Hungarian gentleman-jockeys is gone for ever; Kossuth is as dead as mutton. When Esterhazys (and Lichnowskys) doff diplomatic dress, and present themselves in yokel garment, before the tribunal of an outraged world, then, and only then—remembering the tragedy of Roumania, of which this volume is our text—let us listen to their apologies.

This is a book of ghastly, indignant reading. It is the tragedy of Roumania; second only to that of Serbia. We knew most of it before we read it; but now we know all of it; now we know the hopeless horror of it, until Prussian and Magyar militarisms are smashed to atoms. The young Emperor Karl shall have a shooting-box in Scotland if he will; but the King of Hungary shall be handed over to a Roumanian firing-squad.

In short, we reach an impasse, a cul-de-sac. "No man can serve God and Mammon." The double crown of the Hapsburg cannot survive the pulverizing indictment of our author. The Emperor Karl cannot satisfy at one and the same time his German, Slav, Roumanian, and Italian subjects. We do not envy the Emperor Karl, nor his lunatic master the Emperor Wilhelm. Both are called to the bar of justice, and with them, as our author insists, every Magyar villain that ever ground his heel on Transylvania and Roumania. Paris and London to-day, but, above all, as this book shows, Petrograd in 1916, you have much to answer for! You two first, you still pretend to believe that the Magyar is a gentleman! You last, you treacherously led Roumania to her doom! Our author implores you to revise your ignorance; and, if you read his classic "apologia pro vita mea," you will undoubtedly revise it.

We refrain from quoting a line from the work of an industrious, patriotic, historiographer, who, as a Roumanian, has but one refrain—bring the Magyar to the scaffold. But what we will venture to add is this: the best minds of France admit their error and are furiously impatient of the Lansdownes and Lonsdales, of *outre-manche*. If you wish to read the tragedy, the Calvary, the heroism of Roumania, read here! Honi soit qui mal y pense: you will carry on to victory. "The mills of God grind slowly, but . . . ."

ASOKA.†

The aim of this series of small and attractive volumes is to bring the treasures of India's past within the reach of every educated Indian, and the editors are determined that each book must be at once scholarly and sympathetic. Dr. Macphail's account of Asoka satisfies these tests; he has drawn fully on the available sources, his archæological knowledge is up to date, and his book will enable the reader to grasp not only what is known, but also how very much is still unknown, of the life and acts of the great ruler of Pataliputra. India has a fit of hero-worship just now, which may lead her young men very far astray, and Dr. Macphail's insistence on the limitations of our knowledge is particularly timely. We know little, and much of what we know is *ex parte*: the Edicts tell us what Asoka wished to be known, but that can scarcely be the whole story, and there are practically no independent sources by which their statements can be checked. Suppose we had no knowledge of Elagabalus beyond a series of inscriptions dictated by himself: he would probably stand out as a figure at once grand and attractive, and the possibility should serve as a warning to the student of Indian history, where *ex-parte* evidence so often predominates. Dr. Macphail realizes this danger, and his book can consequently be recommended to the large class of readers who wish to know the facts but are not in a position to weigh the evidence for themselves.

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* Notes sur la Guerre Roumaine (1916-1917). By N. P. Comnène. (Payot et Cie., Paris. Fr. 4.)

† "Asoka." By J. M. Macphail. "The Heritage of India" Series. (London: Oxford University Press. 1s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Dawn in Palestine." By William Canton. Preface by Lord Bryce. (London: S.P.C.K. 1s. 3d. net.)

"The British Army at War." By Frank Fox, R.F.A. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1s. net.)

"By-Ways of Service." By Hector Dinning. (London: Constable and Company, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Desert Campaigns." By W. T. Massey, Official Correspondent, Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Illustrated by James McBey, Official Artist, E.E.F. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Tragedy of Armenia." by Henry Morgenthau, late American Ambassador at Constantinople. (Spottiswoode, Ballantyne and Co., Ltd., London. 3d. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I be permitted a few words in your columns about the letter written by Mr. W. H. Williamson and published in The Near East of March 8, 1918?

My purpose is not to test the sufficiency of the facts given in the letter of Dr. Lanites (see N.E., p. 672, December 21, 1917), as to whether they warrant in themselves the inference intended to be drawn; but it is to show that Mr. Williamson could be doing no justice to the readers of The Near East in stating a sweeping and unsupported belief, touching the very point at issue, in defeasance of an inference perhaps justifiable under those facts. To attain his object he should have introduced facts of equal or higher probative effect; perhaps those on which he relies, if any there be, may prompt another man of equal intelligence to arrive at a substantially different conclusion.

Mr. Williamson in his second and third paragraphs challenges the legitimacy of the claim for annexation. In the fourth there is a departure; he grants the legitimacy of the claim, and avoids it by what he suspects will lead any British Government to oppose the claim. If the claim is illegitimate it requires very little effort to abate it, and it would be needless to go, as Mr. Williamson did, to military considerations which make annexation impossible. He adopts an inconsistent attitude; and his last argument can only operate as an admission that the claim is legitimate, but that it cannot be acceded to on account of military impossibility.—I am, etc.,

M. M. H.

Limassol, Cyprus, April 10, 1918.

THE ANGLO-ALBANIAN SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On February 28 a meeting of the Executive of the Albanian Committee was called in a committee room at the House of Commons at which Lord Lamington presided. It was unanimously agreed that the former Albanian Committee, having finished its work, should be considered as dissolved, and that the time had come for the formation of a society consisting of friends of the Albanian people who, while sympathising with the aspirations of all Balkan people for freedom and the right of self-development, have as their main object the maintenance of the rights and welfare of Albania.

The society, under the name of the Anglo-Albanian Society, was accordingly constituted.

M. Edith Durham,
71, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3,
J. C. Paget,
The Elms, Harrow Weald Road, Harrow,
Hon. Secretaries.

BRAVE GREEK SAILORS.

The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the President of the Board of Trade, to award the Silver Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea to Mr. Aristotelis Surbanos, chief officer; Mr. Apostolos Christodulatos, third officer; Nicolas Asanis, boatswain; Evangelos Vergotis, seaman; and Constantinos Anavgnu, fireman, of the Greek steamship Panaghi Vagliano, of Argostoli, in recognition of their services in rescuing a shipwrecked British crew in the North Atlantic Ocean on January 28. 1917.

In addition, the Board of Trade have awarded pieces of plate to Captain Panaghi Halkiopulo, master of the Panaghi Vagliano, Mr. Surbanos, and Mr. Christodulatos, and the sum of £3 each to Asanis, Vergotis, and Anavgnu.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. May.	1918. May		1336. Shaaban.	5678. Sivan
17	4	Friday	6	6
18	5	Saturday........	7	7
19	6	**Sunday**	8	8
20	7	Monday	9	9
21	8	Tuesday	10	10
22	9	Wednesday	11	11
23	10	Thursday	12	12

Lord Islington's health continues to improve.

Prince George of Serbia visited the Serbian Legation in London on Tuesday.

Mr. Percy C. Lyon, C.S.I., has been appointed treasurer of Oriel College, Oxford.

Lord and Lady Barrymore left 20, Hill Street, on Tuesday for Marbury Hall, Cheshire.

At Janina, Greece, on April 28, the wife of Mr. Charles Greig, H.M. Consular Service, gave birth to a son.

Lord Hardinge and the Hon. Diamond Hardinge arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday as guests of their Majesties.

Sir W. H. Manning, the newly-appointed Governor of Ceylon, has left Jamaica to take up the duties of his new position.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, called upon Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on Monday afternoon.

M. Také Jonescu, who was at Jassy when he heard of the death of his wife, is expected to arrive in London very shortly.

General Georgescu, Royal Roumanian Army, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

Mr. Bhupendranath Basu arrived in Mr. Montagu's party on Sunday, and has taken up his duties as a member of the India Council.

Lady Stack and Mrs. Wheatley left Khartoum at the end of last month for Erkowit, where they will be in residence for the summer.

Captain Yovan Yovanovitch, of the Serbian Army, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

An attempt to form at Sarajevo an exclusively Croatian Austrophil and anti-Yugo-Slav party, under Bishop Stadler and Dr. Pilar, has proved unsuccessful.

Sir John Prescott Hewett, G.C.S.I., presided at the meeting of the Grand Council of the Officers' Families Fund held at Lansdowne House last Friday.

Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, and the party which accompanied him on his mission to India arrived in London on their return on Sunday.

Colonel J. W. H. Houghton, Assistant Director of Medical Services, who is reported wounded, was British Red Cross Commissioner with the Greek forces in the Balkan campaign of 1912-13.

The engagement is announced of Captain G. L. Stanley Smith, R.G.A., only child of Colonel and Mrs. Stanley Smith, 33, Sussex Square, Brighton, and Peggy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Street, Colombo, Ceylon.

Major-General Colin Mackenzie, who is reported wounded, saw service in the Egyptian Expeditions of '82 and '92, in the Burmese War of 1886, and in several frontier expeditions in India, as well as in the South African War.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society to be held on May 22, at half-past four in the afternoon, at 22, Albemarle Street, Mr. Arnold Toynbee will read a paper on "Islam in Russia since the Revolution." Colonel Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., C.B., will preside.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant-Commander Colin Alexander Gordon Hutchison, Royal Navy, eldest son of the late James Alexander Hutchison and of Mrs. Hutchison, of Merrow, Hatch End, Middlesex, and Gwendolen Mary Leslie Sayers, only daughter of Major Robert Cecil Sayers, East Surrey Regiment, Commandant Military Detention Barracks, Malta.

The King of Montenegro (says the *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent) has been staying at Rome, visiting Queen Elena and his grandchildren. Prince Peter of Montenegro, with his staff, has also been at Rome.

The Roumanian Legation in London desire to acknowledge the many letters and telegrams of condolence on the death of Mme. Také Jonescu. M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, is forwarding these messages direct to M. Také Jonescu.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Seton Bayley, R.A., younger son of Sir Steuart Colvin Bayley, G.C.S.I., and Lady Bayley, and Sybil Dora, second daughter of the late Major L. F. Barton, the Royal Scots, and Mrs. Barton, of 43, Courtfield Gardens, S.W.5.

It is announced that the King has approved of Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir Bryan Thomas Mahon, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O. (colonel, 8th Hussars), General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Forces in Ireland, being appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

The engagement is announced between Captain M. Costiesco Ghyka, only son of Colonel Matila Costiesco and Princess Marie Ghyka, of Dumbraveni, Roumania, and Eileen, daughter of the late Sir Nicholas O'Conor and Lady O'Conor, of Dundermott, County Roscommon, and 29, Chester Square.

Rear-Admiral M. E. F. Kerr, C.B., M.V.O., who has just been promoted a vice-admiral, served with the Naval Brigade in the Egyptian War of 1882, and again in the Sudan in 1891. He has been Naval Attaché in Turkey and Greece, among other countries, and holds several foreign decorations.

The Sultan of Egypt has ordered that a special museum be opened in which the old arms used in the Egyptian Army since its creation, the uniforms of the soldiers, cavalry, artillery, infantry, bandsmen, and pioneers will be exhibited. It will also contain all the regulations, military, etc., issued. Experts are busy arranging for this museum, which will be housed in the Abdin Palace.

A Reuter's message from Zurich dated May 8, but only received in London last Friday, says:—Ex-King Constantine, after having undergone in the Sauerbruch hospital a slight operation, necessitated by an abscess, was taken back to his villa. He then had an attack of influenza, but the acute phase was passed on Sunday. His general condition is satisfactory, and the improvement continues.

Both the retiring Commander-in-Chief in Ireland and his successor have had much experience of the East. Sir Bryan Mahon was in command at Salonika before he went to Dublin, and before that he had served in India, Egypt, and the Sudan, to say nothing of South Africa and the Dardanelles Expedition. His successor, Major-General David Levinge Shaw, served in the Afghan campaign in 1879-80, on the North-West Frontier, and with the Tochi Valley Expedition; and in 1914 he was appointed Resident at Aden.

In the Probate Court on Monday Mr. Justice McCardie granted an application to presume the death of Sir Marc Armand Ruffer as having occurred on or since April 15, 1917. In making the application, Mr. Harvey Murphy said that Sir Marc had held a number of important positions in Egypt. He was on board the transport Arcadian, which was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat in the Mediterranean, near the island of Milos. There was a suggestion that he might have been rescued and might now be on one of the small lonely isles off the Grecian coast. The evidence pointed the other way. He was seen clinging to the roof of the wireless house, and afterwards floating in the water apparently lifeless.

Lord Reay, President of the Royal Asiatic Society, at the anniversary meeting on Tuesday presented the triennial gold medal of the Society to Mr. Vincent Smith for his books on Indian Art, History, and Numismatics. The works thus honoured were:—"A History of Fine Art in India and Ceylon." Oxford, 1911; "Akbar, the Great Mogul, 1542," Oxford, 1917; "The Early History of India from 600 B.C. to the Muhammadan Conquest, including the Invasion of Alexander the Great," Oxford, 1914; and "Coins in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, a Catalogue," Oxford, 1908. Besides these works, Mr. Vincent Smith has published many articles on Indian Archæology and History in Oriental journals.

A memorial service for Mme. Také Jonescu was held at the Church of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, on May 9. The Rev. E. M. Roberts officiated. Among the mourners were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Syrett, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Syrett, Mrs. Moody, Miss Moody, and Alderman and Mrs. Boreham. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs was represented by Mr. R. F. Synge, the Roumanian Government and M. Jonescu by M. Michel B. Boeresco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires; the Roumanian Government Commission by Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché. Others present were the Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius, the Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch, Mme. Misu and M. Nicolas Misu, Princess Despina Karaja, Prince Antoine Bibesco, the Earl of Bessborough, Lady Primrose, Lord Moulton, the Hon. Mrs. Fletcher Moulton, Sir A. K. Rollit, Consul-General for Roumania; and General Georgesco, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission. The interment took place at Hove Cemetery.

OBITUARY.

Colonel George Lecky, late of the Indian Army, has died at Bristol at the age of seventy-six.

A Reuter's telegram from Rabat, via Paris, announces the death of the mother of Mulai Yussef, Sultan of Morocco.

The Rev. Horace E. M. Atkins, Senior Chaplain on the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, died on April 29 at Bangalore, aged forty-nine.

Colonel William McWatters has died at Alverstoke at the age of seventy-five years. He joined the Army Medical Service in 1865 and served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, for which he had the medal, and in the Hazara Expedition of 1891, when he was mentioned in despatches.

Surgeon-Major-General Charles Hervé Giraud, late Army Medical Staff, died last Friday as the result of a street accident at Fulham, in his eighty-fifth year. He served in the Indian Mutiny, and was present at the action at Sissea Ghat. Later he served in the China War, and in the South African War of 1879-81.

The death occurred at Cheltenham on Sunday of Colonel Robert Blackall Graham, formerly of the Bengal Staff Corps. As a cavalry officer he took part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, being present at the action of Cherpoora, and later saw service in the Afghan and Burmese campaigns, for each of which he possessed the medal.

Sir Alexander Pedler died suddenly on Monday afternoon while attending a committee meeting at the Ministry of Munitions. He was born in 1849, and was educated at the City of London School and the Royal College of Science. In 1873 he was appointed to the Bengal Education Department, and served as Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the Presidency College. He was formerly Director of Public Instruction for Bengal, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, and additional member of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General of India. He was a Fellow of the Royal and Chemical Societies, and contributed a number of papers to the leading scientific publications. He was created C.I.E. in 1901, and was knighted five years later.

It is announced that Major Francis Shuldham Watson, D.S.O., R.G.A., died of wounds on May 2. He was the second son of the late Colonel John Whaley Watson, Bombay Political Department, and of Mrs. Watson, of The Cottage, Swainswick, near Bath. He was educated at Haileybury, passed into Woolwich in 1897, and obtained his commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1899. He served in the South African War, receiving the Queen's medal with three clasps. He was stationed in Singapore when the war broke out, but returned home in 1916, and trained a battery and proceeded to France in March, 1917. Major Watson had just been awarded the D.S.O. for his services in the recent fighting. His youngest brother, Captain C. R. Watson, Punjabis, was killed in Mesopotamia in April, 1916.

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A parcel post service has been opened in Palestine.

M. Tchaprachicoff, who has been appointed Bulgarian Minister to Russia, has proceeded to Moscow to take up his new post.

M. Marghiloman, Prime Minister, and the whole of the Roumanian Cabinet are reported, from German sources, to have resigned.

It is stated by the *Frankfurter Zeitung* that 233 out of 263 political communities in Carinthia, Austria, have sharply protested against the plans for dividing the Slovene country.

The annual pilgrimage of Moslems to Nebi Musa, "the tomb of Moses," at the north-west end of the Dead Sea, was made on Friday, April 26, the military authorities giving every possible help.

Vienna communal councillors, according to the *Münchner Neueste Nachrichten*, have voted against the constitution of a Slav State as harmful to the interests of Vienna and the Monarchy.

In a message dated May 7 Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—"The following list of food prices per lb. in Constantinople has been smuggled out after escaping the Turkish censorship:—Bread costs 9½d. to 1s. 1d. (taking 100 piastres as equivalent to 16s.); beef, 5s. 4d.; mutton, 6s. 5d.; fresh butter, 22s. 5d.; cooking butter, 10s. 8d.; potatoes, 2s. 1d.; lentils, 3s. 8d.; haricot beans, 4s. 3d.; sugar, 7s. 5d.; cooking oil, 10s. 8d.; olives, 4s. 3d.; flour, 3s. 8d.; soap, 7s. 5d.; tea, 117s.; coffee, 42s. 8d.; milk, 2s. 8d.; rice, 6s. 5d.; macaroni, 5s.; fish, 5s. 4d. to 10s. 8d. Eggs cost about 5d. each. A lounge suit costs £28, and a pair of boots £8 16s."

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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1918.

THE BUCHAREST TREATY.

The terms of peace which the Central Powers have imposed upon Roumania are a fitting corollary to Prince Lichnowsky's memorandum. That document established on incontrovertible evidence Germany's responsibility for the outbreak of the war. The treaty recently signed in Bucharest reveals the objects for which Germany drew the sword, and proves that, in spite of four years of war, she has learned nothing and forgotten nothing. Having succeeded in uniting practically the whole world in arms against her, it might have been thought that she would be at pains at the earliest possible opportunity to give the lie to those who charge her with being the arch-enemy of the world's peace, the incarnation of militarist lust for conquest and power. She claims, and the German Government has hitherto persuaded the people, that she is fighting a defensive war, to protect herself against the unprovoked attacks of enemies, who are goaded by jealousy of the rapid and successful rise of the German Empire. Consistency would require that, when she has defeated one of the smaller nations leagued against her, she should prove herself free from projects of world-domination by exacting no more than adequate securities against any further resort to arms on the part of the conquered people. Fortunately, the Germans are incapable of such finesse. The conquest of Roumania has followed hard on the collapse of Russia, and Germany for the moment sees only what she regards as the impending realisation of her cherished aims in the Near East. The West, she argues, will probably follow suit; in any case, it can be trusted to look after itself. It is by way of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe that the goal of German ambitions is to be reached, and here is the first stage successfully accomplished. With Russia and Roumania at her feet, there is no need to worry about the attitude of the rest of the world. The one thing to do is to make sure of the ground already won, and this the German plenipotentiaries in Bucharest have proceeded to do most effectively. The result is a treaty that, if it were allowed to stand, would rivet for all time German fetters on the hapless Roumanians. It is no question of mere vindictiveness; it is rather the callous and calculating pursuit of a definite purpose that requires Roumania to be delivered politically and economically into German hands.

If the Bucharest Treaty were restricted to the purely military clauses, its terms would be severe enough. Not only is provision made for demobilisation, but the peace strength of the Roumanian Army is fixed. All surplus stores and equipment are to be given into the custody of the supreme commands of the Austro-German forces, and even the amount of ammunition to be left to the troops under arms is stated. Demobilised Roumanian troops are to remain in Moldavia until the evacuation of the occupied territories; but no period is fixed for this latter event. In common with many other important details, this matter is left for an agreement to be reached upon it at a later date. In the meantime the army of occupation remains a charge on the Roumanian Government, and enjoys the right to requisition all that it can squeeze out of the country, "always observing a proper regard for an orderly plan of procuring these commodities, as well as satisfying the home needs of Roumania." The experience of Russia and the Ukraine supplies a telling illustration of this proper regard. The cession of territory, as stipulated in the peace preliminaries, comprises the Dobruja and "a rectification in favour of Austria-Hungary." In regard to the former, the significant provision is made that Bulgaria is to receive, with frontier rectifications, the Bulgarian territory that was taken from her by the Bucharest Treaty of 1913, while the remainder of the Dobruja is ceded to the Powers of the Central Alliance. The ultimate fate of this northern portion is not specified; but it is generally understood that it is intended to be surrendered to Bulgaria when all outstanding questions between Constantinople and the Sofia Government are satisfactorily adjusted. A solitary concession is made to Roumania in that she is promised "an assured trade route to the Black Sea, viâ Cernavoda and Constanza." The stipulation, however, is probably more important than the Central Powers imagine; for it concedes the point that the route to Constanza is essential to the economic life of Roumania, and, therefore, disposes of any claims that Bulgaria hereafter may put forward to the whole of the Dobruja. The frontier rectification in favour of Austria-Hungary is said to comprise over two thousand square miles, and to include the coal mines of Petroseny and forests to the value of £150,000,000. In this as well as in other respects the treaty is careful to provide that Roumania shall be bled as white as the Central Powers can contrive. The indemnification of war costs is mutually renounced; but Germany is credited with having appropriated Roumanian goods to the value of £50,000,000, which will not be repaid, and there is ample scope for further exploitation in the clause of the Treaty which provides that money spent by the enemy Powers in the occupied territories on public works, "including industrial undertakings," shall be made good on their transfer. But Roumania is intended to feel the turn of the screw at its worst in the so-called Petroleum Agreement, which appears as an annex to the main Treaty. According to this document a company, known as the Oil Lands Leasing Company, to be formed by the Central Powers, is endowed with exclusive rights of the most far-reaching character for thirty years, with the right of prolongation for two subsequent periods of thirty years, making ninety in all. Provision is made for a State trading monopoly in oil in Roumania, the exercise of which is to be vested in another company formed by the Central Powers. Thus Roumania's most valuable source of revenue, next to her grain fields, is to be surrendered. Her development, even apart from the incidence of German control in other directions, would thus be permanently arrested, and she would become, as indeed it is the intention of Germany that she should remain, a mere Austro-German province, with nominal rights of sovereignty.

The sympathy of the Allies goes out at this time to the Roumanians, who may be confident that they are not forgotten in their hour of trial. They have adopted the only course open to them, and in stooping to conquer they must go through with their part until the time comes for their liberation. The severity of the conditions imposed upon them will make it easier for the Allies to require the whole Treaty to be torn up. It shows too clearly the cloven hoof of German designs in the East, and forms a potent warning to those who affect to believe that attention need only be given to the western theatre of the war. Germany is probably ready to-day to accept all the Allies' demands in regard to Belgium, France, and Alsace-Lorraine, if she could be confirmed in the hold that she has now established in Eastern Europe. With the other Powers intent on making good the ravages of war when peace is restored, she could count on being able to pursue unmolested her plans for the complete absorption of the Balkan Peninsula. The corridor to the East would be widened and securely buttressed. "Central Europe" would then extend, preferably to the Persian Gulf, but if that route were barred, across the Black Sea to the Caspian and Central Asia. The goal would remain the same—for Germany has no other ambition to gratify—the destruction of the British Empire. An opportunity was afforded her in the conquest of Roumania to show herself the champion of some ideal that would win her friends among the nations of the earth. She has deliberately chosen to plant her heel on the neck of a prostrate enemy for no other purpose than to promote her own aims of conquest. In the face of such an ambition the world can never know lasting peace. The Allies, therefore, must continue the war until the military power of Germany has been broken, and so broken that her own people recognise that the militarism of which the Bucharest Treaty is an eloquent exponent does not pay and cannot be tolerated. There has been a tendency in the Allied countries to concentrate attention on our own war aims. At this juncture they are less important than the necessity of understanding the enemy's war aims. In the attention given to the Western Front these are apt to be overlooked. The conditions of peace imposed on Roumania, however, call the world roughly back to things as they are, and for this reason we shall do well to keep continually before us all that the Roumanians are called upon for a season to endure.

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PALESTINE SUPERSTITIONS.

SHADOWED HOUSES.

A good many people are busying themselves about Jerusalem just now, settling her future for her in the kindest way; others are content to take her present only, and to follow day by day the brief official notes that record the process of her liberation. But to those old residents who have known her long and under varying circumstances, in days that were hard and strait for her, who longed to help her then and yet could do so little for her; who now are far from her, and whose days of service, it may be, are done—what remains to us? Well, we have her past, just the span of a generation, a moment only of a country's life; but it is ours, beyond contest, and for always. We can dream away whole hours recalling that past. Dark nights are vivid with the sunshine of Palestine; and as we walk through London streets their clamour somehow dies away into the wide, silent spaces of the hills and valleys round about Jerusalem.

A perfect host of memories, grave and gay, comes crowding in upon one—"Do you remember me?—and me?—Ah, but I am a better memory still!" It is a puzzle indeed which to pick out, so, cowardly, I evade a choice, and take the first that come to hand.

Within sight of our windows at St. George's there was a one-storeyed house, standing in a charming garden. It belonged to an old Moslem effendi, very reverend in appearance until you saw his face all scored with deep lines of cruelty and selfishness. The outer wall of stones, loosely flung together in the good old Arab way, left all the beauty of the garden open to the passers-by. Many a time, returning from flower-walks, we stopped to look over the wall at the blossom-laden fruit trees, the yellow broom, veritable "burning bushes" as they were, the tall purple irises, the choice "Frangi" plants in pots and barrels. There was no order in the garden, no tidy paths and flower-beds, but the whole effect was charming, for it was full of colour and life and fragrance. One night there was a grand wedding at this house. The aged bridegroom had already one wife, of his own generation, but now he married again, a young girl of perhaps eighteen. The old wife made no secret of her anger and disgust, and certainly it was hard on her. After dark a long procession wound slowly down the road with flaring braziers, music, and firing of guns. The bride was being escorted to her new home; we could just distinguish her figure, closely veiled, walking under a rose-coloured canopy. One could not but pity her; she was so young, and life with those two set old people, one of them a jealous embittered woman, could hardly be all roses. The incident slipped out of mind for some months; and then one day a funeral procession emerged from that same house. The young wife had died very suddenly. Of what? No one knew; possibly her spirit was broken—"Crabbed Age and Youth cannot live together." But whispering voices said: "Does the old wife know?" Unkind insinuation, surely untrue.

But this at least is fact. From that day the house had a blighted look; neither trees nor flowers prospered in the garden, no voice broke the brooding stillness that lay upon it; pass it at whatever hour of the day you would, there never seemed to be any stir about it. Only once the old mistress of the house was seen in the garden, and as we passed she turned and looked full at us. The old forgotten story sprang suddenly to mind again, and looking at that miserable, stony, aged face, we whispered, half-involuntarily, "It *might* be true!"

In one of the side roads that lead to the Jaffa Road there is a large house, now almost a complete ruin. The Moslems tell a strange story about it. The ground on which it is built is part of that on which stands the tomb of a holy sheikh, and should not have been used for ordinary purposes; but B—— Effendi, a rich Moslem, built a house there, regardless of advice and warning. The outraged sheikh appeared once or twice while the house was in building, but all to no purpose; the house, a very large one, was finished, and stocked with beautiful furniture from Paris. When all was ready, B—— Effendi moved in. That very night the entire roof of the liwan, or central hall, collapsed, and the greater part of the house and furniture was hopelessly wrecked. B—— Effendi had neither heart nor means to rebuild it, and he died not long afterwards. His son, an equally headstrong person, lived for some time in the undamaged rooms, but he went mad within a year or two, and from that time no one has inhabited the ill-fated house. He still lives, hopelessly insane; and the house falls year by year into more desolate ruin.

Another house, also a neighbour to us at St. George's, we watched in building, for it was a really charming one, and the olive trees in the garden were amongst the most beautiful we had seen. The owner secretly annexed a corner of the adjoining land, which belonged to the Mosque, in order to straighten an awkward angle on his own plot. When this was found out public indignation ran high; but some slight flaw in the Deed of Wakuf (religious entail) enabled him to contest the case and win it. He kept the corner. But his fellow Moslems all declared that he would be cursed by heaven for having stolen land that was Wakuf. The house was finished, however, without any mishap, and the effendi and his family moved in. Within the first six months his little girl died of smallpox, his only son, a wild and lawless youth, committed suicide, and the effendi himself had a stroke, from which he was ill for a long time, and barely recovered. After that he came often to the point of letting the house, but at the last moment he always drew back, seeming unable to quit the home that had cost him so dear. When we left Jerusalem, in 1914, he was said to be drinking himself to death; but that gloomy prophecy appears to be still unfulfilled, for we distinctly recognised him in one of the photographs of Jerusalem at the Grafton Galleries.

One more story to close this page of strange memories. On the road to Jericho, after you pass Bethany, there is a tumbledown house of one storey. As children, we were not allowed by our Moslem servants to pass anywhere near it, for it was under the curse that always falls upon those who build houses for themselves on sacred ground. A portion of this man's property was considered holy ground for some reason which I have forgotten, but he, an unbeliever, scoffed at the folly of any ground being accounted holy out of which he could reap profit or advantage. So he built on it; but he never got beyond the first storey. Time after time the building fell in here, and broke down there, destroyed by unseen avenging hands. In the small portion that remained standing the scoffer made his home; but not for long. He was found dead one day, having died apparently in a fit. Did the avengers appear to him in that last moment, making terrible the passage out of this unlucky life?

All superstitions, are they? Perhaps. But living in the East tends to enlarge the borders of belief. When these things happen every day to people, or to places, that you know, you learn to take them simply, as the people do. We can believe or reject such tales as we will, of course, but to the people of the Land they are terribly true, and their beliefs are things to be reckoned with if we are to enter into their lives in any degree. Once more we are impressed by the deep sympathetic knowledge of the East, the instinctive *English* reverence for other men's prejudices and beliefs, that are shown in General Allenby's promise "that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest, or customary place of prayer. . . . will be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faiths they are sacred."

I think that only an Englishman could have made that promise. I am certain that only the English could keep it.

Estelle Blyth.

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We are informed that the Zionist Commission has taken over the schools in Palestine that were formerly conducted by German Hilfsverein. These were closed by British authorities, and are now re-opened as Hebrew schools.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Made in Germany."

The terms forced upon Roumania by the Central Powers are discussed by *The Times* (May 10) in a leading article. It begins :—

> It is not to be supposed that we yet know the full scope of the terms which "Central Europe" has imposed upon hapless Roumania. But we know enough. The treaty as it stands is a striking example of German and Austrian statecraft. Like that which has led to the German military occupation of the Ukraine, it teems with the ambiguities, the equivocations, and the reserves in which the Wilhelmstrasse and the Ballplatz are past masters. There are to be "further agreements" on the admission of Consuls, on the settlement of damages caused by the war, on the allegiance of Roumanian inhabitants of the annexed territory, who are to have an "option" (like that promised by Prussia to a portion of the Danes in Schleswig and never granted them) on the date—a most vital matter—of the evacuation of Roumania by the enemy troops, and even on the definition of the new frontiers on the Danube between Roumania and Bulgaria and Roumania and "the allied Powers." On the other hand, the provisions which keep Roumania at the absolute mercy of Germany and her confederates are precise and take immediate effect. . . .

A little later Count Hertling and his peaceful assurances come in for consideration :—

> In order to judge the settlement, which Count Hertling declares to have been "achieved by the grace of God," it is useful to recall that Germany and Austria loudly proclaimed their devotion to the principle of "no annexations and no indemnities" when they recognised the independence of the Ukraine, an event from which, Count Czernin has recorded, the peace with Roumania proceeded. "We demand neither annexations nor indemnities," he assured the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Delegation in December, and he coquetted with "pacifists" and "defeatists" in all lands on this pretence. Now they can judge what assurances of the kind coming from him and his amiable accomplices in Berlin are worth.

Persia's Future.

In an article with the above title, the *World* refers to Persia's action in regard to the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, which it regards as a step, pacific no doubt, but "pregnant with great possibilities." And it asks: "What about the other Treaties?"

> There are several, the chief one being the Treaty concluded at Turkmanchai in 1828, after the Russo-Persian war. There were really two of them. One dealt with frontier rectification, the districts of Erivan Araxes and Nakhitchévan being allotted to the victor, while there was also a commercial agreement of a not too favourable nature to the defeated country. It established Consular jurisdiction of a very effective nature, dealt with the rights of Persian subjects claiming Russian protection—a deadly weapon in after-time—and laid down a 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty. Presumably all these provisions will be modified or will go by the board, but they have not gone yet, for the good and effective reason that all other foreign Powers have based their Treaties on this, and there will have to be a vast amount of revision at a later date—after the war, presumably. Persia will, at all events, never accept the old-time measure of interference in her affairs which this Treaty gave the Powers, although Russia was the only one to exploit it prejudicially to the interests of the Persian people.
>
> There is, though, one point in the abrogation of the Anglo-Persian Treaty which should not be lost sight of. Under it all concessions in the "spheres of interest" had first to be offered to or approved by—it was much the same thing—either Russia or Great Britain. One need not trouble about Russia, but take our position in the South. With the cancellation of this favoured position Persia could let oil-wells to Germany, could permit the Baghdad Railway which we have barred approach to the Persian Gulf through Mesopotamia, to cross into Persia and descend to the sea by a parallel route. As a result all our labours, all our sacrifices would be thrown away. It need not be supposed that Persia *will* do this, but she will be in a position to do it, and the fact should not be lost sight of.

"An Unhappy Document."

Under the above heading, *Palestine* makes an effective reply to the Memorandum presented recently by certain Moslems to the Foreign Secretary on the subject of Palestine. "We have reason for knowing," says *Palestine*, that "there have been associated with the production of this manifesto certain gentlemen who are not even Moslems, and have not either the competence or even the desire to represent Moslem interests."

> To any careful reader this manifesto bears evident signs of non-Moslem inspiration. No Moslem, for instance, would be moved spontaneously to make certain attacks upon Jews, such as are contained in this memorandum, attacks which mirror the vulgarest anti-Semitism of the West. He would not speak so contemptuously of "the aspirations of the Jewish people to regain opportunities they had missed or misused nearly 2,000 years ago," for he would remember that it has been the fortune of Islam also to see its political glory wane. Nor, again, would he think it necessary to ascribe the fall of the Jewish State to "their own turbulence and the persecution of their Gentile neighbours," for he would remember that there is no more heroic page in history than the desperate struggle of a small people to maintain itself against the overwhelming power of mighty empire. Nor, again, would he speak of the Jewish settlers in Palestine as "animated with bitter hatred against the Gentiles," for a Moslem has never known Jewish intolerance. Nor, again, would a follower of the Prophet of his own volitions deny "all vestige of claim" to Palestine to the people from whose loins spiritually Islam itself has sprung, and whose passionate devotion to the land of their fathers through 1,800 years of exile will certainly not fail to find a response in the genuine Moslem heart. Such words have been insinuated into the ears of these three Moslem gentlemen by those who are not Moslems, simply because they are anti-Semites, and, indeed, the enemies of Islam for the same reason as they are the enemies of Judaism. It is not necessary, and it is not very profitable, to re-write either their Moslem history or their Jewish history.

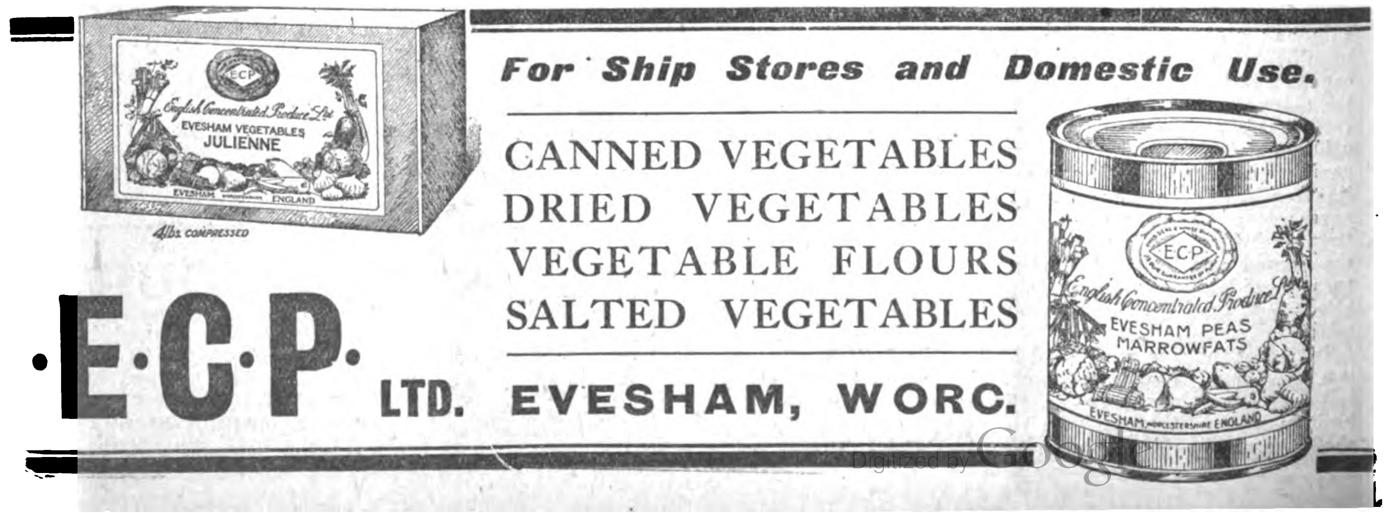
In working out the details of the political settlement of Palestine every element will have to be consulted, as the writer recognises; and he tells us that "all Jews interested in the building up of a Jewish national home in Palestine will have to co-operate with every other element in the country."

> For that reason such a manifesto as this which the three Moslem gentlemen have ventured to put forth is so deplorable. It is false in logic, false in fact, and false in spirit. It is intended not to bring Islam and Judaism together in the common task of civilisation, but to set Islam in antagonism to Judaism, and to make the Moslem an instrument for defeating the dearest and the undying hope of every conscious Jew. Happily, these three gentlemen speak for themselves, and not for the three hundred millions of Islam. The real leaders of Islam in Palestine and the neighbouring lands, the Arab spokesman, know very well that their hopes of an Arab revival and a new glory of the Arab peoples are bound up with Jewish hopes, that the two rise and fall together in the future as in the past. They are, therefore, discussing and deliberating in common with the Jewish leaders. A Jewish national home will arise in Palestine with their blessing, and will be a blessing to the Arab as to the Jewish people.

Turco-Bulgar Friendship.

The following is one of the "Notes of the Week" from the *Saturday Review* of May 11 :—

> Men home from the front assure us that soldiers cherish none of that hate for the enemy, so forcibly expressed here by old ladies and others in the habit of killing the Kaiser with their mouths. And a special brand of friendliness is reserved for Turks and Bulgars, because they are taught to fight like sportsmen. But the enemy's relations on the Struma front are by no means those of a happy family. When our shells destroyed a minaret, the Bulgars set up such shouts of delight that shots were fired and quite a small engagement took place between the allies. Bulgar prisoners tell us that they feel much safer when they wander near our lines, where capture means comfort, than in the neighbourhood of a Turkish camp, where a convenient mistake often supplies a shot in the back. The Turks' answer to this is that, when Bulgars roam round a camp, it is for no honest purpose.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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Anglo-Russian Convention. May 13.

Sir John Rees asked whether the Persian Government had made any communication to his Majesty's Government regarding the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907 or other treaties between the two Governments.

Mr. Balfour: We have informed the Persian Government that his Majesty's Government will be prepared to regard the 1907 Convention, in so far as it applies to Persia, as being in suspense. The Persian Government have not approached us in regard to any treaties existing between the two Governments.

Position of Roumania.

Mr. Balfour, replying to Mr. King, said he was aware that the terms of the treaty of peace signed by Roumania had appeared in the Press. He had no reason to doubt that the terms as published were authentic. So soon as the treaty had been formally ratified Roumania would cease to be an Allied State, and would assume the status of a neutral.

Our Forces in the East.

Mr. Outhwaite asked the Prime Minister whether in his statement that in Mesopotamia there was only one white division and in Egypt and Palestine only three white divisions he included the Australian and New Zealand troops there employed.

General Sir Ivor Phillips: Before this question is answered, may I ask whether hon. members are in order in using the question paper of this House for giving information to the enemy?

The Speaker: I have frequently pointed out that it is not a point of order at all. If the Government think it is not advisable to answer a question it is open for them to say so.

General Sir Ivor Phillips: If the Government are not able to stop a question from being put on the paper they cannot stop the information being given to the enemy. I am only speaking for the safety of our Army in the field.

Mr. Outhwaite: As a reflection has been made upon me, may I draw attention to the fact that the question refers only to the statement made by the Prime Minister as to the strength of our forces in the East? That was the statement which gave information to the enemy, if information were given. I am only asking whether certain troops were included. Therefore, does any charge rest against me such as has been suggested?

The Speaker: I do not know where the hon. member gets his information. (Hon. Members: From the Prime Minister.)

Mr. Macpherson (Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the War Office): It is not in the public interest to give further information as to the composition of the forces in Egypt and Palestine.

Mr. Outhwaite: May I ask whether it is not in the public interest simply because the Prime Minister misled the House and made an inaccurate statement?

The Speaker: The hon. member has asked his question and has had a reply.

THE SCARABÆUS.

The following information regarding the Scarabæus, the sacred beetle of Ancient Egypt, is given in the *Egyptian Mail* by the "Man at the Window":—

"Solomon was a wise old king, but he might have chosen a better example than the ant when he turned out that neat little proverb for loafers. True, ants are tireless workers, and have never been known to strike for short hours, yet, compared to the scarab, they are amateurs at perpetual toil. No marvel that ancient Egyptians held the busy black beetle sacred and carved its image on a thousand temple walls. It is a fanatic for work, and that, perhaps, is one reason why soldiers delight in watching its ways. 'Tis a pleasant occupation, praising the energy of others. Scarabs are blacklegs, and have black bodies, too, for that matter; while butterflies dance in the sunlight, letting all work and care go hang, the beetles toil patiently over hot sand, rolling before them big balls of malodorous matter. Nothing daunts them. The scarab's job is to get the ball to a safe spot and there bury it. And unless Fate sends a careless foot to crush it, Scarabæus does the job every time. It goes *magnun*, as they say, if molested, but as soon as the path is clear sets the ball rolling again, using its hind legs as propellers. The Australian porcupine is a master digger, but could pick up wrinkles from the scarab. After each journey to the surface the beetle forms its own body into a ball, and rolls down the burrow for another load of sand. It never wastes a moment till its treasure is hidden underground, when it may take a spell for a minute or two.

The Jewish Correspondence Bureau at The Hague states that the object of the recently-established Central Organisation of German Jews is, according to Dr. Eugen Fuchs, its President, to thwart the British Palestine policy.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Granted that the published terms of the Roumanian peace treaty are incomplete in some respects, notably in the absence of clear indications by means of maps or otherwise as to the exact limits of the territorial readjustments, it is possible, all the same, to gather a fairly concise view of the Wentworthian policy that the enemy Powers have carried out in regard to our unfortunate Ally. Briefly, from the economic point of view, the terms fall naturally into four divisions: (1) Territorial changes; (2) the control of the Danube; (3) indemnities; and (4) the oil industry. On the first point our knowledge is limited for the reason already stated, while as regards the last, it is impossible to pass a final verdict without knowing the exact limits of the rectification of Austria's frontier which might conceivably be drawn to include some portion of the oilfields.

⁂

The territorial adjustments leave Roumania very much worse off than before the Treaty of Bucharest in 1913. Not only does Bulgaria in effect receive back what she then lost, but Roumania is also deprived of the other part of the Dobruja between the Cernavoda-Constanza line and the St. George branch of the Danube. No reference is made to the triangular territory having a frontage on the Black Sea between the St. George and the Kilia branches of the Danube, so Roumania is presumably to be allowed to retain it—a concession worthy of the Central Powers, seeing that Roumania will only be able to maintain communications with it by the Danube. Matters would naturally be somewhat improved in the event of union with Bessarabia (which according to latest information seems to be an accomplished fact), but leaving that contingency out of consideration, it must be admitted that these terms and the frontier rectifications in favour of Austria make Roumania's position next door to hopeless.

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In plain words, the position is that instead of having a more or less satisfactory outlet on the Black Sea, Roumania will for political purposes be as much surrounded by other countries as Switzerland is, for instance. That, bearing in mind who her neighbours are, is equivalent to a loss of all independence as regards her commercial relations. Certainly she is guaranteed a trade route to the Black Sea viâ Cernavoda and Constanza as compensation for the loss of her freedom, but in the circumstances this "privilege" can only be construed as a further opening for interference by the Central Powers in her affairs. In practice it will give them ample scope for directing her trade into channels favourable to themselves by a system of checks which will make trade in directions not approved by Germany and her ally too irksome to Roumanians for them to desire its continuance.

⁂

As if this of itself were not enough, the Central Powers also obtain the complete monopoly of the control of the Danube. Roumania is forced to guarantee free navigation of the Roumanian Danube, including the use of harbours, to the ships of Germany, Austria, and their allies. She is not to be allowed to levy any dues on their ships or rafts merely for the navigation of the river, and she is to levy no dues not allowed by a proposed new Danube Navigation Act, which is to be the subject of negotiations at Munich between Roumania and the enemy Powers. Finally, Roumania even loses her power over fiscal affairs, as the treaty compels her to abolish the *ad valorem* duty of one-half per cent. on imports and exports from her ports at the latest within five years after the ratification of the treaty.

⁂

The chief interest of the indemnification clauses lies in the fact that Germany has gone a somewhat roundabout way to obtain compensation. Evidently the Teutonic mind regards obvious "camouflage" of this kind as calculated to obscure the fact that indemnities are being exacted, though actually it only serves to bring the fact into plainer relief. Here there are only two or three points that deserve notice. In the first place Roumania is compelled to refund Germany's expenses in connection with military measures so far as they have not been met by the country or paid in newly-issued notes of the Banca Generale of Roumania. These notes, issued by the order of German authorities, are to be redeemed within six months after the ratification of the treaty, and are not to be put into circulation again, and in the meantime are to be recognised as legal currency. Further, Germans are to be indemnified for damage suffered by them on Roumanian territory, this applying to shareholders in Roumanian undertakings. But this is not all, for the amazing condition is included that the balances and deposits of the Roumanian National Bank are to remain at the German Reichsbank for five years as a security for the payment of interest on Roumania's Public Debt Service. These funds may be drawn on for interest and for the redemption of bonds, and will be retained for ten years should Roumania fall behind with an instalment.

⁂

No less sweeping is the agreement regarding the oilfields. The Central Powers will exercise their control over the oil industry through the Oil Lands Leasing Company, which is given exclusive rights for thirty years with the right of extension for two further periods of thirty years each. The Roumanian Government is to have a quarter of the foundation shares, and the interests of the Central Powers will be safeguarded by the creation of preference shares with a fifty-fold voting power. Two other companies will be created, the preference shares of which will be held by Germany and one-third of the ordinary shares by Austria, the one to consolidate liquidated oil undertakings and the other to receive the trading monopoly and to regulate the refining, distribution, and sale of petroleum. I may add that the Central Powers have generously conceded the right of Roumania to receive sufficient oil for internal consumption!

⁂

I have purposely dealt at some length with these aspects of the treaty in order to show the degree of mercy that the Central Powers show to those who are no longer in a position to oppose their will by force. It has been sometimes suggested in certain quarters that Germany and her Ally would be ready to make equitable terms provided they were only approached in the right way. I would ask those who hold this view—if there are any of them left, which I very much doubt—to take the trouble to read the Treaty of Bucharest, clause by clause, and then ask themselves if it offers the slightest indication of any tendency towards anything but the purest and most unadulterated Prussianism. It is beyond question the most humiliating document which any nation has yet compelled another nation to sign. Even in the enemy countries this is not unrecognised. Thus, the Vienna *Arbeiter Zeitung* says: "Such is the peace without political and economic violation which Count Czernin proclaimed before the beginning of the negotiations." Fortunately this document can have only a transient authority, and Roumania will be consoled during the temporary dominance of the Central Powers by the sure and certain knowledge that one of the first steps taken by the Allies when they win the victory will be to annul this treaty and to replace Roumania on her proper footing as an independent State.

⁂

Lord Chelmsford laid great stress in his recent speech on India's financial position on the importance of ensuring that the second Indian War Loan should be as successful as last year's flotation. He pointed out that the position briefly was that Rs.52 crores had been paid to the Home Government towards the £100,000,000 or Rs. 150 crores of the British war debt which India took over, that interest had to be paid on the balance, and that it was to the advantage of both countries that the deficit should be paid off. That, of course, is evident, and if only the Indian public could be brought to realise the position, I have no doubt the subscriptions would be all that could be desired. So far, however, I see no reason to modify my view that India as a whole still needs educating in the use of capital, and in the circumstances I am afraid undue optimism would be misplaced.

⁂

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a report of a very interesting lecture on the work of France in Morocco, by Mr. Norman McLeod, who fully bears out all I have said in these columns regarding the rapid development of the country. He points out that while in 1912 there were no ports, only open roadsteads, now the ports were furnished with quays, stores, etc., and Casablanca had grown into a well-equipped port. Since 1912, 511 miles of railways had been laid, and 100 miles were under construction, while 514 miles of first class roads had been made, 564 miles were under construction; and 216 miles were under survey. Finally, the increase in exports and imports from £5,880,000 in 1911 to £12,424,000 in 1916, rounds off the picture of Morocco's progress under the French régime.

⁂

It would be unwise, according to what I hear, to be too premature in forming conclusions as to the suitability of Cyprus tobacco for the London market. A consignment sent to this country some time ago proved to be not at all what was required, and it was not fit for cigarettes. Possibly special circumstances in the shape of climatic conditions, etc., may have been partly or wholly responsible in this case, and it will be interesting to see what verdict is pronounced on the next tobacco sent here from Cyprus.

⁂

Among recent developments in Bulgaria it is worth noting that a Stock Exchange has been opened at Sofia. The movement in favour of this step began in 1907, when a financial exchange law was first passed in Bulgaria. Last autumn, according to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, a further effort was made, and this time the object was attained. It is stated that for the present the exchange will mainly deal with local securities.

⁂

A very satisfactory review of the operations of the Ionian Bank during the past year was given at this week's general meeting by the chairman, Mr. Falconer Larkworthy. The bank has made excellent progress during the last decade, and 1917, despite the effect of conditions in Greece, was a year of marked success. It is gratifying, therefore, to be able to record the chairman's statement that the results are not due to war conditions. "The profits shown on this occasion," he said, "are due to a normal increase of resources, and to the discriminating care of our managers in avoiding unprofitable and risky business." The gross working profits amounted to over £300,000, and the earning power, it was stated, was now much in excess of the dividend paid, and would provide for an extension of capital without prejudicing old shareholders. It may be noted that this question of a fresh issue of capital is now receiving the attention of the directors.

⁂

A large part of Mr. Larkworthy's speech was devoted to advocating a new banking system for Greece. This question is dealt with at length in a volume just issued by the Ionian Bank, described as a memorandum "explaining the desirability of supplementing the existing laws in Greece relating to the forced currency, and to the exchanges by adapting thereto that portion of the United States Federal Reserve Act relating to their banking system." The arguments adduced in favour of the proposal will be discussed in a subsequent issue, and I will only say now that the memorandum contains some very interesting references to the British banking system, particularly regarding the effects on it of the crisis of 1914, and also an admirable survey of the Federal Banking system of New York.

COMMENTATOR.

THE SUDAN BUDGET.

A Record Estimate.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 9.

Details of the Budget of the Sudan Government for the current year are now available. Revenue is estimated at £E2,255,000 and expenditure at a like amount, there being, as usual, no provision for a surplus or the opposite. These figures constitute a veritable record in the annals of Sudan finances. They are £E449,000 higher than the estimates for 1917, when the total of each side of the account was fixed at £E1,806,000.

The principal increases over the preceding year's Budget on the revenue side are provincial receipts (in which are included royalties, land, date and traders' taxes) from £E520,600 to £E618,450, customs by £E8,000 to £E208,000, general central services of the finance department from £E44,800 to £E195,000, posts and telegraphs by £E14,000 to £E90,000, and railways and steamers from £E765,000 to £E1,061,000. The only decrease is under agriculture and forests, which are reduced from £E23,600 to £E2,250.

Provincial Receipts Increased.

The provincial receipts have increased owing to improved internal economic conditions, which naturally bring about larger returns; they are also raised by the inclusion of the receipts from the sale of timber, which were formerly bulked together with the general receipts of the Agriculture and Forests Department, and are now allowed to be retained by the provinces which collect them. This is the reason why such a large decrease is recorded in the estimates from the department. The enormous jump made by receipts from the general central services of the Finance Department is due to the inclusion of the receipts from the new sugar excise duty. This tax was recently introduced in Egypt, and was applicable to all sugar produced at the refining factories and consumed in the country. For supply purposes the Sudan is considered as part of Egypt, i.e., as not being a foreign country, and consequently it was decided that the tax should be collected by the Egyptian authorities on all sugar issued from the factories whether for consumption in Egypt or the Sudan, and that the proportion on the quantity entering the Sudan should be credited by the Egyptian Government to the Khartoum Treasury. As regards the expansion in the railway and steamers estimates it should be pointed out that this is the first time that this item bears this heading. Hitherto the railways and steamers departments have been entirely separate administrations, but in the current year they have been amalgamated. In 1917 the receipts from the steamers were estimated at £E107,000. so the net increase on the combined head is £E189,000. This is due to the increase in the surtax on the transport of goods, the rates for which bore up to the end of 1917 a war surtax of 20 per cent. This has now been increased to 30 per cent., and the fourth-class passenger fares have also been raised, thus swelling the receipts.

Turning to expenditure, we find that provincial expenditure has risen from £E430,391 to £E500,546, general central services of the Finance Department by £E40,448, public works from £E84,604 to £E105,591, agriculture and forests by £E11,699, and railways and steamers from £E586,995 to £E897,576.

Administration of Darfur.

The increase in provincial expenditure is due to normal expansion and higher prices of material for the most part. The most important development in any sub-head is under Darfur, where the estimates have risen from £E10,800 to £E54,688. The explanation for this is that in 1917, the year when the province first came under the Sudan administration, it was not considered fair that the latter should bear the entire administrative expenditure, and it was agreed that it should meet it up to the total of the estimated revenue, which was fixed at £E10,800, and that the balance should be borne by the Egyptian Government. This year it has been decided that the state of the Sudan finances should permit of the whole cost of administration being borne, temporarily at any rate, by the Khartoum Treasury, and so the addition to the Darfur budget has been made. The increase under public works comes in a way from the rise in the cost of materials, but also from the fact that previously construction was debited to the general reserve, but that as this is a regularly recurring item it has been considered advisable to include it in the general budget under public works. The rise in the estimates for the railways is partly due to the amalgamation of the steamers with that administration, as explained above, and to the inclusion in the railways estimates of the steamers credit, which last year amounted to £E86,698. The balance of the increase under this heading is. of course, due to the heavy cost of coal and materials and more adequate provision for renewals and re-laying of lines. A new item appears this year on the expenditure side, viz., £E45,000 for war gratuities, which are to be paid on the same basis as those awarded in Egypt to Government officials. excepting that the benefit will be allowed to men drawing up to £E240 per annum, as opposed to the limit of £E200 per annum fixed in Egypt.

OIL IN EGYPT.

Mr. Hewins, answering Mr. G. Terrell, in the House of Commons on May 15, said the discovery of oil in Egypt was receiving the close attention of the Colonial Secretary. At present the fields were being worked by private enterprise, for which all facilities were being afforded by the Government. It was not in the national interest to give further details.

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EGYPT AND PALESTINE.

Trade Relations Resumed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 8.

Commercial relations between Palestine and Egypt are being resumed, and every effort is being made to encourage merchants in both countries, whilst at the same time controlling traffic from the political point of view as well as from the point of view of avoiding any waste of the restricted quantity of transport available for civilian traffic. The Occupied Enemy Territory Administration has just issued regulations regarding the granting of trading facilities between Egypt and Palestine. Provided they obtain authority to trade and to despatch the goods in question and appoint reliable agents at destination in Palestine, merchants in Egypt will be allowed to forward merchandise either by rail viâ Kantara to Jerusalem and Khan Yunis or by Government transport, through rates being quoted in either case. The authorities are exercising very stringent control in the matter of trade between this country and Palestine, but provided merchants confine themselves to bonâ-fide non-speculative transactions and conform to the requirements of the military authorities the exercise of this control should not set up any real obstacle to the re-establishment of commercial relations between the two countries. Indeed, it is highly probable that, thanks to this control, those relations will henceforward exist on a more mutually satisfactory basis.

◆

A COMMON COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE

An address to the members of the London Chamber of Commerce and others on the subject of "A Common Commercial Language" will be delivered by Mr. A. Barton Kent, F.R.G.S. (Treasurer of the Common Commercial Language Committee), on Friday afternoon, May 31, in the Council Room of the Chamber. The Right Hon. Lord Southwark (ex-President of the Chamber) will preside, and applications for tickets may be made to the Secretary of the Chamber, 97, Cannon Street, E.C.4.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department issues a new Consolidating List, containing the names of over 3,500 persons and firms with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade under the Trading with the Enemy (Statutory List) Proclamation.

CEREAL PRICES IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

CAIRO, April 1.

This week the Supplies Control Board has fixed the maximum prices for wheat, beans, barley, lentils and tibn (chopped straw). These prices are for each stage of production ranging from the prices to be paid to the producers to those payable by the consumers, and are fixed for each province. They will come into force from the date at which the crops are approximately ready for taking off the land. The prices are well above those ruling before the war; thus wheat will be saleable in Cairo and Alexandria at an increase of about 100 per cent. and beans and barley at about 80 per cent. above the highest prices ruling during the five years immediately preceding the war. Wheat and the other commodities are as a matter of fact at present selling at prices below those now fixed. No doubt the marked drop in prices during the last month has been to a great extent caused by the unloading of stocks in view of the wide powers accorded to the Board, but at the same time there is every indication that the margin now allowed over the pre-war levels is reasonable, considering all the circumstances and that it is one calculated to encourage cultivators to continue producing cereals, which is the all important consideration to-day.

◆

INDIA'S COAL OUTPUT IN 1916.

A recently published Report on the Production and Consumption of Coal in India, prepared by the Department of Statistics, Calcutta, shows that the output of coal in India in 1916 amounted to 17,254,309 tons. The main contributions to this total were: Bihar and Orissa 10,767,683 tons, Bengal 4,992,376 tons, and Hyderabad 615,290 tons. Other figures were:—Central Provinces 287,832 tons, Assam 287,315 tons, and Central India 200,285 tons. The total output was well above the average, which was for the period 1911-1915, 15,440,000 tons.

◆

CEYLON MAN-POWER.

The Ceylon Government has addressed a letter to the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association (says a Reuter message) requesting them to consider what further European man-power can be spared from Ceylon. The Government view is that every man between twenty and forty should be with the fighting forces unless he is informed by the Government that his present work is indispensable to the Empire.

◆

The Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co., Ltd., has removed its offices to 14, Sharia Sheikh Abou el Sebaa, Cairo, opposite the Catholic Cathedral.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Firmness of Market.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Although the tone of the market has continued quieter, a firm feeling has prevailed throughout, and concessions in price from spinners and manufacturers have not been easily obtained. There has again been a disposition to mark time pending certain developments in the situation. It is understood that the Cotton Control Board is about to make an important announcement relating to future production, and the wages question is still in abeyance. The conference of employers and operatives last Monday did not go into the matter very fully, and the meeting was adjourned until next Wednesday. It is rumoured that the weaving masters are objecting to paying the same advance as spinning employers, as one section is doing better than the other. Advices relating to the new Egyptian crop continue encouraging. It is extremely difficult, however, to arrange transactions with Alexandria, and a good deal of the business on this side which is offering cannot be done. Egyptian spinners remain in a strong position. Without there being any general buying movement, sufficient orders have been booked to keep sellers very firm, and in certain counts and qualities prices have tended to go against buyers. It is not possible to meet the requirements of producers of aeroplane cloths. There has not been much activity in piece goods for Egypt. Stocks in Cairo are said to be much larger than a little time ago, this development being due to bigger shipments during the last few weeks. Shippers to India have been content to purchase small lots, chiefly in light bleaching descriptions for Bombay. The time is not far distant when we shall have some news relating to the monsoon. Demand of any importance for China has been absent. A rather increased turnover has transpired for South America. American yarns have moved off quietly from day to day. The scarcity of supplies continues to be a feature. Extraordinary profits are being made by spinners. There has been very little doing in shipping yarns.

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INDIAN TREASURY BILLS.

Up to May 4 Indian Treasury bills were sold to the following amounts:—Three months' bills, face value Rs20,47,15,000; six months' bills, Rs23, 42,55,000; nine months' bills, Rs10,15,25,000; twelve months' bills, Rs96,30,000—a total of Rs55,01,25,000. The amount of bills discharged on maturity up to May 4 was Rs12,95,40,000, the total amount of bills outstanding on that date being accordingly Rs42,05,85,000.

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In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Flax Machinery.

In previous Engineering Notes we have pointed out that machinery and implements for the cultivation and manipulation of flax and other fibrous plants are always of special interest to landowners and farmers throughout the East. There are vast lands in almost every Eastern country where the soil and climate are most suitable for the cultivation of flax, linseed, etc., and the crops never fail to give a good return to the cultivator. But the great difficulties which have to be contended with from harvesting onwards owing to the archaic methods that are still adopted for the manipulation of the crops and to indifferent knowledge of modern methods and modern machinery often have a disheartening effect and result in preference being given to other and less profitable crops. Thus, our object in paying special attention to any new or improved machinery for the cultivation and manipulation of flax, hemp, etc., is to help the cultivators and others interested in the growing of flax in the East; and in this we are encouraged by the numerous inquiries for further particulars that we receive from there, as well as from this country, whenever notes on this subject appear, which, by the way, is another proof that manufacturers or inventors prefer to be "discovered" by buyers rather than enter into competition to find them.. This is a most uncommercial policy, especially in the present time, and one to be greatly deplored in view of the future trade-war.

A Flax Thresher.

This is a newly-invented machine which presents some interesting features and improvements for threshing or de-seeding flax, etc. The flax plants in the condition in which they are harvested are fed to a stripper by which the seed, chaff, etc., are stripped from the plants and then to a binder by which the plants are bound into bundles, the seed, etc., being passed on to a separator, which takes away the chaff and dirt. The plants are presented transversely to the stripper, and are slowly and gradually lowered into touch with it, so that the pins of the stripper gradually penetrate more deeply into the plants until the desired maximum degree of penetration is reached. Tests have shown that this machine possesses the important advantage of producing more effective stripping or threshing owing to the gradual process which prevents entanglement. Since both the fibre and seeds of the plant are used, the importance of careful and effective stripping or separation will be obvious.

Alcohol as Fuel.

The question of the use of alcohol as a liquid fuel was dealt with in these columns some time ago, when investigations were being carried on under the auspices of the Government into the possibilities of alcohol fuel. We pointed out at the time that, apart from many other regions in the Near East, Egypt, Palestine and Mesopotamia could provide the necessary raw materials for the production of alcohol in very large quantities by increasing the cultivation of certain indigenous plants which could be grown at a very low cost. For some reason or other the official investigations in question, which were carried on in this country and, we believe, in South Africa, ended without any practical result. It is, therefore, very interesting to hear that the whole question of the use of alcohol as fuel has been investigated by a committee of experts appointed by the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry in Australia, which has already issued a very comprehensive and extremely encouraging report. With regard to the raw material, the report says that "the development of the cultivation of crops for the manufacture of power-alcohol is likely to play an important or even essential part in a complete agricultural policy. It may lead to the cultivation of areas unsuited for other crops." The report goes on to suggest that "if some stimulus or inducement were offered for the manufacture of alcohol, it appears that there is a favourable opportunity for the establishment of a new and important industry in the Commonwealth." Since, according to the report, the raw materials holding out the best prospects are sorghum stalks, cassava, and sorghum grain—which grow in abundance in the East—there is further evidence in support of our view that the Eastern regions we have mentioned may prove great sources of alcohol for fuel at the cheapest possible cost for local and European consumption. The Australian Committee's conclusion is that starting on the assumption that power-alcohol must be marketed at 2s. 6d. per gallon—a rather high price—and allowing 9d. per gallon for manufacture, 6d. for methylation and manufacturer's profits, 6d. for packing and distribution, and 3d. for the retailer's profit, the proposition is practical if sorghum stalks can be delivered at the distillery at 12s. 6d. per ton, cassava at £1 19s. per ton, or sorghum grain at 2s. 4d. per bushel. These figures are looked upon by the Committee as not being beyond attainment in Australia, and it is stated that sorghum grain, a very suitable crop for cultivation in Australia, will flourish in districts and under conditions fatal to the successful cultivation of other cereals now grown.

Alcohol as Power Producer.

Dealing with the engine problem, the report points out that while the heating value of alcohol is less than petrol, owing to the greater degree of compression than can be safely used with alcohol, a much higher efficiency can be attained in a properly designed alcohol engine than in a petrol engine. The result is that, according to the present prices of 2s. 6d. per gallon for methylated spirit and of 3s. 2d. per gallon for petrol, the fuel cost is only 3d. per horsepower hour for alcohol used in a properly designed engine, compared with 3½d. for petrol. The question of the cost of the fuel is not, however, by any means the sole, or even the most important, consideration. Adaptability to the particular purpose required is even more important. For example, steam-engines, gas-engines, gas-producer plants, and engines burning crude oil, kerosene, and petrol are now all in common use, but each possesses certain advantages which give it a distinct field. So that if the alcohol engine is found to have a similar special field, either by reason of the particular nature of the work it has to perform or by reason of its geographical location, for example, as being near the source of supply in which the alcohol is produced, it will be used as a source of energy apart altogether from any primary consideration of fuel cost. The most favourable opportunity for the development of alcohol engines is considered to be in the direction of stationary engines for general utility purposes, both in town and country, rather than for motor-cars, owing mainly to the difficulties of distributing the fuel so as to make it readily available all over the country (in Australia). The report does not favour the use of mixtures of alcohol with benzol or ether, although it recognizes that the principle of beginning with mixtures has certain advantages.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on May 24, to pass resolutions giving effect to a suggestion emanating from the Government authorities in Egypt regarding the modification of the terms on which the Egyptian Government participates in the company's receipts. The following terms, approved by the Egyptian Council of Ministers, are recommended by the board for the acceptance of the proprietors:—

As from January 1, 1917, there shall be paid to the Egyptian Government, in lieu of payments provided by Article 8 of the said deed of concession, a royalty calculated on the gross receipts derived from the markets authorised under the concession:—To December 31, 1927, the royalty shall be equal to 40 per cent. of the gross receipts in excess of £44,000 in each year.

For 1928 the royalty shall be equal to 40 per cent. of the gross receipts in excess of the sum of £39,000.

From January 1, 1929, the royalty shall be equal to 40 per cent. of the gross receipts in excess of £35,500 in each year.

If the company shall raise with the approval of the Government, and expend for the purposes of the concession, any fresh capital, so as to bring the capital employed for that purpose to an amount in excess of £240,000, then the company shall be entitled to add a yearly sum equal to 5 per cent. of such excess of the yearly sum to be deducted from the gross receipts before any royalty to the Government becomes payable.

This arrangement will not apply to the revenues derived from slaughterhouses, which will be divided in the same manner as heretofore, subject to agreement to the contrary. The Government will not be entitled to participate in any of the revenues derived by the company from sources other than the markets authorised under the concession and from the slaughterhouses.

SUEZ CANAL DIVIDEND.

The Board of Directors of the Suez Canal have decided to propose to the general meeting of shareholders to be held on June 3 to allot the total revenue for 1917 as follows:—Capital shares, gross francs 77.108, net francs 65. Usufruct shares, gross francs, 52,108, net francs 42.630. Founders' shares, gross francs 29.356, net francs 24.794.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Ionian Bank.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on May 13, at the offices, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., Mr. Falconer Larkworthy (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. John Lindsey) read the notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that it was with much pleasure and great thankfulness that he was now able to confirm the expectations expressed by him at the last annual meeting that the political and economic chaos of 1916 in Greece and the disturbances that accompanied it would practically leave the bank unscathed. In fact, there were very few banks which, in reviewing their business developments, could claim, after the third year of a great European war—and in the case of banks in Greece after two preceding local wars— as the Ionian Bank could do, that they had had no unfavourable experience, either in the shape of direct loss or strain or financial stress, except of insignificant character. The war had dominated economic interests in Greece, Egypt and this country, and the removal of the blockade of Greece, and the necessity which arose to meet the immediate food requirements of the country, placed on this and other interested banks responsibilities of unusual importance and character, which had been successfully carried out. These, consisting of managing and financing the imports of foodstuffs, and the handling of the cereal crops in Macedonia in connection with their friends the Bank of Athens and the Orient Bank, from a sense of great national need, had been undertaken not, primarily, with a view to gain, and their joint efforts had secured the thanks of the Greek Government, repeatedly expressed. Seeing the manitude of the funds required for these operations, as would be apparent from the balance-sheet figures, the directors thought it desirable towards the end of the year to limit the bank's business in Egypt; notwithstanding this, the shareholders would be pleased to hear that the net profit of the Egyptian business was greater than that of the previous year.

BANKING SYSTEM IN GREECE.

Referring to the need of an improved banking system in Greece he said that, in compliance with the wish of his Excellency M. Venizelos, President of the Ministerial Council at Athens, the directors had prepared a memorandum setting forth their views on the subject. They understood that M. Diomedes, the new Joint-Governor of the National Bank of Greece and former Minister of Finance, had been deputed by the President of the Council to examine and report upon the proposals contained in the memorandum. Greece, up to the present, while possessing a currency system of unique advantages and, in the directors' opinion, possibilities of general application to all civilised countries, had, literally, no banking organisation or protective co-ordination of banking and commercial interests whatever, for unifying and strengthening the position of banks, and for caring for the requirements of commerce and industry, such as were now supplied to member-banks by the Federal Reserve system of the United States. They appreciated the advantages which would be conferred on the banks generally, working in Greece, where there was no local Money Market, and also on the commercial interests of the country, through the merchants being able to get their legitimate requirements satisfied by the local banks in the shape of discounts or loans at all times of pressure or crisis. This could only be obtained by the establishment of a strong central bank with the power of note issue offering extended facilities for rediscounts or loans to existing banking institutions exclusively. Also, finally, as provided by the Federal Reserve Banking system of the U.S.A., the opportunity which it would afford friendly nations of simplifying and drawing tighter the bonds of international amity, by pooling their economic resources, and by the establishment of a peace union to which all friendly nations might be admitted on equal terms, with corresponding responsibilities. The directors looked beyond present, to the time when the banking tems of the friendly nations of the world ld be gathered up in one great organism, with one standardised banking practice, and working with one effective and elastic instrument of exchange.

The Chairman next dealt with the Federal Reserve system of the United States of America, and, advanced reasons in favour of its general adoption. He contended that, whether in England, Egypt or India, the key to the consolidation of their financial power and of the world was not, as President Wilson urged, to mobilise coined gold reserves under the supervision of the Federal Reserve Board, but to mobilise the liquid wealth of the respective countries—that was, to substitute for their coined gold reserves an inconvertible paper currency based on liquid wealth employed reproductively, and co-ordinated or pooled for the economic purposes of mankind. This, he said, was the only system that would give maximum efficiency and safety at nominal cost with great profit.

The question was sometimes asked, "What do the bankers say about the Greek currency scheme?" The only reply that could be given was: "We do not know, as not one has been willing to discuss its merits publicly." But there were occasional hints in the speeches of chairmen of the great English banks bearing on the questions of exchange, gold and paper currency. These showed that the idea of increased banking organisation and the maintenance of fixed rates of exchange within the British Empire would give to our dominions and colonies a substantial preference, and would serve to consolidate and promote trade within the Empire, to economy in the use of gold and enable our gold resources to be utilised elsewhere.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Dealing with the economic situation in Greece, he said that, although there had been a great restriction of business in the usual mercantile channels, producers had been very favourably situated and had realised large profits. The prospects of Greek and all European shipping continued to be very doubtful, and as produce was being held up on a great scale at ports of shipment, this must react on trade generally, and particularly in Greece and Egypt, to the detriment of most interests, including the interests of banks. The mercantile fleet of Greece was now less than one-half of what it was at the beginning of the war. While freights were controlled by the Allies, the cost of coal was not controlled to the detriment of all contract services, which were being run at considerable loss.

While this bank from a sense of patriotism had been making sacrifices in the interest of the State in this country, Egypt and Greece, he regretted to say that but little consideration was paid by those in authority in this country to the representation of their hardships or difficulties, which could be removed with a minimum of trouble and with advantage to the State. Representations had been made by this bank with a view to simplify and make more safe their large financial operations in Egypt for moving the crops there, which had largely increased since the German banks were closed. Their aim was that the bank, instead of depositing gold coin in London which practically could not be obtained, should be allowed to deposit Government obligations in London, and against these receive temporary advances of paper currency in Egypt to be returned in Egypt as soon as their purpose was accomplished. They asked for no material sacrifice of any kind—merely for a business facility, which would do away with a wasteful system of financing and which, if granted generally to all banks, would be a great benefit to the commerce of the country. The Egyptian currency system required no amendment to allow of this bank's proposal being granted.

Coming to the balance-sheet the Chairman said that it embodied the results of a year that had had no precedent in the bank's history. The results were not exceptional nor due directly to war conditions. They showed a gradual increment of movement, financial power and profit, stretching over many years, during which were gradually redeemed the sinister experiences in Egypt of an unexampled financial catastrophe. The profits shown on the present occasion were due to a normal increase of resources and to the discriminating care of their managers in avoiding unprofitable and risky business. It was to their credit that the gross working profits, which amounted to over £300,000, were subject to ordinary deductions only for interest, expenses and taxation, and not to those usually associated with the contraction of bad debts. Through the popularity the bank and its staff had attained, the small institution of ten years ago now occupied in regard to resources and influence the second position in Greece. There had been very small commercial movement during the year, but the bank had had a large share in Government business and a reasonable share in the import business not controlled by the Government. This private import business in its new form, necessitated by war conditions, was an unfortunate innovation as far as the bank was concerned, as it involved the provision of funds in foreign markets on a considerable scale not always against shipping documents, but in some cases against purchases liable to indefinite storage, connected with which there was risk of damage and loss of interest. Without some understanding with customers in regard to these items, the system could not outlive the present war conditions. The capital issued continued to stand at £485,580, or 97,116 shares £5 paid up. Their liabilities, including those on Government account, amounted to, in round figures, £9,500,000. The disproportion of their paid-up capital and reserve to these liabilities was now much greater than was usually considered necessary in well constituted banks, and especially than that existing in the case of banks competing with them in their Greek and Egyptian fields of business. The capital authorised amounted to £600,000, but nothing short of £800,000 or £1,000,000 would satisfy the full requirements of the case. Their earning power was now much in excess of the dividend they paid, and would provide for an extension of capital without prejudicing the old shareholders. As it was the proper policy to adopt in the event of their being able to secure the consent of the British and Greek Governments, the question was occupying the attention of the directors. By adding to the reserve fund a further £10,000 this fund would stand at £85,000. Deposits and current accounts stood at £5,936,105, showing an important increase of £1,427,382 over last year. Approximately half of this increase was due to the new branches of the bank.

BANK'S STRONG POSITION.

On the assets side shareholders would note the strong position of the bank in regard to available cash. The total of cash, investments and bills receivable was £3,715,742. All these assets were of a liquid character and represented a reserve of 73.6 per cent. on the demand liabilities of the bank, which at the date of the balance-sheet amounted to £5,044,654. Loans, current and other accounts showed an increase of £2,327,758. The long and oft-repeated chapter of provisions for depreciation of securities had not, unfortunately, come to a close in their case, as far as 1917 was concerned. Seeing the uncertainties that would attend the closing of their privilege of issue of notes in Greece in 1920, and the consequent liberation from the hands of the International Financial Commission of their 2½ per cent. Guaranteed bonds, amounting to £76,900, and the likelihood that they would be unwilling to retain these bonds as part of their assets at so low a rate of interest as 2½ per cent. until they were all drawn at par, the Court decided to bring the book value of these securities down to the market price of the day, and they had increased their reserve by £23,070, which made the total reserve now on this account £26,146. The reduction in value of their £300,000 3½ per cent. War Loan had induced them to reduce their holding by £60,000 and to provide a sum of £20,385 to bring down the book value to the market price on January 12, 1918. Their experience of their new branches and agencies was of an entirely satisfactory character, particularly of Salonika, which had earned exceptional profits. The chairman paid a warm tribute to the services of the staff and concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. John J. Stavridi seconded the motion, and Mr. A. Zygouras having congratulated the directors upon the results of the year's business, it was carried unanimously.

A final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., free of income-tax, making a total distribution for the year of 7 per cent., was declared; the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected; and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors, as well as to the advisory committee at Athens, the members of the local Board at Corfu and the officials and staff at home and abroad.

The Financial Times.

The ordinary general meeting of The Financial Times, Limited was held on May 9 at the registered offices of the company, 72, Coleman Street, E. C., Mr. William Graham (the chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. H. A. Randall, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,— When addressing you at the annual meeting of this company last year I drew attention to the great difficulties which the Press, and the financial Press in particular, had experienced during the year then under review, and on the present occasion I have unfortunately to express similar views with regard to the past twelve months. The past year has been a strenuous one for *The Financial Times*—possibly the most strenuous of the war period—and this chiefly for two reasons. The first is the further drain, both on the editorial and business staffs, caused by experienced men being called to the Colours; the second, and perhaps even more pressing trouble, has been the shortage of paper—a trouble which, unfortunately, is increasing and almost certainly will still further increase while the war lasts.

Turning to the directors' report and balance-sheet, you will see that the increased profit made for 1916 has been maintained. The figure of £20,062 3s. 8d., which represents the profit earned during the past twelve months, is slightly in excess of that earned for 1916, and is, I am sure you will agree, a very satisfactory showing under the present abnormal conditions. The usual amount has been placed to the staff pension fund and the necessary redemption of debenture stock has been effected, and you will notice that the issue of second mortgage debenture stock has been entirely redeemed, and will henceforth disappear from the accounts. The balance of profit, after meeting all fixed charges, represents a very creditable percentage on the ordinary share capital, but in view of the present political situation, we have thought it advisable strictly to conserve the finances of the company. In recommending a payment for the year on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent., the directors trust that the ordinary shareholders will feel that the wisest course has been adopted by limiting dividends and increasing the "carry-forward" by £6,000, and thus strengthening the position of the company as a whole.

The advertising revenue during the past year was, in spite of the dearth of practically all prospectus business, well in advance of that of the preceding twelve months, and the two special supplements recently produced, dealing with insurance and banking, constituted a record. The war has enhanced rather than diminished the influence and reputation of *The Financial Times*. Its prestige never stood higher. I think we may look forward with full confidence to the future of *The Financial Times*.

With regard to the other branches of our business, I am very pleased to state that the *Drapers' Record* and *Men's Wear*, the leading journals in the drapery and textile trades, have fully maintained their position and have proved, during these trying times, a great source of strength to the company. Our printing works—St. Clements Press—have been maintained in the highest efficiency, and have had a most successful year. I now have pleasure in moving: "That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts at December 31, 1917, be now approved and adopted."

Mr. F. F. Bridgewater (managing director) seconded the resolution, and no questions being asked it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. G. E. Hart moved the re-election of the chairman, Mr. William Graham, as a director of the company, remarking that that gentleman had guided the affairs of the company during the last three or four years with great success and great wisdom.

Mr. H. A. Randall said he had great pleasure in endorsing what Mr. Hart had said and in seconding the resolution for the reappointment of Mr. Graham as a director of the company.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Hart also proposed the re-election of Mr. Thos. F. Willerson, the other retiring director, who, he said, brought an amount of City knowledge and experience to bear on the affairs of the company which was most valuable.

Mr. Randall seconded the motion, which was also carried unanimously.

Messrs. A. J. Davis and Co. were reappointed auditors of the company for the current year on the motion of Mr. C. E. Charlton, seconded by Mr. Thomas Gallard.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Eastern Bank.

The eighth annual general meeting of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., was held on May 16 at the registered office, 4, Crosby Square, London, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T. (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. R. Carter) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The chairman, moving the adoption of the report, said that the directors, foreseeing considerable delay in holding the meeting, considered they were fully justified in declaring a dividend of 7 per cent., less income-tax, as against 6 per cent. paid last year. The report showed that the profits fully allowed of this payment, and the board asked the shareholders to confirm it as a final dividend for the year 1917. The net profits for the year, including £9,545 brought forward from last year, amounted to £77,918, and after placing £20,000 to the reserve fund and paying the dividend already mentioned, they carried forward £15,918 to the next account. The figures of the balance-sheet showed a satisfactory increase. The reserve fund, with the addition now being made, would stand at £90,000. Current and deposit account balances showed an increase of nearly £2,000,000, which was very satisfactory. Bills payable showed a decrease of about £42,000, while acceptances on account of customers was £49,000 higher. Loans payable against bills and securities were £310,000 less, a consequence of their increased resources in the shape of current account balances and fixed deposits. Cash on hand and at bankers, including bullion, stood at £2,196,106, the increase upon last year's figures being desirable in view of their increased liabilities on the other side of the balance-sheet. Securities stood at £236,089, being slightly more than last year owing to their larger holdings of Government securities. His anticipations as to provision for depreciation had been realised, and it was not found necessary further to write down their securities. The item of bills receivable, £2,154,000, was some £240,000 higher than last year, and loans receivable and advances showed an increase of over £500,000, chiefly owing to larger outstandings in the shape of sterling bills on the East, against which advances were made in London. The gross profits were £33,000 more than last year.

The Baghdad branch was reopened for business in April last year. Their representative found, on his arrival at Baghdad, that the bulk of the bank's property had been requisitioned by the Turkish Government, but their books were found intact, and he felt fully justified in saying that their losses as estimated had been provided for. Their business in Mesopotamia had also been satisfactory, though, owing to the disturbed conditions ruling there at present, exports from Busreh did not approach normal. There was in the meantime little or no scope for purely mercantile transactions in Baghdad, but they were doing their utmost to render assistance to the Government and the military authorities in that part of the world. Of this year's prospects he could only say that they appeared to be satisfactory, and the directors had every reason to hope that the shareholders would not be disappointed with the results.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Leigh Wood, C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors (Messrs. G. Bromley-Martin and J. C. Georges Bouillat) were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co., and Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews) were reappointed.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Alexandria Water Company.—Meeting will be held at the company's offices, Alexandria, on June 3, at 4 p.m. Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or be represented must deposit their warrants in London before 20th instant, or in Alexandria before 30th instant, at Messrs. Barclay and Co., 1, Pall Mall East, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Suez Canal.—Holders of not less than 25 shares, who are desirous of being present or represented at the general meeting in Paris on June 3, must deposit their shares with the head office of the company, 1, rue d'Astorg, Paris, or at any of the company's appointed agents before 29th inst. Shares may be deposited in London with Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons.

Subject to audit of the accounts for the year 1917, the court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference stock; and a balance dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, on the ordinary stock, making, together with the interim dividend paid in November last, a total of 7 per cent. for the year.

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BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.
Established 1894.
Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.
HEAD OFFICE: 17 and 18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.
Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000
Directors:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
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D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
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MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
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Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON.
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.
BRANCHES: MOROCCO Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.
CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Secoondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.
The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Our market this week has, on the whole, continued rather inactive, but the tone has again been quite a cheerful one. Fluctuations in prices have been rather unimportant, and the latter have been easily influenced by any small demand or offer. In Egyptian Government stocks Unifieds are again somewhat firmer at 87, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. prefs. have continued very firm at 74. Both these stocks have been in persistent demand, but the business transacted has been exceedingly small, as even at the present comparatively high level sellers are very scarce.

In Bank shares, Nationals, after improving to $17\frac{1}{2}$ on a purchase of a few hundred shares, are closing 1-16 firmer at $17\frac{3}{8}$, some small sellers having since come into the market and the demand being satisfied for the moment. Agriculturals are, on the other hand, 1-16 easier at 6 5-16 on some small sales. Agricultural prefs. have been a very strong market, and are closing 1-16 up at 7 3-32 on a persistent demand which has only partially been satisfied. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been another strong feature, and are a quarter higher at 15 7-16, with a fair amount of business passing.

In Land shares a fair number of transactions have taken place in Aboukirs round current level. In Behéras some small transactions have reduced the price to 13. Behéra preferences are 1-16 better at 4 3-16, but no business has resulted. Delta Lands, after being dealt in at 13s. 3d., and round 12s. 6d. for a fair quantity, are closing 3d. easier at 12s. 9d., while a similar decline has taken place in New Egyptians to 17s., round which price Egypt has lent support. In Sidi-Salems some business has been carried through round the current quotation, and Union Foncières have also changed hands at last week's price.

In Miscellaneous shares there has been a certain amount of activity in Markets without altering the price, but Salts and Sodas are 6d. easier at 38s. Khedivial Mails have again reacted 6d. to 36s.

In Greek securities business has again been at an absolute standstill, although there remain persistent buyers if any sellers should come along.

◆

INDIAN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The latest Indian traffic receipts are shown below :—

RAILWAYS.

	Amount. Rs.	Inc. or Dec. Rs.	Aggregate. Inc. or Dec. Rs.
Assam, Bengal (March 9)	1,64,740	+ 36,564	+3,52,864
Assam, Bengal (March 16)	1,67,634	+ 45,172	+3,99,133
Bengal and North-Western (March 16)	4,96,930	+ 9,158	−3,54,501
Burma (March 9)	5,40,371	+ 1,067	
Burma (March 16)	5,18,182	− 17,479	− 76,306
Delhi Umballa Kalka (May 4)	92,400	+ 12,439	+ 65,214
East Indian (May 4) ..	25,73,000	+2,94,000	
Gt. Indian Penin. (May 4)	22,53,900	+1,78,100	+1,43,702
Madras and S. Mah. (March 23)	11,15,000	+ 20,932	+15,38,931
Rohilkund & Kumaon (March 9)	57,436	+ 17,415	+1,41,310
Rohilkund & Kumaon (March 16)	55,206	+ 14,463	+1,94,482
LucknowBareillyState (March 9)	72,616	+ 18,461	+1,14,397
LucknowBareillyState (March 16)	70,646	+ 16,924	+1,55,246
SouthernPunjab(Dec.)	6,26,521	+ 8,235	+3,63,105
Do. Ludhiana(Dec.)	93,017	− 6,762	− 24,172
Do. Jullundur(Dec.)	34,159	− 13,501	− 10,031

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended April 10.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
April 1 to 10	5,657 ..	8,276

◆

The Imperial Bank of Persia announces that coupons due on the 15th inst. on the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. Sterling Loan of 1911 will be paid at their offices, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4, or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3, on and after that date.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 8	May 15
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	80	80
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	$86\frac{3}{4}$xd	87
Do. Pref. $3\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1890	88	74xd	74xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	62	62
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	62	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	56	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	59	59
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	56	56
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	$62\frac{1}{2}$	$62\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	58xd	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	$82\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	76
Roumania $4\frac{1}{2}$ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. $3\frac{1}{2}$% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{5}{16}$
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.) ..	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{32}$	$7\frac{3}{32}$
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	$15\frac{3}{16}$	$15\frac{7}{16}$
Bank of Athens	£2	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Bank of Roumania	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Imperial Bank of Persia	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{5}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Ionian Bank, Limited	$3\frac{7}{8}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{5}{8}$	$6\frac{5}{8}$
National Bank of Egypt	$13\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{5}{16}$xd	$17\frac{3}{8}$
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light $5\frac{1}{2}$% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{7}{16}$	$6\frac{7}{16}$
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord. ..	$17\frac{3}{4}$	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. $4\frac{1}{2}$% ..	90	$70\frac{1}{2}$xd	$70\frac{1}{2}$xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	$1\frac{1}{16}$	20/9	20/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	$2\frac{5}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$
Béhéra Co.	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	13
Do. Pref.	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{8}$xd	$4\frac{3}{16}$
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/6	3/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	12/9
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	10/-	10/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{7}{8}$	$1\frac{7}{8}$
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	17/-
Sidi Salem Co.	$\frac{5}{16}$	43/9	43/9
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{15}{16}$	$2\frac{15}{16}$
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	$1/7\frac{1}{2}$	$1/7\frac{1}{2}$
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$
Egyptian Markets Ord.	$1\frac{3}{16}$	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	$\frac{11}{16}$	38/6	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	$\frac{5}{8}$	36/6	36/-
Do. do. Prefs.	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 19.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	$18\frac{1}{4}$
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	$88\frac{1}{2}$
" " Div.	Frs.	103
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	$12\frac{9}{16}$
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13
" priv.	L.E.	$4\frac{15}{32}$
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	170
Bons de Panama	Frs.	119
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	$84\frac{1}{2}$
" Priv.	Frs.	104
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	$92\frac{1}{2}$
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	$2\frac{15}{16}$
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	$1\frac{5}{16}$
Building Lands of Egypt	£	$1\frac{15}{32}$
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	$2\frac{29}{32}$
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	$5\frac{9}{16}$
Bonded Stores	L.E.	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Unifiée	L.E.	$91\frac{3}{4}$
Privilégiée		78
Land Bank of Egypt	£	$6\frac{13}{16}$
Nungovich Hotels	£	$5\frac{5}{8}$
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	$6\frac{9}{32}$
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	$3\frac{5}{8}$
" Ord		38/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	$20\frac{1}{8}$
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108xd
" Jouissance	Frs.	164xd
Egyptian Markets		27/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	430xd
" Div.	Frs.	380xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	290
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	$5\frac{5}{32}$
Egyptian Salt and Soda		37/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	705
" Fondateur	Frs.	815
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	386
" 1903 "	Frs.	292
" 1911 "	Frs.	280
United Lands	P.T.	8
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		$\frac{11}{16}$

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THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO.—The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be HELD in CAIRO on the 31st May, 1918. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., 27, Clement's Lane, E.C, not later than the 16th May.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 368.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

While the Allied armies are awaiting the shock of the enemy offensive on the Western front, probably the greatest service that the Allied Governments can render to the common cause is to see that they do not allow too much to go by default in the East, and that the important developments now taking place in that part of the world are properly understood. Germany may be putting forth her mightiest effort in France and Flanders, but it is equally certain that she is straining every nerve to present the Allies with as much as possible in the way of the *fait accompli* in the East by the time peace negotiations have to be undertaken in earnest. Everything points to an entirely new orientation of her policy, brought about by the collapse of Russia and the unexpected strength of the Allies in the West.

Confident that she now has Finland, Lithuania, Poland, and the Ukraine, together with Roumania, completely within her grasp, Germany is now proceeding to extend her domination eastwards as rapidly as conditions permit. A bold bid was made for the whole of Siberia at one blow by the sudden establishment of German authority in the Amur Province, which would have allowed the intervening territory to be absorbed more leisurely. But Colonel Semenoff and his handful of Cossacks have caused this plan to miscarry, and a more systematic policy of expansion has to be adopted. To the Ukraine and the Caucasus is now to be added, apparently, Transcaucasia. With this end in view negotiations are taking place at Batoum.

The position, it is true, is somewhat obscure. By the Brest-Litovsk Treaty the towns of Batoum, Ardahan, and Kars, with the territory in which they are situated, were to be handed over to the Turks. The Government of Transcaucasia repudiated this agreement, and made ready to defend their country. The Turks, however, occupied the territory allotted to them, and the negotiations that are now said to be taking place in Batoum are, no doubt, primarily intended to confirm the provisions of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. In these circumstances the Bolsheviks would be party to them. Simultaneously, the Bolsheviks are to be found operating, nominally on their own behalf, at Baku, where their authority was also challenged by the inhabitants. They have secured possession of this town, and whatever their relations with the Germans may be, nothing short of intervention from without is likely to prevent Bolshevik rule from becoming synonymous with German. As if to leave nothing to chance, the Turks have been sent forward into Persia, by way of Ushnu and Sujgulak, to the south of Lake Urumiah, with the avowed intention of occupying Enzeli on the Caspian Sea. The seizure of this port by Turco-German forces would not only turn the Bolshevik position in Transcaucasia, if official Bolshevism adopted an attitude hostile to Germany, but would also provide a *point d'appui* for German activities against the British in Persia, India, and Mesopotamia.

Distances in this part of the world may be great, but it has to be remembered that the Germans have been covering the ground with remarkable rapidity. Rostoff is four hundred miles east of Odessa, but it was not long after the occupation of the former that the important city on the Don was entered by German troops. The distance between the southern shores of Lake Urumiah and Enzeli is less than two hundred and fifty miles, and if the Germans succeed in establishing themselves on the shores of the Caspian, their next move will be to occupy Krasnovodsk, the terminus of the railway to Bokhara, some six hundred miles towards the Indian frontier. It is not contended that a few German agents are going to undermine our Indian Empire; but the danger is that, with the ground being prepared as it is at this present time, Germany may be in a position, unless special steps are taken to checkmate her designs, to build up again her schemes of world-conquest on the foundation of her hold of the Near East and Central Asia.

It is not enough to say that these and kindred matters will be settled in the Western theatre of the war. There will be little inclination on the part of the Allies, when the war is over and the problems of reconstruction have to be faced, to devote their energies to hunting down German agents in Central Asia. The only way to eliminate German influence in this part of the world is to make sure that there will be no room for doubt in the minds of the inhabitants as to who came out "top dog" in the struggle. So long as German agents are free to roam at large, with or without a backing of Turkish troops, their mendacity and their money will enable them to place their own interpretation on what is happening in Western Europe. To secure that their stories are not believed, the agents themselves must be confronted with the manifestation of the Allies' superior strength on the spot, or sufficiently near to enable the bazaars to tell from their ow knowledge that the Turco-German cause has been shattered.

It is for this reason that the necessity for Japanese action in Siberia has been urged in these columns. Unfortunately, valuable time has been lost, and it is only now just possible that with the agreement between China and Japan all the obstacles in the way of such action have been overcome. Messages from the United States represent President Wilson as still wishing to see the Allies act on the invitation of the Russian Government; but if this entails recognition of the Bolshevik regime it is difficult to understand how common cause can be made with the cartel that has brought Russia to her present straits and is known to have acted in collusion with Germany. On the other hand, the Cossack force under Colonel Semenoff might offer the nucleus of a Russian administration for Eastern Siberia through which the Allies could treat with the saner elements in Russia proper that have not bowed the knee to Bolshevism. To regard the latter as a prodigal returning to the Allied fold is to ignore its original purpose. The Bolsheviks are concerned only with class warfare; they leagued themselves with Germany, because they hoped to be left at liberty to pursue their own aims. They have realised their mistake, and are now anxious to be rid of the Germans, but only with a view to getting on with their class war. If they accept help from the Allies, it will be with the same goal before them. Salvation will not come to Russia by such means, and the Allies have no right to assist in fastening Bolshevik control and tyranny on that unhappy country.

That no injustice is done to the Germans in attributing to them the most grandiose designs upon Central Asia, as the result of their successes in Russia, Roumania, and the Caucasus, is proved by the candour with which they are now themselves discussing their aims in this direction. A writer in *Deutsche Politik* has come out boldly with the new slogan, "Hamburg-Herat," which is to take the place of Berlin-Baghdad, and even Berlin-Bokhara. No doubt some allowance must be made for a Pan-German organ at this juncture; but that the *mot d'ordre* has been given to turn attention to Afghanistan is shown by an article of similar tendency in the once "Liberal" *Vossische Zeitung*. The object of the writer is to preach the doctrine that a German policy must be promoted in Afghanistan. This policy, which he proceeds to elaborate, takes the familiar form of urging the Afghans to burn their fingers in the fire in order that Germany may receive the chestnuts. Afghanistan is, of course, invited to help herself at the same time; but the aims in view go a long way beyond anything that the Ameer's subjects are likely to covet. The Ameer has known how to deal with German suggestions before, and it will not be lost upon him that the position of the Central Powers is now so parlous that they feel obliged to renew their overtures for Afghanistan's help. His good sense—apart altogether from his loyalty, to which abundant testimony has been borne by the Government of India—may be trusted to appraise all German bribes accurately.

In any other circumstances the completion of a swing bridge over the Suez Canal at Kantara and the consequent opening up of direct railway service between Cairo and Jerusalem would have been marked by some more outward manifestation of the importance of the occasion than a laconic announcement (delayed for several days) issued by the Egyptian Railway Administration. Certainly the linking up of Africa and Asia by the civilising influence of the steel track has to be reckoned among the by no means minor gains of the war. Railway communication between Egypt and Palestine has rendered General Allenby's expedition possible, and in due course it will simplify the settlement of the Holy Land, for the influence that will now radiate eastwards from Cairo is of a different order from that which the Committee of Union and Progress or the Turkish tax collector spread along the Hejaz line.

The construction of this bridge over the Suez Canal has not passed unnoticed in Germany. The more the appreciation of Germany's financial and economic bankruptcy, if peace brings not substantial relief from present conditions, gains ground, the greater the anxiety to discover possible means of escape from a disastrous position. Hence the emphasis laid now by the African and now by the Eastern school of thought on the necessity of adopting their respective policies. Germany would gladly appropriate the benefits attaching to both, and any antagonism between the two schools is only due to the fears of each that divided attention may prevent the full advantages that they have in view from being attained. As the linking up by railway of Germany's African colonies with Greater Germany in Asia Minor was part of the schemes put forward by these expansionists, an attempt will be made in some quarters to represent Great Britain as doing Germany's work for her; but the real feeling of the people will be more truthfully reflected in the mild lament of the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* that "Turkey and we have no reason to feel satisfaction with regard to the new bridge."

The progress in Mesopotamia reported during the past week is confined to an advance up the Tigris from Tekrit. In our last issue reference was made to the absence of news from this section of General Marshall's forces, and it was suggested that, although it was not impossible for an army to approach Mosul by river, the condition of the Tigris in these reaches made water transport a formidable undertaking. The advantages of a double line of advance are, however, obvious, and it is satisfactory to learn of a movement up stream. The point now reached is Fathah, forty-five miles above Tekrit. It is situated at the point where the Tigris cuts through the Jebel Hamrin, and consequently marks an important stage on the way to the north. Sixteen miles farther on is the junction of the Lesser Zab with the Tigris, and it was across this tributary that General Marshall's right wing operating along the Kifri-Mosul road drove the Turks on May 11.

A brief Constantinople *communiqué* announces that the Turks have occupied Khan Baghdadieh on the Euphrates. This village, which is a little more than a score of miles above Hit, was occupied by General Marshall's troops on March 26. A rapid pursuit of the Turks who had escaped capture on this occasion followed, and British cavalry advanced as far as Salahiyeh, some 130 miles up stream. It was realised at the time that the main force of the expedition could not keep pace with this brilliant dash of the cavalry; but in the absence of any serious opposition in this direction it was to be inferred that the ground won could be retained without difficulty. The event has proved that the column sent to round up the retreating enemy made no attempt to establish itself in its advanced position, but withdrew at once with its capture to the main body at Hit. If nothing more was intended, it seems unfortunate that no indication was given of what had taken place before the issue of the Turkish *communiqué*. It must have been known that the enemy had found out that the British troops were back at Hit, and by the time he had reached Anah, or a point still farther down stream, there would have been no harm in disclosing the situation, in order that the Turks might not have the opportunity of representing their recovery of Khan Baghdadieh as a military exploit.

Dr. Weizmann, the head of the Zionist Commission that recently went out to Jerusalem, set an excellent example in facing facts on the occasion of a speech delivered at a dinner given in the Holy City on April 27. In the first place, it is well known that there have been misgivings on the part of the Arab population lest the encouragement of the Zionist movement should tend to crowd them out of the country. Dr. Weizmann declared that there was land enough and room enough in Palestine to sustain a population many times larger than the present, and that all the fears expressed openly or secretly by the Arabs were due either to a fundamental misconception of Zionist aims and intentions or to the malicious activities of their common enemies. Morally and materially, he added, it was to the mutual interests of Jews and Arabs alike to live in friendship and peace; for only under such conditions was the development of the country possible. The speech, which was translated by the Governor, Colonel Storrs, into Arabic, was made in the presence of the Grand Mufti, who in reply stated that he was convinced of the sincerity of the Zionist declaration, and hoped to work hand in hand with the Commission for the good of Palestine.

Another misconception that Dr. Weizmann was at pains to remove was that the Jews intended to take the supreme political power of Palestine into their hands at the end of the war. He cited the warnings of Albania and Russia, and said that self-government in modern times was a complicated science which no one could learn in a day. It would need a long and hard apprenticeship under well-trained and trustworthy teachers, and Zionists, he said, desired the supreme political authority in Palestine to be vested in one of the civilised democratic Powers, which should be selected for this purpose by the League of Nations. He held that it was not for him to say at present which Power it would be, but before long Jewry at any rate would make up its mind. On one point Dr. Weizmann was emphatic: the Zionists did not believe that any internationalisation of Palestine or any partition or any form of dual or multiple political control could benefit or be tolerated in the country. "Palestine in its integrity must have one just, fair, and responsible guardian, and only one." The principle, it may be laid down as an axiom, is of universal application, and it is to be hoped that no attempt will be made to violate it in any settlement after the war for which the Allies make themselves responsible.

Yesterday was the third anniversary of Italy's entry into the war, and the occasion was appropriately marked in London by a significant speech delivered at the Mansion House by Lord Robert Cecil on behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The third year of the great war has been a memorable one for Italy, for it witnessed the splendid effort that enabled the Italians to rally after their retreat on the Isonzo, and their truer appreciation of the principles to which the Allies stand pledged. Within the last few months there has been a spirit abroad in Italy and, it may be said, among the peoples whose home is on the other side of the Adriatic, which has rendered possible the laying of the foundations of a lasting understanding for the settlement of South-Eastern Europe. For two years not even association in a joint struggle against a common oppressor had succeeded in accommodating the rival ambitions of Italians and Jugoslavs; but the recent Congress at Rome has proved that the old difficulties have been overcome, and it is a source of no small additional strength to the Allies that the many component parts can now face the final stages of the war without the suspicion of any gap in the solidarity of the alliance.

The Entente Powers have done well to take note immediately of the regulations imposed upon Roumania by the Central Powers in regard to the navigation and control of the Danube. They have pointed out that the clauses of the new treaty contravene international agreements and conventions to which the several States were signatories, and that in these circumstances they must consider as non-existent any arrangement made independently of the Entente Governments. If official Germany had felt the least inclination to abandon or to modify the line of policy that brought on the present war—our pacifists fondly imagine that they have discovered something more than traces of such an inclination—she would certainly have refrained from interfering with the Danube Commission. But the opportunity of rounding off the complete political and economic subjection of Roumania for the furtherance of German designs farther East was too strong, and the final touches were applied to the spoliation of the

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 8.

The High Commissioner.

The news of the death in France of the gallant son of H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate was received here with very deep regret, and their Excellencies have received expressions of sincere sympathy from all communities and all parts of the country. His Highness the Sultan, as soon as he was advised, proceeded to the Residency, in order personally to convey his condolences. Her Highness the Sultana Mother sent her Master of Ceremonies, and the Ministers called for the same purpose, while there has been a continuous stream of callers—British, Egyptian, and foreign—who have inscribed their names in the book as a sign of their sympathy.

The Duke of Connaught.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught has left Egypt on the completion of his mission. Before his departure the Duke paid a visit to the Public Works Ministry, where he was received by the High Commissioner, the Minister, Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, and the Adviser, Sir Murdoch Macdonald. His Royal Highness discussed at length with the Minister and the Adviser the new schemes for the irrigation of the Sudan and Upper Egypt, the sites for which he had recently visited. He inspected the plans for these, also the new contour maps showing the projects for the drainage and reclamation of the vast areas in Lower Egypt which are at present water-logged and unproductive; and displayed very great interest in these questions.

The Food Question.

There has for some time been talk of general food rationing. If it is decided to make such departure—which it must be admitted would be very difficult to enforce—the reason would be, not that there is any serious danger of shortage, but that a greater consumption is taking place than is really necessary, with a consequent wastage of material. It would certainly be a good thing if rationing were carried out in the hotels and *pensions*. Experience of feeding in these establishments shows that the menus contain more courses than are necessary, and that they could be cut down without any harm to the guests and with benefit to society in general. The managements would be quite prepared to conform to any order in this respect, but they cannot do anything on their own initiative, since it is their *clientèle* which insists on having full menus.

It would also not be at all a bad idea if the giving of dinners and the holding of *fantasias* were forbidden. The indigenous element and the Levantine profiteers have made so much money that high prices do not deter them from indulging their predilection for show and over-eating, to the detriment of the other, less fortunately situated, communities, who not only find it difficult to obtain necessaries, but also have to pay exorbitant prices, because the supply has been reduced and the cost consequently forced up by the elements already referred to. It would, indeed, be a very good thing for everyone if dinner-parties and *fantasia* were declared illegal. Those in high authority could assist in this, and set an example, by refraining from their usual entertaining, while the doctrine of abstemious and unostentatious living could well be taken as their text by the Ulema on Fridays in the mosques, where the explanation from the pulpit of Government instructions in times of epidemic, etc., has been found to be more fruitful in results than all the meetings of villagers held by senior

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officials of the administrations concerned in the execution of these instructions.

Egypt's Part in the War.

Information which I have received shows that applications received up to date for British National War Bonds amount to just under £2,000,000. This is money directly subscribed in Egypt, and does not take account of investments made by people in this country through banks at home. It shows that Egypt is still continuing to take her part in the war, towards the expenditure of which she had previously subscribed nearly £50,000,000 in the shape of investments in war security. Applications are daily being received for National War Bonds, in favour of which an excellent propaganda is being carried out here; and the general result should be a satisfactory tapping of the considerable wealth which has accrued to this country as a result of the war.

All Saints' Church.

The annual general meeting of All Saints' Church was held, as usual, at the Residency, by kind permission of the High Commissioner, who was in the chair. The financial situation of the church has improved during the past year, thanks to larger collections, and it has been possible to allocate more substantial amounts to various church and charitable funds. His Excellency reported that progress had been made with the project for the erection of a cathedral in Cairo. As mentioned at the time in this correspondence, a magnificent site has been given by the Egyptian Government, and the late Sultan contributed £E1,000 towards the building fund. Advantage has been taken of the presence in Egypt of the designer of Liverpool Cathedral, Mr. Scott, to engage him as architect of the building which it is proposed to erect; and an amount of £E3,700 has already been collected towards the cost of the cathedral scheme, while there is reason to believe that other considerable amounts will become available at the proper moment. The present is not the time to appeal for funds or to carry out building work, but, his Excellency said, everything is being done to assure that, after the war, when the opportunity arises for a public appeal, the Cathedral Committee will be able to lay before the public a definite scheme for the erection of the cathedral according to plans which it is hoped to publish in due course. In conclusion, Sir Reginald Wingate paid a warm tribute to the honorary secretary, Mr. A. P. Bolland, who after ten years of devoted work has been compelled to resign that position owing to the onerous duties falling to him in his official capacity.

CAIRO, April 15.

His Highness the Sultan.

His Highness the Sultan continues to be most busy visiting and inspecting public institutions. During the past ten days he has visited the Higher School of Agriculture at Giza, where after making the round of the class rooms, he inspected the dairy and the fruit garden attached to the school and watched the work that the students were carrying out. Next he went to the Ministry of Public Works, where the Minister and Sir Murdoch Macdonald showed and explained to him the relief maps of the Nile and of the new irrigation works in the Sudan, which had been inspected by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught when he visited the Ministry. Afterwards his Highness went to the Sultania Library, and was shown some of the treasures stored there in the shape of ancient papyri, manuscripts, etc. His Highness subsequently drove out to Fostat, where are the ruins of the old city established as the new capital of Egypt by Amr Ibn El Aas when he conquered the country, in 640 A.D. Very extensive excavations have been carried out on this site since 1912, and the Sultan was much interested in the account which was read to him by Aly Bey Bahgat, the Curator of the Arab Museum, who is in charge of the work. His Highness also drove up one morning to the Old Cairo Citadel, "Kalet El Gebal," where he visited several of the more interesting of the mosques and afterwards the palace where Mohammed Ali used to live. The Sultan proposes very shortly to pay a round of visits to the various private schools of note, starting with that of the "Collège des Frères." This is an entirely new departure, for in the past the private schools have not generally received any such official recognition as a visit from the head of the State confers.

Fodder and Fuel.

The Supplies Control Board has now forbidden the use of wheat and barley tibn as fuel. This is a very sound measure. The scarcity of fuel has, not unnaturally, induced cultivators to burn agricultural residue, including tibn, of which there is always a very large quantity available. On the other hand, the shortage of fodder, which is a serious matter for the military authorities, renders it essential that the local supply should be increased, and since the experts regard wheat and barley tibn as a good substitute for, or at any rate as a good addition to, the normal animal rations, it is eminently desirable that these two commodities should not be wasted as fuel, especially as tibn of other varieties, not so useful for fodder, but equally useful as a combustible, are available in considerable quantities.

As regards the fuel situation, all the problems connected with the distribution of petroleum appear to have been solved, and no further complaints are being received as to difficulty in obtaining supplies. Some further relief has now been afforded by another reduction in the price of cotton seed cake. Under the cotton seed control scheme provision was made to meet the country's requirements of edible and lubricating oil, imports of which from abroad have for some time ceased for all practical purposes; and the crushers were rationed with seed, which was sold to them at the same prices as those paid by H.B.M.'s Government. In consideration of the advantageous conditions under which they were being permitted to obtain their raw material the authorities have insisted on fixing moderate prices for the sale to the public of the resultant oil and cake, and the present reduction in the price of the latter is the outcome of this arrangement.

Although cotton seed cake has now been brought within the reach of most fuel consumers, any material relief which may be afforded in this respect to the fuel situation will depend upon the further quantities of cotton seed which H.B.M.'s Government may place at the disposal of the local crushing industry. If sufficient raw material were placed at the disposal of the crushers to meet the fuel as well as the oil requirements of the military authorities and civilian population, it would be unnecessary to import the quantities of liquid fuel and coal which are now being brought in, and a certain amount of shipping might thus be set free for more important objects. The accumulation of stocks in this country, to which reference was recently made in this correspondence, and the above-mentioned possibility of relieving the shipping difficulty would appear to be very cogent arguments in favour of this suggestion.

Sugar Exports.

The export of sugar has been forbidden, except under licence from the Supplies Control Board. Since the war the monopoly of export has been in the hands of the Société des Sucreries, who are the only refiners in the country, and who were allowed the monopoly of export in return for their undertaking to meet the civil and military requirements of Egypt and the Sudan at fixed prices, which have always been much below those ruling outside Egypt for refined sugar. No announcement has as yet been made as to whether the agreement with the Sucreries is to be varied, nor as to the conditions under which licences will henceforward be granted. Whatever is done, however, it is to be hoped that an arrangement will be made whereby the sugar Excise duty recently introduced can be made applicable to sugar exported as well as to sugar consumed locally.

Considering that the price at which Egyptian sugar is sold to the foreign markets is so very much higher than the Egyptian manufacturers' price, even allowing for freight expenses, and that the latter are being enabled, as recent balance-sheets show, to make exorbitant profits free of local taxation; and considering that the local consumers of Egyptian sugar are being made to pay a tax on every oke they consume, a fact which must tend to increase the amount available for export, it would seem only fair that the manufacturers and the middlemen should be compelled to contribute a reasonable portion of the profit that is now accruing to them solely owing to the war and thanks to the protection afforded by the British Forces. The amount accruing to the Egyptian Treasury as a result of the extension of the Excise duty to exported sugar would be considerable; and, although there may be difficulties in the way, they should not, under the present conditions, prove unsurmountable.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, April 19.

Anniversary of Greek Independence.

The ninety-seventh anniversary of the Independence of Greece was celebrated, in perfect spring weather, on Sunday, the 7th inst. In the early morning a salute of 101 guns was fired, and the streets were soon filled with sightseers to watch the King and his Ministers going to and returning from the Cathedral Church, where the religious ceremony of thanksgiving took place. The speech of the day was made by M. Repoulis, the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, whose oratory always attracts a large audience; and on this occasion the Olympic Theatre, where he spoke, was the scene of a very large gathering. The King, on his return from the Cathedral, attended a meeting at the University, and in the afternoon reviewed the troops stationed here. The review attracted large crowds, and the fine bearing and warlike appearance of the troops left an excellent impression. Athens was quite *en fête*, the streets being decorated with English, French, and Greek flags, and illuminated in the evening. On this occasion messages of congratulation were sent to the Greek Government from England, France and America. In the message from the British Government the hope was expressed that the present co-operation of Greece on land and sea would cement the traditional friendship between the two peoples, and that the desire of the British Government was to make every effort so that Greece should emerge from the war with renewed force and energy.

The Forged Letter Trial.

Considerable interest was attracted last week to the inquiry into the matter of the letter published in the *Nea Hemera* shortly after the events of December 1, addressed to General Korakas and purporting to have come from M. Venizelos.

The letter said, *inter alia*, that King Constantine should be removed and that the troops be disarmed. M. Venizelos, of course, immediately denied the authenticity of the letter; but it was not until after the introduction of the present régime that inquiries were set on foot to discover the author of the forgery, and the present trial at the Court of Appeal is the outcome of that inquiry. The ex-director of the *Nea Hemera* was accused of publishing a letter knowing it to be false, and M. Meidanis, an ex-judge, was put on trial for improper judicial procedure knowing the letter to be a forgery. The trial occupied several days, and the evidence once more revealed to what extent efforts were made at that time to discredit Venizelism. The Court pronounced the letter to be a forgery, found both the accused guilty, and sentenced them to imprisonment for nine months, of which six months have already been served.

The censorship has been the object of some resentment lately, because it has withheld all newspapers from England and France, even those addressed to the Legations. The effect of a measure of this sort is to convey the impression of an alarming situation and to provide a pretext for the Royalists to aggravate matters by spreading false rumours.

Greece and the Allies.

In the Chamber recently M. Stratos, who was at one time Minister of Marine, criticised the loan, and drew attention to what he described as the financial burdens on the country. He said that these loans tied Greece to the Entente even after the war, and expressed the opinion that in the circumstances some conditions should be laid down. For instance, he thought that the question of Northern Epirus and of the contested islands should be cleared up, that Cyprus should be handed over to Greece, and that the Greek colonies in Turkey should receive some form of autonomy. In conclusion, he said that the Opposition would not, however, impede the Government in carrying out measures for the welfare of the country. Replying to M. Stratos, M. Venizelos said it was not the loan which influenced the policy of Greece to the Entente, but rather her military co-operation with the Allies, and, even more than this, her geographical position and Hellenic interests, which are indissolubly bound up with those Powers who are mistresses of the Mediterranean; and as long as Greece is opposed by her hereditary enemies and by those whose interests have always been opposed to Greek interests, she cannot change her policy. With regard to compensations, M. Venizelos pointed out that, for reasons which all the world knew, it was impossible to give any details, and he dwelt on the course it was the duty of Greece to follow in this war to prove to the world that she remained a factor worthy of respect and attention.

The Advance in Macedonia.

The advance in Macedonia by the English and Greek troops has produced much enthusiasm, and any successful operations will undoubtedly have a good moral effect on those now joining up, the further classes and reserves of officers being summoned to the colours.

In spite of an improved situation regarding foodstuffs, many of the hotels are ceasing to provide meals, thus making the restaurants still more crowded, as, owing to the difficulty of housekeeping, many families find it cheaper to take their meals at the restaurants.

The Ex-King's Treachery.

On Thursday evening the Minister of Foreign Affairs caused a little excitement in the Chamber by presenting certain documents in connection with the events of December, 1916. In October of that year M. Benazet, a French Deputy, came to Athens and had a long interview with the ex-King, who on that occasion promised: first, to demobilise part of the army; secondly, to receive favourably an application from the Allies to transfer the troops to the Peloponnesus; thirdly, to hand over to the Allies the war material required by them. These conditions were embodied in a long telegram which M. Benazet sent to the French Government, which telegram was subsequently read to the ex-King, who expressed in writing his entire approval of its contents. Constantine's subsequent action, as is known, was in direct opposition to the promises he formally made to the French Government, and led to the treachery of December, 1916.

The Commission inquiring into the actions of the Lambros Cabinet some time ago applied for these documents, but the French Government was unwilling to permit their publication as long as Constantine was not acting in any way against the Allies. However, once he had shown that his attitude was not only inimical to Greece but also to the Allies, the French Government considered themselves justified in sending the documents to the Greek Government.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

There has been another gap as regards incoming mails, and war telegrams have been all the more eagerly awaited.

A Well-Merited Honour.

The King has been pleased to confer the honour of membership of the Order of the British Empire upon Mr. Vrasidas D. Laniti, chief clerk to the Commissioner of Limassol, who has been for about thirty-seven years in the Government service, and for nearly the whole of the period in that office. It is the first time that such a distinction has been conferred on a native official, and its bestowal has given the greatest gratification to all, owing to the high character, the unfailing tact, and the popularity of Mr. Laniti. An excellent English scholar and zealous official, he possesses in a remarkable degree those qualities which merit recognition in the eyes of a British administration. The High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, has conveyed to him his cordial congratulations by letter.

The Order of the British Empire was conferred last summer on the Principal Forest Officer, Mr. A. K. Bovill; and it has also been recently conferred on Mr. E. Nicolls, Director of Public Works.

The Vacant See of Kition.

Arrangements will shortly be made for the election of a prelate to succeed the Greek ex-Bishop, Meletios, now Metropolitan of Athens. The late Bishop, as well as his confrère at Papho, came from other parts, greatly to the benefit of the island Church after the deadlock which for nine years left Cyprus without an Archbishop. It is to be hoped that a wise selection will now be made of a person qualified and willing to take up the thread of the late Bishop's work with energy, as there is still pressing need for activity in the work of ecclesiastical reform, which all educated Cypriots keenly desire.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Question of Bessarabia.

Your readers have been kept informed of the various developments in Bessarabia. Last December a "Council of the Land" composed of 150 members, elected on universal and secret franchise, with proportional representation, proclaimed the autonomy of Bessarabia, under the name of the "Moldavian Republic," and adopted a constitution strongly reflecting the socialistic principles of the revolution. The position of the new republic within the Great Russian Federal Republic was left to the Constituent Assembly to decide; and the question of union with Roumania was not publicly raised, but was mentioned in the Press and by various leaders as a possible later contingency, dependent mainly upon the introduction in Roumania of social changes in harmony with the Bessarabian Constitution. But the new State had hardly set out to apply the Constitution it had given itself when the peace of Brest-Litovsk caused a complete change in the situation.

Bessarabia being one of the most fertile parts of Southern Russia, it was to be suspected that the Central Powers would not be displeased to see the Ukraine lay hands upon it. Confronted with that possibility, separated from the rest of Russia—from which assistance was in any case not to be expected—Bessarabia decided upon the only alternative likely to strengthen her position—namely, union with Roumania. It so happened that the Bessarabian decision coincided with the initial stages of the peace negotiations between Roumania and the Central Powers; and the latter, discovering at last a possibility of proving their professed friendship for and sympathy with Roumania without themselves paying the expenses, began to proclaim vociferously at home and abroad that they would very kindly permit the "annexation" of Bessarabia by Roumania, to compensate her for the territory lost to Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria. That was by no means approved by everybody in Central Europe. The Bulgarian Press chastised Czernin for his misplaced "generosity," and insists that Bulgaria must have a common frontier with the Ukraine (why not with Prussia?); the Hungarians are amazed at the "infantile" policy of allowing the creation of a Roumania with ten million inhabitants; and the Pan-Germans . . . but it is not worth while mentioning what the Pan-Germans think. Now that peace with Roumania has been signed, and in order to quiet roused spirits and give a warning to the undisciplined Roumanians, a message from Vienna declares that "the Central Powers will judge the question in the light of the future political attitude of Roumania. They therefore reserve their decision."

Facts versus Theory.

If it be their interest, and if they get the chance, we quite believe that the Central Powers will not hesitate to interfere with the decision of the only two parties concerned. But unfortunately for their theory that "annexed" Bessarabia was a gift from them, there are certain hard facts which form the best commentary on their insolent pretensions.

To begin with, the negotiations leading to the union were initiated by the Bessarabian leaders themselves before the principles of the peace between Roumania and the Central Powers were even laid down. Moreover, and above all, there is the fact that the pact of union was unmistakably the outcome of the Bessarabian will rather than of Roumanian compulsion. Article 1 of the Convention, for instance, decrees that the Bessarabian Assembly is to be maintained, and that its decisions "are to be accepted by the Roumanian Government." "Bessarabia retains her district autonomy and her National Assembly," proclaims Article 2. All legislation and the Budget must be passed by the latter, which also appoints the various officials through its executive (Article 3). "The present laws and local organisations of the Zemtsva and the towns are to remain in existence" (Article 5). Bessarabia shall have "two representatives in the Roumanian Ministerial Council" (Article 7). And finally we have the provision (Article 12), which prescribes a franchise basis never used before in Roumanian elections. "The Roumanian Parliament shall immediately decree the convocation of a Grand National Assembly, to which representatives will be elected by universal, direct, and secret franchise on the basis of proportional representation"—the very system prevailing at the Bessarabian elections—"which shall embody in the Constitution the above principles and guarantees."

That is an interesting and, so far, a unique example of how self-determination can work without friction or bloodshed, and with progressive effect, when not interfered with by diplomatists and generals—especially generals.

THE FREEING OF SYRIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 10.

Returning Prosperity.

Both economically and administratively the constructive stage in Southern Palestine may well be said to have been reached. With commendable foresight the question of a supply of seed corn, especially in the Gaza district, was tackled immediately after the liberation of the district, and as water has been provided by gigantic effort, it is hoped that the fruits of this foresight will be reaped very soon. A double purpose will then be served: the supply of a part of the military wants, and the relief of the civil population's requirements with local produce, in the shape of grain, fruit, and vegetables. The exports of grain, chiefly barley, from the port of Gaza used to attain in years of plenty about 30,000 tons, representing, of course, the surplus of local needs. Although, after the terrors of three years of war, the inhabitants, through diffidence or despair, did nothing or little in the way of winter sowing, yet the security of British rule soon restored confidence, and late and restricted as the sowings have been, the crop is said to be unusually promising. In these times, when the problem of transport is becoming increasingly difficult, the freeing by so much of railway freightage may be readily appreciated.

After the grain crop in the early part of the summer, comes the olive crop in autumn; and, although many trees have been destroyed—some wilfully by the Turks to supply the needs of their railways, and others by the accidents of war—yet there must have remained enough to yield olives and olive oil in quantity sufficient to weigh in the balance of transport. By the irony of Fate, or rather of war, the country of olives *par excellence* has been seeking its olive oil, or rather its substitute, cottonseed oil, from Egypt. Thanks to the permanent supply of water along a strip of fertile land on the western border of Southern Palestine, and to the existence of Jewish colonies, more or less intact, in the south, which are expected to revive rapidly under the beneficent new rule, the country may soon be expected to supply its own needs and part of those of the occupying army in the way of grain, fruit, and vegetables. This hope is strengthened by the fact of the recent visit to Palestine of the Zionist Commission. The Commission may well be trusted to help largely in bringing back to Jaffa and its suburbs, and to the Jewish colonies, their pre-war prosperity in the quickest possible time, under the helpful guidance of the British authorities, who are anxious to relieve not only the half-starved inhabitants, but also the overtaxed railway authorities.

But the problem of provisioning Palestine, which is so intimately connected with that of transport, will not be entirely solved until the region lying east of the Jordan is cleared completely of the Turk. The occupation of Kerek by the Arab troops, their recent successes along the railway line between Maan and Medauara, and the brilliant British dash on Amman all augur well for such a happy consummation. In connection with this question of transport, it may be mentioned that at the outset even the accumulated stores of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund could not be dealt with, anxious as the authorities themselves were to afford this relief.

Turkish Methods—and British.

The work of administrative reorganisation has already been begun, and what the Turks were unable to do in centuries of peace the British are accomplishing in spite of the stress of the greatest war in history. Jerusalem is to be endowed at last with a supply of pure water, and officials from the Egyptian Tanzim Department have already made the preliminary study for the re-laying out of the town on modern, and sanitary, lines. The turn of Jaffa and other lesser centres, as well as of the Jewish colonies, will soon come; and the financial and technical co-operation of Zionist associations may be expected to help largely towards the speedy accomplishment of this work of material reform. In the other departments of civil administration—judicial, fiscal, municipal, police, and gendarmerie—all that is possible is being done in the way of preparation within the limits of martial law.

The Syria and Palestine Fund.

The part played by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in this work of economic reform is such that a brief survey of its activities should in this connection be made. The data have been extracted from a report drawn up by the manager in Cairo, who was kind enough to furnish me with a copy.

Thanks to the intelligent foresight of the originator of the Fund, Bishop MacInnes, the machinery for help was started working a year ago—*i.e.*, a good many months before Southern Palestine was liberated and could receive relief. The co-operation of representatives of twelve British societies and of several business men was secured, and correspondence was started with America, and as a result a generous supply of workers and funds was procured. Thus, considerable stores of uncut material and garments for women and children, as well as blankets, drugs, and hospital and dispensary equipment were ready to be sent off as soon as the way opened up. Khan Yunis was the first stage on the long road of distress, and although this was but on the border-line, the accumulated stores were quickly swallowed up, and the magnitude of the task that lay before the Fund soon loomed up in its true proportions. The worst period through which the inhabitants passed was that following the immediate entry of the British troops. Supplies from the Turkish side were naturally cut off, while from the British side none could be had at the initial stage, when all the means of transport was hardly sufficient for military requirements. The position was such that even the Relief Fund could not be given the means for the transport of about 300 tons of foodstuffs and other material; and as sea-transport by privately-owned vessels in the early part of winter was costly, the Fund preferred to keep the stuff in the hope that the authorities would soon find their way to carry it.

The Fund followed the sound principle of making gratuitous distributions only where it was ascertained that the recipients were quite unable to pay for the stuff; in other instances it was sold at cost price, and thus beggary was discountenanced, and the danger of pauperization avoided. This system worked so well that at one time the sum of £3,000 came back to the Fund. The supply of food was not the only problem. As the Turks had taken away all the pre-war equipment of hospitals, and no Europeans were left, the sanitary conditions, which even in peace times left much to be desired under Turkish rule, sank to their lowest level; and this, combined with malnutrition, want of clothing, and so forth, had greatly favoured the propagation of disease. First, attention was of course directed to the establishment of orphanages, and at Jaffa 250 children are now well cared for. At Jerusalem there is another orphanage with 400 girls, and another boys' orphanage is in working order. These numbers are expected to be considerably increased now that, on the withdrawal of the British troops from Es Salt, about 3,500 of the inhabitants, mostly Christians, and including 1,600 Armenian deportees, have been brought over to the Jerusalem area to save them from Turkish vengeance. It is said that on the Turks' return to Es Salt they condemned to death 300 of those who were unfortunate enough to remain behind. As the Es Salt refugees have been unable to carry anything away with them, the strain on the Relief Fund, already severe, was suddenly much increased.

The scope of the Fund embraces also dispensary and school work, soup kitchens, and the providing of industrial work for women and girls. Hundreds have been employed already, and many more are waiting to be supplied with material. With the constant influx of refugees the number is progressively increasing. Although the energy of the Fund's workers was concentrated at first on the principal centres of Jaffa and Jerusalem, it was not long before it extended to the outlying villages, such as Bethlehem and Ramallah. In both of these places the once flourishing industries of mother-of-pearl and olive wood work, as well as embroidery, are being helped into new life again. Hebron has marked the last advance of the army of relief workers. The recent arrival from Egypt at Palestine of motor-cars and lorries will go a long way towards solving the problem of transport, which so far has hampered the activities of the Fund.

The Bishop of Jerusalem's unflagging efforts have been crowned with the highest success. The sympathetic and devoted collaboration of Lady MacInnes must have been an invaluable aid in enabling him to pursue so indefatigably his work along the rugged steps that marked the first stage of this great enterprise. At the administrative base in Cairo the work of management has been entrusted to the proper man. Mr. Marshall Fox, apart from his pre-war experience, had the opportunity to acquire additional knowledge of relief work in the Armenian Refugees' Camp at Port Said, where he assisted that gifted organiser Mr. Hornblower. This local experience meant probably the saving of hundreds of pounds in the purchase of material and the reduction of expenses. Those who take any interest in the Holy Land and in any movement meant to alleviate the sufferings of its unfortunate inhabitants cannot find a better instrument for their charitable efforts than this Fund.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

EASTER CEREMONIES IN JERUSALEM.

There was a time, and that not so very long ago, when the ceremony of the Holy Fire in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem gave rise to unedifying scenes, and there is no possible doubt that the Turkish system of dealing with the ceremony either provoked or connived at serious disturbances of the peace within the church.

This year, however, amid an entire absence of military force, the Military Governor of Jerusalem, ably assisted by Haddad Bey, the Chief of Police, maintained public order and secured a decorum on the part of the exceedingly diverse congregation which goes far to substantiate the theory that the Turks deliberately gave rein to manifestations of religious exaltation on the part of excited enthusiasts in order to bring discredit upon Christians, and to keep alive old feuds, which had their origin in the days of misunderstanding and oppression.

The ceremony of the Holy Fire of 1918 passed without any incident which could give rise to complaint from the members of any of the numerous communities represented in the Church; and the confidence reposed by the Military Governor in the good sense and self-restraint of the people was fully justified. A few police sufficed to keep clear the passages for the various processions whose progress in times past had strained the resources of a numerous force of Ottoman troops, and when in the excitement of the distribution of the Holy Fire the crowd pressed unduly upon Mgr. Porphyrios II., the Archbishop of Sinai, who was acting for the absent Orthodox Patriarch, the Military Governor in person restrained the people by a simple motion of the hand, and by this action dispelled for ever the legend that the presence of Turks is necessary to maintain order in the holy places.

SERBIAN IMPORTER CHARGED.

At the Mansion House on May 17, S. Simitch, a Serbian, was summoned for obtaining a cheque for £2,500 from William Duckworth by alleged false pretences. The defendant, who pleaded "Not guilty" and reserved his defence, was committed for trial and allowed bail.

The case for the prosecution was that in April the prosecutor, an essence and chemical manufacturer carrying on business in Lime Street and at Manchester, agreed to purchase 200 lb. of saccharine for £3,100 from the defendant, an importer and commission agent in Great Tower Street. The agreement was that Mr. Duckworth should send the defendant £2,500 on account of the purchase, that Mr. Simitch should forward him the delivery order, and that the balance, £600, should be paid immediately the goods were in Mr. Duckworth's warehouse. Mr. Duckworth sent the defendant a cheque for £2,500, but the saccharine was not delivered to him. The prosecutor's London manager said that on May 8 he asked the defendant about the saccharine. The defendant made a statement about being disappointed by a firm from whom he proposed to buy 200 lbs. of saccharine. On being asked what he had done with the £2,500, the defendant said:—"I don't know. I have been a damned fool. I lost £400 or £500 playing cards. I cannot tell you what has become of the balance, but it is all gone."

In order to maintain the food supply of Egypt, the Supplies Board is making compulsory the cultivation of cereals and vegetables on waste land, vacant building sites, etc., within certain specified areas.

Sixty well-known Greek families and many other Christians have been deported from Mersina, Turkey, on suspicion of espionage.

At Buckingham Palace, on Monday morning, the King inspected a party of the Indian Labour Corps, consisting of officers and non-commissioned officers of the North-West Frontier and Burma Companies, under the command of Captain H. L. Holman-Hunt and Lieutenant F. C. Smith, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, who are on leave from the Western front. At the inspection his Majesty invested Captain H. L. Holman-Hunt with the Insignia of a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

ISLAM IN RUSSIA SINCE THE REVOLUTION.

Mr. Arnold Toynbee, lecturing before the Central Asian Society on Wednesday, said that in Russia, before the revolution, Islam was an unknown field. The reason for this was that under the old regime, although Russia was teeming with national life, this was all suppressed, and the country presented itself to the outer world politically not as a nation or commonwealth of nations, but as a military machine. Russia, nevertheless, was about the third Islamic Power. The number of Moslems under its rule—nineteen millions—was hardly less than that under France, and greater than that under Holland or any independent Moslem State. The sixteen million Russian Moslems who spoke Turkish were about double the number of those who spoke that language in the Turkish Empire. Russian Moslems were typically transitional, and included in their ranks the Tatars of the Kazan district, who were more Europeanised than any other Moslems; the peasants of Firghana, who specialised in the production of cotton for the Russian mills, primitive peasants producing within their own oases all the necessaries of life, and nomads of the steppes; while, in Baku, Moslem Tatars had shared in the development of the oil industry, and a certain number of them were very rich, self-made men With these divisions there were certain great principles of unity. The first of these was Islam, in which the sense of brotherhood had remained extraordinarily strong—all the stronger because it felt itself to be on the defensive against penetration from Europe. The second was the Russian State. The great lines of railway which connected the various parts of the Russian Empire also played a great part, but most important of all was the economic reciprocity which created an interdependence of the different countries under Russian rule. On the other hand, while the Russian conquest was fundamentally a unifying force, it was the policy of the old Russian Government to keep the various Moslem communities disunited—there was one centre for the Tatars of the Volga, another for the Bashkirs, and so on—and there were great differences of interest. The Kirghiz and the Bashkirs were directly threatened by Russian colonisation, while Firghana and Baku profited by the Russian conquest.

After the revolution, the first tendency that became apparent was one towards unity. The Tatars of Kazan, who had been longer under Russian rule than any other Moslems, and who entirely felt themselves to be citizens of Russia, led a movement for cultural autonomy. They wished the Moslems of Russia to govern their own religious affairs, to have schools in their own languages, and so on; but to regard themselves politically as citizens of Russia, and, instead of trying to form political organisations of their own, to feel themselves Russian citizens, and to try, by working inside Russia, to exercise as great an Islamic influence as possible. This tendency prevailed during the first period after the revolution. In April, 1917, there was a Moslem conference in the Caucasus, when the Shia Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Sunni Mufti—the heads of the two communities in the Caucasus—publicly embraced in the pulpit; and there was even talk of abolishing the separate ecclesiastical organisations and uniting all the Moslems of the Caucasus, Sunni, and Shiah into one body. In the following May there was a Moslem conference at Moscow, at which all the Moslem groups in Russia were represented by 800 or 900 delegates, of whom about 100 were women: This conference had appointed an all-Russian ecclesiastical council, and produced a weekly bulletin, not confined to the affairs of the Russian Moslems, but showing a great interest in the course of the Russian revolution. Politically, the movement of which this conference was part was pronouncedly Liberal, but its dominant note was Islamic brotherhood, the Russian State being taken as the best instrument for the nineteen million Russian Moslems to realise their brotherhood. The Moslem deputies worked with the Cadets until they broke with them over the question of Constantinople. Since then they had gravitated towards the revolutionary groups.

A second tendency had shown itself among Russian Moslems, that towards federalism with political and territorial autonomy. The first sign of this had been among the mountaineers of the Caucasus. The Daghestanis held a conference, at which they complained that the Azerbaijanis were trying to Turkicise the Caucasus. Their main idea was a State of their own, which might be federalised with Russia or not. At Bokhara, also, which had been autonomous, even under the Empire, there was a local revolution; and the Khan was forced to grant a constitution. Then there was a reaction, led by mullahs, and given a fanatical turn. It had been put down, but was symptomatic of a tendency which was steadily winning—a tendency to political autonomy at the expense of pan-Islamic unity within the Russian State.

In the course of a short discussion that followed, Mr. Ispahani said that in the time of the Tsars he had lived for years among the Russian Moslems. In those days they had always complained that they were not allowed to practise their faith freely or educate their children in their own way. The present Russian State allowed this, and there might be more contentment in consequence.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Tag Day in Toronto for the Armenian relief realised £2,400.

Archbishop Antonius, formerly Archbishop of Zhitomir, has been appointed Metropolitan of the Ukraine.

The Egyptian Prisons Department has decided to employ some of the criminals from the Manshieh Prison upon repairs at Abdin Palace.

The Metropolitan of Athens has been to the front to bless the armies and address the troops, by whom he was greeted with indescribable enthusiasm.

The French hospital ship "Lafayette," which arrived at the Piræus recently with a number of Greek wounded on board, has been visited by enormous crowds.

The Czecho-Slovak National Council in Paris, with Professor Masaryk, Dr. Benes, and Colonel Stefanik at the head, who are organising the Cezcho-Slovak Army in France, have just opened a London office at Thanet House, 231, Strand, W.C.2.

Silver medals have been conferred by the Sultan of Egypt on ten members of the Labour Corps and fourteen members of the Camel Transport Corps, and bronze medals on twenty-three members of the Labour Corps and 100 members of the Camel Transport Corps. Practically all the recipients are natives.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports (May 20):—The insurrectionary movement at Aidin (vilayet of Smyrna) is extending to Menemen, near Smyrna. At Manissa (north of Aidin) 2,000 Turkish troops which had been sent to quell the disturbances there deserted. Numerous desertions are also reported from the coast garrisons. The repression of the movement has been entrusted to Essad Pasha of Yanina.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports (May 22):—The *Weser Zeitung* announces the return to Germany of Captain Kurt Wagner, of the Hamburg-Amerika Line, who, it says, participated in Captain Niedermayer's mission to Afghanistan in 1914 and, after spending two years in Afghanistan, returned viâ Northern Persia, disguised as an Afghan.

A lecture-recital in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund will be given at the Physical Training College, Battersea Polytechnic, on Saturday, June 1, at 2.30, by Miss Vivian Edwards, on the "Ballads and Folksongs of Serbia." It will be illustrated by songs by Miss Edwards and by kolos or peasant dances by the students of the college in costume. Tickets (reserved and unreserved) have been fixed at popular prices, and can be obtained at the Battersea Polytechnic. (Victoria, 123.)

At a meeting of the Senate of the University of London, held on the 15th inst., an offer from the Greek Government of an annual grant of 7,500 drachmas for the endowment of a Chair in Modern Greek at King's College was gratefully accepted, as was also one from the Committee of the subscribers to the Koraés Chair of Modern Greek Fund of a benefaction amounting to not less than £600 a year in the first place for the endowment of a Professorship of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language, and Literature, to be tenable at King's College, the surplus to be applied to the provision of a library or scholarships or lectureships in the department to be attached to it.

Addressing the Indian Empire Club at the Knightsbridge Hotel, Lord Lamington said that the handful of English officials in India were a distinct blessing, because they were capable and unbiassed, and conducted the administration for the benefit of every individual Indian, even of the lowest caste. On the other hand, it was difficult to realise, except by residence, what tremendous pressure was put upon the Indian official to pay regard to his family interest. Although he did not agree with sending out Mr. Montagu, he would admit that he was wrong in that view should it turn out that the Minister's report indicated the dangers which would come from any large extension of Home Rule in India.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes:—Count Bosdari's successor as Italian Minister at Athens is Baron Romano Avezzana, the present Italian representative at the Montenegrin Court. He is a Neapolitan, and was popular in Montenegro. As he was at one time in the Italian Consulate at Smyrna, and at another in the Legation at Belgrade, he has had experience of the Near East. He has also been at Tokyo, Washington, and Teheran. General Avezzana was a well-known General of Garibaldi; consequently his relative has Garibaldian traditions, in accord with Italy's new policy in the Balkan Peninsula. His wife is an American—and wives are very important diplomatic assets.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"LA NAVETTE"—"CARRY ON!"*

It was the morning (Monday, April 29, 1918) to review this very remarkable book; so, almost certain of our quarry, we turned to *The Times* correspondent's account of the storming of Kemmel Hill, and, unlike "barbarous Don Alfonzo," who did not find what made him "go on so," we found this: "Nine divisions in all were used, the two first-named being north of Kemmel, the 56th at Kemmel itself." Of course! Be it genius, whose vagaries are so like roulette, or be it sheer force of character, we had the canny feeling that, as our author, a simple German non-commissioned officer, was a unit of the 6th company of the 2nd battalion of the 88th regiment of the 42nd brigade of the 56th division, his division at least must have had the post of honour before Kemmel Hill. The effect of this discovery rendered us as happy as Doña Julia before she took the veil and penned her immortal letter of transcendent anguish.

For we had followed our author, in his German military career from October 1, 1913, to the outbreak of the Great War, then through Luxemburg, to the Meuse, to the Marne, before Rheims, in Artois, Picardy and Champagne, in Galicia, at the Kommandantur of Valenciennes, at Verdun, in the hospital at Frankfort, to the catacombic trench-digging on the Germano-Danish frontier prepared for a British landing, and so—"fed up"—in December, 1916, lightly over the Danish frontier into rest and freedom from Prussian militarism. This is one of the gems of war literature. We see German battalion life in the first two years of this war, naked and unadorned; the good and the bad; the courage and the cowardice; the carnage and the miraculous immunity; the pillage, the lust, the arson, the murder, the massacre, the debauch, the deliberate and justifiable turning of Prussian guns on treacherous Austro-Hungarian infantry, the respect for the Western, the contempt for the Eastern enemies; the fasts and the orgies, murmuring, mutiny, madness—the whole hell of it. Where every page is of compelling interest in what amounts to a grand indictment of Prussian militarism by a simple soldier who is tired, but no traitor, take this:—

> As concerns the German ladies of the Red Cross, I am bound to say that they make life hard for the English and the Germans, but they cuddle and spoil the French like little children. I had the proof at Frankfort. The lady who looked after the French and myself was the wife of Dr. S——, who was at the front. She gave the lieutenant absolutely everything he wanted—even what the doctor forbade. To me she refused almost everything. As she spoke a little French, when her patient was not asleep she came and had a chat with him. The Frenchman, who had noticed that she refused me everything, told me he would ask her for anything I wanted as though it were for himself, so that all my wishes were supplied without her dreaming of it. She did not know I spoke French, and thought she need not worry about me when she chatted with her lieutenant. She asked him about Parisian life, especially about the women. "Don't you regret your sweethearts? It must be quite sad for a young man like you to be separated from his little girl," etc., she would purr. I, who understood it all and saw her little game, amused myself enormously in my bed, and had to fight hard not to laugh because of my wound. . . . Mme. S——, having discovered that I knew French, had me moved into another room, where I was tended by a male nurse.

Or this of the craven Lindwurm, our author's battalion chief in Galicia, who feared not only the enemy but the fleas, and lived alone and dined alone and allowed no one to come within six feet of him:—

> Loffelhardt and I had a good idea. We put a certain number of these insects (very Polish ones, apparently) in a half-opened match-box, which we threw on his bed. . . . Lindwurm asked us to dine with him—a thing that had never happened before. "It's no use living alone," he told us, "for some day or other I shall end by catching fleas myself. It seems to me inevitable." It was comic to see him scratching now his arms, now his neck, and now his legs during dinner. "Gentlemen," he said at last, "I believe I've got fleas, but I cannot understand how it can be, for I have so much insecticide powder," etc.

"La Navette, alas," as M. Louis-Paul Alaux says in his preface, has now stopped. The German armies no longer swish and swash from East to West and West to East. It is all West now. But this fortuitous booklet helps us to keep a victor's gaze fixed unbendingly on Over-Rhine. It is to be hoped that Feldwebel C.'s story will have a great circulation in Germany and Austria.

BY THE TWIN RIVERS.†

This is, we believe, the first book issued from the Government Press at Busreh. It sets a standard which, in regard to matter, at least, it will be hard to maintain; while the printing and binding are, in the circumstances, extremely creditable.

The first half of the little volume contains a number of essays upon such subjects as "The Basis of Government in Turkish Arabia," "The Shiahs and their Position in Irak," and "Star Worshippers of Mesopotamia," written, as the Preface informs us, "by persons with special knowledge of the subjects dealt with." The second part is given up to half-a-dozen papers written by Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, and grouped under the heading "Asiatic Turkey." It is all good work and extraordinarily interesting, and the book cannot be ignored by anybody who is interested in Mesopotamia. The information given is sound, and the views expressed—though they may not please everybody—are usually equally sound. Moreover, one is delighted to find that the practical men who contribute the anonymous essays can spare time for what may be called the native point of view. Thus, in the second essay, we find the writer declaring—quite truly!—that the desert Arabs cannot be hastened into the adoption of European methods. And he adds:

> Whether that which we have to teach them will add to the sum of their happiness, or whether the learning of inevitable lessons will bring the proverbial attribute of wisdom, the schooling must, if it is to be valuable, be long and slow. In our own history from the Moot Court through Magna Carta to the Imperial Parliament was the work of centuries, yet the first contained the germ of all that came after. The tribes of the Irak have advanced but little beyond the Moot Court, and should the shaping of their destinies become our care in the future, we shall be wise to eschew any experiments tending to rush them into highly specialised institutions—a policy which would commend itself only to those who are never wearied by words that signify nothing.

One wonders whether the writer had the word-spinners at Westminster in mind when he penned that last sentence! In any case, the advice given is excellent, as those who know the country and its people will agree. It is precisely those who have such knowledge who will best enjoy these papers, and who will find in them information that will fill the gaps which are so plentiful in the knowledge of even the best-informed traveller

Miss Bell is on ground that is comparatively familiar to Englishmen when she writes of Syria, the Lebanon, and Palestine. But all that she has to say is worth reading, and, as always, she writes most gracefully. Of Baghdad of to-day she says (p. 126):—

> Broken, sunken, with ragged streets where the Turks cut thoroughfares through the town, but unspoilt by the vulgarities of Europe and the grimaces of the Levant, Baghdad lies in our hands as a trust and an opportunity to grow, if we will, into a splendid example of modern Arab civilization.

May those vulgarities of Europe long be kept at a distance from the City of the Khalifs! But one has one's doubts. Miss Bell herself writes:—

> What we desire in Baghdad is the earliest opportunity for setting the ball of commerce rolling. With a population which will instantly raise its standard of living and a soil the undeveloped resources of which are ample to provide for enhanced requirements, our economic future need cause no anxiety.

A point that is clearly brought out is the fact that Mesopotamia has suffered little, if any, material damage from the war. Nowhere can we begin more speedily to make good the immense losses sustained by humanity. Indeed, we learned the other day that the work has already been begun.

A very satisfactory part of Miss Bell's study is that in which she describes how the Yezidis, who have themselves "suffered a long sustained persecution at the hands of their neighbours, Moslem and Christian alike," are now sheltering in their rocky strongholds several thousand Armenian women and children rescued from the Turk. Thus do the "Devil Worshippers" give the disciples of Kultur a lesson in humanity! It is good, too, to find the author writing that "there is little or no fanaticism among Arab Mohammedans," and that there has been no persecution of the Armenians in the Arab provinces. We can warmly recommend the book as a whole to all who wish to know what the Mesopotamia of to-day is like.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Karma." By Algernon Blackwood and Violet Pearn. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Register of Over-Seas Buyers." Compiled with the assistance of Chambers of Commerce and H.M. Consuls abroad. (London and Derby: Bemrose and Sons, Ltd. £1 1s. net.)

"German War Profits, and the German Formula 'No Annexations, No Indemnities.'" By André Chéradame. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. net.)

"Decimal Money Tables." (First Edition.) By A. M. Pooley, B.A. (London: The Syren and Shipping, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net. Post free: U.K., 2s. 9d.; abroad, 3s.)

"Austrian Socialism and the Present War." By Vladimir Nosek. (London: Twentieth Century Press (1912), Ltd. 2d.)

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* "Souvenirs de Guerre d'un Sous-Officier Allemand (1914-1915-1916)." (Payot et Cie., Paris.)

† "The Arab of Mesopotamia." (Busreh: Government Press. London: "The Times of India." 1s. 6d.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. May.	1918. May		1336. Shaaban.	5678. Sivan
24	11	Friday	13	13
25	12	Saturday........	14	14
26	13	Sunday	15	15
27	14	Monday	16	16
28	15	Tuesday	17	17
29	16	Wednesday	18	18
30	17	Thursday	19	19

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough spent Whitsuntide in Ireland.

M. Michel Gavrilovitch, formerly Serbian Minister at the Vatican, has left London for Paris.

Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., is quite recovered from his recent chill, and is back at the Foreign Office.

Lady Ward, widow of Sir W. E. Ward, K.C.S.I., has left Ealing for 1, Gore Street, Queen's Gate.

Second Lieutenant C. R. R. Sefi, son of Alexander and Mrs. Sefi, is now a flying officer in Palestine.

The Earl and Countess of Yarborough are now at their residence in Arlington Street, where they will be for some time.

The new Duke of Northumberland (Earl Percy) was for a time attached to the Egyptian Army. He saw service in the Sudan in 1908, and was awarded the Egyptian medal and clasp.

Lady Pedler, 28, Stanhope Gardens, S.W., sends her heartfelt thanks to all kind friends for their beautiful flowers and kind letters of sympathy and inquiries. She hopes to acknowledge all personally later.

The Princess Towkieh, daughter of the Sultan of Egypt, has sent a sum of £E400 to the Pearl Necklace Fund which is being raised under the patronage of Lady Wingate.

In the Ukraine M. Doroshenko has been appointed Acting Foreign Minister, Professor Sienkovski Minister of Worship, and M. Lerche, former President of the Finance Committee of the Third Duma, Director of the Kieff Credit Society.

An engagement is announced between Captain Hugh Arthur MacMullen, M.C., the Royal Irish Fusiliers, only son of the late Major G. R. MacMullen, Indian Staff Corps, and Phyllis Grace, third daughter of the late H. E. Haddon, Indian Civil Service.

The marriage of Major Cyril Brittan Hosegood, R.E., son of S. C. Hosegood, Rockleaze, Bristol, with Sybil, daughter of James Stanes, Coonoor, India, will take place at the parish church, Westbury-on-Trym, near Bristol, on Wednesday, June 12, at 2.30 p.m.

The marriage of Lieut.-Colonel P. S. Lowis, D.S.O., R.G.A., second son of the late Colonel Ninian Lowis, and Miss Marie E. Currie, twin daughter of the late Robert George Currie, Bengal Civil Service, took place at St. John's Church, West Ealing, on Saturday.

King Nicholas of Montenegro on Sunday concluded a visit to Italy, where he had been to see his daughter, Queen Elena. During his stay (Reuter's Agency is informed) he visited the Italian front, reviewed two infantry divisions, and witnessed some naval manœuvres.

On May 8, at Bangalore, Madras Presidency, the marriage took place of Captain Adrian D. Stoop, Queen's R.W.S., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Stoop, West Hall, Byfleet, to Audrey Deline, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Needham, of Jaidebpur, Dacca, India.

The marriage of Lieut.-Commander Harry Charles Lukach, R.N.V.R., Commissioner of Famagusta, Cyprus, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lukach, London, to Joyce Evelyn, only daughter of Captain J. L. Fremlin, 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse), and Mrs. Fremlin, of Mortimer, Berks, was solemnized at St. Helen's Church, Larnaca, Cyprus, on April 21.

The marriage took place on Wednesday, at Simla, of Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Tennant, M.C., Scots Guards and R.A.F., eldest son of Francis Tennant, of Innes House, Morayshire, and grandson of the late Sir Charles Tennant, Bart., of The Glen, and Georgina Helen, eldest daughter of General Sir George Kirkpatrick, K.C.S.I., C.B., Chief of the General Staff, India, and granddaughter of the late Sir George Kirkpatrick, K.C.M.G., Toronto, Canada.

Mr. T. W. Haycraft, Chief Justice of Grenada, who was for many years President of the District Court of Larnaca, Cyprus, and subsequently in Mauritius, is now in London on leave. His only son, Captain T. Haycraft, R.E., who was severely wounded in France, is now again at the front.

General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate hope that all those who have so kindly sympathised with them in their great sorrow will accept this expression of their heartfelt thanks, as they regret that at present they have found it impossible to answer the many kind letters they have received.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. St. Clair, M.C., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attached R.A.F., only child of Mr. A. St. Clair, Priory House, Blakeney, Norfolk, and Miss Themer Langley, only daughter of Mr. John Langley, Under Secretary of State for Agriculture, Egyptian Government.

The marriage arranged between Harold L'Estrange, Captain, R.A.F., eldest son of the Rev. C. E. and Mrs. Tyndale-Biscoe, Srinagar, Kashmir, and Elsie May, eldest daughter of Major J. S. and Mrs. Crone, Wivenhoe, Coatham, Redcar, Yorks, will take place quietly at Christ's Church, Coatham, on Saturday, May 25, at 10.30.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* states that a bazaar, organised in Athens by Lady Granville, wife of the British Minister, for the benefit of children of Greek Reservists, was a complete success, and the proceeds amounted to over £8,000. M. Politis, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has written to Lady Granville a letter of thanks on behalf of the Greek Government.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—

There is much sympathy for Mr. E. McDonald, Commissioner of Kyrenia, and Mrs. McDonald, who have received news of the death of their only son.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. R. Cleveland, is on the sick list. During his absence on leave in England his duties were carried out by Dr. E. Corsellis, District Medical Officer at Limassol.

The office of the Registrar-General, who directs the Land Registry in Cyprus, is vacant owing to the retirement of Mr. F. Ongley. Among the candidates for the appointment is Mr. Dunk, the Assistant Registrar-General.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Temp. Kaimakam W. F. M. Bagshaw Bey, Assistant Director of Ordnance and Inspector of Explosives, Egyptian Army, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

El Lewa M. R. Kennedy Pasha, C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Works, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army with effect from March 12.

Mr. G. Greathead, Assistant Director of Works, 2nd Circle of Irrigation, and Mr. G. Atkinson, Assistant Director of Works, Main Nile Irrigation, have been promoted Directors of Works.

Captain S. G. Kermack, Royal Field Artillery, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer with the rank of Bimbashi and posted to the Sudan Government.

Major F. J. E. Archer, Norfolk Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Major R. Stevens, Captain G. Anson, Captain H. McD. Pollock, R.A., and Lieutenant R. White have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Sudan Government, the Department of Works, the Artillery, and to the 15th Sudanese respectively.

Under date of May 21, the *Morning Post's* Paris correspondent reports:—Dr. Angelesco, the Roumanian Minister in Washington, who has just arrived in Paris, has forwarded his resignation to the Marghiloman Government. M. Misu, formerly Roumanian Minister in London, is staying at Berne. M. Také Jonescu is expected in Paris on his way to London.

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent reports that the Montenegrin Government has appointed General Gosdenovich to be its first diplomatic representative at Washington, where, in view of the large number of Montenegrins and other Southern Slavs in the United States, it is intended to establish a Montenegrin Legation. The Government will shortly nominate as Minister in London one of two Montenegrins whose names are under consideration.

The King has given permission for wearing the insignia of the following decorations:—

Order of the Nile—Grand Cordon.—Sir W. E. Brunyate, K.C.M.G., Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

Class 2.—Mr. M. Sheldon Amos, Acting Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

Class 4.—Mr. R. M. C. Moss, ex-Assistant Chief Engineer of Domains and Expropriations, Egyptian State Railways.

Colonel Frederick Firebrace, R.E., of Bankton, Crawley Down, Sussex, chairman of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Co., and a director of the Grand Trunk Railway, left property valued at £24,297.

The Hon. Sir Bernard Eric Edward Barrington, K.C.B., of The Old Lodge, Wimbledon Common, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs until 1907, left unsettled estate valued at £16,244.

The Elsie Inglis Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which left London at the end of February, reached its destination on the Macedonian front on April 1. The Jugo-Slav Division of the Serbian Army, to which the Elsie Inglis Unit is attached, has been in severe fighting since then, and the wards are now filled with sick and wounded brought straight from the front.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Thomas Turner, late of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), died on Sunday at Brooklyn, Frimley, Surrey, at the age of seventy-nine years. He obtained his first commission in 1855, and served with the Abyssinian Expedition in 1868, for which he had the medal.

Major-General John Swiney, Madras Staff Corps, has died at Sandford Lawn, Cheltenham, in his eighty-seventh year. All his military career, which began in 1849 as an ensign of the Madras Native Infantry, included service in the suppression of the Mutiny, and ended in 1890, was spent in India.

Lieutenant Edward Terence Heard, R.A.F., died on the 17th inst. from injuries received whilst flying. Formerly of King Edward's Horse, and of Bahr-el-Ghazal, Sudan, Lieutenant Heard was the only son of the late Edward Heard and of Mrs. A. F. Heard, of 31, Dorset Square, N.W. He was 28 years old.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. Walter Snow, manager of Messrs. Cook's Nile steamer dockyard at Boulac, Cairo. Mr. Snow was a typical, hard-working Englishman, who knew all that was to be known in regard to his work, and could run, build, repair, and cater for the Nile fleet. He was a prominent Freemason, a generous friend, and an excellent manager of native labour. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

Colonel the Hon. Charles Byng died last Friday, aged sixty-nine. He was the son of the second Earl of Strafford and brother of General Sir Julian Byng. He saw service in the Sudan Expedition (1884-5). He took part in the actions of Abu Klea, El Gubat, and Metammeh, and the convoy attack of February 14, and was mentioned in despatches, received the medal with two clasps, the bronze star, and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel.

The death took place last week at a nursing home in London of Colonel George Philips, late Colonel of the 4th Hussars, and one-time Adjutant-General to Lord Wolseley. Colonel Philips, who was in his 82nd year, served in the Crimean campaign in the 49th Regiment, and afterwards in the 2nd Queen's Royals. He was a brother of Mr. F. C. Philips, the novelist, and his second wife was Lady Redhouse, widow of Sir James Redhouse, K.C.M.G.

News was received in Egypt at the end of last month of the death, in America, of the Rev. W. R. Coventry, of the American United Presbyterian Mission in Egypt. Mr. Coventry had been resident in Egypt for some twenty years. It was largely through his efforts that the Mission medical-boat called "The Allegheny" has been set to work along the Delta canals and the Mission railway carriage called the "Delta Car" along the lines of the Delta Light Railway.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter J. Boyes, who died at Haslemere on the 12th inst., served for many years in the Suffolk Regiment. Most of Colonel Boyes' service was in India, where he served from 1864-81. He was adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Regiment, from 1867-72. He took part in the Duffla expedition on the Assam frontier of 1874-5, and in the Jowaki expedition on the North-West Frontier in 1877-8, obtaining the medal and clasp. In the Afghan campaign of 1879-80 he served on the Staff of General Sir Robert Bright, with the field force, in Northern Afghanistan, being present at the action of Saidabad, and receiving the medal and clasp and his brevet majority. He was secretary of the Indian College of Engineering at Coopers Hill from 1902 until that college was abolished.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

Lukach—Fremlin.—On April 21, at St. Helen's Church, Larnaca, Cyprus, by the Rev. Canon F. D. Newham, Lieut.-Commander Harry Charles Lukach, R.N.V.R., Commissioner of Famagusta, Cyprus, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lukach, London, to Joyce Evelyn, only daughter of Captain J. L. Fremlin, 19th Lancers (Fane's Horse), and Mrs. Fremlin, of Mortimer, Berks.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1918.

MR. MONTAGU'S TASK.

It would be folly to assert that the reform of the Indian constitution is being undertaken at a favourable moment so far as circumstances in this country are concerned. The energies of England, and of the Empire as a whole, are concentrated on the war, and when the day's work is done there is but little, either of intellect or of sentiment, to spare for any undertaking, however momentous, which is not directly connected with that all-absorbing purpose. At the same time we are compelled to recognise the existence of a minority whose sympathies lie elsewhere, and these sympathies are being strenuously exploited by the extremist section, which is engaged in spreading false ideas and creating a misleading atmosphere. There is a genuine need, therefore, for insisting on the realities of a difficult and complex situation, and in our own case this need is accentuated by the fact that the attitude of this journal has been seriously, if unintentionally, misrepresented. We have been accused of taking up a purely negative position, and of supporting organisations described by their opponents as reactionary; the best way of meeting such charges is to state once again the light in which the situation presents itself to our mind.

In the first place we accept the declaration made by Mr. Montagu last August as an accomplished fact, and as furnishing a common standpoint for all who have the welfare of India at heart. For us there remains no question of policy: the declared object is "the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government," and, that promise having once been made, the good faith of England requires its prompt and generous fulfilment. It is unfortunately true that the wisdom of the promise has been questioned by men whose experience of affairs entitles their opinions to substantial weight, but that part of the case is now closed, and we look to these authorities to abandon useless protests and to devote their energies to the work of construction. In the same way we regard it as the duty of the Press to concentrate attention on the actual problem, and to refrain from clouding the issues by insistence on alternatives now definitely discarded. Let us, however, be quite clear as to the nature of the problems for which solutions have now to be found. It is no mere extension of the existing constitutional machinery: that would be by comparison a simple undertaking, and one which could be carried through in the ordinary course of the administration; it is rather the introduction of an entirely new idea. The constitution evolved under the inspiration of Lord Morley consists essentially of the grant of limited power, and almost unlimited influence, to a small section of the Indian population: it has hitherto contained no effective provisions for realising the cognate but distinct idea of responsibility, and the task laid upon Mr. Montagu is in essence to give adequate recognition to this idea. In the words of the declaration already quoted, substantial steps are to be taken with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government, and if new powers are granted at the present time, their nature and extent must be determined in accordance with the ultimate aim, which is to make the Government responsible for its conduct to the people as a whole. This fundamental consideration must in our judgment be emphasised, because there is a very real danger that the official or bureaucratic mind may be tempted to adhere closely to the existing and familiar lines, and to evade the disagreeable necessity of exploring these untrodden regions. It would be an easy and a popular course at the present juncture to offer a carefully assorted selection of concessions and "boons," a politician-governor here, an executive council there, more numerous commissions in the army, relaxation of the provisions of the Arms Act, and various other items picked out from the musty programmes of past Congresses. Such measures may be in themselves desirable or they may not, but in the present circumstances they must be judged by the single test of their relevancy to the new ideal. If they can be shown to lead towards the progressive realisation of responsible government, then they will be deserving of support: if this cannot be shown, their grant will be devoid of justification, and will constitute a serious danger for the future. The history of the last few years affords ample evidence that the appetite for such "boons" is insatiable, and each successive distribution can tend only to the formulation of new claims and to the demoralisation of that nascent public life which has still to be guided through the snares and perils of youth and adolescence. Now, if ever, we must have done with the policy of sweetmeats.

The task assigned to Mr. Montagu is very different. He is bound by the decision of the Government neither to satisfy the desires of the small minority of native politicians nor to hand over the supreme authority to the great majority of the people, who do not desire to exercise it and are not yet competent to do so. He is required rather to make a fresh start, to lay the foundations on which responsible government may rest, and to lay them in such a way that the erection of the superstructure may proceed harmoniously and also expeditiously. The outline of the changes now required is clear. In the first place, representative members of the Legislative Councils have to be brought into effective touch with their constituencies; in the second, the constituencies have to be remodelled, with a large immediate increase in the number of electors; in the third, suitable provision has to be made for training the masses of the people in the elementary duties of citizenship, in deliberating and voting upon affairs of common interest, in controlling the action of their representatives, and, most important of all, in the exercise of the power of the purse; whilst lastly, arrangements have to be planned for the progressive enlargement of the constituencies as this training of the masses produces definite results. While, however, there can be no doubt as to the general nature of the action required to fulfil the pledge already given, we are bound to recognise that there may be grave differences of opinion regarding the precise lines on which that action shall proceed, differences which cannot fail to be accentuated by the doctrine of administrative uniformity which has spread of late from administrators to politicians, and which is accepted by them as requiring that the infinitely varied population of India shall henceforward march abreast. Any scheme which Mr. Montagu may produce is bound from the nature of the case to meet with formidable opposition, inspired perhaps less by reason than by passion or interest, and it is all the more desirable that unprejudiced critics in this country should realise beforehand the nature of the end in view, and should be prepared to judge the concrete proposals solely with reference to their value as conducing to this end. The present need is not for a perfect constitutional machine, equipped with all the latest mechanical devices, and warranted to give satisfaction in continued operation. Mr. Montagu's task may more fitly be compared to the sowing of seed, an act of no present interest and of no present use, but pregnant with the promise of growth towards maturity. We do not ask that his proposals shall be conducive to administrative efficiency, or that they shall commend themselves to the constitutional theorist; we hope that they may prove to be workable without imposing an excessive strain either on overworked services or on enthusiastic politicians, but we are prepared to accept many inconveniences and many illogicalities, provided that the scheme as a whole fulfils the conditions we have indicated and points the way to the progressive realisation of responsible government.

GERMANY AND THE MID-EAST.

AN AFGHAN POINT OF VIEW.

German action in Southern Russia and the region of the Black Sea creates a problem which might, unless counteracted, bring about a dramatic, or even a disastrous, change in the political conditions of the Middle East. It is impossible to ignore this growing threat. We may take it for granted that the German and Austrian forces, strengthened by Turkish troops, will not content themselves with founding German colonies around the coasts of the Black Sea. In all probability a supreme effort will be made to cross the Trans-Caspian Province, and carry German propaganda and German influence into Central Asia.

Turkestan, as those acquainted with its domestic politics are well aware, has long fretted under Russian rule. The people have grievances. Whether or not these grievances are well founded we need not inquire: it is sufficient simply to refer to them, and to be willing to look facts in the face. Although the Russian lash has compelled a troublesome people to live peacefully, we must recognise that they regarded themselves as being subdued and humiliated. Their fiery national feelings, however, have not been extinguished. The Khan of Bokhara is still, in a sense, a ruler of his country, but it would be hard to say to what extent he enjoys any independence of action. Neither he nor his people can forget that his sovereignty rests upon the goodwill of a foreign Power; and it must be remembered that when his privileges were curtailed his sympathies were not secured. Indeed, it cannot be far from the truth to say that he awaits a favourable opportunity to regain the power which his forefathers possessed.

The Russians renovated the old regime with considerations for the welfare of the people of the Khanates. Let it be said, in justice to them, that they have increased the financial resources of the Uzbegs tenfold; but the unfortunate fact remains that they have not gained their confidence or loyalty. The Russians' march through the Khan's territory is a tale of bygone days; but when the wind howls around the cottage and the fire glows in the twilight the Uzbeg family gathers round to hear time and again some old man relating many a sorrowful incident of the *Urussee* (Russian) march through the land. General Kaffaeman doubtless won a decisive victory, but victory at the price of a continued alienation of the vanquished is usually dear indeed.

As regards the sentiments of the Turcomans little need be said, for until the Russian occupation—and even after that event—their life was devoted to marauding expeditions, and a settled way of living was rarely met with amongst them. Their years began and ended in plunder, and they were not too rigid in their attention to religious observances. Yet the Turcomans loved that free life of the old days, and they, like others, resented the Russian penetration. Bearing this in mind, one is inclined to wonder whether the prevailing discontent in Turkestan has already paved the way for an invasion —Germanic or otherwise. In such an event, the occupation of the country would doubtless be facilitated by the Germans, with their customary hypocrisy, espousing —or proposing to espouse—the Turkestani national cause.

Now let us glance at the borderland of India, which could hardly fail to be affected by political disturbances in Russian Turkestan and Bokhara. If those disturbances were directed by German brains and fostered by German gold, the situation might easily become very grave. Chitral, Bunu, and Swat are regions which have ofttimes called for the anxious attention on the part of the Indian Government. The tract of hill country touching Chinese Turkestan in the north and Baluchistan in the south is inhabited by clans of nondescripts, which are perpetually at war with one another, and, occasionally, with the Indian Government. Their inroads into British territory have been not infrequent, and many an instance can be recalled of their disturbing the peace of Peshawar.

This disquiet has been attributed to a variety of causes. Some people declare that these border tribes are such intense fanatics that the slightest pretext adroitly manipulated will suffice to inflame them to wage a so-called *Jehad;* others maintain that the Jirgas are merely bands of highway robbers, habitually treacherous and untrustworthy. As a matter of fact, they inherit a spirit which is common to all the hill tribes of the world; they dearly love liberty, even to that extent when it becomes "licence." Bold as the assertion may seem, it is nevertheless true that the hill tribesman of the Khyber is his own government, and makes and obeys his own laws.

The nature of the country is not conducive to a settled life or to the profitable pursuit of agriculture. Cultivated lands and pastures are possessed by few; poverty is ever knocking at the door; actual destitution is a frequent threat, or even a sad reality. If there be no honest means of procuring the wherewithal of life, there is ever the temptation to seize by force what cannot otherwise be obtained. To combat this evil, the British Government has devised the excellent plan of distributing maintenance allowances, which are given to the head of each clan for his men; and by this means a certain amount of restraint has been imposed. These grants undoubtedly guarantee good behaviour, if only for a specific period. But the tribesmen of the Khyber Pass have always been a lawless people, and not even the great Indian conqueror, Baber, succeeded in curbing their predatory activities. Raiding is second nature to them; it may be restricted, but its attractions remain.

Coupled with this fighting spirit, which is in itself a continuous source of trouble, there is another agency at work to drive the tribesmen into most serious mischief. The Mullahs and the priesthood exercise a most potent influence over the minds of the people. Two great religious centres are at Swat and Bunair, and the power of the *Akhunds* (spiritual leaders) over the clans is greater than has ever been wielded by any monarch of India or Afghanistan. We may readily admit that these preachers have most at heart the sublime ideals of the Islamic faith, and that they take them as the basis of their teaching; yet equally must it be acknowledged that political complications giving rise to great anxiety have at one time or another been brought about by the *Akhunds'* influence. How far the spiritual leaders are directly responsible for the outbreak of some of these disturbances cannot be fully determined. Is Berlin innocent in this matter? In view of all that has happened, and of all that has been discovered regarding Germany's methods since the war began, it would be quite impossible to avoid suspicions of the activities of Germany in creating and fostering religious misunderstandings in Central Asia. There is nothing in the Moslem faith which is more alarming and at the same time more sacred than the term *Jehad*, and it should never be spoken of by any Moslem but with feelings of awe and utmost reverence. It pains one of the Faithful to perceive with what unworthy motives this "Sacred Call" has sometimes been given for political ends; and it is time to point out that the interpretation which Germanic intrigue has given to the 'Holy War" of the Moslems amounts to nothing less than sacrilege against the Gospel of the Koran. As in other Asiatic countries,

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN.

the baneful Berlin-made doctrines have not met with the approval of the people, so also they have not appealed in any marked degree to the men of Khyber.

Reverting to the consideration of the North-Western Frontier of India in general, and to priestly influence among the people of that region in particular, the fact stands out in bold relief that the tribesmen are largely under priestly predominance, and very submissive to the dictates of the *Mullas*. It is, therefore, within the power of these Mullas to control to a great extent the feelings of the borderland people. Insurrections and revolts have been successfully dealt with through their aid. Their part, therefore, as possible upholders of peace is of no small consequence.

The geographical position of the Khyber Pass makes it highly important for the Government of India and the Ameer to retain, or endeavour to retain, the sympathies of these hillmen. But another influence has to be considered: Bokhara might be won over to the German cause by the free distribution of money, backed up by promises to promote the Khan's political ambitions. It would be a serious matter, indeed, if the Khanates were drawn into the German snare. The danger, however, exists. It is important to realise that any pressure which may be brought to bear upon the people beyond the Oxus to wage war will undoubtedly, sooner or later, reach the Hindu Kush region. Once it extends to Wakhan it will be difficult to check its progress into the territories of Chitral and Gilgit, and by degrees the contagion may penetrate into the interior of India. Such pressure may in origin well be a foreign one, exerted with the purpose of inciting the Bokhariotes to declare war against their masters. The people, as has been said before, will fight with religious zeal, and the Khan will regard the opportunity created as a favourable one for winning back his former prestige. But the impetus which would reach the North-Western Frontier Province would take the shape of a war for the "defence of the Faith," and would finish by setting ablaze the whole country on the east of Afghanistan. The Ameers had never a full control over these mountaineers, and to a lesser degree the same remark holds good of the British; and a skilfully engineered propaganda could be stopped only by the Jirga Mullas. Thus, German influence could be exercised indirectly, but still effectively, on the very borders of India by putting pressure on an electric centre.

Let us next turn to Baluchistan. The Baluchis, though of different stock from the Afghans, or the Afridis, are yet good fighters. Their mode of life is more settled and homely; agriculture and trade are freely carried on between Afghanistan and Baluchistan; and although the Khan of Khelat is their ruler, the country is under the jurisdiction of the Indian Government. Baluchis have fought and won many battles, but, as regards their martial spirit, one cannot place them on the same level as the tribes of the borderland. Agents from the Central Powers have succeeded in penetrating Baluchistan, and not a little stir originated in consequence of their activities. The smuggling of arms through Baluchistan was once a common occurrence, and efforts have been made to create groundless dissatisfaction against Great Britain; but all were frustrated. Barges full of rifles, and other ammunition of war, are reported to have been captured by British patrol boats in the Indian Ocean, and along the Persian Coast. It is not unlikely that a secret distribution of gold might weigh with the Baluchis and that might easily be carried out by German-financed agents, in the market places of Seistan. But it would be difficult to plan a rising in Baluchistan based on racial or religious prejudices, for the people are not by nature freebooters, nor do they favour the misinterpretation of "Holy War." An insurrection would, therefore, have to be stirred up by real discontent with the governing class, and, happily, such dissatisfaction does not exist.

Thus the German menace in Central Asia might become a very real one. Russian Turkestan and Bokhara are potential storm centres, and from them might sweep a cyclone of war involving vast areas. Of one thing we may be assured, the Germans have a policy which they intend, if not thwarted, to carry out. That it is an ambitious one no doubt can remain, in view of what has already been written on the subject in their Press. Until, therefore, it is definitely known that steps have been taken to nip German machinations in the bud, students of mid-Eastern affairs will be tempted to view the situation with some anxiety. IKBAL ALI SHAH.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"THE WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"GERMANY, TURKEY, AND ARMENIA." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"LOYAL INDIA," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"HORRORS OF ALEPPO," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"MARTYRED ARMENIA." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"TURKISH PRISONERS IN EGYPT." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

OUR TROOPS IN GREECE.

In a written reply to a question put by Mr. W. Thorne, Mr. Macpherson says that the general health of the troops in Greece is good, but malaria is still prevalent. The admission rate for malaria, although high, is, however, not due to serious cases. The death-rate fell from 5.64 per 1,000 in 1916 to 3.61 in 1917 and 2.51 for the first eighteen weeks of 1918.

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It is denied by the Bulgarian Minister of War that Bulgarian troops are being employed on the Western front.

Greek reservists of the 1909 to 1914 classes from the Peloponnesus have been called to the colours for May 27.

A Reuter's message from Petrograd, dated May 17, reports:—Mussulmans and Soviet troops in Baku are in deadly conflict. A Moscow newspaper states that 2,000 have been killed and 3,000 wounded there. Various parts of the town, including entire streets and the Persian bazaar, are burning.

A meeting of notables, merchants, and others has been held in Cairo for the purpose of opening a subscription fund in aid of British sailors. The Governor of Cairo headed the list with £200, and £1,150 was subscribed at the meeting.

The Jewish Correspondence Bureau at The Hague states that reports regarding fresh Turkish atrocities in Palestine are confirmed from official quarters. The Bureau further adds: "The distress of the Jewish population has assumed an indescribable character as the result of the arbitrary and cruel measures of the Turks."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A short time ago, so the Greek papers announced, a number of Athenian ladies who continued to hanker after the return of 'Tino, and carried on propaganda accordingly, were appropriately dealt with by the Greek Government. They were, in a word, sent to various monasteries in the country, there to be kept in confinement until they showed signs of returning sanity. According to the Greek journals, the wives of two ex-Ministers, Madame Triantaphylakos and Madame Stratos, were among the ladies thus dealt with; and Madame Nadin Schliemann, wife of M. Agamemnon Schliemann, was a third. This M. Schliemann is a son of the much-advertised German who excavated the site of Troy with so much energy and enthusiasm, if not discretion. The son appears to have preferred politics to archæology, and it is said that it was he who organised the recent insurrection in Thessaly.

⁂

For the ladies who have thus become the unwilling guests of the (probably equally unwilling) monks I have no sympathy. My strictly moral feelings were rather shocked at first when I learned of the action taken; for I was a greedy reader of the "Ingoldsby Legends" in my young days, and as a result I have no faith at all in monasteries (or convents!). But a Greek friend to whom I hinted my distress has now removed it. He has sent me the translation of a telegram published in the Athens *National Herald*, which says:—

> The Holy Synod has placed at the disposal of the Government, to be used for auxiliary service, all the monks, deacons (servers) and students in seminaries who are under thirty years of age. To all these, if called upon, permission is given to put off clerical dress and to don military uniform.

This, I take it, is just a tactful move on the part of the Holy Synod. The young monks are to be removed from the path of temptation; and the Ministers' wives and the other ladies will have no chance of playing havoc with their susceptible feelings. But what about the elder original inhabitants of the monasteries? If the Ingoldsby Legends are to be trusted, even an elderly abbott is not always above giving the "glad eye" to a fair lady. I suppose we must just *hope* for the best.

⁂

I have been reading lately several descriptions of Baghdad given by soldiers, and I observe that the writers have all been much impressed by the beauty of the women's *izzars*, or cloaks. These silken garments, with their gold thread decorations, certainly do brighten up the not too colourful streets of Baghdad, and to look from an upper window along a road full of gaily-apparelled Jewish or Christian women (their Moslem sisters affect dark colours) on a holiday or fête-day is like looking on a moving flower-bed. For all that, it always seemed to me that the plain blue *izzar* of cotton (I think), with a fancy border, was quite as attractive as the brighter silk garments. Of course, the wearer has a good deal to do with the effect, and my views may be prejudiced. What strikes me as strange in the descriptions I have been reading is that the writers speak only of "the Jewesses" and "Armenians." Many of the Baghdad Jewesses are admittedly pretty; so, too, are Armenian girls. But *the* prettiest girl I ever saw in Baghdad was a Tel Kaifi—or so I was told. She might have been English by her looks; for she was very fair, with bluey-grey eyes, and a quite "pinky" complexion; and as she stood in a doorway, wearing a blue cotton *izzar*, with an old negress beside her, and smiled (at my companion, of course!) as we passed, she presented a picture that was altogether charming. It has often flashed across my memory since. And I cannot admire the taste of the soldier-men who prefer the dark Jewesses to that fair-haired Tel Kaifi type—if Tel Kaifi she was indeed. But perhaps the poor fellows have not had such good luck as W—— and I had that summer afternoon.

⁂

I see that a correspondent has been writing to the *Times of India* on the subject of the cleanliness—or the reverse—of Bombay. The *Times of India* welcomes the criticism and frankly admits that in regard to the streets it would be possible to introduce considerable improvements. My own acquaintance with Bombay, extending over barely a week, does not qualify me to express an opinion of any value, but I may perhaps be allowed to endorse the great Bombay journal's defence of the city's claim to be known as "Bombay the Beautiful . . . in spite of the dust and the dirt." It is beautiful. It is also dirty—or so it seemed to me during my brief visit. But, after all, such things are matters of comparison only; and there is dirt and dirt. Compared with, say, Paris or London, Bombay has a good deal of "matter out of place"; but compared with some nearer neighbours, Bushire or Muskat, let us say, it is a model of municipal-made sweetness. Then, too, what about the *character* of the dirt? Bombay dirt is, surely, less dirty than Leeds dirt? At any rate, the dirt of the Orient has a way of being picturesque; and with memories of certain other dirt—*grimy* dirt—in my mind, I am prepared to champion it against the dirt of the Occident. But I suspect that my championship will not be sufficient cause for Bombay to take the criticisms of other travellers lying down.

⁂

Apropos of this subject, I remember that on my way out to Bombay an old Anglo-Indian told me that when the city was first provided with a system of drainage the innovation was immediately followed by a series of epidemics that played havoc with the population. These evils, he told me, the natives attributed to the change; and, to my surprise, he added that he shared that view. Whether he was exaggerating, in order to astonish me; whether he was merely "pulling my leg"; or whether he spoke the plain, unvarnished truth, I do not know. But of one thing I am now tolerably certain: that while in hot countries drains may be unnecessary, even a source of trouble, in small villages, they are an absolute necessity in a town of any size, if it is to be kept tolerably healthy. They must, of course, be intelligently planned and executed, otherwise they will almost certainly prove a curse rather than a blessing. But, given those conditions, I cannot understand anybody seriously arguing against their introduction. Yet I have heard it done, and more than once.

⁂

A correspondence on the subject of "The Film Censorship" has recently appeared in the columns of the *Egyptian Gazette*. Having only had the opportunity of reading two of the letters published, I do not know what lines it has followed; but I gather that several writers have protested against the character of the films shown. One, "Hopeful," declares his opinion that "in frequent cases the cinema becomes a broad gate leading to the above-mentioned houses." [The reference appears to be to "The Ramleh Pensions."] From the expression "broad gate," I gather that Hopeful holds a poor opinion of the entertainment provided by the "Photographic Penny Dreadfuls," as I have heard the "shows" described. At any rate, they would hardly seem to be the kind of place to which you would send your children. But apparently some parents in Alexandria hold quite another opinion. At any rate, here is an extract from the only other letter on the subject that I have read:—

> "As regarding grown-up people, I don't really consider as immoral films like 'La Curée' and 'Résurrection," which are works of famous writers—very realistic, it is true, but lived through in the life. They won't influence or hurt persons who are experienced and mature. But what I deplore is that plays so disastrous to the young and inexperienced should be their daily food. Most mothers, and I am one of them, are more or less constrained to send their children to the 'house of desolation,' partly yielding to their obstinate wishes and partly from not having another substitute; because we must own that the cinemas are the main amusement in Alexandria."

It always seems to me that people who can enjoy that sort of thing have not grown up very high. But that is by the way! What puzzles me is the extraordinary view taken by the writer of this letter. The plays are "disastrous to the young," but mothers are "constrained," etc., etc. I should like to ask the lady: "*Why* yield to 'their obstinate wishes'"? Why not try a good, sound, old-fashioned spanking as a "substitute"? What on earth *did* the young folk of Alexandria do before the great cinema came along to be "their daily food"? Truly, 'tis a mad world we live in!

Corsair.

MAILS LOST AT SEA.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea through enemy action of mails for Egypt, the Sudan, and Cyprus, containing correspondence for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force which was received at the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between midnight on April 24 and midnight on May 5; civil correspondence for Egypt and the Sudan which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch between 10 a.m. on April 26 and 10 a.m. on May 6; and correspondence for Cyprus which reached the General Post Office between 10 a.m. on April 25 and 10 a.m. on May 4. No parcels were lost.

The Soviet Congress at Tashkent has proclaimed Russian Turkestan a Republic in conjunction with the Turkestan Federal Republic. It will be governed by a Council of Commissaries of the People.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Serbian Spirit.

In an article entitled "Austrian Peace Wiles," a special correspondent of *The Times* testifies to the splendid *moral* of the Serbian Army. He writes:—

> Visiting this front again after an absence of eight months, I am able to report, not merely that the *moral* of the Serbian Army is still unimpaired, but that it is more perfect than it has ever been since its glorious series of victories in Macedonia in the autumn of 1916. . . . If there be one nation of all those fighting on our side which has proved itself invariably and utterly impervious to the wiles of Austro-German peace propagandists, it is certainly the Serbian. On this question the Serbian governing classes and the Army are solidly at one. The recent attempt in the Serbian Chamber to overthrow the Cabinet of M. Pashitch was prompted by differences on questions concerning purely internal policy. As regards the Army, peace overtures are continually made to it by the Austrians. Such overtures come daily in the form of leaflets wrapped round empty grenades. But the Austrians are not satisfied with sending over printed enticements. Since the withdrawal of their troops from Rumania they have been employing a certain number of Croatians in futile attempts to gain over the Serbs. It appears that behind each Bulgarian regiment confronting the Serbian Army is now stationed a company of these Austrian agents. Their duty is not to fight, but to come into the Bulgarian first-line trenches at intervals and shout peace arguments to their Serbian brethren. But both the leaflets and the verbal messages are treated with contempt and derision, and are usually answere by redoubled rifle and artillery fire.

'The Eastern Peril."

In an article with the above title the *Observer* (May 19) expresses the opinion that "our late miserable dissensions at home have not only caused many to forget the undiminished crisis in the West, but have concealed from almost everyone the gigantic tasks and vaster tendencies of German conquest in the East." The enemy has now thrown off the mask, has shown what his talk of "no annexations and no indemnities" was worth. Force is the recognised weapon, but "Machiavellian devices for sowing dissension," in order that Prussia may rule all, is not despised.

> There was dispute amongst the Allies at the beginning about what they might do in the Baltic Sea, or what they might do in the Black Sea. Both seas are now absolutely German lakes. German armies and detached forces north and south are operating from Finland to the Crimea. From west to east they have penetrated hundreds of miles into the richest part of Russian territory. The Turks are occupying Batum, Kars, and Ardahan, are moving in connection on a broad front between the Euxine and Ararat towards northern Persia. Already Germany and her partners have effectively "annexed," either openly or under different disguises, about 500,000 square miles of territory, and 70,000,000 of people—forming the inhabitants of a number of client States well chained to the interests of their Teutonic masters. A settled aim is to get into direct continuous touch with all the Moslem population of Asia—with Turkestan and the Central Khanates, with the Chinese Mahommedans just beyond, and through Persia with Afghanistan and India. Already the Central League controls far over 200,000,000 of people. That is the scope of the design. Until it is understood and thwarted for ever, no possible terms which might be made in the West could purchase even tolerable safety for the Allies, or bring lasting peace to the world.

Of German dealings with the Ukraine we read:—

> The Ukraine is in some ways the most interesting affair of all. Its deluded Nationalists were the first to conclude a separate peace with the enemy. They hoped to create their distinctive intelligent race of Little Russians into a free, powerful nationality of nearly 40,000,000 souls, with the agricultural wealth of the famous black soil, the best railway network in what was once Russia, and Odessa with a range of other ports on the Black Sea. Above all, they were to supply the Central Empires with grain. Over a million tons were to be supplied by the coming autumn. Hardly 100,000 tons have been received by Germany and Austria. The peasants, not knowing what the future might bring forth, clung stubbornly to their hoarded stocks. Besides, after war and anarchy, transport facilities are very bad. Friction, fierce hatred, arose between the people and the invaders.
>
> Then the Germans, dealing with Ukrainians as with the Bolshevists, took matters into their own hands. They applied, and still are applying, the mailed fist and jackboot. On the plea that the Ukrainians were plotting a Sicilian vespers, the murder of German officers, the Nationalist and democratic Rada was dispersed by military force. A sham Hetman, General Skoropadski, was set up as a German dictator. Field-Marshal Eichhorn, the German commander, put the whole country under military tribunals. Deliveries of corn, also spring sowings, were ordered under pain of seizure, punishment, or death in case of open resistance. Here as elsewhere the landowners and the bourgeoisie were restored to property and office. The "Ukraine Republic" is henceforth to be called the "Ukraine State." It will doubtless receive in due course a puppet-monarch.

It is, says the writer, because of this Eastern position that the Reichstag resolution against annexations and indemnities has gone to water. "Because of that position, real franchise reform is being refused or evaded in Prussia and Hungary alike. Because of it reaction, caste ascendancy and conquest are triumphing to-day from the Allied line in the West far into the heart of what was once called Russia in Europe and further towards the Asiatic East. And yet the opportunities for reversing it all and bringing the enemy to ruin by the excess of his ambition are still priceless if they are only used in time."

"Capitulations."

Capitulations, whether in Morocco or in Egypt, are frequent sources of trouble. The Morocco Correspondent of *The Times* has written an article on the subject, entitled "Morocco Days," the sub-headings being "The Benefit of the Capitulations" and "A Case for the Hague." It describes the adventures of three people—"Maria de la Concepcion Josefa Jimenez de Monserrat et Garcia, Alonzo de Gama Vasquez, and Mohammed ben Abdul Kade[illegible] el-Tadlaoui," who met and quarrelled late one night in the Place de France. Eventually all three appealed to their consuls, and each provided an affidavit—of the type usually produced in such cases. The article concludes:—

> Armed with these affidavits—all on oath—the Vice-Consuls of the three Powers concerned opened their campaign. The three victims severally insisted that it was a criminal affair; the Consuls invited their own and each other's subjects to begin civil actions against each other, but with no success. A few months later the affair had left the Vice-Consular hands and was in charge of the Consuls, whose letters were a little more pompous but equally futile, and at times showed signs of ill-concealed annoyance disguised in strictly diplomatic phraseology.
>
> A year having passed without any progress whatever having been made, except to fill cupboards with voluminous correspondence—numbered, docketed, typed, and indexed—the three Consuls, whose personal good relations had become strained by the complications of the affair, decided to send the case to their respective Diplomatic Agencies at Tangier, and by the next coast steamer three enormous cases of letters and documents—British, French, and Spanish—were shipped. At Tangier it was realised that the question was a grave one, affecting the whole principle of the Capitulations. The Diplomatic Agents referred it home to their Foreign Offices.
>
> Now Maria, etc., etc., abandoning all hope of justice or compensation, had left the town where the incident occurred a week or two after the unfortunate affair for an unknown port in South America, where the music-hall troupe had a contract to fulfil. Her hand was no longer paralysed and her finger was cured. She had given no more thought to pearl necklaces or diamond rings or gold watches. Mohammed el-Tadlaoui had—also a month after the incident—volunteered to go and fight, together with many of his fellow-tribesmen, in France, and had fallen on the field of battle in October, 1914. The sailing ship on which Alonzo Vasquez served as mate was torpedoed on her voyage to Lisbon a week after he had made his affidavit in the British Consulate. There were no survivors. But that, of course, makes no difference to the importance of the case, which cannot be abandoned, as the principle of the benefit of Capitulations is at stake.
>
> Despatch No. 374 has just arrived by King's Messenger. The Foreign Secretary states that he has proposed to the Ambassadors of France and Spain the settlement of the affair by arbitration at The Hague—after the conclusion of peace.

"Bosom Friends."

In an article, "Bulgaria and Turkey," the *Manchester Guardian* (May 18) expresses the belief—a natural one, too—that "The visit of the Emperor Karl and his wife, accompanied by the Foreign and War Ministers, to Sofia and Constantinople means that the Austrian Emperor has been chosen to adjust or arbitrate the rival contentions between Turkey and Bulgaria." After sketching the points of difference between Turkey and Bulgaria, the article continues:—

> It would be idle to discuss the nice balance of justice in a thieves' kitchen, but the Central Powers have in reserve a club with which to bring Bulgaria to some measure of accommodation. They will not give her the northern half of the Dobrudja unless she gives something to Turkey, and to Austria and Germany also. Assuredly Bulgaria will emerge from the arbitrament dissatisfied. She is manifestly a puzzle just now to the Central Powers. All the other members of the group have some pretence to a motive for going on with the war—even Austria has her trouble with Italy. But if Bulgaria has her fist on all the Macedonian and all the Roumanian territory she covets, what motive has she for going on with the war? The retention by the Central Powers of Northern Dobrudja may be in part intended as a device for furnishing one. But it is certainly not powerful enough to get Bulgarian troops for the Western front, and is much more likely to disgruntle Bulgaria. Bulgaria is still worth watching and studying by Allied diplomacy.

Articles to Note.

"Greece and Some of the Islands in the Ægean Sea," by John B. Gass, J.P., F.R.I.B.A., in the *Journal of the Manchester Geographical Society* (April, 1918).

"Mr. Carmichael: An Early Traveller in the Syrian Desert," by Douglas Carruthers and F. D. Harford, in the *Geographical Journal* (May, 1918).

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The report of the Treasury Committee on bank amalgamations will be judged satisfactory or the reverse, according as it is regarded from a local or from an Imperial standpoint. Two or three times recently I have had occasion to emphasise in these columns the need for the establishment of banks in this country sufficiently powerful to safeguard British interests after the war in matters of foreign trade, in view of the evidence we have of the tendency in Germany towards bank amalgamations with the object of an aggressive policy of commercial penetration in the future. The recommendations of the Committee, if adopted, are not likely to facilitate arrangements between British banks for the promotion of trade abroad; on the contrary, there seems every likelihood of their acting as a deterrent.

⁂

Briefly, the Committee is of the opinion that the approval of the Treasury and the Board of Trade should be obtained for future amalgamations, and suggests the passing of legislation requiring these departments to establish a special statutory advisory committee. The main grounds for objecting to further amalgamations are stated to be the danger of the reduction of the proportion of capital to liabilities by bank fusions, the possibility of reduced competition, and the risk of monopoly. While it would certainly be unwise to underestimate the force of these considerations, it is very questionable whether the likelihood of any or all of them operating to some extent makes it worth while to introduce Government control with the risk of hampering one of the chief, if not, indeed, the principal, factor on which we must depend for the adequate development of our post-war trade. Of course, the advisory committee may be so constituted that the objections I have advanced will not be present. I can only hope that will be the case.

⁂

An interesting development has followed the decision to carry out experiments in tobacco cultivation in Egypt, for a long report has been drawn up by the Greek cigarette manufacturers of Alexandria for presentation to the Greek Government showing the measures they consider desirable for the protection of Greek tobacco. The proposed measures include the reduction of freights and insurance premiums, and the removal of the tax of two drachmæ per kilo on exported tobacco. This action seems to me a very hopeful omen for the result of the experiments. At the same time it is not exactly calculated to encourage Egyptian industries, but I imagine that we may take it for granted that the Egyptian authorities will not allow their plans for the promotion of tobacco cultivation to suffer by any undue advantage accorded to the tobaccos of other countries.

⁂

A word is called for on the excellent report of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association for the year ended March 31. The profits amounted to £701,132 after charging £180,000 to depreciation, writing off the balance of enemy debts, and providing for directors' fees, bonuses to management and excess profits' duty, and £140,799 was brought forward, making a total of £841,931. From this amount £125,000 is allotted to provision against depreciation of investments, £25,000 is placed to the pension fund, and £10,000 to the research fund. Dividends are recommended for the half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and at the rate of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and the carry-forward will be £152,431.

⁂

I have read with particular interest a note by the Acting Financial Adviser in Egypt appended to the Budget of 1918, and just circulated, on Egyptian oil development, in which he refers to the way in which the fuel situation was mainly "saved by two circumstances—the development of the oilfields in Egyptian territory on the Red Sea, and the adaptation of engines to produce gas distilled from vegetable refuse." He points out that the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Limited was the only company in operation at the outbreak of war, and that down to 1914 the only find of importance had been at Gemsah. Fortunately in that year a field was discovered at Hurgada, "the formation of which was found to be singularly regular, and the yield of which has steadily increased, until it now stands at over 15,000 tons of crude oil a month." In the meantime the Suez refinery has been enlarged, and the hope is expressed that "as much oil will shortly be available for internal consumption as can be dealt with by the country's existing transport facilities."

⁂

Greece imports the whole of her requirements of paints and varnishes, and while she drew fair supplies from this country before the war, Germany, as might have been expected, managed to find an opening there for considerable quantities of paints, notably inferior grades of ochre and vermilion. I hope our manufacturers are not overlooking this opportunity of extending British trade with Greece, as it is quite possible for us to supply all the paints that formerly came from the enemy.

⁂

The progress made by the Eastern Bank in 1916 was maintained and improved last year, and the dividend is increased from 6 to 7 per cent. The net profits, including £9,545 brought forward, amounted to £77,918, and after the usual disbursements £15,918 is carried forward. Shareholders will be gratified with the position disclosed in these figures, and with the enterprise of the management in regard to the business of the bank in Baghdad and in Mesopotamia generally. In his speech at the general meeting last week Lord Balfour of Burleigh remarked that the bank's business in Mesopotamia had been satisfactory, "though, owing to the disturbed conditions ruling there at present, exports from Busreh did not approach normal."

⁂

The report of the Assam Company has just been issued for the year ended December 31, 1916, the delay being due to the difficulty of shipping that year's tea crop, which was not dealt with until February, 1917. The year's working resulted in a net profit of £93,600, as against £105,600, but the decrease is far more than accounted for by the increased excess profits duty, which amounted to £76,900. The dividend is again 25 per cent., and the general reserve is increased by £40,000. The company is in a strong position, and shareholders have every reason for satisfaction with the report.

⁂

If, on the whole, the profits of jute companies in 1917 were not up to the standard of 1916, they were certainly very good. This much is clear from the reports of the three companies which make up their accounts to the end of December—the Titaghur Jute Factory, the Samnuggur Jute Factory, and the Victoria Jute Company. The first of these companies made a profit in 1917 of £353,800, against £524,600, but the difference is not so great as it appears, since a much heavier taxation was deducted from the 1916 profits. The net profits amounted to £162,100, against £268,100, but here again there was a compensating factor in a larger balance brought into the accounts which more than made up the difference. This company maintains its dividend at 40 per cent.; £30,000 is placed to depreciation of plant account, an item not allowed for the previous year; £120,000 is placed to reserve to meet income-tax obligations; and £53,500 is carried forward.

⁂

The position disclosed in the report of the Samnuggur Jute Factory is somewhat identical. Here the gross profits for the two years were £353,100 and £507.300 respectively; while the net profits were £145,300, against £235,400. The dividend of this company is reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.; £107,000 is allocated for income-tax obligations, and £26,600 is carried forward, against £130,100. The Victoria Jute Company's gross profits were £232,500, against £296.000—not so substantial a difference as in the case of the other two companies, but the excess profits duty, which did not appear in the previous accounts, takes £89,200, and a further £78,000 is placed to income-tax obligations. Thus, allowing for a dividend of 35 per cent. free of tax, as against 40 per cent. for 1916, only £15,300 remains to be carried forward.

COMMENTATOR.

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GERMAN FINANCE IN THE NEAR EAST.

A. Wyatt Tilby.

An ancient fable records that a ponderous but respectable city accountant once remarked that "very few transactions of international finance would long survive a strict audit"; to which his neighbour at lunch replied that very few of the auditors would survive long either in that case. Without suggesting that even in Berlin they have a department for the sacrifice of too high-principled auditors, it must be admitted that international accounts are difficult to check, the interest on loans being paid not always in cash or goods, but very often in political influence, concessions, and other results which may not be easily rendered into figures. The new German finance in the East has proceeded largely on these lines.

Sixty years ago, in 1856, the first foreign bank was opened at Constantinople. It was an English concern, the original Ottoman Bank, and for thirty years British capital was predominant in Turkey. In 1887 the total capital of foreign banks operating in Turkey was a little over £10¼ millions; of this amount £6.2 millions was British, £1.9 French, £1.3 Austrian, £0.6 German, and the balance, £0.3 Italian. Twenty years later, in 1910, the position had changed considerably. Out of a total capital of £25 millions, Britain provided £8.8 millions and was still the nominal leader; but Germany had risen from fourth to second, with £5.2 millions, Austria had the same amount, and France and Italy the balance of less than three millions each.

Influence of German Banks.

It is easy to account for the change. There had been a great demand for British money in the Dominions and South America, and our investors looked more kindly on Canadian railways and similar enterprises than on the Levant. French money, for the same reason, was invested in the new African colonies. Austrian policy, on the other hand, had been directed to the Balkans by Bismarck, and Austrian money followed; and when Bismarck fell and the German Emperor began to dream his Eastern dreams, German money followed. The German-Palestine Bank was founded in 1899, the German Orient Bank, a more ambitious institution, in 1906; by 1914 this undertaking had a dozen agencies in Turkey, branches in Alexandria and Cairo, and one even in Morocco. The existence of a Morocco agency is sufficient evidence that its activities had a political as well as a financial aspect.

The German banks, backed by German diplomacy, were largely occupied in obtaining railway concessions in Asia Minor, and these railways were built with German materials. They were a source of rich profit to German industry, which was investing part of its surplus capital in Turkey; but the full accounts of the Baghdad Railway have never been published. If they were, they would probably puzzle the auditors considerably. But the real aim was not a commercial but a political balance-sheet, and that aim was attained. At the outbreak of war Turkey followed Germany.

German finance had also been active in the Balkans. But hitherto it had made little of Bulgaria, which is not naturally a rich country; and it had made much of Roumania, whose great natural wealth promised, and gave, a rich return. Serbia, whose sturdy independence was a barrier to Austro-German polity, was ignored. But the war necessarily worked great changes in Balkan finance as well as Balkan politics. Roumania remained steadfastly neutral for two years in spite of German influence in Bucharest; Bulgaria saw her opportunity, and decided to throw in her lot with the Central Powers. Her first step was to demand a loan, and in February, 1915, the transaction was arranged. Since the fact could not be concealed from the Entente diplomatists at Sofia, a pleasant little fiction was published to the effect that the loan had been arranged before the war; it was represented as a straightforward business transaction, and the impression was given that Germany was rather reluctant to oblige.

The full details of these transactions may possibly be known to our great-grandchildren, who will presumably have other things to think about. But certain facts are already obvious.

The money which Germany advanced to Greece purchased three years' neutrality and precipitated a revolution. It did not, as was hoped, bring Greece into line with the Central Empires, but the three years' neutrality may have been worth the price. As a financial transaction it was a failure, as a political expedient it may be reckoned a dubious and transient success.

The amount of the loans to Bulgaria are unknown. A telegram from Sofia published on May 10 puts the amount at sixty millions sterling. But Sofia, like other debtors, does not always tell the full truth. If we reckon them at a hundred millions—part of which has been spent in Germany on munitions of war—Berlin has in return purchased not only an ally, but the right to control Bulgarian industry. The Deutsche Bank has opened a branch at Sofia, and it is reasonable to suspect that a commercial treaty has been signed.

Bayonet v. Banks.

In Roumania the bayonet has succeeded (for the time being) where the banks failed. German pre-war finance was thrown away; but now it is paramount, and backed by treaty. Under the German-controlled commission which is to order the future commerce of Roumania, German finance will run no risk whatever, so long as Germany retains her present supremacy in the Balkans. Loans will be made to Roumania for the development and reconstruction of her industries, presumably on the recommendation of the Deutsche Bank at Bucharest; these will probably be granted on reasonable terms, since dear money means dear produce, and it is to the interest of Germany as a purchaser of Roumanian produce to purchase cheaply, and even a conqueror cannot purchase goods at much below the cost of production for any length of time. (There is no fear that any other country will loan money to Roumania during the war, and after the war, if Germany were to win, she would take steps to compel Roumania to place all her loans in Berlin or Vienna.) But it is at the other end of the transaction that Germany will score—not in the direct financing of production, but in the purchasing. Roumania is to be rationed as to her own requirements, and the surplus is to be purchased by Germany. It will be found that Germany will fix the price that Roumania has to pay for her own goods high, and the price that Germany pays for the surplus low; this will keep the cost of living in Roumania high, and tend to reduce the cost of living in Germany, and so assist the reconstruction of German industry. It is the old tribute-money in modern economic form.

Serbia would evidently be treated in the same fashion were she to make a separate peace—with this exception, that Serbia would presumably be controlled from Vienna. If, as has been suggested, Austria desires to incorporate the whole of Serbia (except that part which Bulgaria claims) in a new Jugoslav province within the Empire on a new trialistic basis, the commercial development of Serbia would naturally fall to the Hapsburgs.

Greece may be omitted from the survey, as it probably does not enter into German calculations at the moment. The case of Turkey is more interesting. From the figures of the German loans to Turkey which were published a year ago, and which seemed reasonably probable, it may be taken that Germany has advanced to the Ottoman Empire from 1914 to the present time a sum of about two hundred millions sterling. A considerable part of this has been spent in Germany for munitions, but that may be disregarded. Now it is quite clear that Turkey cannot repay this sum; and if the war continues to the end of this year she will be unable to pay interest on it. The obligation has now also to be expressed in terms of blood as well as money, for German troops have now been sent to Palestine, and Germany will exact payment for these directly or indirectly.

It is evident that Germany did not altogether trust her ally over a year ago, since she compelled Ottoman consent to a commercial treaty—probably at the moment when Turkey first expressed qualms about her debt service. It was arranged that for a period of years after the war Turkey was to give Germany the practical control of her Customs; she was to bind herself to buy her goods from Germany, and probably to sell her produce to Germany if so required, although the latter would be a less essential part of the bargain. The fact that Germany found it necessary to make a treaty of this kind shows that she had grave doubts of Turkey's financial stability. We need not blame her for that.

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But since the treaty was made Turkey's political position has changed enormously for the worse. To buy the Ottoman Empire as it stood in 1916 for 150 millions would have been a profitable transaction enough; and Germany bought something more profitable still—the right to exploit it. But since then the price has increased, from the prolongation of the war, and the *peau de chagrin* has diminished. Six months ago Germany was in the position of having to pay more and to receive less.

It may be suggested that a certain scepticism as to the prospects of restoring Mesopotamia and Palestine was among the reasons which urged Germany to push Turkey along the road to Kars. The force of events—in other words, the British Navy—has driven Germany from Western to Eastern expansion, and it is clear that she believes that peace will be made on the basis that everybody holds what they have in the East. In that event, the more that she and her allies hold, the better. If Turkey could reach the Caspian, and peace could be made on that basis, Germany could afford to write off the two hundred millions advanced to Constantinople; the control of the Black Sea and Anatolia, the right to enter the Caspian, would be well worth the money. The capitulation of Turkey to Berlin would be final and complete.

German finance is already heavily strained; the bankruptcy of the German Empire is admittedly certain unless indemnities can be obtained. Since the prospect of these becomes more remote from the West, they must be sought in the East, and it must be noted that they are being obtained, not indeed in the form of hard cash, but in the shape of territory and the right of economic control. Against the expenses of the war with Russia, Germany proposes to set off the control of the whole region from the Arctic to the Black Sea. If she were to succeed, the real government of these districts would be in the hands of the Deutsche Bank, and that bank would seek its profits from three main sources—the Riga trade, the produce of Roumania and the Ukraine, and the exploitation of Turkey.

We must regretfully admit that, if that control were obtained—and it would open the door to Siberia, potentially a second Canada; to China, another India; and to more dubious prospects in Persia—if that control were obtained at the cost of a thousand millions sterling, Germany would still be able to claim that war, on the Eastern front at least, was a business that paid.

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Among the advantages offered to Greek merchants by Germans and Austrians were the following:—Long credits, quick deliveries, cheapness, large discounts, prices quoted c.i.f. the Piræus, quotations in the metric system, catalogues in French, frequent visits by commercial travellers with samples, anxiety to suit the requirements of the market, compliance with instructions as to Customs requirements, matching samples, attention to small orders as well as to important ones, and partial or total payment for advertising their goods in the Greek newspapers.

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Harvest prospects since the good rains of March have continued to be favourable. There are hopes of a good carob crop. As regards tobacco, the result of much bungling has been, as anticipated, that by April 15—the final date for planting—large numbers of seedlings were not ready, and, according to some estimates, hardly a tenth of the lands which were marked out for the crop can be planted, which is much to be regretted. It is surmised that one of the reasons for limiting the planting to April 15 has been a fear, on the part of the Government, lest the work involved would clash and interfere with the supply of labour required for the harvesting of cereals. This is often barely sufficient for island needs. In pre-war times a considerable number of labourers came every year from Asia Minor across the narrow sea. Motley, picturesque groups of men and women, including gypsies, were welcomed on the north coast, often bringing various articles for sale, such as carpets, embroidery, and curios of many kinds. Wages for day labour still tend to rise, and there is no excuse for idle hands in Cyprus. Forests, mines, and public works offer employment. The liberal pay given to muleteers for Salonika, and the excellent Government arrangements connected with remittances to their families, attract many volunteers.

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M. Venizelos answering a question in the House of Deputies, in Athens, recently, stated that the Government did not intend to annul the measures taken for the prohibition of the sale of Greek steamships to foreigners, and added that by such sales the Greek mercantile marine had already lost many thousand tons.

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GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 28, 1918 (New Style: January 14 to March 13, 1918):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps. Stamped Paper. Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Feb., 1918	3,021,296	2,154,000
Do. do. do 1917	1,902,101	768,000
Estimated Receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)	4,816,666	1.783,333
Actual do. do., 1918..	7,589,480	6,312,000
Do. do. do., 1917.	5,075,986	2,223,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months 1918	+ 2,772,814	+ 4,528,666
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months 1917	+ 259,319	+ 439,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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GERMAN FINANCE IN THE NEAR EAST.

A. Wyatt Tilby.

An ancient fable records that a ponderous but respectable city accountant once remarked that "very few transactions of international finance would long survive a strict audit"; to which his neighbour at lunch replied that very few of the auditors would survive long either in that case. Without suggesting that even in Berlin they have a department for the sacrifice of too high-principled auditors, it must be admitted that international accounts are difficult to check, the interest on loans being paid not always in cash or goods, but very often in political influence, concessions, and other results which may not be easily rendered into figures. The new German finance in the East has proceeded largely on these lines.

Sixty years ago, in 1856, the first foreign bank was opened at Constantinople. It was an English concern, the original Ottoman Bank, and for thirty years British capital was predominant in Turkey. In 1887 the total capital of foreign banks operating in Turkey was a little over £10¼ millions; of this amount £6.2 millions was British, £1.9 French, £1.3 Austrian, £0.6 German, and the balance, £0.3 Italian. Twenty years later, in 1910, the position had changed considerably. Out of a total capital of £25 millions, Britain provided £8.8 millions and was still the nominal leader; but Germany had risen from fourth to second, with £5.2 millions, Austria had the same amount, and France and Italy the balance of less than three millions each.

Influence of German Banks.

It is easy to account for the change. There had been a great demand for British money in the Dominions and South America, and our investors looked more kindly on Canadian railways and similar enterprises than on the Levant. French money, for the same reason, was invested in the new African colonies. Austrian policy, on the other hand, had been directed to the Balkans by Bismarck, and Austrian money followed; and when Bismarck fell and the German Emperor began to dream his Eastern dreams, German money followed. The German-Palestine Bank was founded in 1899, the German Orient Bank, a more ambitious institution, in 1906; by 1914 this undertaking had a dozen agencies in Turkey, branches in Alexandria and Cairo, and one even in Morocco. The existence of a Morocco agency is sufficient evidence that its activities had a political as well as a financial aspect.

The German banks, backed by German diplomacy, were largely occupied in obtaining railway concessions in Asia Minor, and these railways were built with German materials. They were a source of rich profit to German industry, which was investing part of its surplus capital in Turkey; but the full accounts of the Baghdad Railway have never been published. If they were, they would probably puzzle the auditors considerably. But the real aim was not a commercial but a political balance-sheet, and that aim was attained. At the outbreak of war Turkey followed Germany.

German finance had also been active in the Balkans. But hitherto it had made little of Bulgaria, which is not naturally a rich country; and it had made much of Roumania, whose great natural wealth promised, and gave, a rich return. Serbia, whose sturdy independence was a barrier to Austro-German polity, was ignored. But the war necessarily worked great changes in Balkan finance as well as Balkan politics. Roumania remained steadfastly neutral for two years in spite of German influence in Bucharest; Bulgaria saw her opportunity. and decided to throw in her lot with the Central Powers. Her first step was to demand a loan, and in February, 1915, the transaction was arranged. Since the fact could not be concealed from the Entente diplomatists at Sofia, a pleasant little fiction was published to the effect that the loan had been arranged before the war; it was represented as a straightforward business transaction, and the impression was given that Germany was rather reluctant to oblige.

The full details of these transactions may possibly be known to our great-grandchildren, who will presumably have other things to think about. But certain facts are already obvious.

The money which Germany advanced to Greece purchased three years' neutrality and precipitated a revolution. It did not, as was hoped, bring Greece into line with the Central Empires, but the three years' neutrality may have been worth the price. As a financial transaction it was a failure, as a political expedient it may be reckoned a dubious and transient success.

The amount of the loans to Bulgaria are unknown. A telegram from Sofia published on May 10 puts the amount at sixty millions sterling. But Sofia, like other debtors, does not always tell the full truth. If we reckon them at a hundred millions—part of which has been spent in Germany on munitions of war—Berlin has in return purchased not only an ally, but the right to control Bulgarian industry. The Deutsche Bank has opened a branch at Sofia, and it is reasonable to suspect that a commercial treaty has been signed.

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But since the treaty was made Turkey's political position has changed enormously for the worse. To buy the Ottoman Empire as it stood in 1916 for 150 millions would have been a profitable transaction enough; and Germany bought something more profitable still—the right to exploit it. But since then the price has increased, from the prolongation of the war, and the *peau de chagrin* has diminished. Six months ago Germany was in the position of having to pay more and to receive less.

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GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 28, 1918 (New Style: January 14 to March 13, 1918):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps. Stamped Paper. Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Feb., 1918		3,021,296	2,15[illegible],000
Do. do. do 1917		1,902,101	768,000
Estimated Receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)		4,816,666	1.783,333
Actual do. do., 1918..		7,589,480	6,312,000
Do. do. do., 1917.		5,075,986	2,223,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months	1918	+ 2,772,814	+ 4,528,666
	1917	+ 259,319	+ 439,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

TUCKEY'S
PURE MALT POT STILL
"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD.
SCOTCH WHISKY
"LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.
MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.
AGENTS FOR EGYPT: ISHERWOOD BROS., CAIRO.
THE LANCET says:—" It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Threshers for Greece.

According to a Greek contemporary, the Greek Government has decided to order abroad a large number of threshing machines to be used for the threshing of the whole crop in Thessaly. Special officials of the Ministry (of food supply) will be sent to keep a record of the threshed quantities. In this way the Government will not have to rely on the accounts given by the growers regarding the quantities of threshed wheat but on official investigations and figures. It is hoped that British manufacturers will participate in the order.

A "Multum in Parvo" Tractor.

With the existing scarcity of labour and the difficulty of obtaining agricultural machinery, any mechanical contrivance tending to minimise the need of manual labour, or any machine that combines in itself the functions of two or three or more machines should be of interest to the farmers and landowners. The acquisition, for instance, of a power ploughing tackle is desired by every farmer, but the majority of such tackles are beyond his reach. They necessitate, as a rule, the use or co-operation of other machines, implements or vehicles, which means higher purchase value and more working expenses, a question of great importance to the average farmer. Descriptions of ploughing tackles, motor ploughs, motor tractors, etc., have appeared from time to time in these columns, and in view of the apparent interest that is shown by landowners and farmers in the East, as well as in this country, in what concerns new or improved agricultural machinery which might be of adequate assistance to them in their present difficulties, a few notes on a new farm tractor may not be out of place. This machine combines in one construction the motor plough, farm tractor, three-ton truck, and portable power plant. It is claimed that it is capable of performing "all the work of the farm," for in addition to the four leading features mentioned above, it has others also which are equally interesting.

Its Value as a Plough.

Primarily, as with all farm tractors, this machine's function of first importance is ploughing, and it accomplishes this purpose in a very original manner. It does not pull its ploughs as other tractors do, but it carries them suspended from its frame. In this it resembles that type of tractor which is known as a motor-plough, the whole equipment of tractor and ploughs forming one complete machine. Three 14-in. ploughs are mounted in a separate frame, which is attached to the main frame of the tractor in such a way that, whilst they are readily removable when in use the tractor frame takes much of the side-thrust and other stresses off the plough and its connections. The latter can be made very light—hence reducing the work the engine has to do—it is impossible for the ploughs to be damaged when working on bad ground, as the drawbar through which the pull on the plough is applied is spring-controlled and inter-connected with the clutch in such a way that should the ploughshare strike a root or a rock the spring is stretched and the clutch pulled out of engagement. With the engine power thus withdrawn the machine stops and the obstruction can be removed. This feature is undoubtedly a very valuable one. Another is that the three ploughs function as to depth independently, so that each plough follows the inequalities of the ground over which it is travelling and cuts a furrow of even depth regardless of the nature of the ground. The depth is adjusted by a depth wheel, and the control of the ploughs is effected by a lever lying conveniently to the right hand of the driver, who by its means can lift the ploughs entirely clear of the ground, so that the tractor may be backed without difficulty if desired and carried clear when turning or making the headlands. This self-levelling floating plough is a noteworthy feature, as the tractor not only carries the plough, but also the weight of the earth which is being turned, as well as withstanding the heavy land-side pressure caused by the shares operating at an angle and by the pressure of the earth against the mould-board.

In its form as a motor plough the machine has three wheels, one a small trailer supporting the tail of the triangular frame, and the other two large chain-driven wheels of special construction as regards thread. These wheels, which, when working as a motor-plough, travel in front, are both driving and steering-wheels. The steering is effected by the control of the differential, throwing more of the power of the engine on to one wheel than the other, up to the point of throwing all the power on one and stopping the other altogether. When this is done, the machine simply drives around the fixed wheel as a centre pivot and is thus enabled to turn practically in its own length, not only making very narrow headlands, but, where desirable, enabling it to cut right-angled or even acute-angled furrows. If any other type of plough than that supplied with the machine and described above is required to be used, or when using harrows, cultivators and other implements, the change is effected by simply dropping the plough out of the frame and reversing the machine; the small wheel then going in front becomes the steering-wheel and the implements are attached to a drawbar furnished for the purpose at the engine end of the machine. In this form it becomes a tractor proper, and functions just as any other tractor.

Useful as a Lorry.

When required for conveying loads to market and for work on hard roads, it can be used either in this form, as a tractor, towing a train of waggons, or—which is to be preferred—carrying its load of three tons, becoming for the time being a three-ton lorry, with an 8 miles per hour road speed—quite fast enough for running on steel tyres. In order to enable it to do this two changes are effected in connection with its wheels' faces and the removal of the small supporting wheel and the ploughs.

The engine power of the machine is larger than usual, delivering, as a portable power plant, 35 h.p. to a 20-inch belt pulley, whilst 18 h.p. is its drawbar pull.

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The Egyptian Government proposes to establish an advisory council of Egyptian cultivators to assist the Cotton Commission in determining cotton grades and other matters in connection with the scheme for purchasing the cotton crop.

EGYPTIAN EXPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The export from Egypt of the following articles has been prohibited:—(1) Copra except for the United Kingdom and British Possessions. (2) Cotton for Japan and Switzerland, exception being made however for cotton exported to Switzerland through the intermediary of the Société de Surveillance Suisse. (3) Sugar of Egyptian origin unless the export is authorised by means of a permit from the Supplies Control Board. This does not apply to articles in which sugar is included, such as sweets, jams and all kinds of sweetmeats, but the production of a certificate from the sugar refinery authorising the export of such articles is necessary. (4) Soap of all descriptions.

The redespatch of the following articles is prohibited:—Cotton thread, candles, coffee, indigo, linseed, pepper, spices and tea. Onions may be exported to the United Kingdom, Italy and France, and to their possessions and colonies, as well as to Switzerland, if sent through the Société de Surveillance Suisse, and to Greece on the production of an authorisation from the British Minister at Athens.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at January 31, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		£E. 2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,448,325
Mixed Tribunals		2,391,506
Egyptian Government		7,730,510
Bankers' Accounts		773,014
Cheques and Bills payable		173,649
Sundry other Accounts		626,586
		£E.26,690,286
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 8,047,240
Sundry Securities		260,331
Advances on Merchandise		4,087,916
Advances on Securities		1,368,156
Advances otherwise Secured		1,758,342
Sundry other Advances		332,316
Bills of Exchange		5,355,747
Local Bills Discounted		83,852
Buildings and Furniture		227,093
Money at call and at short notice		1,750,125
Bankers' Accounts		1,370,897
Sudan Government		203,140
Sundry other Accounts		133,815
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,609,179	
Gold	58,502	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	53,635	
		1,721,316
		£E.26,690,286

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes issued	31,200,000
	£E.31,200,000
	£E.
Gold	3,695,579
*British Treasury Bills	11,904,421
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	1,950,000
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	551,747
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	13,098,253
	£E.31,200,000

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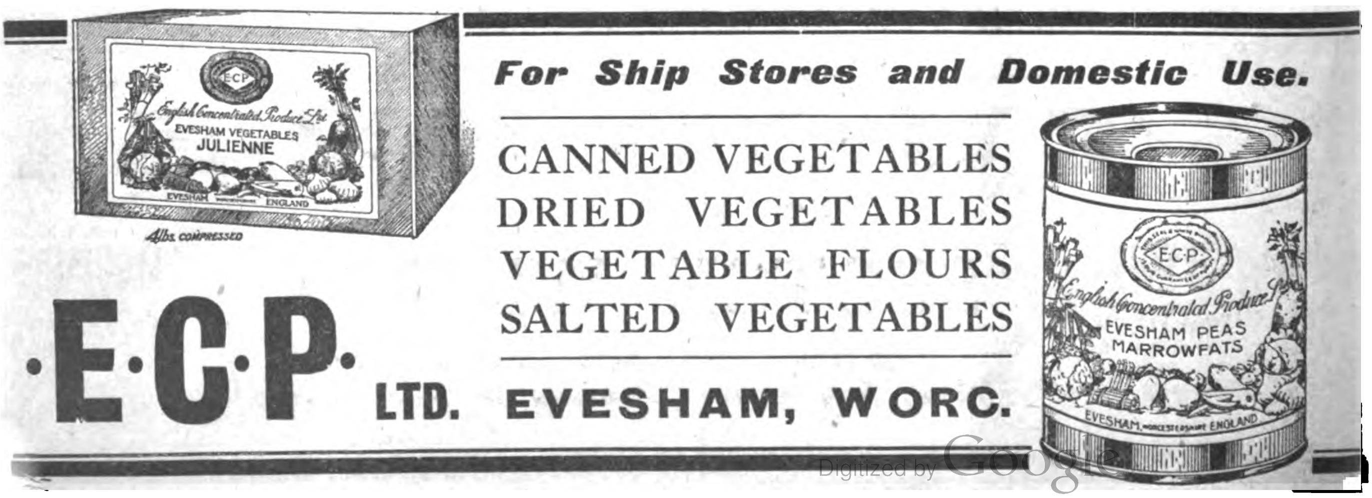
* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).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THE INDIAN COTTON SEED CROP.

Its Unrealised Value.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Now that the Home Government is bestirring itself in the matter of research in so many directions, and the vital need of the cultivation of cotton of the American variety within the Empire has at last become recognised, and, indeed, the growing of such cotton in India is making rapid progress, it may be of interest to examine the potential value of the Indian cotton seed crop.

The export of cotton seed from India may be said to have commenced in the year 1897, when about 1,500 tons were sent to seed-crushing mills in England. In 1900-01 the quantity exported rose to about 11,000 tons; the next year it leapt up to 100,000 tons, and it has since reached about 350,000 tons per annum.

Practically the whole of the exports consist of a small fuzzy seed known as "Bombay" seed, but it must not be supposed that this is representative of the whole of the cotton seed produced in India. This particular class of seed has found its way into the export trade most probably because of the small amount of "fuzz" left upon it after ginning, thus enabling it more or less successfully to stand the long sea voyage without undue "heating." The amount of this "fuzz" is not over 2 per cent. of the weight of the seed, and if loaded fairly dry, the risk of heating is not very great. The woollier varieties of Indian seed, such as Tinnevelly, Cambodia, etc., which, after ginning, show, according to Mr. Hooper (of the Indian Museum), as much as 8 per cent. to 12 per cent. of lint, would almost certainly heat badly during the voyage, and if serious consequences in the shape of spontaneous combustion did not ensue the seed would, on arrival, be found to have greatly deteriorated in value for the purposes of oil and cake production.

Clean Defibrated Seed for Export.

In this connection it is worth while to consider the possibilities attaching to the employment in India of a recently introduced machine (reference to which was made in THE NEAR EAST of April 5), by means of which the short lint or "fuzz" left on the woolly varieties of Indian cotton seed after ginning can be removed to any desired degree without injury either to the seed or to the lint product. We are informed that measurements made by an independent authority show that after the removal of about 1½ per cent. out of the 2 per cent. of fuzz remaining on the Bombay seed, the increase in weight of the seed contained in a given volume is about 12 per cent., owing to the seed bulking more closely. Clearly, this effect would be more pronounced in the case of the more woolly varieties of Indian seed, and thus, by means of this machine, such varieties could be rendered capable of being successfully exported. It is scarcely necessary to emphasise the many advantages of denuding seed intended for export of as much fuzz as possible before shipping, not only on account of the reduction in the risk of heating, but also because of the saving in freight charges, since the shipper pays freight on the ton measurement of 40 cubic feet, but sells the seed by the ton dead weight. But the main advantage lies in the premium which such cleaned, defibrated seed would command in British markets. Experts in the cotton seed trade in London who have inspected samples of this Bombay seed before and after treatment in this machine state that the cleaned defibrated seed would sell at a premium of about 15s. over that of Bombay seed as now received at British ports. The reason is not far to seek. The way in which seed is handled in India prior to shipment is well known. Accidentally or otherwise, the seed contains a considerable amount of dust and dirt and other débris, which reduce the value of the seed not only in virtue of the reduction of the quantity of oil contained in a given weight, but also because of the expense and loss incurred in the preliminary processes such seed has to undergo in order to remove this foreign matter before the seed can be sent to the press room. This loss may reach 5 per cent. of the weight of the seed. Hence the oil content of one ton of cleaned defibrated seed will be proportionately greater than that of a ton of seed as now shipped. The following figures give an indication of the extra return which the shipper should realise by cleaning and defibrating "Bombay" seed in India before shipment:—

Let us commence with 2,400 lb. of Bombay seed. Deduct 5 per cent., or 120 lb., for dirt and débris. Deduct a further 1½ per cent. (say 36 lb.) for the fuzz removed. We are then left with 2,240 lb. of cleaned defibrated seed. The average value of Bombay seed in British markets during the three years immediately preceding the war was about £5 per ton, so that we may take the value of the cleaned defibrated seed at £5 15s. per ton. To produce this 2,240 lb. of defibrated seed the shipper has had to use 2,400 lb. of seed, which, at £5 per ton, would have fetched about £5 7s., so he is about 8s. to the good on this count for every 2,400 lb. seed used, or at the rate of 7s. 5d. per ton undefibrated seed. But this is not all. He would have paid freight on the 2,400 lb. of undefibrated seed, whereas he only pays freight on 2,240 lb. of defibrated seed, which, as we have seen above, bulks about 12 per cent. more closely; hence he can ship 12 per cent. more dead weight per ton measurement.

Sale of Lint Product.

Then there is the net return on the sale of the lint-product to be brought into account. On the basis of the value already established commercially for this product in Great Britain, the net profit on the sale of 36 lb. of this product, after deducting all costs of cleaning and defibrating the 2,400 lb. of seed should not be less than 2s., so that, taking the saving in freight at, say, 2s. 6d., the total extra return would amount to about 11s. 8d. per ton original weight of undefibrated seed. If the dirt in the seed were less than 5 per cent., this return would be higher and, of course, these calculations, which apply to the small Bombay seed with very little fuzz on them, would apply, *à fortiori*, to the other Indian varieties with 8 per cent. to 12 per cent. of fuzz upon them.

According to Sir A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P.,* "the quantity of Indian cotton seed exported, chiefly to the United Kingdom, varies from 100,000 to 400,000 tons per annum, a slight increase in price being sufficient to bring forward largely increased quantities." On these figures, the extra revenue that India might have derived from the export of cotton seed could have reached over £200,000 in a year, a sum not to be despised.

The quantity of cotton seed produced in India is about 2,000,000 tons per annum. Of this, about 180,000 to 200,000 tons are used for planting. Of the remainder, the quantity exported—as we have seen—has not yet exceeded 400,000 tons. There remains, therefore, about 1,400,000 tons to be accounted for. No doubt a large proportion of this is fed direct to cattle, particularly in times of drought, but there must still remain large quantities that are absolutely wasted.

Now that the feeding of cattle has been brought to an exact science, and vast experience has been gained, notably in America, in the value of cotton seed meal and of the decorticated hulls of cotton seed in the feeding of cattle, it is not too much to say that the feeding of cotton seed direct to cattle is an absurdly wasteful proceeding. So far as the intelligent utilisation of cotton seed is concerned, India would appear to be about as far advanced as the United States of America were fifty years ago, when huge piles of rotting cotton seed lying around the gin houses were familiar sights. This is all the more extraordinary because whatever excuse may be made for the want of enterprise fifty years ago in the commercial development of the valuable oil-content of the cotton seed, the fact that as long ago as 1870 the annual crush of cotton seed in Great Britain was 200,000 tons, and the rapid, indeed spectacular, progress of this industry in the United States since, say, the year 1890 has removed any possible doubt as to the industrial value of the products obtainable from cotton seed, and it is therefore a standing reproach to commercial and industrial enterprise in India that at the present day a natural source of enormous wealth should be, to all intents and purposes, still neglected.

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* See article entitled "Oils and Fats in the British (Empire" in "Staple Trades of the Empire," p. 29 J. M. Dent and Sons, Limited.)

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VALUE OF PRECIOUS METALS.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., in their weekly bullion letter, say:—The expression "precious metal" has been commonly used to imply a reference to either gold or silver. To-day the range is wider, for several other metals have acquired commercial values far exceeding those of gold and silver. It is reported, for instance, that the United States Government has just commandeered the stocks of platinum, palladium and iridium in that country, and has fixed the respective prices at the dollar equivalents of £21, £27, and £35 per troy ounce. On these bases the prices for platinum is twenty-fold, for palladium, ten-fold, and for iridium thirty-fold that which once obtained. These high quotations, however, seem insignificant beside that for radium, which, at £16 per milligramme, works out at £500,000 per troy ounce.

RANKEN COMPANY
CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
AND HANOVER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS.
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.
Telegrams—"Mentally
'Phone—Gerrard 597.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")
WILKINSON'S
(ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." Lancet.
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Yarn and Cloth Prices Advanced

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

This has been a holiday week in Manchester trade circles, and the Exchange for business purposes was only open on Tuesday last. Owing to the Control Board having decided to restrict production to a further extent, a distinct advance has occurred in yarn and cloth prices. From June 10 American spinning mills and all weaving sheds will only be allowed to run 50 per cent. of the machinery for 40 hours a week instead of 55½ hours. Production in Egyptian spinning mills will be limited to 80 per cent. of the full working hours of 55½ hours per week. Favourable reports continue to be received relating to the Egyptian cotton crop. The American growth is also doing very well. Egyptian yarns are distinctly dearer, certain qualities being raised 3d. per lb. Business has been at a standstill. Very little fresh inquiry has been received in piece goods suitable for Egypt. Some local shippers are reselling in the Manchester market. Standard goods for India and China have been slow. At the time of writing the operatives' wages question has not been settled. American yarns have been put up in price to the extent of about 1d. per lb. There is every probability of the scarcity of supplies becoming more pronounced than ever.

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INDIAN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The latest Indian traffic receipts are shown below :—

Railways.

	Amount. Rs.	Inc. or Dec. Rs.	Aggregate. Inc. or Dec. Rs.
Delhi Umballa Kalka (May 11)	87,000	+ 5,509	+ 70,723
East Indian (May 11)..	26,83,000	+2,35,000	+9,12,000

Tramways.

Burma Electric (April)	£54,104	+ £1,450	+ £78,045

GREEK EXTERNAL DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders is informed that the surplus of the revenues assigned to the service of the Greek debt in respect of 1917 permits of the increase of the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund in 1918 by the following percentages of the original interest :—Loans of Group I., interest 22 per cent., sinking fund 14 per cent. ; Group II., interest 24 per cent., sinking fund 12 per cent. ; Group III., interest 24 per cent., sinking fund 12 per cent.

With the addition of the above percentages the total interest payable in 1918 is, 2.60 per cent. on the 4 per cent. Monopoly Loan, 2.70 per cent. on 5 per cent. Funding Loan, 2.80 per cent. on 5 per cent. Loans of 1881, 1884 and 1890. and 2.24 per cent. on 4 per cent. Rentes. The whole of the additional interest is payable on the April coupon in the case of the Funding Loan and Rentes, on the June coupon of the 5 per cent. Loan of 1890 and on the July coupon of the Monopoly Loan and the 5 per cent. Loans of 1881 and 1884.

BAKU OIL COMPANIES.

The boards of the petroleum companies in Petrograd have received a telegram from Baku, dated April 20 (says *Reuter's* Petrograd correspondent), stating that a contribution of 50,000,000 roubles has been imposed upon the companies.

PALM SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA

According to a recent crop report of the Madras Department of Agriculture, the number of palm trees which are usually tapped for sugar in the Madras Presidency is estimated at 2,500,000, and the yield of jaggery (crude sugar) as 35,000 long tons. India's total production of palm sugar is about 300,000 tons, of which Bengal produces roughly one-third. India's total production of sugar both from cane and palms is somewhere about 3,000,000 tons.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A special forecast of the wheat crops in India shows an increase of 8 per cent. in area and of 3½ per cent. in yield, as compared with last year.

Liptons have opened a branch in Jerusalem at 5-6, Jaffa Street. This is the first branch opened by a British provision merchant in Jerusalem.

Mr. S. Derville and Mr. C. Verge have been elected vice-presidents of the Suez Canal Company in the place of Mr. S. Charles Roux and Voisin Bey, deceased.

The total approximate gross earnings of Indian State Railways from April 1, 1917, to February 16, 1918, show an increase of Rs.46,086,175 over the figures for the corresponding period of 1916-17.

Official estimates show that wheat in Lower Egypt is 2 per cent. below and the crop in Upper Egypt 1 per cent. above the average. Barley and all other crops are above the average.

Sir Frederick L. Sprott, late Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Board of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the place of the late Mr. A. H. Campbell.

Reuter learns from Serbian sources that prices of all commodities have been raised to an enormous extent in the Western Austrian Crown lands, particularly in Croatia. The price of milk is raised 800 per cent., that of eggs 1,090 per cent., a pair of fowls, formerly sold at 1s. 3d., is now worth a guinea, and a pair of ducks, formerly sold at 2s. 2d., now cost 75s. The price of lard and bacon is raised 1,500 per cent. A reel of cotton is dearer by 8,000 per cent. A pair of socks, formerly worth 5d., is now sold for 40s.

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Estates for the year ended June 30, 1917, states that the whole of the expenditure on the estates has been charged to revenue, and £1,000 writen off for depreciation of buildings and machinery, leaving a net profit of £3,126. This, added to £2,837 brought in, leaves a balance of £5,963, which it is proposed to carry forward.

The Travancore Tea Estates Company in the year ended September 30 made a profit, including the balance brought forward, of £24.919, against £32,760. The final dividend is 5 per cent. (making 15 per cent. for the year), against 30 per cent.; and the carry-forward, subject to excess profits tax, if any, is £9,507, against £10,343.

The report of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company for the year ended September 30, 1917, states that net profit, including £26,570 brought forward, and after payment of excess profits duty, was £189,577. The portion of Manharpur prospecting and development expenses writen off absorbs £712; transfer to depreciation and colliery sinking funds £26,133, and Debenture stock interest £10,000. The directors recommend a dividend of 30 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares—6 per cent. payable March 30, 1918, 8 per cent. June 29, 8 per cent. September 30, and 8 per cent. December 16, leaving £76,277 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. The meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.4, at noon on June 5.

The report of the Assam Company for 1916 states that the accounts were delayed owing to a large portion of the crop being held up at Chittagong for want of transport facilities. the last of the 1916 teas not being dispatched from that port until February, 1918. The profit on the 1916 crop was £204,285, less provision for excess profits duty £76,920, commission and bonus £28,229, and planting, etc., £5,551, leaving £93.585, against £105,626 for 1915. Total distribution 25 per cent., the same as last year; to general reserve £40,000, against £17,000; forward £3,501.

The report of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for 1917 states that 26,596.827 units were sold, against 23.575.211 units. The number of houses connected at December 31 was 9,741, an increase of 280. Profits amounted to £173,949, which with the balance brought forward and interest received makes £241,070. The directors have placed £39,552 to the credit of depreciation and renewals account, and after providing for excess profits duty for 1915 and 1916 and an estimated sum of £15,000 for 1917 and other charges, there remains £81,512. It is proposed to add £2,500 to reserve fund, £4,000 to insurance fund, and pay a final dividend on ordinary shares for the half-year of 6½ per cent. actual, making 10 per cent. for the year, leaving £45,964 to be carried forward, after providing for directors' additional remuneration. Reserve for depreciation and renewals is increased to £229,560, and the reserve fund, with the addition of £4,674 from dividends on investments, will stand at £138,703. The directors have decided to establish a pension fund for the benefit of the staff and £7,500 has been placed to the debit of net revenue account so as to furnish a nucleus for the purpose of starting the fund. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £23,910, the total outlay to December 31 being £1,391,432. Meeting, 2, Broad Street Place, E.C., 29th inst., 2. p.m.

The report of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company, Limited, states that the surplus on the year's working in Cawnpore was £17,766, against £20,219 in 1916, and including transfer fees and exchange adjustment in England, the credit side of net revenue account shows a total of £18,189; London expenditure was £2.216, and after providing £3.900 for debenture interest a profit of £12,072 is shown. The amount brought in from last year was £1,756, and there remains a balance of £13,829. Of this amount an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. has already been paid, viz., £1.950. The board have placed to reserve for depreciation and renewals, £6,000; to Debenture issue expenses, written off, £1,000; and the payment is now recommended of a final dividend of 5 per cent., £3,901 (making, with the interim dividend paid on November 7, 1917, 7½ per cent. for the year); directors' commission on dividends, £292; leaving to be carried forward £685.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The transfer books of the ordinary stock of the Burma Railways Company will be closed from June 15 to 29, inclusive.

The directors of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway propose, in addition to the half-year's guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent., of a final dividend of 1½ per cent., with a bonus of 1½ per cent., from the company's share of surplus profits for the year ended March 31 last, making a total payment in July next of 4½ per cent., less tax. The return on the capital stock for the whole year will therefore be 6½ per cent., less tax, against 5¾ per cent. for the previous year.

The registers of the 4 per cent. cumulative Preference stock of the Southern Punjab Railway are closed from May 18 to 31, inclusive. The dividend will be payable on June 1.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 15s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 per cent. on the capital stock in respect of the half-year ended March 30, payable July 1 to holders registered June 30, together with the guaranteed interest £1 15s. per cent. then due, making a total distribution of £3 10s. per cent.

The directors of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt have declared a dividend of 8s. per share on the ordinary shares, and £40 per share on the deferred shares, payable 21st. instant.

The directors of the Bengal Coal Company (Calcutta), after setting aside Rs. 120,000 for depreciation, Rs. 3.50.000 mines development, recommend a dividend at rate of 50 per cent. per annum and to carry forward Rs. 3.00,000.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 21 tons (last week 22 tons). Hurgada production for week, 4,632 tons (last week, 4,477 tons).

British Burmah Petroleum, Ltd.—The total production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 75,410 barrels for April.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended March 17, 35,000 poods (565 tons); March 24, 31,250 poods (504 tons); March 31, 31,200 poods (503 tons); April 7, nil; April 14, 18,500 poods (298 tons); April 21, 16,500 poods (266 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended March 17, 56,100 poods; March 24, 56,250 poods; March 31, 57,350 poods; April 7, no work; April 14, 43,800 poods; April 21, 41,200 poods.

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THE SALONIKA FIRE.

It has been officially reported to the Greek Government that almost all the claims of those who suffered losses from the great fire at Salonika have been paid by the various insurance companies.

INDIA'S NEW LOAN.

A Reuter message states that the Indian Government has notified the issue of a new loan. It takes the form of 5½ per cent. War Bonds, free of income-tax, payable in 1921, 1923, 1925, and 1926, and Post Office 5 per cent. five-year cash certificates. The whole of the cash subscription will be given to his Majesty's Government as part of India's contribution of one hundred millions.

PRICES IN SOFIA.

According to recent information, prices of food and clothing in Sofia have reached a remarkable level. Thus, 15 francs are charged for one kilo of sugar, the same amount of coffee costs 100 francs, pepper 120 francs, cheese 15 francs, fish 20 francs, tea 120 francs, honey 24 francs, soap 20 francs, and a fowl 30 francs. Milk costs 2 francs a litre. Clothing has risen on a similar scale, and a woman's costume costs 800 to 1,000 francs, and a pair of boots can only be bought for from 200 to 250 francs. Stockings cost 30 francs, and a pair of gloves 20 francs, while the price of having a pair of shoes soled and heeled is 50 francs.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
May 9	110,000	160,000
May 10	180,000	470,000
May 11	110,000	110,000
May 12	200,000	40,000
May 13	130,000	360,000
May 16, 17, 18, 19	420,000	1,030,000
May 20	230,000	150,000

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT

Notice is hereby given that at a General Meeting of the above-named Company, held in Cairo on the 16th May, 1918, it was declared that a DIVIDEND of 8s. per Share on the ORDINARY SHARES of £5 each and £40 per Share on the DEFERRED SHARES of £5 each should be paid on or after the 21st May, 1918, at The National Bank of Egypt in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6/7, King William Street, E.C.4). Payment will be made in London less Income Tax.

The Sale Dividends will be paid to the Holders of Ordinary and Deferred Share Warrants to Bearer on presentation of the respective Dividend Coupons (Ordinary No. 15, Deferred No. 14) at the above Banks.

Forms for listing the above-mentioned Coupons will be supplied on application by the Bankers above mentioned.

Coupons must be left with the Bankers for previous examination.

By Order, F. T. ROWLATT,
Cairo 17th May, 1918. President.

POWER LINE TO MOROCCO.

Regular Service of First-Class Steamers taking cargo to and from **London** and **Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi** and **Mogador**. Loading Berth—MOROCCO WHARF, WAPPING.

SAILINGS FORTNIGHTLY.

The hulls of the above steamers are insured under the Government War Risk.
For Rates of Freight, Sailing Dates, etc., apply to **THE POWER STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.** (James Power & Co.),
158, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegraphic Address—"POUVOIR," London. Telephone—No. 1525 Avenue and 2541 City

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.

Established 1894.

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

HEAD OFFICE: 17 and 18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3,
LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.

Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON.
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.

CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business has been somewhat interfered with this week by the Whitsuntide holiday, but there has been more interest taken in the market, and, were it not for the very great delays at present in telegraphic communication with Egypt, things would probably have been a good deal more active; as there are many indications that business is reviving again, and that we may soon see a recurrence of the very active conditions prevalent some time ago. Egyptian Government stocks have again been persistently inquired for, and both Unifieds and 3½ per cent. preferences are ½ up at 87½ and 74½ respectively. Very little business, however, transpires, as buyers find it difficult to execute their orders owing to the scarcity of sellers. City of Alexandria Bonds have risen a point to 81, round which level some business has been carried through.

In Bank shares a few transactions have taken place in Nationals, but the price remains unchanged. As regards Agricultural Banks, these are somewhat firmer at 6 1-16 ex div., with only trifling transactions. Agricultural Preferences have continued in strong demand, and are again 1-16 up at 7 5-32, with no sellers on the market at the moment. Anglo-Egyptians have advanced a further ¼ to 15 11-16, the local demand here being of a persistent character.

In Railways there is some inquiry for Delta Lights round the current level, but shares are not offered. Amongst Land descriptions a very fair amount of business has taken place in Aboukirs without affecting the price, and there is a fair demand for Behéras somewhat under the present quotation; but no business has been done, as sellers are asking higher prices. Daira shares have advanced 6d. to 4s. in connection with the final liquidation recently announced. In Delta Lands a few transactions have taken place at about 13s., at which price, however, there are still some sellers. A feature of strength has been Egyptian and Foreign Trusts, in which some large transactions have taken place at advancing prices, and at the close the shares are 1s. 9d. higher at 11s. 9d. In New Egyptians there have been persistent buyers at 17s., but very little business has been done, as sellers are scarce at the present level. The price closes 6d. higher at 17s. 6d., at which a few shares changed hands at the close to-day. Sidi Salems have been a firm spot, and are 1-32 higher at 2 7-32. In Union Foncières some shares which were on the market round 2 15-16 have been taken, and since then some buying orders have come to hand, which, however, do not seem to have much chance of being executed, as there are practically no further sellers round the current price. In Miscellaneous shares there is almost no business or change in prices to record.

Greek securities have continued a strong market, with a further rise of one point in 1890's to 60, in 1914's to 74, and in 1910's to 59. Rentes have also advanced ½ to 48½. Apart from one fair-sized deal in 1910's, business in the various loans has been rather unimportant. Bank of Athens shares are again ⅛ higher at 3⅞, and Piræus Athens 4½ per Cent. Bonds continue in demand.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—

14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—

27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 15	May 22
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	80	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87	87½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74xd	74½
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	62	62
Do. 5 %, 1884.................	56	62	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.........	49	56	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48xd	48½
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	59	60
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	56	56
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.......	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.......	—	58xd	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	73	74
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4⅝	6$\frac{5}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7$\frac{3}{32}$	7$\frac{5}{32}$
Anglo-Egyptian Bank............	12	15$\frac{7}{16}$	15$\frac{11}{16}$
Bank of Athens..................	£2	3¾	3⅞
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6¾	6$\frac{7}{16}$
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17⅜	17⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6$\frac{7}{16}$	6$\frac{7}{16}$
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1$\frac{1}{16}$	20/9	20/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4$\frac{3}{16}$	4$\frac{3}{16}$
Daira Sanieh.....................	2/2	3/6	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/9	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	10/-	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co...............	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/-	17/6
Sidi Salem Co.	$\frac{5}{16}$	2$\frac{3}{16}$	2$\frac{7}{32}$
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2$\frac{15}{16}$	2$\frac{15}{16}$
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord...........	1$\frac{1}{16}$	26/-	26/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	$\frac{15}{16}$	38/-	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	36/-	36/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾	3¾

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON APRIL 26.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt.........................	L.E.	18$\frac{7}{16}$
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	87
" " Div.	Frs.	109
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd......................	L.E.	12$\frac{9}{16}$
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13
" priv..............................	L.E.	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig..................................	Frs.	183
Bons de Panama	Frs.	124
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)....	Frs.	85
" Priv..............	Frs.	104
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	94
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3$\frac{1}{32}$
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1$\frac{11}{32}$
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	2$\frac{31}{32}$
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5$\frac{11}{16}$
Bonded Stores....................................	L.E.	8
Unifiée	L.E.	91¼
Privilégiée...		78
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6$\frac{15}{16}$
Nungovich Hotels	£	6⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt....................	£	6$\frac{5}{16}$
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅝
" Ord		36/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	20¼
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4$\frac{5}{32}$
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅝
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108xd
" Jouissance..........	Frs.	165xd
Egyptian Markets		26/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440xd
" Div.	Frs.	380xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	304
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5$\frac{5}{32}$
Egyptian Salt and Soda		37/6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	705
" Fondateur	Frs.	815
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	385½
" 1903 "	Frs.	292
" 1911 "	Frs.	280½
United Lands	P.T.	9¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		$\frac{21}{32}$

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According to a White Paper, the total amount of loans raised in England and chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at March 31, 1913, was £172,899,167. The interest payable during the preceding half-year amounted to £2,832,666, and the amount of debt paid off during the half-year was £755,453.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.60,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

GRANT & CHINN.

The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::

CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.

Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."

Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 369.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1918.

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In view of the Board of Trade Order prohibiting the delivery of newspapers to retailers on the terms known as "Sale or Return," which comes into force in the United Kingdom on June 24, readers of "The Near East" who are not already subscribers will materially help the Management by giving an order to their newsagent or to the Office of "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, for the regular delivery of the paper. Annual Subscription, £1; postage, 2s. 2d. (inland), 4s. 4d. (abroad).

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In view of what is taking place on the Western front it would not be a matter for surprise to find other theatres of war maintaining silence out of sympathy, as it were, with the titanic clash of arms that they cannot hope to rival. Yet there is in reality no approach to quiescence on any front, and what may pass as an uneventful week in the bald language of official *communiqués* may sometimes mark a definite stage in the history of one of the minor fronts. This may ultimately prove to have been the case in the Balkans, where local actions have been multiplying for some time past, until they represent a degree of liveliness along the whole front that is calculated to keep the enemy far more occupied than he has been for a considerable period. The French in the centre and Italians and French on the left wing have been the most active; but it will not be overlooked that the Greeks have yet to win their spurs, and from all accounts must be spoiling for a trial of strength with the Bulgarians opposed to them.

Even if these small engagements along the Macedonian front herald no greater effort on the part of the Allied army, they can hardly fail, if repeated often enough, to increase the general war-weariness of the Bulgarians. For the first time reports of privations in Bulgaria are reaching the outside world. In normal times the country is practically self-supporting, and the earlier harvests of the war were reported to have been satisfactory enough to relieve the Bulgarians of any anxiety on the score of supplies. But either as the result of the strain on her man-power or on account of excessive contributions in kind levied upon her, Bulgaria is now said to be feeling something of the pinch from which other belligerents have already suffered so long. If there be any truth in the reports that are now reaching the Allied army in Macedonia, a judicious testing of the whole of the enemy's line must reveal one or more weak spots. The evidence of prisoners is not always trustworthy; but in this instance it would seem to be confirmed by information received independently in Switzerland.

The Turkish invasion of Persia is now assuming the proportions of an organised campaign. Last week reference was made to the advance on Ushnu and Sujbulak to the south of Lake Urumiah. A second Turkish force is now stated to be entering Persia from the Caucasus, making use of the Tabriz Railway. The cession of Batoum, Ardahan, and Kars, which was included in the terms of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, was probably an attempt to throw a cloak of somewhat threadbare legitimacy over far-reaching designs farther eastwards. A railway runs through Kars to Alexandropol, where it joins the Erivan-Tabriz line. Advancing along this, the Turks have already reached the former town, and in the absence of any serious opposition may soon be expected in Tabriz. In the face of these developments it is difficult to see how Great Britain can postpone indefinitely action for the better defence of Persia and its capital. The Allies are far from liquidating the defection of Russia by even the splendid efforts that the United States have made during the year that they have been at war with Germany. It would seem to constitute a grave reflection upon the Allied reading of the world struggle, if they allow at this stage yet another country to be overrun, while one member of the Alliance—Japan—is taking no part in the military operations. Although the work of saving Russia from herself and the Germans may still have to be delayed, there are not the same obstacles in the way of Japanese co-operation in Mesopotamia for the protection of Teheran and Azerbaijan.

In Palestine a further lull in the operations has succeeded the enemy's concentration east of the Jordan. To the south, however, Arab troops belonging to the Hejaz continue their guerilla tactics against the Turkish forces in this region. It is unfortunate that a clearer estimate of the general situation cannot be formed from the official reports. Medina remains in Turkish hands, partly, no doubt, owing to the reluctance of the Arabs to expose the Holy City to siege operations. Their investment of the city, however, must have been spasmodic in the past, if the garrison can still make arrangements for the arrival of a convoy of three hundred camels. This particular convoy was captured, fortunately; but the number of raids to which the Hejaz Railway has been subjected suggests that the Turks have hitherto contrived to maintain traffic on the line and to repair the damage done from time to time by the Arabs. This state of affairs makes the failure of General Allenby's army to occupy the railway permanently at Amman the more regrettable. The Arab efforts, which have been so well sustained over a long period, just lack the power to push their advantage far enough to enable them to do a definite piece of work once and for all. By now they might have disposed of all Turkish opposition between Maan and Medina, and be affording General Allenby invaluable help by advancing northwards along the railway line to Damascus.

Not the least notable exploit of the Arab forces is to have been the means, in conjunction with the Palestine Expedition, of rescuing a number of Armenians, men, women, and children, who had been deported by the Turks to the desert areas east of the Jordan. This incident led to an exchange of telegrams between the Armenians and the Friends of Armenia in London on the one part and the Hejaz authorities on the other (which are reproduced elsewhere in this issue). The reply of the King of the Hejaz was a very striking message. He pointed out that the Emir Faisal "in assisting the oppressed has only performed one of the first duties of our religion and of Arabs' faith," and continued, "We ask God before everything to give us strength to enable us to do them (the Armenian race and other races in similar plight) helpful service by which to prove to the world the true feelings of Islam, whose watchword is freedom." It requires little knowledge of the tenets of Islam to realise that these views are not those which the Constantinople authorities either in the time of Abdul Hamid or under the Committee of Union and Progress have held. As a matter of fact, the King of the Hejaz shows that he stands for the pure primitive Islam of early days, and he gives expression to the original Arab interpretation of life and religion.

We are glad to see that the authorities have taken steps to remove a grievance which was produced incidentally by the regulations issued last year to exclude alien influences from the Indian Civil Service. The rules in question required subjects of Indian States to obtain a formal declaration from the Governor-General in Council before they could enter for the competitive examination, and thus placed them at a disadvantage alongside the youth of British India, who were not compelled to comply with any corresponding formality. Under the new regulations subjects of the States will be admitted to the examination as of right, and we have no doubt that this fresh recognition of the essential unity of India, whatever its internal divisions, will be as welcome to the politician in British provinces as to the States whose subjects are immediately benefited.

The mail has now brought us the last, or almost the last, instalment of the long-drawn financial debates in the Indian Legislative Councils, and it is pleasant to be able to say that the reports leave on the whole a satisfactory impression regarding the progress made by these still experimental institutions. It is true that much nonsense has been talked, but that happens everywhere, and it is more important to note that the proportion of sense is rising steadily, and that quite a large number of the speeches have been of a kind which should be welcomed by the administration—critical, of course, but at the same time suggestive, and, in a few cases, of actual constructive value. The great need now is the development of a keener sense of responsibility, and if Mr. Montagu succeeds in introducing this element, there is no reason why the Councils should not eventually take an honourable place in the somewhat heterogeneous class-list of the world's deliberative assemblies.

A study of these voluminous reports gives fresh emphasis to a parallel—or contrast—which must have struck many of our readers regarding the position in England and in India at the present time. Each country has of late been busily engaged in trying to imitate the other, and each has experienced a certain amount of discomfort in the process. India, which knows all about bureaucracy, is eager to superimpose a democratic constitution upon the administrative machine, which, on the whole, has served her so well; and at the same moment England, the home of modern democracy, has been hastily constructing a central administration of a type for which she has not hitherto felt the need, though it is nearly as familiar in most parts of Europe as in the Asiatic countries from which it is derived.

We have recognised the progress made by India in her new enterprise, but we must admit that England has made a more rapid advance towards the goal at which she aims. Of course, she made many blunders at the start, and if the great Indian bureaucrats of the past from Asoka to Akbar, and from Thomason to Tower Mall, are still interested in the field of their earthly labours; they must have derived infinite amusement from the administrative antics of energetic men placed hurriedly in an altogether strange environment. Energy has, however, told, and while India is still in the first lap of her long course, the chains of bureaucracy are now firmly riveted on this country, which is already beginning to wonder how it managed for so long without possessing anything of the kind.

Some people, however, are never satisfied, and already we hear inconvenient questions as to the future of these things. When the immediate necessity has passed away will England continue to hug the bureaucratic chains which she has hastily forged, or will she hurl them aside and proceed to wallow once more in the liberty—or anarchy—which prevailed until the other day? And will India be satisfied for long with the democratic robes for which she now yearns, or will she after a brief trial passionately rend the flimsy stuff and seek shelter once again behind bureaucratic institutions such as she has known throughout the centuries? It is easier to ask such questions than to answer them, but it is perhaps well that enthusiastic reformers in both countries should realise that the questions are being asked.

The situation in Russia continues to defy analysis, even along the Black Sea littoral, where the Germans have hitherto had things so much their own way. It is reported that the Ukraine is up in arms against the Hetman, who was installed to carry out German instructions in a typical German way; but at the same time the Ukrainians have found opportunity to enter into peace negotiations at Kieff with the Bolsheviks. The one point that emerges clearly from much conflicting evidence is that the hopes based by the Central Powers on Ukrainian cereals have not been realised. In these circumstances it is possibly in Germany's interests to allow the peoples to quarrel as much as possible among themselves. Perhaps with this end in view she is supporting the demand of the Turkish Government that Mussulmans should be at the head of the Crimea administration. There are some two hundred thousand Tartars in the Crimea, but these numbers do not entitle them to control the Government. The claim put forward by the Turks, therefore, will only make for further discord in a distracted country.

A correspondent in *The Times* calls attention to the plight of British prisoners of war in Turkey and to a clause in the Berne Agreement which provides for the repatriation of all the British doctors taken prisoner at Kut, with the exception of one for every thousand British and Indian prisoners. As he rightly points out, the effect of this clause will be to deprive half the prisoners of war camps in Turkey, of which there are more than twenty, of their British doctor. The death list among our prisoners in Turkey has been long enough, as things are, and it would have been longer without the exertions of the doctors. To take away these men now to the extent of leaving a single camp unprovided with a medical officer would make the fate of the prisoners not affected by the exchange still worse. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the British Government will not take advantage of the clause in question in the Berne Agreement, except on the basis that provides for one medical officer at least to each camp.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 22.

Note on the Budget.

The Note of the Acting Financial Adviser on the 1918 Budget appears to have given general satisfaction. It is couched in temperate language and breathes throughout a hopeful spirit, though very rightly it emphasises the temporary nature of the source of the present prosperity of the country and the great need of the continuance of a cautious policy. Sir William Brunyate has struck out an entirely new line in taking up the defence of departments or elements of the Government service which have been the subject of criticism. Even though such criticism may be replied to in departmental reports, the latter do not carry the same weight, nor do they reach as wide a circle, as the annual Note signed by the highest English official in the Egyptian Government Service; and it is to be hoped that, if and when the publication of the departmental reports is resumed, the departure now inaugurated will, notwithstanding, be continued. The criticisms levelled for some time past at the Delta drainage schemes have been very fairly answered, and the more recent criticism of the agricultural policy of the Government has also received what should be an effective reply; whilst in view of the somewhat hysterical correspondence on the subject in one of the local English papers it is satisfactory that Sir William Brunyate should have taken up the cudgels on behalf of the military-age Englishmen who have been retained in Government service, and that he should have so clearly explained what the Government as a whole and the British particularly are doing towards carrying on the present war. His remarks on the situation sound a note of sane optimism, coupled with a determination not to be turned from the path of caution, which has been followed in the past, or to be hustled into insufficiently considered action as regards economic development by the present abnormally favourable conditions. Indeed, his Note gives an impression of strength and of clearness of vision in regard to the true situation, which should inspire everyone with confidence in the future.

Egyptian State Railways.

The Egyptian State Railways announce that as from July 1 next passenger and goods rates will be further raised. The increase in passenger fares will be one-third on the present tariff. When war broke out passenger fares were increased by 10 per cent., and last year a further increase of 40 per cent. was decided on. The new rates which will come into force on and after July 1 will, therefore, be exactly double pre-war fares. As regards goods rates, the increases vary from 20 per cent. over pre-war rates in the case of coal, 150 per cent. over pre-war rates in the case of unpressed cotton. Cereals are, for obvious reasons, expressly excluded from this increase.

The reason for this further raising of passenger and goods rates is, of course, the increase in the cost of coal, of stores, and of labour. According to a statement issued by the State Railways Administration, coal now costs about five times, while stores cost from two to three times, and freights from four to ten times what they did before the war; labour also has risen considerably. The increase in expenditure due to these items alone is calculated to amount to £E2,481,000 during the year, whilst the extra revenue to be obtained from the raising of the goods and passenger rates is estimated at £E2,200,000.

The object of raising the passenger fares is to reduce traffic, while that of raising the goods rates is to make the latter more in proportion to the value of the commodities carried. Both these objects are fully justifiable. The value of commodities of every description has risen so considerably since the war that the old goods rates represent in many cases a disproportionately small percentage of the value, and the increase now made to prevent the transport being effected at a loss owing to the rise in the cost of coal and materials, etc., should not weigh more heavily on the commodities in question than did the rates applied before the war.

As regards the increase in passenger rates, it remains to be seen whether the object in view—i.e., a reduction in traffic—will be attained. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether in the circumstances in which the people of this country now find themselves any rise in passenger rates will bring about a shrinkage in traffic. The bulk of passenger traffic on the State Railways is third class, the element in the community which has benefitted enormously through the war, and which, if it wishes to travel, will and can afford to do so no matter how high passenger rates are fixed.

The only means of restricting traffic would be to introduce a system of permits under which only those who had legitimate and urgent reasons for using the railway would be permitted to do so, and then only at certain intervals. The introduction and carrying out of such a scheme would, it must be admitted, involve a deal of extra work, but it is to be foreseen that, if the war continues, and maintenance work cannot be kept up, the railways will have materially to reduce trains and the number of carriages in each, and that, from the point of view of hygiene and public security alone, some more drastic means of reducing traffic than the mere raising of rates will have to be introduced.

Commerce and Industry.

The report of the Commission of Commerce and Industry constitutes a most complete and able survey of the commercial and industrial conditions existing in Egypt, and of the possibility of their development. The subject is dealt with in a masterly manner, the tone is moderate throughout, and the 200 odd pages teem with information which cannot fail to make the report a useful work of reference, though it is much to be regretted that it should have been published only in French; an English translation would have greatly enhanced its utility. One can see that the Commission has thrown itself whole-heartedly into the mission entrusted to it, and that it is thoroughly convinced of the necessity for early action. It has very wisely forborne to recommend that Egypt should be turned into an industrial country to the detriment of agriculture, and the care which it has taken to emphasise the first call of the latter rather lends force to its arguments in favour of an industrial renaissance. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the Commission entirely endorses the arguments brought forward by Sir Murdoch Macdonald that steps should be taken without delay for the reclamation of all the available land, in order to increase the productivity of Egypt and to support the growing population of the country. There would, indeed, appear to be little doubt that when the land development projects are completed it will be necessary to look round for other means of supporting the enormous population which by then will have come into existence. Those other means are undoubtedly industrial and commercial enterprises; but it will not do to wait until the agricultural possibilities of the country are developed to their utmost to start an industrial movement. Self-supporting and successful industries are not of mushroom growth; and the authorities, even though they cannot give to the subject the attention which the Commission not unnaturally would like to see accorded to it, will doubtless see that steps are taken to ensure that the inevitable industrial movement is in the right direction. Whether the recommendations of the Commission will be adopted by the Government remains to be seen. There is, indeed, much to consider, and the question of policy will play a very great part in any decision on the subject. At any rate, the Commission may rest contented that they have done admirable spade-work, which will prove of invaluable assistance to the authorities when the time comes for them to take up the question on any extended scale.

The Czech Press Bureau states that the great manifestations held in Prague recently were attended not only by prominent Czech leaders, but also by Slovaks, Poles, Italians, and some Roumanians. As regards the Jugoslavs, the Slovenes alone sent over 100 representatives, including their most prominent deputies, while the Croats and Serbians were equally well represented.

THE NEBI MUSA PILGRIMAGE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Moslem tradition places the tomb of Moses on a prominent peak situated not far from the north-west of the Dead Sea and overlooking the valley of the Jordan: the Scriptural account records that "Moses was buried in a valley in the land of Moab over against Beth-Peor." It will be remembered that after some of our mounted troops had captured Nebi Musa (the tomb of Moses) early in the morning of February 21, Jericho was occupied with little opposition.

For centuries it has been the custom of the Moslems of Jerusalem to organize a pilgrimage which leaves the city on the Friday preceding the Orthodox Palm Sunday and returns on the day before the Orthodox Good Friday. Shortly before the appointed time a proclamation is made in Jerusalem and in the neighbouring villages, calling upon all those present to make known to all the Faithful the day of assembly of the pilgrims. The origin of the pilgrimage is found in those dark ages, long since passed away, when bitter enmity existed between the devotees of the Christian and Mohammedan religion. The incursion of many thousands of Christian pilgrims at the season of the Orthodox Easter was regarded with no small apprehension by the Moslem populace, who felt that occasion might arise when the Christians would make use of their temporary numerical superiority for sinister purposes. The only way of removing this apprehension appeared to be to ensure that an equal, if not superior, number of Mohammedans should be in reserve, so to speak; and the easiest method of accomplishing this was to institute a religious ceremony. Happily, the pilgrimage has lost all such significance, and is now regarded purely as a religious exercise. Never before was this so emphatically demonstrated as on Friday, April 26, the occasion of the first celebration since the occupation.

The following is a general description of the ceremony as carried out this year, with no essential variation.

The banners of the Prophet—two of the Haram-esh-Shereef, and two of Nebi Daoud (the tomb of David, just outside the Zion Gate), which are entrusted to the guardianship of the Kottb family—are brought to the Governor's headquarters by the head of the family (now Sheikh Zeki Effendi). There they are unfurled and fixed on poles. The Sheikh repeats a prayer, and the Governor salutes the banners and congratulates the Sheikh. Followed by the banner-bearers, the Sheikh then passes outside, where the banners are saluted by the Moslem guard, with musical honours from the military band. A procession is formed, headed by the band, followed by the gendarmerie, mounted Bedouin police, Moslem troops, and augmented by representatives of various communities ranged behind their respective standards. They pass through the Damascus Gate to a house near the T'kiyeh, called El Kibrieh, to fetch the Nebi Musa banner, which is usually carried by the head of the Klebo family. The banner, enwrapped in the Boukjeh (the covering of embroidered silk), is handed to the Mufti, who removes the covering, and, fixing the banner on its pole, recites a prayer in which all join. The procession then re-forms and slowly passes through the narrow streets of the Holy City to the Haram-esh-Shereef. The head of the Kottb family leads the procession, followed by two members of his own family carrying the two Haram-esh-Shereef banners. Next come two youths carrying those of Nebi Daoud, while behind these is a youth bearing the banner of Nebi Musa, accompanied by sheikhs and muezzins continually chanting. Others beat drums and cymbals and sing popular songs as they make their way to the Mosque el-Akhsa. After prayers the procession leaves the precincts of the mosque, outside which horses are in readiness to carry the bearers of the banners.

It is just at this point that the most spectacular part of the ceremony commences. The procession has grown enormously. It is headed by the pilgrims from Hebron, carrying their own flags; next come those of Jerusalem, carrying the youths' banner (Beyrak el Shabaáb) and pennons. Parties of Bedouin and villagers perform all manner of dances; others indulge in displays of swordsmanship, fighting mimic duels; some recite strange Eastern chants or repeat prayers, while others sing ancient pilgrim songs, strongly Western in character. All these slowly precede the main procession, which is made up of gendarmes, mounted police, town police, a military band (pipes and brass instruments), and a guard, followed by the sacred banners. As the banners are carried out of the Holy City through the Bab Sitti Miriam (St. Stephen's Gate) a salute of twenty-one guns is fired from the summit of the Mount of Olives).

The slopes of the steep hill leading from the Bab Sitti Miriam to that part of the Jericho road lying in the valley of the Kedron are lined with thousands of spectators, mainly consisting of the womenfolk and children. It is a strangely coloured throng, for though the crowd is mainly Moslem, and there is, therefore, a strong background of the black that characterises the women's outdoor garb, there is no restriction as far as the children are concerned; and on them all the colours of the East are lavishly spread.

After having waited patiently for hours, the whole assembly becomes wonderfully animated as the procession emerges from the gate. Many banners are waved among the spectators; some solemnly kiss them, while others fasten their own gay little silk tokens on the poles.

Some way along the road (Res el Amoud), in a tent provided by the municipality, the Governor and a number of high functionaries wait to bid farewell to the pilgrims. The whole route from St. Stephen's Gate to the municipal tent is lined with dense masses of spectators: the time taken by the procession to cover the distance, the total of which is not more than a mile, is from one and a half to two hours. Near the Garden of Gethsemane a guard is placed and presents arms as the banners are borne by. Arrived at the tent, the various parties in the procession greet the Governor, while some of them repeat their performances for his benefit. On the arrival of the banners prayers are repeated, refreshments provided, and words of cheer are spoken, after which the pilgrims continue on the way to the tomb.

Although the war has naturally caused a diminution in the number of pilgrims, as in the number of spectators, this year's celebration will remain for ever memorable. It augured well for the future of Palestine when, through some happy inspiration, representatives of all religious bodies in Jerusalem were united to meet the Governor and the principal Mohammedan families on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Not a great way off were the "tombs of the Prophets," the resting places of those followers of Moses whom Christian, Mohammedan and Jew delight to honour. And included among the prayers invoking blessing on the pilgrims were one for all the communities in Palestine and one for the prosperity of the present rulers of the country.

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JAFFA GREETS THE KING.

The Grand Rabbi of Jaffa, Benjamin Cuziel, who is a man of considerable influence, and represents an important element in the community, has sent the following message through the Military Governor of Jaffa:—

"His Majesty the King of Great Britain. On this happy day, the day of your accession to the Crown of Britain, great, powerful and generous, I feel it my holy duty in the name of the faithful sons of Israel to express our utmost feelings of loyalty and deep gratitude, protected as we are by the wings of your blessed Empire, and grateful for your sympathy as expressed in the honourable declaration. At the same time raising my hands to Heaven, and with eyes full of tears of joy, I pray to God Almighty, Creator of the Universe, King of the Earth, to grant life and peace to our King and to glorify the throne of his Empire. Great will be his honour, and under God's protection it will extend from sea to sea and from the rivers to the ends of the earth. In your days shall Judæa be relieved and Israel shall dwell in safety, and your eyes shall perceive the realisation of her great and honourable aspiration—eternal peace and liberty to all nations.—Amen."

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LAW REFORM IN EGYPT.

SIR MALCOLM McILWRAITH'S VIEW.

The following is the concluding passage of the Rhodes lecture on "The Law and the Law Courts of Egypt," delivered by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, at the University of London, on May 6, under the chairmanship of the Master of the Rolls, a brief report of which appeared in our number of May 10 (p. 378):—

"In conclusion, it only remains to say a word as to the future outlook. It will, I think, be manifest to anyone who has followed this survey thus far that a system so complicated as that which I have attempted to describe, with no less than five distinct bodies of law and five separate sets of Courts—the Mixed, the Native, the Consular, the Mehkemes, and the Patriarchates—all mutually independent, often overlapping, and among which conflicts of jurisdiction constantly arise—that such a system, I say, must eventually be recast and simplified by some general scheme of fusion and amalgamation. But hitherto the path has been blocked by the impassable barrier of the Capitulations, the abolition or fundamental modification of which was a necessary preliminary to any such solution. For many years the late Lord Cromer and his assistants worked unceasingly at this great problem, and that great proconsul published an elaborate scheme for it in his official reports for 1905 and 1906. After his departure from Egypt, in 1907, the project somewhat languished, though the discussion was carried on from time to time by his successors, Sir Eldon Gorst and Lord Kitchener, in private despatches to the Foreign Office. At length the great cataclysm of 1914, in the throes of which we are still involved, seems to have opened a way to a new era. The declaration of a British Protectorate in Egypt, which was one of its earliest effects, has rendered many things possible which formerly seemed well-nigh out of reach. Recently an important Government Commission has been formed in Cairo to study the whole question afresh, and this body has doubtless prepared a new scheme. This new organisation, when we have an opportunity of studying it in detail, will doubtless prove to be rather a judicious combination of existing principles and machinery than any heroic measure of substitution on a large scale of new legal lamps for old. I observe, indeed, in this connection that my successor in Egypt, the present Judicial Adviser (Sir William Brunyate)—though a particularly convinced admirer of British institutions under almost all conditions—observes in his first report, published last year:—"One system of law may be theoretically better, or less good, than another; but no system can be a success which is not understood by the professional men, whether judges or advocates, responsible for its administration. For that reason, if for no other, I should assume that the future law of Egypt must take, as its starting point, the law at present administered by the Mixed and Native Tribunals." To some the proposition may sound self-evident; but having regard to the arguments one often hears advanced in favour of a wholesale substitution of British or Anglo-Indian law for the Franco-Egyptian system which has been in force in Egypt for forty years, this statement was desirable and is reassuring. I am well aware that this view is an unpopular one among the English lawyers practising in Egypt, as well as among many Englishmen with business interests in that country, who would prefer 'a clean sweep,' and the wholesale substitution aforesaid of British law and legal institutions. But I believe that most competent authorities are agreed that whatever view may be taken of the highly controversial question as to the relative suitability of English or French law for the cosmopolitan community of Egypt—in which it must be remembered that the British population is only one, and by no means the largest, of a number of foreign colonies—the situation cannot now be treated as *tabula rasa*. I am strongly of opinion that any such wholesale upheaval of existing principles and institutions as is advocated in some quarters would do far more harm in unsettling and perturbing the large foreign population and upsetting long-established business methods than would be at all counterbalanced by the approval of any one section of the community. The tradition of our rule of foreign dependencies has always been—and it is the highest justification of our claim to world-wide Empire—that we govern them in the interest and for the benefit of the whole community concerned, and not, even primarily, in that of Britain or the British.

Doubtless, however, English precedents will in future be followed in all matters where there are, at present, no settled principles or practice. A summary of the new organization, which has been recently given to the world in an interim report of the Commission, was published in *The Times* of March 29, and, more recently, in somewhat greater detail, by THE NEAR EAST of May 3. So far as can be gathered from these accounts, the principles now definitely approved by the Egyptian Government Commission do not materially differ from those which had been already recommended by a small, and purely English, Commission, constituted by Lord Kitchener, at the Ministry of Justice, in the winter of 1913, and which reported to him in May, 1914—notably as regards such innovations as the unification of civil and commercial law, the extension of bankruptcy to non-traders, and many other matters.

The difficulties of this task of reorganization are obviously great, but the goal to be attained is worthy of the effort involved. That goal is the removal, or at any rate the loosening, of the fetters which have held modern Egypt in bondage for so long, and which even a British military occupation of five and thirty years' duration has been powerless to strike off. Unquestionably, those fetters were necessary in former times, and constituted safeguards for foreigners which cannot, even now, be surrendered without adequate equivalents. But the presence of England in Egypt—rendered permanent by the Declaration of a Protectorate—is a sufficient guarantee to all concerned that the necessary precautions will be taken. Even when peace comes at last, however, and the new organization can be launched, there lies before the Egyptian Government and its civil servants a Herculean task in the coordination, working and efficient execution generally of the new reforms. It is, therefore, profoundly consolatory to reflect that the maleficent influence before alluded to, which for so many years past has lain like a black shadow over Egyptian administration and has blighted some of the best efforts of its agents, has now been happily removed. With the cordial co-operation of the enlightened Prince who has recently succeeded to the dignity of Sultan, the work will proceed under the most favourable conditions; and it may be confidently anticipated that the new British Protectorate has before it a more brilliant future than in any former epoch of its long history.

THE NEAR EAST IN ANCIENT TIMES.

On Monday, Dr. E. W. G. Masterman concluded the course of lectures describing Assyria, Babylonia, and Egypt in the days of their glory, which he has been giving at South Kensington. Of Nebuchadnezzar he said—quoting another historian—"Wise, warlike, energetic, and religious, the second Nebuchadnezzar will always live in history as the type of the religious ruler of old, who knew how to raise the nation which he governed to the highest pitch of ancient glory and honour." Great in every direction, he was greatest as a builder. The next monarch of any note was Nabonidus. He was not of Nebuchadnezzar's line, but was an interloper. He had a son, Bel-sar-user (the Belshazzar of the Bible), to whom he gave most of the power; and we now had in the tablets confirmation of the Bible story of Belshazzar dwelling in security behind the walls of the inner city, while Cyrus contrived to drain away the waters of the river, and so to lower its level that he was able to enter. Cyrus entered the city at night, and that night Belshazzar was slain. Then began the line of Persian kings.

Dr. Masterman traced out on the map the march of Xenophon and the Ten Thousand. The story, he said, explained much that happened later in the time of Alexander; for the fact that the Ten Thousand were able to march right through the middle of the Persian Empire showed that the country was but very imperfectly subdued. The authority of the Persian King was indeed chiefly along the great trade routes.

The march of Alexander was also traced out. The expedition into India, said the lecturer, seemed an unnecessary part of the campaign, but it had indirectly had great results; for it led to the unification of northern India under one monarch. That monarch's grandson was Asoka, the energetic propagandist of the Buddhist religion; and it was the unification of the country which made it possible for Buddhism to spread rapidly through the land. Of the immediate successors of Alexander, the most romantic figure, said Dr. Masterman, was Seleucus. After being for a time Regent of the Empire, he accepted the Satrapy of Babylon. Antigonus, who coveted the whole Empire, came to Babylon with fair speeches, but Seleucus saw that treachery was intended. He escaped with fifty horsemen, and sought and found refuge in Ptolemy, in Egypt. There he remained four years, performing prodigies as a very successful leader and general, until the followers of Antigonus were defeated. Then with eight hundred foot soldiers and two hundred horsemen he set off again to Babylon. He increased this small force as he went along. At Babylon he was received with acclamation, and established himself firmly on the throne. He acquired Syria and Asia Minor, and established the great dynasty, of whom we read so much in the Maccabees, for it was during the slow degeneration of the Seleucidan race that the Maccabees were able gradually to establish the freedom of Palestine.

◆

Sukhum Kale, on the Black Sea coast, has been recaptured by the forces of the Caucasian Government. No further advance of German troops has been reported.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LAW REFORM IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The abolition of the Capitulations will undoubtedly entail the abolition of guarantees given to Europeans in Egypt. Those guarantees are, of course, of vital importance, inasmuch as the Capitulations reserved to fifteen capitulatory Powers the right of dealing with questions pertaining to the personal status of their own nationals and an exclusive penal jurisdiction for them.

All the reports of Lord Cromer, when Diplomatic Agent, and of his successors, have laid stress upon the impossibility of reform while the Capitulations were still in being; and it is because of their existence that Egypt is alleged to be the happy hunting-ground of every rascal who may have been chased from his own country. No doubt there is a good deal to be said for this point of view. But, on the other hand, every foreigner in Egypt—including, of course, the British—will fight to the last for the existence of the Capitulations, unless substantial guarantees can be given that the new Tribunals to be instituted will be very superior to those at present in existence, which have jurisdiction in suits between persons of different nationalities, known as the "Tribunaux de la Reforme," or the Mixed Courts, and the Native Tribunals, who are competent in all matters where native interests are concerned. Unfortunately there is no reason to believe that such guarantees, if given, will be really effective.

It is suggested that a large number of English judges should be added to the Bench, and this, no doubt, would prove advantageous.

It is probable that the first and most essential thing since the political status of the country has been changed by the declaration of the Protectorate is that English should be the language of the Courts. This change could not be effected suddenly, but as the people of the country have a singular linguistic capacity it is probable that they would not be very long in picking up sufficient of the language to make themselves understood.

Prior to the war, hardly a shop in Egypt had an employee who could speak a sentence in our language, although England had been in occupation of Egypt for a great number of years. After a few years of war, there is now no shop or business established in Egypt that has not at any rate a certain number of employees who speak English nearly as well as French.

This is hardly the place to discuss broad questions of policy, but there is little doubt that, had the Government seen fit to annex the country instead of declaring a Protectorate, reform of the legal system would have been far easier. The people of the country would have accepted the situation readily. It must be remembered that the idea underlying the creation of a Protectorate is that the Protecting Power and the Protected State are completely separate political entities, save as regards external relations. The idea is thus fostered in the minds of the Egyptians that there is no particular reason in adhering to the Protecting Power, or in learning her customs and language, or in adopting her institutions. A hostile atmosphere has been thus unnecessarily created, or at any rate perpetuated.—I am, etc.,

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.

Cairo, April 19, 1918.

A JUGOSLAV PROTEST.

A Reuter's message states that the Czech and Jugoslav protest recently presented to the Austro-Hungarian Government says:—

We protest with indignation because the division of Bohemia into districts is merely a result of German Chauvinism. Similarly we protest against the intended separation of the Slovene nation from the body of the United Jugoslav nation of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, as well as against German aggression in the direction of the Adriatic. The deputies of the Czech and Jugoslav nations hereby declare that their nation will never recognise arbitrary decrees or administrative changes which may be introduced. They indignantly refuse to accept them, and decline all responsibility for future developments. They will persist in their common struggle against absolutism and racial predominance, and they will shrink from nothing in their fight for democracy, liberty, self-determination, and political independence.

◆

It is announced in Moscow that the All-Russian Mussulman Council has been dissolved. There are growing signs of Mussulman resentment at the treatment Mohammedans are receiving at the hands of the Bolshevists.

M. Marghiloman, the Roumanian Prime Minister, in opening the election campaign at Bucharest, said the future Parliament would first have to ratify the recent Peace Treaty and then devote its energies to internal reorganisation. The Conservative Party was in favour of the expropriation of big estates.

SERBIA'S NEEDS
GROW EVER
GREATER

AN APPEAL TO BRITISH BENEVOLENCE.

WHEREVER there are Serbians who have survived the tragedy into which their defence of their homeland plunged them, there goes out a constant stream of help and comfort from people of this country who appreciate the extent of their sad plight.

It must not, however, be supposed that complete mitigation of the sufferings of this sorrow-laden people has been accomplished.

The response to the appeal to British sympathy on behalf of Serbia has been great and generous-hearted, but it is far outrun by the ever-growing need of the remnant of this unfortunate nation. At the present moment there is vital need for financial assistance. Money must be forthcoming to provide the old men, women, and children of Serbia and starving Prisoners of War with the bare necessities of life. Food is needed, shelter is needed, the lack of clothing must be remedied, and disease must be checked by the provision of adequate medical aid.

5/- worth of
contentment

As an instance of how your donation can be translated into active help, the fact can be cited that a gift of 5/- will provide a Serbian Prisoner of War—of whom thousands are in the greatest need—with food sufficient to relieve starvation for one week. You can adopt such a Prisoner of War and earn heartfelt gratitude by a regular weekly donation of this sum. Will you not begin to-day?

If you could go to the HAVENS of refuge where representatives of the Serbian Relief Fund succour the need of this sorrow-stricken people, you would see that their gratitude for British help is indeed great. If you could but realise how badly your help is needed, and how much your donation can accomplish, you would not hesitate a moment in assisting to the extent of your power. Send a cheque to-day, and rest content that it is given in one of the greatest human causes to which you could contribute.

Hon. Treasurer:
The Rt. Hon. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, C.B.

THE SERBIAN
RELIEF FUND

5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

The Serbian Relief Fund is the only authorised Fund under British administration working exclusively for the Serbians. Its activities touch every phase of Serbia's present condition. (Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan; parcels of clothing for men, women and children to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE KANGAROOS.*

This remarkable and inquiring animal from the back-water uplands of the Murrumbidgee and the Paramatta, better known to Londoners in its more disciplined condition inside the narrow pens of the Regent's Park Zoological Gardens, has many points in common with the ostrich; but, not having all the African virtues at once, may be more faithfully compared with its cousinly and eucalyptus-pecking emu. It is a very facile sprint winner, and has a cricketing mode of pedestrianism, and a fair whop with a near hind pedal is well calculated to brain any German or any Turk on any desert. The particular prize animal that is now basking indolently in front of our lethal chair has the full inquisitiveness and some of the self-satisfiedness of his species, and discovered Egypt, Syria, Gallipoli and France, and is quite modestly willing, if you will pat him gently, to tell you what he saw. He is really a changed biped, having developed two new virtues —an amazing affection for Egypt and a romantic passion for France—and confirmed one old vice, a snort at the English way of going to war and into cafés or French boudoirs. He has written a book, and when a Kangaroo does that, and a war-book, too, you may be sure it will interest an old Lion or two as well as all other Kangaroos in the family circle, especially when in conclave on the banks of the Nile. The literary qualifications of an animal that presumably never missed its *Sydney Bulletin* are naturally high, but not unblemished; for instance, "beside" has a meaning different from "besides"; also an appeal to the Horse Guards to prohibit the sergeant-majors of the United Kingdom from giving their field instructions in dialects of different hues and acerbities, shows a certain deficiency of Kangaroo humour; also the actual, the future and the "forever" inability of the French and English (not Kangaroo) peoples to understand and appreciate each other appears to at least one Englishman an assertion lacking in discrimination. A very informing book by a gallant Anzac!

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Persecutions of the Greek Population in Turkey since the Beginning of the European War." According to official reports of Hellenic Diplomatic and Consular Agents. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., for the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1s. net.)

"Reports on the Economic Geology of the Porbandar State." By E. Howard Adye. (Bombay: The Times Press.)

"Ponnamal: Her Story." By Amy Wilson Carmichael. (London: Morgan and Scott. 4s. net.)

"The Devout Russian: A Book of Thoughts and Counsels gathered by the Saints and Fathers of the Eastern Church and modern Russian authors." With an Introduction and Biographical Notes. By Rosa Newmarch. (Herbert Jenkins, 5s. net.)

"The Pilgrimage of Premnath." By Edmund White. (Methuen, 6s. net.)

"The Bomber Gipsy and other Poems." By F. P. Herbert. (Methuen, 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Eclipse of Russia." By Dr. E. J. Dillon. (J. M. Dent and Sons. 16s. net.)

"Religions of the Past and Present." By Dr. J. A. Montgomery. (J. B. Lippincott Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

INDIAN OFFICERS' PAY.

The India Office announces that it has been decided to extend to officers of the British Army borne on the Indian Establishment a grant of children's allowances similar to that which was introduced for British service officers elsewhere from October 1, 1917. This concession will have effect from the same date, and will be subject to the following modifications in the War Office scale necessitated by the generally higher rates of Indian pay:—(1) Captains who are in receipt of company command pay will receive children's allowance at the rate of £1 p.m. only, and (2) The allowances will not be admissible to majors. In accordance with War Office practice these allowances will form an addition to the officer's pay, and will therefore be issuable in India unless an officer arranges otherwise. An announcement regarding the grant of children's allowances is being made by the Government of India.

ARABS AND ARMENIANS.

As a result of Arabian co-operation with the British Forces in Palestine, a number of Armenians—men, women and children—who had been deported by the Turks to the desert areas east of Jordan, have been rescued. On the receipt of this news, the following telegrams were addressed to the Emir Faisal:—

From Boghos Nubar Pasha and the Armenian Delegation:—

"To the noble born Emir Faisal,—We have just learned of the rescue of our unfortunate fellow-countrymen through the efforts of your gallant troops in Southern Syria. May God bless and prosper the progress of your arms. The chivalrous act of the noble Moslems who fight under your banners adds fresh lustre to the annals of the Arab race. Every Armenian throughout the world is to-day an ally of the Arab movement; the praises of your clemency and the justice of your cause shall be known wherever we can make our voices heard."

From the Lord Mayor of London on behalf of the Council of the Armenian Refugees Lord Mayor's Fund:—

"I beg to convey to the noble Emir Faisal the deepest thanks of British subscribers for the gallant rescue of the suffering Armenians by your victorious troops."

From the Friends of Armenia, London:—

"We beg to congratulate the noble Emir Faisal on his splendid rescue of suffering Armenians. The Friends of Armenia rejoice in the progress of your victorious troops."

To these the King of the Hejaz has replied:—

"Your kind message to Faisal, of which I have heard, is a proof of goodwill and affection. We pray God to make us worthy of your kind thoughts. Faisal, in assisting the oppressed, has only performed one of the first duties of our religion and of the Arabs' faith. I say with confidence and pride that the Armenian race and other races in similar plight are regarded by us as partners in our fortunes in weal and woe. We ask God before everything to give us strength to enable us to do them helpful service by which to prove to the world the true feelings of Islam, whose watchword is freedom. May God preserve you in health and bring your desires to a successful attainment by His help and favour."

ARABIC POETRY.

On May 22, at the Royal Academy, Sir Charles Lyall, who is one of the greatest authorities on ancient Arabic poetry, read a paper on a little-known Arabic anthology, drawn from his edition of the Moufaddaliyat. It proved a most interesting discourse (writes a correspondent), full of information, scholarly, and going deep into the community of thought and feeling between East and West in regard to all that matters, although the poetical imagery of the East may not be easily rendered in any European language, by reason of the greater richness of Arabic in this respect. Sir Charles gave many examples of poems, beautifully translated, as he alone of the present-day students of Arabic can render them into English, and his paper was delightful throughout.

The chairman, Lord Reay, complimented the lecturer highly, and called attention to the importance of Arabic for its literature and history. His words should be taken to heart, not only for the sake of learning, but also in the interests of commerce and politics. Various speakers expressed their appreciation of Sir Charles Lyall's paper and of his scholarship; and on the chairman's invitation, Mr. A. Séfi thanked him for so much good feeling shown and such trouble taken on behalf of the Arabic speaking peoples, whose sentiments in these days of battle and strife he expressed by means of a short quotation from Mouallakat Amr-ibn-Kalthum. This poet, said Mr. Séfi, eloquently expressed the views, and breathed the very sentiments which now guide the British nation in its war against elements subversive of all humanity and established order.

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The Anglo-Jewish Press Agency announces that, following the example of the British Labour Party and the American Federation of Labour, the United Hebrew Trades of New York, with a membership of over two hundred thousand, have adopted resolutions favouring the establishment of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine, and declaring that the peace treaty should secure for the Jewish people equal rights, including national rights in all lands and freedom for colonisation in Palestine, which shall lead to an independent State.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.
London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East and of Africa, and on Oriental and African Religions and Customs.

For particulars, apply to E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

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* "By-Ways of Service." By Hector Dunning. (Constable and Co. 6s.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1336.	5678.
May.	May		Shaaban.	Sivan
31	18	Friday	20	20
June				
1	19	Saturday........	21	21
2	20	Sunday	22	22
3	21	Monday	23	23
4	22	Tuesday	24	24
5	23	Wednesday	25	25
6	24	Thursday	26	26

M. Protitch, Serbian Minister of Finance arrived at Corfu last week.

M. Venizelos arrived in Salonika on Monday, and will make a short stay there.

Dr. Trumbitch, President of the Jugo-Slav Committee, who arrived at Corfu last week, has now returned to Salonika.

The wife of Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Elkington, D.S.O., gave birth to a son on May 22 at Adbury Holt, Newbury.

Dr. Boshko Tcholak-Antitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister to Stockholm, arrived in London on Monday from the Continent.

Earl Curzon arrived at Carlton House Terrace on Monday from Hackwood, Basingstoke, and was joined in the afternoon by Countess Curzon.

Sir James Meston had an audience of the King on Tuesday upon relinquishing his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh on Saturday sent in for consideration an overture proposing the erection at Jerusalem of a Scots Church.

Residents of Ceylon are sending as a birthday gift to Queen Mary 1,000 guineas as an addition to the £5,000 which they have already given to the Roehampton hospitals for limbless soldiers.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Major-General Sir Percy Cox with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire, and of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India.

An executive decree fixing the Civil List of the King of the Hellenes at £64,000 has been signed by his Majesty. It is provided that the King shall henceforth pay into the public Treasury all Customs, land, and income taxes to which he may be liable.

Considerable sums of money have been collected for the fund to provide a memorial for the late Zionist leader, Dr. Tchlenow. This memorial will take the form of a colony in Palestine, which is to be part of a more comprehensive scheme for the foundation of 30 colonies, with an agricultural population of 15,000 persons.

Lord Robert Cecil was last week elected as Chancellor of the University of Birmingham. The election was proposed by the Vice-Chancellor. In seconding, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that Lord Robert Cecil had steadily made his way in public estimation. and his conduct of affairs as Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office and Minister of Blockade had earned him golden opinions.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major G. A. Slaughter, M.C., the Worcestershire Regiment, attached Machine Gun Corps, of Mhow, C.I., eldest son of Surgeon-General W. B. Slaughter and Mrs. Slaughter, of The Scarletts, Colchester, and Dorothy Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. J. H. Cox, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. Cox, of Indore, C.I.

Lieut.-General the Right Hon. Sir Bryan Mahon was received in audience by the King on the 24th inst., upon relinquishing his appointment as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Forces in Ireland, when the King invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Sir Thomas Holdich presided at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held at Burlington Gardens on Monday. The Founder's Medal was awarded to Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell for her explorations and travels in Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and on the Euphrates. In her absence, the medal was received on her behalf by her father, Sir Hugh Bell. The Cuthbert Peek grant was presented to Mr. G. F. Archer for his surveys in East Africa connecting Major Gwynn's Abyssinian triangulation with the triangulation of East Africa.

The engagement is announced between Alfred C. Matthew, of Colombo, Ceylon, second lieutenant, Hampshire Regiment, second son of the late Ven. Archdeacon W. E. Matthew, of Colombo, and Mrs. Matthew, 26, Priory Court, West Hampstead, and Ellen Marjorie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Apthorpe, Trinity House, Cambridge.

The Union of East and West, in conjunction with the Indian Art and Dramatic Society, held an Empire Day gathering in the Lecture Hall at the Grafton Galleries. Addresses on "Empire" were given by Sir John McCall, Mr. Edward Lucas, and Sir Frederick Pollock, and Mr. Laurence Binyon (Assistant Keeper of Oriental Prints at the British Museum) gave an illustrated lecture on "Indian Painting."

The West London Jewish National Fund is arranging on Sunday, June 9, a Palestine Fair at the club rooms of the literary and Philharmonic Circle, 9, Langford Place, W., which have been placed at its disposal free of charge. A number of valuable articles have already been presented. In order to make the function a success further contributions in money and kind are required and will be gratefully accepted by Mrs. Barnett (hon. sec.), 49, Westbere Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2.

At the Royal Scottish Academy, on Monday, Prince George of Serbia presented to the Scottish nation a bust of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, the work of M. Mestrovitch. The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Munro) accepted the gift, and paid a high tribute to Dr. Inglis's work in Serbia. M. Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister (who accompanied by Madame Yovanovitch and M. Pavlé Karovitch had travelled to Edinburgh the previous day) also paid a tribute to the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

A correspondent informs us that Prince Arfa Edowleh has recently erected in the gardens of his house, Danichgah, at Monaco, a beautiful monument to Darius. It faces another monument, to Cyrus the Great, which the Prince erected in 1912. Our correspondent sends us also a newspaper cutting which explains the *raison d'être* of the monuments. After quoting from Mr. Villiers Barnett's "Les Perses à Monaco," the writer says: "This distinguished author adds that Darius, in returning from Europe to Persia, disbanded the Phœnician fleets which were in the Bosphorus and had served as a bridge and a means of transport between Asia and Europe for the Persian armies. The King of Kings sent a part of the Phœnician ships to visit the Mediterranean colonies (which Cyrus had annexed to the Empire) and to disseminate the news of his victories. It is known that in the course of this friendly demonstration the fleets of Darius called at the Port of Monaco, among other Mediterranean havens, and there for some time anchored. This is the event which the new monument commemorates. It is an exact reproduction of the bas-relief which Darius caused to be sculptured during his lifetime in his palace at Persepolis."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Colonel T. H. Hardy, Indian Army, has been promoted Major-General.

Bimbashi J. T. Simson, Sudan Sleeping Sickness Commission, has been re-transferred to the Army.

Bimbashi E. S. Oliver, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Veterinary Inspector.

Colonel (temp. Brigadier-General) P. J. Fowler, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army, has been promoted Major-General.

M. Marco Tsemovitch, who has been appointed Counsellor to the Serbian Legation in Madrid, left London for Spain last week.

Bimbashi R. F. B. Knox, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed 2nd Inspector, Sennar Province.

Bimbashi R. H. C. N. Fearnside-Speed, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed 2nd Inspector, Darfur Province.

Bimbashis W. A. Stewart and P. W. G. Diggle, transferred to the Sudan Government, have been appointed Inspectors of Agriculture, Resources Board.

Mr. Maurice Henry Weston Hayward, Indian Civil Service, has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in succession to Sir Stanley Lockhart Batchelor, who has resigned.

The *Sudan Times* announces that Bimbashi J. A. Keith, District Judge, Sennar Province, has been transferred to Berber Province, El Damer; that Bimbashi L. S. Lloyd, 2nd Inspector, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, has been transferred to Berber Province; that Bimbashi G. Donne, 2nd Inspector, Sennar Province, has been transferred to Mongalla Province; and that Bimbashi H. Genge-Andrews, 2nd Inspector, Berber Province, has been transferred to Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.

OBITUARY.

Major-General Arthur Domville Corbet, C.B., R.M.L.I., died on Sunday last, aged seventy-one. He served in Egypt in 1882.

A cable received from Madras announces that the death took place on May 5, at the age of thirty-four years, of Mr. Austin Gibbs Ronald, of the Indian P.W.D., the third son of Mr. A. W. Ronald, of Aigburth, Liverpool.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Charles Rowley Hay Drummond, late Scots Fusilier Guards, and fourth son of the eleventh Earl of Kinnoull, died on May 23 at Sunningdale, Berks, in his eighty-first year. He served in the Crimea in 1855.

Mr. Gerald Robert Dampier, Indian Civil Service, Collector of Bareilly, and Acting Commissioner of Rohilkund, died on the 17th inst. at Naini Tal, India. He was the author of a monograph on the brass wares of the North-Western Provinces.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. Wyville Thomson, Indian Medical Service, died suddenly on Monday at Bonsyde, Linlithgow. He saw service with the Waziristan Expedition in 1894-5, and later in the operations on the North-West Frontier of India in 1901-2.

Mr. W. J. Dwyer Burkitt, of the Indian Civil Service, died at Naini Tal on the 19th inst. He joined the Service in 1893, serving in the United Provinces, and was promoted as joint Magistrate and Settlement Officer in 1900, and Assistant Commissioner in 1904. Subsequently he was Registrar of the High Court, a Deputy Commissioner, Magistrate, and Collector, and District and Sessions Judge.

Colonel Napier Miles, C.B., M.V.O., 1st Life Guards, died suddenly, after an operation, on Saturday at his residence, Ingelburne Manor, Malmesbury. Born in 1854, he joined the Army in 1875. He took part in the Egyptian expedition of 1882, being present at the actions of El Magfar, Mahsameh, both actions at Kassassin, the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and the march to and occupation of Cairo. He was the recipient of the medal with clasp and the bronze star. He also served with distinction in the South African War of 1899-1900.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports, under date of May 26: A private telegram which has reached the Roumanian Colony here reports the death at Jassy of M. Delavrancea, the Roumanian Nationalist patriot, who was one of the principal supporters of the entry of Roumania into the war. M. Delavrancea, who was Minister of Manufactures and Trade in the last Bratiano-Take Jonescu Ministry, was a member of the Roumanian Academy and a novelist and dramatic author, as well as one of the greatest Roumanian orators.

Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, late of the Indian Civil Service, has died at his residence in Crawford Gardens, Margate, at the age of seventy. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1869, and was appointed Acting Secretary of the Board of Revenue in 1884 and President of the Municipal Commission in 1885. He was Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate in 1886 and District and Sessions Judge in 1888. Mr. Mackenzie was Resident in Travancore and Cochin State from 1900 till 1904 and an additional member of the Legislative Council of Madras in 1902.

Admiral Sir Gerard Uctred Noel, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., died on May 23 at his home, Fincham, Downham, Norfolk, aged 73. The second son of the late Rev. A. W. Noel, rector of Stanhoe, Norfolk, he entered the Navy in 1859. His early service was in the Far East and in Home waters, but in 1873 he was appointed to the Active, on the West Coast of Africa, where he commanded the seamen who served with the force which, under Sir Garnet Wolseley, captured Kumasi. The folowing year he was made a Commander. After service on the Royal yacht and with the training squadron, he was given command of the Téméraire, in the Mediterranean, and in 1891 he was appointed to the Nile. In 1898 he became Rear-Admiral of the Mediterranean Fleet, and when the serious disturbances in Crete broke out it was he who so well protected British interests. In describing those incidents, *The Times* says: "On September 6 the mob of Candia broke into open violence and attacked the small British force which was occupying the Custom House. It was not till after many hours' hard fighting, and the loss of nearly 60 English killed and wounded, not to dwell on the massacre of some 800 native Christians, that the Turkish Governor of the town thought it necessary to interpose. When order was restored, Noel sent to the Governor an order, in the form of an ultimatum, to hand over the ringleaders of the riot within 48 hours. There remained no doubt in the Turk's mind that the English Admiral was in grim earnest; the ringleaders were delivered up, were tried by court-martial and hanged. At the same time the Concert of the Powers had delivered an ultimatum to the Porte, which led to the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the island. Noel's admirable conduct in very trying circumstances was rewarded with the K.C.M.G., a distinction which was commonly thought to be inadequate to the great service he had rendered the country. It was not till nearly four years later that he received the K.C.B., and the G.C.B. in 1913." Subsequently he commanded the Home Fleet, and was Admiral-Superintendent of Naval Reserves (1900-3); Commander-in-Chief on the China Station from 1904 to 1906; and at the Nore from 1907 to 1908.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise,
is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.
WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C A.). **ALEXANDRIA.**
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stav, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1918.

BULGARIA AND HER ALLIES.

The signs of the times in so far as they concern South-Eastern Europe are full of interest at the present moment. From the meeting at the German Headquarters, which was intended to put the seal upon Austro-Hungarian subjection to Germany and, in the words of the Vienna correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, "to render impossible a war against the German Empire by the German-trained Austro-Hungarian army," the Emperor Karl repaired to Sofia and Constantinople. The visits in themselves were due as an act of courtesy on the part of the new Sovereign to allied monarchs, and for this reason there would be no occasion to attempt to read into them more than the discharge of an ordinary obligation. An official Note in a German paper, however, states that the journey was of very great political importance, and it is clearly the desire of the German Government that it should be believed that the new military alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary is to be extended to Bulgaria and Turkey, and to carry with it equally close associations in the domain of economics. Insistence upon this point at this stage justifies the inference that the negotiations are not proceeding altogether according to plan. It was, no doubt, tactful to entrust the first overtures to the Emperor Karl, on the principle that prompts the employment of tame elephants to catch the wilder species; in any case, the German Emperor was able to exhibit the complete confidence that he now felt in the author of the indiscreet letter to Prince Sixte. The success of the mission, however, could only be judged by its results. As far as Turkey was concerned, there was probably no loophole for failure. Official Turkey is so completely under the domination of Berlin that all suggestions from the German paymaster are assured of immediate acceptance. With King Ferdinand of Bulgaria the situation is different. He has never abandoned his personal independence, however much it may have suited his book to allow his Government and the country to bear the brunt of the German alliance. In the indisposition which is said to have prevented him from meeting the Emperor Karl at the station of Sofia, but which happily did not require the cancellation of the State banquet, will be recognised a very clear message in the language sometimes affected in royal diplomacy—language that no one knows how to use to better purpose than the King of Bulgaria. With this opening gambit it is not a matter for surprise that the Emperor Karl was forced to leave the game at Sofia a draw or that he made a further attempt, but without success, to secure a more satisfactory result by breaking his journey at the Bulgarian capital on his return from Constantinople.

If the Emperor Karl had been commissioned to bring Bulgaria wholly into line with the Central Powers, he was given a task beyond his ability. As King Ferdinand has contrived for three years, while accepting German help, to keep the worst features of German co-operation away from the country, it is unlikely that he would choose the eve of a battle on the Western front that may exercise a decisive effect on the course of the war as an occasion for riveting upon Bulgaria the shackles she has hitherto been at pains to avoid. A sufficient explanation of the lack of any warmth in the reception awaiting the Austrian Emperor at Sofia might be found in the new military pact with Germany, which is calculated to rouse the contempt of King Ferdinand, while possibly making it a little more difficult for Bulgaria to support the rôle of quasi-independence in the Central Alliance. There is, however, a further reason for Bulgaria's being somewhat *difficile* as an ally at this time, in the pressure that is being brought to bear upon her in regard to the Dobruja. The facts are common knowledge. By the Treaty of London Turkey was to be restricted to a frontier along the Enos-Midia line. When the Bulgarians came to grief in the second Balkan War the Turks obtained the cancellation of this arrangement, and by the treaty signed at Constantinople secured Adrianople and a strip of territory on the west of the Maritza, leaving the Bulgarian railway to Dedeagatch to run for a portion of its length on Turkish soil. This anomaly was corrected in May, 1915, as the price of Bulgaria's adherence to the Central Powers. In view of the fact that Bulgaria was to receive the Dobruja as her share of the spoliation of Roumania, the Turks lodged a claim for compensation, and demanded at first the cession of all the territory ceded to the Bulgarians by the agreement of 1915. A compromise has been suggested by Germany by which Turkey is to surrender Kara-Agatch, the station for Adrianople, while she receives the whole of the left bank of the Maritza from the railway station to Kuleli-Burgas. It has been announced that these terms have been accepted by the Bulgarian Government; but it has stipulated that Turkey shall not make any further claims to territorial compensation at Bulgaria's expense, whatever gains may be secured by the latter during or at the end of the war. Whether the Turkish Government has actually given this undertaking or not is not definitely established, but there seems little doubt that Bulgarian misgivings on the subject have not been entirely removed, and a tendency to blame the Central Powers in this connection has manifested itself in Sofia.

Unless this diagnosis of the situation in the Balkans is altogether at fault, the present moment is likely to find the Bulgarians, with King Ferdinand as well, more or less susceptible to outside influence. In the absence of a military defeat, however, the Radoslavoff Government is in a strong position, as it can point to the success of its policy in securing for Bulgaria all she wanted, and indeed more than she had ventured to expect. Any notable success for the Allies on the Macedonian front would probably suffice to convince the Bulgarians that there was also a debit side to their account. For this reason, the recrudescence of activity in this theatre is to be welcomed. Fighting began in Albania, where as the result of three days' operations French and Italian troops succeeded in advancing their line west of Lake Ochrida. Their opponents were Austrians, and consequently any punishment inflicted upon them may be lost on the Bulgarians. The Allied line, however, was in an unsatisfactory position west of Koritza, and a rectification at this point may have been indispensable to action elsewhere. What is wanted is something more than a certain liveliness to mark the full time of spring or the approach of summer. The difficulties of a Macedonian offensive are admitted; but a perfectly co-ordinated plan of campaign would allow the Allied War Council to exercise just sufficient pressure in this theatre to encourage the Bulgarian desire for peace. The resultant advantages would be practically decisive in their action on the course of the war as a whole. When it is realised with what a small expenditure of man-power Germany has brought the eastern theatre under subjection, we may be allowed to regret that the Allies should have lacked the knowledge or the vision required to make the most of their opportunities in the Balkans. Even without a preliminary Allied success the time must come when Bulgaria will seek release from a false position; and there are more ways than one of expediting this moment.

THE KING AND THE NEAR EAST

By ESTELLE BLYTH.

June 3 is the birthday of our King. Though no open rejoicings can mark the anniversary in wartime, most surely the heart of every subject throughout his wide dominions will turn that day with special love and trust and reverence to him who is the very bond of Empire. Love of the monarchy and honour for the Crown are deep-seated in the heart of every Briton, here and overseas; our common history has proved it time and again, though perhaps the most notable instance was in 1660, when, with real relief and happiness, the whole nation welcomed the restoration of the monarchy after dour experience of a Protectorate. "Were the King's crown hung on a bush I would fight for it!" said the stout-hearted cavalier, Sir Jacob Astley, voicing that passionate loyalty for the Crown which is the heritage of every true Briton—to which we, happy in our generation, can add a deep personal devotion to the King.

The East especially needs a personal touch—a Royal head to which it can give a personal devotion. An Eastern Republic would be a freak. No Republic of the West, however perfect, would hold the greater East for longer than a generation. This personal feeling, which is at the bottom of India's passionate loyalty to England during the war, will find an echo in Palestine, who now claims a share in that freedom and self-expression which she has so long envied in Cyprus, Egypt, and the Sudan. It will be no little thing to her, when freed, to feel herself a member of the British Empire—that grand commonwealth of nations of which our King is head; and the fact that the King has actually been to Palestine, and is still remembered there, establishes at once the personal element which is all-important in the East.

It was in 1882 that the King and his elder brother visited Palestine, but the memory of their visit is still clear in Jerusalem. The elder Prince was grave and quiet, ever courteous and considerate beyond his years. Of Prince George remains the sunny recollection of a frank English boy, whose sense of fun missed nothing, even on the most official occasions, and whose fresh enjoyment of whatever came his way enlivened everything. There is the story of how, walking staidly through the Damascus Gate of the city on his way to some site, Prince George broke up the official solemnity of the procession by suddenly charging full into a large flock of sheep, shouting "Baa! Baa!" until the whole flock was scattered and the whole street in joyous commotion. How the people love that story, and "the Prince who baa'd"! Another story tells of his escape on some expedition of his own, his joy in the unwonted freedom being quickly turned to wrath by the discovery that he was being shadowed by a young Moslem selected by the Consul for his special trustworthiness to attend the Princes everywhere. Prince George's peremptory command to go away at once met with the reply, in broken English, that "the Consul said he was to stay," and in the end the two returned to camp together, wrapped in gloom. But, just at the entry to the camp, the Prince turned with the gracious, boyish words: "I say, I spoke roughly to you, just now. I'm sorry. Of course, you couldn't help it!" followed by the offer of a cigarette, as from one gentleman to another. To this day the King is always "my Prince" to the man he scolded and forgave.

For close upon a century our country has enjoyed the blessing of a pure and upright monarchy. The high traditions of Queen Victoria's reign have been perpetuated in those of her son and grandson, and, as we may rest assured, will be equally safe in the hands of our soldier Prince of Wales. We are, indeed, so used to the goodness of our Royal House that we have come to take it as a matter of course, and perhaps never think about it at all. Moreover, the stern reserve which marks the man of English blood and descent forbids us to say much where our hearts feel deepest. Let us for once forswear reserve, and lay an open tribute of heart-whole fealty and devotion before the King as our gift. It may be that some strengthening of his hands, some lightening of his burden, will come to him in realising what he means to us.

The war has drawn very close the bonds between the King and his people. However remote from him we may be by residence and station, he is no longer to us—and he can never be again—merely the wearer of the Crown of All the Britains. He has shared every burden with the humblest of his people. He knows the strain of anxiety for young lives at the front, and the keenness of loss when trusted friends have perfected service by sacrifice. He has shared the dark days with his people, as he has gloried with them in the heroic deeds of his sailors and soldiers and airmen. We know that his heart is most with those who, by land and sea and air, are offering their lives for the welfare of the nations. We know that he would gladly lead his men and share their hardships, as England's kings have done in days of old; but another service is required of him as the ruler of this people that is so great; and so, humbly, unselfishly, and unwearyingly, he lives amongst us at home as one that serves. Yet is he in the truest sense the leader of his people. It is always he who sets the example in every call for discipline and self-denial, and if as a people we had been perfectly true to his lead in all these ways of national restraint, we might well feel that we at home were worthy of our fighting men abroad.

Every one of us has suffered through the war, and it is certain that every one of us is thankful to be allowed to take his or her share of the trouble of the nation; but on our King, as King, the burden must rest of necessity more heavily. We can only guess what it must be like to be the head of such an Empire as this—so absolutely diverse in creed and character and race, and yet so finely one at heart; few statesmen are better versed in Imperial politics and problems than the King, yet his feeling for his people is a thing he can never really express. This shyness is one of his most markedly *English* characteristics. When he says to outgoing troops: "My thoughts will be always with you," we feel that his heart has spoken through his outward shyness, and that his thoughts *are* always with his men in every peril of the war. He is the bond of the Empire, the point to which all eyes turn, and, for all his shyness and humility, he has never failed his people, nor come short of their highest expectation. We know that when there is a sacrifice to be made, an example to be set, a burden to be borne, the King quite naturally will lead the way. How much poorer our national life would have been these four years of the war without that quiet, simple, dignified figure as its centre!

True King in leadership of his people, true knight in all that is pure and straight and disciplined, true English gentleman in the fullest meaning of that high word, our well-beloved King stands to each one of us, both East and West, as the bond and centre of the Empire's unity, the symbol of its enduring greatness as the first monarchy in the world.

The King will follow Christ, and we the King,
In whom high God hath breathed a secret thing.

SUFFERINGS OF THE JEWS IN NORTHERN PALESTINE.

The reports which come through from the parts of Palestine still occupied by the Turks paint the condition of the Jews there in very gloomy colours. Some fugitives who arrived lately in Vienna stated that the mortality was terrible, not only from disease, but also from hunger and exhaustion. Food, they said, was abundant, but there was a great scarcity of money. According to the *Lemberger Tageblatt*, of 4,000 Jews at Safed, 3,000 are without bread. At the beginning of April Jemal Pasha ordered all the Jews to evacuate their colonies and all towns near the front. In spite of Talaat Pasha's utterances, Zionist organisations are still forbidden to work in Palestine.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

That august body, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, cannot, one imagines, find its work very lively, however useful it may be. It has now, however, a chance to vary the monotony of its proceedings. For I see by the *Morning Post* that one of the appeals to come before it in the course of next sittings "is connected with a claim by the chief officer of the Wallahageda Temple, Ceylon, for a declaration that he is entitled to conduct a ceremony with elephants and tom-toms through the streets." If I were a member of the J.C. of the P.C., I should stand out stoutly for the production of the elephants and the tom-toms—and for a sample ceremony, too, if that would not upset anybody's feelings. Or, no! On second thoughts I would have the elephants produced, for they are lovable beasts; but the tom-toms would have to do their part of the ceremony at a distance, and preferably with water between them and my august self. That is the way to hear them at their best, as any one who has lived in the East will surely bear me out.

⁂

Some time ago I had occasion to chip the Bolshevik champion, *The New Europe*, and it is only fair that I should take note of its abject confession of the error of its ways—up to a point. As far as I can make out, it is now anxious to draw a line somewhere between extreme Socialism and Bolshevism, and the latter has been jettisoned. It is done this way. After thrusting Bolshevism down the throat of its readers, week in week out, beginning with an attempt to prove that there was no German gold behind the Bolsheviks (February 14), then representing Bolshevik diplomacy as the saviour of Europe ("From this calamity"—a peace dictated by German generals—"Russian diplomacy saved Europe," February 21), and finally offering the Russians, and incidentally the Allies, no alternative between "the Bolsheviks and the Germans" (April 25), we now have a new writer who is allowed to say that "No one who prizes the principles of a new Europe can have any truck with Bolshevism." When a publication stands for the future disintegration of Austria-Hungary and champions the actual disintegration of Russia, one begins to wonder whether, when the latter cause is thrown overboard, the former is going to follow suit. It will be necessary to watch the weather—or, at least, the weathercock.

⁂

Apropos of the article, "Germany and the Mid-East," which appeared in last week's Near East, and the mention therein of the *Akhunds*, a reader calls my attention to some verses, entitled "The Akhoond of Swat," which were perpetrated by an American humorist, George T. Lanigan, some years ago. Beneath the title appears the legend "The Ahkoond of Swat is dead," which, we are told, is a quotation from the "London Papers of January 22, 1878." The first verse of the "pome" runs:—

"What, what, what,
What's the news from Swat?
Sad news,
Bad news,
Comes by the cable led
Through the Indian Ocean's bed,
Through the Persian Gulf, the Red
Sea and the Med-
Iterranean—he's dead;
The Ahkoond is dead!

Having got into his stride in this way, the irreverent "poet" begins his second verse thus:—

"For the Ahkoond I mourn
Who wouldn't?
He strove to disregard the message stern,
But he Ahkoodn't."

And informs the Swats:

"Your great Ahkoond is dead—
That Swats the matter."

That is pretty bad; but it is as nothing to the fourth verse:—

"And skeptics mock the lowly mound
And say, 'He's now of no Ahkoond!'
His soul is in the skies—
The azure skies that bend above his loved
Metropolis of Swat.
He sees with larger, other eyes,
Athwart all earthly mysteries;
He knows what's Swat."

I wonder how many of Mr. Lanigan's readers had ever heard of the *Akhund* before they read these light-hearted verses.

CORSAIR.

THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF ROUMANIA.

At King's College, London, on May 29, Mr. D. Mitrany traced the evolution of the idea of political and national independence in Roumania. He said that people had its origin in the blending of Dacians with Roman colonists on both sides of the Carpathians in the first century of our era. Afterwards the Romans withdrew in face of invaders, some of whom settled down and became the Magyars. Magyar oppression induced some of the Roumanians to cross the Carpathians and establish the States of Wallachia and Moldavia. The constitutions of these principalities were very liberal for their time; but the Roumanians fell under the Turk, and a steady decline set in which reached its worst under the Phanariote regime. At that period the peasants were the slaves of the boyars or landowners; these were the thralls of the princes, who were Greeks from Constantinople; and the princes were the abjects of the Sultan's ministers. The renaissance began about the same time; but in the province of Transylania, which had been ceded by the Turks to Austria in 1699, the Austrian Emperor, Joseph II., set on foot a movement aiming at placing the Church of Transylvania under the supremacy of Rome. At that time the Roumanian peasantry of Transylvania, although forming a majority of the population, were living as an unrecognised semi-servile nationality, without political rights. The Roumanian clergy expressed themselves as willing to accept certain points of the Roman Catholic creed, but claimed in return not only rights for themselves, but also the full political and national emancipation of the Roumanian population of Transylvania. The movement failed because of Magyar opposition, but it had as one result that Roumanian boys were admitted to Hungarian seminaries and colleges, and some were sent to Rome. There the sight of Trajan's column and contact with a Western people had the effect of rousing the national spirit. They came back to establish schools in Transylvania, where they taught the Roumanian language and history, and this movement spread to Wallachia and Moldavia. Another influence came from France. The Phanariote princes, with a few exceptions, had previously held the position of dragomans with the Porte. Obliged to make use of the French language in their diplomatic relations with foreign Governments, they habitually employed French secretaries, as well as French tutors for their sons. The great boyars took example by their princes, and French education became a habit. Thus French authors of the eighteenth century became known, and their influence was greatly increased when a number of *emigrés* found their way into the country after the French revolution. In the nineteenth century the main channel of Western thought was through the foreign consuls—often acting against the wishes of their Governments. In 1848, when the movement for Roumanian independence had been suppressed by the action of Russian and Turkish troops, Mr. Cunningham, the British Vice-Consul at Braila, forcibly delivered some prisoners who were being taken into exile to Turkey. Among these was Alexander Cuza, who afterwards became the first prince of united Roumania. In 1866 an intrigue forced him to abdicate, and he was succeeded by Prince Carol of Hohenzollern. The close relation with Germany which this had introduced had brought great advantages to Roumania in such fields as science, music, and industry; but the political influence had been detrimental and reactionary.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The offices of the Roumanian Government Mission have been removed to Bank Buildings, Portugal Street.

Greek recruits of the 1918 class from the third military region, comprising Patras and other centres of the Peloponnesus, have been called to the colours.

General Skoropadski, the Ukraine Dictator, according to a Moscow telegram, considers it necessary to protest against the annexation of Bessarabia by Roumania.

It is stated in Moscow that the Turkish claims in the Caucasus include Novo Rossiisk, with all warships, harbour works, and stores, for which compensation will be paid.

The lecture by Sir G. W. Forrest on "The Constitutional Development of India," before the Royal Historical Society, which was announced for May 31, is unavoidably postponed.

The Jewish National Fund Commission has received reports from Palestine intimating that the cultivation of market gardening produce is being undertaken on a much larger scale than was hitherto possible in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

Through Count Mirbach, German Ambassador at Moscow, the Trans-Caucasian Government has proclaimed to belligerents and neutrals the separation of the mountain tribesmen from Russia and the formation of an independent State.

At Buckingham Palace, on Saturday, the King inspected detachments from two companies of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain A. T. Williams and Second Lieutenant R. Lean, Indian Army Reserve of Officers. The men belong to the Ranchi District, in Bihar and Orissa, and are on leave from the Western front.

The National Indian Association gave an "At Home" on Wednesday at 21, Cromwell Road, to meet Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, who came from India in Mr. Montagu's party, and Sir Prabashankar Pattani, who joined the India Council earlier in the year. The large gathering included Lord Carmichael, Sir Charles Lyall, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Sir Murray Hammick, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan (the other Indian member of the Secretary of State's Council), and Lady Kensington.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy and the Jugoslavs.

In an article entitled "Italy and the War," the *Observer* pays a well-merited tribute to the work done by Mr. Wickham Steed and Dr. Seton Watson on behalf of the oppressed races of the Central Empires. But for their labours, says the *Observer*, the recent conference at Rome might never have met. The article continues:—

> Its success was assured largely by the agreement reached by the Jugoslavs themselves under the moral leadership of Dr. Trumbitch, but above all by the constructive vigour of Italian thought and statesmanship since the national awakening after the Isonzo and Piave battles.
>
> Not only is a Jugoslav division now fighting gallantly in the Italian ranks against the common enemy. The pledge of Italy to support the cause of united Jugoslavia has given new hope and energy to the Czecho-Slovaks and the Poles. Throughout the Hapsburg Monarchy it has set up a movement as formidable to Austria within as are the Allied armies without. Let the main fact be thoroughly understood. In Austria and Hungary the German and Magyar control, and have mobilised against the Allies, nearly 30,000,000 of Slavs and others whose natural sympathies are on the side of the Allies and against the enemy. But for that one fact Germany could never have sustained the war. But for that the merciless dismemberment of Russia, the enemy's present mastery of Serbia, Roumania, Finland, the Baltic provinces, Poland, the Ukraine, would have been impossible. We can hardly pretend to-day to touch even the fringe of this vast and complex question; but what we have said for the present is enough to show why Italy's influence, her practical strength, her moral glory, stood higher upon last week's third anniversary of intervention than at any time since she spurned suggestion of the Great Refusal and embraced rather the Great Resolve.
>
> The Rome Conference has done almost as much for the spiritual unity of the Allies as the Rapallo policy for their military unity. Of an anti-Slav Imperialism on the Adriatic nothing more is heard in Italy. Of a pro-Austrian clique nothing more is heard in this country. We are purged of the weakness and disgrace of having amongst us even a handful of ill-informed sentimentalists who would have sacrificed Italian and Slav rights to Germany and Magyar ascendancy—to the inane hope of making, with Austria, a separate peace which would be iniquitous if it were not impossible.

Greece in Spring.

A correspondent who writes in *The Times* of an excursion to Delphi gives incidentally this pleasing picture of Greece in her spring garments:—

> All those who think that Greece is a worn-out arid country should see it as it really is. Its coast may be rough and rugged and without verdure, but inland every nook and corner is cultivated. The young corn is springing up on all sides, and the labourers are busy in alternating vineyards, mulberry orchards, and olive groves. The valleys and hill-slopes are glad with blossom of almond, pears, and apricot, and along the irrigation rivulets the strips of grass look like illuminated scrolls. The air is redolent of thyme. Marigolds, vetches, and hyacinths abound, and as one climbs those flowery slopes into the mountains, the eye leaps across the valleys to coloured villages, lying secluded and content far from the wrangling and unhappiness of the world.
>
> A carriage-road climbs the ascent to Delphi, but it goes a long way round, and we left it at the half-way village of Chrisso—a place of painted houses, ancient plane trees, and fountains—and started upwards on a rough track for Kastri, or Neo-Delphi. The air was crisp, and all nature sparkled. Groups of friendly mountain folk passed us down the track—youths with classic features, blue-eyed peasant girls, black-robed *papas*, children who offered us bunches of wild-flowers. Fields of asphodel swayed in the breeze, and a tall, plume-shaped, greenish-yellow plant, which the natives called *galaxida*, showed brilliantly against the soft-toned sides of the valley. Another plant that abounded was a saxifrage with dark green border and bright green centre, covered with a sort of filmy wire. Small marigolds and marguerites were everywhere, and many other wild flowers.

The Mesopotamia Campaign.

In an article entitled "Nine Months' Work in Mesopotamia," the *Manchester Guardian* takes stock of our position in the land of the Tigris and the Euphrates. The article (which appeared on May 27) says:—

> We are still some seventy miles from the point at which our right and centre would meet at Mosul, and our left, above Ana, on the Euphrates, has not reached any natural halting-place. If the campaign had to be regarded alone, the position of the three isolated horns of our invasion, operating hundreds of miles from their base on the Persian Gulf, would be precarious. Railways have followed them as fast as may be, but even so the enemy have the advantage in communications, through Aleppo and Mosul, and strong Turkish counter-attacks directed against each in turn would be hard to deal with. Our successes in Palestine have made such attacks impossible. Mr. Candler reminds us that in Marshall's swift advance through Hit and Ana a vast accumulation was found of the supplies which Falkenhayn had amassed for a Euphrates campaign last autumn, and which he had to abandon in face of our advance on Jerusalem. On the other hand, the defection of Russia has been an unexpected boon to the Turk. But for it we could have been in Mosul by now, instead of having to undertake ourselves the securing of our right flank, for which we depended on the Russians in Persia. With both hands free, the enemy, after the Russian withdrawal last winter, could doubtless have debouched through the Persian hills upon the Tigris. As it is he looks like having to let Mosul go in his attempts to save Damascus.

Austria and the Oppressed Races.

The Times published on Tuesday an article entitled "A Disordered Monarchy," by J. M. N. Jeffries. The author deals with the Southern Slav revival and its effect on the Dual Monarchy. He writes:—

> The great national revival of the Southern Slavs is complicating things seriously for Austria-Hungary, or more strictly speaking for the corrupt Government of that Monarchy, for the leaders, in or out of office, for all the Tiszas and Czernins and Andrássys and Windischgrätzes who superintend the hapless young Emperor Charles. In a country which is in a state of complete disorder, which may at any moment grow to more than disorder (especially if Ludendorff's strokes in the West fail), these tributary personages look as if they might be caught in a vice. The central Germanophil block over which they preside, a block composed of Hungary and of German Austria (which it would be simple and fit to call Germaustria), is dangerously surrounded on north and east and south by its own subjects—its subjects, that is, of neither Teuton nor Magyar blood.
>
> Examine the map, and you will see that all along the northern side of this block lie the countries of the Czecho-Slovaks, the Poles, and the Ruthenians. In the centre, roughly speaking, from above the Danube to Switzerland, Austria-Hungary makes her connection for physical and spiritual nourishment with Germany proper, snuggling up like a long, thin lamb to the breast of congenial and beery Bavaria. But south of the block again stretching from the Italian border to Serbia and Montenegro, and separating Germaustria from the Adriatic Sea, live the several kindred sections of that one and same race whom we are learning to call the Yugo (or Southern) Slavs. East of the block lies Roumania. The map shows, in fact, that Austria-Hungary is an advanced political salient of Germany. She is surrounded by other peoples, whom she might have conciliated, to whom she might have brought liberty in her own commonwealth. But she has chosen instead to maltreat them and stunt their development, and now they are rounding on her and turning their eyes to us, the Powers of the Entente.

The author sketches the history of the Jugoslavs and their fight for freedom. The South Slavs, he urges, constitute a race:—"For it is indeed a race; Serbians of Belgrade, Slovenes of Lubliana (Laibach in Germaustrian), Croats and Montenegrins and Bosnians and Herzegovinians and Dalmatian Slavs are all of the same stock; their language hardly differs. In Serbia, Montenegro, and among the Serbs of Austria-Hungary Cyrillic characters are used. The Croats and Slovenes use Latin characters, but the tongue is almost identical." Austria-Hungary is the country that has best understood the latent unity of the Southern Slavs, for obvious reasons. The article concludes:—

> Figures are excessively dull things, of course, but in a few of these dull figures we can almost see why Austria-Hungary went to war. In the Empire there were between Germaustrians and Magyars 20½ millions, between oppressed and suppressed nationalities 30½ millions—20 masters in the house and 30 slaves. There can be no doubt of the servitude; some of the facts are stupendous. A Bosnian officer to whom I was talking a few days ago told me that the 2,000.000 Bosnians were only allowed four secondary schools, and in all schools German is the obligatory language. A voter in Hungary must declare his vote openly, Government officials taking due note if a Slovak votes contrary to their desires. No wonder there are only three Slovak Deputies at Budapest for three million inhabitants of that race. And these are but instances chosen among many.
>
> It is readily understandable, therefore, that when the star of Serbia began to rise after her victories in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 and a steady stream of Southern Slavs began to emigrate towards her from Austrian territory, and those who stayed behind began to see in her the representative of their race, Austria decided that the growth of Serbia must be stopped. Her own task, that of preventing a majority of her peoples from leaving an Empire wherein they were treated as inferior beings by a minority, became frankly impossible when a free State in the government of Slavs rose like a prison escape agency just across her borders. So Tisza and the others demanded war at the Crown Council in Vienna and deliberately threw Europe into flames and bloodshed. The great point to bear in mind is that Austria-Hungary is equally responsible; no dupe of Germany was she. The only difference is that Germany was out to rob the world, while Austria did not wish to disgorge long-stolen goods.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Roumania and the Allies. May 27.

Lord R. Cecil, Minister of Blockade, informed Mr. King that the treaty made with Roumania on August 18, 1916, was not still operative. He replied in the negative to the question whether, owing to Roumania having concluded peace with the enemy, the aims and objects as well as the exact provisions contained in that treaty were now definitely abandoned.

Mr. Runciman asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could make any statement with regard to the recent Treaty concluded between Roumania and the Central Powers.

Lord R. Cecil: In view of the interruption of communications with Roumania I have not, as yet, been able to obtain the original text of this Treaty and the maps upon which the territorial adjustments are based, but it is clear from the summary which has been published in the Press, and which is without doubt substantially accurate, that this Treaty subjects Roumania to the complete military, economic, and political domination of the Central Powers. As my right hon. friend stated in the House on March 11 last, his Majesty's Government has deep sympathy with Roumania in the cruel position in which she has been placed, and it remains for her friends and former Allies to do their utmost at the eventual Peace Conference to obtain a revision of the harsh terms which have been imposed. The Allied Ministers at Jassy have, in fact, officially notified the Roumanian Government that their Governments cannot but consider as null and void the stipulations of a peace forced upon Roumania, in so much as they violate the rights and interests of the Allied Powers and the principles for which we are fighting. More specific protests and reserves have been formulated in regard to the abolition of an European Danube Commission which was instituted by International Treaty.

Proposed Reforms for India.

Colonel Wedgwood asked whether a statement would be made as to the constitution reforms that were contemplated for India; and, if so, when.

Mr. Montagu (Secretary of State for India): The Viceroy and I are presenting to the Prime Minister a report containing our proposals as to the steps which should, in our opinion, be taken in fulfilment of the announcement of August 20. At this stage, therefore, I am not in a position to make any statement.

Colonel Wedgwood asked whether the House would have an opportunity for discussing this subject, and Mr. Montague replied that the question should be addressed to the Leader of the House. But at the present stage the Prime Minister and the Cabinet must have an opportunity of considering the matter. He could not say when they would be able to consider it.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks asked for an undertaking that the Government would not put into operation any reforms, either by Orders in Council or by Proclamation, before introducing a Bill in the House. Mr. Montagu referred the hon. member to the pledge given on August 20 that there would be an opportunity for criticism of any proposals which might ultimately be brought before Parliament. The pledge would be observed strictly.

Sir J. Jardine invited the right hon. gentleman to give an indication as to when the proposals would be laid before the House, and Mr. Montagu pointed out to the hon. member that only a fortnight had elapsed since he had brought the proposals to this country.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

It is officially announced that the Secretary for India proposes to alter the Regulations for the examination of candidates for the Indian Civil Service as follows: "No person will be deemed qualified who shall not satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners (1) (a) That save as hereinafter provided he is a British subject; (b) that if he (being a British subject) or his father or his mother was not born within his Majesty's Dominions and allegiance then at the time of his birth his father was a British subject or the subject of any State in India, and that such father still is or continued to be until his death a British subject or the subject of such State in India." It is intended that the new Regulations shall apply to candidates at the open competitive examinations of 1919 and subsequent years.

Reuter reports that the full text of the Bulgarian Socialist party's reply to the recent Inter-Allied Socialist Memorandum has been received. This is the first official answer from enemy countries to the memorandum. The Bulgarians accept the general proposals of the Allied Socialists and the majority of the territorial adjustments suggested. They maintain that for ethnographical reasons Macedonia should be united to Bulgaria, but it seems probable that they would agree to autonomy for Macedonia. The Bulgarians express the hope that the German Socialists will reply to the Inter-Allied Memorandum "in an equally moderate and conciliatory spirit."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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While much has been heard of industrial activities in British India very little has so far appeared on the subject of similar developments in the Indian States during the war period. In this case silence has not been synonymous with inactivity; in one State in particular, Gwalior, progress of a remarkable kind has been accomplished. In the Indian States the influence of personal rule, it is scarcely necessary to point out, has the fullest play, and, in consequence, much depends on the personality of the ruler.. H.H. the Maharaja of Gwalior has long been regarded as a far-sighted and progressive administrator whose ambition it was to do all in his power to contribute to the material advancement of his State. The correctness of this estimate is fully borne out by recent developments in Gwalior, where a little over a year ago, through the initiative of his Highness, the Gwalior State Trust was established, and on its first year has achieved results of unquestioned importance for the future of the State.

⁂

The Gwalior State Trust was founded to organise commercial enterprises either already in existence or to be created, and to give assistance in the shape of money or advice to those desirous of undertaking industrial enterprises in the State. How far these objects have already been achieved may be gathered from the report of the first annual general meeting held at Gwalior recently under the presidency of H H. the Maharaja, when a most interesting survey of the activities of the trust was given by Mr. G. A. Moncrieff, who referred to what he termed their ambitious programme, and said that they had been very busy during the twelve months with preliminary investigation. He added, however, that they had not been merely busy with investigation, but could point to accomplished facts—a very modest statement, in view of work which has enabled the trust to declare a dividend of 5 per cent. in its first year!

⁂

To describe in full the trust's operations and plans would require much more space than is at my disposal, so I must perforce confine myself to outlining the main undertakings of the year. First of all the Scindia Mills, which Mr. Moncrieff pointed out had long been idle, were restarted by the Scindia Paper Mills, Limited, under the managing agency of Messrs. Balmer Lawrie and Co., of Calcutta; and have been working night and day at a profit. In this concern the trust has a considerable holding. Then the Gwalior Oil and Soap Co., Limited, has been formed, and has practically completed the erection of an oil mill at Gwalior. This company has had the marked advantage in these times of being able to secure much of the necessary machinery. Another company, the Gwalior Motor Services, Limited, is taking over the Gwalior Motor Service, and plans are under weigh for a great extension of this service. Then, as investigations have brought to light the suitability of certain clays in the State for the manufacture of roofing tiles and similar material, it is proposed to erect a factory for their utilisation with a view to the introduction into the State of what is thought certain to become a most flourishing industry.

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The principal development of the near future is in regard to agriculture, for the trust is forming the Gwalior Agricultural Co., Limited, to take over from fifteen to twenty thousand acres of selected land with a view to conducting farming operations on a large scale. Mr. S. Higginbottom is the agricultural adviser of the company, Mr. D. Griffin the agricultural and machinery adviser, and Mr. J. McGlashan the adviser in technical chemistry and sugar-cane cultivation, and the company will work in close touch with the Gwalior State Agricultural Department, which possesses admirable laboratories established by the Maharaja. As regards the utilisation of the land, Mr. Moncrieff stated that sugar-cone, wheat, oilseeds, and dairy farming were the subjects which at the moment were receiving most attention, but later fruit cultivation, canning, etc., would be undertaken. Finally, plans have been prepared under the advice of Professor Stanley Jevons for the laying out of an industtrial city at Gwalior.

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The continued effect of the war on the traffic through the Suez Canal is to be seen in the report of the company to be presented at the annual meeting in Paris on June 3. Last year the general maritime movement consisted of 2,353 transits, representing a net tonnage of 8,368,918 tons, as against 3,110 transits and 12,325,347 tons in 1916. In other words, there was a diminution of 757 transits and 3,956,429 tons, while the difference between the figures for 1917 and those for 1913—the best normal year—is represented by 2,732 transits and 11,664,966 tons. In short, the Suez Canal traffic has declined by well over 50 per cent. during the war. Rather more than half of last year's traffic, it is worth noting, consisted of movements of Government ships and freighters. In 1917 it will be recalled that the dues were again raised, and this step to some extent compensated for the decline in the traffic.

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In no direction has the work of the Government of India been more fruitful than in connection with agriculture, and as a result of a steady process extending over many years the Indian ryots are being gradually educated up to the appreciation of better agricultural methods so that, as Mr. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, put it in a speech before the Liverpool Rotary Club, it is no longer correct to speak of "the unchanging East." That this should be the case is the more satisfactory in view of the efforts now being made to place India's industries on a satisfactory basis, for it is obvious that the country as a whole will derive much more benefit from industrial expansion if the industry which always has, and always will be, India's mainstay makes progress in accordance with the trend of the times.

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In this connection it is gratifying to know that the Indian ryots are far from failing to appreciate the benefits they have derived from British rule. Thus the recently issued Administrative Report of the Central Provinces refers to the desire shown by the ryots to lend steady support to the Government, while they have given a cordial response to special calls, as, for example, in connection with the War Loan. "In the Chattisgarh Division, for instance," says the report, "when the War Loan was started the cultivators spontaneously said that it was their duty to help the Government in view of all that had been done for them in the great famines, and the number of small contributors showed how strongly this idea had taken hold among the people."

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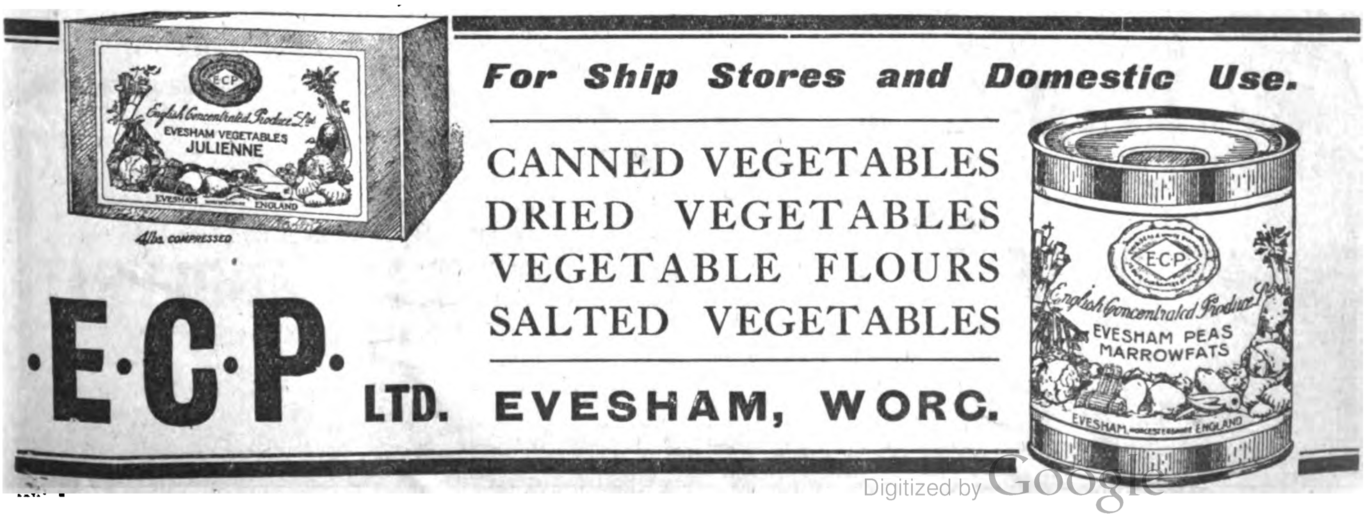
It is reported that the Burma Gold Dredging Company, which has been carrying on operations at the confluence of the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main streams of the Irrawaddy above Myitkyina, is to be closed down. The company has paid no dividend, and Government has received no royalty on the operations.

⁂

It will be noticed that Germany was careful to stipulate in the peace treaty with Roumania for the resumption of the Roumanian debt service as regards future maturities. In addition, overdue coupons which have not been met are to be paid within three months after the ratification of the peace.

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Another point in the treaty which calls for further reference is the stipulation for compensation for damage done through military operations. The main reason for Germany's insistence on this clause was, no doubt, because the considerable German interests in the oil industry suffered from the destruction of the petroleum wells on the retirement of the Roumanian army. Germany had very substantial interests in the Steaua Romana Company, a concern which increased its capital from £2,000,000 to £4,000,000 in 1913, all the new shares being taken by the German Petroleum Company of Berlin. The chairman of the Steaua Romana Company is Herr von Gwinner, chairman of the Deutsche Bank, and the company has offices in Berlin. It only remains to add that the company has properties, refineries, and pipe-lines in the most important oil districts of Roumania.

COMMENTATOR.

SMYRNA-AIDIN RAILWAY.

Payment of Debenture Interest.

General and class meetings of holders of Debenture stocks of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin are to be held on June 27 to pass a resolution in regard to the payment of interest on the Four per Cent. First Debenture stock and the Five per Cent. Second Debenture stock. It is proposed to take power to defer until the expiration of 18 calendar months after the half-yearly day fixed for payment of interest on the Debenture stocks which shall first occur after the termination of the war the payment of all or any of the instalments of interest. Deferred interest will be paid in simple interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum computed from the respective dates on which but for this scheme interest would have been payable. Deferred interest on the First Debenture stock may be satisfied by the issue of Four per Cent. First Debenture stock to the amount of £120 stock for every £100 of interest; deferred interest on the Second Debenture stock and any interest on the interest (in lieu of cash) may be satisfied by the issue of a like nominal amount of Five per Cent. Second Debenture stock. No dividends will be paid on any of the share capital while any interest deferred under this scheme remains outstanding.

THE RISING RUPEE.

Prospects of Further Advance.

Towards the middle of April the Indian Government raised the official rate for sterling exchange by one penny, thus placing the value of the rupee round about eighteenpence. This announcement probably conveys nothing more to the ordinary reader beyond the knowledge that to those fortunate enough to have money in India an opportunity presents itself to transfer funds home at a profit of about 11 per cent. compared with the pre-war exchange of 1s. 4d.

In these circumstances it might naturally be assumed that a rising flow of remittances would ensue to this country; but so far as we can gather, there is far from any rush to take advantage of the concession. The reason for this apparently apathetic attitude may be found in recent advices from India, which indicate that a still higher level is expected, and one authority in the leading Bombay newspaper states that there are many believers in an advance to 1s. 8d.

It is no doubt true that when the Indian Government departed from its previous policy by raising the exchange, public confidence in the stability of the rupee was rudely shaken. In support of the innovation, the Finance Minister declared that Government could not undertake to continue the issue of rupees at less than the cost of the coin, so that with the subsequent advance in the price of silver the rupee exchange was bound to follow.

The question now before those with pecuniary interests in India is whether the maximum has been reached, or is there likely to be another rise. At recent conferences held in Bombay and Calcutta, where the Finance Minister met the Chambers of Commerce in both cities, he laid particular stress upon the absolute necessity for raising rates by reason of the fact that Government would otherwise have been obliged to coin rupees at a substantial loss. Unfortunately, this admission dispels the belief that the Government were pledged to maintain the rupee in the neighbourhood of 1s. 4d., and it is difficult to combat the argument that Government need not enlarge upon the loss involved in minting rupees with silver bought at 49 pence an ounce, in view of the fact that formerly they pocketed a profit of 30 per cent. upon their coinage when silver was at half a crown.

It is only natural that merchants should seek to penetrate the veil of official reticence and ask for a pronouncement on the Government's future intentions, but as the whole matter hinges upon the course of silver, it is manifestly impossible to forecast its policy. What we do know is that enormous purchases of silver have been made from the American Government, which will build up the reserves of currency, and ought to place the Indian Government in a position to cope with all the calls upon its resources.

Advices to hand show that the replenishment of the Treasuries has begun, and as the process will now be continuous for a considerable time, it is extremely improbable that the Government will be forced to adopt such a drastic measure as making their rupee notes inconvertible—a step which would only be resorted to as a last resource.

Meanwhile importers are making huge profits because they are paying for goods at the rate of about Rs.13.6 annas to the pound, as against Rs.15 when the rupee was 1s. 4d. In ordinary conditions, the exporter would be penalised, but as all exports, except those of urgent national importance, are practically prohibited, and the Government is the principal buyer of the produce being shipped, it is apparent that the importer is reaping the benefit at the Government expense.

With no claim to a prophet's mantle, we must leave the question where it stands at present, but, taking a broad view of the position and considering the aversion which the Government must have to these disturbances in the rupee exchange, it is not at all unlikely that the large additions now being made to the currency may place any further advance in exchange out of court.

GOLD MOHUR.

BRITISH TRADE IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, April 15.

At a recent extraordinary general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce an amendment to the statutes was voted to the effect that "the Chamber may further permit any person or firm not being a British subject to subscribe to the monthly journal, such subscription not constituting any right to membership or attendance at any meeting of the Chamber." As the reports in the local Press have been somewhat incomplete and are of a nature which might mislead the general public to think that the Chamber is making a new departure by admitting non-Britons as subscribers to the journal it may be as well if I state the full facts of the case.

The original statutes of the Chamber permitted non-Britons to become, and enjoy all the privileges of, members excepting that they could not vote, or serve on the committee. This meant that non-Britons could, and had the right to, obtain access to the confidential information put at the disposal of their British competitors by British organisations in this country or in other parts of the world. In view of the closer attention which is being given to the collection of commercial intelligence of use to British traders, and of the livelier official support that is being accorded to the British trade developments it was obvious that the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt could not expect to receive this confidential information or have the right to claim official support if non-Britons could by rights obtain free access to such information and benefit by such support.

The Chamber has therefore now altered the statutes in the sense quoted above, and it is to be presumed that all non-British members have now been notified that they can from now onwards only be accepted as subscribers to the journal. It may be objected that acceptance of non-Britons in such a capacity is not compatible with the position of an institution intended to defend and promote British trade, but it must be pointed out that the journal contains no information of a confidential nature, and that in any case non-Britons can see it at the clubs or in the offices of British members.

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THE FUTURE OF THE YEMEN

Its Natural Resources.

An interesting article appeared in the *Board of Trade Journal* of May 23 on the natural resources of the Yemen and their development, from which we give the following extracts :—

Yemen is chiefly agricultural, and any scheme for developing her resources should have as its main purpose the improvement of agricultural conditions. This could be effected as follows: The improvement of caravan routes by such repairs as are feasible, and by political measures to safeguard caravans from freebooters; the establishment of commercial confidence between growers and buyers—the system of "howalahs" (or letters of credit) answered fairly well until dislocated by the lack of integrity in Turkish rule; and an extended system of water supply.

Yemen farmers in the hills make use of suitable ravines to construct cement-lined tanks for the storage of surface-water. These answer very well within their limited scope, but local engineering talent is unable to cope with the enormous amount of surface-water that goes to waste. From observations taken at various times in different parts of the country, the average annual rainfall in the Yemen hills may be computed at 30 inches. This exceeds that of the United Kingdom, yet droughts are the bane of agriculture in Yemen. The country has been recklessly deforested under Turkish rule, and there is little doubt that the rainfall has thereby been diminished. Moreover, if definite steps are not taken to re-afforest suitable tracts, Yemen is bound to suffer severely in the not very distant future from a fuel famine.

The Yemen farmer has little to learn from outsiders as regards the details of practical agriculture under local conditions, but the crops he raises are not always chosen with an eye to the market. In a country which imports, in an average year, only £100,000 worth of cereals, and has a brisk market for imported cotton goods and synthetic indigo, to cultivate cotton and indigo on soil that would grow heavy crops of millet is not sound economy.

Consular reports mention the existence of petroleum on the Farsan Islands, and rock-salt at Salif, and state that gold, iron, copper, sulphur, coal, chrome, etc., are known to exist in different parts of this province. To these may be added lead, mercury, and agates.

Afforestation.

A moderate scheme to afforest the country would receive the support of the ashraf and sadah, who are the influential classes. Such a scheme should not, at first, aim at more than establishing nurseries of young trees suitable for firewood.

The market would easily stand the importation of more timber. The dhow-building industry alone could do with twice its pre-war supply, at least for some time to come, if coastal communication is to keep pace with reviving trade. It does dhows no good to lie up for the length of time that most Yemen craft have done. The introduction to up-country builders of light-girders as floor-beams would save the life of many a young tree. Girders are widely used in the spacious houses of Hodeidah for this purpose, but they do not find their way up-country, being too long and heavy for camel transport. Native buildings inland are, almost invariably, tall stone towers on a comparatively narrow base, which would only require light short girders; cumulative floor-strains need not be considered, as such buildings can be completely gutted by fire and yet stand indefinitely, and, to all outward semblance, intact.

For practical forestry, trees that flourish naturally in Yemen should be selected, and methods followed which are already familiar to the inhabitants. The highlands and lowlands should be considered separately, for, apart from their widely different botanical conditions, their populations differ considerably in temperament and calling. The white-flowered mimosa (*Acacia albida*) will do well in the highlands between 4,000 and 9,000 feet. Besides its value as firewood, it is a useful timber tree, supplying knees and ribs for dhow-building, as its wood is hard and weathers well, though the tree is too crooked and knotty for planking. It can be grown from cuttings in favourable ground, such as ravines where perennial moisture occurs.

Cuttings, however, will not suffice for any adequate scheme, and nurseries for seedlings must be organised. The highland farmer can easily be induced to spare a corner or two of his coffee terraces for this purpose, for he is fond of trees, and a trifling emolument would secure useful co-operation, for he is more a gardener than a farmer, as any-one who has seen him nursing his coffee through a drought will testify. The coffee would give the seedlings all the shade they require. The broad-leaved wild ficus can be grown from cuttings at mid-altitude in the vicinity of wells or perennial springs.

In the lowlands (i.e., the foothills below 2,000 feet, and the Tihamah or maritime plain) the population is mainly pastoral, which means that young trees have little chance unless safeguarded for a considerable period. Even the agricultural population settled along the alluvial tracts of the larger wadis will not co-operate willingly.

Enclosed nurseries, with an adequate water supply, are, therefore, suggested. Walled gardens, quite suitable for such a purpose, already exist in the Tihamah, and are tended by responsible native gardeners. Aeromotors (wind-vane pumps) might be introduced in the Tihamah to save the expense of well-bullocks and attendants, but they would be unprofitable among the hills, where air-currents are capricious. As regards suitable trees for lowland forestry, the tamarisk is the tree for the practical forester. The Zizyphus jujuba, or jujube tree (the "ber" of India), can also be grown with advantage among the foothills and up to 4,000 feet. It grows slower than the tamarisk, and yields better timber.

Yemen is no Eldorado, and, in spite of its amazing fertility under favourable conditions, the lack of perennial rivers or adequate water storage is a handicap to agriculture. Still, it used to be a prosperous country before the Turkish occupation, and its resources could be expanded considerably by suitable measures inaugurated with tact. In any case, the comparatively large and settled population of the Yemen makes the country a desirable objective for importers.

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In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piraeus.
In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Mines in Chalcidice.

According to reports from Greece very rich mines of asbestos and other minerals have been discovered by Englishmen at Galatista in the Chalcidice peninsula, south-east of Salonika. The exploitation of these mines, the Greek papers state, will be conceded to a large British company. The discovery has naturally given great satisfaction to the surrounding districts. It would be very interesting if the experts would extend their investigations to the island of Thasos, north-east of the peninsula. There is no doubt that there are mines in that island, and valuable mines, known to and worked by the Thasians, as Herodotus tells us, but all attempts in modern times to find or exploit those mines have been baffled, discouraged, or abandoned. The geographical position of the island made the wily Turk cautious in granting concessions, and it is noteworthy that one given to a German in recent years, before the Balkan War, was cancelled or abandoned after the unsuccessful attempts of the Kaiser to establish a coaling station in Thasos.

Any local information should not be seriously regarded by the investigating engineers, who must undertake technical and scientific investigations on the spot. The historian Herodotus saw the mines, and says of them :—"For the Thasians, having been besieged by Histiaeus, the Milesian, and having large revenues, applied their wealth in building ships of war and fortifying their city with a stronger wall. Their revenues were derived both from the Continent and from their mines; from the gold mines of Scaptæ-Hyæ proceeded in all eighty talents yearly, and from those in Thasos less indeed than that amount, yet so much that, as they were exempt from taxes on the produce of the soil, there came unto the Thasians in all, from the Continent and the mines, a revenue of two hundred talents yearly, and when the greatest quantity came in three hundred talents. I myself have seen these mines and by far the most wonderful of them are those which the Phœnicians discovered, who with Thasos colonised this island, which on that occasion took its name from this Thasos, the Phœnician. These Phœnician mines are in that part of Thasos between a place called Ænyra and Coenyra, opposite Samothrace; a large mountain has been thrown upside down in the search." In spite of this definite information from the very accurate and truthful historian, little, if anything, has been done to find the mines in the place to which he refers. About twenty years ago the Khedive of Egypt (who was then supposed to be the owner of the island) sent a party in search of them, but without any satisfactory results. Fifteen years ago Herr Fr. Speidel, of Pforzheim, obtained a concession for forty years from the Turkish Government for the exploitation of a mine of zinc situated in a place called Vouves, a little north of Limenaria, and one year later he obtained another forty years' concession for the exploitation of any mines of iron, zinc, silver, lead and copper that he might discover within two years. In virtue of these concessions, exploitation work was at once begun, and considerable profits were derived, owing to the discovery, in the western and south-western part of the island, of a rich mine of zinc abandoned by the ancients, to whom its use was evidently not known. From many points of view, therefore, it is worth the while of British mining engineers who happen to be in that region at the present time to extend their investigations to Thasos.

Machinery for Bread.

The latest news from a formerly famous agricultural machinery market, which may appeal to machinery engineers, in that agricultural machinery at the present time is being bartered to the peasants in Southern Russia by the Bolshevik Government in exchange for bread.

Small Threshers Wanted.

Small and modium-sized threshing machines are in great demand in Greece the large Ægean Sea islands, Crete, Cyprus, Egypt and the regions under British control in Asia Minor. The prospects of would-be buyers obtaining these machines from America is very slight owing to a similar demand in the United States.

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INDIA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, speaking at a meeting of the Liverpool Rotary Club on May 23, dwelt on the recent economic developments in India and the organisation of trade information. He said that on the economic side of India, it was no longer right to talk of the "unchanging East." India was changing, and changing rapidly, economically, and the importance of that to this country lay not only in the fact that it was part of the British Empire, but that even before the war she was the seventh or eighth of the trading nations of the world, while outside of Europe she was only surpassed by the United States. Of the import trade of India, two-thirds went from this country, but, as regarded her export trade, England only took 25 per cent. of her products. Changes were taking place not only in the towns but even among the farmers, and out of the population of 315,000,000, 72 per cent. were engaged in agriculture. On the industrial side there was the same movement going on.

◆

Budapest boot dealers have decided on a one-day strike as a protest against the fixing of maximum prices for boots.

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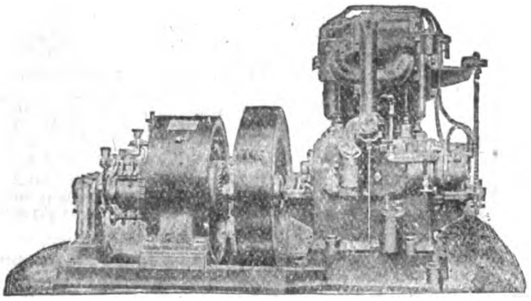
BEDFORD, ENGLAND.
OIL AND GAS ENGINES.

Vertical Enclosed Forced Lubrication.
Designed for Paraffin, Petrol, Alcohol, Town, or Producer Gas, &c.



Suitable for driving:—
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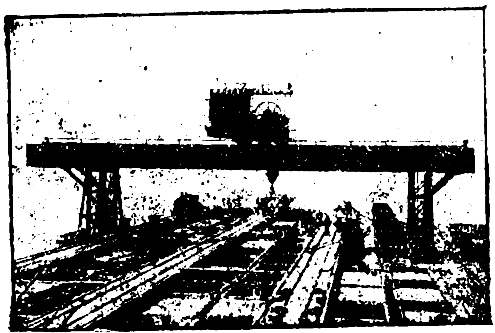

42-ton Steam Goliath Crane.

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For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.
— ALSO —
HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER RAILWAY PLANT
(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers.) SUCH AS
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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Unsettled Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has presented an unsettled appearance. Owing to the further restriction of output and the advance in wages, it has been difficult for buyers and sellers to fix a basis on which to do business. After protracted discussions, the employers and operatives have agreed to a rise in wages of 25 per cent. on list rates from June 10. Very varied ideas prevail as to the increased cost of production as a result of the shorter working hours and the higher payments to the workpeople. The market in all quarters has been distinctly dearer. Egyptian yarns may be said to be about 3d. a pound higher than ten days ago. The consumption of Egyptian cotton in Lancashire has recently increased. Crop reports are generally satisfactory. Mills in Bolton and district are exceedingly busy. Piece goods for Egypt have not attracted much attention. There has been an inclination on the part of shippers to hold aloof until better advices are received as to clearances abroad. More resales of cloth bought for Egypt have been reported in the market. India has not given much support, operations being confined to small lots, chiefly in bleaching descriptions. Advices relating to the monsoon are awaited with considerable interest. China remains very dull. Numerous manufacturers have scarcely known what to quote, but when in doubt have been on the top side. A smart advance has occurred in American yarn prices. Business to a considerable extent has been blocked, partly owing to the small supplies available. Export trade in yarns has been at a low ebb.

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OVERSEAS TRADE.

An admirable piece of work has been done in the compilation of "The Register of Overseas Buyers," now published for the first time by Messrs. Bemrose and Sons, Ltd., of London and Derby (price £1 1s.). Here is, to quote the sub-title of the book, a tabulated list of buyers, agents, and importers in the Dominions and in the Allied and neutral countries, with information on customs, tariffs, imports, and exports. It is admitted on every hand that the ravages of war have to be made good by increased production, but increased production requires larger markets, and these must be sought overseas. Producers who have already catered for foreign markets must widen their operations; those who have not felt the need of entering this market must begin to pay attention to it. For both the "Register" will be of the greatest utility. The war has expanded some businesses beyond all recognition: the village bicycle shop has become the nucleus of a big industry. These cannot revert to their former insignificant existences, and may not be content, even if they are able, to rely upon the middleman. By means of the pages of the "Register" they can explore overseas fields for themselves "right now," as our American friends would say, and without the least difficulty can get into touch with an agent in Peking and Valparaiso, in New York and Colombo. Before they do this, however, it is to be hoped that they will mark, learn, and inwardly digest the excellent introduction to the book, which is a most informative guide to all interested in overseas trade. A point that is very rightly emphasised is the necessity of getting to work *now*. A number of firms feel that there is nothing to be done because they are full up with Government work, or would have difficulty in shipping orders. But as the main purpose is to cater for wider markets it is necessary to familiarise those markets with the existence of British goods, and it is certainly not a shrewd policy to adopt to wait until those who are now potential purchasers have made up their minds to place their orders elsewhere. We cordially endorse, therefore, the dictum of the "Register": "The opportunity is now."

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INDIA'S TRADE IN APRIL.

Indian trade returns for April, 1918 (says Reuter), show an increase in imports of £2,307,000 and a decrease in exports of £506,000 as compared with April, 1917.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the Suez Canal Company for 1917 states that the general maritime movement in 1917 was 2,353 transits, representing a net total tonnage of 8,368,918, diminution of 757 transits and 3,956,429 tons or 32.10 per cent, as against 1916, and a diminution of 2,732 passages and 11,664,966 tons, or 58.23 per cent., as against the last normal year, 1913. During 1917 the special movement of Government ships and freighters, whose dues were paid by the Governments, represented 1,402 transits, or 4,607,279 tons. This is more than half the general traffic of the year, being 55.05 per cent. The raising of dues during 1917 has to some extent compensated for the effects of diminished traffic. The directors have declared the following dividends for 1917:—Capital shares, gross francs 77.108, net francs 55; Usufruct shares, gross francs 52.103, net francs 42.630; Founders' shares gross francs 29.356, net francs 24,794.

The report for 1917 of the Travancore Tea Company shows that the credit of profit and loss, including balance brought forward, and after providing for directors' fees, Debenture charges, etc., is £24,920. A final dividend is proposed of 5 per cent. on Ordinary shares, making 15 per cent., which will absorb £2,335; Debenture sinking fund, £2,000; carry forward, £9,508. The difficulty of obtaining freight compelled the directors to restrict the crop that otherwise would have been harvested, and which fell to 2,136,414 lb., as compared with 2,411,489 lb. previous year. The yield was equivalent to 420 lb. per acre, against 514 lb. and 642 lb. during two previous years, and the average price realised was 7.55d. per lb., as compared with 8.13d.

The report of the Balmoral (Ceylon) Estates Company for 1917 states that tea crop was 844,874 lb. Cost per lb. f.o.b. Colombo 33.71 cents, net average price per lb. 10.32d. The Balmoral group gave a gross working profit of £8,932, equal to £15 12s. 4d. per acre, against £8,774, equal to £15 6s. 9d. per acre last season. The Sandringham group gave a profit of £7,253, equal to £13 13s. 2d. per acre, against £5,832, equal to £10 19s. 8d. per acre. Last year the total yield of tea was 818,219 lb., being at the rate of 741 lb. per acre all round; the cost of production was 34.23 cents per lb. f.o.b. Colombo, and the net average price for the whole crop 9.96d. per lb. The net profit amounted to £15,489, and after adding interest and £3,523 brought forward, less excess profits duty, 1916, £335, the total is £19,214. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 11 per cent. on ordinary shares, making 21 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £5,872.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Upper India Couper Paper Mills Co., Ltd., of Lucknow, paid a 6 per cent. dividend and a 62 per cent. bonus per annum on March 30.

The Bank of England announces the numbers of 431 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates which have been drawn for redemption on July 1, 1918, when interest thereon will cease.

From to-day the registered office of the Eastern Assam Company will be at 2, East India Avenue, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.

An interim dividend of 1s. per share, less tax, to be paid on June 24, has been declared by the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 20 at 3s. per share, free of tax, payable on and after 18th proximo.

The register of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway will be closed from June 6 to June 29 inclusive. Warrants will be posted July 1.

Oil Outputs.

Baku Russian.—Week ended May 11, 50,300 poods.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Production for the week ended May 19:—Gemsah, 22 tons (against 21 tons); Hurghada, 5,032 tons (against 4,632 tons). In addition to this, it has been found that the past production of one of the big wells in Hurghada has been under-estimated to the extent of 5,000 tons.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of April 7 contains a copy of the "Royalty on Sakaran Order, 1918," which provides that on and after May 1 a royalty shall be collected on sakaran in whatever form it is exported at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The terms of the economic union between Germany and Austria-Hungary are reported to include the adoption of the mark as the currency of the Dual Monarchy.

A paper by Sir Dinshaw Wacha on "The Cotton Mill Industry of India," which was to have been read this week before the Royal Society of Arts, has been unavoidably postponed to a later date.

The current issue of the "Board of Trade Journal" contains a list of companies, firms, or individuals to whom licences under the Non-Ferrous Metals Act have been granted by the Board of Trade.

RANKEN CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS. AND HANOVER SQUARE,
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.
COMPANY LONDON, W.
Telegrams—"Mentally
'Phone—Gerrard 597.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")
WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—Medical Review.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

In the early part of the week a fair amount of business continued to be done, and prices were very firm; but during the last day or two the renewal of the German offensive on the Western Front has made business much quieter. The demand for Egyptian Government stocks has continued uninterruptedly, and there is a further rise to be recorded this week of 1½ points in Unifieds to 89, and half a point in the 3½ per cent. preferences to 75. A fair amount of business has taken place in Unifieds, but that done in the 3½ per cent. preferences has been exceedingly small. Some business has been done in City of Alexandria bonds round the current level of 81.

In bank shares a fairly large business has been carried through in Nationals, chiefly at 17¼, at which price there are still buyers, and the closing quotation of 17 5-16 shows a reduction of 1-16 from last week's price. In Agriculturals some business has been done round the current level. Agricultural preferences have risen a further 3-32 to 7¼, but practically no business has resulted owing to the scarcity of sellers. Anglo-Egyptian banks have again improved 5-16 to 16, but the demand has slackened, and there are at the close some sellers about at the advanced price.

In land shares Aboukirs have improved 9d. to 21s. 6d. on some well-informed buying. Delta Lands are 3d. lower at 12s. 9d., and Foreign Trusts are fractionally easier at 11s. 7½d. New Egyptians are 3d. down at 17s. 3d., and Sidi Salems have receded 3-32 to 2⅛, after having changed hands freely some days ago at 2¼. Union Foncières have been a good spot, and are 1-32 higher at 2 31-32.

In miscellaneous shares Markets have improved 6d. to 26s. 6d. on the better receipts, and Khedivial Mails have jumped 1s. 6d. to 37s. 6d. in sympathy with the general improvement in shipping securities—which are expected to benefit from the new Blue Book Rates shortly to be announced.

In Greek securities the tone continues strong, with many buyers, and stock very scarce. Rentes are a further ½ higher at 49, and the 1890, 1910, and 1914 loans are all one point higher at 61, 60, and 75 respectively. The 1902 loan has improved 1½ to 64, and there has been a jump of 4 points in Fundings to 60, at which price some business was done. Amongst the banks, both Bank of Athens and Ionian Banks are in demand round current levels, and some business has again been done in Piræus Athens 4½ per cent. bonds round 70½.

THE

GENERAL ANGLO-SERBIAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED,

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The Company is a Promoting Company, and is prepared to consider any proposals for the Financing and carrying on of any business in the above countries.

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Correspondence is invited from those interested in SERBIA and the BALKAN STATES, or contemplating business with these countries when communication is restored.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		May 29
	July 27 1914	May 22	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	87½	89
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	74½	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	62	62
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	62	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	56	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	48½	49
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	60	61
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	56	60
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	64
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 1/16 xd	6 1/16 xd
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7 5/32	7¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15 11/16	16
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅞	3⅞
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	6⅞	6⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17⅜	17 5/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6 7/16	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	20/9	21/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/16	4 3/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	12/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/7½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/6	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 7/32	2⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2 15/16	2 31/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/-	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	15/16	38/-	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	36/-	37/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾	3¾

FALMOUTH DOCKS.

P. and O. Group Purchase.

The Falmouth Docks undertaking has been purchased by the Federal Company, which is part of the combine of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, the British India Steam Navigation Company, the New Zealand Shipping Company, the Union Steamship of New Zealand Company, Hain Steamship Company, and Glover Brothers, Lord Inchcape being at the head.

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INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., in their weekly bullion letter, say:—The silver market has preserved the steady character that we have anticipated, and no change took place in the price. The Shanghai exchange receded ¼d. from the 4s. 6d. per tael at which it had remained for some time, but recovered next day to the round figure. The last Indian currency return is as follow:—

In Lakhs of Rupees.

	May 15.
Notes in circulation	10,612
Reserve in silver coin and bullion*	1,243
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,174
Gold out of India	45

* Within and without India.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
May 22, 23, 24	580,000	530,000
May 25	80,000	170,000
May 26	160,000	120,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended May 17.	1918. Week ended May 16.
Cattle markets	528	556
General markets	398	415
Receipts (£)	926	971
Total for year	29,057	22,830

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital	500,000
Reserve	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

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BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

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In view of the Board of Trade Order prohibiting the delivery of newspapers to retailers on the terms known as "Sale or Return," which comes into force in the United Kingdom on June 24, readers of "The Near East" who are not already subscribers will materially help the Management by giving an order to their newsagent or to the Office of "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, for the regular delivery of the paper. Annual Subscription, £1; postage, 2s. 2d. (inland), 4s. 4d. (abroad).

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Events in the Macedonian theatre have developed along the lines anticipated in these columns last week, when the suggestion was made that the activities of the Italian and French troops on the western section of the line might shortly give the Greeks their opportunity for measuring their strength with that of the Bulgarians. On May 30, supported by French artillery, the Greek Army attacked the very strong enemy positions of the Skra di Legen, south of Huma and eleven miles west of the Vardar. According to the official report, all their objectives along a front of nearly eight miles were reached in a single rush. The enemy counter-attacked with considerable determination and under cover of strong artillery fire, but were at every point repulsed, and as the result of two days' operations they left between 1,700 and 1,800 prisoners in the hands of the Greeks.

The point chosen for the attack lies on the west side of the Vardar Valley, and will threaten the Bulgarian position at Ghevgeli, if the Allies are able to continue the success of the first two days. While the Greeks were delivering the main blow, British troops to the east and French troops on the west were also engaging the enemy's attention, and the Macedonian front became more active than it has been for many months. Not the least gratifying feature of the incident is the proof it has afforded that the Greek Army has made good. Competent observers have maintained all along that the reorganised Greek infantry left nothing to be desired. Their first real test has confirmed this opinion, and it was probably no mere act of courtesy that prompted the French Commander-in-Chief in Macedonia, after watching the engagement, to telegraph his congratulations to M. Venizelos. He spoke of the method and discipline that the Greeks had known how to combine in their operations, and suggested that the whole of Greece had good cause to be filled with pride over "a very fine war operation."

It is to be hoped that the initial success will be followed up, as it comes at a particularly opportune moment in the history of the Central Alliance. As far as can be judged, the attempt to extend the Austro-German Union to Bulgaria has failed; but Austria-Hungary cannot look back, and the process of regulating the absorption of the Dual Monarchy by her domineering partner is now being carried through in detail. With this object in view, Baron Burian, the new Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, is shortly to pay a visit to Berlin, when it may be expected that the last rivets of the contract will be driven. Bulgaria must necessarily be an interested spectator of the development of a pact which she has been invited to join, and the more she sees Austria-Hungary surrendering her independence, the greater will be her satisfaction over the instinct which prompted her to take as much as she could from Germany and to give as little as possible in return.

With Austria-Hungary virtually a German province, however, and Turkey wholly in Germany's grip, the position of Bulgaria, in so far as she desires to lead an independent existence, is by no means satisfactory. She will be tempted to attribute it to her lucky star that all the events which are calculated to clarify the situation are taking place simultaneously. The revelation of the real aims of German militarism in Russia and Mid-Asia, the absorption of Austria-Hungary, and the final test of Germany's power on the Western front are all important factors for Bulgaria. If Germany emerges successful from the last, the first two prove that Bulgaria must accept the inevitable and make the best of German domination. On the other hand, if Germany should fail in the West, her policy in regard to Russia and Austria-Hungary affords a strong warning to Bulgaria that her one hope of salvation lies in extricating herself from the grasp of the German octopus. Any military pressure brought upon her at the same time by the Allies will doubtless assist her in arriving at the only possible solution of her difficulty.

Another development not unconnected with Austria-Hungary's subjection to Germany is that the United States Government has abandoned any hope it may have entertained of being able to detach the Dual Monarchy from the Central Alliance. It will be remembered that at first President Wilson did not include Austria in his declaration of war against Germany; further, he was for a long time careful not to associate himself with the policy of *Austria delenda est*. In laying down last January the fourteen conditions on which peace could be attained, he was not prepared to go farther than the stipulation that "the peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the first opportunity of autonomous development." Events in the Dual Monarchy and the proceedings of the Congress of Opposed Nationalities of Austria-Hungary held in Rome have led to a fuller appreciation of the position, with the result that it is now officially announced that the nationalistic aspirations of the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs for freedom have the earnest sympathy of the United States Government.

It is of no small gain to the Allied cause to have the United States falling into line on this point. President Wilson a year ago had satisfied himself of the major guilt of Germany in regard to the precipitation of the war, and felt compelled to give Austria-Hungary an opportunity to break away from her sinister alliance. The idea, however, predicated an attitude of mind at the Ballplatz which did not exist, but which, if it had existed, would have prevented the outbreak of the war. Austria's treatment of her subject nationalities was too interwoven with her designs on the Balkans, which in turn formed an important part of Germany's scheme for world-domination, to make it possible that she should forgo those designs or treat her nationalities better, while Germany's power over her remained. The effect of the war has been to link the two Central Powers more closely together than ever, and there can be no peace for the world unless and until the nucleus of strength that Austria-Hungary brought to Germany by means of a population of between twenty and thirty millions unwillingly subjected to her yoke has been destroyed.

The Governments of Great Britain, France, and Italy have lost no time in taking note of the modification of the United States' views. At a meeting held at Versailles on June 3 in connection with the session of the Supreme War Council the Prime Ministers of the three countries placed on record that "the Allied Governments have noted with pleasure the declaration made by the Secretary of State of the United States Government, and desire to associate themselves in an expression of earnest sympathy for the nationalistic aspirations towards freedom of the Czecho-Slovak and Jugoslav peoples." The adherence of the Italian Government to this declaration puts the seal on the action taken in connection with the Rome congress of the Oppressed Nationalities of Austria-Hungary.

The intensity of the feeling among the oppressed nationalities has been shown unmistakably during the last few months, when in spite of the power of suppression that the war has placed in the hands of the authorities these unfortunate peoples have contrived to force their grievances upon the attention of the Government. There can be no doubt that the understanding reached between Italy and the representatives of the Jugoslavs outside Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction has been regarded by those still under Hapsburg domination as materially strengthening their position. Disturbances in Bohemia and other parts of the Monarchy are now almost continuous, but even more significant, and perhaps more embarrassing to the Vienna Government, is the constitutional challenge that the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs have thrown down. The Emperor Carl's inclinations, it is believed, would have led him to meet these people in a more or less friendly spirit; but his efforts to dissociate himself from German influence have failed, and the struggle within the Monarchy must continue until the nationalistic aspirations of the victims of Austro-Hungarian misrule have been realised. Certainly the struggle of these peoples for liberty has been on a heroic scale.

The death of Mar Shimun, Catholicos or Patriarch of the Assyrian Christians (Western Church), who is reported to have been killed by the Turks, adds another to the list of those who have been sacrificed by the Bolshevik defection from the Alliance. Mar Shimun's mountaineers, as is recorded on another page, have put up a gallant fight against the enemy during the last two or three years; but left in the lurch by the withdrawal of the Russian troops, they are rapidly being overwhelmed by the Turks. Their one hope of safety lies in the inaccessibility of their mountains; but once before in the war the problem of supplies has driven them to take refuge in Persia. This time, it is to be feared, they will have been cut off from this avenue of escape.

As recently as last October, it is stated, these mountaineers had penetrated to a point on the Zab River within fifty miles of Mosul. If they had been able to maintain their positions, and if General Marshall had continued his advance along the Kifri-Mosul road at the rate which took his forces to Altun Keupri, the Assyrians could have looked for protection from the south. But in the district of Salmas and Urumia they are far removed from effective assistance. A Turkish *communiqué* announcing the re-occupation of Kerkuk indicates that the general situation in this part of the world does not justify the throwing forward of a relatively small force any considerable distance ahead of the main army. To this extent the news runs counter to the expectations formed a little while ago of the prospects of the Mesopotamian Expedition, and it will be more satisfactory when further light can be thrown upon the operations in this region.

Busy men who are endeavouring to follow the course of political and constitutional developments in India will be grateful for the latest cabled news, which, besides giving a substantial amount of information, furnishes some convenient phrases as aids to the overloaded memory. The problems in hand are not, of course, capable of solution by phrase alone, but it becomes easier to carry them in the head when we read of a "tripartite scheme," with its branches of constitutional reform, extension of local self-government, and "Indianisation of the services," and, as everyone knows, classification and labelling constitute a necessary, if subordinate, part of any scientific undertaking. We may hope from the appearance of these phrases that the preliminary stage of loose rhetoric is over, and that energies are now being directed towards the definite task of reconstruction.

Naturally we have as yet no news of actual progress in the direction of constitutional reform, the branch of the scheme which remains in the hands of Mr. Montagu. We have been told that proposals have been formulated by him in consultation with the Viceroy, but we have also been told that those proposals have to be considered by the Cabinet; and since it is difficult to see how the Cabinet can find time for this just now, we must make up our minds to wait. In the second branch somewhat greater progress has been made. The Resolution issued by the Government of India, no doubt with Mr. Montagu's approval, clearly foreshadows an important extension of the electorate and a delegation of the power of the purse, two measures which, as we have before insisted, are indispensable, though they have hitherto possessed little attraction for Indian politicians. Some provision has thus been actually made for the foundations on which the new Constitution must ultimately be based.

The third branch of the scheme—now described as the Indianisation of the services—carries us back to the Report of the Public Services Commission, a painstaking, and, to our mind, on the whole a reasonable production, but unquestionably *infelix opportunitate*. Last year the politicians affected to treat this issue as dead, but recent debates in Council have given abundant proofs of its vitality, and we suspect that it will retain its interest for many years to come. The whole subject bristles with difficulties of detail, and would suffice to tax the energies of a Government with nothing else to do; it has to be handled in the stress of a great volume of more urgent work, and the most that can be hoped for is that the departments will succeed in dealing with it in a reasonable time, and without making an unusual quantity of really serious mistakes.

Meanwhile, people in this country are talking just now of a danger which threatens the efficiency of the Indian administration more immediately than any impending changes in the methods of recruiting its personnel. To put the matter somewhat coarsely, the Services are getting thoroughly stale. Their cadres were dangerously low even in time of peace; the "leave reserves" have practically been absorbed in the Army; ordinary furlough has for some years been unobtainable, and all over India men are keeping, or being kept, at their posts when a long rest would be beneficial not merely to themselves, but to the work which they are trying to do—work which has at the same time increased enormously alike in volume, in complexity, and in importance.

Anxiety on this score has undoubtedly been increased of late by a series of announcements of casualties among senior officers, men who would in the ordinary course have taken furlough a year or two ago, but who remained at their posts until the end. Such occurrences, coming as they have in rapid succession, tend naturally to produce an exaggerated sense of danger, but at the same time it must be remembered that the evil is cumulative, and that the risk will increase steadily as time goes on. There is unfortunately no immediate remedy; the war has first to be won, and until that task has been accomplished the increasing strain has simply to be borne; but it is well that the rest of the Empire should realise the position in which the Indian Services stand. In England the departments expand almost as rapidly as the work; in India the staff shrinks while the burden gains in weight.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 20.

The time has now arrived when there is a general movement amongst the various communities towards the sea. This year the congestion at Alexandria will possibly not be so great, as permission is being granted to residents and their families to proceed to Port Said, which, for all practical purposes, was closed last year. The Residency have already transferred to Ramleh, to the Villa Zervudachi, which they occupied last year. His Highness the Sultan will proceed officially to Alexandria for the summer at the end of this week with the Ministers, and at about the same time the staff of the various departments will take up their duties at the Government's offices at Bulkeley.

The Wheat Question.

The cereal situation has developed during the past month in a serious manner. As reported at the time, the Supplies Control Board fixed prices for wheat for every category, from the cultivator to the final retailer. These prices came into effect on May 1, but on that date scarcely any wheat or flour was available in Cairo, although a very large proportion of the crop was known to have been harvested. The Supplies Control Board took the matter in hand at once, and arranged for a delegation of Egyptian wholesale merchants to go to the provinces with the Inspector-General of Agriculture, with a view to securing the requisite quantities of wheat. No satisfactory arrangement could be come to, however, and it was eventually decided, since it was evident that speculators were concealing and withholding wheat and flour from the market, that the Ministry of Agriculture should, through its Inspectors, secure consignments of new wheat and sell at wholesale tariff rates to millers, who would undertake to grind the wheat at once and sell the resultant flour to retailers and consumers at tariff retail prices, to bakers who would convert it into bread without delay, and to retailers who would sell to the consumers at the tariff rates. Special stores have been taken in the centre of Cairo, and the distribution has already started. In the meantime, with a view to meeting the urgent needs of the poorer classes, arrangements have been made for the immediate distribution of certain stocks of imported flour, which the British Military Authorities had placed at the disposal of the Egyptian Government for the express purpose of alleviating distress.

Government intervention has been rendered necessary solely by the inexcusable attitude of the more important wholesale merchants and cultivators, who by holding up their stocks hoped to bring about a further increase in prices. There is no just ground for complaint at the figures fixed by the Supplies Control Board, for the price of most cereals is now treble what it was prior to the war, and so compares favourably with the price fixed for cotton, which is about double the pre-war maximum. The Supplies Control Board has quite rightly declined to have its hands forced, and has issued a notice to the effect that the prices now fixed will in no case be raised until next year's crop comes up for examination. The Board is determined to make use of all the powers conferred on it under the martial law regime, and it is generally considered that this show of determination will speedily have for effect a return to normal in so far as the local grain market is concerned.

The Cotton Purchase Commission.

The Commission instituted for the handling of the cotton crop which the British and Egyptian Governments have arranged to purchase is already preparing thus early for its work, even though it will not start operations until September 1. The Hon. Ronald Lindsay, its president, who has been unfortunately detained in England, is shortly expected to arrive, and Mr. J. Marshall, Public Custodian, has relinquished that post in order to assist the Commission. One of the great difficulties with which that body will have to contend will undoubtedly be the grading of cotton offered to it by the cultivators. An advisory Sub-Commission of cultivators and landowners is, it is understood, in course of constitution for the purpose of assisting the Commission in this respect.

The Nile Flood.

The Nile levels continue high. Double the amount of water is being discharged through the Assuan Dam as compared with the volume passed down during the corresponding period last year. The satisfactory feature is that water-lifting has been reduced to a bare minimum, thus effecting an appreciable reduction in the fuel requirements of the agricultural districts, though at the same time it is very sad that so much valuable water should go out to sea without it being possible under present conditions to make use of it for agricultural purposes.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Khartoum, May 19.

The Governor-General's Tour.

The Governor-General and Sirdar has returned from a successful trip to the South, during which he visited the Sobat and went as far as Rejaf. He went by motor-car to Yei and examined the Libogo road, which may prove to be the outlet of the Haut Welle country. On May 20 he proceeds to Erkowit.

Weather and the Nile.

Local experts on weather assert that there is to be early rain and a great deal of it. The Nile has given some indication by rising slightly rather earlier than usual. The White Nile is still unusually high, and the fear of an exceptional flood seems to be well founded.

A report from the Sobat describes a curious mortality amongst fish. For days the river was full of dead fish, and the natives of the district, who were suffering from hunger owing to the effects of excessive flood last year, were enabled to satisfy their hunger in a manner which suits them, however unpleasant to European ideas. Unfortunately, the river then dropped, and there was left on the banks a mass of putrescent fish, which made life extremely unpleasant. No explanation of this phenomenon is at present forthcoming.

Personalia.

Mr. R. E. More, Governor of Khartoum, went North on leave recently. He had an attack of pleurisy and was advised to take a holiday.

Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., Financial Secretary of the Sudan Government, is expected to leave for the North for a change next week. His family has preceded him.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, May 19.

Lady Granville's Bazaar.

The British Legation was last Sunday in a state of unusual animation. Countess Granville some little time ago conceived the idea of raising a fund for the assistance of children of mobilised Greeks, and with the help of several ladies organised a bazaar, which proved an unqualified success. As soon as Lady Granville's project became known contributions began to flow in, and the solicitude of the British Minister and the Countess for the welfare of this country and their great popularity alike found recognition in the magnanimous response of all classes of the people here. The Legation was turned upside down for the occasion, and every inch of available space was utilised, either for stalls, on which attractive articles were on sale, or for means of entertaining the visitors. The public were admitted soon after four, and there was a continuous stream of people entering and leaving until midnight. Between six and seven the crowd was so great that admission had to be suspended for a short time, and many, after long waiting, went away disappointed. A military band provided good music, charming young ladies in becoming costumes served refreshments on a prettily-decorated terrace, in another part of the building a Punch and Judy show kept the children amused, and the long line of stalls laden with the numerous gifts of useful articles attracted willing purchasers at all times. In the evening several ladies and gentlemen gave various dances. King Alexander honoured the entertainment with his presence in the evening, whilst M. Venizelos and other Ministers were present before dinner. The total admissions exceeded three thousand.

It is expected that the proceeds of the entertainment and contributions will amount to nearly £10,000—a result which must be highly gratifying to Lady Granville, to whom the Greek Government have communicated their thanks for the care and untiring energy she has shown in this most useful work of charity.

Athens and the War.

No events of any importance have occurred in Athens of late. The economic position is distinctly better.

The mobilisation of further classes continues without incident, and the first wounded from the Macedonian front, who arrived a few days ago, received a very warm reception, M. Venizelos and others visiting the hospital ship when it reached port.

M. Benakis has offered a prize of £200 to those Greek soldiers who first capture a Bulgarian flag or cannon, and his example has been followed by other enthusiasts for kindred achievements against the Bulgars.

MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, May 20.

German Intrigue.

Letters received lately from England show that the recent exposure in *The Times* of German intrigues in Morocco has aroused much interest in England, and, among those who have friends in Morocco, some little anxiety.

German activity in this country has doubtless thrown considerable strain on the authorities responsible for its administration, but it has certainly failed to trouble the peace of mind of the majority of European residents, who do not think that, failing a very great and unlikely change in the European situation, it will have any great effect near the port, or, indeed, in any of the thoroughly settled country.

The Sugar Supplies.

A matter which is much more discussed in the French zone is the uncertainty as to Morocco's sugar supplies, practically all of which now come from France. So far as Europeans are concerned, this would not have much importance; for Morocco has been very fortunate in having much better provision of sugar than most countries in Europe, and some restriction in its use would do no harm at all. The native sugar supply is, however, a very different matter. The drinking of green tea with mint and, the essential feature, almost as much sugar as the tea will dissolve, is a custom observed by all, from the highest to almost the lowest, and it plays so important a part in the daily life of the country that to interrupt the indulgence in it would be far more serious than suddenly to cut off in England all drinking, all smoking, and entertainments, either public or private. From the great Kaid in his Alhambra-like palace to the camel-drivers sitting beside their beasts in the thorn-surrounded enclosures where caravans pass the night in the country, sugar is indispensable.

France has most wisely decided that nothing must be allowed to show that the war has in any way taxed her resources, or to furnish an instrument which agitators might use to cause unrest. Though she herself might go short of sugar, Morocco must not, and so far the supply has been maintained, in the circumstances, with wonderful regularity.

Lately, difficulties of fuel and transport have threatened to make the arrivals, though not the ultimate supply, more uncertain, and it has been thought prudent to issue regulations to steady the distribution and secure that the amount available shall be used to the best effect. As sugar forms so great a part of the imports of the French zone—more than a million and a-half pounds in value in 1914—such regulations have a great effect on the business life of the country, and many doubts are expressed as to whether the best system has yet been found.

PROPOSED SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

Upon the suggestion of the Palestine Exploration Fund, the British Academy has constituted an Organizing Committee with the object of founding a British School of Archæology at Jerusalem. A general committee will be formed later.

The Organizing Committee points out that the Palestine Exploration Fund, which achieved the great survey of Western Palestine, was for thirty-five years the only society in the field, and was the model and inspiration of other European societies engaged in Palestinian research, and that while American, French, and German schools of archæology existed in Jerusalem before the war, this country possessed no such institution. The proposed school would devote itself, both by excavation and surveying, to the furtherance of Palestinian archæology in all its branches. In addition to Hebrew and Jewish sites and antiquities, the school would include within its scope the Canaanite, Græco-Roman, Byzantine, Arab, and Mediæval periods.

An essential part of the scheme is that the school should be not only an excavating body, but also a training school for archæologists. Mesopotamia is too far away to possess a similar school of its own, and one or two of the more promising students at Jerusalem, after acquiring experience in Palestine, could be transferred there. The school will be British in the widest sense of the term, and will welcome students from all parts of the Empire.

The Palestine Exploration Fund has offered to conduct its future excavations in co-operation with the school, and further funds for excavation would be available from the Schweich Fund of the British Academy.

The Organizing Committee invites contributions towards an endowment fund. Though a special building may eventually become necessary, it is proposed in the first instance to rent a suitable building at Jerusalem for the purposes of the school. This, in addition to the director's rooms and an archæological library, should provide accommodation for at least five students. For the rent and upkeep of the building, the director's salary, and the cost of surveying in Palestine (apart from excavations) it is estimated that an annual income of at least £1,000 is necessary. A minimum endowment fund of £20,000 is therefore asked for.

Mr. Walter Morrison and Mr. Robert Mond have started the endowment fund by each contributing a donation of £1,000. Mr. Robert Mond will act as treasurer of the fund, and contributions should be made payable to him, crossed "a/c British School of Archæology at Jerusalem." All communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Professor I. Gollancz, British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.

The following members of the Organizing Committee, in addition to whom Sir George Adam Smith and Mr. D. G. Hogarth, who are abroad, have been nominated, while the Archbishop of Canterbury, President of the Palestine Exploration Fund, has also consented to serve, sign the appeal:—F. G. Kenyon (President of the British Academy), Chairman; Robert Mond (Hon. Treasurer), Bryce, Arthur Cowley, J. D. Grace, Arthur Evans, Ernest A. Gardner, Percy Gardner, G. Buchanan Gray, A. C. Headlam, G. F. Hill, M. R. James, Leonard W. King, R. A. S. Macalister, D. S. Margoliouth, G. Montefiore, W. Morrison, W. M. Flinders Petrie, Reay, Anthony de Rothschild, I. Gollancz, Hon. Secretary.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The Annual General Meeting will be held (for business purposes only) at the Office of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, London, W. 1, on Thursday, June 13th, at 4.30 p.m. There will be no Special Address.

THE NESTORIANS IN THE WAR.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, April 10.

Death of Mar Shimun.

A telegram from Tabriz received by the State Department at Washington announces that Mar Shimun, head of the Assyrian [or Nestorian] Church, has been killed.

It was in 1903, when he was a boy of only sixteen, that Mar Shimun was chosen to become Catholicos, or Patriarch, in succession to his uncle, Ruwel (Reuben) Mar Shimun, who was then on the point of death; and he was consecrated Catholicos on April 12 of that year. Later he brilliantly justified the hopes set upon him. To all he showed the fine courtesy traditional in his family, and to his own people he was fatherly.

He was educated by native teachers and by members of the Mission established by Archbishop Benson of Canterbury at the patriarchal seat, Kudshanis, in Kurdistan. As the 138th Catholicos of the East, he maintained the ancient tradition: consecrated from birth to the service of God, like the Nazarites of old, he never ate meat in his life; and he was in every way a model to his people, who almost worshipped him.

Benjamin Mar Shimun was the eldest of five brothers. One of these, David, has been the leader of the Assyrian forces in holding the border against the Kurds; his son, brought up as a Nazarite, will, if approved by the people, in the ordinary course of events become the next Patriarch.

The late Bishop Collins of Gibraltar visited Mar Shimun in 1907, and was deeply impressed by the Patriarch and his people. He wrote: "The poorest Syrian of the mountains has preserved a national dignity, courage, and a freshness which are lovable."

The Assyrians.

Before the war the Assyrian Christians lived within a great triangle, extending from near Mosul on the Tigris northwards to Lake Van, thence south-westerly to the starting point, Mosul. Including 35,000 in Persia, they number altogether about 125,000 souls.

In January, 1915, the Turks captured the city of Urumia and held it till May. The defeat of Halil Bey at Salmas, Persia, in May made it possible for the Russians to relieve the Armenian city of Van and to re-enter Urumia. The next Turkish offensive, in June, was an attack, led by the Vali of Mosul, against the highlanders of Mar Shimun. The latter defended their narrow valley against the invaders with the utmost valour. But the Turks had with them some mountain artillery, so that they were able to batter down the resistance offered by the castles and churches; and at length the Assyrians were forced to abandon their valleys and to take refuge for three months in the fastnesses of almost inaccessible mountains. Here, amid the clouds, they preserved their freedom, but they ran short of supplies. With a handful of trusty warriors their brave Patriarch betook himself through untold perils to the Russian lines at Salmas, Persia, to secure assistance. The fall of Warsaw, however, had so weakened the Russians that for the moment they were unable to render effective aid; consequently Mar Shimun was forced in November, 1915, to lead his needy flock down to the plateaux of north-western Persia. They scattered throughout the plains of Salmas and Urumia; but here they did not find food enough to go round; and they also lacked houses and winter clothing. In those high altitudes, where snow is plentiful, their sufferings were intense, and within three months fifteen per cent. of the refugees had died of disease or of starvation.

In January, 1916, Mar Shimun visited the Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army of the Caucasus, who received him with the honours due to the head of a Church and of a nationality. The Russians requested the Assyrian Highlanders to help defend the border against the Turks and Kurds. As late as October, 1917, the Assyrians held the Castle of Chal, only fifty miles from Mosul. But the withdrawal of the Russian forces has brought great disaster to the Assyrians, and thousands of women and children are threatened with extermination.

As early as 1915 America began to help feed and clothe 60,000 refugees in the plains of Urumia and Salmas. As the time went on conditions grew worse, and despite the systematic relief carried on under the auspices of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, here in America, in raising of money and planting seed corn, the supply of foodstuffs in Persia is still inadequate; the last cablegram dispatches have brought reports of terrific famine and of an increasing death-rate from starvation.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Jews in Roumania.

May 30.

Mr. KING asked whether the treaty of peace recently signed by Roumania guaranteed full and equal rights to Jews.

Lord R. CECIL: If the hon. member will read these treaty stipulations with care he will observe that the enfranchisement obtained for the Jews is of a most limited and conditional nature; and that the clauses have, in fact, been framed solely in order to give Germany an additional pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of Roumania. His Majesty's Government have the fullest sympathy with the cause of Jewish enfranchisement in Roumania and elsewhere; but it is to the full programme of liberation which the Roumanian Government had themselves adopted prior to this treaty, and not to this restricted scheme, that his Majesty's Government will adhere.

Prisoners in the Near East.

Mr. G. FADER asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the treatment of our prisoners in Germany, the War Cabinet will forthwith endeavour to promote a direct exchange of prisoners, privates as well as officers and non-commissioned officers, with Germany, and also with Turkey and Bulgaria; and whether some high official can at once be appointed whose sole duty it will be to carry such exchange into effect as soon as possible, and meanwhile to ameliorate the lot of our prisoners as much as possible?

Mr. HOPE: The possibility of extending existing arrangements with Turkey and Bulgaria will, of course, be considered. As to the rest of the question, I would refer my hon. friend to the statement made by the Leader of the House.

Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS asked the hon. member for Sheffield (Central Division) whether, when British prisoners are sent back from Turkey, it will be arranged that at least one English doctor shall remain in each of the camps where prisoners are still interned?

Mr. MACPHERSON: My hon. friend has asked me to answer this question. Under the Berne Agreement of December last one British medical officer and five medical personnel of other ranks may be detained in Turkey per 1,000 British prisoners. The question of increasing the number, if found to be insufficient, is under consideration. It is hoped that the Turkish authorities will make a suitable distribution of this medical staff. The Netherlands Minister at Constantinople will doubtless include this among the many other points in which our interests are involved under the agreement.

Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS asked whether any of the 1,000 British prisoners recently agreed to be exchanged have yet started; if not, will he say how soon it is hoped they will be able to do so; and whether any of the camps in Turkey where prisoners are interned have been inspected since the Berne Agreement, and with what result?

Mr. J. HOPE: The Turkish Government have not yet given notice of the date upon which the 1,000 British invalid prisoners to be exchanged will be ready for embarkation; and I fear that in the most favourable circumstances it must be a considerable time before the first exchange takes place. It is unnecessary to add that his Majesty's Government have urged the Turkish Government to take the requisite measures at as early a date as possible. No inspections of internment camps in Turkey under the Berne Agreement have yet taken place, but a representative appointed by the Netherland Government to the Netherland Legation at Constantinople for this purpose left The Hague on the 24th inst., so that it may be hoped that the inspections will shortly begin.

Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether the present scale of living in Constantinople is such that officers have to pay £50 a month for the bare necessities of life; whether the present maximum payment to such officers is £25 a month—namely, £18 from the English and £7 from the Turkish Governments; and, if so, whether he will take immediate steps to see that the amount is increased?

Mr. FORSTER: After taking the best local advice obtainable, an amount was recently agreed upon to enable officers in Turkey to meet necessary expenses. At present we have no further

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information to enable us to judge whether any revision is necessary.

Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS asked the Postmaster-General whether, if parcels for English prisoners in Turkey are to be sent to Alexandria for conveyance in ships destined to bring back such prisoners as are repatriated, he will arrange that such parcels shall be carried to Alexandria free of postage and of a greater weight than the present maximum, namely, 11 lbs.

Mr. PEASE: Arrangements have been made for the acceptance at post-offices of parcels for officer prisoners of war in Turkey for conveyance viâ Alexandria. Such parcels may contain only clothing, tobacco, and articles of a personal nature, but not food, and are accepted free of postage if they are addressed to the prisoner in care of the Commissioner, British Red Cross Society, Mark's Buildings, Alexandria. My right hon. friend regrets that it is not possible to accept parcels weighing over 11 lbs. for transmission by post; but he understands that such parcels, if sent to the Commissioner, British Red Cross Society, Alexandria, otherwise than by post, would be duly forwarded.

Italy and Roumania.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, having regard to the fact that all information affecting foreign policy was open to President Wilson, he has communicated to President Wilson the treaties made by the Allies with Italy and Roumania, respectively, on their entry into the war?

Lord R. CECIL: The reply is in the affirmative.

Mr. Montagu in India.

Mr. MONTAGU, Secretary for India, replying to questions put by Mr. Joynson-Hicks and Brigadier-General Page Croft concerning a letter of Sir Subramaniya Aiyer, K.C.I.E., to President Wilson grossly defamatory of British rule in India, said: The disgraceful letter is correctly described in the questions. Its impropriety is all the more inexcusable because of the position of the writer. I was amazed to read of its recent publication. But the assertions in the letter are too wild and baseless to require or receive notice from any responsible authority. No action has as yet been taken as regards the author, but I am in communication with the Viceroy on the subject.

Mr. MONTAGU, in reply to Mr. Joynson-Hicks, who asked if the right hon. gentleman would undertake to submit his proposals for the amendment of the Indian Government to Parliament in the form of a Bill, said the proposals of the Viceroy and himself were submitted to the Prime Minister, and embodied in a report which was now before the War Cabinet. The great pre-occupations of the War Cabinet at the present time had, however, made it impossible for them to come to a decision yet as to the course to be adopted. Ample opportunity would be afforded for considering the proposals which resulted from his mission to India. If the Government thought it right to give effect to them it would be necessary to introduce a Bill.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

June 5.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Lord of the Treasury), in a reply to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir F. Hall, said that the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople was authorised to increase considerably the money allowances to British prisoners of war in Turkey in case of necessity. As regards food, two months' supply for all prisoners, together with full supply of clothing for non-commissioned officers and men, were to be sent from Alexandria by the repatriation ships. Parcels containing clothing could be sent to officers in the same ships.

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Reuter's correspondent at The Hague reports (June 5):—In accordance with the recently ratified Turco-British Agreement, several persons attached to the Dutch Legation in Constantinople have been instructed to visit British prisoners of war in Turkey with a view to promoting their interests. The camps in European Turkey will be visited by M. van Bommel, who is already attached to the Legation for prisoners of war service. The camps in Asia Minor will be visited by two officials temporarily attached to the Legation, namely, M. Mencen, who left for Constantinople on May 22, and M. van Tangeler, who is going to Constantinople on June 19.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Congratulations to Greece.

The Times of June 4 welcomes the Greek success in a leading article. "The fine feat of arms accomplished by Greek forces on the Balkan front," it declares, "has not passed unnoticed in this country, even among the preoccupations of the grim struggle in France." After briefly recording the events of the fighting, as chronicled in the French official report, and quoting the Bulgarian report, "which cannot be suspected of exaggeration," the article concludes:—

> In the words of General Guillaumat, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Macedonia, this success "must fill the whole of Greece with legitimate pride and still greater ardour for work and combat." To the Greek Prime Minister, M. Venizelos, it must afford, in particular, deep satisfaction, for it is thanks to him that the Hellenic Army is fighting for its own and the Allied cause. British pleasure at a gallant piece of work by our Greek Allies is no less keen than that of their French comrades-in-arms.

Refugees at Alexandria.

Mr. Leon Simon contributes to the *Zionist Review* an interesting account of the "Jewish Refugee Camps at Alexandria." There are now two of these camps, says the writer:—

> There are now two camps—Shouna (so called because it is located in a *shouna* or warehouse hard by the quay), and Gabbari (once a quarantine station). The refugees number approximately 1,500, and are about equally divided between the two camps. These are all that remain of some 5,000 who have passed through the hands of the Refugee Administration. The rest have found work outside, and no longer need Government assistance. Those who remain are naturally the weakest from the economic point of view, for though conditions in the camps are much more than tolerable, and are certainly a great deal better than those to which many of the refugees were accustomed in the old times of Jerusalem, nobody would wish to stay in a refugee camp if he could earn support for himself and his family outside. But this remnant of the refugees is by no means unproductive. Many of the men obtain permits to go out and work during the day, paying a small fee to the Administration so as to prevent competition on unfair terms with local labour. A large number of women and girls are employed in the camps in making overalls for the army. And last, but not least, the boys are taught carpentering, and turn out folding chairs and tables for the Red Cross, thus not only supporting themselves and obtaining the means of remaining self-supporting when they grow up, but also contributing to the general welfare of the camps; for whatever profit the Administration makes by the sale of goods produced by the refugees is used for the benefit of the refugees themselves.

The camps, says Mr. Simon, present the appearance of contented communities, and the children in particular are very happy. There is the minimum possible disturbance of family life. Food rations are served out daily to each family, and the family may augment the rations by its own purchase.

> The communal institutions include at each camp a Synagogue, a school, and baths (one hot bath a week is compulsory, at any rate for the children). Medical treatment is available at both camps, and at Gabbari there is a hospital which is a model of its kind. The sanitary arrangements are excellent, all things considered. The head of each family is responsile for the cleanliness of his own room, and is punished by a reduction of rations if he fails to keep it up to the standard. There has naturally been a great improvement in cleanliness and hygienic habits since the refugees first came.

All the refugees are anxious to get back to Palestine, though many of them came to that country from all parts of the world. Of the children we read:—

> The schools, which were started by the Anglo-Jewish Association, provide instruction for nearly 600 boys and girls, from the age of three upwards. As at the Evelina de Rothschild school in Jerusalem, both Hebrew and English are used, but Hebrew remains the natural language of the children. Apart from the head-mistress, the teachers are all refugees. The children are evidently very happy at their work and their play. To the visitor they are the brightest part of the picture, because they direct one's thoughts, not to an unhappy past but to a hopeful future. In contemplating the camps as a whole one is torn by conflicting emotions—pity for the tragedy of the refugee's life, and thankfulness that these outcast members of an outcast people, who might have fared so infinitely worse, are well protected and cared for. But when one listens to the children's prattle there is no room for sadness: the mind leaps forward to the day when these little ones will do their part in the rebuilding of our national life. The *galuth* and the *geulah* here join hands.

The writer pays tribute to Mr. William Hornblower, the head of the Refugee Administration, of whom he writes:—"Had he been merely a first-rate administrator, he might have created an efficient but soulless machine to deal with the complicated problem presented by these waifs and strays. He is ever so much more than that. He has that sympathy and large heartedness which can prevent an instrument of relief from being merely a machine. One has only to see the way in which he is greeted by the refugees, and particularly the children, to realise that he has made himself a real father to them."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"K OF K."[*]

JUNE 5, 1916.

This little shilling volume should be in the hands of every schoolmaster in the British Empire as an immediate text-book. We must not wait to educate the young generation; we must do it now. Take your "history and geography" class, Mr. Frank Fox's fifteen illustrations and four maps, and explain, in simple English, facts, dates and figures, the broad outlines of this great war. At the close of the booklet is "A Diary of Events," from August 3, 1914, to July 1, 1917. Faulty as this serviceable diary is, we will here use it as a peg on which to hang an appreciation of a certain entry, which must appeal to readers of THE NEAR EAST this week: "1916. *June 5, General Lord Kitchener drowned.*" The opportunity of this review invites us to step aside, from our strict business, to commemorate the second anniversary of the tragedy of the Orkneys. Kitchener of Khartoum will live immemorially when lesser men are forgotten. The magic modesty of a plain soldier whose sword-earned reputation summoned mushrooms of valour in a single dawn from the Heaven-befriended fields of the British Empire, shall never pass away. It is his and our most splendid guerdon that civilisation looks upon the British Empire as the only modest empire known to history. K. of K. was modest in his life and tragically modest in his death. It were unbefitting that any issue of THE NEAR EAST should, on an anniversary of his death, omit a tribute. So long as the East looks to England as the fount of justice, the waterfall of freedom, the river of fair play, so long shall history shed a tear over the weird water-depths of the Orkneys. "The British Army at War" is a little monument to Kitchener of Khartoum.

THE ECLIPSE OF RUSSIA.[†]

In three pregnant sentences Dr. Dillon sums up the situation in Russia. "In the Tsardom, whenever the political temperature grew too hot, the custom had for ages been to break the thermometer, not on any account to let in the cool air. . . . A certain polish of kindliness marked the Tsar's casual intercourse with people, but it is to be feared that it resembled the glitter of the gilt cross on the mouldering coffin. . . . The curse of Russia had from the beginning of her history been the absence of effective moral restraints and the operation of mechanical substitutes." The verdict is absolutely justified to-day. Whether the Tsardom was doomed before Nicholas II. came to the throne is, of course, a matter for speculation. Dr. Dillon holds that it was. What is scarcely a matter for doubt is that the weakness and folly of the Emperor hastened its doom. It is not likely, in his opinion, to be re-established; nor does he seem very hopeful of the future reunion of Russia as a powerful State. We are bound to say that Dr. Dillon is one of the few prophets whose predictions usually come true.

The author writes as a defender of Count de Witte, a plot to assassinate whom during the time he was Prime Minister the Tsar connived at. Time has scarcely justified Witte's policy in the Far East, or in the commercial treaty with Germany which is still in force; but neither has it justified the honest reaction of Pobiedonostoff, or the Cadets, and in the long run we doubt if it will justify Bolshevism, which has been described accurately as an inverted Tsardom. The Tsardom itself was an inefficient predatory system, just as Kaiserdom is an efficient predatory system; the difterence in efficiency explains why one survives while the other dies.

This book, as its title implies, deals mainly with Russia, but it throws important light on Near Eastern questions generally. Dr. Dillon leaves no doubt that the Tsar abandoned the Armenians in 1894, and he divulges an amazing Russian plot to seize the heights of the Bosphorus in 1896, and so to capture Constantinople before the other Powers could intervene. The fact that the movement would certainly have precipitated a European war seems to have weighed with him as little as with William II. The origin of the Hague Conference a year or two later, as he points out, was due, not to any high-souled desire for peace, such as Western credulity attributed to the Tsar, but to the difficulty of keeping up in the race of artillery armament. No wonder the Germans, who must have discovered this illuminating motive, interpreted our offer of a naval holiday as an indication of a similar difficulty. They know better now.

On the Anglo-Russian agreement Dr. Dillon is singularly interesting. He worried for a rapprochement with England for some years before it actually came to pass. As regards the agreement itself, he quotes Witte as saying: "Personally, I should be disposed to give Great Britain considerably more than her demands; I would certainly make large concessions in Persia," and, Dr. Dillon adds:—

> The same or similar language was addressed to the British Ambassador by the Tsar's Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Izvolsky, when the scheme finally came up for discussion, but the British Government, on behalf of the Indian Government, declined to take all that Russia was willing to offer. This sounds incredible, but it is true. They might have had Ispahan in the British sphere of influence. I do not mention this refusal by way of a reproach. What is, however, blameworthy is the fact that a couple of years after the convention was ratified the British Government asked for some of the things which it had rejected. And it received a refusal.

We could have done with more of this curious story than Dr. Dillon packs away into the obscure footnote from which we have rescued it. What exactly happened between 1907 and 1909—or was it in effect 1910 when we suggested the revision? Lord Morley was at the India office in the former years, and we know from his own lips how strongly he was opposed to expansion. Was his successor of a different mind? In any case, the agreement has gone, and Russia is now out of Persia, and the Heights of the Bosphorus are not likely to fear Petrograd plots for a long time.

It is not merely that the Colossus has fallen, but that it has broken to pieces. Russia, as the West pictured it, never existed at all; possibly it never will exist. Unfortunately, Dr. Dillon left the country in 1914, and his account of events leading up to the revolution is hardly authoritative, although the cinemas will be grateful that he does not demolish the Rasputin legend. It is a thousand pities that the author did not remain in Russia after the war broke out, as he was its one authoritative interpreter to the rest of the world. He would almost certainly have been assassinated, but Dr. Dillon is sufficiently of a cynic to agree that it would have been worth while for the sake of getting a really first-hand and trustworthy account of the events of 1917 in Petrograd.

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[*] "The British Army at War." By Frank Fox, R.F.A. (T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 1s. net.)

[†] "The Eclipse of Russia." By Dr. E. J. Dillon. (J. M. Dent and Sons. 16s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. June	1918. May		1336. Shaaban.	5678. Sivan.
7	25	Friday	27	27
8	26	Saturday..........	28	28
9	27	Sunday	29	29
10	28	Monday	Ramadan. 1	30
11	29	Tuesday	2	Tamuz. 1
12	30	Wednesday	3	2
13	31	Thursday	4	3

Last Friday the Sultan of Egypt left Cairo for Alexandria.

Rev. H. G. Staveley, Army Chaplain, left Khartoum for England in the Middle of May.

Dr. Boshko Tcholak-Antitch, the Serbian Minister at Stockholm, has left London for Sweden.

At The Cedars, Chertsey, on May 26, the wife of Mr. A. G. Pawson, Sudan Civil Service, gave birth to a son.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough have returned to Cavendish Square from Bessborough, Piltown, County Kilkenny.

On May 27, at Hillside, Merstham, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel A. J. O'Brien, C.I.E., Gujranwala, Punjab, gave birth to a daughter.

Colonel Milivoj J. Nicolaievitch, the recently-appointed Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation at Havre, left London last week to take up his duties.

Mr. Montagu Porch, who was married to Lady Randolph Churchill last Saturday, accompanied Professor Flinders Petre when the latter conducted his archæological explorations in the Sinai Peninsula.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (additional for services during the war) Mr. J. E. Shuckburgh, head of the Political Department, India Office.

The marriage arranged between Lieut.-Colonel F. F. Carroll, D.S.O., and Miss Evelyn Bernard will take place at St. Joseph's Church in Cairo on the 15th inst. There will be no reception, but friends will be welcomed at the church.

Lord Reay, K.T., will preside at a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society to be held at 22, Albemarle Street next Tuesday, June 11, at 4 p.m. Mr. J. N. Farquhar, D.Litt., will read a paper on "The Bhagavata Purana and the Sects Dependent Thereon."

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Prescott Trevor, Indian Political Service, C.S.I., C.I.E., eldest son of Sir Arthur Trevor, K.C.S.I., was married on Saturday to Lucy May Eléni, eldest daughter of Lieut.-Colonel H. Peers and Mrs. Dimmock, at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon.

On the second anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Shereef of Mecca the Arab Governor of Jeddah gave a reception at Government House to the British, French, and Italian diplomatists and their staffs, the leading Arab Government officials, and the chief European and Arab civilians.

The marriage of Captain B. W. Fagan, M.C., Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, son of the Hon. P. J. Fagan, I.C.S., and Gwendoline, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moir, of Stoneywood, Kenley, Surrey, will take place to-morrow at the Parish Church, Coulsdon, Surrey, at half-past twelve o'clock.

At Buckingham Palace on Tuesday Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor and Commander-in-Chief Designate of Ceylon, had an audience of his Majesty, when the King conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Arthur William La Touche Bisset, Royal Navy, only son of the late Colonel Sir William Bisset, K.C.I.E., and Lady Bisset, of Hill House, Stoke Poges, and Miss Margaret Frances McNeil Grant, only daughter of the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia and Mrs. McCallum Grant, Government House, Halifax, will take place in Edinburgh on June 12, leave permitting.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Ronald Charles Campbell Orde, R.F.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Campbell Orde, of Copse Edge, Godalming, Surrey, and Gwyneth May, twin daughter of Mr. J. Penry Lewis, C.M.G., Ceylon Civil Service (retired), and Mrs. Penry Lewis, of Quisisana, Walton by Clevedon, Somerset.

On Saturday at Buckingham Palace the King invested Major-General Joseph Rimington with the insignia of the Order of the Star of India. At the same Investiture his Majesty also invested Colonel Gerard Irvine, I.M.S., with the Order of the Bath (Military Division), Lieut.-Colonel Francis Perry, I.M.S. (retired), with the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Lady Meston with the Order of the British Empire.

The marriage of Major Bayne-Jardine, A.V.C., of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Miss Mary Shellaber Merivale, of Sydney, N.S.W., took place at All Saints' Church, Cairo, on May 8. Owing to the bridegroom's being on active service the wedding was quietly celebrated. The Rev. C. T. Horan conducted the service, the bride was given away by Mr. T. Dawson Shepheard, and Captain C. S. Cardrew, R.W.F., acted as best man.

Mr. Caclamanos, Hellenic Minister to Petrograd, has arrived in London to assist M. Gennadius in the extra work involved by the war. M. Caclamanos will thus be in charge of all matters connected with the relations with the various Allied Commissions, with the trade and navigation interests of Greece, and with the civil and military provisioning of the country. He will act in these matters in co-operation with M Gennadius, who continues at the head of the Greek Diplomatic representation in England, with the full and entire confidence of his Government.

H.H. the Aga Khan is among the latest donors to the Red Cross Necklace scheme, for which 2,100 pearls have now been received. The scheme has created great interest in Egypt. Lady Wingate has written saying that she has had a most generous response to the appeal, and has already received sixty pearls, including valuable gifts from her Sultania Highness Princess Fewkia, daughter of the Sultan, H.S.H. the Sultana Melik, widow of the Sultan Hussein, and H.S.H. Princess Kemal-ed-Din. The Governor of the National Bank of Egypt has also given her the greatest possible assistance.

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The headquarters of the Red Sea Province moved from Port Sudan to Erkowit on May 24.

A telegram from Teheran received in Salonika reports that the Persian Cabinet resigned on May 31.

A collection of water-colours of the Holy Land, Egypt, Syria, and California, by Sutton Palmer, is now on view at the galleries of the Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond Street.

An exhibition of pictures and photographs by Australian official artists and photographers is now open at the Grafton Galleries. It contains many extremely interesting pictures of Palestine.

Mr. Charles Sarolea, Belgian Consul in Edinburgh, will deliver at the London School of Economics a course of public lectures on "Problems of Foreign Policy." The lectures will be given on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m. H.E. the Belgian Minister, Baron Moncheur, will take the chair at the first lecture of the series.

A telegram from Bombay, dated May 30, says:—The monsoon, which has commenced earlier than usual, is progressing here, and at the Colaba Observatory during the past week 7 ins. of rain have been recorded. Last year no rain was reported at this observatory till the week ended June 13, while even a ten-year average shows only 1.74 in. of rain for the first week of June.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Kaimakam P. B. Stafford Bey, officer commanding 2nd Battalion, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

General Iliesco, formerly Generalissimo of the Roumanian army, declares that now that King Ferdinand has accepted his resignation he has offered his services to the French Government.

The *Gazette* announces that Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Costello, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., Punjabis, Indian Army, has been appointed temporary Brigadier-General whilst employed as a Brigade Commander.

Lieutenant R. S. Jenkins, Australian Imperial Force, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Eastern Arab Corps for duty.

Captain B. K. Young, Royal Engineers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the Military Works Department for duty.

Mr. H. W. Cook, of the Department of Technical Education, Egyptian Government, has been given the title of Senior Inspector of that department. Mr. Frank Webb, of the same department, has been made Inspector.

Dr. P. G. Williams, Director of the First Section of the Public Health Department, Egyptian Government, has been detailed to act as Director-General for that department until the successor of Sir David Semple is definitely appointed.

Major A. Lowden, Army Service Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Bimbashi Teall, Inspector of Cairo City Police, has been promoted to the local rank of Kaimakam, and transferred to Alexandria as Assistant Commandant of Police. Sagh. Hamilton, Inspector, Ministry of Interior, formerly attached to the Alexandria City Police, has replaced him at Cairo, and has been granted the local rank of Bimbashi.

The King of Roumania has conferred the title of Counsellor of Legation on M. M. B. Boeresco, who, for several months, since M. Misu left London, has been acting as Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires. M. Boeresco has been for many years in London, where he filled his first diplomatic post in 1900 as honorary Attaché to the Roumanian Legation.

The Special Board of Indian Civil Service Studies have appointed the following as University teachers at Cambridge for one year from October 1 next:—Mr. R. H. Macleod, Indian Law; Mr. G. P. Moriarty, Indian History; Mr. J. D. Anderson, Bengali; Mr. J. L. Wyatt, Tamil; Mr. L. Allan Goss, Burmese; Mr. W. Doderet, Marathi; Dr. Rouse, Sanskrit; and Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Phillott, Hindustani.

OBITUARY.

Lady Macpherson, who died at Exmouth last week, was the daughter of Mr. William Martin, of Calcutta, and married Sir Arthur George Macpherson, K.C.I.E., in 1860.

The *Sudan Times* received by the last mail contains news of the death of Mr. G. B. Brown, M.C., Civil Inspector at Shendi, Berber Province, on April 21. Mr. Brown had joined the Sudan Civil Service only since December, 1917, after three years' active service in the Army. He was taken ill at Shendi and was being taken to Khartoum, in charge of Dr. Hodson, when he died.

Second-Lieutenant Lionel Henry Liptrap Carver, Irish Guards, who has been killed in action, was the elder son of the late Rev. H. J. Carver, rector of Melbury Abbas, Dorset. On leaving Cambridge he entered the firm of the Bombay, Burmah Trading Corporation, spending ten years in the East. At the outbreak of war he joined the Rangoon and Moulmein Volunteers. He returned home in March, 1917, for military training, and joined the Irish Guards, going out to the front with his battalion last December.

Colonel Sir William Arthur Johns, C.B., C.I.E., died suddenly at Belfast on Monday at the age of 50. Educated at Uppingham and the Royal Engineering College, he entered the Indian Public Works Department in 1880. He had a distinguished career in India, and was employed with the Seistan Boundary Commission in 1902 and 1903, and in frontier surveys in 1912 and 1913. He was knighted in 1914. As a temporary colonel in the Army, he served in the present war in German East Africa from 1915 to 1917, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the C.B.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATH.

RAMSAY.—Died at Salonika, on May 24, 1918, Gregor MacGregor Ramsay (formerly of Constantinople). Deeply regretted.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1918.

THE KITCHENER SPIRIT.

On June 5, 1916, Lord Kitchener met his death in the North Sea. The second anniversary of that tragic event finds the nation passing through an ordeal equal to that which it endured in the early days of the war, when it instinctively turned to Lord Kitchener as the master military mind of the Empire for such a crisis. His contribution to the salvation of Great Britain, and, therefore, of the Allied cause, was to think in millions when others could only contemplate an army of a few hundred thousand, and to see in the war thus beginning—for which others prophesied an end in three months—a gigantic conflict that must last for years. The event has surpassed even Lord Kitchener's far-seeing computations; but we have reason to be grateful to the man who first stirred the British people to a more adequate realisation of the problem confronting them. To-day the best tribute that can be paid to his memory is to reflect whether the nation as a whole has taken to heart his warning against short-sightedness, whether it is still allowing its vision to include the widest horizon that the enemy's ambition has formed, or whether it has fallen back upon that narrow outlook which sees no farther than the battlefields of France, and affects to discover at every turn the prospect of an early peace. On this point, it is to be feared, the national conscience is not altogether clear. During the last twelve months influences have been at work in our midst to dull the edge of British determination. The consistent opponent of the war has been discredited from the outset, and he has made no headway of his own effort; but every suggestion that has challenged the wisdom or the feasibility of a fight to a finish has provided him with encouragement. Some of these suggestions have come from the individualist who claims to see national bankruptcy in any reduction in his own large income or whose personal sacrifice or war-weariness has engendered the doubt whether the Allies can achieve all the aims to which they stand pledged. In other quarters there has been a tendency to regard the German people as having reached a changed and more reasonable mood, or to see a short cut to peace—if it were properly utilised—in the domestic troubles of Germany or in the detachment of Austria-Hungary from the Central Alliance. For each phase the Germans have known how to cater, and for a time were even more ready to push a peace offensive than to hazard a military one on the Western front. The change came with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which was imposed upon Russia not as the outcome of the reasonableness of German diplomacy, but at the point of the sword. Militarism was once more in the ascendant, and the true character of Germany reasserted itself in the peace terms dictated to Roumania and in the interpretation placed on the pact with the Bolsheviks, which has enabled the Germans to compass the absorption of large tracts of Russian territory.

The impossibility of peace by negotiation was at once apparent. A terrific onslaught on the Allies followed, and the Germans tried to force a military decision in the West. There is no reason to suppose that they will succeed; but the prodigality of the slaughter entailed again raises the question, Is it all worth the while? As soon as these doubts have had time to permeate the minds already prepared for them we may expect a renewal of the German peace offensive, and this time the nation must decide whether it will allow itself to be deluded by false theories, as it was last year. Never was there greater need for the long view that will envisage not only the course of events in the West, but the whole trend of German activities in the East. In this connection we would commend the perusal of the article on the opposite page, in which Sir Valentine Chirol sets forth the nature of the German thrust into Asia. "Some people," he shrewdly remarks, "will doubtless try to minimise German ambitions in the Middle East and in the Far East as up to 1914 they minimised her ambitions in the Near East. Others, with more excuse, will contend that we have enough to do at the present moment to ward off the more urgent peril at our gates. But let us make no mistake about it. If Germany is out to crush us even more than the French in France, her whole thrust into Asia is aimed also at us." But she will rely upon the fierceness of her Western offensive to distract attention from the East, in the hope that a bargain peace may leave her, at the price of concessions in the West, with her power firmly established in Eastern Europe and in Asia, alike in the political, military, and economic spheres. If the Kitchener spirit is still upon it, the country and its Government will look beyond the immediate ordeal to which the Allied armies are being subjected in France, and will remember that, unless Prussian militarism is destroyed in all its ramifications, Germany will emerge a victor from the struggle and more powerful than she was in 1914, owing to the hold she has gained in the East.

The degree of vision that is now required of the British nation ought not to prove a tax upon its powers. Thirty-six years ago a soldier-statesman, with far less evidence than is now available before him, gauged the nature of the German menace. In a letter to a correspondent in 1882 (the words were quoted in the *Empire Magazine* of April, 1911) General Gordon wrote:—"So far as England is concerned, she need not for the next quarter of a century be under any apprehension of serious difficulties arising with any of her European neighbours; but in 1910 or thereabouts there will have arisen a Naval Power which may prove mightier than she, and should she (Germany) gain the supremacy, England will become extinct, both as a sea and a land Power, and all her dependencies, including India, will fall into Germany's clutches." The ultimate goal of militarist Germany remains the downfall of the British Empire, in order that there may be no effective challenge to German world-domination. In 1914 this goal was to be attained by the sudden overwhelming of France and the subsequent disposal of Russia, before any real attempt was to be made to try conclusions with Great Britain. The scheme miscarried in its original form; but for the moment a better way has presented itself for reaching the goal. If Germany can keep her present gains in the East, she trusts to finding herself, when the time comes for what she regards as the inevitable issue, in a far more favourable position for dealing a blow against the British Empire at its most vital spot, which she holds to be India. Even if she be forced to renounce her political aspirations, she trusts to her strangle-hold on the economic development of the countries of Eastern Europe and Hither Asia to make good all her war losses and to enable her to prepare for the next war. Russia constitutes the crux of the whole position. Unless she can be regenerated and won for the Grand Alliance she will come wholly under Germany's power, and before many years have passed will be a prodigious source of strength for Germany's aims. But the Allied Governments appear to have taken no definite steps to cope with the Russian situation, while Germany is gradually extending her influence eastwards and still further eastwards. The lead in this matter belongs to Great Britain, who, if her vision had been wide enough, would have realised that, for the ultimate safety of civilisation and to guard the gates of the East against the German menace, it is no less necessary to bring help to Russia than it is to provide men and material on the Western front.

THE GERMAN THRUST INTO ASIA.

By SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

Except during the costly Dardanelles episode, doomed to failure by its blundering inception, the attention of the British people, and of its political and military leaders, has been concentrated throughout the war almost exclusively on the Western front, with the grave results we are now witnessing. If anyone wants to study the disastrous consequences of that insular frame of mind which has led us to regard the Eastern fronts as mere "side shows," let him study the masterly article by M. Chéradame in the May number of the *National Review*. No writer has followed with clearer insight and watchfulness the steady development of German policy in the Near East since William II. first startled the old Chancellor at the beginning of his reign by revealing to him his conception of Turkey as Germany's "bridgehead to world dominion," but his works, being written in French, have had far fewer readers in this country than they deserved. In the Near East all his worst anticipations have come true. If, as he argues with much cogency, we had thrown the forces squandered at Gallipoli into the Balkans in the spring of 1915, when the Serbians were still holding, and more than holding, the Austrians, Serbia would have been saved, Bulgaria probably rescued from temptation, Venizelos so strengthened as to carry Greece with him in the teeth of Constantine, Roumania free to concentrate all her military energies on Transylvania, and even the storm that has paralysed Russia possibly averted or at least delayed. Now Serbia is gone, Roumania gone, Greece seriously menaced, Bulgaria as well as Turkey tied to the German chariot-wheels, and Russia practically wiped off the war map.

In the East William II., it must be admitted, has already won more than a mere "bridgehead to world dominion." German ambitions are already looking far beyond the Near East into Central and Further Asia. There may be no use in expending vain regrets upon the past, but let us at least profit by its lessons, and, even amidst the crucial anxieties of the gigantic struggle in France, look the new dangers with which we are confronted in Asia in the face—undismayed but not unheeding.

Before the war Germany was moving only on one single line of eastward expansion—namely, the Baghdad line—the famous B.B.B. Railway (Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad or Busreh). She had planned it out with great skill and was carrying it into execution with all her usual energy. But her control over it was still only indirect and in parts precarious. It depended upon the ascendancy she had acquired over Turkey—an ascendancy no doubt already consolidated by innumerable economic, political, and military rivets, but still not finally secured—and upon the acquiescence of the Balkan States, which was a far more doubtful quantity, and largely subject to Austria-Hungary's ability to dominate them. The Balkan wars, it was believed in Berlin, would almost certainly leave the Balkan States too exhausted for any further resistance to Germanic penetration. But they fell out otherwise than Germany had expected, and Serbia, at any rate, emerged to be the most stubborn obstacle in her way. Hence Germany's determination to sweep it off her path, which precipitated the great crisis of 1914. With the conquest of Serbia and the active co-operation of Bulgaria and Turkey as her subordinate allies—scarcely more subordinate, however, than the Dual Monarchy itself—the war has in this direction completely fulfilled Germany's purpose up to the point where the Turco-German forces have been driven back by the British in Mesopotamia, and to some extent menaced also by the British advance into Palestine. If we can hold our own in those regions, Germany's original scheme of penetration right down to the Persian Gulf may still be defeated, and so long as Baghdad remains in our hands, the B.B.B. line of German advance must remain incomplete, for it will lack the last and the most important link.

But the collapse of Russia, involving the subjection of Roumania, opens up to Germany other and even more formidable lines of advance into Asia, of which she has not been slow to measure the advantages. Bolshevism has thrown not merely European Russia but Asiatic Russia into the melting pot, and next to the British Empire, Russia was the greatest Asiatic, and it is essential to remember, the greatest Mohammedan, Empire in the world. For the new lines of advance opened up to Germany are politico-religious as well as geographical. Only a passing reference needs to be made to her new line of access to the Black Sea at Constanza through Roumania and the now Bulgarian Dobruja. Far more important is the hold she is acquiring through the Ukraine, where she rules by martial law even more effectively than through a dummy Ukrainian President and a dummy Ukrainian Government, over the whole of Southern Russia, including Odessa and the Crimea and the Northern Caucasus. The reports that reach this country from those unhappy regions are rare and vague, but amongst more recent ones, none is more significant than the announcement from German sources that the Ukraine Government at Kieff is insisting on the annexation of Rostoff on the Don, Novotcherkisk, and all the northern districts of Caucasia, which would bring under German control the great trunk railway running from Southern Russia through Rostoff and along the northern foothills of the main Caucasus range to Baku, the famous oil city on the western shores of the Caspian. In the Crimea and in Northern Caucasia, moreover, there are still large Mohammedan communities, who are doubtless being rapidly taught to look up to "Hajji Mohammed Wilhelm" as the "all-highest" Protector of Islam and the staunch ally of the Sultan and Khalif of Stamboul.

Meanwhile from the south-west the Turkish armies themselves, to whom the Bolsheviks handed over at Brest Litovsk, not only the Armenian provinces of Asia Minor rescued from Turkey by the Grand Duke Michael during the war, but Kars and Batoum and all the territories ceded by Turkey to Russia in 1878, are marching into Southern Caucasia to join hands with their co-religionists in Northern Caucasia, and are moving also towards Northern Persia, where the Turki population, also Mohammedan, though of the Shia, and not of the Turkish Sunni persuasion, has very close racial and linguistic affinities with the Osmanli Turks. The effect upon Persia as a whole of the elimination of Russia as an Asiatic Power may be left over for another occasion. Let us for the moment merely bear in mind that through the northern provinces of Persia bordering on the Caspian the Turks and their German masters can easily push their way, as far as Persian powers of resistance go, into Russian Trans-caspia, and seize the Trans-caspian Railway to Merv and Bokhara and the Central Asian cities of Samarkand and Tashkend, which the Russians extended to the banks of the Oxus, where that river alone divided the Tsar's dominions from those of the Ameer of Afghanistan. The starting-point of the Trans-caspian Railway, on the eastern shores of the Caspian, immediately faces Baku, which is, with Astrakhan, the chief Caspian harbour, and, as virtually all the shipping of the Caspian was in Russian hands, it is bound to pass now, like that of the Black Sea, into the hands of Germany or of those whom she chooses to appoint as her receivers for that part of Russia's bankrupt estate.

Thus through the Ukraine and along the northern

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

littoral of the Black Sea and through Asia Minor and along the southern littoral Germany is now acquiring control of two converging lines of advance into the Caucasus and, across or round the Caspian, into what was Russian Central Asia. Nor is that all. If Germany's grip on the Bolsheviks is as firm as it is described in a letter from M. Tereschenko, formerly Kerensky's Foreign Secretary, to the well-known advanced Revolutionist, Vladimir Burtseff, who has just escaped from the Bolshevik clutches and handed it for publication to a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* in Christiania, she may at any moment possess herself of a third and far more direct line of advance into Asia by the great Trans-Siberian trunk line. "Pro-Consul Mirbach (German Ambassador to Russia) is ruling in Moscow" writes Tereschenko. "Waves of Bolshevik eloquence still ripple, but grow calm as soon as the new ruler frowns. Lenin and Trotsky are in power in Moscow, only because it is in Germany's interests. One division would suffice to overthrow them, but the Germans know what they are doing. The Bolsheviks are more useful to them than the rule of their own generals. . . . They know only capitulation, betrayal, unquenchable thirst for power, greed and pleasure. . . . The power of the Bolsheviks is a Trojan horse painted brightly, draped with flags and loud phrases. But the German soldier sits within, ruling and calmly smiling." Moscow is the main terminus of the Trans-Siberian railway, of which a branch runs straight down from Orenburg to Tashkend, where it joins up with the Trans-Caspian Railway.

Nor does Germany require to pour in her own troops through any or all of these lines of advance. Even if she cannot perhaps rely on the whole rank and file of the German and Austrian prisoners of war in those regions whom Bolshevism has liberated and possibly infected, there are enough German and Austrian officers now at large there to apply the match to the powder magazine. For the turbulent and only partially settled populations of the old Central Asian Khanates—the Khirgiz broke out into active rebellion against Russia in 1916—contain plenty of explosive material. They are in touch to the East with all that Mohammedan fringe which runs along the borders of the Chinese Empire from Western Yunnan and Szechuan into Western Kansu. The Turkish Pan-Turanians claim them as the long-lost brothers of the Osmanli Turks. The claim may be far fetched, and might ultimately prove quite inacceptable to the long-lost brothers. Pan-Turanianism is made up of so many incongruous factors that in the long run it must almost certainly fall to pieces. But, like Bolshevism, it will play in the meantime into Germany's hands, and the tune to which she intends it to dance may be gathered from the new interpretation she places on the mystic B.B.B., which is read now Berlin-Byzantium-Bokhara, with an ultimate extension, of which both China and Japan seem to be taking note, to Kiao-chao on the far Pacific.

Some people will doubtless try to minimise German ambitions in the Middle East and in the Far East as up till 1914 they minimised her ambitions in the Near East. Others with more excuse will contend that we have enough to do at the present moment to ward off the more urgent peril at our gates. But let us make no mistake about it. If Germany is out to crush us even more than the French in France, her whole thrust into Asia is aimed solely at us. Not out of its own inner consciousness has the German Press drawn the inspiration that, even if our armies can be driven off the European continent in this war, the British Empire can only be destroyed when its oversea power, of which the chief seat is held to be India, shall have been shattered—in the next war, if not in this. Germany is confident that she already holds all the trumps in her hand. That is not so. She does hold some, but we have still some good cards to play, if we know how to use them. We have none, however, to throw away, as we have already thrown too many away in the past—least of all in Persia, which is now marked out in Berlin for a more important part than has yet been assigned to her in the war. The Persian situation must, however, be reserved for a subsequent article.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The news of the death of Mar Shimun, head of the Nestorian (or East Syrian, or Assyrian) Church will be received with real regret in this country. Those who know nothing of the customs of the Nestorians may be surprised to read of a "Patriarch" only thirty years old, and one who was elected when he was only half that age, too! The explanation is that the patriarchate is hereditary; but as bishops may not marry—though other clergy of the Church are allowed to do so—the office descends from uncle to nephew. The Patriarch occupies an almost unique position. In "The Cradle of Mankind" the authors refer to the legend of Prester John: "the legend of a Christian King ruling his people in the midst of infidels; a King who was yet a priest and who celebrated Mass regularly; who had a kingdom in the midst of wild, inaccessible mountains, girdled by cloud and storm; and who was tormented by the harpies that came daily and snatched the food from his table." These stories, we are told, "are literally the fact in all essentials (or were so until very lately) with the Patriarch of the Nestorians in Kurdistan." Even "a very good imitation of the harpies" was supplied by the Kurds who ravaged the land.

⁂

The Bishop-Prince had no "soft billet." But he showed himself every inch a man, and travellers who made his acquaintance almost invariably brought away a favourable impression of him. The writers already referred to tell us that it would have been easy for him "to make comfortable terms for his House and himself had be been content to leave his people to look after their own interests. On the contrary, he has habitually sacrificed his own ease and comfort, and has run serious risks again and again in order that he may try to protect 'the sheep whom God has committed to him' either from Kurdish raider or from the worse oppression of the Ottoman minor official." The Nestorians I met struck me as self-respecting and courageous, and their Patriarch seems to have possessed those virtues to an extraordinary degree.

Corsair.

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FROM THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST.

The list of "Birthday Honours" is a long one indeed. Among the recipients is Lord Oranmore and Browne, who becomes a Knight of St. Patrick. Lord Pentland, the Governor of Madras, and Lord Willingdon, Governor of Bombay, become Grand Commanders of the Star of India. The following is a list of recipients connected with India or the Near East, the paragraphs attached in some cases being information issued officially:—

KNIGHT OF ST. PATRICK.

Geoffrey Henry Browne, Baron Oranmore and Browne.

PRIVY COUNCILLOR.

Sir Richard Walter John, Earl of Donoughmore, K.P.
For special services rendered to the Government in India in connection with the visit of the Secretary of State for India to India.

KNIGHTS.

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Deba Prosad Sarbadhikari, Esq., C.I.E., LL.D., M.A.
Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University, Bengal.

Nilratan Sarkar, Esq., M.D.
Medical Practitioner, Calcutta, Bengal.

Gordon Fraser, Esq.
Managing Director, Messrs. Best and Co., Ltd., Madras.

Hormasji Ardeshir Wadia, Esq.
Barrister-at-Law, Bombay.

Robert Aitken, Esq.
Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Bombay, Bombay.

Rai Bahadur Seth Sarupchand Hukamchand.
Banker, Central India.

Edward Denison Ross, Esq., C.I.E., Ph.D.
Principal of the School of Oriental Studies.

G.C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

General Sir Arthur Arnold Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., A.D.C.
General, Indian Army.

K.C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.S.I.
Indian Army.

Lieutenant-General Havelock Hudson, C.B., C.I.E.
Indian Army.

C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

Colonel (Temporary Brigadier-General) Philip John Miles.
Indian Army.

Colonel Edward Langford Sullivan, C.M.G.
Indian Army.

Colonel Leslie Waterfield Shakespear.
Indian Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Blackburn Smith, M.B.
Indian Medical Service.

G.C.S.I.

His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir John, Baron Pentland, G.C.I.E.
Governor of Madras.

His Excellency Sir Freeman, Baron Willingdon, G.C.I.E., G.B.E.
Governor of Bombay.

K.C.S.I.

Sir William Henry Hoare Vincent, I.C.S.
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Major-General Richard Wapshare, C.B.

Colonel (Temporary Major-General) John MacNeill Walter, C.B., D.S.O.

G.C.V.O.

Colonel Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, Bt., G.C.I.E., C.B.

G.C.I.E.

His Highness Raja Sri Rama Varma.
Raja of Cochin, Madras.

Sir Frederick William Duke, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.
Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India.

K.C.I.E.

Thakur Sahib Lakhaji Raj Bawaji Raj.
Thakur Sahib of Rajkot Kathiawar, Bombay.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

India is having an abnormally early monsoon this year. It broke on May 25, and by the 30th it was reported that 7 in. of rain had been recorded at Colaba Observatory. How this compares with previous records will be gathered from the fact that last year no rain was reported at that observatory until the second week in June, while the average rainfall for the first week in June for the past ten years is only 1.74 in. Indians regard early monsoons with suspicion, and its outbreak more than a fortnight ahead of the ordinary time may no doubt give rise to apprehension. It would be premature to venture to forecast the course of the monsoon, but there is no reason to anticipate that the country will not be favoured with an abundant rainfall, such as is desired, by the time the season ends in September. In normal times a good or bad monsoon spells the difference between sufficiency and starvation, and it is scarcely necessary to emphasise its importance at a crisis like the present when the food supplies of the whole world are giving rise to such anxiety.

⁂

The past year has been a satisfactory one for the Indian General Navigation and Railway Company, notwithstanding the increasing pressure of adverse circumstances. The net profits were £65,800, as against £72,700, while the figures for gross profits were £159,800, as against £175,600. £3,500 is placed to the debenture sinking fund, and £9,000 is allotted to the insurance fund, as against £12,600. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent., and the carry-forward is £1,700 higher at £26,500.

⁂

The Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company's report for the past year shows a decline in the net profits of £E900, as compared with the previous year. The dividend is maintained for the fourth year in succession at 1 2-3 per cent.

⁂

Serbia, whose coalfields were visited recently by an enemy expert, who claimed to have discovered ten new coal-bearing localities, is not the only country in the Balkans with comparatively undeveloped fuel resources. Bulgaria presents a case in point. This country possesses extensive coalfields in the mountainous districts, which have been little developed, partly because of financial difficulties, and partly because of deficient communications. The position is best illustrated by the fact that Bulgaria has depended on external sources for almost two-thirds of her coal supply. In view of Bulgaria's relations with the Central Powers, it may be taken for granted that efforts have been, or will be made, by Germany and her Ally to exploit this convenient source of fuel supply as they can hope for future benefit from it; whereas nothing they do in Serbia can be of more than passing advantage—to themselves; for naturally the Serbs will be only too glad to utilise the discoveries made by the "expert."

⁂

The Government, I see, is to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee on Bank Amalgamations. In the meantime an Advisory Committee is to be set up, which will include among its members Lord Inchcape and Lord Colwyn, a fact which assures the adequate representation of banking interests, as Lord Inchcape is a director of the National Provincial and Union Bank, while Lord Colwyn is also a bank director.

⁂

There has been a marked development of joint stock enterprise during the war in India, where investors have not hitherto been hampered by the restrictions imposed on capital issues on this side of the "Black Water." Their immunity in this respect has now ceased, as the Government of India have felt impelled to introduce legislation giving them control over new issues of capital. While this step will be far from welcome in business circles, both here and in India—owing to the distrust of further Government interference in trade matters—its incidence will be rendered less unpalatable by Sir William Meyer's assurance to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that there is no intention of utilising the powers taken by the Government to bring about an entire suspension of fresh issues. The licences necessary for flotations under the Act will, it is understood, be readily granted when there is no likelihood that Government borrowings will in any way be prejudiced by the issues. In this respect the position will be much more satisfactory than it is in this country, where the most essential issues are most difficult to negotiate.

⁂

The control exercised by the Government of India over the hides trade has recently been the subject of questions in the Legislative Council. A member suggested that American tanners and manufacturers had secured the Indian trade in goat and sheep skins as a result of the embargo on tanned skins. This was denied by Sir George Barnes, who pointed out that while America took 371,000 cwt. raw skins out of a total export of 460,700 cwt. in 1917, the corresponding average figures for the five years preceding the war were 423,000 cwt. and 548,000 cwt. The object of the prohibition, Sir George said, was to preserve for tanners of hides the whole of the resources of tanning bark, which were insufficient for the production of the full number of tanned hides required.

⁂

It might have been thought that the wave of banking prosperity which has coincided with the war period in the Allied countries would not have extended to Germany, or if it had would not have been so-marked, owing to the very unfavourable financial conditions obtaining there. But it seems that the virtual bankruptcy of Germany has had little or no effect on the banks there, most of which have been able to show balance-sheets which the Press of the "Fatherland" has acclaimed as evidence of their strong position. Thus of the eight Berlin joint stock banks seven increased their dividends for the past year, while the remaining bank maintained its dividend at the previous rate. The Deutsche Bank, almost needless to say, enjoyed the distinction of the highest declaration—14 per cent.—an indication of its capacity to maintain and enlarge the role it played before the war in furthering the commercial penetration of Germany.

⁂

The recent dividend declaration indicated that 1917-18 was likely to prove an excellent year for Liptons, and this has been confirmed by the issue of the report, which shows that the company has had the most satisfactory year in its history. The gross profits amounted to £544,300, as against £442,800 in 1916-17, and £295,100 in 1915-16, while the expenses of management showed a considerable decrease at £170,300, as against £184,300. The net profits were £374,000, as against £258,500, and the dividend is raised from 7½ per cent. to 12½ per cent. For the next highest dividends it is necessary to go back to the first two years of the company, when the declaration was 11 per cent.; and the extent and rapidity of the improvement in the company's position will be gathered from the fact that for the first two years of war the Ordinary dividend was passed altogether. For the rest, I need only mention that the allocation to reserve is £100,000, as against £75,000, £25,000 is again placed to the war contingencies reserve, the ordinary depreciation provision is maintained at £44,100, the unexpended portion allotted to outlay on repairs—£54,600—has been placed to a suspense account, and £74,700 is carried forward, the latter item being an increase of £7,800.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

I.—The Development of Commerce

The Commission of Commerce and Industry, which was created in March, 1916, under the presidency of H. E. Ismail Sidky Pasha for the purpose of ascertaining to what extent the commerce and industry of the country had been affected by the war, and of suggesting measures having for their object either the creation of new outlets for Egyptian products or the substitution of articles, the import of which had ceased, by other articles produced in Egypt or coming from authorised foreign sources, has now completed its work, and has presented a most interesting report. Dealing with the commercial position of the country, the report points out that the economic regeneration of Egypt dates from the time of Mohamed Ali, the founder of the reigning dynasty, who made great efforts to encourage industry and agriculture. To this end he invited the collaboration of Europe, facilitated the education of the people and established and started the execution of a general scheme of irrigation works. His work was carried on by Said and Ismail Pasha, and between 1800 and 1880 the external trade of Egypt increased by 3,000 per cent., and her population increased by 400 per cent.; but whilst since then her commerce has continued to rise, the expansion in imports has outstripped that in exports, and the country is more than ever dependent on foreign markets as the result of being a monocultural country. The report points out that Egypt was formerly an exporter of cereals, and also a transit house for the surrounding lands, and it expresses the hope that she will once again after the war resume her transit relations with other markets.

Defects in Legal System.

Dealing with commercial legislation, the report pays a tribute to the magistracy of the Mixed Courts, who, despite the somewhat defective legislation they are called upon to administer, generally contrive to adapt it to the necessities of the day, and to give decisions which have assisted in the satisfactory solution of the economic and commercial problems confronting the community. At the same time, it calls for certain reforms, such as a proper form of registration of all persons engaged in trade with full details of their business and standing, greater publicity as to the position and rights of wives of traders, legislation concerning Egyptian companies offering guarantees to shareholders and creditors by forcing companies to publish their balance-sheets and by fixing the responsibility of directors, etc., and establishing the conditions under which foreign companies should be allowed to operate in Egypt, also legislation in regard to insurance companies, which at present are free to enforce any policies they like, and are not bound to possess any property in the country as a guarantee towards their policy holders, and laws on trade-marks and warrants. It recommends the application of the law of bankruptcy to non-traders as well as reform of the law re commercial security, full publicity in regard to bills of exchange in circulation and protests in connection therewith, the unification of the system of weights and measures on the basis of the metric system and a more extensive control over the quality of foodstuffs offered for sale.

The Banking System.

With regard to commercial credit, the view is expressed in the report that there are adequate banking facilities in existence, and that any extension except in the direction of agricultural banking would not be to the benefit of the country. It notes with pleasure that one of the effects of the war has been to put an end to the system of unduly long credits which were so freely accorded before the war by importing houses, and thinks that a closer co-operation between the various banks in the matter of commercial intelligence might result in greater assistance not only to the banks in question, but also to trade in particular. It considers that the National Bank of Egypt, which, owing to its peculiar relations with the Egyptian Government, has become a sort of State bank, should develop itself in the direction of a central bank, of a controlling bank of the other banks, and that a revision of the conditions under which it is allowed to issue banknotes is desirable. It also considers that the time has come for purely Egyptian capital to play its part in the banking system of the country instead of confining its collaboration to making deposits in the banks, and that there is room for a bank directly designed to assist and protect industrial enterprises. Its initiation need not be pretentious, but once it was established as a going concern it would play a great part in the industrial development of the country.

The Question of Food Supply.

The commission gives it as its opinion that the agricultural and industrial activities of the country must be increased so as to relieve Egypt of the danger resulting from her being a one-crop country, so as to make the country independent of outside sources from the point of view of food, in order to provide for the abnormal increase which is taking place in the population and with a view to furnishing the wherewithal for the execution of all the works indispensable to the proper economic and social development of the country. Egypt must as soon as possible put under cultivation the vast area at present lying unproductive—for this it will be necessary to obtain funds from outside—and at the same time she must improve her agricultural methods, which are not in keeping with the times.

As regards transport, the railway system has been developed in a satisfactory manner, but the rates are in many cases too high and a drastic alteration is imperative. Also, greater use should be made of water transport, which could be much extended seeing the advantages which this country enjoys from its river and fine canal system, a river port is necessary, greater impetus should be given to road construction, and some means should be found for rendering the country less dependent on foreign shipping for the export of its products.

Commercial Education.

Turning to commercial education, the commission is of opinion that the general state of ignorance which exists amongst the Egyptians as to commercial methods is very detrimental to any progress, and it recommends that the system of commercial education should be greatly developed, that a year's apprenticeship in a commercial house should precede the granting of a diploma to successful graduates and that elementary commercial instruction should be given throughout the lower schools. The report calls attention to the fact that apart from the foreign chambers of commerce there exist no economic associations in the country. It considers that there should be a more active collaboration between Egyptian and foreign traders and that the Government should give to any movement in such a direction all its support; it also calls for a greater extension of the statistical service of the State.

Dealing with the organisation of the external and internal trade of the country the report says that the system of weighing cotton at Alexandria leaves much to be desired, and recommends that weighing by Government weighers should be introduced; it considers that the cotton trade is too much under the influence of foreign exporters, that the transit trade carried out by Egypt on behalf of countries further East could be developed if customs facilities were offered and tariffs reduced, and that this development would not only create a profitable trade for the country, but it would set up permanent stocks of commodities required by the country, on which it could draw in emergency, whilst it would open up important shipping and trade connections with lands which are, and it is to be hoped will continue to be on a greater scale, importers of Egyptian products.

Organisation of Import Trade.

With regard to the import trade, the commission considers that its organisation is very defective. This applies especially to the very considerable commission agency business. and the Commission outlines certain conditions which foreign merchants should insist on in their contracts with local commission agents, and which would do more to eradicate the abuses, which undoubtedly exist, than any amount of legislation. Coming next to the internal trade in agricultural products the commission says that the problem of agricultural credit is one of those meriting the most serious attention, and it considers that only the introduction of co-operative societies can solve it in a satisfactory manner. The markets also require proper control and it is also desirable that a proper river port should be created. In concluding this part of its report the Commission says that all the reforms outlined by it are subordinate to a greater extension of education and to the development of the national character, the importance of which it firmly believes is realised by the Egyptian Government.

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TRADE IN FRENCH MOROCCO

Mr. P. B. Robinson, of the Bank of British West Africa, who, as is well known, takes a keen interest in Moroccan affairs, has given an interview to one of our representatives on the present commercial situation in the French zone of Morocco. He has just returned from a long tour in that country, and his remarks are, therefore, of extreme value.

"During the tour," said Mr. Robinson, "I visited Tangier and all the chief places in that portion of Morocco which forms the French Protectorate, and I was much impressed with the development taking place. Morocco is primarily an agricultural country, and the state of the crops, consisting chiefly of barley, wheat, coriander, linseed, etc., hardly left anything to be desired. Good roads either now exist or are being completed between the chief towns, which must facilitate enormously the future development of the country. Railways are badly needed, but the necessary steps are being taken for their provision by the Protectorate authorities. At the present time a light narrow-gauge railway exists between Casablanca and Rabat and between Sale and Fez, which is found to be very useful for travellers in these times, when the scarcity of petrol prevents the free use of motor-cars. The new town of Casablanca is now rapidly growing, and Casablanca is the central port for the imports and exports of the Protectorate. Other ports, however, notably Mazagan and Saffi, are to receive great attention with a view to their improvement. Large quantities of the produce of Morocco are shipped from both ports, and it is particularly desirable that the very necessary works at Saffi should be put in hand and completed without delay, in view of its special importance in relation to the grain-producing districts of the neighbourhood."

Stress was laid by Mr. Robinson on the great natural wealth of the country "Apart from grain," he pointed out, "Morocco possesses great possibilities as regards the raising of cattle and pigs and the export of hides and skins and wool, and it would appear that there is hardly any produce suited to a dry climate which could not be satisfactorily grown there. Minerals are known to exist in Morocco, but exploitation has hardly commenced, though the prospects are undoubted."

British Trade Outlook.

"British trade with the French zone of Morocco," Mr. Robinson continued, "is protected by trade treaties, and British firms are not only entitled to the same treatment as is accorded to French firms, but the French local authorities from General Lyautey (who has done so much for Morocco) downwards welcome the co-operation of British firms in the development of the Protectorate. British goods are much sought after, and, apart from the existing large trade in cotton goods and in other directions, there is undoubtedly great scope for British manufacturers and export markets. The large crops of grain which Morocco now produces are raised almost entirely by primitive means, and agricultural machinery of a suitable type should find a ready market. The woollen cloth trade, which before the war was so largely in German hands, ought to be obtained by British firms, but in this connection I found that this country had so far apparently not succeeded in supplying a cloth of the same good quality as was formerly supplied by Germany. Hardware, cutlery, glassware, and crockery are all needed in very large quantities, and there would seem to be no reason why the British pottery merchants should not supply tea-cups of a good quality to take the place of those which came from Austria and Germany.

"Such a country as Morocco, with its excellent climate and fertile soil," Mr. Robinson added, "ought to receive the close attention of British merchants, who should be prepared to send out their own representatives from this country, and to study the needs of the Moors. Vast opportunities exist, especially in the interior, where hardly any firms appear to have established themselves up to the present. The Bank of British West Africa has established branches in all the chief places in the French Protectorate, and British trade is besides encouraged and protected by the British Merchants' Morocco Association, which has done much useful work since its incorporation; while there is also the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco, which has accomplished excellent work in the interests of British trade. It is to be hoped that British steamship companies will see to it that as soon as circumstances permit Morocco is well served, as the existing service is inadequate and the various ports require to be directly served." Mr. Robinson added, in conclusion, that while it was of course apparent that during the war many difficulties existed in establishing trade with Morocco, it was most important that firms desirous of establishing a connection with the country should not wait until the war ended, but should commence at once to study the needs of the country, and should endeavour to supply the right kinds of articles now so far as that was possible.

◆

EXPORTS TO PALESTINE.

Although, owing to military exigencies, it is not yet possible to authorise British traders to forward goods to Palestine direct, the Board of Trade give notice that arrangements are being made by the military authorities for the transport into Palestine from Egypt of a limited quantity of goods to meet the needs of the civilian population of the occupied territory. Firms desirous of exporting goods to Palestine by this route should apply to the Board of Trade, Commercial Relations and Treaties Department, Gwydyr House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, for the necessary license, and should state in their application the name of the firm in Palestine to whom the goods are to be sent. In giving this notice the Board of Trade desire to emphasise the fact that the opportunities for trade and for the transport of goods are at present strictly limited owing to military requirements.

◆

The P. and O. and the B.I. Companies are closing their offices in Northumberland Avenue, and their West End business will be resumed at new offices, 14, Cockspur Street, recently acquired by purchase, whenever these premises may be vacated by the Ministry of Munitions.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry [illegible] Agriculture gives the following particul[illegible] regarding crop conditions in April:—

Cotton.—The weather has been extremely variable during the first half of the month, hot in some days and cold with wind, rain, and even hail in others, but warmer and more settled in the second half. It was on the whole distinctly unfavourable to the early-sown cotton, much of which did not germinate, and this necessitated an unusual amount of resowing. Resowing, hoeing, and watering are the common operations still in progress. The usual attacks at this season of mole-cricket, cutworm, and aphis are reported, but their damage is generally slight. Sore-shin attack, however, was somewhat severe in Beheira, Sharqiya, Giza, and Faiyûm, and was responsible for a good deal of resowing. On the whole, the crop is late and has made an unsatisfactory start, owing partly to the unpropitious weather prevailing immediately after sowing, and partly, but to a lesser extent, to the heavy attack of soreshin in some provinces.

Wheat.—The weather has been on the whole favourable, the high winds which prevailed during the month did little damage to the crop, as the wheat was nearly ripe. Attacks from two kinds of rust (P. graminis and P. glumarum) are still a common feature with baladi wheat, the latter, although less apparent, being found in the heads and having the greater influence on the yield. In Daqahliya and Faiyûm the pest exhibits a marked increase. On the whole, the crop is ripening well and shows a slight improvement on last month. Harvesting of the early crop has begun in Upper Egypt. Much less eel-worm is found this year than last.

Barley.—The variable weather had no effect on the barley, as it was in a too advanced stage. It has also escaped damage from rust, as the grains had sufficiently ripened before the attack became serious. Harvesting is now general, and is practically completed in Asyût and the provinces lying south. The yield is very satisfactory.

Beans.—The crop having already fully ripened, no damage was caused by the prevailing weather. Broom rape and bean rust are still to be found, and the former has increased in Daqahlîya, where it has injured the crop to an appreciable extent. Harvesting is almost at an end, and the yield is up to expectation.

Onions.—Onions are almost all ripe, and harvesting is in progress. The crop was generally late this year, it having suffered to a certain extent from adverse weather during its growth.

Rice (Séfi).—Preparation of land for rice-sowing is very active. Fino has been put in in Beheira and Sultâni and Yapâni are now being sown.

Millet (Séfi).—Ploughing, watering, and sowing are in progress. Early-sown millet is germinating regularly.

Sugar Cane.—Planting is almost finished, and germination is satisfactory. Early-planted canes are progressing favourably.

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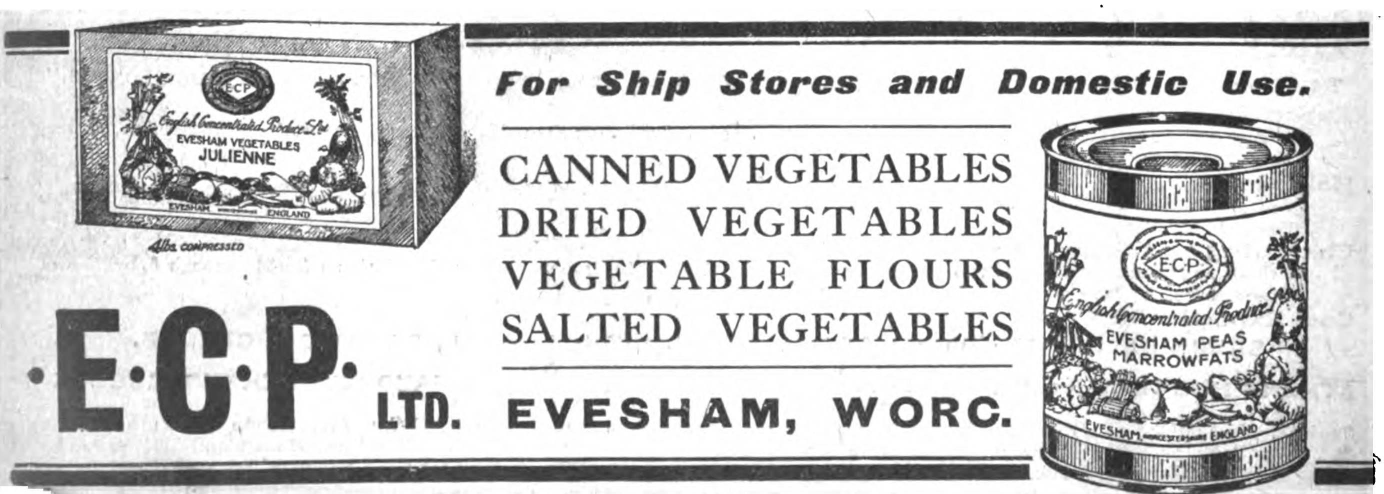
The Turkish claims in the Caucasus, it is stated, include Novorostchisk, with all warships, harbour works and stores, for which compensation will be paid.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NOTES FROM MOROCCO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER, May 20.

Import Duties.

A question, by no means a new one, but at present attracting rather more attention than usual, is the system of estimating import duties. The basis of those duties, so far as it is not affected by the periodical issue of a tariff of maximum and minimum values which allows of very great latitude, is the value of the goods delivered at the customs. As it is an open question how the exact value is to be decided, the customs officials have a fairly free field for the exercise of their ingenuity and they are sometimes, perhaps not always unfairly, charged with choosing the method of estimation which will give the highest value in the particular case. It thus happens that, in a country where profits are in ordinary times cut very fine, a merchant is often uncertain whether he will have to pay on the basis of his invoice, on current prices in Europe, not necessarily in the country of origin, or even, where there is no recognised price on quay, on the local price, which in some cases comes very near to charging merchants duty on the profit which they may make. The whole question rests on treaty and interpretation and it is no particular person's or nation's fault that it is at present in such an unsatisfactory position. The utmost that can be said at the moment is that it would be better to follow a uniform practice, even an unreasonable one, than by ringing the changes on all possible methods to leave merchants, in a great number of cases, quite uncertain as to what duty they will have to pay.

Discovery of Phosphate Beds.

The war, in Morocco as elsewhere, is stimulating the research for local sources of supply. News has recently been published of the discovery, or rather confirmation of the discovery, of important phosphate beds similar, according to expert opinion, to those which have proved to be of such value in Tunis. If that opinion should prove to be well founded the addition to Moroccan exports—up to the present almost entirely agricultural—may be very considerable, and hopeful expectations are already expressed of a yearly export that may reach one or even two million tons.

The palmetto, which covers great stretches of country and is the cause of most of the expense in clearing the ground for agriculture, has at last, it seems, been turned to commercial account. Trials, apparently exhaustive, were made years ago without much success, but now under the influence of war prices attempts have again been made and fibre has been manufactured which appears to be commercially satisfactory.

Backward Agricultural Methods.

It is to be regretted that farming in Morocco has not so far made the progress that might have been anticipated. Agriculture is the staple industry of the country, and the uncultivated area available, the climate, soil and admirable marketing opportunities admit of an enormous increase in the quantity and quality of the crops produced. The great bulk of the crops are still grown in the most primitive way by natives, and it has been quite recently stated that in one of the largest and best agricultural provinces, in which most of the European farming efforts have been centred, there were only five threshing machines. Up to almost the end of last year, owing to the lateness of the rains, there were serious fears of a crop failure, which, in the present state of the world's stock of food stuffs and transport, would have been very serious. Fortunately, though late, the rain has fallen abundantly, and most opportunely, and there is little doubt that the crops will be unusually good. The acreage, however, largely owing to the lateness of the rains, but partly also to the fact that the price of grain, all of which in the French zone, is bought by the military authorities, is fixed at a rate which, though leaving a profit, is low compared to European rates, has not encouraged native farmers to put forward quite their best efforts. On the other hand the prices of bread and other food stuffs required by the natives have been kept comparatively low; a fact which, in conjunction with the great care taken to maintain the supply at reasonable rates of other native necessaries, has helped greatly to confirm the general tranquillity.

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THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Western Australian Insurance Co. (chief office 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.), are opening up in Bombay and have appointed Messrs. Allen Bros. and Co. (India) Ltd., of Canada Building, Hornby Road, as their agents for fire and marine insurance. The company was established in 1912 and the share capital now stands at £200,000, of which £100,000 has been paid up. The total assets of the company exceed £500,000.

The company has taken advantage of the elimination of German agencies in various parts of the world and in addition to branch offices throughout Australia, is firmly established in the United Kingdom (London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Belfast and Glasgow), Cape Town, Lourenço Marques, France, Egypt, Norway, Holland and Mauritius. Branches and agencies in other parts of the world are being opened as opportunity arises.

◆

The exportation and re-exportation from the French zone in Morocco of all raw hides (green, salted, or dried), or leather, tanned or prepared, of oxen, cows, calves or bulls, has been prohibited.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

An Acreage Meter.

Somewhere in the Near East before the war a tragedy resulted from a dispute between a farmer and a ploughing-tractor owner, as to the amount of land cultivated by the latter, whose calculations and charges were contested by the former. Such disputes, fortunately not always with tragic results, are often happening in the East, where, owing to the great number of comparatively small estates and small holdings, there are many contractors and private owners of agricultural tractors who undertake the ploughing on such estates, or small holdings, at an agreed sum per acre. Disputes and arguments over the acreage ploughed by any particular machine have been inevitable in the circumstances, and interested parties in the East will be glad to hear that they can be avoided by the use of an ingenious device that has recently been brought out as an accessory for tractors. It measures automatically the acreage ploughed by the machine to which it is attached, and, according to trustworthy information, its accuracy and time-saving qualities are much appreciated by farmers who have used it. It is claimed that this device can be fitted to any existing make of plough in ten minutes. It will measure from one 9-in. furrow up to six furrows, either 9 in. or 10 in. wide, The apparatus is bolted to the plough and connected to the lifting arrangement on the beam of the plough, so that when the plough is lifted from the soil the device automatically ceases to register on the dial. The meter records to one-tenth of an acre the amount of land cultivated. Apart from the value of the device for ploughing, it is obviously a useful fitting for corn drills, binders, mowing machines, and similar agricultural machines. Quite recently we referred to measures taken by a Government in the Near East to secure a reliable record of the quantities of wheat threshed by machines. A record of the acreage of ploughed and sown land as registered by this new device will, perhaps, meet in a simpler way the requirements of the officials.

A New Magneto Coupling.

A new device which makes the starting of large tractor engines easy, and entirely prevents the risk of "back-fire," has been brought out which should be of much interest to owners of such tractors in the East. It is automatic, and does not require setting every time the engine is started. It provides the means for coupling a magneto-generator with an internal combustion engine in such a manner that the magneto will generate current of sufficient voltage for the production of a spark of the necessary intensity however slowly the engine may be running, so that the engine may be started on the magneto without the employment of a battery-ignition system as is usual.

Self-Feeder for Threshers.

Many accidents happen annually in the threshing season through the incompetency or neglect of those employed in feeding the threshing machines. A new self-feeder for threshing machines with a detachable conveyor and band cutter is now being used, which, especially in countries where skilful feeders or farm labourers cannot easily be found, will be of much value to threshing machine owners. This feeder has a running canvas similar to that on a sheaf binder, and this carries the sheaves to oscillating kicker bars, which feed the sheaves gradually to the feed drum, the drum in turn passing them along to the concave of the machine. The conveyor is hinged to the feeder, and is driven from the feed drum spindle; it can be placed on the top of the stack and lowered to about 4 ft. from the ground. Endless slatted chains carry the sheaves along the conveyor, and band-cutting discs cut the bands as the sheaves pass under them, the sheaves being then delivered on to the feeder canvas. The conveyor can be worked from either side of the thresher. It is said that, apart from the safety it affords, it saves the labour of quite two men.

◆

With reference to the announcement last month of the reopening of the parcel post to Ahwaz and Mohammerah and places in South Persia served through the latter place, it is notified that piece goods may not be sent by parcel post.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Position Unchanged.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market this week has not shown any distinct change. The general conditions have not been at all favourable to a large turnover. Demand in many quarters has exceeded supply. The strong objection of the operatives to the new regulations of the Control Board as to playing off under the restriction of the output scheme has resulted in the authorities deciding to postpone the fresh regulations for a period of six weeks. The American cotton crop continues to do well, the official condition report of 82.3 per cent., against 69.5 per cent. last year, being better than expected. Generally satisfactory advices have again been received relating to the progress of the Egyptian crop. More spinners of Egyptian yarns are turning their machinery on to Government work. A large demand has been experienced for certain counts and qualities, and prices have tended to harden. A little more inquiry has been mentioned in cloth for Egypt, but buyers are still cautious. Rather more activity continues to take place for Singapore, Java, and South America. Offers for India in standard makes still lag behind. Some uncertainty exists as to the monsoon this season. Numerous manufacturers cannot entertain fresh contracts for delivery this year, and many sellers are not at all anxious to quote. American yarns have been very strongly held and supplies tend to become scarcer than ever. Only sorting up lots have changed hands in export bundles.

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DANUBE TRAFFIC DELAYED.

The German papers learn from Bucharest that the resumption of traffic on the Danube via Vienna to the Roumanian ports cannot be started yet (says the Amsterdam correspondent of the *Morning Post*). Negotiations are proceeding as to the import of German and Austro-Hungarian goods into Roumania.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company, Limited, states that the net profit for the year is £E3,185, which, added to £E21,294 remaining over after last year's dividend was paid, bring up the total available balance to £E24,480, from which the directors recommend the distribution of the same dividend as last year, viz., 4d. per share on 324,250 shares, which will absorb £E5,269

The report of the Lochnagar (Ceylon) Produce Company for 1917 states that the net profit, after writing off depreciation of buildings and machinery, is £6,354; £5,097 was brought forward, making £11,451, less excess profits duty, 1916, £3,593, leaving £7,858. The directors propose a final dividend of 2 per cent., less tax (making 6 per cent. for the year), and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £6,165. London expenses and the whole of management expenses and general charges have been charged to revenue account. The tea crop amounted to 145,510 lb., of which 139,881 lb. have been sold to date at an average price of 10.75d. per lb. The rubber crop amounted to 152,078 lb., of which 129,993 lb. have been sold to date at a gross average of 2s. 3.91d. per lb. The net average price realised after deducting freight, loss of weight and all sale and warehouse charges, etc., is 1s. 11.39d. per lb. The tea crop for 1918 is estimated at 140,000 lb. and rubber at 175,000 lb., but this is subject to restriction of output.

The report of the Vellikelli Tea Company of Ceylon for 1917 states that the crop amounted to 328,314 lb. tea, being at the rate of 600 lb. per acre, which was below the average of recent years, chiefly due to the adoption of a finer system of plucking considered necessary in order to restrict the output on account of the shortage of tonnage. The price realised compensated for the increase in cost of production. Cost per lb. f.o.b. Colombo was 6.35d. and net average per lb. 10.77d. The net profit amounted to £5,616, and after adding interest and £2,041 brought forward the total is £7,776. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any, £3,563. In view of the increasing difficulties as regards exchange and the shipping of tea, the directors state it is absolutely necessary to carry forward a substantial sum.

The revenue accounts of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31 last having been passed by Government, the directors propose a dividend of 35s. out of surplus profit for the year on the 3 per cent. stock in addition to the guaranteed interest, making £3 5s. for the half-year, less tax.

The report of the Highland Tea Company of Ceylon for 1917 states that, after payment of all charges, the net profit is £4,509; £2,421 was brought forward, less excess profits duty 1916, £1,561, making £5,369. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, less tax, to write off for depreciation of buildings and machinery £500, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £1,669. The crop was 400,210 lb., against 406,042 lb. and an estimate of 410,000 lb. Owing to restriction in shipments a considerable portion of the crops was sold on the Colombo market, the balance being shipped to London. The average gross prices realised in London were 1s. 2.22d. per lb. for Chrystler's Farm and 1s. 4d. per lb. for Glenorchy, and in Ceylon 43.70 cts. and 44.74 cts. respectively. The average net price all over was 9.71d. per lb., against 9.592d.

The net profits of the India General Navigation and Railway Company for 1917 were £65,767, against £72,686 in 1916. £3,500 has been transferred to the debenture sinking fund, and £8,974 to the insurance reserve. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 8 per cent., tax free. and £26,485 is carried forward against £24,727. The profit earned by the Mymensingh-Jagannathganj Railway was £23,962, against £22,554, and the Sylhet Lime Company contributed a dividend of 14 per cent. on the shares held by the company.

The report of the Orient Company states that including £4,143 brought in, accounts for 1917 show a profit of £32,356. Further dividend of 7½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for year, against 7½ per cent. for 1916, carrying forward £19,090, subject to excess profits duty, after placing £2.500 to reserve.

The report of the Ceylon Tea Plantations for 1917 states that the net profit was £154,889 (against £153,209). The final dividend is 30 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 50 per cent. for the year (the same); and the carry-forward is £81,791. The tea yield was 454,619 lb. less; the rubber crop was 79,120 lb. in excess of 1916, the average rate of yield per acre being 237 lb.. the cocoanuts numbered 5,147,710, against 4,944,483, but owing to restrictions on export prices were unremunerative and a loss in these estates of £1,932 was entailed.

The report of the Ceylon Timber and Rubber Company for 1917 states that the area under rubber is 1,148 acres. The output amounted to 235,031 lb. (equal to an approximate landed weight of 232,680 lb.), against the estimate of 200,000 lb. The average net price per lb. was 1s. 9.95d., against 2s. 5.23d. The cost f.o.b. Colombo was 1s. 4.06d., against 11.76d. Administration expenses in London were 0.74d., against 0.48d. The stock of rubber unsold at December 31 has been taken into account at 1s. 6d. per lb. The year's profit of £6,282, after making allowance for 1916 and 1917 excess profits duty and income-tax, is reduced to £330; £7,604 was brought in, less excess profits duty 1914 and 1915, £4,391, making £3,543, which the directors propose to carry forward.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The transfer books of the ordinary shares of the Calcutta Tramways are closed until June 20.

The Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Co., Ltd., announce the numbers of 5 per cent. second mortgage debentures which have been drawn for redemption on July 1.

The preference stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Co., Ltd., will be closed from the 17th to the 29th inst., inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to the shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

The principal of the issue of £150,000 first mortgage debenture bonds to bearer of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company will be paid on July 1 next, at Messrs. Glyn Mills Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

In accordance with the provisions of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co.'s issue of £150,000 first mortgage debenture bonds to bearer, the principal moneys thereby secured will be paid to the bearers of such bonds on July 1, at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3, where they should be left three clear days for examination.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust recommend a final dividend on the deferred stock at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum for the half-year to April 30 last (making 8½ per cent. for the year).

The transfer books of preference shares and debenture stock of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories will be closed from 16th to 30th instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended May 26.—Gemsah, 22 tons (previous week, 22 tons); Hurgada, 5,514 tons against 5,032 tons.

Baku Russian.—Gross production of crude week ended April 20, 49,200 poods.

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SPANISH TAX ON COTTON.

On the proposal of the Commissioner of Supplies, Señor Maura, the Prime Minister, submitted for Royal signature a decree establishing a tax on imported cotton (says a *Reuter* message from Madrid, dated May 31). The tax, which must in no case be higher than one peseta per kilo, is fixed at 50 pesetas per 100 kilos for raw American cotton, 60 pesetas 50 centimos for Egyptian cotton and 37 pesetas 50 centimos for Indian cotton. The tax on manufactured cotton will be 20 per cent. higher than that fixed for Egyptian cotton.

THE ECONOMIC GEOLOGY OF PORBANDAR.*

This substantial volume contains a large amount of detailed information gathered during a geological reconnaissance of the State of Porbandar, a comparatively small area situated in that part of Western India which is known as Kathiawar. Architects and engineers in that part of the country will find it indispensable, and since it does not profess to cater for the general reader, we are not entitled to complain of its defects from his point of view. We may remark, however, that its value would have been increased, even to the specialist, by the inclusion of a summary of the information detailed in its pages, pointing out that there are apparently few attractions for the ordinary prospector, but that some admirable varieties of stone for constructional purposes are obtainable in quantities within the State. It is in the details given regarding these stones that the value of the book mainly lies.

BENGAL IRON AND STEEL.

At class meetings of holders of founders' and ordinary shares in the Bengal Iron and Steel Company on May 28 committees of holders were appointed to confer with Sir William B. Peat regarding the valuation of the founders' shares in the proposed reorganisation of the share capital.

INDIAN TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The latest Indian traffic receipts are shown below.

RAILWAYS.

	Amount. Rs.	Inc. or Dec. Rs.	Aggregate. Inc. or Dec. Rs.
Delhi Umballa Kalka (May 25)	76,900	– 1,209	+ 86,835
East Indian (May 25)..	26,26,000	+1,07,000	+12,10,000
Burma (March 23)....	5,11,042	– 13,286	– 1,03,448
South Indian (last 8 days of March) ..	8,59,368	– 1,148	+ 9,01,312
Barsi (22 days ended March 31)	40,300	– 7,800	– 2,36,500
Assam, Bengal (last 8 days of March)....	1,77,986	+ 37,580	+ 4,58,087
Bengal and North-Western (last 8 days of March)	4,93,360	–1,88,016	– 5,60,494
Rohilkund & Kumaon (last 8 days of March)	57,250	+ 8,486	+ 2,16,588
Lucknow Bareilly (last 8 days of March) ..	84,342	+ 14,735	+ 1,71,004
Bombay Baroda (May 25)	17,15,000	+ 27,000	+13,09,000
Great Indian Penin. (May 25)............	24,53,700	+2,16,000	+ 7,07,802
TRAMWAYS.			
Calcutta (May 18)	72,801	+ 7,260	+ 95,287
Rangoon Electric Tramway (March)..	£5,968	– £1,503	– £2,847

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
May 28, 29	480,000	490,000
June 2	270,000	260,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended May 24.	1918. Week ended May 23.
Cattle markets	467	384
General markets	398	368
Receipts (£)...............	865	752
Total for year	29,922	23,582

In the first three months of the present year the officers and men of the British Salonika Force subscribed over half a million to War Bonds and War Savings Certificates.

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* "Reports on the Economic Geology of the Porbandar State." By E. H. Adye. Bombay: The Times Press.

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RED
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For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Business has continued very quiet during the past week, but on the whole the tone has kept good and prices firm. There has been at no time any pressure to sell, but on the other hand buyers are still adopting a waiting attitude. In Egyptian Government stocks prices are unchanged, and only in Unifieds at 89 has any business been practicable, at which price there are still buyers. Even at this high level sellers are scarce, as is also the case with the 3½ per cent. preferences and City of Alexandria Bonds.

In Bank shares there has been again a fair amount of business in Nationals without altering the price, and there are still persistent buyers of the shares whenever offered. Agriculturals, on the other hand, have been somewhat quieter on some few sales, and are 1-16 easier at 6. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been dealt in to a small extent, and are unaltered at 15¾ x.d. Delta Light Railways are 1-16 firmer at 6½, but the price is rather nominal in the absence of business.

Amongst land shares Aboukirs are fractionally harder at 21s. 9d. Behéras close ¼ easier at 12¾, some few hundred shares having come on the market, with the result that these have been taken at a somewhat smaller price. In Delta Lands and New Egyptians some small transactions have been taking place, and the latter shares are 4½d. lower at 16s. 10½d. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have been persistently bought, and are fractionally harder at 11s. 9d. In Sidi Salems some business has been done round the current level. Union Foncières are 1-32 easier at 2 15-16, after some small transactions at the price. United Egyptian Lands are fractionally easier at 1s. 6d.

In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters remain firm, although, owing chiefly to the increase of working expenses for the past year, the dividend is to be reduced to 12s. 9d., as against 13s. 9d. for the previous year. In Khedivial Mail shares there has been no alteration, although the repayment of this company's debenture debt on July 1 next must necessarily improve their position.

As regards Greek securities, the outstanding feature remains the constant demand and the practically absolute lack of sellers. The only quotable change of prices is a rise of one point in the 1910 loan to 61. Bank of Athens are ⅛ quieter at 3¾.

◆

A Blue-book has been issued giving particulars of the movements of commercial vessels, cargo, and passenger traffic in Egyptian ports in 1917, and the number, tonnage, and nationality of commercial vessels passing through the Suez Canal in that year.

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. May 29	June 5
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89	89
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881............	57	62	62
Do. 5 %, 1884............	56	62	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887........	49	56	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	49	49
Do. 5 %, 1890..............	56	61	61
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	60	60
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902........	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910........	—	60	61
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6 1/16 xd	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank..........	12	16	15¾ xd
Bank of Athens..............	£2	3⅞	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6¾	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17 3/16	17 3/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6 7/16	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	80	70½ xd	70½ xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/6	21/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4 9/16	4 9/16
Daira Sanieh..............	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/9	12/9
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	11/7½	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co..............	1⅝	1⅞	1⅞
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	16/10½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅛	2⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	2 31/32	2 15/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord..........	1 1/16	26/6	26,6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1 1/16	38/-	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	37/6	37/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 10.

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National Bank of Egypt..............	L.E.	17 31/32 xd
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	88
" " Div.	Frs.	109½
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.............	L.E.	12⅛
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	12⅞
" priv..............	L.E.	4 11/32 x
Lots Turcs, oblig..............	Frs.	184
Bons de Panama	Frs.	125
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)....	Frs.	84¾
" Priv..............	Frs.	105
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	92 xd
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 3/16
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 11/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	2 15/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5⅝
Bonded Stores..............	L.E.	8⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	90 xd
Privilégiée..............		78¼
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 15/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	5¾
Agricultural Bank of Egypt..............	£	6½
" Fondateur	£	525
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅝
" Ord		36/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	20
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4 5/32
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	68
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108 xd
" Jouissance..............	Frs.	166 xd
Egyptian Markets		25/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440 xd
" Div.	Frs.	380 xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	311
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 7/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		38/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	707
" Fondateur	Frs.	800
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	384 xd
" 1903 "	Frs.	289 xd
" 1911 "	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	9½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		11/16

◆

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for ten days ended May 10.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
May 1 to 10..................	5,477 ..	7,394
April 1 to May 10	22,532 ..	31,264

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 371.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1918.

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In view of the Board of Trade Order prohibiting the delivery of newspapers to retailers on the terms known as "Sale or Return," which comes into force in the United Kingdom on June 24, readers of "The Near East" who are not already subscribers will materially help the Management by giving an order to their newsagent or to the Office of "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, for the regular delivery of the paper. Annual Subscription, £1; postage, 2s. 2d. (inland), 4s. 4d. (abroad).

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Only minor conflicts have been reported during the week from the Macedonian front. After the successful dash of the Greeks, which was not carried out without a fair number of casualties, it was to be expected that a brief respite would be required to consolidate the new positions. Accordingly, activity has been transferred to other points of the long line, the Serbians to the west being in particular conspicuous. In the meantime the Bulgarians have tried to challenge the success registered against them, but their efforts to make any real impression on the Allied line have failed. If the Allied forces could count on a marked superiority in the air their task would be considerably lightened. They have the advantage over the enemy in this arm, but it cannot yet be said to be sufficient for all their purposes.

In Palestine there has been a local operation in the coastal sector, where a portion of the enemy trench system extending over a frontage of a mile was captured on June 8. It was at this point that on May 28 the British line was advanced to a depth of nearly two miles over a front of more than five miles; but the two operations only serve to throw into relief the relative inactivity of General Allenby's forces since the right wing fell back after a raid on the Hejaz Railway. Air attacks, however, have been in evidence, special attention being given by British aircraft to the enemy's camps and aerodrome in the neighbourhood of Amman station. Turkish resistance has presumably been stiffened by a leaven of German troops and German officers, and the British advance has to be developed more cautiously.

To the south of Palestine our Arab Allies have been carrying out some more of those lightning raids which are a speciality of their mode of fighting. More methodical methods of warfare are not to be expected of them. But there cannot be the least doubt that their tactics are extremely embarrassing to the enemy, who can never tell where these irregular cavalry will turn up next. The latest exploits of the Arabs were directed against railway stations on the Hejaz line some forty and fifty miles north of Maan, an indication that their forces are gradually creeping up this railway. If they can persevere in their efforts in this direction, we may expect to find them sooner or later co-operating with General Allenby's troops in compelling the enemy to evacuate Amman. So seriously do the Turks regard the Arab menace that they have detached aircraft from their northern forces, which are none too well supplied in this arm, to deal with the Arab concentrations in the neighbourhood of Maan.

In the Caucasus region it is reported that the Turks have fallen back on Kars. A short while ago it was announced that they had occupied Alexandropol and Erivan, two important stations on the Tiflis-Tabriz Railway. The news from this theatre is too scanty to enable us to form any clear idea as to the actual course of events, but it will be noted that, according to a report from Constantinople, a peace treaty has been signed between the Ottoman Government and representatives of the Southern Caucasus. With one Turkish force at Erivan and another advancing into Persia south of Lake Urumiah, it seemed as if for the time being nothing could prevent the Turkish occupation of Azerbaijan. If the northern force is back again at Kars, it may be that the Georgian opposition to the invaders of their country is gaining strength. In these circumstances there may yet be some respite for Persia. Whatever feelings a skilful propaganda may have inspired among the Persians for Germany, there can be no doubt that this benevolent attitude, if it does prevail anywhere, does not embrace the Turks as well. Events in Russia, we imagine, are being interpreted among certain sections of the Persian population as a striking illustration of German might. They are inclined to accept the *fait accompli*, and do not see how Great Britain will be in a position to reverse it. But the Persians can have no desire to welcome the Turks even for the *beaux yeux* of Germany, and it ought not to be difficult for Great Britain to explain the difference between a temporary success brought about by the collapse of Russia and the gradual wearing down of Germany's power by the superior strength of the Allied Powers.

In view of all that is at stake in Mid-Asia owing to the German success in Russia, it is evident that Teheran is at this time a most important centre as far as Great Britain is concerned. It occupies, indeed, a similar position *mutatis mutandis* to that of Sofia during the latter end of 1914 and the early part of 1915. We cannot afford, therefore, any repetition of the diplomatic bungling which went on for so long unchecked in Bulgaria. The outlook for the Allies is improved by the difficulties experienced by the enemy States in reconciling their conflicting interests when their policy resolves itself into one of "grab." Thus the Turks are showing some reluctance to exchange the Russians for the Germans as neighbours. They would prefer to have the Black Sea Turkish rather than Teuto-Ukrainian, and they would like the Caucasus to be the natural boundary betwen themselves and whatever State succeeds to the Russian heritage. These symptoms of independence are far from pleasing to the Germans, who have definite aims in regard to Mid-Asia, and have only bolstered up Turkey, in order that she may be a subservient instrument for the furtherance of those aims.

The situation in the Middle East thus calls not only for very careful handling, but also for rapid action. It may not be possible to achieve more in the military sphere than is being done at the present time; but a special effort should be made to checkmate enemy propaganda in these regions. That matter is of such importance that a consultative body of expert opinion might be called into being for the purpose.

At the recent Versailles Conference, as was stated in these columns last week, the Allied Governments formally recorded their desire to associate themselves (with the United States Government) in an expression of earnest sympathy for the nationalistic aspirations towards freedom of the Czecho-Slovak and Jugoslav peoples. This recognition of the oppressed nationalities of Austria-Hungary has been carried a step farther by a letter from the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the General Secretary of the Czecho-Slovak National Council in Paris. In this communication Mr. Balfour states that his Majesty's Government will be prepared to recognize the National Council as the supreme organ of the Czecho-Slovak movement in Allied countries, and they will also be prepared to recognize the Czecho-Slovak Army as an organized unit operating in the Allied cause, and to attach thereto a British *liaison* officer as soon as the need for this may arise. His Majesty's Government, the letter continues, will at the same time be prepared to accord to the National Council political rights concerning the civil affairs of Czecho-Slovaks similar to those already accorded to the Polish National Committee.

This declaration will reassure public opinion among the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs, for any more concrete recognition might be regarded as superfluous until the various sections of these peoples are reunited for the purpose of joint deliberations. It should give considerable stimulus to the already formidable agitation that is taking place in Austria-Hungary. The authorities of the Dual Monarchy appear to have abandoned any attempt to disguise the embarrassment caused by this agitation. It is now admitted to be, apart from the actual progress of the military operations, the chief problem of the day, and, to make matters worse, one for which a solution cannot be found without the intervention of Germany. In view of the conflict of interests between the two component parts of the Monarchy, it is unlikely that any early remedy will be found or that the steps proposed will meet with the approval of the oppressed nationalities, and so remove the existing *impasse*.

In the meantime the Austro-German press fulminates against the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs, both within the Monarchy and outside its jurisdiction. The wrath of the Central Powers is particularly directed against the incorporation of a Czecho-Slovak army in the forces of the Entente. That a guard of honour should have been drawn from this army on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's recent visit to Rome is held to be quite unpardonable. With a characteristic outburst of unctuous rectitude the Entente Powers are taken to task for the worst possible breach of the comity of nations; their crime no doubt is enhanced in German eyes by recollections of the failure attending certain efforts to raise an Irish regiment in Germany. In regard to the Czecho-Slovak forces, however, there is this notable difference, that the Allies had nothing to do with their formation, and have only now tardily recognised them when they are actually taking part in the operations on the Italian front.

Even if the Central Powers choose to pretend that the Allies had a hand in bringing into existence the Czecho-Slovak force co-operating with the Italians, they cannot keep up the fiction in regard to the similar army now fighting "on its own" in Russia. These troops, comprising whole regiments that voluntarily went over to the Russians at an early stage of the war, seem to have maintained their organization in spite of the collapse of the Russian Army, and are now carrying on independent operations against the Bolsheviks. According to a German report their numbers may be put at 150,000, and they are distributed over North and East Russia. One force is reported to be in the Cheliabinsk region, in the southern Urals, where they have occupied a section of the Siberian Railway and captured a quantity of arms and artillery. While Germany warns Russia that it would "endanger her dearly-bought peace," if she permitted the Czecho-Slovak troops to leave Russian territory with arms and to join the Entente, the Bolshevik administration has collected a Soviet force to disarm the Czecho-Slovaks, with orders to shoot all who resist. The existence in Russia of this army loyal to the Entente, especially if its numbers are as large as is estimated, ought to supply a further incentive for immediate action with a view to rallying the saner elements among the Russians against the German-Bolshevik policy of disintegration.

The news from Roumania suggests that the policy now being adopted in that country is to leave the Marghiloman Government, which has the approval of the Central Powers to enjoy the dry husks of authority, and to avoid occasions for conflict with the *de facto* rulers. A general election is in progress; but it was reported that the Opposition parties had resolved to abstain. General Averescu, who enjoys special popularity in Roumania, has come forward as an independent candidate, partly, as far as can be gathered, in protest against the theory that the Government can claim the support of the country, and has been returned in three constituencies. M. Marghiloman, making a virtue of necessity, has taken over for his party the reform programme which the Conservatives resisted so long, even to the expropriation of big estates for distribution among the peasants. But the legislation of this Government, no less than the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest, 1918, can have only temporary force, and Roumania does well to bide her time without attempting to kick overmuch against the pricks.

The suggestion has been made in the House of Commons that the entry of the King of the Hejaz into the war on the side of the Allies has radically altered the situation in regard to Great Britain's action in taking upon herself the whole burden of the war as far as Egypt is concerned. As a result of this policy recruitment in Egypt has remained on a voluntary basis. There will be a consensus of opinion in favour of the British Government's decision that no modification of this arrangement should at present be introduced, but it is satisfactory to learn that a thorough recruiting campaign is in operation, and has been attended with creditable results. Although Egyptian territory is being defended just as much by the Palestine Expedition as if fighting were taking place on the Suez Canal or the Sinai boundary, it would be a short-sighted—as well as a superfluous—departure on the part of the British Government to introduce compulsory service in Egypt.

The arrangements for the new war organisations in India furnish an apt comment on the remarks we made last week regarding the increasing pressure on the administrative Services. The Publicity Bureau is placed in charge of one member of the Viceroy's Council, while another takes over the Transport and Food Board, thus following the precedent created when the Man-power Board was established some time ago. Each of these important undertakings would in this country have meant the creation of at least one new Department with a whole-time Minister in charge: in India they are placed under men whose hands are already quite full. We have no idea of suggesting that the arrangement will not work: the Man-power Board has achieved a striking success, and we anticipate that the new organisations will do the same; our point is merely that the pressure of work is thereby seriously increased on what ought to be, but is not always, the brain of the whole Indian Empire.

Some members of the House of Commons, and also some of the newspapers, obviously share the impatience of Indian politicians for news of the conclusions reached by Mr. Montagu regarding the most suitable lines of constitutional development. Questions or, as India prefers to put it, interpellations, appear to be of the essence of democracy, and Mr. Montagu is, we hope, too good a democrat to object to them, but so far he has successfully refused to be drawn, and we advise our readers to pay no attention to the unauthorised anticipations of his views which are being put forward in various interested quarters. The War Cabinet has its hands full, and has not yet been able to consider the report; but it has been decided to present the document to Parliament, and Mr. Montagu's proposals will be known before the Government has formulated its conclusions upon them.

The formal announcement of the constitution of the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference contains a novel feature of some interest to India. The Secretary of State and Sir Satyendra Sinha are members of both Cabinet and Conference, so that India has the full representation she is entitled to claim, but the Maharaja of Patiala has been invited to attend the Conference only, and apparently will not take an active part in the deliberations of the more definitely executive body. No such distinction was drawn in the announcements regarding last year's gathering, and no reason for the change has been made public, but we may be quite sure that it is not intended in any way to minimise the importance of the Indian Princes. The Imperial constitution is in process of growth, which means gradual definition and differentiation, and to our mind counsel rather than execution is the true sphere of the Princes.

Sir Valentine Chirol's articles in *The Times* on constitutional reform in India have naturally attracted much attention among people who have any attention to spare from the even graver pre-occupations of the moment. We need not summarise them beyond saying that their general attitude is what has been consistently advocated in these columns. Change must come, and India has to be trained in democratic ways; the hard facts of the situation must at all costs be faced; we must begin with the foundations; in primary political education the taxing-power is the best text-book; and whatever changes are made the King's Government must still be carried on. All this has been said before, though it has rarely been said so well, but it needs to be repeated again and again until it eventually penetrates the not very accessible mind of British democracy in the lump.

Every friend of India must have heard with deep regret the news of the death of Dr. Venis, the great Sanskrit scholar, who, after completing the appointed years in the Indian Educational Service, was chosen as Research Professor by the University of Allahabad, and remained to the end engaged in the studies which he had made his own. Dr. Venis was a true Pundit; his knowledge was vast, but his power of imparting it was not less striking. He had a rare grasp of the workings of the Indian mind, and his influence over his pupils was extraordinary. It is not too much to say that he succeeded in founding a school, and we have no doubt that the traditions created by him will count for much in the development of that genuine Indian scholarship which is surely coming, though its advance is painfully slow.

EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

In a general Budget creating a record as regards both revenue and expenditure, it is only natural that an important administration like the Ministry of Education should figure for an unprecedentedly high credit. The educational estimates for the coming financial year amount to £E578,733, as compared with £E467,753 in 1917-1918 and £E505,557 in 1914-1915, the highest year on record. There is thus an increase of £E110,975 over the preceding year, and one of £E73,176 over pre-war levels. Of this increase £E95,932 is taken by the Central Administration, of which £E34,917 goes in salaries, wages and allowances, and £E39,500 in food, and £E15,043 to technical education. Of the extra expenditure provided for, £E27,838 is for elementary education, £E22,589 for boys' primary schools, £E16,534 for girls' primary schools and the training college, and £E16,894 for secondary schools. The revenue of the Ministry during the coming year is estimated at £E233,370, an increase over 1917-1918 of £E27,340, of which £E25,620 comes from additional school fees.

Part of the increase in revenue arises from larger numbers in attendance at schools and part from the raising of the fees in certain schools. The increase in expenditure is caused by developments, but for the most part it is due to higher prices. As the School Management Committee's note points out, meals in schools on the basis of the new contract for the current year will cost 80 per cent. more than in 1917, which on the old establishment alone means an addition of over £E30,000 to the food bill. The note goes on to explain that in the boys' primary schools, whilst only £E4 a year is being charged, as formerly, for the midday meal, the actual cost to the Ministry is between £E6.5 and £E8 per annum; in the girls' primary schools the food for a day pupil costs £E7.6 per annum and for a boarder £E33 per annum, whereas the fees charged are only £E7.5 and £E15 respectively.

A comparison of the two sides of the account shows that only 40 per cent. of the total expenditure is met by revenue from fees, income from property and sales from workshops, and that 60 per cent. of that expenditure has to be met out of the general exchequer. In view of the fact that a considerable part of this charge to the State is represented by the rise in the cost of food, which in the case of one day-school cited is barely covered by the revenue in fees, it is not surprising to read that the Ministry of Finance comments adversely on this state of affairs. Although the Ministry expresses reluctance "at this difficult juncture to reopen the question of increasing school fees so as to meet this increased expenditure, or in the alternative to suppress the midday meal in certain schools," one cannot help feeling that there is every justification for making an immediate addition to the fees charged, to cover the cost of at least the meals supplied. Such an increase cannot possibly prejudice the progress of education, and parents of pupils have no right to expect the State to provide food for them and thus absorb the funds which could be beneficially used in other directions. It is to be hoped that some defi-

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nite action in the direction indicated will be taken before the next scholastic year.

Elementary Education.

The training of teachers is a subject of the greatest importance, and in this direction the production of staff required for the elementary schools takes first place. The first elementary training college was created in 1903, since which date considerable progress has been made. At the present time there is a training college for men and one for women in Alexandria and in Cairo, in addition to which all the fourteen Provincial Councils, except Assouan, have established training colleges for men teachers and ten of them for women teachers as well. When all these colleges reach their full development they will be able to supply each year 500 qualified men teachers and 300 women teachers for service in the Maktabs. This will probably not meet the demand, which is daily growing, but it will go a long way towards doing so.

As was reported recently in THE NEAR EAST, the Commission appointed to study the question of the extension of elementary education is approaching the end of its labours. Although it will shortly be in a position to present its report, the question is not yet at the point where provision can be made for it in the new Budget, but the Ministry hopes that "before another Budget comes up for settlement a definite scheme will have been approved, and that funds may be forthcoming for its inauguration not later than the financial year 1919-1920." (If the fees were only raised to cover the cost of food, as suggested above, funds would be already available for this purpose.)

Meanwhile the Ministry is doing what it can to secure progress in this matter. In co-operation with the Alexandria Municipality, it has initiated during the past year a scheme for a complete reform of the Alexandria Maktabs, whereby the sanitary conditions have been improved and the educational value of these schools has been enhanced. Likewise in connection with the Maktabs maintained by the Wakfs Ministry—130 in number—considerable progress has been made, and more should be possible during the coming year. The effective reform of all these Maktabs would require £E40,000 per annum. In 1914-1915 the Wakf granted for the maintenance of these Maktabs was £E22,140, but the outbreak of war necessitated a reduction to £E16,200. This coming year it has been raised to £E22,000 once more, which will enable the Ministry of Education to restore medical inspection and the free supply of books and school material as formerly, as well as to extend the system of paying fixed salaries to teachers in fifty-seven of the Maktabs.

The extension of this latter system is very important, and should have a decided influence on the educational value of these schools. Hitherto the teachers in nearly all these Maktabs have received an allowance of £E2 per month per head teacher and of £E1 per month per assistant teacher, and have supplemented this by dividing the school fees, which were collected on no fixed basis. This system has merely meant that the pupils have been exploited, that the less well-to-do are neglected in favour of those able to pay higher fees, and that free pupils, who are always intended to be provided for, are rejected. Three years ago it was decided to abolish this system in principle, and to replace it by the payment of fixed salaries to the teachers, who were to collect the fees and pay them in to the Treasury towards the general maintenance of the schools. Under the new system head teachers receive £E5 per mensem and assistant teachers £E3 per mensem, whilst school fees are limited to P.T. 10 per mensem. The extra cost this year of extending the system to 57 Maktabs will be £E1,282, whilst 15 per cent. free pupils will be admitted.

Infant Schools.

An innovation this year will be the creation of two infant schools. The committee's note on the subject remarks:—

> For many years the Ministry of Education has made provision in its girls' primary schools for the appropriate training of girls, before they reach the age for admission to the primary course, by the establishment of infant classes, in which the children are taught largely through educational occupations (i.e., by Kindergarten methods) instead of books. No provision has, however, as yet been made in the Government schools for similar suitable training for infant boys. Boys are not admitted to the primary schools until the age of seven years, and are expected to have already acquired, before admission, some knowledge of letters and numbers. Parents are, in consequence, at present compelled to send their boys for a preliminary period to the Maktabs, or engage a tutor to teach them at home.
>
> The practice of sending boys to the Maktabs for one or two years before placing them in the primary schools is detrimental both to the Maktabs and to these boys. The lowest classes of the Maktabs become overcrowded by pupils who are really intruders, but who largely monopolise the attention of the teachers because their parents are able to pay substantial fees. In consequence, the children for whom the Maktabs properly exist receive less attention than they require, with the result that there is an undue amount of stagnation in the lowest stages of the Maktab course. On the other hand, any special value that there may be in providing a more select environment for pupils of a higher social class in primary schools is impaired at the outset if parents are compelled to send their boys initially to the Maktabs. This disadvantage is felt in an especial degree by the parents who wish to place their boys in the Nasria or Moharrem Bey primary schools, in which the fees are higher than in the other boys' primary schools because they are attended by pupils of a wealthier class.

As an initial effort towards remedying this defect it has been decided to establish in Cairo and in Alexandria infant schools, which will serve as feeders, especially for the above-mentioned primary schools. The estimated cost will be £E4,561, and revenue from fees during the first year will, it is expected, amount to £E1,200. The reason why provision was made for appropriate teaching for girls in the Government schools long before it was introduced for boys is that the teaching must be given by women teachers, and it is, of course, impracticable to introduce women teachers into the boys' primary schools. It was therefore necessary to wait until such time as it was possible to create separate schools, and this time has now come.

Women's Education.

In this year's Budget provision is made for the separation of the Sania Training College and the Sania Girls' Primary School, so as to permit of the expansion of the Training College and the development of the Girls' Primary School as a high school. The development of female education in Egypt turns largely upon the expansion of the Sania Training College, which should supply teachers for the Girls' Primary Schools, the Women's Elementary Training College, and the Girls' Higher Elementary Schools, as well as furnish students for specialised training in England under the Educational Mission. Unless it is expanded in the same manner as the other training colleges, the Sania Training College will not be able to meet these needs. To permit this expansion it is essential that it should be separated from the Sania Primary School, which is attended by girls of the wealthier classes, and is neither a good practising ground nor a feeder for the Training College. On the other hand, the Sania Primary School, if separated, would be adaptable to the circumstances of girls belonging to the well-to-do classes, and should form the nucleus of a system of secondary education. The separation of these two schools will cost £E13,954, but it is well justified. A new Girls' Primary School is to be established in Cairo, and this will serve as a practising school for the Training College.

Egyptian Education Mission.

Provision has been made in the coming year's estimates for sending five additional students to be trained in England. At present the Ministry maintains thirty-three students in England, of whom seven will return to Egypt this summer. In view of the steady demand for qualified teachers for the Secondary Schools, as well as for assistants to the professors in the higher colleges, a demand which it is highly essential to meet, the Ministry considers it necessary not only to maintain the number previously authorised, but also to increase it to a total of thirty-eight. The cost of these extra students will increase the credit of the Egyptian Educational Mission to £E12,222, which, however, is still less than the pre-war amount of that credit by £E6,175. The note points out that notwithstanding that a large decrease has taken place since the war in the number of students studying in Europe on their own account, there are at present under the guidance and care of the directors of the Egyptian Educational Mission 146 students studying in England, 66 in France, and 30 in Switzerland.

A CHANGE AT GORDON COLLEGE.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes, under date of May 19:—

Mr. M. F. Simpson, who has been at the head of the Gordon College for some years, first under Mr. Currie, C.M.G., and latterly under Mr. Crowfoot, is going to Egypt to take up an appointment in the Egyptian Ministry of Instruction. On the 16th he opened at Omdurman a club for the use of old members of the Government schools, and was presented with a set of silver implements for making coffee in the native fashion. Various speeches were made and considerable interest was shown in the founding of the club. On the following day there was a display in the grounds of the Gordon College, and a number of speeches were made by members of the staff, expressing their regret at his departure and their good wishes for his success in his new appointment. He is succeeded by Mr. N. R. Udal, who may be remembered as a fast bowler at Oxford University. A very large number of people were present, representing all classes of society. The first appearance of the Boy Scouts in the Sudan was witnessed with great interest. The gymnastic display was most successful.

TURKEY'S TROUBLES—PAST AND PRESENT.

Under date of May 20, Reuter's Athens correspondent reported that the revolutionary movement at Aidin was extending to Menemen, near Smyrna; that at Manissa (north of Aidin) 2,000 Turkish troops, sent thither to quell the disturbances, had deserted, and that desertions from the coast garrisons were very numerous. Essad Pasha (of Yanina) had been entrusted with the repression of the movement. A later message reported that the movement was still spreading, and that Essad Pasha had returned without achieving anything. An entire regiment in the Konia vilayet refused to go to the Palestine front, "seized their artillery and took refuge in the mountains between Sparta and Adalia," and "the troops sent against them were annihilated."

This kind of thing is no new experience for Turkey. Mutinies and "forcible protests" of all kinds have been common from very early days. The events at Aidin remind a correspondent of a letter sent in 1588 by W. Hareborne, first Ambassador to Turkey, to Lord Walsingham. The letter, dated June 9, is as follows:—

> Here hath bine this weeke a great hurlieburlie in the Cittie for that the Grand Signioor myndinge to call in all false and light monney and give out a new coyne imposed a tribute of ten in the hundred uppon all goods moveable, five upon those immovable, and a duckett uppon everie head Jewe and Christian not otherwise to be taxed throughout all his kingdome, which after due and true computation made would have amounted to 16 millions of gold. But for that those Turkes which receave his paie began to rebell openlie in the Cittie and breake up the Chiefe Commissioner's house, after 22 of the chiefest were by Martiall Lawe executed with sundrie cruell deathes, the residewe promised their pardon, and surceased. Where uppon the Grand Signior fearinge by this example the dangerous issue thereof exempted all that take his paie of that burden, levinge it on the others, whoe must of force paie it, whereby it seemeth his treasure is utterlie exhausted in these persien warres, which also partelie appeareth in that he was wont to give me and the Ambassador of Germanie good money for the maintenance of some parte of our dailie diett, now paid us in such and soe ille coine as is not currant for anie thinge.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedouin, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LAW REFORM IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is universally acknowledged—and the tendency in recent years amongst thinking men has been to give greater weight to the fact—that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council forms an important tie between the various parts of the British Empire, and that it exercises a very salutary influence on the subordinate Courts by checking any tendency to unjust or narrow provincial views and in co-ordinating the whole legal system. At the present time there is no colony, dependency, or protectorate of the Empire which does not in some form or another enjoy the right of appeal to the Privy Council; and when it was announced that Egypt had been made a Protectorate and that a Commission had been appointed to consider its laws and legal organisation, everyone interested in the country assumed that Egypt would at last escape from the baneful system of the Mixed Tribunals and come under the wholesome influence of the Privy Council. This we considered was the one certain benefit which Egypt was bound to receive on entering the Empire; other reforms in law and procedure might perhaps wait, as, in the long run, the judgments of the Great Appeal Court of the Empire would in many cases mould the law of Egypt in conformity with English ideals and principles, and would in other cases, by directing attention to anomalies and deficiencies, compel the necessary reforms.

It appears, however, from the recent preliminary report of the Commission and from news received from Egypt, that it is proposed to exclude the jurisdiction of the Privy Council and to set up a final Appeal Court in Egypt. Egypt would thus be deprived of the services of the great intellects on the Privy Council and the benefits of coordination, and would be thrown into a narrow provincial rut.

There have for some years been suspicions in Egypt that the Mixed Courts are too subservient to the Government, and though these suspicions may be quite unfounded, the fact to consider is that they exist, and the adoption of the recommendation could not fail to accentuate the grievance.

If once the effect of the report is realised in this country, surely this recommendation will be swept away in a storm of indignation, and Egypt will be given the same privileges as the rest of the Empire.—I am, etc.,

Tourist.

THE JEWISH BATTALION IN CAIRO.

The Salonika paper *Pro-Israel* gives some interesting details regarding the English Army's Jewish battalion during its stay in Cairo. About 50 per cent. of the members of the battalion, it says, are English-born or naturalised, while the rest include the former members of the Zion Mule Corps, a large number of Russian Jews, and a curious mixture of Allied and neutral nationalities. They are nearly all teetotalers, and the canteens which were opened for the sale of alcoholic drinks had to close down within a fortnight for lack of business. There is so little crime, according to the statement of Colonel Patterson, the commander, that the police station is empty, and the detention cells have been turned into guards' bedrooms. There are a large number of tailors in the battalion, which accounts for the smart cut of the uniforms. Over twenty languages are represented in the ranks, and orders are given both in English and Yiddish. Only kosher food is supplied to the troops, Saturday is the day of rest instead of Sunday, and fast days are observed as part of the military regulations.

SERBIAN SONGS AT BATTERSEA.

We regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we were unable to notice last week a very interesting lecture-recital, "Ballads and Folk Songs of Serbia," given by Miss Vivian Edwards at the Battersea Polytechnic on June 1. The entertainment, which was in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, attracted a large audience. Miss Edwards has a pleasing personality and an excellent soprano voice, and both her lecture and her rendering of Serbian songs gave much pleasure to her audience. The students of the Polytechnic illustrated the lecture with a number of *kolos*, or peasant dances, in which they wore the national costume. They were also assisted by three Serbian students, who gave themselves up to the spirit of the dances with obvious enjoyment and intense fervour. Of the songs, the most popular were, "When You Get Married Take Me," and a "Rukovet." The lecture was preceded by an interesting gymnastic display by the students of the Polytechnic, and at its conclusion the Croatian and Serbian National Anthems were sung. Miss Muriel Davenport and Miss Hedley at the piano, and Miss Lilian Spalding and Miss Amy Crouch on the violin, acquitted themselves admirably.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Goldstein Bey.

June 10.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks asked whether Goldstein Bey, the Assistant Postmaster-General at Cairo, was an Austrian by birth; whether when the war broke out he became naturalised as a Russian; whether his brother was interned; and why some English officer could not be found to replace this enemy alien?

Mr. Balfour: Goldstein Bey was an Alexandrian Jew of Hungarian nationality, and was born in Egypt, where he has resided since his birth. He had been in the employment of the Egyptian Postal Administration for thirty-two years when, upon the outbreak of war, he was, together with other enemy subjects, dismissed from the service of the Egyptian Government. He became a Russian protected subject on November 28, 1914, and was then reinstated in his post. I have no information as to the third part of the question; and as regards the last part, his case formed the subject of careful inquiry by the Aliens Registration Committee in Egypt, and he was, with the concurrence of the British General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, allowed to retain his functions. He acted as Postmaster-General during the absence of Borton Pasha, but I understand that that officer has now returned to his duties.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks asked why, if this man were so loyal, he should not have been naturalised as British instead of Russian?

Mr. Balfour said he understood that the curious complications in regard to persons of Egyptian birth and up-bringing arose entirely out of the old system.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether, in negotiating for the exchange of captives of war held by the Turks, the effects of winter in Asia Minor upon prisoners deprived of the means of fortifying themselves against cold, and more particularly upon Indian prisoners, was borne in mind, so as to emphasise the necessity for arranging for such exchange as might be practicable before the end of the approaching autumn?

Mr. J. E. Hope: The considerations mentioned by my hon. friend are present to the minds of his Majesty's Government, who are not only doing their utmost to expedite the repatriation of invalid prisoners of war in Turkey, but are also preparing to forward by the repatriation ship two months' supplies of food for all prisoners, and full outfits of clothing for all non-commissioned officers and men. The same vessel will also take such parcels containing necessaries other than food as may be sent by the friends of officer prisoners of war to Alexandria for the purpose.

Sir C. Seely asked whether the repatriation ship would leave soon?

Mr. Hope: I am sorry to say we have not yet heard from the Turkish Government as to when their prisoners will be ready to be sent.

Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck asked whether the Government had decided to make fresh proposals to the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments for a complete exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Hope: The British delegates who are now at The Hague for the purpose of negotiating with German representatives on the subject of prisoners of war have been instructed to communicate with the Bulgarian representative at that capital, who is understood to be familiar with the subject, with a view to laying the basis of a fresh agreement with the Bulgarian Government for the repatriation of British and Bulgarian prisoners of war on a larger scale. As my noble friend is aware, the agreement concluded with Turkey in December last has hardly entered into operation. Nevertheless, his Majesty's Government have under consideration the supplementing of it by a wider agreement. The invalid prisoners to whom the present agreement applies would in any case have the first claim, so that time is not being lost.

Jugoslav Aspirations.

June 11.

Mr. Outhwaite asked what steps the British Government proposed to take to secure the liberation of the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs, who, for pursuing nationalistic ambitions, had been imprisoned without trial by the Austrian Government.

Lord R. Cecil: The British Government have no means of modifying the actions of the Austrian Government in these matters. But these persons are the enemies of our enemies, and as such are entitled to our warmest sympathy.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to another question by Mr. Outhwaite, said:—It will be for the liberated Czecho-Slovak and Jugoslav peoples themselves to determine their future status. His Majesty's Government fully recognised the many proofs given by these races of intense national feeling, and cordially acknowledge the assistance which the national troops of the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs are rendering to the Allied cause.

Conscription in Egypt.

Major Earl Winterton asked whether the present small *per centum* quota of native Egyptians conscribed for the Egyptian Army could be largely increased without prejudice to the essential industries of Egypt, and whether native Egyptians, whom the ballot for conscription selected, could escape conscription on payment of £20 Egyptian.

Lord R. Cecil: My noble friend will, no doubt, recollect that by the proclamation of November 6, 1914, Great Britain took upon herself the whole burden of the war as far as Egypt was concerned, and his Majesty's Government are advised that it would be undesirable to withdraw or amend this proclamation at present. Recruitment in Egypt is therefore being left upon a voluntary basis; but a thorough recruiting campaign is in operation, and has been attended with creditable results. Notwithstanding the proclamation, the Egyptian Government have made most generous contributions to the cost of the war.

Earl Winterton: Will the Government take into consideration that since the declaration of November, 1914, was made the situation has radically altered, owing to the fact that the King of the Hejaz and his Arabs are on our side?

Lord R. Cecil: I will certainly take care that that consideration is brought to the notice of the Egyptian authorities.

A Slander on Montenegro.

June 12.

Mr. Balfour informed Mr. R. Lambert that the Montenegrin Government had officially denied the report which had been current in some quarters to the effect that a secret understanding was entered into with Austria-Hungary in 1915.

The Indian Report.

Mr. Montagu, in reply to Sir H. Roberts, said that owing to their heavy pre-occupation with the immediate work of the war, the Government had not yet been able to consider the report made by the Viceroy and himself as to the reform of the Government of India, and to formulate their conclusions on the proposals contained in it. They had decided that it should be presented to Parliament as soon as sufficient copies were available in India and in this country, so as to afford an opportunity of public discussion, and so that in coming to their final decision the Government might have the advantage of considering any suggestions to which its publication might give rise. Approximately, the publication of the report would be at the end of this month.

ITALY AND THE SUBJECT RACES OF AUSTRIA.

On Tuesday, at Burlington House, there was a meeting of the British Italian League, addressed by Mr. J. C. Powell, his theme being the part that Italy is called to play with regard to the subject races of Austria. Mr. H. Wickham Steed, who was to have presided, was prevented by an accident, but sent a letter, which was read out to the meeting by Mr. E. Bullough, who took the chair in Mr. Wickham Steed's absence. One paragraph of this letter said: "At this moment there is scarcely any subject of greater importance to the British public, to the Italian public, or to an Anglo-Italian body like the British Italian League than that of the oppressed races in Austria-Hungary. Drastically expressed, the question whether cities like London, Milan, Venice, and Rome will be habitable twenty years hence depends upon the solution of the Austrian problem. Unless the subject Hapsburg races are liberated and induced to unite as independent States in some non-German Central European federation, the Allies will not have won the war, and there will be no valid guarantee against a renewal of the war with tenfold frightfulness in the air by Germany at her own moment."

The meeting passed a vote expressing regret at Mr. Wickham Steed's accident.

Mr. Powell said the revolution in Russia and the entry of the United States into the war had intensified in Italy, as in other countries, the democratic conception of the war. The Italian Government had been sharply criticised in 1917, when the terms of the secret treaties made in 1915 were published, on the ground that it was driving into the camp of the enemy those who should have been Italy's allies. With the elimination of Russia, also, Italy saw an opening to become the successor of that Power in the protectorship of the Slav races. Without the dismemberment of Austria it would be impossible either to realise the just claims of Italy or to unite the Jugoslav or other peoples who lived partly in and partly outside the Austrian Empire. Of the many races who made up that Empire, there were only two that were entirely contained within its boundaries. These were the Czecho-Slovak and the Magyar, and in this case the national aspirations competed with each other. All the others—Italians, Jugoslavs, Roumanians, etc.—were in the position of *irredenti*, and, taught by long and bitter experience, were determined to escape from their prison house and join the main body of their race outside. The renaissance of Serbia since 1903 and the secession of Italy from the Triple Alliance had rekindled the hopes of these subject races, and the movement of revolt was so determined and so unanimous on their part that now they must either secede or be crushed. The Congress at Rome had shown that Italy had wonderfully overcome her ancient prejudice against the Croats as the instruments of Hapsburg tyranny, and had returned to the position of the champion of the unity of the oppressed races of the Austrian Empire. She was now called to a function in South-Eastern Europe worthy of her great endowments. This was the work of acting as organiser and moderator of a new and greater Balkan League, a task which would give scope to all her powers and demand for its successful accomplishment all the sagacity of a Cavour, combined with all the ardent democratic faith of a Mazzini. If, as her friends believed, she succeeded in this task, she would lay the whole world under an obligation.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HOME RULE FOR INDIA: THE OPPOSITION VIEW.*

We recently noticed in these columns a collection of pamphlets stating the case for what has come to be known as Indian Home Rule, or, in other words, the immediate transference of the country to the control of the class which at present dominates its politics. The pamphlet before us gives the opposition view, and we may say at once that it gives it very well. Its contents, apart from a very short foreword, consist of extracts from addresses presented to Mr. Montagu in India, and of reports of public meetings and resolutions. The case is thus presented as it appears to Indians, and no attempt has been made to state the English or Imperial aspects of the question. The extracts which are given furnish in the aggregate a very remarkable mass of opinion. Until quite recently the supporters of Home Rule met with no formal opposition; now they have arrayed against them numerous and important sections of the people. We have definite repudiations of the policy in question from Moslems, Christians, and Anglo-Indians, and, most striking of all, from the lower castes and the depressed, or, as we prefer to call them, oppressed, classes, who are slowly and painfully becoming conscious of the oppression which has been their lot for centuries. The opposition is thus of varied origin, but the grounds on which it rests are practically uniform. Political change is recognised to be inevitable, and also to be welcomed, but the specific policy of Home Rule means danger and disaster. All the sections represented in this pamphlet fear that immediate Home Rule would mean merely the establishment of a narrow oligarchy. And the fear is justified by the whole of India's past history. Such an oligarchy must result in an increase in the oppression of which the lower classes already have ample experience, and must make any future democratic development more difficult even than now. The opposition therefore asks, not for any sudden or dramatic changes, but for that gradual and orderly progress which was promised in Mr. Montagu's statement in Parliament; the various sections protest most of all against any measures which would stereotype their present condition of inferiority.

Some good Indians grieve at these pronouncements as destroying the semblance of a unanimous India. Englishmen, on the other hand, will be disposed to welcome them as furnishing proof of a genuine step forward in Indian politics; they show that the people are beginning—though only just beginning—to find their voice, and that is a very great step forward indeed. The Indo-British Association is to be congratulated on its enterprise in bringing these early manifestations to the notice of the public; will it now go further, and put forward a constructive policy aiming at that gradual growth of a genuine democracy by the hope of which these protests are inspired?

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Problèmes Economiques nés de la Guerre." By André Lebon. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4fr. 50.)

"La Question du Fer: Le Problème Franco-Allemand du Fer." By Louis Férasson. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 3 fr.)

"General Von Sneak." By Robert Blatchford. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. 6d. net.)

"L'Enseignement Technique Supérieur à l'Après Guerre." By Prof. Léon Guillet. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4fr.)

"Les Allemands à Saint-Dié" (27 Août-10 Septembre, 1914). By Prof. Raoul Allier. Preface by Général de Lacroix. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4fr.50.)

"A Short Cut to a Splendid Peace." By Count Emmanuel Malynski. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 1s. net.)

"Oriental Encounters." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: Messrs. W. Collins, Sons, and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Modern Sons of the Pharaohs." By S. H. Leeder. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 16s. net.)

"Cyprus Under British Rule." By Captain C. W. J. Orr. (London: Robert Scott. 6s. net.)

"The Path Eternal" and Other Poems. By John Renton Denning. (Allahabad: The Pioneer Press.)

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* "Indian Opposition to Home Rule." (Published by the Indo-British Association, 6, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2. Price 6d.)

"8,000 Serbs Buried in the Cemetery of an Austrian Prison-Camp . . ."

TERRIBLE MORTALITY.

"*An Italian Medical Officer who has recently returned from imprisonment in Austria states that the mortality of the Serbian prisoners represents almost 100 per cent. In Mathausen Cemetery alone 8,000 Serbs are buried. . . .*"—DAILY PRESS.

"*Serbia is annihilated, thanks to our intervention.*"—BULGARIAN GENERALISSIMO JEKOFF.

The two statements quoted above are eloquent of the sufferings of the Serbian people.

In the prison-camps of the Central Powers the flower of Serbia's young manhood is being systematically annihilated.

These men in most cases die of hunger-typhus.

Their sufferings are awful to contemplate.

Do something to help them.

The Serbian Relief Fund, in addition to helping to maintain the Serbian refugees in foreign harbours of refuge, has, as far as its resources would allow, sent consignments of food to Serbian prisoners-of-war in the prison-camps of Germany and Austria. In many cases these supplies have been all that stood between the men and absolute starvation.

Will you not show your gratitude for the heroic self-sacrifice of the Serbian people during the early stages of the War, by helping to bring some measure of comfort to the sons of Serbia who so badly need your help?

The Serbian Relief Fund is the only authorised Fund under British administration working solely for the benefit of Serbians. This Committee can translate a donation from you into food for starving Serbian prisoners-of-war, food, clothing, and medical aid for the old men, women, and young children exiled from their native land.

Do not hesitate—but *prove* your gratitude to Serbia and your sense of British responsibility to a little nation by sending a donation to-day to the Hon. Treasurer,

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, C.B.,

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7.

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Offers of clothing for men, women and children, to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7.

(*Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.*)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. June	1918. June		1336. Ramadan.	5678. Tamuz.
14	1	Friday	5	4
15	2	Saturday........	6	5
16	3	Sunday	7	6
17	4	Monday	8	7
18	5	Tuesday	9	8
19	6	Wednesday	10	9
20	7	Thursday	11	10

M. Venizelos returned to Athens last Friday from a visit to the front.

The Sultan of Egypt has given a donation of £E200 to the Belgian Red Cross Society.

On May 26, at Ooty, Madras Presidency, the wife of the late R. C. Callander, I.C.S., gave birth to a son.

Mr. Augustus Ottiwell Wood, Chief Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia, Teheran, has been made a C.B.E.

M. Constantin Diamandy, the Roumanian Minister in Petrograd, arrived in London on Tuesday from Russia.

Colonel A. N. Pantchoulidzeff, Secretary to the Serbian Legation at Petrograd, left London for Paris on Tuesday.

Bishop Weldon, who has just been appointed Dean of Durham, was Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India from 1898 to 1902.

Sir Lumley Smith, who has just died, won the Le Bas University Prize in 1858 with an essay entitled "The Koran in India."

It is announced that Princess Laxmi Devi, grand-daughter of H.H. the Maharaja Gaekwar, is engaged to the heir-apparent of the Chief of Mudhol.

On Empire Day, Sir Richard Wingate, High Commissioner in Egypt, and Lady Wingate, invited a thousand convalescent soldiers to tea at the Residency.

Mrs. Hamilton-Grace, the founder and Joint Hon. Sec. of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Picot, who has just returned to England from Switzerland, where he has done so much good work for British prisoners of war, has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

On May 31, at Bournemouth, the wife of Mr. Hugh Lloyd Thomas gave birth to a son. Mr. Thomas was Third Secretary at the British Embassy, Constantinople, before the war. He was transferred to Cairo in November, 1914.

Last Friday, being the birthday of H.I.M. the Shah of Persia, by the King's command the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, his Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Persian Minister to convey his Majesty's good wishes and congratulations, which the Minister telegraphed to his Sovereign.

On June 6 at St. Dunstan's, Cheam, the marriage took place of Captain A. H. Popert, the Worcestershire Regiment, only son of Mr. E. P. Popert, Indian Forest Service (retired), and Margery Butler, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Allen, of Rowsley, Cheam. The Rev. Canon Wesley Dennis officiated.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Bernard J. Finnie, M.C., Royal Fusiliers, second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Finnie, of Nortonthorpe, near Huddersfield, and Gladys Oswald, younger daughter of the late Mr. C. O. Mackwood, of Colombo, Ceylon, and of Mrs. Mackwood, Albert Gate Court, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

Four Commanders of the Order of the British Empire are grouped under the heading, "Egypt and the Sudan," in the official list. These are:—Mr. W. G. Hayter, Counsel to the Sultan of Egypt; Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, the agricultural expert; Mr. Cyril Goodman, of the Department of Health; and Major Montagu Fielden, Reserve of Officers (Civ. Sec.), Sudan Government.

The engagement is announced between Captain (acting major) Edmund Arthur Peel Luard, only son of Colonel A. J. H. Luard, D.S.O., late Norfolk Regiment, and Mrs. Luard, and Gladys Frances Alice Forde Tichborne, younger daughter of the Rev. Canon Forde Tichborne and Mrs. Tichborne, of Armagh, Ireland, and granddaughter of the late Major-General Swiney, Indian Staff Corps.

The Royal Humane Society have awarded a bronze medal to Elizabeth U. Hills, of Penshurst, Kent, a V.A.D. nurse, for saving a companion from the Tigris at Busreh in January last.

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir S. P. Sinha, who are representing India at the Imperial War Cabinet and Imperial War Conference, arrived in London on Wednesday afternoon. They were met by Sir James Dunlop Smith, representing the Secretary of State for India.

Major Norman Bentwich, Military Cross, of the Camel Transport Corps, and Lecturer at the Khedivial School of Law at Cairo, who is one of the most prominent of the younger Zionist leaders in England and Egypt, has been appointed Procureur-General and Judge of Appeals for that portion of Palestine which is in British occupation.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major J. S. Oldham, Indian Cavalry, son of the late W. B. Oldham, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Mrs. Oldham, and Irene Beaumont Thomas, daughter of the late Richard Beaumont Thomas and Mrs. Beaumont Thomas, of The Glade, Englefield Green, and 23, Parkside, Knightsbridge.

An engagement is announced between F. Lionel F. Lennard, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Lennard, of 23, Adelaide Crescent, Hove, Sussex, and Aïda Dorothy Churchill Moore, only child of Mr. A. Churchill Moore, Egyptian Civil Service (retired), nephew of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Moore, K.C.B., C.I.E., of Birksey Brow, Crook, Westmorland, and of Mrs. Churchill Moore.

The marriage will take place, at noon, on July 2, at Trinity Church, Sloane Street, of Major Douglas Venables, D.S.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers, eldest surviving son of Mr. Rowland Venables, of Oakhurst, Oswestry, and Daisie, younger daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Le Geyt and Lady Bruce, and sister of the late Major H. K. Bruce, M.C., 2nd Goorkhas. No invitations will be sent, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 2):—Preparations are being made for the summer migration to Mount Troodos. The High Commissioner will probably make an early move to "Government Cottage," and it is hoped that his health will greatly benefit from the fine mountain air. All hotels in the hills are preparing for the season, and it is expected that they will be well filled again this year, although visitors to Cyprus will not be numerous as far as can be foreseen.

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In commemoration of Lord Kitchener's death (June 5, 1916) an effort is being made at Hobart, Tasmania, to raise a special body of recruits which will be known as "Kitchener's."

The Council of the Royal Society of Arts have awarded the Society's Silver Medal to Mr. Lawrence Balls for his paper, "Examples of Applied Science in the Cotton Industry"; and to Mr. H. M. Surtees Tuckwell for his paper, "The Tata Iron and Steel Works."

Under the auspices of the Serbian Red Cross, a conference on "Serbia and her Jugoslav Brothers" will be held this afternoon (June 14), at half-past three, at 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W. H. E. Monsieur de Fleurian will preside, and M. Myatovitch will be the speaker.

We much regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are unable to publish the list of recipients of the Order of the British Empire who are connected with India, Egypt, or other parts of the Near East. For the same reason, we are unable to publish the list of awards for service in Salonika.

On the recent anniversary of her birthday the Queen received from the Maharao of Kotah the gift of a lakh of rupees (£6,600), to be devoted to war purposes. This sum her Majesty has decided to devote to the Queen's Hospital at Frognal for sailors and soldiers suffering from facial and jaw injuries.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Chikalenko has been appointed Ukrainian Minister to Turkey.

Bimbashi R. P. Mahaffy, Barrister-at-Law, District Judge, has been transferred from the Blue Nile Province to Kordofan Province.

The Greek Government has appointed Colonel Ambrosius Frantzis as chief of a Greek Military Mission to this country and Military Attaché to the Greek Legation, and Lieutenant Constantine Rhodocanachis as Assistant Military Attaché.

The King has given the following officers permission to wear the Cross of the Redeemer, conferred on them by the King of the Hellenes:—Fourth Class.—Wing Cdr. (act. Wing Capt.) R. Gordon, D.S.O., R.N.A.S. (Maj. Temp. Lt.-Col., R.M.L.I.); Cdr. L H. Strain, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.; Staff Pay. G. H. Thomson, R.N. Fifth Class.—Hon. Lt. F. F. Ponsford, R.N.V.R.; Hon. Lt. G. G. Knox, R.N.V.R.; Lt. F. Hiscock, R.N.V.R.

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OBITUARY.

Colonel Aylmer P. G. Dowdall, who has died at Chester, aged sixty-six, saw service in the Egyptian campaign. When attached to the Royal Sussex Regiment he took part in the Sudan Expedition, and was mentioned in despatches.

Captain Hugh Cathcart Dobbs, Indian Infantry, who is reported killed in action, was thirty-three years of age. He passed out of Woolwich into the Royal Artillery in 1903, and after promotion was gazetted to the Indian Army in October, 1906. From September, 1910, he was employed with the King's African Rifles.

The death is announced from Fyzabad, India, of Mr. Gerald Constantine Winnington-Ingram, youngest son of the late Rev. Edward Winnington-Ingram, and brother of the Bishop of London. He was educated at Bromsgrove School and New College, Oxford, and was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1893.

Major William Sturrock Anderson, late King's Royal Rifles, who has died at Bedford, saw service in the Afghan War of 1879-80, taking part in the march to Kandahar, and later in the Mari Expedition. In the Egyptian Expedition of 1882-4, he was present at the action at Kassassin and the battles of Tel-el-Kebir and Tamai.

Major Stanley Malcolm Bruce, Indian Cavalry, who has been killed in action, was born in August, 1878, and transferred from the Dragoon Guards to the Indian Staff Corps in 1899; he had his captaincy in February, 1907, and his majority in September, 1915. Before the present war he saw service on the North-West Frontier, in 1908, in the operations in the Zakka Khel country, and was decorated with the medal and clasp.

Surgeon-Major William Jasper Rendell, of Gonvena House, Wadebridge, has died, in his eighty-sixth year. He joined the Army as assistant surgeon in the Royal Scots, at Castlebar, in 1853, and transferred to the 55th (Border Regiment) in the Crimea in 1854. He served in Scutari and the trenches throughout the campaign. He also took part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, including the relief of Lucknow, and served through the first Bhootan campaign.

It is with much regret that we announce the death of Mr. Gregor McGregor Ramsay, which took place at Salonika on May 24, after a short illness. Mr. Ramsay was the third son of the late Mr. Alexander Ramsay, of Constantinople, where he was well known in shipping and other circles. He will be missed by a large number of friends, with whom he was a great favourite on account of his bright and lovable character. He left Constantinople at the outbreak of the war, and had since resided in Greece. Mr. Ramsay leaves a widow, three daughters, and one son.

It is announced that Major J. C. Jack, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Artillery, died on May 31 from wounds received three days earlier. He was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, and at Lincoln College, Oxford. After taking a History Honours Degree he passed into the Indian Civil Service in 1898, and was closely identified during the sixteen years of his service in India with the settlement operations in Eastern Bengal. Early in 1915 he obtained the consent of the Indian Government to come to England, and was gazetted to the Special Reserve of the R.H.A., going to the front in October, 1915.

The death of Prince Victor Duleep-Singh occurred last Friday at Monte Carlo. He was born in 1866, and was the eldest son of the late Maharajah Duleep-Singh, of Lahore. His mother was the daughter of Mr. L. Müller, of Alexandria, Egypt. He was educated at Eton and Cambridge; and in 1888 he was gazetted to the 1st Royal Dragoons, and served as captain in that regiment from 1894 to 1898. Prince Victor was an honorary A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Ross while General Commanding in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1888 to 1890. In 1898 he married Lady Anne, daughter of the ninth Earl of Coventry.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1918.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

It is a matter for profound satisfaction that definite steps are at last being taken to ameliorate the lot of British prisoners of war in Turkey and Bulgaria. Although we are prepared to learn that they have fared better in many respects than their fellow-prisoners in Germany, it is certain that in Turkey at least their fate has been a hard one. They have been spared to a considerable extent the studied brutality and refinement of cruelty practised by the Germans; but they will have had to suffer from the ignorance and callousness of their captors and gaolers as well as from the straitened conditions of the country as a whole. The picture that has been drawn of the sufferings of the rank and file in the course of their wanderings from Kut to the places of their internment is a black one indeed, and probably the worst is not yet known. When once the camp had been reached, however, the prisoners were more likely to have been the victims of their surroundings than of the deliberate aggression which has been the bane, and worse, of those who have fallen into German hands. The plight of the wounded may well have been pitiable, unless they were fortunate enough to have the attention of British medical officers. The special circumstances attending imprisonment in Turkey, it might be thought, would have prompted the early adoption of steps to secure the release of those who had been interned for any length of time; but the military disadvantage of effecting any exchange of prisoners with Germany appears to have been regarded as equally applicable to prisoners in the Near East. Moreover, both Turks and Bulgarians at first showed a tendency to resent either inquiry into the conditions of prisoners or schemes for improving those conditions. To what extent this attitude may have been due to a desire for concealment or was brought about by the methods adopted of initiating the discussion we have no means of knowing. But it was not until last December that Turkey was found to be amenable to negotiations. An agreement was drawn up at Berne for the exchange of a thousand invalid prisoners, and at the same time arrangements were made for the inspection of internment camps in Turkey by Dutch officials. The interests of British prisoners of war in Turkey have been in the hands of the Netherlands Minister in Constantinople since the entry of the United States into the war; but it is significant of the difficulties under which he has laboured that a formal agreement between Great Britain and the Turkish Government was necessary, in order that officials of the Dutch Legation might be allowed to inspect the camps.

Since the Berne agreement the attitude of the French and British Governments towards a general exchange of prisoners of war has undergone a complete change. France led the way, and Great Britain has been compelled by the weight of public opinion to follow so far in her footsteps that a conference on this subject is now in progress at The Hague between British and German representatives. It is natural that the prospect of a general repatriation of British prisoners in German hands should raise the question of a similar arrangement for those in Turkey. The Government have promised to give the matter their consideration; but they may be tempted to watch the working of their present agreement with the Turks before entering upon fresh negotiations. The fact that more than six months will have elapsed between the date of the agreement and the repatriation of the thousand prisoners does not augur well for the early adoption of a more comprehensive scheme. But with the principle once introduced, and the machinery for the inspection of camps by neutral officials in working order, subsequent arrangements stand a better chance of being carried out more expeditiously. The possibility of a change in Turkey's attitude not only on this question, but in regard to her relations with the Entente Powers as well, must be kept in mind. In view of the conspicuous success attending British dealings with the peoples of the East whom the war has brought within our jurisdiction, it might seem superfluous to suggest that in all negotiations with Turks and Bulgarians the representatives of Great Britain should be selected primarily for their special knowledge of those countries. But the story of the mistakes of British diplomacy in the Near East before the war justifies the warning, and a recent statement in Parliament serves as a reminder that it may not be out of place. It was announced that the delegates now at The Hague for the purpose of negotiating with German representatives on the subject of prisoners of war have been instructed to communicate with the Bulgarian representative at that capital with a view to laying the basis of a fresh agreement with the Bulgarian Government for the repatriation of British and Bulgarian prisoners of war on a larger scale. If the intention is to complete the negotiations at The Hague, it is to be hoped that the British delegation will be reinforced by someone who knows Bulgaria and the Bulgarians.

As far as the Near East is concerned, no less than in the case of Germany, the best method of ameliorating the lot of prisoners of war is to secure their early repatriation. In the meantime it affords some consolation to know that all that is immediately possible is being done for these hapless men. Monetary grants to officers have been increased; the ship to be used for the repatriation of the invalids will take two months' supplies of food for all prisoners, and full outfits of clothing for all non-commissioned officers and men. Facilities are also being afforded for the despatch by this ship to officers of private parcels containing necessaries other than food. The prisoners have not been neglected from this end in the past; but there has been irregularity in the arrival of the relief sent, and the capacity of the Turks to cope with their responsibilities has been limited. The arrangements now made for the distribution of two months' food are a guarantee, it is to be hoped, that in every case the parcels will reach their destination. But in this connection too much stress cannot be laid on the necessity of leaving nothing to chance or to Turkish or other improvisation. It is evident from the plan adopted for the repatriation of medical officers that too much latitude has been left for mismanagement. Under the Berne agreement one British medical officer and five medical personnel of other ranks may be detained in Turkey for every thousand British prisoners; but it was left to the Turks to make "a suitable distribution of this medical staff." With all the good will in the world they would be unequal to the task if, as is understood to be the case, the prisoners are distributed in comparatively small groups among a large number of camps. It is well, therefore, that the question of increasing the number should be under consideration; but it would have been better if the actual conditions had been appreciated in the first instance and provision made that no camp containing British prisoners of war should be left without a medical officer.

BYGONE EVENTS IN EGYPT.

By SIR MALCOLM McILWRAITH.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST has done me the honour to request that I should send him a short article, and has suggested that it should be "something in the nature of reminiscences." And as I have derived much pleasure and profit from this publication, which serves to keep Anglo-Egyptians, among many other readers, in touch with the scenes of their former labours, I readily comply with this request. My only difficulty has been to find a suitable subject for some brief observations of a reminiscent order. But as I turned the matter over in my mind, my eye fell on the photograph of Boutros Pasha on my mantelpiece, and it occurred to me that a few words about the troubled times in which he lived, and which culminated in his tragic death, might be of interest. It is the only murder with which I have ever been brought into close contact, I am happy to say, and the circumstances have, accordingly, remained vividly impressed upon my memory.

In order to understand that sad occurrence, it is necessary to recall briefly the causes which led up to it. In 1907 Lord Cromer left Egypt, after a brilliant Proconsulship of twenty-four years, which had attracted the attention of the entire world. During the last ten or more of those years he had wielded almost absolute power, by reason of the practically unquestioned authority which his own merits had achieved. Possibly as a result, however, of this situation, the last years of his tenure of office had been somewhat stormy. Notably, since the events of Denshawai, in 1906, the forces of unrest and disaffection had considerably increased in Egypt, and a strong Nationalist party had sprung up and become organized. It was, therefore, foreseen, that whenever he retired there would be difficult times ahead, and such, assuredly, proved to be the case. Sir Eldon Gorst, one of the most successful of his former lieutenants, had been selected to succeed him; and the Liberal Government, which had taken office in 1905 after the crushing defeat of the Unionists at the polls, determined to inaugurate in Egypt a policy of political conciliation and administrative concessions, and to increase considerably the powers of the native officials.

As Sir Eldon Gorst himself expressed it in one of his annual reports, "The Egyptian Ministers and officials were encouraged to take more responsibility and initiative in the affairs of the country."[*] Space does not permit an explanation of the principles and practice which have governed the British administration of Egypt under the Occupation, nor the very profound and far-reaching difference, in various ways, which these simple words connoted. It must suffice to record here that the concessions which this change of policy entailed were, unfortunately, not accepted by the Nationalist party in the spirit in which they were made, but "were attributed both by the Egyptians and by the local European colonies to weakness, to an attempt to pacify the national agitation by ill-timed concessions and to an intentional diminution of British authority."[†] The new policy, therefore, whether for this reason only, or from other causes also, largely failed of its effect; and, instead of checking discontent, led to still louder and more determined demands for self-government.

A second contributory cause of the general agitation was increasing religious fanaticism towards Christians and the mutual hostility between Copts and Moslems, which had been stimulated by the appointment of the Coptic Minister, Boutros Pasha Ghali, as President of the Council, in succession to Moustapha Pasha Fehmy, in 1908. There had not, I believe, ever been a Coptic Prime Minister before,[‡] and the appointment was therefore regarded as a daring innovation, although Boutros Pasha had been selected for the post solely by reason of the fact that he was immeasurably the ablest man in the Ministry.

The Copts are in a considerable numerical minority in Egypt, constituting, indeed, scarcely more than 8 per cent. of the native population But they are a highly intelligent portion of the community, better educated, as a rule, than their Moslem brethren, and they have, consequently, obtained what Moslems regard as a disproportionate share in the machine of government. The Copt, however, though an admirable clerk and a very efficient man of business, is not, as a rule, a leader of men, and is unsuited by temperament and training to exercise executive authority. Such authority is, therefore, seldom entrusted to him, and there have not been, for instance, any cases (so far as I can remember) of Coptic Mudirs.

If, therefore, argued the Moslems, such men are not even considered fit to be governors of a province, how can it be right to make one of their number the head of the whole Government? And many of them, accordingly, considered the appointment of Boutros Pasha to this position an act of political madness. On the other hand, this view exasperated the Copts themselves, who consider, on the contrary, that they have never had that share of high executive authority for which many of them pine, and which, under the British Occupation, they fully expected to obtain.

Lord Cromer once summarized most pithily, as follows, the situation in this respect, and the working of the Coptic mind :—

> The principles of strict impartiality on which the Englishman proceeded were foreign to the nature of the Copt. When the British occupation took place certain hopes began to dawn in his mind. "I," said the Copt to himself, "am a Christian; if I had the power to do so, I would favour Christians at the expense of Moslems. The English are Christians; therefore"—and it was here that the Copt was guilty of a sad *ignoratio elenchi*—"as the English have the power, they will assuredly favour Christians at the expense of Moslems." When the Copt found that this process of reasoning was fallacious, and that the conduct of the Englishman was guided by motives which he had left out of account and which he could not understand, he was disappointed, and his disappointment deepened into resentment. He thought that the Englishman's justice to the Moslem involved injustice to himself, for he was apt, perhaps unconsciously, to hold that injustice and absence of favouritism to Copts were well-nigh synonymous terms.

The strained situation, therefore, between these two classes of the community, greatly accentuated by an appointment which the Moslems so strongly resented, increased from day to day.

Finally, it was at this particular juncture, when the political atmosphere was so highly charged with electricity, that there was brought forward a certain scheme for extending the concession of the Suez Canal Company, which greatly exacerbated public opinion. The bargain was, in reality, a sound one, I believe, for the Egyptian Government, from the financial point of view, but it was utilized by the Nationalist Press as a weapon for creating prejudice against foreigners—both English and French—and was represented as the scheme of the Christian Minister, who desired to favour his co-religionists at the expense of his country. The proposal did not, legally, require the assent of the people's representatives, the General Assembly, but Sir Eldon Gorst—whether of his own motion or on orders from home I am unable to say—elected to submit it to them. Whatever result was hoped for from this course, the effect it in fact produced was merely to give considerably wider and more violent expression to the popular clamour against the scheme; and the sittings of the Assembly grew more and more turbulent each time it was discussed.

On Sunday morning, February 20, 1910, I was sitting in my office at the Ministry of Justice when, about 1 o'clock, I was startled by a series of some five or six sharp reports immediately under my window in the courtyard of the Ministry. I thought, however, that it must be merely the explosion of a motor tyre, and went on with my work, when suddenly my orderly burst into the room, crying out that Boutros Pasha (whose office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was on the floor above mine, and who had a few minutes previously descended the staircase) had been shot at when getting into his carriage at the door of the Ministry, and was "lying on the ground." I proceeded at once downstairs, where I saw, in the large central hall of the Ministry, a crowd of excited and shouting employees

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[*] See Egypt, No. 1 (1911), p. 2.

[†] Ibidem, p. 3.

[‡] There had been a *Christian* Prime Minister, for Nubar Pasha several times occupied that position. But the appointment of an Armenian did not raise the same questions, for the Armenian population of Egypt is very small.

[§] "Modern Egypt." Vol. II. p. 209.

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dragging along a dishevelled-looking youth, with torn and disordered garments, who, I presumed, was the assassin. At that moment my secretary came up and handed me a little black Browning revolver, which had been taken from this man, five chambers of which had been discharged. Meanwhile, Boutros Pasha had been carried into the room of the Minister of Justice on the ground floor of the Ministry. There I found him, lying on the floor, being hurriedly examined by a native doctor, kneeling at his side. who had happened to be at the Ministry at the time—a circumstance which, at first, aroused some suspicion against him. The unfortunate Minister was fully conscious, and the doctor was trying to reassure him, repeating soothingly, "Ce n'est rien, ça ne sera rien!" while the poor victim gazed at him fixedly, endeavouring to gauge the sincerity of his assurances.

The Minister of Justice, however (Rushdi Pasha, now President of the Council), whispered to me some moments later that one of the bullets had passed through his side. and that "if it had touched his liver, he was a dead man." Such, unhappily, proved to be the case; and though an operation was performed on him that night, he only lived till morning. He was a most valuable and loyal coadjutor of the British Government, and a great loss to his country.

Meanwhile, the assassin had been taken into the large Council Chamber of the Ministry and searched. I found the Procureur-Général there (Saroit Pasha, now Minister of Justice) and he forthwith commenced the inquiry. The assassin proved to be a young apothecary, named Wardani, who had a chemist's shop in the Abdin quarter of the town, close to the Khedive's Palace, and who proudly proclaimed his membership of the Nationalist party. He declared that he had intended to kill the Minister because the latter had betrayed his country, alleging, among other reasons, that he had sold its interests to the Suez Canal Company for a huge sum of money—an allegation of which there never was a particle of evidence.

It would be impossible to relate here the course of the inquiry, though there were some interesting and dramatic moments. There were many complaints at the time that it took far too long, and that some more prompt and expeditious method of trial and speedy execution should have been found. Apart, however, from the fact that any such course would have been most unlikely to meet with the approval of the British Government and the House of Commons at that time, it is not the case that the proceedings were by any means unduly protracted. The prosecution, indeed, concluded their inquiry with the most commendable rapidity in sixteen days, though there were upwards of a hundred witnesses to examine—for it was most desirable to ascertain if Wardani had accomplices.

The case came on for hearing before the Assize Court exactly two months after the murder—several weeks earlier than the average period for murder cases in Egypt at the time, and one which compares very favourably with the average time occupied by such cases in England. Enormous efforts were made by the Nationalist party to save the assassin from paying the supreme penalty for his crime. They not only paid all the expenses of his defence, but they left no stone unturned in order to arouse sympathy for him among the lower classes, and to impart a sentiment of religious antagonism into the affair. The judges and prosecuting officials received, almost daily, threatening letters of great violence. The English judge, however (Judge Dilberoglue, now retired), who presided over the Assize Court, and the Public Prosecutor behaved with courage and resolution, and the assassin was, in due course, convicted and hanged. The time was, nevertheless, an anxious one for all concerned, for no one could tell who the next victim might be. I remember being informed by the head of the police that a band of ten young men—several of whom were said to be most desperate characters—had sworn, each of them. to kill a prominent official. So we all felt that we had our share of the danger.*

In the result, however—perhaps as a consequence of the firmness displayed by the authorities—Wardani found no imitators at the time. It was not till many years later after the outbreak of the war, that Egyptian public life was troubled afresh by attempts at political assassination, several being made against the person of the late Sultan Hussein, happily without success. In each case the assailants were arrested, brought to trial, and duly punished. It may be hoped, therefore, that their fate will prove a deterrent should there be any persons of similar proclivities now at large. The political conditions, however, which led to the sad fate of poor Boutros Pasha have now passed away, and it may be hoped that Egypt, under the new regime, has entered upon an era of prosperity and contentment which renders their recurrence unlikely

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* Bontros Pasha, who was a particular friend of mine, was constantly in the habit of calling for me, on his way downstairs, when he left the Ministry at one o'clock, and driving me home to lunch, my house being on his way. Had he done so on the day of the crime, I might possibly have saved him—or perhaps shared his fate.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is proposed to raise a citizen corps from among the Indian railway employees throughout the country.

A British official report issued on Saturday said :—"There is no change in the situation in Mesopotamia."

The Czecho-Slovak National Council have opened a London office at Thanet House, 231, Strand, W.C.2.

The political Press Censorship at Constantinople has been discontinued and the military Censorship maintained.

A reactionary lieutenant in the Greek Army has been condemned to four years' imprisonment for christening children to whom he gave the name of the Kaiser.

A Note has been presented by the Persian Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow protesting against the treatment of the Persian population by the Soviet representatives in Turkestan.

According to a Constantinople telegram the *Tasvir I Efkiar* estimated the number of houses burned in the recent big fire at Stamboul as being at least 8,000, covering an area of 2,500,000 square metres.

The Paris *Journal* prints a telegram from its Zurich correspondent stating that Prince William of Wied, sometime Mpret of Albania, had a long interview on June 7 with the King of Saxony. The Prince, it is added, is a candidate for the Throne of Lithuania.

The judges of the Native Court in Alexandria held a general meeting recently under the presidency of Judge Saleh Hakki Bey, and discussed the programme of the season. Seven of the judges, including the president, decided to give up their summer holidays this year.

M. Radoslavoff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, is reported to have said that Bulgaria had received from Germany and Austria the fullest assurances that the Central Empires would support all Bulgaria's claims with regard to Eastern Macedonia, especially those relating to Drama, Seres, and Kavala.

Reports of the ceremony at Jerusalem on the arival of Dr. Weizmann's mission produced an extraordinary impression among the Jews in Galacia and Vienna; strong feelings of sympathy for England were evident. It was agreed to celebrate the date (April 11) in future years as a public holiday.

It has been decided, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, to create, with effect from March 13, 1918, and for the remaining period of the war, two additional appointments carrying the rank of Surgeon-General, such appointments to be filled by officers of the Indian Medical Service in military employment.

Herr George Gothoin, member of the Reichstag, refers in the *Berliner Tageblatt* to the picture of a "future independent Jewish national State of Palestine" which, he says, the English have set before the world, and declares that it is in the interest of Eastern Jews, "as also of the Germans, that England's plan should fail."

The following alteration in the rank and titles of the Surgeon-Generals of the Indian Medical Service has been made by Royal Warrant, published in the *Gazette:* "Surgeon-Generals ranking as Lieutenant-Generals shall be granted the rank and title of Lieutenant-General, and Surgeon-Generals ranking as Major-Generals shall be granted the rank and title of Major-General."

In the elections for the Roumanian Parliament, to which candidates are returned by electoral colleagues, 60 Government candidates were elected for the first colleges of the Chamber of Deputies. as well as three Carpists. General Averescu was elected as an independent. Parliament, which is to open to-day, will meet in the National Theatre at Jassy.

There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes in Assam during 1917. The total was 289, as against 340 in 1916. The number of wild animals killed was 1,490, as against 1,562 in 1916. The number of snakes killed was considerably smaller, 332, as against 1,409. Of the total number of persons killed by wild animals, 138 fell victims to tigers.

The Secretary of the Asiatic Seamen's Institute, Birkenhead, has been informed by the Board of Trade that lascars will be eligible for the award of the new torpedo badge if they have served on the articles of any British merchant ship sunk or damaged by torpedo or mine, and if they have afterwards engaged for and completed a further voyage on the articles of a British ship. Application for a badge must be made personally at a mercantile marine office.

The *Palestine News* reproduces a letter sent by the Greek Archbishop of Mount Sinai to Colonel Storrs, the British Governor at Jerusalem. After recalling the sympathy of the Greek Government towards the Jewish people as expressed by M. Venizelos and other statesmen, the writer states: "We who belong to Hellenic stock sympathise with the aspirations of the Jewish people regarding their settlement in Palestine, and we think no claim could be more justified than this. The Jews, as bearers of modern civilisation and as one of the most enlightened peoples of the world, will not only bring innate capacities to bear upon the development of Palestine, which has been desolated by Turkish misrule, but will instil into the poverty-stricken inhabitants a spirit of progress and emulation. I support with all my heart the aspirations of the Jews, who have the right to settle in the land of their fathers, which I pray may henceforth become the land of their birth, thanks to the initiative and the chivalrous protection of the great liberal British Empire."

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Reform for India.

Sir Valentine Chirol has contributed to *The Times* four articles on "Reform in India" (published June 6, 7, 8 and 10). From these we should like to quote many passages; but since considerations of space must not be ignored, we must content ourselves with some extracts from the last article:—

> If, in the terms of the Pronouncement of August 20, the development of self-governing institutions in India can only be gradual and the realisation of responsible government progressive, no scheme of constitutional reforms based on that Pronouncement can fail to provide that throughout that evolutionary period Government shall remain armed with the necessary executive and administrative powers to secure the welfare and safety of India, for which the responsibility must still lie on our shoulders.
>
> However cautiously every step may be taken in the transition from an autocratic to a democratic system, we cannot close our eyes to the stupendous magnitude of the change involved in it, especially in a country with no democratic traditions or instincts of its own, where it is the autocracy itself that has to teach democracy. Even the Indian *intelligentsia* which now talks democracy has only learnt to talk it from its alien teachers, and has certainly not yet learnt to put it into practice in the social life of India. Only a few of its leaders, for instance, have so far realised how incongruous democratic professions are with a social system which treats fifty or sixty millions of low-caste Indians as "untouchable" by the higher castes and banishes "untouchable" children to the outer verandahs of an elementary schoolhouse lest contact with them should defile their more fortunately-born schoolmates. It is to be hoped that the movement now on foot to remove this reproach will be more successful than others that have been started from time to time during the last half century, but that it should still be needed when Indians loudly claim that they are ripe for the most advanced democratic institutions is in itself significant.

The article concludes:—

> Ready as we must show ourselves under the Pronouncement to transfer an increasing measure of power and responsibility to the people of India, we must preserve intact at every stage the authority needed for the exercise of such power and the discharge of such responsibility as we cannot safely transfer until the final goal is reached. It may be possible in the meantime to increase Indian representation in the Provincial Legislative Councils and in that of the Viceroy, and it is certainly most important that the basis of Indian representation in these Councils should be broadened, both by enlarging the electorates and by providing in other ways for the protection of influential minorities. Indians may be more closely associated and in increasing numbers both with the executive and administrative government of the country.
>
> But the mainspring of government and the final authority will have to remain in the hands of those appointed by the British Government and the British Parliament to govern. The Government of the King-Emperor must be carried on—and for this reason, in addition to all others, that, so far as we can at present look into the future, the safety of India must depend, as it has depended in the present war, on the British Army and the British Navy.

Bulgaria and her Neighbours.

Some light is thrown upon Bulgaria's attitude to the war by the following extract from an article that appeared recently in the *Dnevnik*, of Sofia. Says the writer:—

> With regard to equilibrium in the Balkans, it can be created only if Bulgaria, whose territories include all the high roads to the East, is made sufficiently strong to enable her to keep them and to safeguard the free commercial movement on them. Without this condition no equilibrium is possible, and the aspirations of the other Balkan States would be stimulated to acquire strategical points and to create other competing highways. However, it is clear that our national unity is in the interest not only of Austro-Hungary, which is thereby protected from the insatiable greed of Serbs and Bohemians, but also of the Turks, whose capital will become safe, and of the equilibrium of Europe as well. This is so plain and evident that only the blind or the personally interested cannot or will not see it.

The Troubles of Greece.

The *Observer* published last Sunday an interview which one of its representatives had with M. Gennadius, the Hellenic Minister in London. Referring to the brilliant success gained by the Greek Army, M. Gennadius remarked that it was inspiring for those friends of Greece who had remained faithful to her through good report and evil. "For," he added, "no doubt the long trial through which we had to pass before arriving at this stage was a little disheartening to those who could not have known the full details of that great crisis in the history of the country." He continued:—

> To us, however, who knew what was occurring and had struggled through the whole of that period, the position of Greece during the last three years was not one of neutrality, but one of constant effort to free ourselves from the German influence and intrigue which had established itself in high quarters. And it is no exaggeration to say that this persistent and determined effort was as severe and as exacting as actual participation in the war. When you consider how even in those countries more fortunately situated than our own—countries which one after the other have gradually come into the war—German intrigue and German propaganda had made very powerful sections of the population, and, indeed, many important personalities, work in favour of Germany, it is not surprising that in Greece German influence had found for a long time a fruitful field of operations.
>
> In Greece the reigning power was in the hands of a sovereign who at the age of eighteen had been sent to Berlin to receive his military education, and his consort was the beloved sister of the Kaiser. It was not, therefore, to be wondered at that he should have been under the influence of the Kaiser. Nor, on the other hand, was it surprising that a large section of Greek people, who are noble-hearted and generous by nature, should have hesitated for a long time to declare themselves openly against a sovereign who had undoubtedly acted during our two Balkan wars in a way calculated to evoke popular enthusiasm.
>
> Moreover, you must remember that he was the first prince born in Greece amongst his own people—a prince whose advent Greek people had awaited for five long centuries of servitude and misfortune. It was hard to be convinced that this beloved prince would have acted treacherously towards his own country as he did, that he would have consented to secret arrangements with Germany, and that he would actually have allowed the secular enemies, the Bulgarians, to occupy our hard-won patrimony in Eastern Macedonia.
>
> Our great statesman, M. Venizelos, was himself the first to exhaust every conciliatory means and use every persuasion before deciding that other measures must be adopted to safeguard the great interests of the country. During those three years, therefore, although Greece was not officially in the war, we carried on in Greece itself a struggle for the cause for which the Allies are fighting. In the end King Constantine was dethroned, and he and his entourage had to leave the country. It was a great wrench in many ways—a greater effort, I think, than has been made by others who have come into the Alliance under more favourable conditions.

Greece then entered upon a new period of reorganization of the army and of overhauling of finances, to say nothing of clearing the country from the germs of intrigue and dissension. The result of this work is now being made clear.

Articles to Note.

"The Future of Roumania," by Herbert Vivian; "India's Man Power," by St. Nihal Singh; and "Italy and the Nationalities of Austria-Hungary," by an Old Mazzinian, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

"A Constructive Policy for India," by Mrs. Haigh; "Violence and Cunning: The Lesson of Brest and Bucharest," by Major-General Sir George Aston, K.C.B.; and "Shall England Save Austria," by the Very Rev. Canon William Barry, D.D., in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

"The Ordeal"; "Russia, Germany, and Asia"; and "Indian Politics," in the *Round Table* (June).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The second Indian War Loan is being raised in the form of 5½ per cent. War Bonds issued at par. Bonds redeemable in 1921 and 1923 will carry no premium, but bonds due in 1925 will be redeemed at 103 per cent., and those dated 1928 at 105 per cent. Subscriptions must be paid in full on application, and Indian Treasury bills will be accepted in payment subject to a discount of 4 per cent. per annum, and applications within certain limits will be received by the Post Office Savings Banks. The loan is free from Indian income-tax, but not from super-tax.

⁂

Turkey's financial position gets steadily worse, and as a natural corollary the country's dependence on Germany grows constantly greater. Since the C.U.P. inveigled Turkey into the war at Germany's command there have been incessant financial crises, each one somewhat more severe than the last, which have only been solved by the most dubious financial devices. Usually it has been the case that Germany has lent her support to Turkey's credit in some form or another; in one case, it will be remembered, gold was to be placed in safes at Berlin as a security for Turkey's obligations. In these transactions Germany has been careful to run no risk of losing anything (no gold, for instance, has passed from Berlin to Constantinople), while each crisis has enabled her to strengthen her hold over her unfortunate Ally. This process is naturally one which Germany can afford to continue indefinitely, and she will no doubt do so as long as she considers that the war position in general and her Eastern ambitions in particular can in any way be served by Turkish support.

⁂

At the same time the value of German financial support is depreciating in Turkey. This is clearly evident in connection with the failure of the latest Turkish war loan. The amount asked for was £T32,000,000, and when the subscription lists closed only £T12,000,000 had been subscribed, despite the fact that the conditions of the loan were extremely promising. The issue was one of 5 per cent. bonds at par with a 1 per cent. amortisation, and subscriptions could be made in paper money, of which so much is in circulation that it is reckoned as being worth one-fifth of its face value in gold. As the interest and the repayment of the principal were to be made in gold (to be provided by Germany), and the interest was payable in advance, it is significant that holders of paper money should not have availed themselves of this opportunity, and their failure to do so speaks volumes as to the internal situation of Turkey. Can it be that the average Turk no longer believes in German promises?

⁂

The influence of the war on the Ceylon copra trade is interesting as showing the impetus given by the struggle to increased business between different parts of the Empire. New markets had to be found for the copra, and Ceylon exporters naturally turned to India, where they have been able to dispose of considerable amounts. Some European merchants, however, have looked further afield in their search for markets, and shipments have been made to Australia and to the Cape. The value of the Australian market is at present problematical, as Australia has been in the habit of drawing her copra from the Pacific Islands, and its permanence must naturally depend on the quality of Ceylon copra and also on the price.

⁂

Some interesting particulars have recently been issued with regard to the position of the tanning industry in Madras after the war. It is stated that the position will be that while Madras hides will have earned a great reputation there will be competition from North India to contend with, and also the danger of the reintroduction of adulteration. The latter handicap, which has been so detrimental to India's industrial progress, is, at any rate, avoidable, and it is satisfactory to note that the best method of preventing it is being considered by the Government. Incidentally, it is pointed out that the pre-eminence of the South Indian tanneries is due to the fact that the best tanning agent for the production of good leather by unskilled labour—avaram bark—is only found in South India, and steps are being taken to encourage the planting of avaram.

⁂

The annual review of the seaborne trade of British India for the year ended March 31 is of chief interest for the light it throws on the development of Indian industrial enterprise under the stress of war conditions. Thus, while raw jute shipments declined from 540,000 tons to 273,000, the exports of jute manufactures were valued at Rs. 4,285 lakhs, against Rs. 4,165 lakhs. Decreases were recorded in the exports of oil seeds, raw hemp, and wool. The exports of tanned and dressed hides and skins amounted to 399,000 cwt., against 483,000 cwt., while a very marked decline took place in the exports of raw hides, the figures being 418,000 cwt., against 894,000 cwt., and a smaller decline in raw skins at 429,000 cwt., against 567,000 cwt. In imports, as might be expected, there were considerable decreases in machinery, iron and steel, railway plant and rolling stock, etc., but there were increases in chemicals, matches, and in goods sent by post. Imports of cotton twist and yarn and piece goods declined, but the value rose rapidly, and the imports of these goods increased in value by Rs. 403 lakhs.

⁂

For the rest it may be noted that despite the continued advance in prices the value of Indian exports was 4 per cent. less than in the previous year and 7 per cent. less than in 1913-14. The figures are, however, apt to be misleading, as, except in the case of wheat and cowhides, Government purchases consigned in Government vessels are not included. On the other hand, imports increased by 0.2 per cent., and here the total is 18 per cent. below the figures for 1913-14. There was an excess of exports over imports of almost Rs. 8,000 lakhs, this comparing with an excess of Rs. 9,100 lakhs in 1916-17.

⁂

Apropos of my reference to the Berlin banks last week, I see that the *Neue Freic Presse* reports that the seven leading Vienna banks also did well last year. Their dividends, it seems, were well in excess of those paid immediately before the war, while the principal bank, the Creditanstalt, paid over 12 per cent. for the first time in fifteen years. Two interesting points of comparison present themselves between the Vienna and the Berlin banking institutions. In Austria banking is apparently a cheaper process than in Germany, for the expenditure of the Creditanstalt in 1917 for administrative purposes amounted to 40 per cent. of the gross takings, as against 53 per cent. for the Deutsche Bank. The figures for other Vienna banks are somewhat higher, but they are still appreciably lower than the German figures. The incidence of taxation is, however, much heavier in Austria than in Germany, and while the Deutsche Bank paid only 6.3 of its gross profits in taxation, the Creditanstalt's taxation amounted to 22 per cent.

⁂

Too much light cannot be thrown on Germany's manœuvres in the East, where she is steadily endeavouring to consolidate her position in Roumania and the Ukraine, and at the same time is gradually endeavouring to develop her economic control in Central Asia. The German Press does not hesitate to state that these measures are not mere temporary expedients. Thus, the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* declares that Germany is buying all the available cotton in Central Asia to as far east as Turkestan, including the crops for many years ahead. Then the Russian treaty gives Germany free passage to Persia, and arrangements are being made by the enemy for trade with that country, while the occupation of Batoum gives Germany access to the districts bordering the Black Sea and the Caspian.

⁂

Roumania and the Ukraine are thus serving as pivots for the German exploitation of the East, and that fact suggests the future of these countries if Germany were allowed to have her way. They would both become in fact, if not in name, vassal states of the German Empire, and their rôle would be the undivided task of contributing to its development. Germany's ambitions are "never-endian" in the truest sense; otherwise she might well be content to modify her pretensions and to be satisfied with the exploitation of Roumania and the Ukraine, which between them are quite equal to solving the German food problem. One explanation of Germany's Eastern policy—if policy be a correct term for a career of brigandage—is that she knows quite well that she must lose the war in the end, and that she hopes that if she only has enough territory in her possession when the armistice is arranged that she will be allowed to keep something. But even in that she is doomed to disappointment.

⁂

I note with pleasure that among the recipients of the silver medals of the Royal Society of Arts is Dr. Lawrence Balls, who has been awarded this distinction for his paper on "Examples of Applied Science in the Cotton Industry," a précis of which was given in these columns recently.

⁂

The final dividend of the Indian and General Investment Trust gives a return of 8½ per cent for the twelve months ended in April, the same rate as for the previous year. For 1915-16 the dividend was 7½ per cent., while 7 per cent. was paid for the preceding four years. The rate was 5½ per cent. for 1909-10, and since then there has been a constant upward process.

COMMENTATOR.

ABYSSINIA AND ITS POTENTIALITIES.

(By Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

Khartoum, May 19.

The days of Eldorado are over, and it is impossible to find a land where money is to be picked up without trouble. Abyssinia has, however, remained the hope of the speculator, more especially the mining expert. There is no doubt that there is immense wealth in the country, but it cannot be got out without the expenditure both of money and expert labour. The first difficulty is that of reaching the European markets. For this it is necessary to find capital for railway building, or for mechanical transport of some sort, and that at least means roads of a kind that cost money. Gradients are very steep, and power is needed to shift big weights up the escarpment. The problem is not insuperable, but it costs money.

Roughly speaking, the wealth of Abyssinia may be divided, like that of other countries, into minerals, cereals and animals. Of these minerals are the most important, as they have a big claim on the markets of the world and can obtain capital with comparatively little trouble. What the minerals may be is not at all certain. Everyone knows that there is gold in Abyssinia, but there is probably also coal and a variety of other minerals of commercial value. The question is whether they can be got without too great an expenditure of capital.

There is only one railway in Abyssinia at present, and it feeds no mining area. Cereals do not offer much opportunity. There is a tremendous future in Abyssinia for coffee and a considerable quantity already finds its way on to the market, and with improved communications the amount is likely to increase. The centre of the coffee trade is at Zegi near Lake Tsana, but there is a very fair export from Gambeila, and this is due rather to the facilities offered by the Sudan Government steamers during the high Nile than to the special advantages of the district. The normal forms of cereals such as wheat and barley are grown in the vicinity of Harrar, and it is possible that considerable development might take place in that area if the political situation were more settled.

In animals Abyssinia is immensely rich. It is the great source of supply for a certain type of mule. Small, sure-footed, hardy, it will work in countries where the bigger types such as the Cyprian mule will die off with appalling rapidity. The Abyssinian horse varies very greatly. There are fair animals of a sort, but the great majority are small, badly bred, and only suitable for the mountain work that they are generally used for. Cattle equally are undersized, and are not suitable for export, as they do not repay the expense of railway fare.

There has always been a certain trade in hides. The fact that the Abyssinian himself enjoys eating a large amount of raw meat causes him to slaughter a larger number of animals for food than would occur in other countries, and so there is a quantity of hides. This will undoubtedly be an asset, but the whole question will have to be looked at from a far-reaching economic point of view, unless there is to be a net loss by the undue destruction of animals for food. Unlike the Arab, the Abyssinian has no qualms about making bullocks, and the breeding of mules is also an example of his disregard for the natural instincts of animals. It is possible, therefore, that the Abyssinian might prove to be amenable to modern methods of stock-farming. Even so a man would need to possess great knowledge and capacity to start stock-farming in Abyssinia. There is an immense reserve of obstruction about the Abyssinian which must not be overlooked. He dislikes the European, and he does not want him. He is convinced that he only comes to exploit his country, and he is passionately patriotic. Above all, society is based on a military ideal, and unless the outsider is prepared to accept the native on equal terms he will find that he has to deal not only with a peaceful boycott, but also armed resistance. Few countries are better adapted to guerilla warfare, and the people themselves enjoy it.

Whatever may happen to Abyssinia in the future, it is certain that its development depends on the good will of the people. It is true that Magdala stands as an example of successful action, but Adowa was equally a great defeat of a European power, and being more recent it has the greater effect. Moreover, the Abyssinian does not count himself as a "coloured" man, but calls the European red and himself white, and if he be kept in a sheltered spot that is just the colour that he is, a kind of dead white. The tradition of the Abyssinian is to be hard. For this reason he hardly ever wears anything on his feet and dispenses to a degree that one may deplore with the advantages of cleanliness. Even a hat is looked upon by some as a sign of effeminacy.

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AMERICAN ZIONISTS AND PALESTINE

A Zionist convention will be held at Pittsburg, U.S.A., on June 23, when a proposal will be made for the dispatch to Palestine of an engineering unit for the purpose of helping in the work of reconstruction and industrial development. Plans have been prepared by the Zionist Society of Engineers for the construction of aerial tramways and the provision of hydro-electric plant. It is proposed to make a complete survey of the raw materials available in Palestine, as well as to set up plants for extracting oil from the immense variety of vegetable products. Other schemes include the establishment of a sugar refinery, a modern tannery, cement plant, and the construction of roads.

THE MONSOON.

The Government of India issues the following summary of the monsoon forecast:—Monsoon.—Rainfall of Upper Burma and North-East India is likely to be in excess; in the remainder of India, excluding Lower Burma and the south of the peninsula, the outlook is roughly normal, though slightly, perhaps, on the unfavourable side. The rainfall of North-West India is not likely to be affected prejudicially by the accumulation of snow in the Himalayas.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The cereal harvest promises to be quite a record one, surpassing all expectations. Barley is being cut, and the wheat crops are excellent throughout the island. The prospect of cheaper bread is welcomed in town and village. The outlook is cheerful all round; for although prices are high beyond all that could be imagined a few years ago, and although lack of regular communication causes no little dislocation of foreign trade and business, there is not much to complain of as Cypriots have done remarkably well owing to war profits.

The price of cereals has been fixed by the Government as follows: wheat 9s. the bushel; barley 4s; vetches 8s.; oats 2s. 2¼d. Wheat crops have suffered in various places, especially in the Limassol District, from a winged pest which has so far baffled attempts to deal with it, viz., the *tinea temperatella*. In the grub stage it eats its way into the green shoots, which wither. The life history of the pest has been minutely studied by M. P. Gennadius, when Director of Agriculture, and even more fully by his successor M. Sarakoménos, who has published a treatise on it. In 1897 a special law was passed to prevent the spreading of this pest, but the methods provided for were not successful, and it still clings to certain areas. The havoc is fortunately not sufficient to mar the generally excellent prospect referred to.

As regards carobs, there has been a good deal of speculative buying. Merchants have been able to dispose of large quantities of last year's stock, selling in some cases at 25s. the Aleppo kantar (about £5 12s. per ton). They could have realised 35s. per kantar had shipping been available. It is probable that government will commandeer the entire crop of next summer at prices ranging up to 20s. per kantar, according to locality. The measures against the carob disease will again be watched with considerable interest.

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CAPITAL ISSUES IN INDIA.

The advisory committees appointed to deal with applications for licences for new issues under the Indian Companies Restrictions Act are constituted as follows:—

Calcutta.—Mr. Gubbay, Controller of Currency; Mr. Stather Hale, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (Bengal Government); the Hon. Mr. W. A. Ironside (in his absence the Hon. Mr. W. E. Crum) (Bengal Chamber of Commerce); and Mr. Niberon Chandra Sircar (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce).

Bombay.—Mr. Cook, Accountant-General; Mr. P. S. Mellor, Registrar of Companies (Bombay Government); the Hon. Mr. Malcolm Hogg (Bombay Chamber of Commerce); and Sir V. T. Thakersey (Indian Merchants' Chamber of Commerce).

THE MYSORE BUDGET.

The Mysore State Budget for 1918-19 provides a sum of Rs25 lakhs for industrial undertakings, including an iron scheme in the Shimoga District and a special provision of two lakhs made for putting up the sixth installation of the Cauvery power scheme.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

A New Type of Wheel.

It is often said, with more or less justification, that the wheel is the most difficult part of a tractor or wagon. This is a general complaint throughout the East where, owing to climatic conditions, especially in the summer, the wheels are often responsible for much inconvenience. There was a time when farmers, in despair at the troubles they experienced with the wooden wheels of their portable engines, threshing machines, winnowing machines, etc., preferred to dismantle the wheels and turn them into stationary machines. The introduction of iron wheels, though more expensive, relieved the situation, and farmers were particularly careful to see that in their orders the specification of the machine "with iron wheels for hot climates" should be well emphasised. But even these have given cause for complaint, and now with the introduction of tractors, wagons, and other vehicles for agricultural and transport service, the wheels are again a cause of difficulty to farmers in the East, as well as other regions where climatic and geological conditions and the great scarcity of skilful mechanics and operators have to be considered. Any developments in regard to this "wheel question" should be, in consequence, of supreme interest to a large number of farmers in the East, and on that account I think reference is called for to a new type of wheel, of British construction, which has recently been introduced primarily for agricultural tractors. The chief features of this new wheel are lightness, strength, and durability, these qualities being secured by the special construction of the hub and arrangement of the spokes. It is built of angle rims on which are riveted the tyres. The spokes are in the form of steel strips, each strip being bent to template to allow of their being riveted on one side of the rims and on the opposite side of the hub bosses. The strips are arranged in much the same way as in staggered wire spoked wheels, the difference being that each strip is continuous from one side of the rim to the other, and are absolutely interchangeable so that in case of accident a strip (spoke) or strips can be replaced very easily.

Agriculture in Mesopotamia.

In previous engineering notes we have pointed out the great possibilities of Mesopotamia and Palestine as markets for agricultural machinery and implements, and have suggested that manufacturers here should take more direct and energetic measures if they want to secure business in those regions, since plans are being prepared in foreign countries for the supply of suitable machinery in the immediate future. The facts recently given by a representative of the British Press with the Expeditionary Forces in Mesopotamia with regard to recent agricultural results there, provide further proof of the importance of that region as a machinery market. Owing to the success of the Euphrates irrigation scheme, he says, the supplies this year from the Euphrates side will be enormously increased, and the transport of the country will be hard put to it to bring in the grain. During the summer we have been at work on the irrigation scheme connected with the Hindieh barrage. The barrage, which was designed by Sir William Willcocks, and constructed by Sir John Jackson's firm, was finished before the war, but the Turk neglected to profit by it. The canalisation work connected with it was left incomplete, and the area to be cultivated was never brought under irrigation. This year nearly a hundred canals on the Hilleh branch which had fallen into disuse have been dug out. 300,000 acres have been brought under cultivation, and there is promise of "the greatest harvest in the memory of man, possibly the greatest since the days of Nebuchadnezzar."

Wagner's Engineering Tone.

A correspondent writing this week in a technical journal says that in noting the sounds of German air-engines as heard by him during various raids, he finds a Wagnerian tone about many of the German motors. To describe the sound in words is well-nigh impossible. But one curious characteristic is often noted, namely, a purring, which rises and falls in a curious cadence. This reminds the writer of an anecdote related by a well-known engineer and politician some years ago. A German opera was being played at Covent Garden when a gentleman in the audience became so enthusiastic with the Wagnerian music that he turned to his neighbour in the next seat and said: "How glorious! Does this music affect you?" "Not much," the neighbour calmly answered, "I am a boiler-maker."

Ezekiel on Aeroplanes.

It is said that the natives in Palestine and the neighbouring districts regard aeroplanes with extreme amazement. The "learned" cannot find anything in the Apocalyptic writings, or the Apocalypse, or even the "Halema" (the Arabian Nights)—in which visions and symbolical images intended to portray impending events are plentiful—that would predict the coming of flying machines. It would, perhaps, relieve the anxiety of the "learned" Orientals to know that the first chapter of Ezekiel contains a prophetic vision of the aeroplane, the description of which is very striking. The passage is as follows:—"Every one had four wings. . . . And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. . . . Their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. . . . The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl . . . and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides; and they turned not when they went. . . . And when the living creatures went, the wheels were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. . . . And when they went I heard the noise of their wings." Could there be a better description of an aeroplane? The natives' wonder will increase when they see it.

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CATALOGUES FOR MOROCCO.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, Morocco, desires to receive for filing at the Vice-Consulate catalogues in Spanish or French from any British firms, says the *Board of Trade Journal*. He particularly wishes to have catalogues from firms dealing in woollen and cotton goods, glassware, hardware, lamps (petroleum), electric installations and sanitary appliances Firms despatching catalogues to the Vice-Consulate in response to this request should take care to ensure correct stamping—postage on all communications to H.M. Consular Officers must be prepaid. Packages sent at reduced rates by the Printed and Commercial Papers Post should be sent open.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The American Crop.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market tends to become dearer from week to week, and buyers of yarn and cloth who hesitate to place orders find they have to pay more money later on. American cotton rates have tended to advance, and supplies of yarn are cloth are getting smaller, so that appreciation in values is quite natural. The further restrictions upon spinning mills and weaving sheds have come into operation this week. The workpeople have also received for the first time the increase in wages of 25 per cent. The American cotton crop continues to do very well, but according to one or two advices during the last day or two the conditions in certain parts are not quite so favourable as a fortnight ago. Rather diverse reports are being received relating to the Egyptian growth, but the plants on the whole are doing well. In Egyptian yarns a considerable demand has been experienced, and inquiry has been well spread over different counts and qualities. Extreme difficulty is being experienced in securing adequate supplies of descriptions suitable for Government cloths. Although rather better clearances are said to be taking place in piece goods in Egypt, fresh buying continues quiet. Again there have been reports of local merchants re-selling goods in the Manchester market. Grey staples for India and China remain slow. Printing and finishing cloths have been in moderate request for the minor markets, and the home trade. American yarns have steadily hardened in price and demand has exceeded supply. Extraordinary profits are being made by spinners. Our export trade in yarns remains unimportant, although some demand has been met with for France.

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INDIA'S COTTON INDUSTRY.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, is to preside at a meeting of the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts on June 20, when a paper by the Hon. Sir Dinshaw E. Wacha on "Indian Cotton and the Cotton Mill Industry" will be read by Sir Charles H. Armstrong, late chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. This will be the concluding meeting of the Jubilee session of the Indian Section.

The Secretary of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has received a letter of thanks from the Serbian Minister in London for the way in which the Serbian Industrial and Commercial Mission were entertained when in Liverpool.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the South Wanarajah Tea Company for 1917 states that the profit, after transferring £2,000 to reserve, writing off £500 for depreciation and £400 against coast advances, is £7,974; £1,365 was brought in, giving £9,338. The directors recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £2,138. The tea crop, including 21,690 lb. of leaf purchased from other properties, amounted to 920,841 lb., which cost to produce 5.44d. per lb. and was disposed of at an average net price of 9.45d. per lb. For the preceding year 1,029,704 lb. of tea were secured, cost of production and net average sale price being respectively 5.51d. per lb. and 9.28d. per lb. The output of rubber rose from 5,300 lb. to 14,000 lb., the net profit being £782. As the result of the year's trading the directors are able to recommend the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent., making a total distribution for the year of 14 per cent., less tax, the same as for the preceding year. Provision for excess profits duty is made in the amount transferred to reserve.

The report of the Indian and General Investment Trust, Ltd., for the year ended April 30, states that the funds are invested in 130 different securities; £223,482 are invested in Indian securities, of which £122,880 are in sterling, and of the total funds over £359,120 are invested in bonds, debentures, or debenture stocks. The average rate of exchange at which the money employed in India stands in the books is 1s. 4½d. per rupee. Interest and dividends on investments (after the deduction of £6,410 income-tax) amounted to £25,104, as compared with £26,009 last year. The sum of £6,206 (including £3,606 net surplus on sales of investments) has been transferred to reserve account, but against this an equal amount has been applied in writing down certain investments, thus leaving the net balance of £50,000 at credit of reserve account unchanged. Interim dividends amounting to £5,949 having been paid, there remains at credit of revenue account £7,322, including £1,000 brought forward. The directors recommend a dividend on the deferred stock at 9 per cent. per annum (making 8½ per cent. for the year, less tax at 4s. 8½d., and to carry forward £1,005. Relief in respect of Indian income-tax has been allowed and is passed on to shareholders by deduction from the dividends of tax at reduced rates. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., June 18, 2.15 p.m.

The report of the Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates Co., Ltd., states that the profit and loss account, including £9,634 brought forward, shows a balance of £41,667. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. (paid less income-tax) was distributed on October 30; the directors now propose the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., both less income-tax at 5s., making in all 11 per cent. for the year; leaving a balance to be carried forward (subject to excess-profits duty) of £12,467.

The report of the Calcutta Tramways Company for 1917 states that revenue, including interest on investments and deposits, less interest on loans and income-tax, and loss on sale of investments, amounts to £108,431; £9,596 was brought in, making £118,027. Deducting Debenture interest, Preference dividend and interim dividend on Ordinary shares, there is left £72,576. The directors propose a final dividend of 5s. 6d. per share, making 8 per cent. for the year, free of tax; to transfer to reserve for depreciation, etc., £25,000; to place to staff provident fund £1,299, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty and Indian super-tax to be ascertained, £8,434. The reserve for depreciation, etc., at the commencement of the year stood at £92,841. After deducting £17,483 written off for renewals and loss on sale on plant, and adding £25,000, proposed to be allocated, the reserve will stand at £100,358. Indian working expenses show a decrease of £1,805, principally due to the exclusion of Indian income-tax, now charged below the line, and to the reduction in the cost of maintenance and repairs, owing to the reduced mileage run and shortage of materials. Warrants will be posted 20th instant. Meeting, 1, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., 17th instant, noon.

The net revenue of the Delhi Electric Tramways and Lighting Company for 1917 was £15,119, as compared with £11,593. The profit, after providing £5,000 for depreciation of plant and transferring £1,500 to reserve for renewals, was £4,418, against £3,193; Preferred dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., less tax, £4,000, against 2 per cent.; forward, £1,508, against £1,089.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Company have declared the following dividends:—Pre-Preference shares, 8 per cent. per annum for half-year ending 30th instant, payable July 4; New six per cent. preference shares, 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ending 30th instant, payable July 4; "A" stock, dividend of 4 per cent. for half-year ended December 31 last, payable 22nd instant.

The directors of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Company, Limited, announce that the dividend on the preference shares for the half-year to June 30, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and the debenture interest for the same period, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, will be paid on July 1, less tax at 5s. 6d. in the £.

The directors of the East Indian Railway Company recommend a dividend of £1 7s. per cent. on the deferred Annuity capital and deferred annuity capital class "D" in respect of the company's share of surplus profits for the half-year ended March 31 last, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year ending July 31, 1918. This will give a total return for the twelve months ended March 31 last of £6 16s. per cent.

The Telephone Company of Egypt gives notice of its intention to redeem the outstanding debenture stock on November 30 next, at the redemption price of 107½ per cent., but offers to redeem it at the same price on June 30 next.

The transfer books of the Assam-Bengal Railway will be closed from the 17th to the 29th instant, inclusive.

A meeting of holders of debentures in Bibi Eibat Oil will be held at 34, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, on the 21st instant, at noon.

The transfer books of the 6 per cent. mortgage debenture stock of British Burmah Petroleum will be closed from June 19 to 29, inclusive.

Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Plantations.—Final dividend for 1917 of 5 per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year, against 14 per cent.

The transfer register of Anglo-Persian Oil will be closed from June 15 to 28, inclusive.

The directors of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, recommend a dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, for the year to March 31.

The directors of Barnagore Jute Factory have declared an interim dividend of 5s. per share, free of tax, on ordinary shares. Last year the dividend was the same.

Bengal Iron and Steel Company.—The adjourned meeting of holders of founders' shares to consider the exchange of founders' for ordinary shares, held on June 11, was again adjourned, the committee of founders' shareholders appointed to confer with Sir William Peat and the ordinary shareholders' committee not having completed its work.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Tenders are to be invited for the purchase of Ceylon monazite sand as soon as it is available.

Authority has been granted to the National Bank of Egypt to issue 25-piastre notes.

The exportation and re-exportation of pig skins from the French zone in Morocco has been prohibited.

Subscriptions to the Indian War Loan on the first day amounted to nearly six crores of rupees (£4,000,000).

According to a Constantinople telegram the number of houses burned in the recent big fire at Stamboul is estimated as at least 8,000.

A Cairo message states that the Egyptian crops are in splendid condition, and promise an excellent harvest. All cereals and beans are much above the average.

INDIAN WAR LOAN,
1918-19.

The whole of the subscriptions will be given to His Majesty's Government as part of the Indian contribution of £100,000,000 towards the cost of the war.

The Government of India announce the following issues:—

5½ PER CENT. WAR BONDS 1921 and 1923.

ISSUE PRICE par, payable in full on application. Interest payable on 15th March and 15th September, free of Indian Income Tax, but not of supertax if otherwise payable by the holder.

REPAYMENT AT PAR.—War Bonds 1921 on 15th September, 1921; War Bonds, 1923 on 15th September, 1923.

5½ PER CENT. WAR BONDS 1925 and 1928.

ISSUE PRICE par, payable in full on application. Interest payable on 15th March and 15th September, free of Indian Income Tax, but not of supertax if otherwise payable by the holder.

REPAYMENT.—War Bonds 1925 at 103 per cent. on 15th September, 1925; War Bonds 1928 at 105 per cent. on 15th September, 1928.

Applications for bonds will be received from 3rd June to 15th September by the Controller of Currency, Calcutta; by any Provincial Accountant-General or Controller; by the Banks of Bengal, Bombay, or Madras at their head offices and branches; and at Government District Treasuries. A commission of ¼ per cent. will be allowed to recognised bankers and brokers on allotments bearing their stamp.

Applications will also be received at any Post Office authorised to transact Savings Bank business from 3rd June to about 20th December. The same person may not apply for, or hold, through a Post Office stock to a greater value than Rs.10,000 in all of these issues.

Indian Treasury Bills outstanding will be accepted in payment for any issue of War Bonds at a discount of 4 per cent. per annum.

The Government of India also announce that after the closure of the main section of the second Indian War Loan on 15th September, 1918, they will be prepared to accept as further subscriptions to the loan at the rate of exchange of 1s. 6d. per rupee British Treasury Bills tendered in England under a discount of 3½ per cent. to an amount not exceeding previous cash subscriptions tendered in India, provided that the Treasury Bills are accompanied by a certificate that they were the property of the person in whose name the paper is held prior to 10th May, 1918.

POST OFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES (free of Income Tax).

These will be issued throughout the year on the same terms as at present.

India Office, 11th June, 1918.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation
for polishing Cutlery.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
WELLINGTON
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks,
1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
KNIFE
Polishing Paste, Furniture
Polish, Plate Powder.
POLISH.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

It has again been a very quiet week, and although in the early part business looked like reviving, the renewed offensive of the Germans has for the time being made buyers scarce, and has checked the return of activity which seemed probable. In a general way holders are sitting tight and very few shares are coming out for sale.

In Egyptian Government securities there has been a persistent demand for Unifieds round 89, but hardly any business has been done; whilst the transactions in the 3½ per cent. prefs. have been infinitesimal, the sellers in both cases being very scarce.

In Bank shares Nationals have continued to be wanted, but only a small business has been carried through round the current level. Agriculturals have been somewhat dealt in, and Anglo-Egyptians have again improved ⅛ to 15⅞ on some renewal of enquiry.

In Railways Delta Lights are 1-16 easier at 6 7-16.

Amongst Land descriptions Aboukirs are fractionally easier at 21s. 6d., as also Delta Lands at 12s. 7½d., at which price some few hundred shares have been done. Behéras have been well supported round 12¾. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have continued to be supported round the current price. In Gharbieh Lands a sale of 100 shares temporarily affected the price, but these shares have been absorbed, and the market is 1-16 firmer at 1 15-16. In Sidi Salems there are some substantial buyers at the present level; but, in the absence of sellers, business does not result. Union Foncières are 1-16 firmer at 3.

In Miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets are 3d. firmer at 26s. 9d., and Khedivial Mails have advanced 1s. 3d. to 38s. 9d.

Amongst Greek securities business has been practically nil and all prices are unaltered. The same condition of affairs prevails in this market, namely, all buyers and practically no sellers.

◆

INDIAN WHEAT FORECAST.

Reuter's Calcutta correspondent telegraphs that the Government Statistical Department's third wheat forecast states the crop will be a record one, both as regards area and yield.

◆

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1918:—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Mar.,	1918	3,002,985	2,454,000
Do. do. do.	1917	2,086,926	1,379,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months	1918	+ 3,367,466	+ 6,091,000
	1917	— 62,086	+ 927,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of EIGHT SHILLINGS and NINEPENCE per £5 Share on Coupon No. 59 is PAYABLE on and after June 15, 1918, at Barclay's Bank, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By Order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Alexandria, Egypt, June 4, 1918.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. June 5	June 12
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89	89
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	62	62
Do. 5 %, 1884..................	56	62	62
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887........	49	56	56
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	49	49
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	61	61
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	60	60
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	64	64
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	61	61
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7¼	7¼
Anglo-Egyptian Bank..............	12	15¾xd	15⅞
Bank of Athens..................	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6⅞	7
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17 5/16	17 5/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6½	6 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/9	21/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/16	4 3/16
Daira Sanieh....................	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/9	12/7½
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co................	1¾	1⅞	1 15/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/10½	16/10½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅛	2⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	2 15/16	3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord...........	1 3/16	26/6	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	11/16	38/-	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	37/6	38/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾	3¾

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 17.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt....................	L.E.	17 11/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	88
" " Div.	Frs.	117
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd..................	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	12⅞
" priv....................	L.E.	4 13/32xd
Lots Turcs, oblig..........................	Frs.	184
Bons de Panama	Frs.	125½
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)....	Frs.	84½
" Priv..................	Frs.	105
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	92
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 5/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 23/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 1/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5 11/16
Bonded Stores..............................	L.E.	8¼
Unifiée	L.E.	90¼
Privilégiée................................		78¼
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 29/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	5⅝
Agricultural Bank of Egypt................	£	6 7/16
" Fondateur	£	540
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅝
" Ord		36/3
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	20
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4 5/32
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 11/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108xd
" Jouissance..............	Frs.	167xd
Egyptian Markets		25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440
" Div.	Frs.	380
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	280xd
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	4 21/32xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda		38/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	710
" Fondateur	Frs.	802½
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	384xt
" 1903 "	Frs.	290xt
" 1911 "	Frs.	280½xt
United Lands	P.T.	9
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		¾

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended May 31.		1918. Week ended May 30.
Cattle markets	522	..	332
General markets	418	..	326
Receipts (£)............	940	..	658
Total for year	30,862	..	24,240

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK,
LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital - -	500,000
Reserve - - - - -	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - -	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
" of Egypt and the Sudan, "
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 372.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With a lull on the Western front, and the Austrian offensive seemingly held from the very first, we shall probably not be wide of the mark in regarding the occupation of Tabriz by the Turks as the most significant piece of news this week. War rarely proceeds according to plan, and no graver reflection can be passed on the intelligence of the out-and-out "Westerner" than he passes himself in refusing to look beyond the Western theatre of the war. Fortunately for the Allies, Germany habitually plays her cards badly, and it will be due to this failing rather than to the statesmanship or prevision of the Entente Powers, if Germany does not succeed in mobilising some of the ignorant Russian peasantry to fight on her side before her resistance in the West can be broken down.

The inelasticity of the Allies' policy, caused by short-sightedness and the obsession of the Western front, is mainly responsible for the measure of success that the Germans are achieving in the East. It is no argument in favour of that policy to cite the growing discontent in Russia against the Germans. The Allies have no right to gamble on the enemy's mistakes; their cause deserves better generalship than that. They have consistently failed to turn to their own advantage any single phase of the Russian revolution, which owed its immediate origin to a national desire to see more effective war waged on Germany. And now in the fourth year of the war Persia is in danger of being overrun, and no check is offered to the onward sweep of German domination into Mid-Asia, because diplomacy has not succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements for the employment of Japan's great military strength.

The difficulty of the position is recognised, but it is a difficulty that ought to have been overcome long ago. What will be the verdict of history if the Allies can be shown to have been responsible for the prolongation of the war through their inability to discover a means for Japan's co-operation on behalf of the Russian people? The very fact that opinion in Russia is gradually veering round to an appreciation of the necessity for this course is proof that the ground was not hopeless months ago. In the meantime, however, much valuable time has been lost. The loss to the Allies' prestige throughout the East is incalculable; for these things cannot be gauged by European standards. Little or no allowance will be made for the exceptional turn of events in Russia. It will be argued that all that has happened is the direct outcome of German superiority, intellectual and material. In Persia, in particular, there is some danger lest even now the people begin to think that, just as Germany has eaten up the Russia with which the Persians are acquainted, so she is proceeding to demolish Great Britain, and that by the mere agency of the Turks. It is not suggested that British forces can suddenly be conjured into position to oppose the Turkish invasion of Persia. The occupation of Tabriz is the natural corollary of the failure to arrange during last winter for Japanese co-operation in Siberia with the approach of spring; and the situation in this part of the world may become still more critical, if the Allies continue indefinitely the policy of leaving a considerable proportion of their fighting strength unmobilised.

The public in the Allied countries is beginning to inquire at whose door this paralysis of Entente diplomacy lies. If it should be at America's, the fact, in the event of an undue prolongation of the war, will detract seriously from the merit of her splendid co-operation with men and material. If Japan alone hesitates, some of her own people will be the first to charge her with a half-hearted adoption of the Allied cause that stopped short of any real sacrifice. The case for Allied action in Russia is overwhelming. Naturally it must not be a blundering intervention, which would achieve nothing; for without the good will of the Siberian population it will be impossible for the Japanese army to approach Europe within a given time. There can be little doubt that Colonel Semenoff would have welcomed support at any moment during the last four months, and any conspicuous success on his part in Eastern Siberia might well galvanize true Russian opinion into action against the Germans and Bolshevism from one end of Russia to the other.

With the occupation of Tabriz the Turks will have effectually disposed of the last traces of Russian control of the Persian province of Azerbaijan. Whether the Persians will appreciate the change must remain for the present an open question. Between pro-Germanism from a distance and Turkish overlordship there is probably a wide gulf. Moreover, it is not quite clear to what extent the Turks are now operating on their own accord while carrying out what is in principle Germany's policy. In Transcaucasia they have proved apt disciples of their masters, and have faithfully followed the example set them in the Ukraine. While entering into negotiations for peace, they have been careful to push on with their armies in every possible direction, with the result that the Georgians have appealed to Berlin for protection against the Turks.

Some light is thrown on the situation in Transcaucasia by the *Vorwaerts*. According to the information received by the Socialist organ, Transcaucasian independence was declared on April 27, and negotiations were entered upon with the Turks at Batoum for the establishment of peace conditions. In spite of these negotiations, the Turks continued to advance into the Caucasus, and the Georgians, finding that there was no hope for a Transcaucasian Federation, declared their separate independence on May 25, and have sent a delegation to Berlin in an attempt to secure a promise of the integrity of their new republic. In the meantime peace is said to have been signed between the Turks and Georgians; but the statement of the Turkish report that Tabriz was occupied with a view to protecting the wing of the Turkish army on the Caucasian front suggests that the Turks consider that they have more work on hand in the way of territorial conquests in this part of the world.

A month ago, it will be remembered, the objective of the Turkish force invading Persia to the south of Lake Urumiah was said to be Enzeli, on the Caspian Sea. The occupation of this port would turn the Bolshevik position in Transcaucasia, and leave Baku at the mercy of the Turks and Germans. Opposite Baku, on the eastern shore of the Caspian, is Krasnovodsk, the terminus of the Central Asian Railway, leading to Samarkand and Kushkinsk, over against Herat. Accordingly, any delay in coping with the Turco-German menace in this part of the world is likely to impose a heavy burden on Great Britain; for, even if the war came to an end to-morrow, she would still have to counteract the effects of German domination over the minds of the peoples inhabiting the Marches of Hindustan.

The fall of the Radoslavoff Cabinet in Bulgaria may well cause uneasiness in Germany, and the pains taken by the German Press to reassure its public that all is well with the "alliance" may be regarded as a measure of the anxiety felt in regard to the future attitude of the Sofia Government. Bulgaria's participation in the war on the side of the Central Powers was the work of King Ferdinand and of the Radoslavoff Cabinet, whose relations with Germany and Austria-Hungary have always been of an intimate character. If the country had been consulted in the matter, the great bulk of the population would have been opposed to war against the Entente Powers; but the prospect of settling old scores with Serbia was attractive, and feeling against Russia had increased. When war was declared the Bulgarian people accepted the situation and threw themselves loyally into the struggle, expecting, possibly, that they would obtain an early victory over the Serbians, and play a very minor part in the general European conflict.

There is some reason to doubt whether any treaty of alliance actually exists between Bulgaria and the Central Powers or Germany. Efforts were made to place the working arrangement between the respective countries on a formal basis; but King Ferdinand is supposed to have refused his consent on the ground that treaties, according to Bulgarian experience and German practice, had no value beyond that of other "scraps of paper." The absence of a binding agreement would explain the manifest embarrassment of Germany over the turn of events in Bulgaria; for the advent to power of one or other of the political groups which were originally opposed to the war would make the way remarkably easy for a new orientation of Bulgarian policy.

The reason officially given for Dr. Radoslavoff's resignation is a difference of opinion within the Cabinet on internal affairs. With a spontaneity which is too marked not to be suspect, the German Press points out that the Cabinet's position was undermined by the Treaty of Bucharest, owing to the decision to withhold the Northern Dobruja for the time being from Bulgaria, and it hastens to assure the Bulgarians that this question can quite well be settled in conformity with their interests. Another cause for disappointment with Dr. Radoslavoff's Government which Germany does not mind admitting is said to be its failure to obtain support from the Central Powers against the increasing pressure by the Allies on the Macedonian front. We shall probably not be far wrong, however, in concluding that the fall of the Radoslavoff Cabinet has an origin anterior to the Treaty of Bucharest, and that it has something to do with the steady growth of antagonism to the aimless prolongation of the war by Bulgaria. It may suit Germany's purpose to represent the Bulgarians as being dissatisfied with their Roumanian spoils, and no doubt the Radoslavoff Government found it useful to have the Press adopting this line. But it will be nearer the truth to speak of the Bulgarian people as heartily tired of the war, and as having their minds set on peace rather than on further conquests.

It is quite true that King Ferdinand is his own Foreign Minister, and that for this reason a change of Government in Sofia may mean little. But the King's shrewdness is not disputed, and there is no one in Bulgaria who is capable of forming a more accurate idea of the trend of events, political and military, in the Central Powers. The Allies' confidence in their own cause compels them to take into consideration the day when King Ferdinand and his people will not only recognise the mistake they have made—no doubt they do so already—but will also acknowledge it. Personal pique should not be allowed to rob us of the opportunity of securing by a single stroke the detachment of Bulgaria from the Central Powers and her restoration to her proper sphere within the association of Balkan States. The Bulgarians may have some accounts to settle within their own country; but they are not likely to be able to take the first steps in this direction until they receive the help of the Allies.

When the time comes for negotiations the Bulgarians, if given the opportunity, will prove good bargainers; but the Allies have a clear policy to follow in the principle of nationality and the settlement of the Balkans on terms that will enable the component countries within a few years' time to settle down to a friendly working agreement. If steps have not already been taken to convince Serbia and Greece that the Allies set more store on lasting peace in the Near East than on the most strongly supported historical claims to this or that strip of territory, we fear that some time may elapse before the Allied Governments will be in a position to take advantage of possible changes in Bulgaria. The points at issue can be brought within very narrow limits; but they do call for a round-table conference on the part of the Allies, in order that when the psychological moment arrives a clearly defined proposition can be submitted to the Bulgarians—to be accepted or rejected.

King Ferdinand's speech at the opening of the Roumanian Parliament at Jassy is of necessity a pathetic document. But the fact that it should have been read by the King in person is a sign that at least one German plan—in regard to the Roumanian dynasty—has so far miscarried. For the rest the speech serves to cover up the tracks of the Ministry which signed the Bucharest Treaty. This treaty, it points out, manifestly imposes painful sacrifices upon the nation, but the Roumanian people will examine it with "that manliness which exact comprehension of the State's interests in face of the real position lends." The acquisition of Bessarabia is instanced as a piece of good fortune, and in this respect Roumania will ultimately prove more fortunate than she had dared to anticipate in August, 1916. Her ordeal has been a severe one, but the complete union of the race will go a long way towards eliminating the bitter memories of the past two years.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, May 27.

Empire Day Celebrations.

The principal celebration of Empire Day took place in Alexandria, where the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate entertained a thousand soldiers at the Residency, and the usual meeting, culminating in children's sports, was held at the Sporting Club. The gardens of the Residency were in perfect condition, and every preparation had been made for the reception of the convalescents, who were chosen from all the hospitals and camps in and around Alexandria. An excellent tea was served, during which a military band played appropriate musical selections, and after cigarettes had been distributed, the men gathered at the foot of the main steps, where they were addressed by Sir Reginald Wingate. His Excellency spoke very feelingly of the pleasure it gave him and Lady Wingate to welcome so many of the men who had fought so gallantly for their King and Country, and of the significance of the day. The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close, and the men, who appeared one and all to have thoroughly enjoyed their outing, were conveyed back to their hospitals and camps by special trams. The meeting at the Sporting Club was exceedingly well attended, and there was quite an unprecedented number of children present. It was opened by the reading by Mr. Percy Carver of a letter from the High Commissioner addressed to the boys and girls of the British Community, in which he explained to them what Empire Day meant and what their duty as children was to their country. The Union Jack was then broken, the Boy Scouts saluted, and the National Anthem was sung, after which Mr. D. Cameron delivered a short but happily worded address. The meeting was brought to a close by resounding cheers, and then the portion of the afternoon's proceedings most interesting to the youthful element, the sports, started. An excellent programme had been arranged, and some very good races and competitions ensued. The prizes were distributed by Lady Robinson. An Empire Day meeting was also held at Port Said, where the principal speaker was the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, who has returned for a short time from Palestine.

H.M. the Sultan.

The Sultan proceeded to-day in State to Alexandria for the summer. He travelled by special train, and was accompanied by the Ministers, the Acting Financial Adviser, and the members of his household. There was a large gathering of officials and notables on the platform to bid his Highness *bon voyage*, and he had an official reception at Alexandria, where the streets had been most profusely decorated, and large crowds welcomed him.

The Wheat Situation.

The distribution of wheat to millers, bakers, and retailers undertaken by the Government is proceeding apace, and a certain amount of relief has thereby been afforded. Complaints are appearing in the local Press as to shortage in Alexandria and other parts of Lower Egypt, and it is highly probable that the Government scheme will have to be extended beyond Cairo. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to note, as demonstrating the determination of the Supplies Control Board to enforce its decisions, that special courts have been set up in various parts of the country for dealing with infringements of the proclamations or defiance of the orders issued. These courts have power to inflict fines, imprisonment, and corporal punishment. This is a marked improvement on the tariff law, which fixed £E1 as the maximum fine and one week as the maximum imprisonment that could be inflicted on anyone convicted of violation of the tariffs. The shop of a contravening merchant could also be closed for a week, but this had little deterrent effect, since he had usually made sufficient illicit profit to compensate him for the lost period, and at times even carried on business during the interval at another address. The wide powers conferred on these new courts should materially assist in the control of the situation, and after the first few examples the offending elements of the population will most probably realise that at last the Government is in earnest, and will come to their senses. There is little doubt that the firm handling of the wheat situation will have its influence on other cereals and articles of prime necessity, which have in the past been the object of speculative manœuvres. If only the same determination to obtain respect for the Government's decisions had been manifested two years ago the situation to-day would have been much easier, and the cost of living would possibly not have risen to the extent which it has.

The Fuel Problem.

The fuel problem continues to be acute, although the distribution of petroleum has been regulated and considerable economy in its consumption has been effected. Gas is the latest form of fuel to cause anxiety, and the Fuel Committee has just issued an urgent appeal to the public to restrict its use thereof to the barest minimum. It reminds consumers that severe restrictions have been imposed in England, France, and other countries, and warns the public that, unless there is a very marked reduction in the quantity consumed, it may become necessary to introduce similar restrictions in Egypt. Fortunately we are now entering the summer period, when less lighting is required, but it is particularly in regard to the gas required for cooking that a further reduction is called for. When the petroleum crisis was on users of oil fuel turned to gas for their household requirements, and thus greatly increased the call on the gas companies. The latter are now finding extreme difficulty in obtaining adequate coal supplies, and householders will voluntarily have to adjust their mode of living so as to reduce the quantity of gas which they have been consuming, otherwise they may be forced by law to do so to an even greater extent.

INDIA IN THE WAR.

The annual meeting of the National Indian Association was held on June 13 at 21, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, Sir James Meston in the chair. Mr. Basu, in speaking of the education of Indian women, said that it had not been the custom to send young girls to school, but when schools were started for boys they immediately became crowded. Girls had not attended schools, because of early marriage; but that custom was being gradually relaxed. Other difficulties were being overcome, and it was hoped that before long provision would be made for the education of all girls. Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan said that the war had disclosed the fact that England and India were in dispensable to one another. Neither England nor India had ever before realised that fact as they did now; India, instead of promising to be a troublesome burden and a cause of weakness, had proved to be a source of unlimited strength and support to the Empire. The vital needs of India were defined and embodied in the new policy of the Government, and the good will of both peoples should be directed towards realising that great policy at an early date.

The Chairman spoke of the work done by the National Association both in India and in this country, the result of which had been to foster cordial relations between the centre of the Empire and its greatest dependency.

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TURKISH & EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES
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Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. FLETCHER, Matron.

THE ABYSSINIAN REVOLUTION.

(FROM A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

Of the revolution in Abyssinia only fragmentary information has so far been published. It is only lately that a resident of the Abyssinian capital, who lives within a stone's throw of the Imperial Palace, and evidently occupies a privileged position, has been able to lift the veil and to reveal the real facts in a series of articles contributed to the well-known Cairo daily, *Al Mokattam*. Belated as the account is, it yet constitutes a record of considerable interest.

The correspondent begins by explaining the reason of the delay in these political revelations, which he attributes to the unusual secretiveness of the Abyssinian. As an instance he cites the fact of the death of the Negus Menelik, which took place five years ago, and yet was kept back from the people until the revolution. Indeed, some of the populace are said to believe that Menelik is still alive and in the Abyssinian capital.

The man of the day now is Tefri, the regent, and the probable successor to the Abyssinian throne. He is the son of Ras Makonin, and though he is only twenty-five years old he commands the full confidence and respect of the Abyssinians of all classes, as did his father, who ranked only second to Menelik. He is rather spare of build, of middle height; has a peculiar charm of speech, and knows French well and Arabic fairly.

Soon after the fall of Yassou [Jassu], on September 27, 1916, the revolution burst out in the capital. The revolutionaries, under the leadership of Tefri, then Dijaz, had so well laid their plans that, but for the treachery of a few of them, the new order would have been established without any untoward event.

Prior to his death the Emperor Menelik appointed as heir apparent Prince Yassou, son of Ras Mikhail of Wulu, and grandson of Menelik by his daughter. But for this, Yassou would not have been the legitimate heir to the Abyssinian throne. In his will, Menelik further appointed as guardian Ras Tesma, who, however, died two years later, before Yassou came of age. Profiting by the circumstance, a band of adventurers formed round the young prince and exploited his inexperience. He was very restless, and in the course of his journeyings in the region of the Danakel and Somali he is said to have attempted to win over those tribes, although some of them were the subjects of neighbouring powers. His rashness did not stop there; he actually supplied these tribes with arms and ammunition, and called some of the leaders to the capital and treated them as Court favourites. As these acts were contrary to the spirit and letter of the Brussels International Convention, which provides against the arming of the Somalis and other similar tribes by the Abyssinian Government, some of the representatives of the Powers were compelled to lodge a formal protest and ask the Abyssinian Government what it meant by arming these tribes, and other such manifestations of covert hostility. Others of his unwise acts were the appointment of his father as king of Wulu and the annexing thereto of neighbouring territory, and the dispatch of a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the arsenal of his grandfather, Menelik.

All this, combined with his frequent absences from the capital and his neglect of affairs of State, together with his profligate conduct and his levity, which a band of unscrupulous Court favourites, native and foreign, skilfully exploited, roused among the Shawas the spirit of revolt. It lay, however, smouldering in their hearts for some time, as each hesitated to be the first to revolt.

Now, at the call of Yassou, Dijaz Tefri left Harrar, the seat of his province, and repaired in all haste to the capital. There he was ignored, and he could neither find out the motive of his recall nor obtain permission to return, although his wife, Yassou's own niece, was on the point of giving birth to a child. (She was, in fact, confined in her husband's absence.) Rumours, not utterly without foundation, began to circulate. According to some, Tefri was dismissed and given the Governorship of another province; according to others he was detained. The latter report was not far from the truth.

One day Yassou left the capital suddenly for Harrar, where, on his arrival, he proclaimed the dismissal of Tefri and appointed another in his place, at the same time ordering Tefri to proceed to Kafa, the seat of his new province. This new appointment was only a ruse. Yassou was aware that as soon as Tefri entered that province he would be ignominiously expelled by its Governor, and that, returning crestfallen, he would be at his mercy. Tefri, however, saw through the stratagem, and hesitated to depart. Yassou thereupon ordered his arrest; but, in view of the high esteem in which Tefri was held, no one dared execute the order. Was he not the son of Ras Makonin, whose name is held in reverence by the Abyssinians?

The attitude of open hostility which Yassou finally assumed, broke the last link in the chain which had hitherto held the malcontents back from open revolt. The absence of Yassou from the capital, and his failure to take any special precautions (thinking, in his conceit, that nobody would dare oppose him) provided the opportunity for Tefri and his partisans to carry out their designs for the dethronement of Yassou.

On September 27, the Abyssinian Feast of the Cross, Tefri, with the Elders, held a meeting, which was attended by the Archbishop Enba Mattaus, the chief of the Abyssinian clergy, in the Palace of Menelik. A resolution was there passed (and proclaimed to the people), condemning Yassou's conduct as being contrary to his grandfather's will, which had made him the heir to the throne, and such as to absolve them from the oath of allegiance taken before Menelik. The revolutionaries then asked the Archbishop to absolve them from their oath; and this he did with the unanimous consent of all the clergy present.

A man then fired his rifle—whether as the result of premeditation, or in an exuberance of real enthusiasm, is not known—and this produced a tumult among the crowd. A large number of the conspirators being present, the tumult soon spread alarmingly, especially as several hundred shots were fired, resulting in a few deaths and numerous casualties. The agitation lasted for about twenty minutes, and when it subsided the conspirators entered a hall in the palace, and, after a brief deliberation, proclaimed Waziru Zudito Empress of Abyssinia, in succession to her father, Menelik, and with Tefri as Regent to direct the affairs of State. They then sent for Waziru Zudito, who had till then been kept out of the capital in confinement throughout Yassou's reign. Orders were next sent to the revolutionaries in Harrar to lay hands on Yassou. A telephone clerk, however, betrayed the movement, and acquainted Yassou with all that had taken place at the capital, and Yassou thereupon took counter measures, thinking that no power in the land could stand against him.

(*To be continued.*)

A number of Serbian youths, the sons of farmers, arrived in England last week, and are now receiving instruction in British agricultural methods through the medium of the Agricultural Relief of Allies Fund. The Committee believe that such assistance will be of value to Serbia in the reconstruction of her agricultural industry after the war.

Read "DAWN IN PALESTINE," by William Canton. Price 1s. 3d.

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One consignment out of hundreds of others.

THIS IS THE SCALE ON WHICH WE WORK.

Everything has to be provided in these quantities.
Clothing in bales.
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The only Relief Agency at work in Palestine
giving help to all alike in need.

BUSREH: YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

The Busreh-of-yesterday was a very different place from the Busreh-of-the-day-before-yesterday, the port whence Sinbad sailed on his wonderful voyages and to which he—and many another hero of "The Thousand Nights and a Night"—returned laden with wealth sufficient to satisfy even the demands of an Arab audience listening, spell-bound, to the tale of his adventures. Indeed, the port of Haroun er-Rashid's time was actually *in* a different place from the Busreh-of-to-day and of yesterday; it lay off to the West, where Zobeir now is; and unless the Tigris and the Euphrates take it into their heads to scoop out yet other fresh beds for themselves, there seems to be very little chance of a British cruiser dropping anchor where Sinbad's ship finally came to rest. The chance is not entirely absent; for the twin rivers are wayward creatures, and in a land still haunted by *Jann* and *Afreet* much stranger things are possible. One suspects, however, that though the prosperity of the Abbasside times may return, with the help of British money and British guidance, it will be the Busreh of yesterday that will benefit; not neglected Zobeir.

Even the Busreh that I knew, the Busreh of yesterday—which, to descend to facts, means, in this case, the Busreh of the end of last century and the beginning of this—did not lie on the Shatt el-Arab, but a little way west of that noble stream. True, the Europeans, very wisely, favoured the river's bank, and practically all of them had their houses there; but the *Serai* and other Government buildings, as well as the bazaars and most of the native houses, were either on the banks of "the Creek," or at its head. This was a pleasant enough place to pass along when the tide was up. When the tide was out—— But why dwell on the horrors of low tide? Busreh of to-day, British Busreh, is no doubt eager to forget those unsavoury, if picturesque, days. Already it has reached a stage of glory that makes it equal to Zobeir-y Busreh at its best, and we may feel sure that it looks forward with confidence to greater glories—and better sanitation—still!

In spite of all its shortcomings, I am prepared to maintain that Busreh twenty years ago was not without attraction of a kind. The heat was as bad, the mosquitoes were quite as pertinacious then as they are now, if not worse: and there were plenty of other drawbacks. But the old days were full and cheerful for some of us. The cricket, the shooting, the rides in the desert, the jolly, informal calls, the excitement over the arrival of the mail boat—or, it may be, an incoming tramp—the minor excitement over the departures and arrivals of the Karun and Tigris steamers, and, finally, the rivalry with Baghdad—all these kept life from stagnating in Busreh-of-yesterday, as they did also in Baghdad. There were, and still are, a good many worse places than Busreh and Baghdad, though some of our fighting men in Mesopotamia may find the statement hard to believe.

II.

It is a little difficult to form a clear picture of present-day Busreh, perhaps more difficult to one who used to know the town than to one who has never set eyes on it. We hear of it now and again from soldiers and sailors, or their friends; the illustrated papers occasionally give us a peep at some corner of it, and the crop of books about it promises to be heavy. Much that we hear and read is rather startling, but on the whole it is mightily encouraging.

For purposes of my own I was a short time ago looking through some back numbers of the *Basreh Times*. It proved a fascinating occupation, and the picture that formed itself before me as I continued reading was in many ways a pleasing one, showing much progress and the promise of further progress in store. Perhaps some readers of The Near East may be amused by a few extracts from the journal referred to.

The paper is intended primarily for our soldiers; and since they are tolerably sure to be more interested in news of "Home" and of the War than in local happenings, by far the greater part of the news space is given up to such items. But now and again we find scraps of "Local News," and the advertisements offer a mine that pays well for working. Thus, taking a single copy of the paper (that for January 15), we find the local "news" to consist only of an announcement that "The Base Band will play to-day" at such-and-such a hospital; and below this appears a list of subscriptions to the Busreh General Library. Incidentally, these things are interesting to one who remembers the only band that Busreh-of-yesterday could boast—that of "the Commodore"—and the library of old times. But they are not half so interesting as the "ads." These show us that trade seems to be "humming." Tailors advertise their goods and their skill in glowing terms; a photographer has established the "Mesopotamia Studio" in Tarik el-Jumar; various well-known British firms are ready to supply comforts for the inner man; H—— and Sons are very anxious that the world at large should know that they have opened a fancy goods store "(Where M.P. Stands)," at which you may purchase "Bronzwares" amongst other things; and rival "cinema palaces" clamour for patronage. Then we have a time-table of the "Mesopotamian Railways" (shades of Sinbad!) and a "Proclamation. In the Court of the District Judge, Basrah." Here, indeed, are proofs of Progress, with a capital P; trains scheduled to run on time, and a Court requesting persons claiming money to apply for it. Truly Busreh has changed hands since I saw it. Finally, we have another notice to the effect that Mr. A—— will not pay debts incurred by his wife. If that does not prove that the change is thorough-going, what will? In the old days Mr. A—— would just have put Mrs. A—— in a sack and dropped her into the Shatt el-Arab; or, perhaps Mrs. A—— would not have been tempted to run into debt! For it is not only the tailors whose advertisements are seductive: in some issues of the *B. T.* I find an advertisement of a Madame R——, a Bombay "Milliner and Costumier," whose "latest styles in millinery . . . costumes and evening gowns" probably prove irresistible to the ladies of Busreh, whether British or native. And Madame R——'s establishment is not alone in catering for the fair sex.

Legal notices crop up frequently in the *B.T.*, and one wonders how the dispensation of justice according to British methods, without fear and without favour, strikes the natives. The Court of Wards seems to be exceptionally busy, doubtless to the benefit of the Wards; but bankruptcy notices are not infrequent. In this connection there is a certain satisfaction in reading, in a list of persons whose affairs appear to have come to grief, the names of "Robert Wonckhaus and Co., Berk Putmann and Co., Dr. Hesse," and "Meisner Pasha." The "List of Persons Liable to Serve as Jurors or Assessors," which was published as a supplement to the *B. T.* on January 5, contains 118 names, the owners of which belong to nearly a score of different "nationalities," according to the list; and the jumble of names, Arab, English, Persian, Indian, Greek, etc., is decidedly quaint.

But the lawyers do not have things all their own way in Busreh—yet! On Boxing Day, for instance, and again on April 3 and April 6, Sport simply knocked Law out, so to say. The later date was that of the "Basrah Races, Spring Meeting"; the earlier of athletic sports for which elaborate arrangements were made to get the sightseers to and from the ground, rail, road, and river service all being strained apparently to their utmost capacity. Besides the racing and athletic sports, which are naturally rather rare events, there is evidently plenty of football; but this seems to be confined pretty well to the military.

At Busreh, as elsewhere, the Y.M.C.A. is doing splendid work. We notice reports of lectures and addresses, and constant reference to "Makinah University (in connection with Makinah British Y.M.C.A.)," which conducts classes in "Anatomy, Engineering, Theology, Chemistry, Mohammedanism, Arabic, Hindustani, Electricity and Magnetism, etc." Examinations are held, and the "University" seems to be going very strong indeed. Long may it do so!

For those more frivolously inclined there are the "picture palaces," already mentioned, and an institution described as "the new Halably Theatre." The programme at the latter at the time of its opening (about Christmas) is thus set out in the advertisement:—

Arabic Songs and Dances by:...
Miss Sarina.
„ Zakia.
Harp player:—Mrs. Zakia.
Jaklar-rak Qasim & Esqil:—Salman.
SALIM, Manager.

One wonders whether these Oriental Crummleses drew large audiences. The programmes of the "Splendid Palace Cinema" and the "Oriental Cinema" usually figure on the first page of the *Basreh Times*; and one gathers that this kind of thing is pretty much the same in Busreh as in, say, Brixton. Some of the items, however, are mildly perplexing. "Welcome Step-mother" is a change from the mother-in-law "joke." But what are we to make of "Charlie in a Perfume" (which is described as "comic"), "Lions' Hunthers," or "The time with wild" (both "drama")? Will some Busreh resident please explain? Finally, we note that, just before Christmas, the Oriental Cinema was showing a film entitled "Terrible Turk," and that, greatly daring, it was classified as "comic." To chase the T. T. from Busreh, and then to describe him as "comic" is, surely, the unkindest cut of all? Poor old Turk! But evidently Busreh is going ahead!

Muhandis.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The editor of *Vorwärts* is anxious to get a good long rest—at least, that is what we are forced to conclude from his surprising lack of reverence for the All-Highest and the numerous All-but-the-Highests who are playing the deuce with the world. He writes of "petty Courts" being in a state of great excitement regarding the opportunities of obtaining a throne in the East. And not content with this scurvy way of treating the kinglets and the princelings, he goes on to suggest that, as there are only six thrones a-begging, while there are twenty-two dynasties, all the new thrones should be filled by Turkish princes. How is that for *lèse-majesté?* Imagine the Turks getting anything at all—except taskmasters—from their German "ally." Yes, the editor of *Vorwärts* must be deliberately working for the suppression of his journal.

⁂

As to what may befall the *Vorwärts* or its editor, I confess I do not care a rap. But the suggestion about the Turkish princes strikes me as being not without merit. At any rate, I, for one, should prefer to see a Turkish prince rather than a German one placed on any vacant throne; and I believe that most Englishmen—and most subjects of the Allied nations—would be of the same opinion. For one thing, Turkish royalties, though not exactly scarce, are not quite so numerous as the German variety; for another, they are much better mannered; for a third, they are infinitely more picturesque in their methods of "looting"; and—— But why proceed? The name "German" stinks in the nostrils of all honest men to-day, and will surely do so for many years to come. The Turk is a blackguard, no doubt, but he is not in the same category as his "ally." British prisoners in Turkey, for instance, may suffer, as the result of inefficiency, of lack of means on the part of their captors; but I do not think there is the faintest chance of their ever bringing home such horrible tales of their treatment as we have all of us heard from men who have been prisoners of the "civilised" Teuton. No; if any thrones are knocking about the market, for heaven's sake keep the Germans off them, even if we have to put Turks on them to accomplish that end!

⁂

A few days ago I came across a quaint idea in a letter written by a soldier serving on the Western Front. He was describing how his platoon lost their way at night, when leaving the trenches, and he referred in moving terms to the bad going over rough ground in the dark. "The Germans," he wrote, "have greatly improved their star shells and flares, I think. But they didn't help us much." The notion of the kindly Hun helping our weary men on their way somehow appealed to my sense of humour. Strangely enough, a few days earlier I had heard an Australian gunner declare: "The star shells that Fritz sends over are simply lovely, and put ours quite in the background. They light up the country almost as brightly as the moon; and they hang about quite a long time." His tone was positively enthusiastic, too!

CORSAIR.

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A "PRISONERS IN TURKEY COMMITTEE."

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., presided at a meeting of representatives of the Central Prisoners of War Committee and of several regimental care committees held last Friday at 48, Charles Street, the residence of Lord Burghclere, for the purpose of considering the formation of a committee to further the interests of prisoners of war in Turkey. A committee was constituted to collect and co-ordinate information regarding the conditions of prisoners in Turkey, to make suggestions to the Government and to the Central Prisoners of War Committee, to supply information to members of Parliament and the Press, and to promote the interests of the prisoners in other ways. Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., was elected chairman, and an executive committee was appointed. An anonymous gift of £5,000 for expenses was announced. A circular explaining the objects of the committee will be sent to the next-of-kin of officer prisoners and to all care committees. All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretaries, Prisoners in Turkey Committee, 11, Chester Terrace, S.W.1.

A THIRTEENTH CENTURY FRENCH QUEEN OF SERBIA.

On Friday, at No. 9, Ennismore Gardens, M. Myatovitch recalled an incident in mediæval history, when a French princess sat on the Serbian throne. He said that in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, following on the establishment by French and Italian crusaders of the Latin Empire of Constantinople, there was a sort of French penetration of the Balkan peninsula. This was not industrial or commercial, but was political and cultural; it was carried out by French noblemen and troubadors. It was in connection with this movement that a French princess, Helen, became the Serbian Queen Yelena by marrying Urosh, grandson of Stephen Nemanya. There was some mystery as to who exactly she was. By one account she was the daughter of Baldwin II., Emperor of Constantinople; but Baldwin, born in 1270, could not have had a marriageable daughter at this time. There was documentary evidence which showed that she was a cousin of Charles of Anjou, the French King of Naples, and, therefore, also cousin of Charles's elder brother, Louis IX. (Saint Louis) of France.

Serbia, said M. Myatovitch, had produced many great women, but none greater than this French queen. Her biographer said that she was most beautiful, and very religious and charitable. Another chronicler said she was filled with wisdom and goodness. Undoubtedly she won popularity quickly with the Serbian people. She was a good mother, and had two sons. Of these the elder, Dragutin, when he grew up, married the daughter of the King of Hungary, and was instigated by his father-in-law to depose Urosh, who retired to Antivari, and before long died. Dragutin buried his father with every sign of respect, and mother and son were reconciled. Archbishop Danilo, who was present, described the interview—Dragutin falling on his knees weeping, and asking his mother to give him her blessing, and she, deeply moved, lifting him up and addressing him as "My king and my dear child." Dragutin gave his mother an extensive territory to rule over, and Archbishop Danilo said that when she took possession of this she took under her special care widows, orphans, and poor people. She undertook to build many new churches and to rebuild many old ones. She rebuilt the towns of Antivari and Dulcigno, which had been left in ruins after an incursion of the Mongols. In her dealings with the workers she was guided by the principle that the labourer was worthy of his hire, and that labour should be voluntary, not forced. As she was building and rebuilding so many churches, she established near her palace workshops, in which clever jewellers made gold and silver vessels, crosses, candlesticks, etc., often decorated with pearls and precious stones; where also artistic young monks wrote and illuminated beautiful books. Thus she played a great part in introducing the fine arts into Serbia. Beyond this, she gathered daughters of poor parents from every part of her province, brought them up, educated them, and found them husbands, giving them rich dowries. These girls became pioneers of French culture wherever they went in Serbia.

H.E. Monsieur Fleurian, who presided, said that recently in France church documents had been found evidencing the great extent to which intermarriage took place between French and Serbs at this period.

An appeal was made for the Serbian Red Cross Fund. Voluntary workers were wanted, it was stated, to assist in packing parcels for prisoners, and in making clothes for women and children interned in enemy camps.

◆

By the Ukrainian-Russian armistice agreement a joint committee is to be established to deal with the exchange of goods, the return of railway rolling stock, the re-establishment of postal, telegraphic, and travelling facilities, and the appointment of Consuls and commissioners.

The Greek community in Liverpool will shortly issue an announcement as to their arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war, which will occur on the 27th inst. The observance will include a service at the Greek Church, at which a solemn Te Deum will be sung. Mr. B. A. Malandrinos, the Greek Consul-General in that city, has been invited to attend the banquet to be given at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor of London the same evening.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FRIENDS OF "SAID THE FISHERMAN."*

In this book Mr. Pickthall has embodied in the form of fiction certain impressions that he gathered during his apprenticeship to the East—if we may so term his early wanderings in Syria—impressions which, he tells us in the introduction, still remain clear after the lapse of more than twenty years. To his old friends and admirers, it may be noted in passing, this introduction will prove not the least interesting thing in the book; though they may read it with mixed feelings. The rest of the volume is given up to a collection of sketches which have very little connection with one another, but are individually extremely good. Mr. Pickthall's method of presenting his characters is objective; and we find it rather difficult to sympathise with them—or to avoid sympathising with the criticisms passed upon them by the author's European friends. But that, after all, is a question of one's point of view; and certainly Rashid the Fair and Suleyman the dragoman are a most entertaining pair; while most of the other characters in whose company we find ourselves, even if only for a few minutes, strike us as real flesh and blood folk of the Orient, not mere puppets, creatures of a Western imagination, tricked out in Eastern dress, and mouthing a few hackneyed Arabic phrases.

We like best of all the sketches that one which is entitled "The Hanging Dog." It describes how the author and his friends shot a dog that had made itself a particularly annoying nuisance to them, and how the villagers took the matter. The first claimant for damages, "a tall and dignified fellah," explained that the defunct beast was his, and had been dear to him as his own eyes, his wife and children. He demanded five pounds as compensation—which seems a small price to set on one's eyes, wife and children!—and retired indignantly when offered a beshlik (4½d.). The second contented himself with demanding only one pound, and also retired in a rage on receiving the same offer as his predecessor. Then came the headman of the village:—

> "Who had heard, he said, of the infamous attempts which had been made to levy blackmail on us, and came now in haste to tell us of the indignation and disgust which such dishonesty towards foreigners aroused in him. He could assure us that the dog was really his; and he was glad that we had shot the creature, since to shoot it gave us pleasure. His one desire was that we should enjoy ourselves. Since our delight was the slaughter of animals he proposed to bring his mare—of the best blood of the desert—round for us to shoot."

No wonder that the author and his friend "felt exceedingly ashamed," and—after another dose of the same character—"dejected for many days." The incident is only to be fully enjoyed by those who know their Orient; but to them, Mr. Pickthall's way of telling it will be full of delight. There are one or two other things as good as this in the book, and many that are nearly as good.

◆

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"War Service of the American Library Association." Described by Theodore Wesley Koch, Chief, Order Division, Library of Congress. (Washington: A.L.A. War Service.)

"The Liberators." A Drama in Three Acts. By Srgjan Tucic, with a Preface by R. W. Seton-Watson. (Stratford-on-Avon: The Shakespeare Head Press.)

"Letters to the People of India on Responsible Government." By Lionel Curtis. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Les Souffrances d'un Peuple": Un Appel des Socialistes Serbes au Monde Civilisé. Preface by Camille Huysmans. (Geneva: Librairie Kundig.)

"Le Mystère Roumain et la Défection Russe." By Charles Stiénon. (Paris: Librairie Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 4.50 fr.)

"Buddhist Psychology." By Mrs. C. A. F. Rhys Davids, M.A. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 1s. net.)

"The Mystics of Islam." By Reynold A. Nicholson, M.A., etc. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 1s. net.)

"Stamp Collections for War Museums." By Fred. J. Melville. (London: Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. 6d., post free 7d.)

"Nos Alliés de l'Extrême-Orient." By A. Gérard, Ambassadeur de France. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4fr.50.)

"Wynnegate Sahib." By Joan Sutherland. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"Beneath the Surface, and Other Stories." By Gerald Warre Cornish. With an Introduction by Desmond MacCarthy. (London: Grant Richards, Ltd. 6s. net.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The members of the Serbian Government have arrived at Corfu from Salonika.

The old synagogue at Belgrade and the valuable Jewish library have been destroyed by fire.

The results of the Greek mobilisation in the Peloponnesus exceed by 20 per cent. those of the mobilisation of 1915.

A Pasteur Institute has now been established in Ceylon, the director being Dr. Nicholls, Director of the Bacteriological Institute.

General Sulkjevitch, the commander of the Tartars Corps, has become Prime Minister of the Crimea. Germans describe him as a Russian.

The Postmaster-General announces that parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Bulgaria are again being accepted at post-offices for transmission by post.

A number of Serbian lads who are being educated in England have offered to work through the long vacation from the middle of June to October on English farms.

The Bishop of Meglia (Istria) writes that it is in the interest of Roman Catholicism that South Slavs should resist the expansion policy of the Central Powers in the Balkans.

The Ukrainian Food Ministry has sanctioned the export of 150,000 poods (5,400,000 lbs.) of sugar to White Russia through the White Russian Chamber of Commerce at Kieff.

In Jerusalem the inhabitants are taking the greatest interest in propaganda cinematograph films. People almost fought for admittance when the film depicting the occupation of Beersheba was shown.

The *Vorwärts* states that a peace treaty has been signed between the Turks and Georgians, according to which, in violation of the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the Achalkalaki district of the Tiflis Government has been ceded to Turkey.

According to the Balkan correspondent of the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, the proposal that the Russian Fleet captured at Odessa and Sebastopol should be handed over to Turkey is warmly supported by the whole Constantinople Press. The Grand Vizier told a deputation recently that the Porte was negotiating with Germany to that end.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* reports that General Pallis, ex-King Constantine's aide-de-camp, was last Saturday tried by ordinary court-martial under charges of disloyalty to the present régime, and failing to report to the authorities the arrival of spy officers, of which he was aware. He was sentenced to four years' and one month's imprisonment.

In the Roumanian Ministry M. Mitilineu has been appointed Minister of Justice, Prince Cantacuzene Minister of Commerce, and M. Caroflid Minister of Agriculture and Domains. M. Deneta Dobrescu has been elected President of the Senate and M. Meissner President of the Chamber. The Foreign Minister, M. Arion, has become Vice-President of the Cabinet Council.

On May 15 an interesting ceremony took place in Jaffa. It consisted in the restoration of the Sepheri Torah—the Parchment Scrolls of the Law—to the various synagogues in Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Prayers were chanted, and then the Shofar or Ram's Horn was blown, and the scrolls were carried under canopies by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Weizmann, and others to the various synagogues to which they belong.

A message received last Saturday reported:—Rainfall in India has been fair in Central Provinces East, Madras South-East, and Madras Coast North; normal in Burma and North-West Frontier Provinces; in excess in Bay Islands, Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Chota Nagpur, Bihar, United Provinces, Punjab East and North, and Central India East; scanty elsewhere. Some weakness is still likely in the Bombay monsoon.

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THE ASIATIC REVIEW.
JULY NUMBER, 1918.
LIST OF CONTENTS:—
THE BATTLE OF BABEL. By J. D. Anderson.
THE LEADERSHIP OF CIVILIZATION. By Lady Katherine Stuart.
PRUSSIAN KULTUR 2,500 Years Ago. By E. H. Parker.
EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION. THE PROBLEM OF NATIONAL EDUCATION. By K. M. Pannikar, B.A. An Interpretation of Westminster for Indian Students by Victor Branford.
MAN POWER PROBLEM: Recruiting in the Punjab.
INDIAN FRONTIER AND THE WAR. By Ali-Shah.
BRITISH RULE IN INDIA and INDIAN RAILWAYS.
JAPAN AND SIBERIA. By Shosanken. MOULMEIN IN SUNSHINE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONSOON. By D. A. Wilson.
EAST & WEST, Ltd., 3, Victoria St., London, S.W.1.

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*"Oriental Encounters." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (Collins and Co. 6s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. June	1918. June		1336. Ramadan.	5678. Tamuz.
21	8	Friday	12	11
22	9	Saturday........	13	12
23	10	Sunday	14	13
24	11	Monday	15	14
25	12	Tuesday	16	15
26	13	Wednesday	17	16
27	14	Thursday	18	17

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have returned to their residence in Cavendish Place from Ireland.

Prince George of Serbia attended a conference of the Serbian Red Cross at Grosvenor Gardens last Friday.

At a luncheon given in Salonika on Monday in honour of the new Allied Commander-in-Chief, M. Venizelos gave a very cordial greeting to General Franchet d'Esperey.

Sir James Barrie and Lord Burnham have consented to act on the General Committee of the London Memorial Fund for the Elsie Inglis Chair of Medicine at Belgrade University.

Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, the newly-appointed Governor of Ceylon, and recently Governor of Jamaica, was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon on Wednesday at Whitehall Court.

An engagement is announced between Captain G. E. F. Sutton, M.C., Royal Air Force, and Enid Mary Kathleen, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. O'Connor, of Ballygunge, Calcutta, and of Ballygunge, St. George's Hill, Weybridge.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Maitland, D.S.O., Indian Cavalry, second son of Sir John Nisbet Maitland, Bart., and Jean Hamilton, only surviving daughter of Major Robert Findlay, of Easterhill, Lanarkshire.

The following Tripos list was issued at Cambridge last Friday:—

Oriental Languages Tripos.—Class One.—V. G. Bhat, Fergusson Coll., Poona, and Non-Coll.; G. F. Saywell, Toronto Univ. and Christ's.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London, has returned from Paris. The French Government have conferred on him the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour for services rendered on the Roumanian front.

The *London Gazette* of last Friday announced that Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel his Highness Maharajadhiraja Sri Sir Bhupindar Singh Mahindar, Bahadur, G.C.I.E., G.B.E., Maharaja of Patiala, has been granted the hon. rank of Major-General, to date from June 15, 1918.

An engagement is announced between Captain C. D. Carus-Wilson, M.C., Yeomanry, eldest son of the Rev. F. Neville Carus-Wilson and Mrs. Carus-Wilson, and Dorothy Sackville, youngest daughter of Major-General J. C. Berkeley, C.I.E., Indian Army, and Mrs. Berkeley.

The engagement is announced of Major Keith Thorburn, M.C., R.F.A., younger son of Mr. S. S. Thorburn, of Old Bracknell House, Bracknell, Berks, to Miss Henrietta Sybil Douglas Picot, M.B.E., only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Picot, C.B.E., and Mrs. Picot, of 33, Onslow Gardens, S.W.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on Thursday, July 4, at St. Marylebone Parish Church, at half-past two o'clock, between Waris Ameer-Ali, Indian Civil Service, elder son of the Right Hon. Ameer-Ali and Mrs. Ameer-Ali, of 2, Cadogan Place, and Annie Marguerite, daughter of Mr. Walter T. Hindmarsh Radford and Mrs. Radford, of 25, Park Crescent, Portland Place. There will be no invitations issued and no reception, but all friends will be heartily welcomed at the church.

Judge Van Horne, President of the Fourth Commercial Chamber in the Alexandria Mixed Court, has volunteered to join the American Army fighting in France. Addressing a deputation which waited on him to express the appreciation of his act felt by the Bar, he said that he thought it his duty to take part in defending the cause of right and civilisation with the army of his country, and that he had put his service at the disposal of his country. He is over 50 years old.

FOR SALE, two GIEVE'S LIFE-SAVING WAISTCOATS. 25s. each, good condition.—Apply, "B.A.," care of Chas. Barker and Sons, Ltd., White Lion Court, Cornhill, E.C.3.

The King has been pleased to approve, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, of the name of Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha for appointment to the rank of King's Counsel.

We are pleased to notice in the list of naval appointments that Mr. Herbert H. Silley, son of Mr. Alfred Silley, formerly of Constantinople, has been appointed Temporary Surgeon in the Navy.

On Wednesday last week (June 12), at the Parish Church, Westbury-on-Trym, Gloucestershire, the marriage took place of Major Cyril Brittan Hosegood, R.E., second son of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hosegood, Rockleaze, near Bristol, to Sybil, second daughter of James Stanes, Coonoor, India, and niece of the late C. Bruce Cole and Mrs. C. Bruce Cole, Claremont, Westbury-on-Trym. The Rev. S. H. W. Hughes-Games officiated.

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The offices of the Roumanian Military Attaché and Roumanian Government Committee have been removed to Canada House, Kingsway.

Colonel Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., will preside at the anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held on June 26, at 4.30 p.m., at 22, Albemarle Street.

Professor Bogdan Popovitch, of Belgrade University, will address the Serbian Literary and Debating Society at Oxford on Saturday evening, his subject being "What we have to learn in England."

To celebrate the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war, the Lord Mayor will give a dinner at the Mansion House on Thursday, the 27th inst., when representatives of the Allied nations will be present.

On Wednesday, June 26, at 5 p.m., Mr. Alexander Sefi will give a lecture on Syria at the School of Oriental Studies (University of London), Finsbury Circus, E.C. Anyone interested in the political and economical condition of that country will be welcome to attend.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* of June 14 contains a long list of "officers, ladies, non-commissioned officers, and men" whom General Allenby considers deserving of special mention for services in the advance into the Holy Land. Unfortunately we have not space to reproduce this list.

The Mayor of Westminster, supported by Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., will preside at a lantern lecture by Miss F. E. Latham on her experiences "With the Serbians and During the Great Retreat," at Caxton Hall this evening, at 8. The collection will be for the Serbian Relief Fund.

To inaugurate a fund for a memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, a meeting arranged by the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service will be held at the Mansion House on Friday, July 5, at 3. The Lord Mayor will preside, and the Earl of Selborne, Lady Frances Balfour, and Commander Locker-Lampson, M.P. will speak.

On June 22 and 27, at 3.15 p.m., the Indian Art and Dramatic Society will produce in Lord Leverhulme's garden, at Hampstead, "The Pearl Necklace," an Indian comedy, with music, under the direction of Mr. Ben Greet. The play is based on the historical drama "Ratnavali," written in 600 A.D. In addition to a strong cast, a large number of ladies and gentlemen in Indian costume will sing and dance in the Spring Festival. The music has been specially composed, and will be directed by Mr. Hugh Marleyn. For further particulars apply to Hon. Organiser, 14, St. Mark's Crescent, N.W.1.

On Tuesday Lieut.-General Sir Bryan Mahon opened an exhibition of pictures of the Macedonian front by Mr. William T. Wood at the Leicester Galleries. Sir Bryan said the pictures illustrated the great topographical difficulties, since lessened by good roads and innumerable bridges with which the Army had to contend on that front. He mentioned that the artist had provided the Army with minutely accurate drawings of the entire front as seen from balloons and observation posts, and had done his work so well as to be mentioned in despatches. Ten of Mr. Wood's pictures have been bought for the Imperial War Museum.

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The Military Governors of the various districts of Palestine received the leading notables of all religions on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday. Many expressions of congratulation and of loyalty to the King were received from all classes of the inhabitants of the country, both collective and individual.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Constantine Paleologus XI., the last Emperor of the East, a solemn requiem was celebrated at Athens. The Metropolitan of Athens delivered a sermon, in which he pointed out that not a single Emperor of the Greeks had died in his bed; they all died on the field of battle.

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OBITUARY.

Lieut.-Colonel William W. Hammond, late Rifle Brigade, died last Saturday, aged seventy. He saw service with the Burmese Expedition in 1886, and later with the Jowaki Expedition.

Mr. John Henry Lace has died at Exmouth. He joined the India Forest Department in 1881, and at the time of his retirement in 1913 was Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma. He was a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Second-Lieutenant Evelyn Anthony Cave-Penny, Indian Cavalry, who was killed in action on June 9 on an Eastern front, was nineteen years of age, and eldest son of the late Frank Cave-Penny, of Ardfin, Torquay, and of Mrs. Cave-Penny, of Ashburton. He had his commission in November, 1916.

Colonel Charles William Carrington, R.M.L.I., who has died at Bath, aged eighty-eight, saw service at the Battle of Balaklava and the siege and fall of Sevastopol, and received the medal with two clasps, the fifth class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal. Later he served in China, and for these services he was mentioned in despatches and received the medal with two clasps.

The many friends, both in England and in the Near East, of Mr. David Forbes, senr., of the firm of MacAndrews and Forbes, of Smyrna, will learn with real regret that he died on the 15th inst., at Bournemouth. Mr. Forbes began his long connection with the East in 1859, in which year he went out to Smyrna to join his elder brother, who had been established there for about ten years. When, after the Civil War in America, a tariff on manufactured articles was put on imports into the United States Mr. Forbes was sent over there (1870) to establish a factory and found a branch of the business. The development of the undertaking in America was most satisfactory. He possessed a singularly gentle and lovable character, and charmed all those with whom he came into close contact, though of a shy and retiring disposition.

We regret to announce that Admiral Sir Alfred Wyndham Paget died suddenly on Monday night, at 34, Hans Road, Brompton. The second son of the late General Lord Alfred Paget, he was born in 1852, and entered the Royal Navy in 1866. As a midshipman he served in the Galatea, under the command of the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1877 he was promoted lieutenant, and in 1882 he served on board the Ready in the Egyptian War, earning the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. Two years later, in the Carysfort and Iris, he took part in the Sudan operations, and received the Suakin and Tofrek clasps. As Lieutenant-Commander of the Starling he served with the Naval Brigade under Sir Francis Grenfell, and was present at the action of Gemaizah on December 20, 1888. He was mentioned in dispatches and promoted to commander for this service, receiving also the Third Class of the Medjidieh. He was afterwards Naval Attaché in Paris, in Petrograd, and in Washington, and in 1905-6 he was A.D.C. to King Edward. In the present war he had done useful work with the R.N.R., having retired from the R.N. in order to get on to active service once more.

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DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATH.

Forbes.—At Bournemouth, on the 15th inst., suddenly, David Forbes, of Smyrna, in his 84th year.

ROYAL SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

At an Election of Four Pupils at £20 a year, on the 18th June, 1918, the following was the RESULT of the POLL:—

SUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss L. B. Thacker	4,305	Miss V. H. D. Safford	3,384
Miss A. J. H. Sherwood ..	3,554	Miss P. M. L. Scatchard ..	3,212

UNSUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss N. H. Mortimer	3,136	Miss D. B. M. Hofman....	882
Miss N. M. Reid	2,610	Miss R. L. Edridge	769
Miss R. J. Edridge.........	2,544	Miss E. Dinham..........	660
Miss V. M. K. Smith	2,274	Miss R. I. Snook..........	567
Miss W. F. Bunting	1,753	Miss A. Smith............	549
Miss G. D. S. Smyth	1,343	Miss D. Owen............	153
Miss A. M. Sykes	1,163	Miss E. M. Owen	107
Miss U. C. Mortimore	950	Miss K. M. Wilson........	94

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1918.

INDIA AND THE IMPERIAL CABINET.

This year's assemblage of the statesmen of the Empire has aroused comparatively little outward interest or enthusiasm in the Empire's capital city, and the fact that to the ordinary man their presence at this season appears a natural or normal thing shows how far we have travelled since the days before the war. In that remote epoch it was commonly thought and said that distance offered insuperable obstacles to frequent gatherings of the kind, while in some influential quarters the obstacles were not regarded entirely as matters for regret. Efforts, not always successful, and sometimes perhaps a little perfunctory, were made to hold a conference at intervals of four years, and when a meeting had closed without untoward incidents there was something very like a feeling of relief. The impossibilities of Peace have, in this case as in others, become commonplaces under the stress of War, and though the journeys to be undertaken are infinitely more tedious and are surrounded by dangers not hitherto anticipated we hear no suggestion that they are unnecessary, or that the time of busy statesmen is being unprofitably spent. Any such suggestion would indeed be curiously inappropriate. The Empire is at war as a unit, and each and every part of it is concerned in the twofold duty assigned to the Imperial Cabinet, the organisation of victory, and the decision how victory shall be used. Dominions and Dependencies alike have given of their best to serve the common object, and it is right as well as wise that they should share in the honour and responsibility of the decisions which are now required. We speak advisedly of decisions and not merely of deliberations, for, though the change was made so easily that comparatively few people have yet realised its significance, the Imperial War Cabinet is, what the Imperial Conference never was, in essence an executive body, the members of which decide what shall be done. From the standpoint of constitutional development, this is by far the most important feature of the changes which have been brought about. Last year saw the creation, for the first time in history, of a representative body empowered to act, and not merely to think, in the name of the Empire as a whole, and to exercise functions hitherto performed by the Government of the United Kingdom. The change does not indeed represent a complete and final solution of the central problem of Empire. Complex questions relating to the responsibility of Ministers and other cognate matters will later on have to be faced and solved, if the Empire is to stand, but the unanimity of the nations in regard to the war will prevent these questions from becoming acute until at least the war is won, and, however they may be decided in the future, the fact that they may come up for decision is of itself sufficient to indicate the magnitude of the progress already made. The statesmen who shall bring to the Empire victory and peace may be trusted to handle later on the problem of its internal organisation.

We have insisted on the constitutional importance of the Imperial War Cabinet, but we have no desire to depreciate the cognate organism from which the Cabinet takes its rise. The Conference has no executive authority, but nevertheless it can do much which the Cabinet cannot do. We have ancient authority for the statement that in a multitude of counsellors there is safety, and its truth is borne out by modern experience, provided always that executive authority be not paralysed thereby. The Cabinet must from the nature of the case be strictly limited in size, in order that it may be in a position to act promptly and with effect. The larger body, which is free from these limitations, has an ample field. It can discuss matters which are not yet ripe for action, it can focus opinion on difficulties that require the light, and it can do much to create a favourable atmosphere, and to bring about a comprehension of unfamiliar points of view. Most important perhaps of all, it can anticipate danger, and by anticipating prevent its realisation. In an Empire extending to all quarters of the world, and peopled by diverse races in very different stages of social and intellectual development, there are almost indefinite possibilities of dispute and disagreement. Difficulties may be dormant for an indefinite time, and then some trivial or accidental circumstance may bring them into prominence without a moment's warning, to the serious detriment of that good feeling which should prevail. Take as an example the question of emigration from India to other portions of the Empire. That question has many sides, and very much depends upon the point of view. For years the regional or departmental standpoint was maintained, and the result was a bitterness of feeling as between India and some of the Dominions, which at one time threatened to produce the gravest consequences, and which even now, when the actual difficulties have been largely removed, has left a sediment of mutual distrust and antagonism not readily to be dispersed. It is easy to see now that all this could have been avoided, if there had been in the past frequent opportunities for the candid exchange of views and opinions such as the Conference offers to-day. It stands in a word for the impartial examination of racial, regional, and departmental sentiments and prejudices, and for their subordination to the permanent interests of the Empire as a whole.

It would be superfluous to insist on the significance of these institutions to the people of the self-governing Dominions, but it is important to realise that they have no less meaning for the dependent populations. The inclusion of representatives of India in the Cabinet and the Conference is a fact pregnant with hope and inspiration, not merely for India herself, but for the other dependencies, which are as yet too small or too backward to claim similar privileges. An ideal is thus set before them, distant perhaps, yet calculated to appeal to the imagination of all the best and most progressive elements which they contain. For them the meaning of the word Empire has undergone a change. In the Victorian age it stood for security, justice and economic progress; it still stands for these primary benefits of civilisation—benefits so common in England that some Englishmen are apt to minimise their importance—but it also stands for something more: for responsibility, for self-realisation, in a word, for the unlimited opportunity of development, so that each and every community, no matter how backward or degraded, can aspire to climb to the level of the highest. The path thus opened is neither short nor easy; no community can hope to reach the end without sustained and arduous effort, but the inspiration and the vision have been given, and each now holds the future in its hands. To India herself the inspiration is even more direct and more immediate. The fact that her representatives are already sharing in the councils of the Empire shows how far she has progressed upon the upward path. In her case indeed there is some danger that the need for continued effort may be overlooked, for some of her prominent men appear to think that the summit has already been reached, and that it remains only to enjoy the reward of past labours. No greater mistake could possibly be made. Much has indeed been accomplished, but, though the future be assured, the work is not yet done, and the progress that has been effected should be regarded not as a sedative, but as a stimulus to fresh exertion. India is to be congratulated on the fact that her representatives take the juster view. The published opinions of the Maharajah of Patiala and of Sir Satyendra Sinha leave no doubt that they realise how much has to be done, and afford the best guarantee that India will not shrink from the exertions still required.

PERSIA AND THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

By SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

The " Peace Treaty " of Brest-Litovsk between the Bolshevik Government of Russia and the Quadruple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, which for all practical purposes should spell Germany *tout court*, contains amongst its many strange provisions one that has hitherto scarcely attracted in this country the attention it deserves. Article VII. declares that " basing themselves on the fact that Persia and Afghanistan are independent States, the contracting parties pledge themselves to respect the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of these States." When Germany begins to make public professions of interest in the independence and integrity of a foreign country, one is at once reminded of what the wolf said to little Red Riding Hood about his large and beautiful teeth: " The better to eat you with, my dear ! " We can put Afghanistan aside for the moment as it lies a good deal farther afield, and is not immediately liable to military pressure from the Germanic *bloc*, nor is the internal situation directly affected by the collapse of Russia. In Persia, on the other hand, both the military and the political equations have been profoundly altered. The most vulnerable provinces are no longer covered by Russian armies, and Russian influence has disappeared from Teheran.

The military aspects of the new situation created in Persia cannot prudently be dealt with under war conditions, and one may only observe in passing that the one redeeming feature, and a vastly important one, is the strong position we hold for checking a forward movement of the Turkish armies on to North-Western Persia, thanks to the British occupation of Mesopotamia. Without that " side-show," as so many of our military critics have been pleased to describe the conquest of Baghdad, there would be nothing to-day to prevent Turks and Germans from sweeping across Persia to the borderland of India. From the political point of view, however, the elimination of the Russian factor, though very disturbing, is by no means an unmitigated disaster in regard to our relations with Persia, and should even tend to strengthen rather than to weaken our hands. For nowhere has British influence suffered so much from association with the old Russian regime. Ever since the assassination in 1896 of Nasr-ed-Din Shah, who during his long reign of nearly half a century had secured something like order and tranquillity in Persia, that venerable but infirm kingdom has been steadily going down hill, and was saved only from complete disintegration for a long time by the rivalry of its two powerful neighbours, Russia and Britain, and then by a mutual understanding between them. Until the disastrous results of the Russo-Japanese war produced a more chastened mood amongst Russian statesmen and opened their eyes to the dangers of the policy of Asiatic adventure into which Germany had persistently and only too successfully helped to lure them in order to divert their attention from her own fields of ambition, especially in Turkey and the Balkan peninsula, the antagonism between Russian and British interests had been growing more and more acute at every point of contact and conflict right across the Asiatic continent from the Bosphorus through Persia and Central Asia to Tibet and China and the extreme Far East. Nowhere had it become more acute than in Persia, where in the opening years of this century Russian ascendancy was firmly established in Teheran on the two-fold basis of financial and military control. For by a series of loans that ministered only to the corrupt extravagance of the Shah Muzaffer-ed-Din, Russia held the power of the purse, and by organising under Russian officers a large force of so-called Persian Cossacks who could at any moment have " wiped the floor " with the wretched rabble of the Persian army, she held equally, though perhaps less visibly, the power of the sword. Moreover, the whole of the northern frontier of Persia and her capital were at the mercy of the Russian army-corps in the Caucasus and on the Transcaspian Railway, whilst the Caspian itself was practically a Russian lake. When, therefore, Russia, sobered by her disasters in Manchuria, awoke at last to the significance of Germany's world ambitions and to the serious menace they constituted for her position as a great European Power, she was induced to follow the example which for similar reasons France, her ally, had already set her by composing all her colonial differences with Great Britain, and to entertain for the first time in a conciliatory spirit the idea of a friendly agreement with this country in regard to the Asiatic situation which successive British Governments had hitherto vainly sought to promote. The negotiations for such an agreement could naturally be conducted only on a basis of give and take, and the British negotiators had to reckon throughout with the very powerful German influences still entrenched at the Russian Court and in the higher ranks of the Russian bureaucracy that were bent on defeating any Anglo-Russian rapprochement. It was in Persia especially that accomplished facts had to be taken into account. The Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, whilst saving the face of Persia, virtually recognised the paramount position which Russia had unquestionably acquired in the north, and even, where it was more questionable, as far down as Ispahan in Central Persia, whereas British interests in the south received no special recognition from Russia, except in a small zone in the south-east, which our military authorities regarded as essential to the strategic safety of India. The other portions of the Agreement relating to Afghanistan and Tibet were held to afford on the whole a sufficient safeguard to British interests, and, though they did not escape criticism, opposition to the Agreement in this country concentrated mainly on the provisions relating to Persia.

The outbreak of the great war which Germany let loose on the world in August, 1914, and—let it be remembered despite the bitterness of later disappointments—the wonderful part played by the Russian armies in holding up the Germanic forces in the East until we had to some extent made good our own utter unpreparedness in the West—have more than justified the price we paid for the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907. At the same time the war has unquestionably shown that the price we paid in Persia was a high one, for the methods by which Russia continued after the Agreement to exercise the ascendancy it recognised to her were frequently harsh and oppressive, and British influence at Petrograd was the less able to check them in that they were more often due to the undisciplined initiative of the Russian agents on the spot than to any settled policy of the Russian Government itself; though on the point on which the Persian people were perhaps most sensitive of all, viz., Russian hostility to their feeble gropings towards constitutional liberties, the Russian agents doubtless merely reflected the reactionary tendencies of the autocracy. That the Persians often played into Russia's hands and made needless trouble for themselves by their own ineptitude, or that where British interests alone or mainly suffered, as in Southern Persia, we were content to treat their vagaries with extraordinary patience, is now neither here nor there. The Persians combine the pride of an ancient race with the sensitiveness of children, and they never forgave us for having come to an agreement over their heads and, as they read it, at their expense, with their exacting Russian neighbours. When the war broke out

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE.
KING OF SPAIN

Germany naturally urged upon the Persians that that was their opportunity to rid themselves of Anglo-Russian tutelage, and when Turkey joined the Germanic powers she added her appeal on the grounds of Mohammedan solidarity, whilst German agents sedulously spread abroad amongst the Persian masses the story that the Kaiser and his people had embraced Islam. Turkish troops and Kurdish horsemen harried the Persian border, and all the turbulent elements released in Southern Persia by the decay of the Shah's authority were easily mobilised against us under the leadership of German or German-paid *condottieri*. All that the Allies asked of Persia was the maintenance of her neutrality, and the Shah's Ministers for the most part realised that that way also lay her best hope of salvation. It is, however, no secret now that there were times when the issue trembled in the balance, and on one occasion the German and Austrian Ministers were quite confident of inducing the young Shah and his Government to abandon Teheran in their company rather than to face the possibility of a Russian occupation. Wiser counsels happily prevailed, and whilst a Russian expeditionary force held Kasvin and cleared Western Persia from Turkish incursions by moving down through Hamadan and Kermanshah with a view to co-operating with the British armies in Mesopotamia, Sir Percy Sykes raised a body of Persian gendarmerie, now known as the South Persian Rifles, under Anglo-Indian officers, which restored some semblance of order in Southern Persia and re-established the Shah's authority in Ispahan and Shiraz.

The British occupation of Baghdad stabilised the situation in Persia until the Russian débâcle threatened again to throw everything into the melting pot. The Russian army melted away, perhaps a little more slowly, but just as surely as on all the other fronts, and Russia ceased to count at Teheran. But as she had of her own volition thus dissolved the partnership by which we had been hitherto bound to her, we were free to put an end to the conditions which had made it a source of serious embarrassment in our own relations with the Persians. It is difficult to understand why the British Government should have still clung in these circumstances to the shadow of the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, of which the name still stank in Persian nostrils, whilst all the substantial considerations for which we had entered into it had vanished with the collapse of Russia. From Lord Curzon's statement in the House of Lords, all that we have so far offered to do in response to Persia's appeal is to regard it as being temporarily "in suspense," and to promise a further consideration of the question after the end of the war. Yet it is surely whilst the war is still going on and, indeed, entering upon a new and very critical phase, that it is most urgent to regain as far as possible the influence we possessed in former times in Persia by removing the one serious stone of offence. We do not believe that Pan-Turanianism will ever succeed in securing from Persian Nationalism the permanent acceptance of Turkish hegemony based on political far more than on religious aspirations, but for the moment it may make a strong appeal to the anti-British feeling in Persia for which the Anglo-Russian Agreement is mainly responsible. It may be granted that the Persians themselves can throw very little positive weight into the scales in the conflict of such gigantic forces as this world-war has unloosed, but their formal neutrality at any rate has a definite value for us, and a spontaneous renunciation of the few advantages we derived from the Anglo-Russian Agreement, now that Russia has set us free by her own default, would strengthen the hands of the Shah's Ministers at a time when Persia is dangerously open to renewed hostile pressure. Had we made it at once, we should, perhaps, then have been spared so disquieting a symptom as the pilgrimage, unofficial it is true, of Persian deputies to Brest-Litovsk and Berlin to tender the thanks of the Persian people for Germany's disinterested solicitude for the independence and welfare of their beloved country! The Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907 is as dead as Queen Anne. Why should we not, in Persia at least, make haste to bury it?

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Sir S. Aiyar's Letter. June 18.

Lord HARRIS asked for information regarding the letter addressed by Sir S. Subramaniya Aiyar, late acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, to President Wilson, casting reflections on the British Government's rule in India. He noticed that the matter had been replied to by the Secretary of State in the other House, who said that the letter was disgraceful and improper. But notwithstanding that, the Government had decided to take no further notice of it. He expressed surprise and regret at that. He deprecated this inaction on the part of the Secretary of State towards one who, although learned in the law, had disregarded the law. Such treatment would be a discouragement to loyal and law-abiding subjects in India, and probably other members of the Order of the Indian Empire besides himself would resent being compelled to accept the comradeship of such a man as Sir S. Aiyar. It was rather odd that this ex-Judge should take exception to pensions and allowances when he was drawing a pension towards which he had not contributed.

Earl CURZON, Lord President of the Council, said the statements to which attention had been directed constituted a series of outrageous calumnies against the British Government in India. The writer of the deplorable publication was an old man, who retired from the Bench in 1907, and fell into the hands of Mrs. Besant and became the President of the Indian Home Rule League. The letter was written as long ago as June 24, 1917, but it came to the cognisance of the Government in this country a few weeks ago. It was addressed to President Wilson, and was entrusted to an American gentleman and his wife, who were known as lecturers and authors, for presentation on their return to the United States. At Washington it was communicated to the British Embassy, and transmitted thence to the Foreign Office. The Secretary of State for India was astonished by the letter and took it with him to India. Mr. Montagu did not wish to be responsible for bringing about the publication of the letter; still less did he wish to advertise the culpable folly of its author. Accordingly, when Mr. Montagu went, in company with the Viceroy, to Madras, they sent for the writer and administered to him a severe reprimand. That was at the end of last year or the beginning of this year. In May last the letter appeared in the Indian Press, and then was communicated to journals in this country. How the letter got into the Indian Press the Government did not know. There was reason to think that it might have appeared previously in the American Press. There could be no two opinions as to the character of the document. The question arose whether the act should be treated with the extreme severity which, no doubt, it merited, or should be regarded as a melancholy aberration on the part of an old man who in the course of a long career had done considerable service to the State, and whose utterances on a matter of this sort, now that he was in advanced years and feeble health, were devoid of influence. The Government of India were consulted, and replied that they had informed the writer that his action was regarded with regret and surprise by them, but in view of his great age, failing health, and past judicial services, they did not propose taking further notice of it. At the same time, they had warned him that any repetition of such conduct would not be passed over. In the circumstances there were good reasons for the course taken by the Government of India. It was inexpedient to do anything which might convert a person relatively harmless into a political martyr.

The Marquess of CREWE said he thought the answer which had been given satisfied those who had considered the question. He was disposed to think that in view of all the circumstances the Government of India had followed the most sensible course.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Indian Police. June 12.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he would state what steps had been taken by the Government of India to increase the pay of the Indian police, both British and Indian; and whether any increases that had been given in any way covered the extra cost of living now entailed on the police by war prices.

Mr. MONTAGU: The increases of pay have been sanctioned within the past two and a-half years in most provinces for the lower grades of Indian police, and a time scale was sanctioned early in the war by way of relief to European officers. I am unable to say precisely how far the increases of pay which have been given cover the extra cost of living. Those granted to the lower rank no doubt to a great extent do so. Local governments have also a general power to grant compensatory allowances to lower-paid officials in all departments when food prices exceed certain limits.

Colonel YATE: Is there any prospect of this matter being seriously taken into consideration in view of the very low pay of the Indian police throughout the whole service?

Mr. MONTAGU: The question of the pay of Indian police will be taken into consideration when the report of the Public Services Commission is received. It is being considered now. The Government of India is corresponding with the local governments on the subject. I cannot say how soon their recommendations will be received, but I will inquire.

Sir Subramaniya Aiyer's Letter.

June 17.

Mr. Montagu, answering a question put by Colonel Yate, said that the letter of Sir Subramaniya Aiyer, K.C.I.E., to President Wilson had been carefully considered by the Government of India, who were causing Sir Subramaniya Aiyer to be informed that they viewed his action with surprise and regret, but that in view of his great age, failing health, and past judicial services they did not propose to take further action. Sir Subramaniya Aiyer would at the same time be warned that any repetition of such conduct could not again be passed over. Mr. Montagu added that he did not propose to interfere with the discretion of the Government of India in the matter.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. J. F. Hope (Lord of the Treasury), replying to Brigadier-General Croft on the subject of an exchange of prisoners between the British and Turkish Governments, said:—As my hon. and gallant friend is aware, an agreement for the exchange of prisoners is already in force. His Majesty's Government are waiting to learn from the Turkish Government the date upon which the first thousand British invalid prisoners will be ready for embarkation, and whether an assurance that the repatriation ship will be immune from attack has been obtained from the other enemy Governments. The Netherland Minister at Constantinople has been requested to press the Turkish Government for a reply on both these points.

The Status of the Ukraine.

Replying to a question put by Mr. King, Mr. Balfour said:—So far as I am aware, no allied State has recognised the independence of the Ukraine. I do not know exactly what date the hon. member accepts as that on which the Ukraine became separated from the Russian Republic when he asks whether since then any of the Allies has offered aid to the Ukraine. It may perhaps be sufficient to say that since that region became completely subservient to Germany it has received no assistance from the Allies.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Our Serbian Guests.

To the *Welsh Outlook* Mr. J. Emsley Wood contributes an article entitled "The Serbian Tragedy and Young Serbia." Most of the ground covered is familiar to readers of The Near East, but the concluding passages, in which the writer tells us something about the Serbian boys in Great Britain, give us fresh information. It is pleasant to find the writer testifying, from personal acquaintance with the Serbian boys resident in the Scottish capital, that "they are worthy of all the kindness and consideration which it is possible to bestow upon them." He goes on to say:—

> The Serbian Minister of Education has truly said that the younger generations of Serbians are most eager to learn. As English formed no part of the school curriculum in Serbia, the boys had only a slight knowledge of our language on reaching this country, and the problem presented to the head master of any school to which they were attached was to make arrangements whereby the continuity of the instruction received in Serbian schools might be preserved in spite of the language difficulty. This was solved by the teacher making such acquaintance with Serbian as to be able to converse tolerably well with the pupils in their own language, and by making English for a considerable time the principal subject in their school time-table. . . . Now all of them are able to write and converse freely in English, and have made considerable progress in mathematics, physics, chemistry, French, Latin, Russian, etc., while several have passed the preliminary examinations for entrance to the Universities.
>
> Keen, alert, intelligent, these brown-eyed Serbian lads are typical of their race. Compared with British boys, they are darker complexioned, more emotional and sensitive, while their natural courtesy and dramatic gestures remind one forcibly of our Gallic neighbours and Allies. Possessed of a fertile imagination and keen powers of observation, they are also very poetically disposed, and revel in the popular Pesmas and legends which they have largely to thank for the preservation of their nationality and their later resurrection as a nation.
>
> They are passionately fond of the country which their fathers and ancestors have watered with their blood, and which possesses so many natural beauties that the Serb delights to repeat, "One travels the world over to return to Serbia." The young Serbs are imbued with the same brave spirit as their fathers, who lived up to the principle that Freedom is the only thing in this world for which too high a price cannot be paid, and are confident that when the present struggle is over the whole Southern Slav peoples will be united and the dearest dream of their nation for many centuries at last be realised.

Bulgaria and America.

Those people who cannot understand why America does not declare war on Bulgaria and Turkey would find a very good explanation of the case in an article ("Should we Declare War on Bulgaria?") in the *Independent* (New York) of May 25. This article shows that while there is nothing to be gained from a declaration of war against Bulgaria by the United States, there is much to be lost:—

> We could not fight Bulgaria if we declared war against her, but Bulgaria could fight us. So far as known there has been no demand from the Allied War Council for American troops to be sent to Saionica, but, on the other hand, if we declared war against Bulgaria, Bulgarian troops might be sent to the French front and add to the strength of the Germans there. So far the Bulgars have refused to conform to the demands of their allies to send troops out of the Balkans in aid either of the German armies against France or of the Austrian armies against Russia. Nothing would suit Germany better than a break between Bulgaria and the United States, for that would enable her to draw upon Bulgaria for troops and supplies wherever they were needed.

As it is, Bulgaria is decidedly friendly to the United States:—

> The Bulgarian Sobranje or congress has steadfastly stood out against a declaration of war against the United States. Premier Radoslavoff has offended the German and Austrian Governments by his refusal to break with America. Vice-Premier Pechoff has taken the same attitude and declared that he would resign if Bulgaria went to war against the United States.
>
> Bulgaria has no love for her present allies. The hereditary hatred against Turkey has never become extinguished and has recently been revived in the disputes over the border territory in the vicinity of Adrianople. The German and Austrian officers who during the war have been in Bulgaria have, as everywhere, aroused resentment by their overbearing dispositions and harsh treatment of the population. Bulgaria has all too little food of her own, and she resents having it confiscated for the benefit of Austria and Germany.
>
> Americans who have recently returned from Bulgaria report that they have been well treated throughout the war. The American schools in Bulgaria are running as usual and are well attended. The American Consul, General Murphy, still remains in Sofia, and is *persona grata* with the Bulgarian Government. There are now some twenty-five Americans resident in Bulgaria, missionaries, teachers, and commercial agents, and they have no complaint to make against the Bulgarians.

There can be no doubt, says the writer, that Bulgaria is heartily sick of the war, and if her soldiers have to spend another summer on the hot and fever-stricken lines of Macedonia they will be more disgusted than ever. But they cannot break with their Allies at the present time. The article concludes:—"The Bulgarian people are now realising that they are are on the wrong side. Before many weeks they will realise that they are on the losing side. When they find that they are not bound to their present Allies by bonds of sympathy or of interest, or of fear, it will be hard to keep them even nominally numbered among our enemies. In the meantime it is obviously our policy to avoid active hostilities toward Bulgaria as long as possible."

BRITISH AUTHORITIES AND PALESTINE RELIEF.

Benefits of the British Occupation.

Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson, C.B., K.B.E., Chief Red Cross Commissioner for Malta and the Near East, has recently concluded a personal inspection of the relief work originated by the Bishop of Jerusalem and now organised by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund (110, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1) in Jerusalem and other districts now in British occupation. His tour covered a good deal of ground, from the coast to the Dead Sea, and has resulted in an interesting report.

Speaking of Jerusalem, the chief centre of the relief activities, Sir Courtauld Thomson remarks:—"The work that impressed me most was in connection with the care of the children. In an incredibly short space of time the latter, large numbers of whom are orphans, have been transformed from the lowest type of street ragamuffins into clean, decently behaved and well-trained boys and girls. A proposal is being considered to teach the elder children useful trades." Hundreds of women and girls also are employed, and wear an air of self-respect and well-being. In the distribution of food and clothing "extraordinary care is taken by the representatives of the Relief Committee to investigate the cases before relief is given. A small army of skilled investigators has been gathered together, including some very high-class Moslem ladies, who are giving their services as a labour of love."

The work, Sir Courtauld Thomson states, is carried out with the knowledge and approval of the military authorities, who are very sympathetic to the aims and objects of the fund. There is thus no overlapping, but rather ample scope for the Relief Fund in directions outside the control of the administration, and the work is proceeding smoothly and on business-like lines. "In my opinion the work carried out by the Relief Fund is most efficient and of very considerable importance," adds Sir Courtauld Thomson. "Large sums of money can be expended, not only with the greatest possible benefit to the people for whom the fund administers, but to the general advantage of the whole countryside." General Sir Edmund Allenby, Commander of the Forces in Palestine, has endorsed Sir Courtauld Thomson's report.

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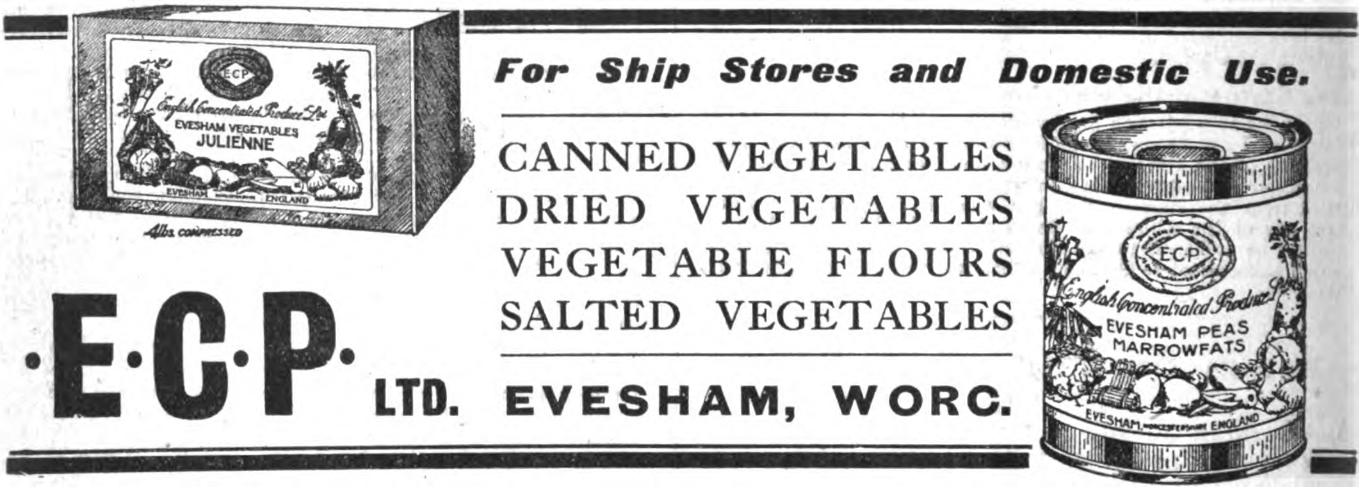
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The creation of a branch of the Mint in India has now been followed by an Ordinance of the Government of India granting authority for the coinage of a gold mohur of the fineness of a sovereign and of the value of Rs. 15.

⁂

The political aspirations that are leading Germany on to Mid-Asia are well known, but I am not sure that it is as generally recognised that industrial considerations drive her in the same direction. The desire to possess the Roumanian oilfields was natural enough, given the absence of all scruple in dealing with a vanquished enemy and property that belongs to others; but an even more imperative call in the eyes of some Germans—probably the most influential—is the possession of new iron ore deposits. The life of the German iron ores is estimated, I understand, at about fifty years; those of France at from three to four times as long, to say nothing of the fact that the French ores contain something like fifty per cent. more iron than the German ores; that is to say, their percentage of iron ranges from 45 to 50. while that of the German ore is between 30 and 35.

⁂

Hence the insistent demands in certain quarters for a German lien on France's mineral wealth as a result of victory in the present war. But in the East, too, there are valuable iron-ore deposits, apart from those of Poland and Lapland. In the matter of manganese ores, Germany is entirely dependent on supplies from abroad, and vicariously through the Turks or Bolsheviks she is now in sight of the big deposits in the Caucasus. In this part of the world she may not need to establish her hold on the ore in quite such a public fashion as she did in the case of the Roumanian oilfields. The Allies, therefore, have all the more reason to watch the Germans closely in their march eastwards, in order that they may not find when peace is concluded, and the opportunity of upsetting private arrangements has passed, that Germany is left with jumping-off places for fresh intrigues and further penetration in the form of concessions extracted in the course of her armed progress through these regions.

⁂

Reference was made at the recent general meeting of the Suez Canal Company to the increase of tariffs in 1917, which, it was stated, had compensated in a certain measure for the effect of traffic lost. There were, it will be remembered, two increases last year—one of 50c. introduced on January 1, and a second of 75c. imposed six months later, which brought the cost of transit up to 8f. 50c. These taxes increased the yield of the duties to 15,637,500 francs, but even at that figure there was a decrease of 15,000,000 francs compared with 1916. The board also abolished the benefits enjoyed by vessels in ballast, and the withdrawal of this concession is expected to have a notable influence on the receipts in the current year. In this connection it was pointed out that up to the present there had been a marked improvement in the receipts. The dividend of 65 francs net was based on the results of the year with the aid of a sum left over from 1916. It is gratifying to note that full confidence was expressed in the future, it being regarded as certain "that the revenue would attain not only the former standard, but grant full compensation for the sacrifices that present conditions impose."

⁂

Ceylon tea plantations on the whole seem to have had a better year than the Indian companies, thanks to the fact that they had rather better shipping facilities, and were thus able to dispose of their produce on the best terms. The report of the Ceylon Tea Plantations affords an example of the effect of war conditions on the island's main industry. The tea yield amounted to 4,213,000 lb., a decrease of 454,600 lb., but the net price realised was 10.68d., or 1d. in advance of the previous year's price. The rubber crop, on the other hand, increased by roughly 80,000 lb., but the price fell from 2s. 4.57d. to 1s. 11.92d. There was, however, an increase of £1,600 in the net profits, and the dividend has been maintained at the previous rate.

⁂

In a recent issue of the Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce for Egypt it is pointed out that German travellers' samples were packed in boxes of a very attractive appearance. That is just one of those details which seem insignificant, but which the astute German realises are all-important for successful trade in the bazaars. The journal advises British firms to use some more ornamental material than mere brown paper to wrap their samples in. Unfortunately, precedent is a stern master in this country, and until it has actually been done I shall remain dubious as to whether manufacturers will go out of their way to cater for Egyptian taste in this matter, unless convinced by bitter experience that there is no other way to increased trade except by meeting market requirements in such matters as this.

⁂

A syndicate has been formed, I understand, for the manufacture of matches in Ceylon, and preparations for the commencement of this new industry are well advanced, part of the machinery required having reached Colombo, and, presumably, no time will be lost in beginning operations. I shall follow the fortunes of this venture with keen interest, because hitherto the manufacture of matches has not been a success in India, where the home product has altogether failed to withstand outside competition. If the industry pays better in Ceylon it is to be hoped that it will lead to renewed efforts to establish the industry in India on a satisfactory basis, for there is no reason why India should not turn out as good and cheap matches as any country in the world.

⁂

This year's industrial exhibition in Gwalior was rendered exceptionally interesting by reason of a remarkably wide range of exhibits from the other Indian States, which shows that if for the time being Gwalior is ahead of the Indian States in matters of industrial development it is only a question of a relative advance, for in many of the States considerable progress has been made. Noteworthy among these exhibits were examples of the mineral, sericulture, textile, and metal ware industries of Indore. From Bhopal came textile and leather articles, while the hand industries of Jaipur, and the carpet and velvet industries of Kapurthala were also represented. Altogether, twelve Indian States sent examples of their industries to the exhibition, a fact which speaks volumes for the interest now roused in these States by questions of industrial development.

⁂

There seems every indication, I am glad to learn, that British firms trading in Morocco are availing themselves of the facilities for registering their trade marks. It is hoped that none of the firms concerned will fail to take advantage of this privilege, as the importance of trade marks registration in a country like Morocco is very considerable.

⁂

The British Trade Corporation has just formed a subsidiary undertaking entitled the Trade Indemnity Company which should prove a most important factor in the development of British commerce after the war. The capital of the new company is £100,000, of which £20,000 has been paid up, and there is, in addition, a reserve of £20,000, and its object is to assist British merchants and manufacturers by insurance in developing overseas business. Policies will be issued to insure the payment of commercial debts, and the company will be prepared to advance to an assured the amount of his liability in regard to a given debt against the transfer of the debt and the payment of interest on the amount advanced, pending the ascertaining of the outcome of an estate. Policies will also be granted insuring a client's turnover up to two-thirds against ultimate loss. The company will further issue policies covering a proportion of the losses that may arise in the event of a forced resale of goods owing to the buyer being unable to take up the shipping documents, and will also insure against a proportion of trader's losses in any one year over an agreed percentage of loss, and will finally assure approved accounts up to three-fourths of the amount of the debt.

⁂

It is scarcely necessary to emphasise the importance that should attach to the work of this company. In the past one of the great obstacles to the extension of our overseas trade outside the Empire, and especially in the Near East, was the uncertainty that often prevailed regarding the payment for goods. British merchants and manufacturers were extremely unwilling to do business with countries where unusual terms of credit were required, and where the risks, such as those attendant on international relations, for instance, were altogether greater than those encountered in other parts of the world. This attitude is comprehensible, but the only way to increase business is to take risks, and it is certain that if our ancestors had always acted on that principle there would have been no Empire to enable our merchants and manufacturers to decide where they would or would not trade. It may be hoped that the new company will remove the last objection on the part of British business men to interest themselves in what they regard as uncertain regions, as it will obviate the possibility of any serious loss in the process.

COMMENTATOR.

THE EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

II.—The Development of Industry.

In opening its remarks on the development of industry in Egypt, the commission points out that it is a delusion to say that Egypt can only be an agricultural and can never become an industrial country. In an exceedingly interesting historical note it shows that even in Pharaonic times the people were almost as much industrial as they were agricultural, whilst under the Arab *régime* Egypt was one of the great industrial nations of the world. The decadence of Egyptian industries coincided with the conquest of the country by the Turks, and was due to the facts that the discovery of the Cape by the Portuguese changed the trade route from the East to the West, and caused Egypt to lose the privileged position she had held in that respect up to then; that Constantinople took the place of Cairo as the residency of the Khalif; that the representatives of the latter paid no attention to the development of the country's resources, but concentrated their efforts on exacting as much revenue as possible from the people; that public security deteriorated; that the manufacture of war material, which had been carried on on a large scale in Egypt diminished as a result of Egypt's loss of independence and the reduction in her armies; and that the Turks transferred to Constantinople most of the masters of crafts.

Mohamed Ali's Work.

On the other hand, the regeneration of the country dates, as already mentioned, from the time of Mohamed Ali, who was throughout dominated with the desire to see Egypt released from her economic dependence on the outside world. That wonderful man started by giving his attention to resuscitating the shipbuilding industry, and created the arsenal of Bulac, which is working to this day, and where the ships required for his Hejaz campaign against the Wahabis were built in pieces and transported on camel back to Suez, where they were put together. War material of every description was also made in the special establishments he set up, whilst the equipment of his troops led to the creation of the first factories, notably the factory of Khoronfiche, where silk, cotton and velvet weaving was started, and several cotton looms in various parts of the country. He created sail cloth and glass as well as paper, soap, oil and candle factories, encouraged the cultivation of the mulberry tree and the breeding of silkworms, and introduced the sugar-cane; and, with a view to providing apprentices to carry on the work in the future, he founded the present School of Arts and Crafts at Bulac and increased very considerably the number of Egyptians sent to Europe to complete their technical education. Whilst Mohamed Ali might be reproached with not having laid solid foundations for his industrial enterprises, which therefore suffered once his personal influence had been withdrawn, it is undoubtedly to him that the industrial regeneration of modern Egypt is due, and the failure of his projects may be attributed more to the methods adopted by his successors than to the errors of judgment committed by him.

Obstacles to Progress.

As regards the present situation, the one handicap under which industry has laboured has been the feeling of indifference and contempt which industrial questions appear to arouse, and as a result the theory has gained ground that Egypt can never count on any other resources than the natural products of her soil and her agriculture. Industry attacked in its most vital parts could not hope to thrive or succeed, and from the day when Mohamed Ali died it has steadily dwindled in importance. It it true that about the middle of the last century foreign products flooded the Egyptian market, and that as a result local industries further declined; but that state of things by no means justified the inertia which came into existence, and the commission considers as deplorable the failure of the public as well as the authorities to take steps to preserve the very important industrial birthright which had been handed down to them, and to adapt it to meet the new conditions which had arisen. Such adaptation and preservation would have been all the more possible, seeing that the period in question was one in which European industries were still making their way. The natural result of this general indifference was that foreign trash displaced the more trivial and unimportant Egyptian productions, the popular taste became Europeanised, and Egyptian industry lost the position which it had once attained thanks to the talent and taste of its workers, who are certainly endowed with qualities of ability, sobriety, and assimilation, of infinite potential utility in any industrial development, and who degenerated to such an extent that they will have to be re-educated. Indeed, the taste of the Egyptian craftsman has been spoilt by the inertia which has taken place; he finds no pleasure in anything beautiful or finished; he is contented with the second best; and is not offended by bad workmanship.

The public indifference and the defects in the character and education of the Egyptian workers are the two obstacles which must be overcome in order to bring about a renaissance in Egyptian industry. The Egyptian Government has shown that it is aware that something drastic must be done, and during the past ten years it has given very close attention to technical education, whilst the Egyptian public has now abandoned many of its prejudices against industry, thanks, it is to be admitted, to the success which local enterprises have obtained owing to the war, to the anxiety aroused by the spread of pests attacking the crops, and lastly to the lessons taught by the war.

Small Industrial Population.

Turning to the statistical side of the question, the census of 1907 showed that 380,000 persons were engaged in industrial occupations, all but 20,000 of these being men. These figures have no doubt been increased since then, but the recent census figures are not yet available. It is, however, interesting to note that on the basis of total population the proportion occupied with industry is 3.4 per cent., compared with 24.5 per cent. in England, 8.5 per cent. in Switzerland, and 4.12 per cent. in Argentine, an agricultural country similar to Egypt. The industrial population is mostly occupied with the small industries. The greatest number, viz., 94,925, are occupied with building, next comes the weaving industry with 83,238, followed by dressmaking, etc., with 76,409; foodstuffs account for 40,669, and metal work for 30,111. The small industries are those carried out in workshops employing a limited number of workers, or in the dwellings of artisans working generally on their own account, with the help of a few apprentices. This is the most important category, since it occupies the largest number of workers, and extends to all the villages and towns of the country. The chief of these industries are building, weaving, dyeing, metal work, ironwork, woodwork, tannery, boot-making, milling, production of candles, oils and soap, jewellery, and fine carpentry. Although these industries are carried out all over the country there are certain centres where they are particularly followed. Mahalla, in the centre of the Delta, specialises in cotton and silk weaving, Damietta in silk weaving, boot-making, and carpentry; Galiub and Akhmin in cotton stuffs, Assiut in weaving, mosaic work and shawls; Keneb in pottery, Nakkada in cotton and silk stuffs in demand in the Sudan.

(*To be continued.*)

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PHOSPHATIC MANURES IN INDIA.

The Board of Agriculture in India has passed the following resolutions with regard to the report of the committee appointed to consider the value of local phosphatic manures :—1.—That with a view to encouraging the extended use of phosphatic manures, the board consider that a survey of the resources of the country in mineral phosphates should be undertaken by Government. In view of the vital importance to Indian agriculture of keeping the supply of phosphates at a price within the reach of the cultivator, the board suggest that control over all the internal mineral sources of supply should be retained by Government. 2.—That in view of the great distance over which manures must be carried in India from the centres of supply to the fields of cultivators, the board is of opinion that the question of reducing internal railway rates charged on such concentrated manures should be considered by the Railway Board.

TEA PRODUCTION IN INDIA.

A Blue Book, just issued, gives particulars of the production of tea in India in 1916. That year, it is stated, was not so prosperous as its predecessor, when a record outturn and a record price level were reached. Nevertheless, owing to increased acreage and scientific manuring, the outturn was larger than in any previous year except 1915, and the price was only 3 pies less per pound than the record of that year. The total area under tea was 650,800 acres, 2.5 per cent. greater than that in the preceding year. The area abandoned was 4,600 acres, while the new extensions (including replanting in areas abandoned in previous years) amounted to 20,500 acres. Thus the net increase during the year was 15,900 acres. Of the total area 601,400 acres were reported to have been planted during the year, as against 584,900 acres in the preceding year, and the total number of plantations was 4,486 in 1916, as against 4,437. The total production of both black and green teas in 1916 was 368,437,000 lb. (excluding Burma), as against 371,691,000 lb. The highest production in the year was in Lakhimpur, Assam, namely, 788 lb. per acre, and the lowest in Garhwal, U.P., namely, 52 lb. The total quantity of green tea reported to have been manufactured was 2,677,000 lb., compared with 3,043,000 lb. in 1915, and 3,050,000 lb. in 1914.

Export Trade.

The total exports by sea decreased by 47,000,000 lb., or 14 per cent., compared with 1915-16. Shipments to the United Kingdom decreased by 25,362,000 lb., or 10 per cent. Russia took about 9,000,000 lb. less than in 1915-16. France took only 80,000 lb., as against 183,000 lb. in the previous year. The total exports to Europe, excluding the United Kingdom, showed a net decrease of 9,100,000 lb. compared with 1915-16. Shipments to Cape Colony, Egypt, Madagascar, and Zanzibar and Pemba increased. The total trade with Africa increased by 34,000 lb., Cape Colony showing the most noticeable increase of 222,000 lb., which was partly set off by decreases in exports to East African ports and Natal. Of the American countries, shipments to Chile were almost double, but those to Canada and the United States were slightly less, compared with the preceding year. The total exports to America remained practically the same, namely, 13,200,000 lb. In Asia, the best customers of Indian tea are China, Ceylon, Persia, and Turkey (Asiatic), and the exports to these countries decreased. Russian Turkestan, to which there were no exports in the last two years, took about 913,000 lb. in the year under review. The trade with China consists almost entirely of tea-dust for the manufacture of brick tea for the Russian market. Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji took between them some 4,430,000 lb. less than in 1915-16. Exports by land decreased by 788,000 lb., or 41 per cent.

Prices and Prospects.

The average price per pound realised for all teas sold during 1916-17 at public auctions was 8a. 8p., against 8a. 11p. in 1915-16, and 7a. 7p. in 1914-15. The market was not subjected to the violent fluctuations of the preceding season.

The present position and prospects of the tea industry, the report adds, appear to be rather uncertain, depending entirely upon the duration of the war. If the war continues, the producers will, it is stated, have to face considerable difficulties owing to the shortage of tonnage, dislocation of finance and exchange, and lack of stores and machinery.

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STAMP DUTIES IN MOROCCO.

A regulation has recently been issued, under Article 143 of the Morocco Order in Council, 1889, which makes binding upon all persons to whom the aforesaid Order in Council applies, the provisions of a Dahir, dated February 15, 1917, which came into force on February 1. This Dahir provides for the imposition in the French Zone in Morocco of various stamp duties on documents, including negotiable instruments (bills of exchange, cheques, etc.), receipts, passports, and also on advertising posters, luminous signs, etc.

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The Ceylon Government has commandeered all petrol stocks. Ten gallons a month are to be allowed for cars and two gallons for motor-cycles.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

A Universal Tractor.

An agricultural machine that can be used for many purposes on a farm or large estate appeals to every farmer, but especially to the Oriental farmer, who, as a rule, is very keen on the possession of a servant, a beast, or a machine that can be "generally useful" on his farm. Thus, a new three-wheeled motor plough, which has recently been brought out by a well-known British firm of agricultural and general engineers, will be of much interest to landowners and farmers in the East. It is a self-contained motor plough, considerably larger than the usual run of this type of machine. The outstanding point is that it is a three-wheeled machine, all three wheels being driving-wheels. The ploughs, of which it normally carries four, are disposed within the wheelbase. The engine is placed in the framing near the front of the machine, and drives through two-speed-and-reverse gear of customary type to a counter-shaft. On the crankshaft are two chain-sprocket wheels, one of which serves to transmit the drive to the rear wheel, the other to the front live-axle. The drive to the rear steering-wheel is most interesting. This wheel is carried on a central bearing of large diameter, which surrounds, or contains, a vertical pivot. To the wheel itself is bolted a chain-ring, and this is coupled by a roller-chain to a driving pinion carried on a short length of shafting, which is supported by the same bracket and framing as the hub of the wheel. In consequence, when the wheel is turned in a horizontal plane for steering purposes, this driving sprocket pinion and its shaft turn with it. The end of the short shaft carries the pin of a universal joint, this pin being disposed so that it is in a direct line with the steering pivot. The other half of the universal joint is attached to an inclined short shaft, carried by the main frame, and on this short shaft is the sprocket-wheel, which takes the drive from the main countershaft. It is intended that the machine shall serve as a universal purpose tractor, and it is therefore fitted with drawbar, belt pulley for use when driving stationary machinery, and, furthermore, it should be noted that the front axle is sprung, an essential feature for a road machine.

Sudan Transport Difficulties.

A Sudan Government official has written to a London contemporary saying that owing to the abnormal use of transport animals for war purposes, and to the increased demand abroad for all overseas produce, there are considerable difficulties in the Sudan with regard to transport. He suggests that some form of mechanical transport would be a business proposition. The best means of transport in the Sudan at present is the railway but what is required is some mechanical means of covering districts at a distance from the railway line. Upon that point the writer asks for advice as to the most suitable tractor or similar vehicle. The best machine, he thinks, would be a slow-moving tractor, working with either a steam or oil engine. It would, of necessity, have to be strongly built for rough roads, and must not require too much water, as it will work in waterless areas. The cost of upkeep and fuel would be most important, as it would have to compete with camel transport. It should be capable of extracting itself and its trailers from sandy places, and no rubber tyres or other parts likely to perish with the heat could be fitted. The difficulty with a steam tractor is that it requires more water than is available on long desert journeys. Mechanical transport by Ford cars has been carried on for a long time between two towns on the desert in Egypt, but for military purposes, and this would be impossible as a business proposition. The tyres alone, the writer says, would cost more than could be made by freight. The sum of £3 per ton per hundred miles, he suggests, would be reasonable expenses, therefore a tractor moving 50 tons would cover £150 per trip each way. Against this must be reckoned: capital expense, fuel, wood, £1 per ton; coal, £20 per ton; petrol, 4s. 6d. per gallon; European skilled drivers, £25 per month, or two trips; and upkeep and depreciation.

Earning Capacity Insufficient.

In view of the above conditions the whole question resolves itself into one of cost of maintenance and service. This would appear to be limited by the maximum earning capacity on a ton basis, i.e., £3 per ton per 100 miles, or just over 7d. per ton-mile, which, as the journal remarks, would be altogether insufficient to cover the cost of road haulage by whatever means in such a district remote from works and with such very high fuel and other costs. The cost of operation of a 5-ton rubber-tyred lorry in such circumstances—and provided that rubber tyres were permissible, which they are not—would certainly exceed 6s. a mile, and on the writer's showing a 5-ton load would only bring in just under 3s. a mile!

It is not improbable that there may be some miscalculation on the part of the correspondent, for, of course, as the journal says, the employment of a tractor or traction engine capable of hauling 50 tons is quite out of the question; no practical machine of such capacity fitted with an internal-combustion engine is or has been on the market, and the use of a large caterpillar-type tractor would be impracticable, at any rate in the present stage of development of that class of design; and unless there is some way of very materially increasing the ton-mile earnings, the special and onerous conditions appear to preclude possible operation on a commercial basis. In the meantime, the question is of much importance from many points of view, for it is not only the Sudan, but many other regions in the East, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Greece, also East Africa, Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, etc., that are in great need of inland communication and transport, and it is not too soon for British engineers to study these countries' requirements in this respect. Makers of transport vehicles, especially, should try to make known their productions there, and thus enable interested people generally to study the particulars of the machines and communicate with them when orders are to be given.

Dry Powder Sprayers.

Before the use of sulphate of copper against that terrible pest of the vine, the peronosporos, wet spraying was almost unknown in the East. Dry spraying with sulphur powder was in general use throughout vine-growing districts, this being done once or twice and often three times a year. The powder was sprayed by means of small cylindrical castors made of tin, and hand bellows. These primitive devices are still being used, as sulphate of copper wet spraying appears not to protect the vine from other diseases which the sulphur prevents. In recent years wet spraying has been introduced for fruit trees, garden plants, etc., and the system is gradually growing in favour, but dry spraying is still favoured by the majority of the Oriental farmers. In Canada and the United States dry spraying is now preferred, and in a recent report of experiments conducted by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, it is stated that "dusting has many advantages over spraying under average conditions" for, apart from the time and trouble of preparing the liquid, which proved that "the amount of work accomplished with the duster was more than three times as much as with sprayers, which is very important in wet seasons, the spreading qualities of fine dust are greater than liquids, consequently more thorough work would be expected from the former in the hands of an inexperienced or careless worker." The Oriental farmer has, therefore, an excellent precedent in adhering to his old method of "dusting."

One of the newest apparatus for dry spraying is, we believe, suitable for general service with sulphur, lime, etc., and more important than anything else is very portable, and within the financial means of the average Oriental farmer or smallholder. It is a light apparatus on wheels, and can be worked by hand whilst it is stationary, or will work automatically as it is drawn through the plantation or the vineyards. It is provided with hose and lances for spraying high trees, and also piping and fittings for spraying along the ground as it is drawn along. With one or two of such apparatus, a very large number of castors and bellows and farm hands can be dispensed with, which means money and time-saving, and, in addition, perfect spraying.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Dull Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has been comparatively quiet. Buyers find the conditions distinctly against them, and in most quarters there has been considerable indifference on the part of producers as to booking fresh orders. It is understood that the work of the Cotton Control Board is being extended, and powers are about to be given to the members to consider the probable trade situation at the close of the war with the idea of making suggestions to the Government as to what action shall be taken in connection with this matter. Private and public reports relating to the American crop remain encouraging. As is usual at this time of the year, rather varied advices are being received relating to the Egyptian growth. Spinners of Egyptian yarns remain in a strong position. The majority of spinners are very independent. Only a small trade has been done in piece goods suitable for Egypt. Buyers are waiting for fuller clearances abroad before committing themselves to large contracts with local manufacturers. Standard goods for India and China have attracted very little attention. Some substantial contracts have been in the market in jeans for the Government. A healthy flow of orders continues to show itself in home trade fabrics. American yarns have been sold irregularly, but prices have again tended to harden. Certain marks are very scarce indeed. Very little has been done in export yarns.

JUTE EXPORTS AND GERMANY.

In the House of Commons on June 19, Commander Leverton Harris, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to Ministry of Blockade, asked by Sir J. D. Rees whether shipments of jute through England or directly from India were being consigned to the National Ropeworks, a German-owned factory in Italy; whether such consignments were reaching Germany as hemp *viâ* Switzerland; and whether jute had been declared contraband of war, so that vessels found by our patrol ships to be carrying this product were brought before our Prize Courts for adjudication, said:—I will ask the hon. member to accept my regret for the delay which has occurred in replying to his question, and which is due to the fact that inquiries had to be made in India. In reply to the first part of the question, I am informed that five consignments of jute were shipped to this company under licence from India prior to April, 1917, the Italian Government having prohibited the export of jute from Italy. Since April, 1917, no further shipments have taken place. With regard to the second part of the question, proceedings were taken against the company by the Italian Government on the grounds that they had exported jute to enemy countries under the designation of hemp, and contrary to the prohibitions of export in force. The president and general manager were arrested upon a charge of trading with the enemy, but have since been released on the ground of insufficient evidence. The reply to the third part of the question is in the negative, but, as the hon. member will be aware, jute is a natural monopoly of British India, and his Majesty's Government have a complete control over its export and distribution. **Sir A. Fell**: Is the Department certain now that none of this jute is reaching Germany through Switzerland? **Commander Leverton Harris**: Yes, Sir. We believe the Italian Government are taking every precaution.

EGYPTIAN EXPORT REGULATIONS.

The Egyptian General Post Office announced last month that by permission of the military authorities tobacco and cigarettes may now be despatched by civilians to military addresses abroad. It was also notified that the despatch of silk to the Allied countries is authorised. Cotton yarn and cotton twist, either imported, or of Egyptian manufacture, cannot be exported to any destination except in virtue of an export licence from the War Trade Department.

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Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

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POWER LINE TO MOROCCO.

Regular Service of First-Class Steamers taking cargo to and from **London** and **Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi** and **Mogador**. Loading Berth—Morocco Wharf, Wapping.

SAILINGS FORTNIGHTLY.

The hulls of the above steamers are insured under the Government War Risk.
For Rates of Freight, Sailing Dates, etc., apply to **THE POWER STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.** (James Power & Co.),
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BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.

Established 1894.

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

HEAD OFFICE: 17 and 18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. **Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000**
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. **Reserve - - - - - £220,000**

Directors:
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P.
D. Q. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P.
GEORGE MILLER, Esq.
W. F. MOORE, Esq.
GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, G.C.M.G., M.P.
MAZZINI STUART, Esq., J.P.
O. HARRISON WILLIAMS, Esq.

Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers*: G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

BRANCHES: MOROCCO — Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Saffi, Tangier.
CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Secondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

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CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
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Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS.

And at CALCUTTA,
DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE,
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Telegrams—"Mentally
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For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")

WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)

ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

SARSAPARILLA

"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*

Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most
WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

'We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**"—Medical Review.
'The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

New Egyptian.

The report of the directors of the New Egyptian Company states that the profit and loss account for the year ended December 31 shows a credit of £35,613 11s. 11d. Deducting £5,442 10s. for the service of the debentures, there remains a profit for the year of £30,171 1s. 11d. Adding £16,630 6s. 7d. brought forward from last year, the balance at the credit of the account amounts to £46,801 8s. 6d., from which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 1s. per share (equal to 6 2-3 per cent.), less income-tax. The net income derived from the estates amounts to £23,390 19s. 4d., or an increase of £6,730 14s. 4d., as compared with the previous year. Owing to the high prices of agricultural produce and the greater fertility of the land, the rentals for the current year show a satisfactory increase. The British Government's decision to purchase the current cotton crop at the price of 42 dollars per cantar assures a substantial profit to the fellaheen. The flood of 1917 was the highest experienced since 1895, and with one exception all the estates have materially benefited. The Government's decision to restrict the cotton area to one-third will have little or no effect as far as the company's lands are concerned, as the managing director in Egypt has for some years past followed a similar policy. Continuing the method adopted last year, only sales for which deeds were signed on or before December 31 have been taken into account. The area sold was 531 feddans, 381 in Lower Egypt at an average price of £100 6s. 2d. per feddan, and 150 in Upper Egypt at an average price of £111 10s. 7d. per feddan. A further 916 feddans were sold at satisfactory prices, but the deeds were not signed at the conclusion of the financial year. The capital expenditure during the year in Lower Egypt amounted to £4,921 13s. 6d., as compared with £5,590 2s. 3d. during the previous year. The capital expenditure during the year in Upper Egypt was £937 17s. 11d., as compared with £365 11s. 4d. The area of the town sites in Cairo, Port Said and Khartoum remains the same as last year. During the year ended December 31, 1917, the company's loans were reduced by over £12,000. Since that date a further £20,000 has been paid off, and the debenture debt has been reduced by the purchase and cancellation of £25,000 debentures.

Bombay Electric.

The report of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Limited, states that the total revenue for the year from all sources, including the amount represented by sale of current to the tramways, amounted to £439,850—an increase of £66,383 over the total revenue for the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to £183,457—an increase of £26,769 over the total expenditure for the previous year. The net receipts from the year's working aggregated £256,393—an increase of £39,614 over those for the previous year. After deductions, aggregating £113,141, there remains an available balance of profit of £143,250, to which has to be added the amount brought forward, £5,214, making a balance of profit available for distribution of £148,465. The directors recommend that this sum should be appropriated as follows:—To dividend (free from all income tax to shareholders domiciled in India) for the year on six per cent. cumulative preference shares, £35,997; to payment of dividend (free from all income tax to shareholders domiciled in India) for the year on ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, £100,800; to bonus of one month's pay to the company's officers and employees, £4,900; to be carried forward, £6,768.

Western Australian Insurance.

The report of the Western Australian Insurance Company for the year ended June 30, 1917, states that net premiums, which, in addition to marine, include fire and other departments, rose from £180,716 to £727,868. The 1916 net outgo losses and expenses was 85.76 per cent. of net premiums; 1917 losses were £522,216, or 71.75 per cent. of net premiums, and expenses of management and depreciation were £27,095, or 3.72 per cent.; total, 75.47 per cent. Balance carried down, £183,832. Including amount brought forward, total reserves for unexpired risks and contingencies amounts to £200,000, or 27.47 per cent. of 1917 premiums. Claims do not include outstanding losses. Paid-up capital increased to £100,000. Investments amount to £113,094; total depreciation allowances, £1,244. Transferred to profit and loss, £24,795. Directors declare dividend of 77 per cent. (against 76 per cent.), payable on £60,000.

The report of the Doranakande Company for 1917 states that the profit amounted to £8,708 and £5,827 was brought in, giving £14,535. The directors transfer to reserve development account £1,500, leaving to be carried forward £13,035. They recommend that in view of the critical situation a dividend should be deferred until position becomes clearer.

The report for the past year of the the Indian Peninsula Rubber and Tea Company shows crops harvested:—Coffee, 183½ tons, against estimate 186 tons; tea, 303,451 lbs., against estimate 300,000 lbs.; rubber, 122,639 lbs., against estimate 140,000 lbs. The manager's estimates for current years are:—Coffee, 175½ tons; tea, 350,000 lbs.; rubber, 157,000 lbs. Whole expenditure on estates for past year has been charged to revenue account and £1,000 written off for depreciation of buildings and machinery, leaving net profit £3,126. Including £2,837 brought forward, the credit balance is £5,964, which it is proposed to carry forward.

The net profit of the Panawatte Tea and Rubber Estates for 1917 amounts to £31,703, against £39,010; final dividend of 15 per cent. (making 22½ per cent. for the year), against 25 per cent.; depreciation, £1,000, the same; general reserve, £2,500, against £5,000; forward, £12,526, against £10,198.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Upper Assam Tea Company.—Dividend of 12½ per cent (2s. 6d. per share), less tax, for 1917, payable July 1.

Hyderabad (Deccan) Company.—Interim dividend of 1s. per share, less tax, will be paid 24th inst. Coupon No. 25 will be met at the National Bank of India, 26, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, on that date.

Warrants for dividends on the preferred and deferred stocks of the Indian and General Investment Trust, Limited, have been posted.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C., announce the numbers of Three per Cent. Bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway, drawn for repayment at par on July 15.

Talons attached to the bonds of the Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. Gold Loan of 1898 should be lodged forthwith at the Bank of England Loans Office, 5 and 6, Lombard Street, E.C., in order to be exchanged for new coupon sheets.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week ending June 9, 21 tons (last week, 611 tons). Hurgada production for week ending June 9, 4,633 tons (last week, 4,415 tons). Telegram mutilated.

SUDAN COINAGE.

An ordinance to regulate coinage in the Sudan entitled "The Coinage Ordinance, 1918" has recently been issued in a special number of the *Sudan Gazette*. The main provisions are as follows:—The Egyptian coinage of gold, silver, nickel and bronze, described in Article 1 to 10 inclusive of the Decree of his Highness the Sultan of Egypt entitled Law No. 25 of 1916 and in the second of the two Orders made by the Egyptian Minister of Finance and dated October 18, 1916, shall be legal tender in the Sudan. A list of the coins so described is set out in the schedule annexed. The British sovereign shall be legal tender in the Sudan at such rate and subject to such conditions as the Financial Secretary, with the consent of the Governor-General in Council, may order. The Egyptian silver, nickel and bronze coins of the old issues minted under the Decrees of the Egyptian Government dated November 14, 1885, and November 13, 1887, shall continue to be legal tender in the Sudan until withdrawn from circulation by order of the Governor-General in Council after such a period of notice as may be specified in such order. No person shall be obliged to accept a payment in silver exceeding 200 piastres or in nickel and bronze exceeding 10 piastres.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The proceeds of the annual sale of liquor licences in Rangoon amounted to Rs.7,50,405.

The paid-up share capital of joint stock companies incorporated in India and registered under the Indian Companies Act amounted to Rs.94 crores at the end of last year, as against Rs.75 crores at the end of June, 1914. In other words, there has been an increase since the war of roughly 25 per cent.

Mr. G. W. Black, who is succeeding Sir W. B. Henry as manager of the Alliance Bank of Simla, was formerly manager of the Presidency Bank of Madras, and since the war broke out has visited Russia, Italy, and France on an important mission.

The Government of India have prohibited the export of mineral lubricating oils to all destinations. For the present the prohibition applies only to imported oils.

Ceylon's revenue in the first quarter of the current financial year was Rs.1,69,09,395, as against Rs.1,73,54,063 for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The *Sudan Government Gazette* of April 25 contained a copy of a Proclamation prohibiting until further notice the import of gold into the Sudan in the form of coin, whether whole or broken, or ingots, save under licence from the Financial Secretary, Sudan Government, or his authorised representative.

TRADE WITH MOROCCO.

The *Board of Trade Journal* states that United Kingdom firms receiving offers of local agents' services to represent their interests in Morocco (including Melilla, Tetuan, Ceuta, and Tangier) are advised to make a personal application for further information on the offers to the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) before any such offer is accepted.

CO-OPERATION IN BURMA.

From the Burma Government resolution on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act, for the year ended June, 1917, it appears that the number of societies in Burma increased from 2,251 to 2,575, the members from 51,356 to 61,105, and the working capital from Rs106.82 lakhs to 150.08 lakhs. The Lieutenant-Governor was glad to note the special attention given to the development of the system of district central banks. The application of co-operation to schemes of land colonisation continued to be successful and areas in Upper Burma were settled in this manner.

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An interim dividend of 5 per cent. (10s. per share) on ordinary shares has been declared by the directors of Ceylon and Indian Planters Company. Last year the dividend was the same.

The directors of Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea have declared a half-year's dividend to date on preference shares of 5 per cent., less tax at 5s. 9d. in £, and final dividend on ordinary shares on account of 1917 of 22½ per cent., less tax at 5s. in £, payable 29th instant.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended May 20.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
May 11 to 20	4,883	6.907
April 1 to May 20	27,415	38,171

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
June 8, 9, 10	430,000	620,000

THE MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT, LTD.

The Board having decided to pay a DIVIDEND on the 5% Cumulative Preferred Shares for the half year ending the 30th JUNE, 1918, WARRANTS will be posted on the 29th instant, and the books will be closed from the 17th JUNE to the 30th JUNE inclusive.

17th June, 191 ROBERT W. EGGAR, Secretary.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, Thursday.

Business has again been on a very small scale. In Government stocks the demand has continued, and there is a further rise of ½ to be recorded in Unifieds at 89, but sellers are as scarce as ever. In Bank shares the demand for Nationals has been persistent, but without altering the price or leading to much business, as the supply of shares at the present level seems to be very restricted. In Agriculturals a few transactions have taken place round the current price, and the same remark applies to Agricultural Preferences, which latter have been persistently inquired for. A feature has been the rise in Anglo-Egyptian Banks, which are again ½ higher at 16⅞. Land Banks have also risen ⅛ to 6¾ as the result of buying orders from Egypt, but no business has resulted.

In Railways, Delta Lights are 1-16 firmer at 6½, at which price a small transaction was effected. Amongst Land descriptions, Behéra Preferences are 1-16 firmer at 4 5-16, but buyers are finding it impossible to obtain shares. New Egyptians have been a feature, rising 9d. to 17s. 7½., on the issue of an exceedingly satisfactory report and the declaration of a dividend of 1s. per share, which is the first dividend since the war. The report confirms the very satisfactory accounts circulated for some considerable time past regarding the present position and the future prospects of this company. In other land shares there has been a certain amount of business passing round current levels, and there are, generally speaking, buyers available where shares are offered.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Waters are unchanged at 11 11-16 xd. Some business has been done in Salts and Sodas, and a feature has been the rise of 1s. 9d. in Khedivial Mails to 40s. 6d., and of 3-16 in the Preference shares to 3 15-16.

Greek securities have continued in strong demand from all quarters, but business has almost been impossible owing to the lack of sellers. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are 2 points up at 64. Monopolies have risen 4 points to 60. Rentes are 1 point higher at 50, and the 1890 loan has risen about 2 points to 61 xd. A further improvement of 2 points has taken place in the 1902 Railway Loan to 66.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at February 28, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		£E. 2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,837,745
Mixed Tribunals		2,321,005
Egyptian Government		6,272,348
Bankers' Accounts		370,101
Cheques and Bills payable		179,452
Sundry other Accounts		675,689
		£E.25,203,036
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 8,157,448
Sundry Securities		261,223
Advances on Merchandise		3,042,538
Advances on Securities		1,341,444
Advances otherwise Secured		1,616,615
Sundry other Advances		476,238
Bills of Exchange		5,652,233
Local Bills Discounted		100,319
Buildings and Furniture		219,312
Money at call and at short notice		1,267,500
Bankers' Accounts		1,561,677
Sudan Government		125,321
Sundry other Accounts		160,030
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,168,392	
Gold	30,507	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	22,239	
		1,221,138
		£E.25,203,036

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£E. 30,400,000
	£E.30,400,000
Gold	£E. 3,601,004
*British Treasury Bills	11,598,996
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	—
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	551,582
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	14,648,418
	£E.30,400,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See Journal Officiel " of October 30, 1916).

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. June 12	June 19
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89	89½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	62	64
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	62	64
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	56	60
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	49	50
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	61	61xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	60	60
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	64	66
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	61	61
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	15⅞	16⅞
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7	6¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅝	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17 3/16	17 3/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 7/16	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/6	21/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/16	4 5/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/7½	12/7½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅝	1 1/16	1 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/10½	17/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅛	2⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3	3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	11 11/16 xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	38/-	38/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	38/9	40/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3¾	3 15/16

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON MAY 24.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	17⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	91½
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	123
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	12½
,, priv.	L.E.	4 7/16
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	184
Bons de Panama	Frs.	125½
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	84
,, Priv.	Frs.	105
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	92
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3¼
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 7/16
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 1/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5 1/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	8⅜
Unifiée	L.E.	91
Privilégiée		78
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 3/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	5⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 1/32
,, Fondateur	£	540
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅜
,, Ord		36/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	19⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4 7/32
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 11/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	108xd
,, Jouissance	Frs.	167xd
Egyptian Markets		25/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440
,, Div.	Frs.	380
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	282xd
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5⅛xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda		38/1½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	712
,, Fondateur	Frs.	802½
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	383
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	289½
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	280½
United Lands	P.T.	9
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		¾

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended June 7.		1918. Week ended June 6.
Cattle markets	421	..	364
General markets	425	..	368
Receipts (£)	846	..	732
Total for year	31,708	..	24,972

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK,

LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	**£1,500,000**
Paid up Capital - -	**500,000**
Reserve - - - - - -	**710,000**

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	**£600,000**
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND - - - -	**75,000**

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	**£650,000**
RESERVE - - - - - - -	**£190,000**
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	**£1,000,000**

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.

Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund - - - - -	**Rs.50,00,000**

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

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By Order of the Board,

H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Alexandria, Egypt, June 4, 1918.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 373.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The fall of the Radoslavoff Cabinet has elicited many protestations to the effect that a change of Government entails no change in Bulgaria's foreign policy. King Ferdinand has hastened to assure the German Emperor that he need have no anxiety on this point, and has received in reply a eulogy of M. Radoslavoff and a testimonial to his own political intentions. M. Malinoff, the new Prime Minister, has very properly deprecated all attempts to prescribe a foreign policy for him before he has had time to take stock of the position. There can be no doubt that the first measures of the new Government must be directed towards providing food for the people and the army. While this task is being completed the Bulgarians will be able to watch developments both in Austria-Hungary and on the Western front. It will be soon enough to consider the question of foreign policy when the new Prime Minister has made his own position in the country secure.

M. Malinoff is a lawyer, not given to many words and well able to keep his own counsel. Before the war he held that Bulgaria's destiny lay in the maintenance of close relations with Russia, her liberator, and as a democrat he admired Great Britain and British institutions. During the last four years he may be trusted to have studied the general trend of events. In common with everyone else he will have noted that Russia's interest in the Balkans has been eliminated for many years, if not for all time. This fact must throw the Balkan States either into the power of Germany and Austria-Hungary or upon their own resources. Bulgaria has had some experience of the former condition, and if M. Malinoff is satisfied with the position, he will have no difficulty in confirming the Central Powers in their hegemony as far as Bulgaria is concerned. On the other hand, having once been interested in democratic institutions, he will recognise that this state of affairs will not be conducive to the spread of democratic principles. But it may be that on this matter his political outlook has changed as a result of the war; on this subject we have no information. On the other hand, if he still remains a democrat at heart and considers that the Balkan States as a result of the war will be thrown almost entirely on their own resources, we may have an explanation of the very pronounced anxiety in Germany over his appointment as Prime Minister.

On two aspects of the situation in the Balkans we have very positive information; first, that the food position in Bulgaria is serious, and secondly, that relations between Bulgaria and Turkey are sufficiently strained to cause annoyance to the Central Powers. Transport difficulties are said to be a prominent factor in the shortage of food supplies. If that is the case, it may be inferred that the subserviency of the Radoslavoff Cabinet caused it to part with both rolling stock and produce for the benefit of Germany and to the prejudice of Bulgaria. This may be one of the matters to engage the attention of the new Government, and German anxiety over the advent to power of M. Malinoff may be based on the fear that a number of arrangements which worked well under M. Radoslavoff will now be subjected to inconvenient, if not actually hostile, investigation.

The trouble between Turkey and Bulgaria was too fundamental to be avoided even by a Bulgarian Government in very intimate association with Berlin. In this connection it is of interest to note the difference between the German official and unofficial versions of the problem. Speaking in the Main Committee of the Reichstag Herr von Kühlmann, the Foreign Secretary, explained the position in regard to the Dobruja. All three allies unanimously considered it fair and just to let the portion of that territory occupied by the allied troops fall to Bulgaria. As, however, this territory was jointly conquered by Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey, it seemed fair that the transfer to Bulgaria should only take place after discussion among the allies. "The discussion with the two Central Powers would offer no difficulties." The position was different between Bulgaria and Turkey, for the latter sought compensation for the considerable sacrifices in blood and treasure in territory that had been ceded by Turkey to Bulgaria on the Maritza immediately before Bulgaria's entry into the war. These concessions had created a highly undesirable frontier, and "no impartial observer could doubt that what had taken place could not be permanent, and that friendly discussion concerning the matter and the clearing up of the position were absolutely essential. Unfortunately," continued Herr von Kühlmann, "there still exist between our allies certain sentimental grievances left by the Balkan War, which make the treatment of such delicate frontier questions appear rather thorny."

The unofficial version of the dispute, which is given in the *Weser Zeitung*, shows even more clearly that German sympathies are wholly with the Turks. Bulgaria is represented as continually expanding her war aims. At first she was going to be content with Macedonia and direct contact with Austria-Hungary. After Roumania's entrance into war she desired first Southern

Dobruja, but after the occupation of Roumanian territory to the mouth of the Danube she wished to incorporate the whole of the Dobruja. As a Greater Bulgaria can only be created at the cost of Roumania, Serbia, and Greece, the fear is expressed that Bulgaria may lack the statesmanship required to preserve her from being surrounded by irreconcilable adversaries. But the crux of the situation is shown to be the very explicit objection of Germany—the onus, of course, being put upon Austria-Hungary and Turkey—to having all lines of communication with Constantinople "passing for all time through Bulgarian territory," as would be the case, if the Bulgarians obtained control of the railway to Constanza and of the latter port.

When it is remembered that the Radoslavoff Cabinet was to all intents and purposes the creature of Germany, that King Ferdinand is his own Foreign Minister, and that these differences of opinion between Bulgaria and her partners arose under the late Government; it will be seen that the situation in Bulgaria is fraught with interesting possibilities. If he could have had his own way, M. Radoslavoff would have done nothing to embarrass the Central Powers, his real masters. When he has been forced to make himself a positive thorn in the flesh to them he is removed from office and a successor appointed who has been conspicuous in the past for his lack of sympathy with the Central Powers. King Ferdinand was strictly accurate when he assured the German Emperor that by M. Malinoff's appointment Bulgaria's foreign policy would not undergo any change. Her foreign policy has always been opportunist, and it will remain so. To-day it is clearly the opportunity of the Allies, and it is to be hoped that they are ready to profit by it.

If we may believe a Turkish newspaper, quoted by the *Vorwärts*, Turkey has also been dreaming dreams in regard to war aims. Taken all together, her demands are wonderfully comprehensive. Not only is the *status quo ante bellum* in regard to the Ottoman Empire and Turkish domination in Egypt to be restored, but Turkey is to be handed back Crete, Tripoli, Cyrenaica, and the Dodecanese. Further, she demands "the domination of Turkey over the Black Sea and the placing of all the States bordering that sea under Turkish protection; the placing of an Ottoman prince on the Crimean throne, a German prince in Georgia, and an Austrian Archduke in Armenia as Regents." The formulation of these terms might be held to concern only Turkey; but, unfortunately for Germany, they are introduced by a preamble which points out that, if Turkey had not entered the conflict, the Allies would have been saved five theatres of war, and that this would probably have meant the speedy defeat of the Central Powers. A very sound piece of reasoning. The least, therefore, that the Central Powers can do for Turkey is to see that she gets all she wants out of the war. It would be interesting to know to which demand the German Government feels more favourably disposed: that the war should be continued until Turkey is given all she asks for in Europe, Asia, and Africa, or that Germany should surrender her the Black Sea and its northern and eastern littoral. If the German Imperial Chancellor has time to spare for Turkey from St. Augustine and the annotation of awkward speeches made by his Foreign Secretary, he may be tempted to wonder, with Jehoram, whether a preposterous request is not being made with the object of seeking a quarrel.

The Turkish entry into Tabriz is reported to have been accompanied with typical excesses, which included the sacking of the American and British Consulates and the seizure of the American hospital. For this reason President Wilson is to be asked again to reconsider his decision that war should not be declared by the United States upon Turkey. The American Government can be relied upon to approach the matter from the point of view of the relative advantages to be gained from the two courses rather than of what may or may not be technically a *casus belli*. As the determining consideration when the question was last raised was that, in the event of Turkey wishing to drop out of the war, it would be useful to the Allies to have one of their number who was not actually in a state of war with Turkey, it is clear that the same point holds good still. More, indeed, than ever, in view of the strained relations between Turkey and Bulgaria, and the growing dissatisfaction in the Ottoman Empire with the war.

The announcement that three thousand German troops have landed at Poti, a Black Sea port thirty-five miles north of Batoum, carries the German thrust into mid-Asia an important step forward. Hitherto the German Government has appeared content to accept the Turk as its agent in this part of the world; but either from dissatisfaction with their methods of promoting German interests or because the straining of relations between Turkey and Germany causes Turkish loyalty to be suspect, the work is now to be carried on by the Germans themselves. It was not difficult to find an excuse for the landing of German troops. The appeal of the Georgians, whether official or unofficial, for protection against the Turks, or the propriety of affording help to their allies, the Turks, would do equally well to mask the real intention to establish German domination in the Caucasus, with its important mineral wealth. This new development in the Middle East makes it the more urgent that the Allies should take definite steps to counteract the menace. Fortunately, feeling in Russia is growing daily in favour of intervention, and is perhaps already a long way ahead of the Allies' preparations.

Military operations in Palestine during the past week have again been restricted to air work, with the exception of a cavalry reconnaissance east of the Jordan. This district remains the crux of the position, and until the enemy is definitely dislodged from the Hejaz railway at this point there can be no general advance to any great distance at other parts of the British line. Air attacks, however, to achieve decisive results must be on a big scale and frequent; in this matter General Allenby is up against the inevitable limitations upon his resources.

In the meantime the introduction of settled government in the occupied territory of Palestine is making headway. Civil Courts of Justice are about to be established. The Court of Appeal will be at Jerusalem; it will also sit as a Court of Assize, and go on circuit. For the present there will be two Courts of First Instance—at Jerusalem and Jaffa—with special Courts in the districts (*kazas*) where there is no Court of First Instance. The *personnel*, it is announced by *The Times* from Egypt, will include a certain number of British officers possessing legal experience and knowledge of Arabic, while the staff of the Courts will be reserved as much as possible for the inhabitants. Local law, which will be subsantially unaltered, will be administered, except for special provisions arising from the military operations and the special Turkish legislation.

Two interesting anniversaries occur this week—that of the Battle of Kossovo, 1389, celebrated as the Serbian National Day, and the first anniversary of Greece's entry into the war. The thoughtfulness of the Serbian colony in London in associating with their own national heroes whom they honour each June 28 the British soldiers who laid down their lives fighting on Serbia's behalf will be appreciated throughout the British Empire. The British public is also ready to pay its tribute to the splendid work done by the Greek Army in recovering within the short space of a few months from the demoralisation of the Constantine regime. It has been no mean achievement for an army to pull itself together so rapidly and so effectually that the first anniversary of Greece's entry into the war finds it already with such a notable success to its credit as that won recently on the Skra di Legen.

Last week's meeting of the Indian Section of the Society of Arts afforded Mr. Montagu an opportunity of turning aside for a moment from political and constitutional questions to discuss the economic position of

India, which, as we have so often insisted, is of even greater importance. It is satisfactory to be able to recognise that the Secretary of State has grasped the essential points, the excessive dependence of the people on a single source of livelihood, and the paramount need for a large development of industries, and it is perhaps not too much to hope that the impending reforms have been planned, and will be put into execution, in such a way as to help rather than hinder the economic changes which will eventually give the people a more generous supply of the essential needs of life.

We do not know whether this opportunity was welcomed by Mr. Montagu, but at any rate his remarks fit in with the present temper of India as indicated in recent cablegrams and displayed at greater length in the mails which have just reached this country. Judging from these sources of information, politics are for the moment "off." The business of the hour is to "boom" the War Loan, and co-operate heartily with the new administrative machinery created as the result of the Delhi Conference, though criticism of this machinery is not entirely ruled out. Politicians have turned their energies to recruiting, and agitation, we are given to understand, is confined to a small and discredited minority. The picture is so attractive that one hardly dares to accept it, but we may at least hope that it represents the most important facts.

All this energy is directed primarily towards helping to win the war, but it must not be forgotten that much of it will yield a second crop in the coming years of peace. Industries which have been created or modernised will not disappear when the immediate need has passed, while any advance which may be made towards clearer economic thinking or saner economic action will constitute a permanent asset. The Publicity Board, for instance, is making a great effort to persuade the people not to hoard rupees, a practice of which the existence, so often denied, is established beyond question by the Currency Returns. Any progress in this campaign will be definitive, and every recruit gained now for the army of investors may be counted on for service in the period of financial stress which almost certainly lies ahead. All such help is given to India as well as to the Empire.

A few words must, however, be said regarding that "discredited minority" which holds aloof from such efforts, or seeks to extort concessions in the hour of need. A prominent Anglo-Indian journal complains that before the Delhi Conference a member of the Viceroy's Council negotiated with the Extremists, and suggests that the bargaining-spirit they displayed was due in part to his exertions. "Negotiating" is a dubious word, and we prefer to think that Sir Claude Hill tried to reason with the malcontents and bring them into line, but in any case the incident shows that the Extremists have had their chance. They have chosen their part with open eyes, and it is now right that they should be told what India thinks of their attitude and conduct.

India knows all about Honours Lists. What is wanted now is a List of Dishonour, perpetuating the fame of those who have failed her in the hour of need. Christendom still reads with contempt of the tribes who nearly thirty centuries ago refused to listen to the call when the young Hebrew nation was fighting for its life, and a woman's fiery eloquence has sufficed to brand Reuben and Gilead, Dan and Asher, with an immortality of shame. Will India not produce a Deborah to mete out the like measure to those unworthy sons who have busied themselves in seeking for political concessions while others jeopardised their lives unto the death?

Admiral Condouriotis, Greek Naval Minister, recently visited the island of Hydra, where so many Greek admirals have had their home, and assisted at the ceremony of depositing in the newly established Ethnological Museum there the heart of Andreas Miaoulis, who was in command of the Greek Navy in the War of Independence from 1822 to 1827. The relic has been till now in the Naval Ministry at Athens.

THE BRITISH IN ATHENS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 7.

In connection with the movement towards establishing a British Chamber of Commerce and Club,* and for the extension of British influence in Greece, a proposal has been put forward to establish a boys' school in Athens, to be run on the lines of an English public school. The suggestion proves a popular one. The question arises in the initial stages: how to obtain the necessary funds? But once the school is started there is every hope that contributions to an endowment fund would be received.

There are no two opinions that a British school for boys, run on English lines, with the object of providing a practical education to sons of British residents in Greece and to Greek boys, and under the management of a committee consisting of British officials and members of the colony, would be a distinct success. It should go far towards cementing the ties which already exist between the two nations, and, in due course, of creating in the rising generation of this country a sentiment in favour of British ideals.

The present appears to be the psychological moment for opening the school, and it is earnestly hoped that the Anglo-Hellenic League and other Phil-Hellenes will take up the matter energetically, and initiate an active campaign in England for obtaining contributions to start the school and towards an endowment fund to enable it to become eventually self-supporting.

It is proposed to open a similar school for girls, which, one is justified in believing, would become as popular as a boys' school.

The suggestion that a system of compulsory registration of British subjects abroad should be introduced has met with unanimous approval, as tending to bring the community automatically into touch with the Consulates every year and to promote cohesion.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

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* This subject is dealt with fully in the Commercial and Financial Section p. 532).—Ed.

THE CAUCASUS.

A PERSIAN VIEW.

We have received from a Persian correspondent of distinction a note upon the Caucasus, which he requests us to publish. He is of opinion that the articles on this subject that have already appeared in THE NEAR EAST are of much interest, and he adds that in giving publicity to the view he puts forward we shall "render a great service not only to Persia, but also to England and the cause of the Allies." "For," he continues, "the success of our project would thwart the Turks' aim of annexing our former provinces, to which the Ottomans have no right, either historically, ethnographically, or on the grounds of religion—the inhabitants of the old Khanates belonging to the Persian Shiah sect, while the Turks are Sunnis." He adds:—

For some time past the Turks have been making efforts to persuade the Moslem inhabitants of the departments of Baku, Erivan, and Elizabetpol that they belong to the Turanian race and ought to join with the Turks in order to establish, with them, a great Turanian empire. Yet, as a matter of fact, these people are of pure Iranian stock, and their language was Persian until the Mongol invasion of Ghengiz Khan, who compelled them to adopt the language of the invaders. The celebrated poets Abul-Ula and Nizami of Ganja (Elizabetpol), and Khagani and Feleti, of Shirvan, who lived before the Mongol invasion (tenth and eleventh centuries), wrote their poems in Persian; and these treasures of our literature are to-day regarded as classics. Zoroaster was a native of Azerbaijan, and the first Guebres temples were erected near Baku. The three departments already mentioned—Erivan, Elizabetpol, and Baku—subdivided into eight Khanates, were for centuries an integral part of Persia, as is evidenced by the numerous monuments of Persian architecture that are scattered through eastern Transcaucasia.

Since the days of Peter the Great, the foreign policy of the Tsars was based upon territorial expansion towards the South and the East. To obtain their object they paid no respect whatever to the rights of their weaker neighbours. Thus, after a prolonged war, the Khanates of Baku, Shirvan, Shemakha, Ganja, Karabaugh, Shaki and Talish, which formed an integral part of the Persian Empire, were torn from the mother country. (Treaty of Gulistan, 1813.)

Russia did not pause very long at this point, and in 1826 war broke out afresh. In spite of the obstinate defence offered by the Persian troops, vigorously backed by the indigenous population, the Khanates of Erivan and Nakhchivan were conquered in their turn, and annexed to the Russian Empire. The inhabitants, who were for the greater part Moslems, protested, but their protests were ignored. However, a century of foreign domination was not able to efface their legitimate sentiment of loyalty towards their former country, nor to extinguish their hopes of being reunited with Persia.

After the Russian revolution the different Socialists who succeeded one another in power at Petrograd declared repeatedly, *urbi et orbi*, that the various nationalities of Russia had the right to dispose of themselves as they pleased, including the right to separate themselves entirely from the empire of the Tsars. The peoples of the Caucasus were not slow to avail themselves of this right; the Georgians and Armenians formed the Government of Trans-Caucasia, and the Caucasian mountaineers, Cherkesses, Chechenz, and Lesghians united to form a second State. This movement towards general freedom could not leave indifferent the population of the ancient Khanates—which now form the departments of Erivan, Baku and Elizabetpol. They are of the Persian race, and the Persian religion. A strong body of opinion calling for reunion with Persia made itself felt among the inhabitants of these regions without distinction of class. Their ardent hopes are based upon the generous support of the Governments of the Allies, who are fighting for the rights and liberties of oppressed peoples, and on the good will of the neutral nations. They hope that on the conclusion of a general peace the great injustice that has been done them will be repaired.

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PROGRESS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following extracts are from a letter written by an Englishman in Lower Mesopotamia which has reached this country recently. They are necessarily somewhat disjointed, as the letter was not intended for publication, but they serve to show clearly that Mesopotamia is well on the road to prosperity again; and we may confidently expect that the Arabs will continue to rejoice at the driving forth of the Turk from a region for which he has done nothing, and in which he has always been hated. Whatever fate may be in store for Irak Arabi, it is tolerably safe to say that, if the Turk has any fond hope of the kind mentioned in the first paragraph, it is doomed to disappointment:—

Some people say that the Turks have let the campaign here fizzle out in order that we may clean, sweep, and garnish the country and leave it in good going order for their occupation! Sir William Willcocks' Hindieh irrigation scheme has been put into working order, and it is expected that 200,000 tons of grain will be harvested this year. The taxes on this will cover the whole cost of the capital outlay in one year!

Some of the river gunboats have just been handed over to the Inland Water Transport Department, for towing supplies, grain, etc. So, already, here the sword is, as it were, being turned into the ploughshare, and the wilderness blossoming like the "green bay horse," as the minister read, when he turned over two pages at once.

We are working under the Irrigation Department here; but in this particular area are more concerned, for the present, in protection from flood than in irrigation. . . . The floods have not come very high as yet. They are rather protracted. and although a third rise is now in progress, it seems rather doubtful whether, having dissipated themselves in this way, there will be a very big rise.

SERBIAN REFUGEES IN ALGERIA.

At the beginning of 1917. the number of Serbian refugees in Algeria was 329; now there are only 200. The students who had been placed in the educational establishments of the colony were sent to schools and colleges in France; whilst other Serbians who showed that they could maintain themselves were authorised to leave Algeria. It was intended to send back to the civil administration those Serbs who had been invalided in consequence of wounds received in the war; but this measure was not put into execution, the soldiers in question having been sent to the Kouba After-Educational College. All Serbian refugees, including invalids, sick, children, and those having situations in view, were sent to Algiers. The depots which had been organised earlier at Mers-el-Kebir and at the Philippeville Agricultural School were evacuated.

One hundred and seventeen refugees live at their own expense; they are officials who are being looked after by the Serbian Government, merchants, or landowners in Serbia who have not sought the assistance of the Administration, or agricultural workmen earning sufficient salary to ensure their existence. To all the others, the administration gives a daily allowance, and clothes and shoes are distributed, either free of charge or at a very low price. Finally, a fund was started, the proceeds of which will be distributed to the refugees when they leave for Serbia. They will thus be able, with the small amount which will be handed to them, to make the journey home under the best conditions. This fund amounts at present to about 700 francs. Our Algerian administration (says a Paris contemporary) may be congratulated on the very wise measures which it has taken to come to the aid of our unfortunate allies.

NEW BULGARIAN CABINET.

Under date of June 22 Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—A Sofia telegram states that the new Bulgarian Cabinet is constituted as follows:—

M. MALINOFF	Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs
M. TAKEFF	Interior
M. LUIPKEKEFF (?)	Finance
M. KOSTORIKOFF	Education
Professor DONALOFF	Justice
M. MADJAROFF	Agriculture
M. MOUCHANOFF	Public Works
Professor MOLOFF	Railways
General RAKA	War

Most of the members of the Cabinet belong to the Democratic Party. General Raka has been up to the present Commander-in-Chief of the Fourth Army; MM. Takeff, Luipkekeff, Mouchanoff, and Moloff were members of the first Malinoff Cabinet, which was n office from 1908 up to 1911.

The *Englishman* tells a good story of a Bengali soldier in Mesopot. He was acting as orderly to a British officer, and when the latter woke at dawn and wanted his bath and shaving water he yelled for his man. There was no answer. So he yelled and yelled until at last another Bengali, a sentry, put his head into the tent and was directed to at once unearth the missing orderly. He went away and returned with the quaint information:—"Mr. Surendranath Bose is also asleep, sir." The Bengali soldiers all politely call one another "Mr."

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIA'S TEAK-BUILT SHIPS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In the present dearth of tonnage which hampers our world-wide commerce, I would ask why it has not occurred to the rulers of British India that she could help materially in repairing the losses caused by the dastardly U-boat campaign. America is building standardised ships galore of pinewood, concrete, and even pumice-stone, but India's untold resources have never been brought to bear on the shipping problem. The teak forests of Burma produce timber of unrivalled quality, which defies the attacks of marine insects. Some of your readers may remember the "convict ship" which arrived in the Thames from Australia about 15 years ago. She had been launched at Rangoon in 1794, and was as sound as when she took the water 110 years previously. The supply of docile and ingenious labour is equally abundant; nor would capital on an adequate scale be wanting. If the Indian Government had been wise in time our mercantile fleet would have been reinforced by at least 100 teak built steamers. But my suggestion does not rest on theory; there is a precedent showing what energy and technical skill can accomplish. In 1777 Colonel Watson, then Chief Engineer in Bengal, obtained a grant of riverine land in Calcutta from Warren Hastings, and set to work excavating a series of dry docks; afterwards adding spacious store-houses and machinery moved by wind-power. He then laid down the keels of several large vessels, and construction proceeded merrily until litigation involved a nascent industry in ruin. The Calcutta Council was rent by faction, and one of the members opposed to Warren Hastings incited a Bengali, whose land formed part of the Government grant, to refuse the ample compensation tendered, and file an ejectment suit in the Supreme Court. It ended unfavourably for the enterprising Englishman, who wound up his business in disgust; not, however, until, within two years from starting, he had launched nine sea-going vessels, all of which proved splendid sailers. Three of them, yclept "Surprise," "Nonsuch," and "Laurel," were engaged for many years in the China trade, and afterwards plied between India and Europe. Anyone who is interested in the episode of Calcutta's mercantile life would do well to consult pp. 152 *et seq.*, Vol. II., of the delightful "Memoirs of William Hickey," lately published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett.—I am, etc.,

London, June 24. F. H. S.

DISCOVERY AT NICOPOLIS.

The Greek Government has been carrying out excavations upon the site of the ancient city of Nicopolis, in Epirus, and has there discovered the remains of a large Basilica, including important mosaics, one of which depicts over 250 figures of animals, flowers, aquatic plants, and fishes, as well as merely ornamental designs. In addition to these there are two Greek inscriptions containing nine lines of writing. The artistic style of the mosaics recalls that of one recently found by British troops near Gaza, and also the great mosaic unearthed in the crypt of a religious edifice at Maghdeba, in Moab, both of which are dated to about the fourth century.

The first of the inscriptions refers to a house that a Bishop named Dometios built near the sea, and apparently alludes to one of the mosaics. The second speaks of Dometios as Archiereus and of his erecting the Basilica. Several bishops of this Nicopolis are mentioned by patristic authors as attending the great church councils; but Dometios is not named among them, so his name is an addition to the list of these prelates. It is possible that if search were made he might be found alluded to in some manuscript, and this would enable us to fix the period of his office.

The mosaic work is very similar to that in the cathedral of Aquileia, which ornamentation, we know, was of the fourth century, because an accompanying inscription mentions Theodorus Felix, who attended the council at Arles. The use of the title Archiereus, which corresponds to Pontifex Maximus, gives some clue to the date, indicating the end of the fourth century. This word appears also to assign to the prelate of Nicopolis the grade of Archbishop, and so would not have been employed until the city had been politically or ecclesiastically the metropolis. It was so created by Constantine. In one line of the metric inscription the poet utilises a sentence from Homer's Odyssey.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

Entries of Arab stallions and mares, colts and fillies are now being received for Vol. I. of the Arab Horse Stud Book; also entries are taken for Arab crosses in Vol. I. of the Arab-bred Register. The society has been formed for the purpose of encouraging the re-introduction of Arab blood into English light horse breeding. List of members of council, application forms for membership, and entry forms for the Stud Book, and all particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore, Islip, Oxon.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ahmed Zulfikar Pasha, the Sultan of Turkey's son-in-law, has arrived in Berlin.

An American Zionist medical unit for service in Palestine has arrived in England.

The forthcoming re-establishment of Civil Courts of Justice in the occupied territory of Palestine is announced.

According to the *Tägliche Rundschau*, there are seventeen German professors on the staff of Constantinople University.

M. Madjaroff, who is Minister for Agriculture in the new Bulgarian Cabinet, was formerly Bulgarian Minister in London.

Mgr. Parthenyi, the Metropolitan of Sofia and President of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Church, has died after a long illness.

In the recent fire at Constantinople about 300 Greek houses were destroyed or damaged, and over 2,000 Greeks rendered homeless.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Signor Orlando on the occasion of the recent Italian victory.

A Sofia telegram says that King Ferdinand has conferred on M. Radoslavoff, the retiring Premier, the Order of St. Cyril, the highest distinction in Bulgaria.

Baron von Kressenstein and Herr von Kardorff have left Constantinople for the Caucasus to investigate the conditions in the three newly-established republics.

The American Minister at Teheran reports that the invading Turkish troops sacked the American hospital at Tabriz and seized the British and American Consulates.

In celebration of the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war a special service will be held at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday next.

Only one candidate entered for the examination Honour School of Oriental Studies at Oxford, A. L. Squire, B.A., Walham College (in Hebrew and Aramaic), and he has obtained a second class.

The *Berliner Tageblatt* says that fourteen delegations of Jewish leagues will shortly go to Constantinople to discuss with the Turkish Government the question of Jewish emigration to Palestine.

The Rome Correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the Roumanians of Austria-Hungary now in Allied countries are being organised into legions by a committee whose headquarters are at Rome.

The Greek Government decided last week to revoke the State donations of Manolhada estate in the Peloponnesus, and of Gholemi Forest in Macedonia, made in years past to ex-King Constantine. The State will enter on the ownership of the estates at once.

Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund has received a request from the Indian troops on the Palestine front for a gift of tennis balls, illustrated papers, magazines, and literature. A large supply is needed, and it is hoped that the appeal will meet with a generous response.

At the monthly general meeting of the Zoological Society special attention was directed to two Grecian ibexes, born in the menagerie; to a ruby-throated warbler from India, presented by Mr. W. H. St. Quintin, F.Z.S.; and to an Indian chameleon from Calabar, presented by Mr. A. M. Kinloch, new to the collection.

At Buckingham Palace, on Wednesday, the King inspected detachments from two companies of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Lieutenant L. R. St. J. Farnon, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, and Second Lieutenant W. J. Park. The men belonged to the United Provinces, and are on short leave from the Western Front.

The total sum received by way of subscriptions to the Central Imperial Indian Relief Fund from the date of its inception up to March 31, 1918, together with the interest earned upon the money placed at fixed deposit, amounted to Rs. 1,62,53,000. The expenditure up to the same date amounted to Rs. 79,80,000, leaving as a balance in hand on that date Rs. 82,70,003.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters, postcards, and telegrams of a personal or domestic nature may now be sent to the civilian population of the occupied territory in Palestine; also parcels of a similar nature or for relief purposes. Remittances may be made by postal order. The rates, to be prepaid, are:—Letters, 2½d. for the first ounce and 1½d. per ounce thereafter; postcards, 1d.; telegrams, as for Egypt (transmission from Alexandria is by post, not by telegraph); parcels, 3 lbs., 3s.; 7 lbs., 3s. 4d.; 11 lbs., 3s. 8d.

It has been decided that officers on the Retired List or the Temporary Non-Effective List (Temporary Half-Pay List) of the Indian Army, who are employed under the War Office, may be promoted up to the rank of major under the time scale of promotion for the Indian Army, counting towards promotion all service which reckoned for promotion before re-employment, as well as service after re-employment. This promotion will have retrospective effect for rank and seniority, but will not carry any increase of pension, temporary invalid pension, or half-pay, and will not involve restoration to the active list of the Indian Army.

STRANGERS' HOME FOR ASIATICS,
WEST INDIA DOCK ROAD, LIMEHOUSE, LONDON, E.
"I was a stranger and ye took me in."
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 54, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am indebted to the *Independent*, of New York, for a story that made me smile at a time when I did not feel particularly like smiling. As it concerns a Near Eastern topic, I am at liberty to pass it on. It deals with "The Mysterious Disappearance of Zian Kali," and the *Independent* reminds its readers that "one of the prominent personages concerned in bringing on the Great War has absolutely vanished as completely as though he had never existed. This is Zian Kali who, according to various official documents, was one of the leading spirits in the Serbian conspiracy to assassinate the Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand." The article goes on to say that, according to the version of the French Yellow Book as "translated and prepared for Parliament by the British Government," the leaders of the conspiracy, Major Tankosic and Milan Chiganoc, after providing the assassin with revolvers and hand grenades,

> "Suborned Zian Kali, pointing out that the two culprits must commit suicide after the crime," etc.

"That," adds the *Independent*, "is all that is said about Zian Kali. We are not told his nationality or what became of him, or why he had to be bribed."

⁂

The British text, however, is translated from the French. The *Independent*, therefore, reproduces part of the latter:—

> "Ils apostèrent Zian Kali avec l'indication que les deux auteurs, après l'attentat, devaient se teur," etc.

And then comes an extract from the Austrian Red Book from which the French version was translated:—

> Sie stellten Zyankali mit der Weisung bei, dass sich die Täter nach vollbrachtem Anschlage damit entleiben," etc.

And then, at last, the *Independent* suggests that "a man who did not know anything about the Balkans, but did know a bit about chemistry, would be likely to translate . . . . Zyankali by cyanide of potassium. I suspect that somebody at the Quai d'Orsay is feeling rather sorry for himself just now. "Zyankali" certainly does sound like "one of those queer Balkan names . . . sort of Turkish," as the *Independent* remarks. But it is surely almost cruelty to "rub it in" on the poor Frenchman by concluding the article: "The French Foreign Office missed a cue when they turned cyanide of potassium into a Serbian assassin, for if they had remembered that "Zyankali," *alias* KCN is a derivative of "Prussic Acid" it would have aided them in their effort to trace to Berlin the responsibility for the crime of Serajevo." A miss-cue, indeed, and following on a very "bad break."

⁂

The Sublime Porte may have lost its original fine flavour, but its sublime cheek appears to be as blooming as ever. At least, that is the impression left on my mind after reading carefully the list of "Turkey's War Aims" as set out in the *Aati* (?Aali) and reproduced in the *Vorwärts*. To ask, at this stage of events, for "the restoration of Turkish domination in Egypt" and "the ousting of all English influence" in Persia is truly great. "The surrender of the occupied territories of Irak, Palestine and the Jezireh" would naturally be welcome to Constantinople; but what about the Arabs, the Syrians, and the Palestine Jews? The idea of Turkish "protection" over "the States bordering the Black Sea" is gorgeously amusing. But it is quite eclipsed by the demand that Turkey's allies shall "see to it that Crete is returned" to her. Why does not the Turkish fleet go out and capture the island—taking in Cyprus at the same time? The much-vaunted Turkish air forces might also conquer the moon, to which, as the emblem of Turkish power, the Sultan surely has a right!

⁂

I have just read in the *Pioneer* what may safely be described as a chapter of accidents. The hero—and he appears to deserve the title even in these days—is an American of ripe age—97 years, and he is (or was at the time the *Pioneer* published its note) defendant in a shipping case in the Burma Chief Court. That—to one who regards "the Law" as something not worth the expense—seems pretty bad; but it is merely a beginning. The venerable litigant, "just before the case was instituted . . . had a fall in his bathroom and broke two of his ribs"; and it speaks well for his pluck that "though in great pain," he "went a few days afterwards to Moulmein." But in the train "he unfortunately broko two fingers when closing a window of the railway carriage. On his return to Rangoon he was confined to his bed, and," the *Pioneer* adds, significantly, "the case has consequently been postponed." My only wonder is, that since Fate insists on using both barrels on the unlucky gentleman, he has only *one* case on hand.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Moslem Mosque, London.

June 20.

Major Earl WINTERTON asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government would consider whether, as a tribute to the loyal support and assistance in every respect of Moslems, irrespective of race, throughout the British Empire during the war, financial assistance would be given for the erection of a mosque to serve the interests of the Indian Moslem community in London?

Mr. BONAR LAW: The Government gratefully recognise the conspicuous services rendered by our Mohammedan fellow-subjects, but I am not aware of any reason why our appreciation should take the form suggested. I shall, however, be glad to receive any information on this proposal that my noble friend may care to give me.

Earl WINTERTON: Is it not a fact that Moslems have decided, as a memorial to those of their persuasion who have fallen in the war, to erect a mosque in London?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I was not aware of that. I shall be glad to have details from my hon. and gallant friend.

River Transport, India.

Mr. SHAW asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the strength of the feeling expressed in India in favour of a waterways board to look after the interests of river transport in India; whether he is aware of the delay in dealing with this subject; and what action it is proposed to take?

Mr. MONTAGU: I have no information, but I will inquire of the Government of India what the position is.

Prisoners in Turkey.

June 24.

Mr. HOPE, answering a question put by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Cavendish-Bentinck, said:—The necessary arrangements for the sailing of the repatriation ship, both those with the Turkish Government and those to be made by his Majesty's Government alone, are already complete, in so far as they can be completed at the present time. All that is awaited is, first, notice of the date on which the Turkish Government will have the first 1,000 British prisoners ready for embarkation, and, secondly, the assurance from the other enemy Governments that the ship will not be attacked. On the first point, the Netherland Minister at Constantinople has been requested to press the Turkish Government, and on the second point, the British delegates at The Hague have been instructed to press the German delegates to obtain an early reply from the German Government. A similar request has also been made to the Austrian Government through the Spanish Ambassador at Vienna.

The New Mohur.

June 26.

Mr. MONTAGU informed Sir J. D. Rees that the Government of India had made an ordinance authorizing the coinage of 15-rupee gold pieces, and these were now being issued to the public. They were of the same standard weight and fineness as a sovereign. The Bombay branch of the Royal Mint would probably start the coinage of sovereigns at the end of this month.

BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE HEJAZ.

The R.P. Henri Lammens has a paper in the *Bulletin* of the Ecole Français Archeologique du Caire upon "The Ancient Frontier between Syria and the Hejaz," which gives an accurate account of the country between the Jordan and the Sinai Peninsula on one side and North Arabia on the other. Its interest is mainly historical and geographical, but in the concluding pages the author effectively points out, from past history, the region's potentialities, and the importance to Egypt and the British Empire of securing complete possession of the Akaba Gulf and its hinterlands, and restoring to some of their pristine prosperity the many fertile oases and wadis both to the west towards Petra and south-east in the Land of Midian.

Akaba, formerly Aila, was for more than a thousand years a flourishing port, and although much reduced in size, only fell into permanent decay upon the advent of the Turks, who were so fatal to Arabian progress. Its gulf and the Red Sea were once called "The Sea of China," indicating what distant voyages its vessels accomplished; and we know that Solomon kept a fleet of trading vessels at Ezion Geber, which fetched Indian products for his merchants.

The Akaba connection with the Red Sea is of great importance because it is the nearest maritime outlet for the countries north, east, and west of it, and even for Damascus to the Indian Ocean. The ancient Nabateans, Roman Emperors such as Trajan, and the Byzantines used it. It commands all routes except that of Pelusium, from Syria into Egypt, and defends Arabia from attacks from north or west. Abdul Hamid, not long ago, endeavoured to secure it as an embouchure for his Hejaz railway, but we refused permission.

The Germans employed a Turkish professor, an active Teuton and Turanian pioneer, to explore these lands. In his book, "In Nord Hegaz," he says that all these border countries could be colonised, and made to become a most flourishing part of the Ottoman Empire.

It would be quite feasible to restore fertility to Midian and Petra, and the mineral wealth of the former is well known. But the most profitable undertaking would probably be found in working for bitumen around the Dead Sea, where drilling was already being conducted at the outbreak of war. A light railway for oil trucks to Akaba could easily be constructed.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE COPTS.[*]

This book contains a picture of the life of the Copts of to-day, and supplies details which supplement Lane's "Modern Egyptians" and Butler's "Ancient Coptic Churches of Egypt." The observers of the past, who have had a better training for ecclesiastical and ethnological observation than Mr. Leeder, have confined themselves too closely to Cairo, and have not devoted sufficient attention to Assiout and other provincial centres where Coptic life and culture is not in such a numerical minority.

The author describes a visit to a rich Coptic squire living in the country; he then deals with the life of an average Copt, taking its various periods in order from birth to death, with the beliefs and observances attendant upon each incident; he next leads his readers to a Coptic Church, describes the plan, fabric, and the ceremonies of the Mass (these last without great liturgical precision), and gives some account of the past history of Christianity in Egypt; then—one of the most interesting sections in the book—relates his visit to the late Bishop of the Fayoum, Anba Abraham, whose saintliness performed some cures and brought about some visions which it is quite impossible to describe otherwise than as miracles; and he ends with a brief description of a somewhat thorny subject, the attitude which the British in Egypt do, and should, take up towards the native Christians.

The volume contains few errors in fact; and those are mostly in liturgical matters, where the author is not quite at home; and indeed it is a difficult and technical subject. There can be no question as to the Invocation (p. 202) over the consecrated Elements: the appeal is that the Holy Ghost may be sent down upon them—there is no thought of an angelic descent at this part of the service, and both the Coptic original and the Arabic translation can have the former meaning alone. Again, the Eucharistic wine (p. 214) is *always* fermented; it may best be compared to a light Malaga, and it is made in much the same way. The prayer of blessing which Anba Abraham said over his visitors (p. 278) may be considerably amended: for "crucifix" read "cross," for "St. Gurgic," "St. George," for "St. Tadros el Mishriky," "St. Theodore the Eastern," for "Viloptaire" "Philopater" (another name for St. Mercurius), for "Aba Boxtor" "Apa Victor." The other corruptions in spelling—natural enough in a prayer locally translated—can be removed at sight.

Mr. Leeder, to sum up, has produced a book which has not, and does not profess to have, very much that is new to the scientific student of the Copts, their language, customs and religion, though there are details here which are not on record elsewhere; but it deserves to command a wide public among those who are in no sense specialists, but have a general interest in the East and the Christianity of the East, and wish to know more of the ways of the almost pure-bred descendants of perhaps the oldest race in the world.

AN INDIAN SAINT.[†]

Missionary effort has been more fruitful in the Madras Presidency than elsewhere. Ponnamal was a young widow living in one of the many Christian villages which have sprung up under the Church Missionary Society's tutelage. But it is questionable whether any Indian can shake off the iron bonds of caste and custom. Poor Ponnamal dragged out a miserable existence in her father-in-law's house until she was rescued from that purgatory of widowhood by Miss Carmichael. She joined a band of itinerant missionaries, and was afterwards placed in charge of a nursery for female infants whose parents had dedicated them to degrading temple-service. Here Ponnamal's sweet and beautiful nature found the fullest scope. She mothered the forlorn little creatures committed to her charge, and nursed them tenderly during the epidemics which devastated the settlement. Her death from cancer at forty deprived the society of a valued worker. She seems to have belonged to the small group of saints of whom St. Theresa was the finished type; but a sense of humour preserved her from fanaticism. Her brief career proves that Indian women may equal their European sisters in self-devotion and self-sacrifice. But these qualities very rarely find fair play in India, where the male attitude towards woman's claim to self-development is amusingly shown in a letter from "R. M. D." to the *Times of India*, quoted at p. 41:—

My purpos for writin to you this is to inform your many Englis brothers not to give honour and devotion to your ladys, because in the end they will becum proud and then they will want the vote. 2 or 3 thing happen in Victoria Gardens to-morrow (*s.e.*, yesterday), and then I all of a sudden made up my brain to write to you immediate. There was many Englis woman, and when Mans were sitting on bench and womans come, mans stand and give their sit to womans Mans and womans are similar in this world. Then why mens honours woman? If they honours old old womans, one thing; but they honours young young womans. My purpos to write is to inform the Englis *Sahebloks* (*s.e.*, "gentlemen") that when they do this they spoil their feminine lady, and then this lady get proud, and walk like peacock, and ask for vote.

Indian politicians regard Mill's "Essay on Liberty" as their Magna Charta, but are deaf to his pleadings for woman's claim to citizenship.

CASSANDRA JUSTIFIED.[*]

Mr. Blatchford belongs to a small group of writers who, as the great Duke of Wellington used to put it, "are able to see what is happening on the other side of the hill." Twenty years ago he clearly foresaw the German peril, and strove to bring it home to a nation absorbed in the pursuit of pleasure, business, or politics. We have it on the highest authority that a prophet hath no honour in his own country. Mr. Blatchford was dubbed a Cassandra, and his vaticinations fell upon deaf ears. The course of recent history proves that he gauged the situation with marvellous accuracy; and one cannot but regret that his power of expressing sane ideas has never been utilised in the public interest. Major Haldane Macfall opines in a telling foreword to our author's little book that "pacifists would be few and Labour Conferences would have voted right" if Mr. Blatchford had been entrusted with the organisation of a vigorous propaganda. It is proverbially easier to write a book than to christen it appropriately; and he has not been quite happy in his choice of a title for a convincing indictment of Prussia's economic strategy. "General Von Sneak" suggests one side only of her mischievous activities—the incredible treachery of her agents, who wormed their way into our national life in order to destroy it. Mr. Blatchford pursues the "Loathly Beast" in all his manœuvres; and should convince the most hidebound pacifist that a Peace by Agreement would spell ruin for all that civilisation implies. He deserves special credit for disclosing the hidden aims of the Mittel-Europa doctrine, with which Prussian junkerdom is bitten. Its ambition is to consolidate an empire ruled from Berlin, embracing Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, which would be linked with Mid-Asia by the Hamburg-Baghdad Railway. But the highway leading eastwards is blocked at a point in the Balkans known as the "Iron Gates." It was in order to appropriate that stretch of Serbian soil, barely thirty-three miles wide, that Prussia let loose the dogs of war in August, 1914. She would evacuate Belgium and Northern France, restore Alsace-Lorraine and the Trentino to their rightful owners, and waive her claim to war indemnities if only she were permitted to hold her gains in the Near East. It is needless to enlarge on the ruin which would befall British India and Egypt should the Prussian nightmare materialise; and no sane man or woman will dispute Mr. Blatchford's thesis—that the ruffians who have engineered the most atrocious war in history must be rendered powerless to work further mischief.

F. H. S.

JUST PUBLISHED.

BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST.

By COL. SIR THOMAS H. HOLDICH, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., D.Sc., author of "The Gates of India" and "Political Frontiers and Boundary Making." With Maps. 8vo. 8s. 6d. net.

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MACMILLAN & CO., Ltd., London, W.C.2.

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[*] "The Modern Sons of the Pharaohs." By S. H. Leeder. (Hodder and Stoughton. 16s. net.)

[†] "Ponnamal: Her Story." By Amy Wilson Carmichael. (Morgan and Scott, Ltd., 12, Paternoster Buildings, 1918. 4s. net.)

[*] "General von Sneak." By Robert Blatchford. (Hodder and Stoughton Price, 2s. 6d.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1336.	5678.
June	June		Ramadan.	Tamus.
28	15	Friday	19	18
29	16	Saturday........	20	19
30	17	**Sunday**	21	20
July				
1	18	Monday	22	21
2	19	Tuesday	23	22
3	20	Wednesday	24	23
4	21	Thursday	25	24

The Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires has left London for the South Coast.

The Earl of Minto spent the week-end at Minto House, Hawick.

M. Constantin J. Diamandy, Roumanian Minister in Petrograd, has left London for Paris.

General Paraskevopoulo, the Commander of the 1st Greek Army Corps, has received the Serbian Order of the White Eagle.

Lord and Lady Barrymore have left 20, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, for Ireland, where they will spend the next few months.

M. Take Jonescu, with a number of his supporters, left Jassy on June 15. It is understood that the destination of the party is Switzerland.

Sir William Garstin was the guest of the King and Queen at a small dinner party given by their Majesties on June 20 at Buckingham Palace.

General Franchet d'Esperey, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the East, on his arrival at Corfu paid a visit to the Prince Regent of Serbia.

On June 24, at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Chelsea, the marriage took place of Frederick Kennedy Boyd, Indian Civil Service, to Margaret Jean Tarver.

Major Mills, Yeomanry, of Bisterne, Hants, and Taverham Hall, Norfolk, was married at Alexandria on the 16th inst. to Miss Tuck, daughter of Judge Tuck, San Stefano, Alexandria.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, Lord Oranmore and Browne was received in audience by the King, and was invested by his Majesty with the insignia of a Knight of St. Patrick.

Mrs. Carrington Wilde, who underwent a serious operation in the early spring, has now completely recovered, and is able to resume her work for Serbia at the headquarters of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Commander Sir Charles Cust, Bart., R.N. (Equerry to the King), represented his Majesty at the Memorial Service for Admiral Sir Alfred Paget, which was held at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, last Friday.

The Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius, to celebrate the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war, held a reception of members of the Greek community and British friends on Thursday afternoon, at the Legation.

The *London Gazette* announces that Professor Mahaffy, C.V.O., has been appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. Professor Mahaffy, who is Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, is a very distinguished Hellenist and archæologist.

On June 20, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Minehead, the marriage was solemnized of Mr. Douglas MacKinnie Bennett, Sudan Government, son of the late Hon. H. O. Bennett, of St. John's, Antigua, to Miss Cicely Olive Todd, daughter of the late Mr. W. Ansell Todd and Mrs. Todd, of 4, Clifton Hill, Bristol.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain George Nigel Miller, 90th Punjabis, son of the late Charles Samuel Miller and Mrs. Miller, 1, Molyneux Park, Tunbridge Wells, and Dorothea Ella, younger daughter of the late St. George Robinson, of Woodville, Sligo, and Mrs. Robinson, Lumville, The Curragh, Kildare.

Major-General the Maharaja of Patiala had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday last week, when his Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; and was invited to luncheon with the King and Queen.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, leave permitting, between Major Russell Herbert Skinner, Punjabi Light Infantry, son of the late Colonel Russell Skinner and Mrs. Skinner, 13, Talbot Road, Westbourne Park, and Adeline De Vere, second daughter of the late James De Vere Allen, of Stokesdale, Victoria, Australia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Theodore Morison, who left his work as a member of the India Council in 1915 at the age of 53 to train for the Army, and was gazetted to the Cambridgeshire Regiment, has returned from German East Africa, where he has been employed for the last two years in military, political, and administrative duties, and is spending short leave at his home, Old Avenue Lodge, Weybridge.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Clarkson, Indian Medical Service (retired), son of the late Major-General J. P. Clarkson, and Beatrice Mary, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Barlow, of 4, Tor Gardens, Campden Hill, W., will take place at St. Mary Abbot's Church, Kensington, on Wednesday, July 10, at 2.30. Owing to the war, there will be no reception, but all friends will be very welcome at the church.

Sir John Anderson, of Christchurch Road, Tulse Hill, Surrey, Governor of Ceylon from 1916, left £18,336.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund has recently received donations of £1,000 from the Bombay Presidency and War Relief Fund. Bombay, and £100 from the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The Duke of Connaught will open, on July 11, a home for fifty boys, the sons of soldiers and sailors killed or incapacitated, organised at Hornsey by the Waifs and Strays Society as "The Kitchener Memorial Home."

The annual general meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League will be held at King's College, Strand, on Thursday, July 11, at 5 p.m. The Hon. W. Pember Reeves will take the chair, and Professor Gilbert Murray will deliver a short address.

To-day being the Serbian National Day, the Serbian colony in London have arranged, in the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, at 11, for the recitation of the Orthodox Requiem Liturgy for the repose of the warriors who fell for Cross and Freedom on Kossovo Field, 1389, and for all Slav and British soldiers who have in this war together laid down their lives for the liberty of mankind. Bishop Bury will assist and speak, and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will be present.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

General Michel Rashitch has been appointed Serbian Minister of War.

Bimbashi H. G. Ruddock, of the Artillery, has been transferred to Sudan Government.

Bimbashi J. O. Thurburn, M.C., Artillery, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The Hon. Sir Edward Hugh Bray has resigned his seat as Additional Member of the Indian Legislative Council.

The Rev. T. J. Ison, Assistant Secretary, Home Department, C.M.S., has been appointed Chaplain to the Forces in Egypt.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for Feeding Prisoners interned in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

Brevet-Colonel R. Heard, I.M.S., has been appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy of India in place of Lieutenant-Colonel Bird, I.M.S., deceased.

Colonel Muspratt Williams, R.A., Chief Inspector of Explosives under the Government of India, has been granted one year's extension of his appointment.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. Buchanan, I.M.S., and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Glen have resigned their seats as Additional Members of the Bengal Legislative Council.

The appointment of Brigadier-General Sir William Henry Manning as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies was gazetted last Friday.

The King has approved the appointment of Honorary Major-General his Highness Maharajadhiraja, Sri Sir Bhupindar Singh Mahindar, Bahadur, G.C.I.E., G.B.E., Maharaja of Patiala, to be Honorary Colonel of the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs.

OBITUARY.

Brigadier-General A. B. C. Williams, C.B., has died at Srinagar, Kashmir. He took part in the relief of Chitral in 1895. After service in China, he acted as Divisional Supply Officer during the operations in the Mohmand country, for which he was mentioned in dispatches.

Lieutenant Evelyn Anthony Cave-Penney, Indian Army, who was killed in action on June 8, was nineteen years of age, and the eldest son of the late Frank Cave-Penney, of Ardfin, Torquay, and of Mrs Cave-Penney, of Rogues' Roost, Ashburton. He served in Mesopotamia, and was present at the battles of Imam Dur and Tekrit. He went to another Eastern front in December last.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes :—The Greek community of Limassol has lost one of its best-known and most esteemed citizens by the death of M. Andreas Themistokles. who was for many years Head of the High School, and under whom many of the present and rising generation were educated. He studied for some years in Germany, and was an ardent supporter of the "Hellenic" party. He exercised a great influence over his pupils, and was widely respected.

We regret to announce the death, at Edinburgh, on June 15, after a long and painful illness, of Paula Theodora Copeland, M.D. Edinburgh, daughter of the late Ralph Copeland, Ph.D., Astronomer Royal for Scotland and Professor of Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh, and of Mrs. Copeland, 153, Colinton Road, Edinburgh. Dr. Copeland graduated in 1907, and went to India in 1908, where she held a post at the Lady Dufferin Hospital, Agra, for several years, and was subsequently chief physician at the Lady Aitchison Hospital, Lahore, which post she filled until her health broke down. She sacrificed her health and life to her profession and her devotion to duty, and her loss will be keenly regretted.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Pelham Johnson, D.S.O., A.S.C., who died on June 12, was the youngest son of the late Rev. F. A. Johnson, rector of Stratford St. Andrew, Suffolk, and of Mrs. Johnson, of Beccles. He was born on June 16, 1871, and twenty years later he passed out of Sandhurst with honours, and after a few months at Dresden was gazetted to the Bedfordshire Regiment. He went to India in the following year, and served with Sir Robert Lowe's force against the Chitral rising in 1895 as assistant commissariat officer, being awarded the Indian Frontier medal after the storming of the Malakand Pass and the action near Khar at the descent into the Swat Valley. Later he saw service in Uganda and in South Africa, and in the present war he had been at the front since 1914, with very brief intervals.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Temporary Brigadier-General) George Norman Bowes Forster, C.M.G., D.S.O., who was reported missing on April 4, is now reported killed on that date. He was born in 1872. He served in the Nile Expedition of 1898 under Lord Kitchener in the reconquest of the Sudan, for which he held the Queen's medal and the Khedive's medal, with clasps, for Atbara and Khartoum. Later he served with distinction in South Africa from 1899-1902, being mentioned in dispatches and receiving the Queen's medal with five clasps. He went out to France with a battalion of his regiment in 1914, and during part of his time on that front he commanded a battalion. He had been twice wounded, and had been mentioned in dispatches several times. He married, in 1902, Margaret Ethel, elder daughter of Brigadier-General R. A. Gilchrist, Indian Army.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATH.

Copeland.—At Edinburgh, on June 15, 1918, Paula Theodora Copeland, M.D.Edin., late Chief Physician at the Lady Aitchison Hospital, Lahore, India. Deeply regretted.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1918.

AUSTRIA AND AN ODYSSEY.

In these days of great happenings little attention can be given to the doings of any individual body of men; but exception may well be claimed for the remarkable experiences of the Czecho-Slovak army in Russia, in view of the close relationship between this force and the internal situation in Austria-Hungary. At an early period in the war whole Czecho-Slovak regiments were taken prisoners by the Russians, and ultimately, as the war dragged on, asked to be enrolled as fighting units in the Russian army. To understand their action it is necessary to know something of conditions in the Dual Monarchy. The Slav peoples were in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but never regarded themselves as of it. Although in a majority, they were treated as a subject population, and their existence was a continuous struggle against disabilities and oppression. No secret was made of their attitude by either side; but as they were held in the Monarchy by force, so it was reckoned that by discipline and terrorism they could be made to fight in the Austro-Hungarian army. The military authorities were aware that they could not command their willing allegiance, and various precautions were taken to compel their loyalty. Thus, as far as possible troops from the Italian irredentist territory would be sent to fight on the Russian frontier and Slav troops against the Italians. But in the circumstances of the present war this ideal solution could not be adopted indefinitely. Slav and Czecho-Slovak regiments had to fight in Russia, and when the opportunity presented itself acted as it was expected that they would act. For every case of deliberate desertion, however, there were, no doubt, many instances where Czecho-Slovaks were taken prisoners in fair fight. Once in Russian hands their anomalous position could not fail to secure recognition, and the demand to be allowed to fight on the Russian side followed as a matter of course. We are indebted to the Bolsheviks for the estimate that the Revolution found some hundred and fifty thousand Czecho-Slovak troops in Russia. At first they paid little heed to the movement, but kept to their business of fighting. When, however, it was no longer possible to engage the enemy on the Russian front, they demanded to be sent where they could meet Germans on the field of battle. Before their transfer could be effected the disintegration of Russia had taken place. There could be no question of the side on which these sturdy champions of liberty would range themselves when the true nature of the German-Bolshevik tyranny was revealed; but they had no mind to fight Russians, and were even prepared to consent to disarmament, provided they could be transported to an actual theatre of the war.

It was at this stage that the Czecho-Slovak Odyssey began, the destination being Vladivostok, 5,386 miles from Moscow. The troops were distributed over a considerable portion of Russia, and with the best of good will and some attempt at organisation it might have been possible to transport a hundred and fifty thousand men this distance in two or three months. What happened was that the Czecho-Slovaks were left practically to their own devices, until the fiat went forth, doubtless from the German Higher Command, that their departure was to be obstructed at all costs. Those who were already embarked on the long journey across Siberia found their progress blocked by Red Guards, and at more than one place *en route* have had to fight a passage through the opposing forces. In the chaos prevailing throughout Russia it is easy to conjecture what their experiences were. From the peasantry along the railway route the small detachments could probably count upon being sped forward on their way and food would be forthcoming; but a railway does not run itself, and unless there is unity of control, it must soon cease to perform its function as a line of communication. Already, however, a force of fifteen thousand Czecho-Slovaks is said to have reached Vladivostok, and here they await transport to Europe. To the circumstance that they are almost entirely unarmed we must attribute their omission to lend a helping hand to Colonel Semenoff, who has been holding against considerable odds parts of the railway line along which they travelled. The addition of their numbers to his small following would otherwise have placed him in a strong position, and have paved the way for Japanese co-operation, which, though late in the day, must inevitably be forthcoming. According to the latest reports their compatriots in Western Siberia have fared more successfully, and are now masters of large sections of the Trans-Siberian Railway, to the great satisfaction of the non-Bolshevik population. Of the loyalty of Siberia to the true interests of Russia there can be no question; but the Bolsheviks are in power, and those who are opposed to them have lacked organisation and, it would seem, leadership. The Allies are believed to be waiting until they receive an invitation from a body of men sufficiently representative of Russian opinion to justify their intervention on Russia's behalf. In the meantime, critical weeks and months go by, and Germany has to face only a portion of the strength that is capable of being mobilised against her. The Czecho-Slovaks may be the means of rescuing the Allies from a false position.

From the staunchness of the Czecho-Slovak determination to fight for their liberty we may infer the bitterness of the feeling that Austro-Hungarian government has engendered among the oppressed nationalities. It is the key also to the reports of present conditions in the Dual Monarchy which the authorities can no longer conceal. The Austro-Magyar minority set itself to keep two-thirds of the population in subjection, thereby weakening the physical strength and the morale of the nation. In the hour of trial their criminal policy has reaped its reward. A nation whose soldiers can undergo all that the Czecho-Slovak troops in Russia have experienced and retain their resolve that nothing shall keep them back from fighting their arch-enemy cannot remain unwilling subjects of any Power for ever. The time comes when human endurance is exhausted, and the victims realise that liberty is the only alternative to death. This moment would seem to have been reached by the Slavic races of the Dual Monarchy. Even the Government realises that a solution must now be found for the Slav question, and in its distraction turns from one proposal to another. But between the policy of continued repression and palliatives that have no chance of acceptance by the nationalities concerned, the only middle course is one of heroic measures such as the Hapsburg dynasty cannot yet bring itself to contemplate. Its choice to-day lies between saving a third of its inheritance and the loss of the whole. Time was when more generous treatment of the Czechs and Southern Slav peoples might have kept them within the Empire. But their cup of suffering in this war has been filled too full to make such a solution of the problem any longer practicable. How the end of the present anachronism will come about it is not possible to say; for the fortunes of the German-Magyar residue of the Monarchy will depend in some measure upon political developments in the German Empire. But the ground has been prepared by the Allies' recognition of the Czecho-Slovak National Council and of the Jugo-Slav Committee, while the exploits of their nationals in the Allied armies is an indication that their respective States when formed will be able to render a good account of themselves as the guardians of the peace in South-Eastern Europe.

STRANGE TENANTS.

By Estelle Blyth.

The Moslems have a beautiful story (it is hardly general enough to be called a legend) that by night Jerusalem is guarded by the spirits of those who have loved and served her in the past. These, a great host of invisible but living intelligences, in serried ranks encompass the Beloved City, defending her from the dreaded influences of jinns and all other horrid denizens of darkness. By day her busy citizens can defend her in their waking hours; by night, God, who cares for Jerusalem always, allows the disembodied spirits of her former lovers to defend her. A thought so beautiful and so suggestive is not easily forgotten.

The people of Palestine believe firmly in spirits and apparitions, and a sympathetic attitude towards such beliefs is rewarded by a variety of interesting confidences. From these recollections I will take only such as came within our personal ken.

Exorcising Demons.

A Moslem peasant woman, who daily brought milk and *laban* to an English house, delighted to tell how she had been exorcised by a sheikh and so freed from a demon which had taken possession of her. Her story was perfectly clear and connected. She was sitting in her garden, she said, when a man, very tiny and malformed, and altogether of horrible appearance, suddenly appeared before her and demanded water to drink. Frightened at his uncouth and repulsive aspect, she bade him begone; whereupon he jumped down her throat, and apparently remained there. So far the account of the possessed one. Those who lived with her said that she became subject to strange fits, in which her body grew perfectly stiff, and she would howl, and foam at the mouth, and utter strange wild words in a voice not her own. Of course, this was the demon, declaring his presence. The fits left her exhausted, but absolutely herself again. Her distracted relations sought help from all the neighbouring sheikhs, who consulted together upon this horrible affair, and decided to exorcise the unclean spirit, which, after much prayer and excitement on their parts, was successfully expelled. From that day to the day when we heard the story (a matter of some eighteen months) the woman had been perfectly sane and well.

Far kinder treatment this than what was meted out by some Abyssinian monks to a poor, frail, old woman of their congregation, who was afflicted in like manner. They declared that she must be possessed by a very evil spirit indeed, for she would rave and yell and throw herself about in her paroxysms, and was positively dangerous when the fit was upon her. So, one winter night, during one of those wild storms of rain and howling winds that sometimes vex Jerusalem, they seized her (when the fit was *not* upon her), chained her by hand and foot in their church, and beat her pitilessly by way of taming the demon. Afterwards they opened the doors of the church and turned her out into the cold and exposure of the convent courtyard, still wearing the chains. When morning came, she made her way to an English house close at hand—somehow "England" always means protection to the weak and oppressed—broken, shivering, and bruised, with heavy iron rings on her poor wrists and ankles where the chains had been. She did not claim English sympathy in vain. It is impossible to understand how anyone could have had the heart to touch her, such a thin, bent, little creature as she was, with a wizened, pinched, brown face, and pathetic eyes that seemed to ask always why life for her was what it was.

Is it permissible to mention here that rumours of possession by evil spirits cropped up at one time in a small community of faith-healers of European extraction? I never heard what the symptoms were; but the head of the community having successfully ejected from one member a devil, which he described as "slimy and subtle," next diagnosed one "like a black dog" in another. After wrestling with this undesirable tenant for two hours, during which time he and the victim remained upon their knees, the unfortunate possessed one came to the very sensible conclusion that if there were a devil in her it ought to have come out by then, and if there were not the reverend head of the community had no business to accuse her of harbouring such things.

Delightful things happened in Jerusalem; life at home seems very humdrum in comparison.

"Little People" of the East.

An old Moslem, the step-brother of one of our servants, had an unpleasant experience in that Moslem cemetery on the hill above Jeremiah's Grotto. He fell asleep there towards sundown, and slept on until long after dark, when he suddenly awoke to find himself surrounded by a throng of tiny people whose angry appearance and threatening gestures, albeit they made no sound, frightened him considerably. He tried to break through the ring, first on one side, then on another, but, notwithstanding their diminutive size, their infuriated aspect held him prisoner for some time. At last, seeing that they were beginning to close in upon him, sheer terror enabled him to break through, and he ran for his life, pursued by the little furies to a certain limit, when they vanished. A long illness followed, from which he arose an old and silent man, according to his relations, who said he could hardly be persuaded to talk of his terrible experience.

Hajj —— was a dear od Takroori (Sudanese) of whom we were very fond. He had begun life brilliantly as a slave-raider, but having captured on one occasion a number of little children he was so filled with remorse that he abandoned slave-raiding, placed the little victims in a mission school at Cairo, and eventually took service in an English house at Jerusalem. As a servant he was subject to lapses, but he was the most charming and good old man, and a passionate lover of children. One afternoon in Ramadan, towards sunset, he spread his coat in a quiet corner of the Mosque enclosure, and went to fetch some water to wash his feet before saying his prayers. Returning presently, he found that a white-haired man of very striking and majestic appearance had annexed his quiet corner, and was praying upon his outspread coat. The Hajj was vexed at the intrusion, and asked him to move; but the other only motioned him away with his hand. Hajj then touched him on the shoulder, telling him to move, whereat the stranger turned and looked him full in the face, and disappeared. Hajj said that it was the Prophet Moses whom he had thus irreverently disturbed, and he fell to the ground unconscious. He was found there some little while later and taken home, and on recovering his senses he recounted what had happened. He was deeply penitent for his act of irreverence, and each time he told the story he would conclude by saying that he would not live long after he had incurred the wrath of Moses. As a matter of fact, he died before the year was out.

"Black Magic."

Dealers in black art there certainly were in Jerusalem; we used to hear of them from time to time, though not, of course, from those who actually had resort to them. The most noteworthy case was that of two Jews, a man and a woman, who came from Africa, and who, from all accounts, were thoroughly versed in the dark secrets of their trade. They also dealt in the cheaper and more harmless branches of love philtres and potions of various sorts, and they attracted such a large following of foolish people of all creeds that the Greek and Latin clergy put a very severe ban upon such of their flocks as dealt with them. The sorcerers quietly faded out of Jerusalem, no doubt with well-lined pockets, and the unholy epidemic they had started in the place died down. In passing, I may mention the curious fact that in one of the colonies at Jerusalem certain houses were found to be practising black magic secretly, especially at full moon. The discovery was made quite accidentally by an Englishman, who was instrumental in putting down most of it after a hard struggle; I cannot say for certain that he was entirely successful. No one who has lived in the East will scoff at the assertion that the most unhallowed influences *did* centre in that particular colony; it was one of the few places at Jerusalem through which we never went alone, and we did not pass by it more often than we need, for the inhabitants, who had the reputation of being entirely irreligious, were disagreeable to meet, even casually. Moreover, in that colony was practised a regular system of cruelty to animals that nothing was able to stop. No other colony or quarter, not even the German, had this sinister reputation.

A Latin monk once told us of a house somewhere in Moab which was suddenly taken in possession by evil but unseen forces. The usual course of rappings, levitation, discharge of missiles by unseen hands, disappearances, and so on, was reported, suggesting the presence of mischievous elementals, and eventually the couple whose quiet house was thus tumultuously invaded appealed to the Latin Patriarch for help. After the most careful and minute investigation on the spot, the unseen forces were exorcised, the house was cleansed and blessed, and peace settled upon it once more. The case was filed at the Latin Patriarchate, with all the evidence gathered during a most exhaustive inquiry extending over a period of some months. It was a Latin monk also who once volunteered the curious bit of information that, as a rule, the natives, whether belonging to the Greek or Latin Churches, appeal to the Greek priests to exorcise evil spirits inhabiting houses or individuals. It throws a most vivid light on the conservative habit of the Eastern mind.

Crusaders' Spirits.

One more story occurs to me in closing, though, as the incident took place a few months after we left Jerusalem, it is not, like the rest, a matter of personal reminiscence.

Soon after the participation of Turkey in the war, the Turkish officials at Jerusalem took over the various buildings there which belonged to the Allied nations; and the church and monastery of St. Anne were amongst the first to be requisitioned. This very beautiful Crusading church was used by Saladin as a school for the sons of his nobles, and an Arabic inscription that he put up is still in its place over the west door. Since 1856 it has belonged to the French, who were wise enough to accept what had been previously offered to the British, and refused by them, for reasons too foolish to be enlarged on. The Turks used St. Anne's as a barracks, but after a very short time the soldiers in a body petitioned to be removed; it was impossible to sleep there, they said; the place was too full of spirits who were angry at being disturbed, and would not let them rest. The Turkish authorities were too wise to combat such a general protest; they removed the men, and informed the Algerian Fathers that they might resume their property. To this the Fathers very properly replied that they had been dispossessed by force, and the Turkish Government must formally return the property to the French Government, which had been insulted in their ejection. I never heard the conclusion of the matter; but we can be sure that now, under English rule, all is fair and straight again. There is something very delightful in the thought of the spirits of those old Crusaders gathering to defend a church of theirs.

If the people of Palestine feel that you are sympathetic towards them, they will let you into their lives with simplicity and willingness. And, inasmuch as to share another's life is bound to enlarge the outlook of your own, you come to realise ever more and more clearly that the circles of life are connected by many bridges, and that there are in truth more things even in this life than the frozen philosophy of the North cares to admit.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Bulgaria's New Cabinet.

The *Times* correspondent formerly in the Balkans, in writing of Bulgaria's new Cabinet, thinks that, if his reading of the situation is correct, "it would appear that the new Government in which the former Russophil party is predominant, will be more heartily disposed to continue an Austrophil and Germanophil policy by prosecuting the war than its predecessor, which represented a coalition of the Radoslavists and Stambolovists, both traditionally in favour of the Central Powers and opposed to Russia. As Russia is no longer a danger to Bulgaria, and as her present rulers have abandoned all claim to Constantinople, the only link which held together the two Russophobe parties has disappeared." He adds:—

> Apart from the proposed condominium with Germany, Austria, and Turkey in Northern Dobrudja, which has violently irritated Bulgarian irredentism, the national sentiment has been provoked by the Turkish demand for territorial "compensation" for Bulgarian expansion in the southern portion of that province, while the general discontent has been increased by the food crisis. The troubles which have broken out in Austria may soon find their counterpart in Bulgaria, where the war has never been popular, and would never have been undertaken but for the hope of recovering Macedonia from the Serbs and Greeks with the promised aid of Germany. It must be remembered that Bulgaria entered the present war exhausted by two previous struggles, and war-weariness is universal. It is impossible to say what developments may take place, and the situation needs careful watching.

Freeing the Arabs.

The *Spectator* (June 22) contains an article with the above title, which makes interesting and cheerful reading. A study of the map may be disheartening; for "the blank space is so large compared with the area occupied by our armies," the blank space being, of course, that labelled "Syrian Desert" or "Arabia." But:—

> In reality, the situation is far more promising than the map would suggest. In the first place, though the great Arabian Desert, which stretches from the Indian Ocean to the mountains of Armenia and from the Tigris to the Syrian plains, is a region apart, it is by no means self-contained and self-supporting. The Arabs have to trade with the outer world, exchanging their produce for European goods and arms. Their chief markets are in Syria and Mesopotamia, to which they make periodical visits. But the British blockade of Germany and Turkey has closed the Syrian marts, and the occupation of the Tigris and Euphrates Valleys has placed the Mesopotamian marts under British control. The Arabs must now conduct their trade under our supervision. Without our approval, they could import or export nothing of commercial value. The remote oases of Arabia, to which few Europeans have ever penetrated, are as much subject as Berlin or Constantinople to the all-pervading influence of the British Navy. This economic factor, so little regarded, counts for much in the effect which our Eastern campaigns have undoubtedly exercised over the Arab race as a whole. Our armies may be only on the fringe of Arabia, but they impress the Arab, who is above all a keen man of business, by their obvious mastery of his outlets for trade. From the Turk he can get nothing; through the British he can get almost everything that may be imported in time of war. Trade is a great teacher, and the moral of British economic superiority must have been impressed by now on many an Arab tribe that has never seen a British soldier.

The writer then deals with the ‘fundamental antagonism" between Arab and Turk, and expresses the opinion that—

> the Turk never had much influence over these wandering tribes, and must have still less now that he has little to offer them as a set-off against the solid attractions of our good government in Mesopotamia and our trading facilities. The Arabs, though torn by tribal dissensions, have a strong feeling of kinship and are united by their economic interests. Nomad chiefs who own land in the Tigris and Euphrates Valleys are naturally predisposed to a British occupation which makes their property more secure, and therefore more valuable. One nomad who feels that he has gained by our advent is likely to impress the fact on others, and we may be sure that all Arabia has by now a shrewd idea of the superiority of British control over the misrule of the Turk. These considerations are greatly strengthened by the innate antagonism between Turk and Arab, and by the Hedjaz revolt, which has shown that the Turk, although a Moslem, can be lawfully fought by other Moslems. It will be seen, then, that the British armies in Palestine and Mesopotamia have already exerted a marked influence over the whole of that vast region which separates their fields of action, and that there is nothing fantastic in the programme of freeing the Arabs which General Maude announced at Baghdad.

The Greek Soldier.

Mr. Crawfurd Price contributes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* (June 20) an article, "The New Balkan Crisis," which begins thus:—"It cannot be repeated too often that it is possible for us to force the evacuation of Belgium and restore Alsace-Lorraine to France, and yet lose the war. To-day the Balkan Peninsula is a bridge which links up the Central Empires with Turkey, and which to-morrow, if we do not take heed, may become the pivot of further attempts at world conquest. It must be transformed into a rampart against German aggression." This is sound argument, and if it were not for the fanatical "Westerners," it would be, by now, superfluous to repeat it. But, facts being as they are, Mr. Price's first sentence holds good. What we wish to quote from the article, however, is Mr. Price's estimate of the Greek soldier. He says:—

> It has been the fashion with some in this country—a fashion instituted by Bulgarian propaganda—to deride the martial value of the Greek soldier. The answer has been given in the Struma Valley. It is my firm conviction that, given the necessary equipment and the moral encouragement which can only be afforded by a recognition of his vital national interests, the Greek soldier will again win his spurs and play an important rôle in the struggle for the freedom of the Balkan peoples.
>
> Let us remember that hitherto that moral encouragement has been entirely lacking. The baneful influence of Constantine destroyed the very spirit which it is a monarch's duty to uplift. And we ourselves have been far from blameless. We punished the whole nation for the sins of its ruler, whom we alone had the power to remove. We played into the hands of the Germanophil propaganda.

The article concludes:—

> Greece can raise an army of 350,000 men—a force sufficient to turn the scale in the Balkans. They are there where they are wanted, and they make no demands on transport save for a few boatloads of munitions. The rapidity with which the mobilisation can be effected and the military value of the troops will largely depend upon national unity and moral, both of which M. Venizelos is now endeavouring to restore with such conspicuous success.
>
> In both of these respects we can and must (in our own interests as much as those of Greece and Serbia) lend valuable assistance. The application of our oft-quoted principles to the Balkan problem, a definite and logical policy in the Near East, coupled with an assurance that the blood-ties of the battlefield will be binding at the Peace Conference—all these things will do much to clear away the aftermath of Germano-Royalist propaganda. Once reassured on these points, the Hellenes may be relied upon to fight and beat the Bulgarians—and that is the common task of the Allies in Macedonia.

MANCHESTER SYRIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Manchester Syrian Association held a very successful meeting last Friday evening, at the Midland Hotel. The meeting was addressed by Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., Mr. A. Sefi, of the London School of Oriental Studies, and Lieutenants Abdu and Hosheimy, of the Army of the Hejaz. At the close of the meeting a resolution was carried with great enthusiasm, recording the deep sense of gratitude to Sir Mark Sykes felt by the Syrians of Manchester for the honour he had conferred on them in coming to Manchester specially to meet them, and for his address. The meeting also asked him to convey to H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the respectful gratitude of the Syrian community for the constant interest in the welfare of the Syrians displayed by H.M. Government, and its unbounded loyalty to the cause of the Allies. Subscriptions amounting to £3,200 were announced as offered for medical work and other purposes in the occupied territory in Palestine and Mesopotamia and in the regions operated in by the Hejaz forces.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I pointed out that the fiasco of the latest Turkish loan would render further assistance from Germany inevitable, and this week we have the news that Javid Bey is to make another of his unwelcome appearances in Berlin. Evidently the leaders of the C.U.P. think that there may not be any undue eagerness on Germany's part to finance them again, and so they are putting up a very pretty piece of bluff by talking of the necessity of reducing their army and not incorporating new drafts if they fail to obtain money. The Turk is, of course, a past-master at diplomacy of this order, and it is all so purposeless, for it is as certain as anything can be that Germany will assist the Sublime Porte again—with credit—on terms. As to the form in which she will lend her credit, I should think it conceivable that she may resort to another theatrical device like the deposit of gold in a safe in Berlin. But whatever its form, we can be sure that no tangible security will be transferred to Constantinople.

⁂

The land companies were naturally bound to benefit by the existing prosperity in Egypt, and the same tale of increased profit is told at each succeeding general meeting. The latest of these companies to hold its meeting, the New Egyptian Company, has had results fully up to expectations. Mr. A. A. Baumann, the chairman, declared that in the past six years he had not been able to present a better balance-sheet, and he pointed to the fact that the assets now exceed the liabilities by £106,484, equal to 4s. 9d. per share, the excess being represented by reserve from profits on sales of land not yet in cash, £19,284, the capital reserve of £40,598, and the profit and loss account £46,601. Two other items of interest mentioned were the reduction of the debenture debt to £79,650, and the decrease to date of loans on properties in Lower Egypt to £116,525.

⁂

The company's profit for the year, after charging debenture interest, amounted to £30,171, compared with £9,607 the previous year, to which has to be added the carry forward of £16,630. This sum has been utilised to provide a dividend of 1s. per share, leaving a balance of £30,062. It may be noted that during the year land sales gave increasingly good returns. Thus 531 feddans realised an average of £103 10s. per feddan, and subsequently 916 feddans were disposed of for an average of £116 12s. 6d. per feddan, while from January 1 to April 30 a further 210 feddans were sold at an average of £143 5s. per feddan. The position is thus one which should prove very satisfactory to the shareholders, for obviously a continuance of present conditions will ensure them a larger distribution in the near future.

⁂

I learn that the Bank of British West Africa, which is to open yet another branch in Morocco, at Marrakech, on July 1, has decided to open shortly a branch at Alexandria. This latest instance of the enterprising policy of this bank is very welcome. No institution has done more for the furtherance of British interests in Morocco and the West coast of Africa, and there is much to be said for extending British intercommunicating banking facilities along the whole of the North African littoral. It is to be hoped that the branch at Alexandria will prove the forerunner of the extension of the bank's activities to other leading centres.

⁂

An interesting sidelight on the effect of the war on India's industrial development was given by Mr. Montagu in his speech at the Royal Society of Arts last week. He pointed out that the supply of British-made goods having fallen off owing to shipping difficulties and other reasons, they had to fall back on the Indian mills for Army supplies, and the cotton textiles required for Army purposes were now being manufactured entirely in India. "To meet the requirements of a year," he added, "20 million yards of khaki drill, 3½ million yards of khaki drill shirting, and 17½ millions of khaki puggaree cloth had to be made. Six large modern mills are wholly occupied in making materials for tents, and even the khaki dyes used are now obtained to an increasing extent from Indian resources. All this has given a tremendous fillip to the industry, and one may hope that the ground gained will not be lost when peace comes." Mr. Montagu emphasised the fact that what was true of cotton might be applied to other branches of industry, and added that in his visit he was greatly impressed with the demands that met him everywhere that more should be done to encourage the manufacture in India of goods of which India provided the raw materials.

⁂

I understand that it is proposed to hold an exhibition in Baghdad in August at which examples of local industries will be on view. This will be the first exhibition to be held in Baghdad, and it is hoped that it will serve the useful purpose of affording an indication of the scope and value of the work of native craftsmen. The authorities are to be heartily congratulated on initiating this enterprise, for the exhibition should give great encouragement to the local workers, and should do much to further the re-establishment of Baghdad's local industries, which in past ages were famous for the beautiful workmanship of the objects produced.

At the recent general meeting of the Bank of Abyssinia, held at Cairo, the chairman gave a promising account of the progress of this institution during the past year ended December 31. At the end of the year the bank's holding of dollars, on a valuation of 7.50 dollars per £1, stood at £173,300, against £129,900 at the end of 1916, when the valuation basis was 10 dollars per £1, giving an increased valuation of £43,300, and making a total gross profit of £72,400. The net profit amounted to £59,500, out of which £4,700 is written off for various depreciations, £8,800 is accounted for by the debit balance of 1916, leaving a surplus of £46,300. Finally, it may be noted that the deposits stood at the end of 1917 at £232,900, against £142,300 at the end of 1916, and £144,800 at the end of 1915.

⁂

I learn that a scheme is under contemplation for producing paper pulp in Burma from the bamboo. A Bombay corporation, the All-India Industrial Syndicate, is responsible for the enterprise. It is intended, I understand, to crush the bamboos into pulp by a special process, and then export the pulp for treatment by the Home paper manufacturers. Probably the undertaking will not be commenced for some months, owing to the necessary preliminary work, and to the difficulty of obtaining machinery.

⁂

A recent appointment of interest to "Indiamen" is that of Mr. Frederick Palmer, C.I.E., M.I.C.E., of Messrs. Rendel, Palmer, and Tritton, as honorary adviser to the Air Ministry in engineering questions associated with the Department of Works and Buildings. Mr. Palmer was engineer to the East Indian Railway from 1884 to 1901, and was responsible for the construction of the bridge over the River Sone. Subsequently he was chief engineer for a number of years to the Calcutta Port Commissioners.

⁂

Egypt supplies an illuminating example of the ingenious way in which substitutes have been found for goods unobtainable or only to be procured in insufficient quantities owing to the war. For some time efforts have been made to meet the fuel shortage there by the utilisation of cottonseed oil-cake instead of coal. Egypt produces annually some 85,000 tons of cottonseed oil-cake, for which there is no internal demand, and owing to the lack of shipping there was a great accumulation of the cake, so that its use as fuel solves a double problem. It is stated that 1¾ tons of cottonseed oil-cake are roughly the equivalent of a ton of coal, so that as the cake costs about a fifth of the price of coal it will be realised that there are distinct advantages in its use. Apparently the new fuel is giving satisfaction, for it is reported to be in use in hotels, restaurants, and private houses.

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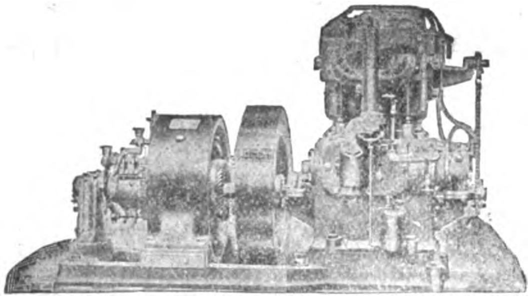

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

INDIA'S TRADE IN 1916-17.

The annual review of the trade of India is always an interesting document—so far as Blue-books can be interesting—and the present issue, dealing with 1916-17, a period in which the effect of the earlier war conditions on trade and commerce was tending to become more or less stable, while the incidence of the later factors was not yet fully felt, is no exception to the rule. The period was on the whole one in which favourable circumstances held the balance. The monsoon was excellent, and crops were generally better than in the previous year, while wholesale prices for food grains showed a fall of 3 per cent. at the end of March, 1917, compared with the prices of March, 1916, though they marked a rise of 4 per cent. in oilseeds, and of 45 per cent. in cotton. Two other factors are noted in the review; the shortage of tonnage, which severely hampered trade, and financial difficulties owing to the curtailment of Council Bills.

Were the verdict to be given on figures alone it might be said that India's trade during the period in question was remarkably buoyant all things considered, as there was a very marked increase in the trade returns. Imports amounted to £99,748,000, compared with £87,991,000 in 1915-16, an increase of 13.4 per cent.; exports totalled £155,436,000 against £128,356,000, an increase of 21.1 per cent.; while re-exports stood at £5,155,000, against £3,231,000, an increase of 59.6 per cent. These figures have to be read in the light of changing values, however, as the period was one which witnessed a considerable rise in prices, and an attempt has been made in the review to estimate these figures on the basis of the prices obtaining in 1915-16. The result shows that the imports would have been valued at nearly £78,329,000, and the exports at £135.551,000. On the same basis it was calculated that the decrease in imports on account of the decrease in volume was £9,662,000, and the increase in exports owing to the increase in volume was £7,195,000.

As regards the distribution of this trade, it may be noted that the proportion falling to British Empire was less than in 1915-16, but that all the same a record level was reached of nearly £147 millions. The Empire's share in the import trade was less than in the pre-war quinquennium, but even so it represented almost two-thirds of the imports in the year under review, while the percentage of the exports was over 50, against 42 per cent. in the pre-war quinquennial period. The respective figures were £65,580,000 out of £99,748,000 for imports, and £80,925,000 out of £160,591,000 for exports. One other feature in regard to the year's trade demands notice, and that is the marked expansion of Japan's trade with India. The imports from Japan in 1916-17 amounted to £8,889,000, compared with £4,998,000 in 1915-16, and £3,187,000 in 1913-14, while her share of India's exports was £17,652,000 compared with £12,302,000 in 1915-16, and £15,130,000 in 1913-14. This gives Japan the first place in the import trade outside the British Empire, while as regards exports she takes second place to the United States, whose purchases from India are on an increasing scale, and in the year in question totalled £20,787,000, against £14,176,000 in 1915-16 and £14,567,000 in 1913-14.

Imports.

Turning to the analysis of the trade, we find that the chief increases in imports were in cotton manufactures, £6,526,000; motor-cars and cycles, £567,000, paper and pasteboard. £592,000; woollen piece goods, £517,000; mineral oil other than kerosene, £500,000; and hardware, £485,000. The main decreases were in railway plant and rolling-stock, £1,767,000, and sugar £778,000. Imports of cotton manufactures amounted to £35,376,000, against £28,850,000 in 1915-16, the increase being almost entirely due to the rise in values. Only 29,530,000 lb. of cotton yarn were imported, against 40,427,000 lb. in 1915-16, while the figures for Indian production of cotton yarn stood at 680,570,000 lb., against 722,425,000 lb. There was also a decrease in the quantity of all kinds of cotton piece goods, except coloured goods, a decrease, it may be added, which was not borne out by the values. Thus imports of grey goods decreased 26 per cent., but were valued at £11,247,000, a decrease of 7 per cent.; white goods decreased 3 per cent., but were valued at £8,529,000, an increase of 20 per cent.; while the value of coloured goods (whose quantity increased by 27 per cent.) was £10,059,000, an increase of 76 per cent. The share of the United Kingdom in the coloured goods trade was represented by 403,710,000 yards, against 322,530,000 yards, while the imports from Japan rose from 3,349,000 yards to 21,937,000 yards. Imports of cotton hosiery rose from £427,000 to £942,000, Japan supplying 90 per cent. of the goods, while the United Kingdom's share was a meagre 8 per cent.

The quantity of sugar imported in 1916-17 was 440,100 tons, as against 515,900 tons in 1915-16. Java was the principal source of supply, with 377,700 tons, and Mauritius, the Straits Settlements, and Japan with 22,900 tons, 14,800 tons and 11,600 tons respectively accounted for the bulk of the remainder. For the year under review, it may be added, the increase in India's production of cane sugar was estimated at less than 1 per cent. A further decrease took place in the imports of iron and steel, the figures being 257,200 tons, against 424,600 tons in 1915-16, 608,600 tons in 1914-15, and 1,018,200 tons in 1913-14. The United Kingdom's share was 176,700 tons, a decrease of 112,700 tons on the figures for the previous year. Copper imports also showed a further heavy fall, the figures being 1,700 tons, a decrease of 70 per cent. The United Kingdom supplied 63 per cent., and Japan 26 per cent. Sheets for tea chests made up 65 per cent. of the imports of lead; in this case the United Kingdom's share was 83 per cent., while Ceylon was responsible for the remaining 17 per cent.

Imports of machinery amounted to £4,009,000, an increase of 14 per cent. Cotton mill machinery was valued at £858,000, an increase of £58,000, jute mill machinery at £719,000, an increase of £95,000; electrical machinery at £293,000, an increase of £74,000; tea garden machinery at £147,000, an increase of £54,000. and mining machinery at £105,000, a decrease of £27,000.

Exports.

The most important increases in exports were in raw cotton, £6,172,000; hides and skins, including leather, £5,610,000; seeds, £4,214,000; food grains, £3,889,000; jute manufactures, £2,451,000; and cotton manufactures, £2,102,000. The chief decrease was in tea, in which commodity there was a decline of £2,140,000. Jute and jute manufactures comprised 25 per cent. of the exports of Indian merchandise, the value being £38,629,000. Exports of raw jute amounted to 539,800 tons, against 600,100 tons in 1915-16, but there was an increase in value from £10,428,000 to £10,859,000. The figures for jute manufactures, India's chief export, showed a further notable increase at £27,770,000, against £25,319,000 in 1915-16, and £13,499,000 for the pre-war quinquennium. It is pointed out that during the year there were 74 mills at work, while four new mills came into existence.

Cotton exports amounted to £31,297,000, against £23,023,000 in 1915-16. As regards raw cotton, the crops of 1915-16 and 1916-17, which come into the year under review, were both below normal, and so demand exceeded supply, resulting in very high prices, and exports declined to 425,000 tons from 443,000 tons in 1915-16. Japan took 68 per cent. of the raw cotton, Italy 11.4 per cent., and the United Kingdom 9.4 per cent. Exports of cotton twist and yarn amounted to £4,999,000, or £384,000 above the figures for 1915-16, the increase here, as in practically every case, being due to the rise in prices. China, as usual, was India's best customer, taking 135,980,000 lb. out of a total trade of 160,417,000 lb. There was a marked increase in the exports of cotton goods, the amount being 244,745,000 yards, as against 113,465,000 yards in 1915-16 and 90,200,000 yards for the pre-war quinquennium. Aden was again the chief market for Indian cloth, her imports being 58,591,000 yards, against 19,423,000 yards in 1915-16. Persia, Asiatic Turkey, East Africa, the Straits Settlements, and Ceylon also provided growing markets for this commodity.

Exports of food grains showed an increase of 19.6 per cent. on the previous year's figures at 2,914,600 tons, but were still much below normal. Rice exports increased from 1,340,000 tons to 1,585,000 tons, the chief purchasers being the United Kingdom and Ceylon. Wheat was exported to the amount of 733,664 tons, against 652,880 tons, the value being £5,970,000, against £5,627,000 in 1915-16. At the previous year's level of prices the value of the exports would have been higher by £349,000. The harvests of 1915 and 1916 both come into the review, and it is worth noting that as the result of the bad harvest of 1915 exports of wheat from April to August, 1916, showed a marked decrease on the previous figures. The 1916 harvest, however, was good, and the exports of wheat from September to March were above the average of the pre-war quinquennium. As regards other food grains, exports of barley rose 26 per cent. to 209,000 tons, exports of beans were almost doubled, the figures being 68,000 tons, against 34,000 tons in 1915-16; while the exports of grain, owing to the demand from Egypt, increased from 32,500 tons to 38,100 tons.

There was a large increase in the exports of hides and skins, the figures being for raw hides and skins, including cuttings, £9,606,000, against £6,530,000 in 1915-16; for tanned hides and skins £6,212,000, against £3,741,000; and for unwrought and manufactured leather £81,000, against £18,000. Here, again, the increased prices have to be taken into consideration, and the total increase of £3,074,000 is accounted for by this factor to the extent of £2,400,000. The chief feature in the trade in raw hides and skins was the marked increase in exports to the United States. Out of the total exports of 44,700 tons of raw hides, America took 23,000 tons, while her share of the 28,400 tons of raw skins exported was 24,800 tons. The United Kingdom, it may be added, took 7,200 tons of raw hides and 2,000 tons of raw skins. Of the trade in tanned hides, nine-tenths of which consisted of cowhides and the exports of which amounted to 14,000 tons, against 12,000 tons in 1915-16, the United Kingdom took 99 per cent. of the exports. The United Kingdom and the United States were the main buyers of tanned skins, the former taking 5,400 tons and the latter 2,300 tons.

With regard to the tea trade, which was the subject of detailed comment last week, it need only be said that the season was satisfactory, and as regards the rest of the exports it need only be noted that exports of oilseeds increased from 700,000 tons, valued at £6,748,000, to 928,200 tons, valued at £10,962,000, but were still much below the pre-war average, while exports of raw wool amounted to 48,000,000 lb., a decrease of 17,000,000 lb. on the previous year.

INDIAN OPIUM STOCKS IN CHINA.

In the House of Commons on June 20, Sir W. Collins asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he had official information to the effect that the whole of the surplus Indian opium stocks had been purchased by the Chinese Government with a view to resale to a syndicate, described as an anti-opium society, thus reviving the opium traffic in China; and, if so, whether his Majesty's Government proposed to take any and, if so, what steps with a view to obviate the revival of the traffic in Indian opium in China?

Mr. Balfour, who replied, said:—His Majesty's Government have received official information to the effect that an agreement has been concluded between the Chinese Government and the Opium Combine for the purchase of the stocks of Indian opium in bond at Shanghai and Canton, but they have no official information as regards the resale of the stocks to a syndicate. His Majesty's Government have not taken any part in, or given any official countenance to, the negotiations which led up to this agreement, but, inasmuch as the stocks of Indian opium which have been purchased by the Chinese Government were imported into China under the terms and during the course of the 1911 agreement, they were unable to prevent the conclusion of this private transaction. The importation of certificated Indian opium into China has ceased to be legal with the expiration on December 31 last of the 1911 agreement. His Majesty's Government, therefore, have no reason to fear that the formation of a Chinese syndicate for the purpose of disposing in China of the stocks of Indian opium remaining unsold at that date in the hands of the combine will lead to a revival of the traffic in opium between China and British India.

BRITISH TRADE WITH GREECE.

Chamber of Commerce and Club for Athens.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, June 17.

In January last the British Minister convened a meeting of British residents and British officials in Athens and the Piræus for the purpose of discussing proposals for the extension of British trade and influence in Greece. The meeting was well attended. Earl Granville explained that a memorandum had been drawn up in the Foreign Office on the subject of commercial policy, and an account was given of the various methods employed by the Germans before the war for carrying out their policy of peaceful penetration. His Lordship expressed a wish for closer relations between the Legation and the British colony than had heretofore existed, and he desired to consult the meeting as to the best means of attaining that end. The principal subjects discussed were the formation of a social club and a Chamber of Commerce, and the establishment of British schools;* and committees were formed to deliberate as to the best means of carrying out these proposals and to report at a subsequent meeting.

At the second meeting, which took place on February 19, progress was reported, and it was decided to proceed at once with the formation of a Chamber of Commerce and Club combined, and with a view to raising the funds required for installation and current expenditure it was decided to issue founders' endowment shares of ten pounds each. The work of organisation was proceeded with by the same committee, and the club premises in the Annexe to the British Legation were opened at the first general meeting of the founders, which took place on the King's birthday, June 3, under the presidency of the British Minister, 19 founders being present.

Mr. Waugh, the Commercial Attaché of the British Legation, who has taken a leading part in carrying out the scheme, informed the meeting that British residents in Greece had generously subscribed altogether over £1,000 in founders' shares, and that there had been a satisfactory number of applications for membership, not only in Athens and the Piræus but also from Salonika, Patras, Chios and Samos. He said there had been some misunderstanding as to the combination of Club and Chamber of Commerce, and he had several times been asked whether this was a commercial club. Some people, he said, viewed anything commercial rather doubtfully, and had pictured in their minds the commercial room in a provincial hotel as still to be found in England, where bagmen of the Pickwickian type sit and look at each other's samples. This club, Mr. Waugh explained, would not be like that. It would be called the British Club, and it was intended to be a centre where all Englishmen in Greece could meet, and which they could use as a social club, but at the same time it was intended to be more than that. If it had been suggested to start a social club pure and simple to-day, Mr. Waugh did not think that there would have been a very great response. People would not have felt inclined to subscribe for a club where the only object was recreation and amusement, and he did not think there was a large enough colony to make such a thing possible. It was intended to be a club and a national centre for British people in Greece. It was not an original idea. It was taken partly from watching what the Germans were doing before the war. They had institutions where they could meet, and where every national object of theirs had its headquarters, and where was carried out a great deal of useful work in their own interests. The French did the same thing, and at Constantinople had a very fine building called the "Union Française," where all their firms, committees, and institutions had their headquarters, the Chamber of Commerce among others. The club, Mr. Waugh added, was intended to be a sort of masonic institution, where all Englishmen could meet on equal terms; there must not be any exclusiveness, all Englishmen should be welcome and a spirit of liberal comradeship should exist. As far as the Chamber of Commerce was concerned, it would be in the same building and under the same committee, but for ordinary purposes would be quite distinct. It had two rooms distinct from the other rooms of the club, and there should be no intrusion of the business element into the club rooms.

On the conclusion of Mr. Waugh's remarks, the draft constitution was submitted to the meeting and passed, and the following gentlemen were elected to serve on the committee: Mr. S. de Bilinski, chairman; Mr. E. Bates, hon. treasurer; Mr. H. E. Mountain, hon. secretary; and Messrs. J. Anderson, C. S. Butler, G. Calfoglou, J. McDowall, A. T. Waugh, and C. Whittall. Votes of thanks to all those who had helped in organising the institution were proposed by Lord Granville, and the proceedings then terminated.

The same evening at ten o'clock Lord Granville declared the institution open in the presence of a large gathering. The club will, doubtless, prove of much use not only to the large number of naval, military and civilian officials serving in Athens, but also to officers on leave from Salonika or passing through Athens. The establishment of a British Chamber of Commerce in Greece should go far towards the promotion and extension of British trade in the Hellenic Kingdom.

Constitution of Chamber.

The capital of the Chamber of Commerce and Club is provided by the issue of 100 founders' endowment shares of ten pounds each, to be allotted by the committee to applicants who must be British subjects, British officials or persons nominated by the British Minister.

Firms holding founders' shares may nominate a British subject in their employ to vote in the election of the committee. Founders' shares, in case of death or otherwise, may only be transferred with the approval of the committee, and in any case only to persons qualified as stated above. All British subjects shall be eligible as members on simple application to the honorary secretary, subject to the approval of the committee, which has power to reject any candidate by a majority of votes. The subscription shall be 100 drachmae per annum for British subjects resident in Athens and the Piræus and 25 drachmae for those resident in other parts of Greece and in the United Kingdom or abroad. Members resident in Athens and the Piræus elected after June 30, shall only pay 50 drachmae for that year.

Foreign subjects interested in trade with the United Kingdom shall be eligible for election by the committee to membership of the Chamber of Commerce, but such members of the Chamber of Commerce shall not have access to the club rooms and shall not be eligible to serve on the committee. The subscription for these shall be 50 drachmae for residents in Athens and the Piræus and 25 drachmae for residents elsewhere.

The officers of His Majesty's ships and of the British army, Auxiliary forces, and Civil Service visiting Athens shall be made honorary members for such period as the committee shall decide. Other British subjects visiting Greece may be introduced by any member with the approval of the committee, and shall enjoy the use of the club rooms on terms to be decided by the committee.

A MOSLEM BANK FOR TUNIS

The Comptoir Commercial Arabe.

An interesting experiment in the financial world of Tunisia (says the United States Consul at Tunis, Mr. Edwin C. Kemp), is the establishment in the Souk-El-Grana, Tunis, of the first Moslem bank in the Regency, the Comptoir Commercial Arabe, whose capital of 400,000 francs (£16,000) is entirely subscribed and managed by Arabs. For the present the bank's activities are limited to mercantile transactions, the capital being too small for a general banking business. The Koranic prohibition of interest is also a delicate matter in a Moslem community so conservative as Tunis, where Moslem depositors sometimes waive the interest on their deposits in the French banks of the city.

The establishment of this bank is also of interest as showing the result of contact with the French in developing the often-denied ability of the Arab to organise. This ability has already been shown in the chain of wholesale and retail grocery stores managed entirely by Djerbians (the Lotus-eaters of Homer), who maintain a successful monopoly of the native trade, and are even taking a considerable share of the European trade, in spite of keen competition from the city's French, Italian, and Jewish grocers.

CROP PROSPECTS IN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.

The *Matin* says that according to experts the prospects of the cereal harvest in Algeria and Morocco are very favourable (says a *Reuter* message.) It is estimated that Algeria alone will produce 23,000,000 quintals of grain, which means that North Africa will be in a position to supply several million quintals to the Mother Country.

◆

The Government of India is to undertake a re-survey of the Mayo salt mine at Khewra.

It is stated that during the past two years more than four hundred agricultural machines and appliances have been despatched to Turkey from Germany.

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* This subject is dealt with on page 519.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Prospects in Mesopotamia.

It is to be hoped that British manufacturers and exporters are keeping the future possibilities of trade in Mesopotamia well in mind, for it is certain that few regions of the Near or Middle East will offer better prospects for enterprise of the right kind after the war. How rapidly the country repays development has already been fully proved in the brief period that Mesopotamia has been in British occupation. This aspect is well borne out in a recent letter from a correspondent, "Sir W. Willcocks's India irrigation scheme," he writes, "has been put into working order, and it is expected that 200,000 tons of grain will be harvested this year, and the taxes on this will cover the whole cost of the capital outlay in one year!" The fact that this result is being achieved under war conditions speaks volumes for the country's future under proper auspices

Motor Cars for India.

Motor car manufacturers would be well advised to spare no efforts to cultivate the Indian market after the war, for recent returns show that the use of the motor car in India has made rapid strides during the last few years. Thus, in 1916-17, 4,778 motor cars were imported, against 3,121 in 1915-16, 2,005 in 1914-15, and 2,800 cars in 1913-14. Almost the whole imports in 1916-17 came from the United States, the figures being 4,169, while the United Kingdom supplied 489. How this compares with pre-war imports can be seen from the figures for 1913-14, when the United Kingdom supplied 1,669 motor cars, against 868 from the United States. In this respect the war has given America a great advantage, and it will take our manufacturers all their time to recover the position lost through war restrictions. In India, as elsewhere in the East, it need hardly be emphasised that attention to local requirements is one of the most important essentials for trade development, and if the competition which has grown up during the war in regard to motor cars and other commodities is to be successfully combated it will only be by the most careful treatment of the market.

Lifting Laid Crops.

Australian ingenuity is responsible for the invention of a device which will be welcomed by every farmer, especially those in the East, where unreasonable winds and rains frequently lay the crops flat and harvesting becomes tedious and disappointing. This device is for picking up crops laid flat by wind and rain, and is in the shape of a false comb for attachment to any stripper, harvester or reaper thrasher. It is claimed that the merit of the design lies in a wonderful flexibility and free movement of the prongs forming the comb, and the fact that any prong broken or bent can be replaced by a "spare" in less than a minute.

Radiator Tablets.

It is most important that the cooling system of an internal combustion engine should be kept at its maximum efficiency, and this can only be obtained by the prevention of "fur" or scale forming on the walls of the water-jackets or in the radiator. At an interesting demonstration, which was recently given before the Junior Institution of Engineers, showing how hard water can be rendered innocuous in its depositing of scale on the walls of radiators and jackets, some tablets were employed for the purpose which, according to subsequent reports, proved very successful. They are, it appears, specially made by a British firm, and should undoubtedly meet with a good reception in the Near East, where hard water has often been responsible for accidents to engines and boilers.

Aluminium Coating.

By a new process recently invented, aluminium can be fixed securely to cast-iron, yielding a surface equal to rolled aluminium. The iron article is first galvanised or tinned, and then dipped in molten aluminium at 700°—800° C. Whilst so immersed the surface of the work is swept by steel brushes, with the result that the tin or zinc passes into the molten aluminium and is replaced by aluminium on the surface of the iron. Two or more aluminium dipping baths may be employed, but most of the tin or zinc remains in the first bath. Excellent adhesion and freedom from corrosion are claimed, and the total cost of the coated work shows a saving as compared with solid aluminium.

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OLIVE CULTIVATION IN BALUCHISTAN

The Forest Administration in Baluchistan refers as follows in its report for 1916-17 to attempts that are being made to bud the wild olive trees, which are plentiful in certain parts of the country, with buds from European olives:—About 200 European trees were imported from the South of France in 1910 and planted at Fazil Kach and at Turwekan in a pass in the mountains between Hurani and Loralai, in order to give a plentiful supply of buds for the wild trees in the neighbourhood. These imported trees have grown well and they fruited in 1916. The fruit was large and seemed to contain plenty of oil. In 1911 a number of old wild olive trees were cut down in order to produce by coppicing from their stumps young shoots fit for budding with the European olive. In 1914 these young wild olive shoots were ready and were budded in May. It turned out, however, that this was a little late in the year. Moreover, for the olive the best bud appears to be the "resting bud," which should be put in in September. Only eleven out of the 100 buds put in in May, 1914, were successful. A few others have been tried in subsequent years, and there are now in all about 50 wild olive shoots budded with the European olive. The budded portions are growing vigorously and should give fruit in a year or two. If it turns out that these budded wild olive shoots give, like the European plants from which they were taken, good, large fruit containing plenty of oil, it will then be worth while pushing the experiment forward on a great scale, and the eye of imagination can foresee that a flourishing olive-oil industry may arise in Baluchistan. There are numerous streams near the wild-olive belts which could be used for turning mills to crush out the oil. Experiments similar to the Baluchistan experiments are being carried on in Kashmir and the Punjab Salt Range; and when the time comes for the budded trees to bear fruit, the results in these places will be compared with the Baluchistan results.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Position Unchanged.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

In many respects the market during the past week has been in a waiting attitude, and fresh features of importance have been scarce. Producers remain in a very strong position, as there is very little yarn and cloth offering, and spinners and manufacturers who can deliver quickly can dictate terms of fresh contracts to their customers. In spite of the probability of a large American crop next season prices continue to be maintained in both New York and Liverpool. A little uncertainty exists as to the position of the Egyptian growth. Certain telegrams of a rather adverse character have not been confirmed, and it is believed here that the plants are doing generally well. Prices in Egyptian yarns have again gone against buyers. Producers are in a very strong position. Many sellers are quite indifferent as to booking fresh orders for some time to come. No development has occurred in the demand in piece goods for Egypt. Resales have again been reported. Prices in Cairo are said to be not so satisfactory as a few weeks ago. Leading shippers to India have adopted a waiting policy. A little more inquiry has been mentioned in dyed sorts for China. The inquiry in sized materials for Singapore and Java has tended to fall off. Stock lots have been much sought after by home trade buyers. Extensive contracts have recently been placed in jeans and drills for the Government. American yarns have stiffened in price, but a limited business has been done. There has been no activity whatever in shipping bundles.

◆

USE OF INDIAN COTTON.

At a meeting of the Preston Chamber of Commerce on June 25, Mr. A. O. Goodier, the secretary, referred to the suggestion that an extended use should be made of Indian cotton, and stated that the idea was regarded with disfavour by employers and operatives alike, as it would involve the introduction of new plant and the adoption of new processes in the spinning and weaving sections.

◆

INDIA'S GOLD COIN.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, replying to Sir J. D. Rees on June 26, said that the Government of India had made an ordinance authorising the coinage of 15-rupee gold pieces, and these were now being issued to the public. They were of the same standard weight and fineness as a sovereign. The Bombay branch of the Royal Mint would probably start the coinage of sovereigns at the end of this month.

◆

General Allenby notifies the appointment of a Cotton Control Commission of five, of which the Hon. Ronald Lindsay is chairman (says a Reuter message from Cairo dated July 17), in connection with the Government purchase scheme outlined in the official statement issued here on March 12, by which the British and Egyptian Governments, acting in concert, decided to acquire the Egyptian cotton crop from August 1 of this year.

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COMPANY MEETING.

New Egyptian.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., was held on June 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Arthur A. Baumann (Chairman of the company) presiding. The London Manager and Secretary (Mr. Thomas Day) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, the Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I congratulate the shareholders upon the very substantial improvement in the financial position of this company since our last annual meeting. Indeed, since I first took the chair, some six years ago, I have not been able to present a better balance-sheet than that which we lay before you to-day. As there are a great many shareholders who are warrant shareholders, and, therefore, have not received the report and accounts, I will, with your permission, go through the main points as summarily as I can. Our total assets, taken at or under cost, amount to £749,069 odd, while our liabilities amount to £642,584 odd, thus showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £106,484, which is equal to 4s. 9d. per share. This excess of assets is represented by reserve for profits on sales of land not yet in cash, £19,284; capital reserve, £40,398; and profit and loss account, £46,801. Our agricultural land appears at £404,599 for 7,988 feddans, which is equal to £50 12s. 11d. per feddan. The increase in the investments from £973 to £9,048 is accounted for by the purchase of £8,500 Five per Cent. War Loan, and since the close of the financial year, on December 31 last, we have purchased from the trustees for the Debenture holders their holding of £11,500, making £20,000 held at date. It will be seen that our cash at the bank appears at the satisfactory figure of £103,723, which compares with £24,130 last year, and £9,240 the previous year.

Turning to the debit side of the balance-sheet, we have purchased and cancelled since the close of the financial year £25,000 debentures, thus reducing our debenture debt at date to £79,650 as compared with the original issue of £125,000. That, of course, does not appear in the accounts, as the transaction took place after the close of the financial year, but I tell you it for your information. Another important reduction of our indebtedness is the decrease of £12,679 in our loans on our Lower Egypt properties, and since December 31 we have paid off a further £20,823, thus reducing our loans at date to £116,525. The other item which requires, perhaps, some explanation is caution money in respect of sales and leases, £56,026. This represents the cash received in respect of sales of land for which deeds had not been signed at December 31, and cash received on account of caution money and fees in respect of sales in course of negotiation, and deposits received in respect of 1918 leases. Well, gentlemen, the result of these accounts is this, that the profit, before charging debenture interest, amounts to £35,613, as compared with £15,021 last year. The net profit for the year, after charging debenture interest, amounts to £30,171, as compared with £9,607 in the previous year, and with the carry forward of £16,630 the balance to the credit of the profit and loss account amounts to £46,801, from which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 1s. per share, or 6 2-3 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. in the £, which will absorb £16,739, leaving a balance of £30,062. The net income derived from the company's estates, notwithstanding the sales of land, amounts to £23,390, as compared with £16,660 last year and £8,443 in the previous year, which is a very considerable advance.

With regard to the sales of land during the year, we sold 531 feddans at an average of £103 10s. per feddan, and a further 916 feddans at an equally satisfactory price, or the more satisfactory price of £116 12s. 6d., but as the deeds were not signed on December 31 the profit on this area has not been taken into the accounts. Thus you will see that we have a good deal to come into the current year. From January 1 to April 30 this year we have disposed of a further 210 feddans at an average of £143 5s., and the demand still continues. I think you will agree with me that this is a very good price to get for the land. The water supply has been, on the whole, remarkably good. This has been largely due to the excellent state of the river, but the better distribution by the irrigation service has had marked effect, and great credit is due to the Government in doing as much as possible in these difficult times, both as regards irrigation and drainage, to assist cultivators. You will see, gentlemen, from this report and the accounts that Egypt has been safe and prosperous during the war. The safety and prosperity of Egypt are due to three causes or factors. No doubt you have read among the items of Turkey's war aims the restitution of Egypt to the Sultan of Turkey. That is an aim which I do not think Turkey will realise, and that Egypt has been so safe and prosperous must be ascribed to the labours and to the prescient statesmanship of Lord Cromer, Lord Kitchener, and Lord Milner. The second cause of the prosperity of Egypt is the extraordinary fertility of that green ribbon which runs through the desert of Egypt. A country which produces cotton, maize and sugar, and which may produce tobacco, is bound, in these days, to be of very great value to the world at large. We ought also, in common justice, to remember that much of this prosperity and of your profits is due to those engineers and financiers who made the great dam at Assouan. But neither a firm and good Government, nor fertile soil, would have filled your pockets had it not been for the great ability and energy of your managing director in Egypt, Mr. Suares, supported, as he has been throughout, by a cheerful, loyal and devoted staff, and we who sit here in London and direct things generally, manage the finances and draw the profits—when there are any—ought to record our sense of the services of the managing director in Egypt and his staff. I now beg to move, gentlemen, "That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of accounts duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted, and that a dividend of 6 2-3 per cent., or 1s. per share, less income-tax of 5s. be paid."

Mr. T. F. Dalglish: I have great pleasure in seconding that resolution.

Sir Ernest Spencer (Deputy-Chairman): I have great pleasure in proposing the re-election as a director of your chairman, Mr. A. A. Baumann, who retires by rotation. It is not necessary, I am sure, for me to add anything to that resolution, which speaks for itself.

Mr. Edward Nathan seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Sir Westby B. Perceval, K.C.M.G., said he had great pleasure in proposing the re-election of Mr. Thomas F. Dalglish as a member of the board of directors. The chairman seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Hacking: I have great pleasure in proposing that the auditors, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., be re-elected at a fee of 100 guineas, and while I am on my feet I would like to compliment the management on the very satisfactory report. At the same time, I may say that, after being so long without a dividend, I thought possibly that, with such a good balance-sheet, we could have received rather a higher dividend, but I would not like for one moment to question the wisdom of the directors, and it may be that what they do not pay now they may be able to distribute at some other time. As the chairman has very properly said, I feel that it is a long time since the finances of the company were in so good a condition as we find them to-day. I beg to move the re-election of the auditors. Mr. Macleod seconded the motion.

The Chairman put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hacking: I do not think we ought to separate without passing a vote of thanks to the chairman and to the board generally, and I think it would be well if, from the body of the room, we included in that vote of thanks our appreciation of the services of the management, and particularly of the management in Egypt.

Mr. Macleod seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The Chairman: On behalf of my colleagues I beg to express our appreciation of the vote of confidence and thanks which you have just passed. It is quite true we might have paid you a bigger dividend, and our accounts would have justified it, but the money is there—it has not disappeared—and it will reappear, unless I am very much mistaken, in the shape of dividends, I hope, very soon.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the Ellawatte Ceylon Tea Estates, Ltd., for 1917 states that the profit for the year was £3,431, and the balance brought forward £1,281, making £4,711. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, and to carry forward £1,612.

The report of the Scottish Assam Tea Company for 1917 states that estimating unsold portion of crop on what is considered a safe basis total receipts were £41,679, expenditure £30,007, showing a surplus of £11,672; £1,001 was brought in, making £12,673. The directors recommend a dividend at 8 per cent., less tax; to place to reserve £2,000, making £12,000; to special reserve for probable requirements in near future £2,000, and to carry forward, subject to income-tax and excess profits duty (if any), £3,988.

The report of the Telbedde Ceylon Estates, Ltd., for 1917 states that the profit for the year was £9,356 and balance brought forward £3,482, making £12,838. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 13 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year 1917, less income-tax, £2,600, and to carry forward £6,038.

The report of the Doolgalla (Ceylon) Company for 1917 states that after writing off depreciation from values of machinery and buildings and small amount of preference dividend, credit at profit and loss is £3,504. In view of the difficulties connected with shipping and exchange, directors do not feel justified in recommending a dividend.

The report of the Upper Assam Tea Company states that profits are estimated at £40,000. Deducting excess profits duty there is left £33,200. After providing for debenture interest and income-tax (£4,890) there remains £21,838. The directors recommend a dividend of 12½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share), less tax at 5s. in the £, which will absorb £6,765.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings amount to £28,442, as against £35,509, and net earnings to £7,410, as against £7,313; £11,259 was brought in, the balance to credit of profit and loss being £18,669. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, less tax, and to carry forward £11,169.

The report of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company shows gross earnings Rs.8,08,71,000, against Rs.7,40,76,000, and working expenses Rs.3,57,19,000, against Rs.3,15,76,000. The total net earnings of the whole year 1917-18 amounted to Rs.4,51,52,000 (which compares with Rs.4,25,00,000). The directors recommend the payment in July of a final dividend of 1½ per cent., together with a bonus of 1½ per cent., plus the guaranteed interest for the half-year of 1½ per cent. This makes a return of 6½ per cent. for the year, and compares with 5¾ per cent. for the previous year.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Telephone Company of Egypt.—Six per cent. (6s. per share), free of tax, on preferred and deferred shares, making 10 per cent. for year; £12,797 to income-tax account; £8,446 for excess profits duty (1916); £111,577 forward. Last year, dividend same; £150,000 to reserve; £87,376 forward. In January, 1918, a resolution was passed for the sale of the company's undertaking to the Egyptian Government.

Egyptian Salt and Soda—Coupon No. 32 of £100,000 First Mortgage Debentures due 30th instant will be paid July 1 by National Bank of Egypt, 6, King William Street, E.C.

British Darjeeling Tea—5 per cent. (1s. per share), less tax (interim), payable at once. Last year, 4 per cent. (paid in March).

Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon.—Dividend on the preference shares for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent., to be paid on June 29, less tax at 5s. 6d. in the £.

Anglo-Ottoman Tobacco.—Dividends of 6 per cent., less tax, on 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference and Participating shares, and of 10 per cent., less tax, on ordinary shares, payable July 1, against Preference coupon No. 6 and Ordinary coupon No. 5, at the registered office, 39, Duke Street, Aldgate, E.C.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

There has been a little more doing this week, and the tone has been a good one. This better feeling has no doubt been brought about to a certain extent by the good news from the Italian front. The reports constantly being received from Egypt are also of a very satisfactory nature, and a good many buying orders have been coming from over there.

In Government stocks there are persistent buyers of Unifieds at 89½, at which price some business has been done. But the scarcity of sellers continues, which remark applies equally to Egyptian 3½ Prefs.

In Bank shares a fair amount of business has been doing in Nationals, which have advanced 3-16 to 17½. Agriculturals have been quiet. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have again been a feature, advancing ⅝ to 17.

In Railways, Delta Lights are 1-16 firmer at 6 9-16. Land shares have been quietly enquired for. Aboukirs are 1s. higher at 22s. 6d. Béhéras have improved ⅜ to 13⅛, and Béhéras Prefs. are 1-16 harder at 4⅜. New Egyptians are 4½ firmer at 17s. 3d. There has been a persistent demand for these shares from Egypt but not much business has been possible as sellers at the present level are rather scarce. Union Foncières are 1-16 up at 3 1-16.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters have improved 3-16 to 11⅞, and Salts and Sodas are 1s 3d. up at 39s. 3d. There has been a big demand for Khedivial Mails, which at one time changed hands at 44s., but are closing at 43s.—a rise of 2s. 6d.

In Greek securities the demand has continued, and most prices are again higher. The 1881 and 1884 loans are both a point up at 65. Monopolies have risen two points to 62. Rentes and Larissas are a point higher at 51 and 62 respectively. Fundings have improved two points to 62, and the 1910 Loan has risen a point to 62.

◆

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at March 31, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,148,847
Mixed Tribunals		2,410,043
Egyptian Government		6,101,545
Bankers' Accounts		717,037
Cheques and Bills payable		131,405
Sundry other Accounts		686,621
		£E.24,742,194
		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		8,682,956
Sundry Securities		261,078
Advances on Merchandise		2,439,149
Advances on Securities		1,258,558
Advances otherwise Secured		1,728,784
Sundry other Advances		298,724
Bills of Exchange		5,218,199
Local Bills Discounted		93,259
Buildings and Furniture		220,693
Money at call and at short notice		1,174,875
Bankers' Accounts		1,690,486
Sudan Government		37,541
Sundry other Accounts		227,531
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,354,078	
Gold	35,227	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	21,056	
		1,410,361
		£E.24,742,194

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	31,700,000
	£E.31,700,000
	£E.
Gold	3,589,304
*British Treasury Bills	12,260,696
Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	551,507
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	15,298,493
	£E.31,700,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended June 14.		1918. Week ended June 13.
Cattle markets	407	..	325
General markets	422	..	384
Receipts (£)	829	..	709
Total for year	32,537	..	25,681

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. June 19	June 26
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	81
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89½	89
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	75
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	64	65
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	64	65
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60	62
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	50	51
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	61xd	61xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	60	62
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	61	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	75	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	81	81
Do. 4% Unified	79	71	71
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16⅜	17
Bank of Athens	£2	3½	3½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6¾	6⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6¾	6¾
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17 5/16	17½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf.	8½	6½	6 9/16
Warrants to Bearer	17¾	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	90	70½xd	70½xd
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	61	53	53
Do. Do. 3% Bonds			
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/6	22/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	12¾	13⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4 5/16	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/7½	12/7½
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1 1/16	1 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/7½	17/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅛	2⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3	3 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11 11/16xd	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	38/-	39/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	40/6	43/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3 13/16	3¾

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position on February 28, 1918.

Outstanding Loans:

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
Short Term Loans	1,939	..	2,330
"B" Loans	4,545,733	..	4,183,668
Total	4,547,672	..	4,185,998
Annual Instalments:			
Due	—	..	—
Not yet due	702,522	..	631,361
Total	702,522	..	631,361

Encashments:

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
Arrears on January 31	817,254	..	403,254
" balance to date	796,886	..	383,790
" encashed	20,368	..	19,996
Annual Instalments:			
Encashed	—		—
Total encashments	20,368	..	19,996

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital - -	500,000
Reserve - - - - -	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - -	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up..	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan. ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 374.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JULY 5. 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Only minor operations in Palestine and along the Macedonian front have been reported during the past week. From Mesopotamia there has been a complete absence of news since the Turkish report of the re-occupation of Kerkuk. In the latter theatre the arrival of summer inevitably limits the activities of both sides, and it will be recalled that there was a long period of quiescence at this season last year. There is, moreover, a close relationship between the situation in North-West Persia and General Marshall's battle front in Mesopotamia. Unfortunately, it is not easy to discover how in existing circumstances the Allies can exercise much influence in the former. Further news of the Turkish advance into Persia is lacking. The United States Government has formally requested Turkey to furnish an explanation of the report that Turkish troops have sacked the American hospital at Tabriz and seized the American Consulate. But a hint to the effect that the attitude of the United States may depend upon the standing of the troops responsible for the outrage suggests the nature of the explanation that will be forthcoming.

All possibility of misunderstanding with regard to the attitude of the United States Government towards the future of Austria-Hungary has been removed by a fresh declaration on the subject of the nationalistic aspirations for freedom of the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugoslavs. In an official statement the Secretary of State calls attention to the attempts made by the Central Powers and others to misinterpret the former announcement, and declares the position of the Government to be "that all branches of the Slav race should be completely freed from German and Austrian rule." There can be no doubt that this unequivocal declaration is a far more satisfactory statement than any other so far issued by the Allied Governments. Neither the Czecho-Slovaks nor the Jugoslavs had been altogether satisfied by President Wilson's previous references to their future, for they claimed to have discovered some subtle differentiation between the Poles and themselves. These misgivings will now be dissipated. The Allies are pledged to such a dismemberment of Austria-Hungary as will leave all the Slavic peoples free to decide upon their own forms of government.

This clear statement of the Allies' resolve, emphasised, as it has been, on the occasion of the presentation of colours to the Czecho-Slovak Army in France, comes at an opportune moment. If it could be brought officially to the notice of the Austro-Hungarian Government and people, it might save them from wasting their time and their hopes on artificial peace offensives at the bidding of Germany. The choice before them is definite—either to continue the struggle until Germany, who is by no means as hard pressed as the Dual Monarchy, admits defeat, or to accept with what grace they can muster the secession of the Slav peoples, who have hitherto been kept in unwilling subjection by the Hapsburg Throne. Other rectifications of existing frontiers will have to follow. The Poles are to be no less free than the Slavs; and, needless to say, the Treaty of Bucharest, 1918, will not be allowed to stand. To-day these declarations on the part of the Allies cannot be dismissed as vainglorious boasts. The announcement of the arrival of a million American troops in France introduces a factor the importance of which will not be lost upon the Central Powers.

Any seeming coldness on the part of the Allies to the cause of the oppressed nationalities of Austria-Hungary has been amply redeemed by the warmth of the ceremony connected with the presentation of colours to the Czecho-Slovak Army in France. This force, as President Poincaré reminded his audience, is comprised entirely of volunteers. Some have already seen service in the French Army, also as volunteers, and have distinguished themselves by their valour in Flanders, Picardy, and Champagne. To this nucleus have been added others—"Czechs incorporated forcibly in the Austro-Hungarian armies, who by unheard-of efforts had succeeded in throwing off the chains, and other Czechs, hastening from all parts of the globe to their brethren's appeal, gradually grouped under the National Czecho-Slovak Council, and ended by forming troops sufficiently numerous and homogeneous to be united in a separate army and to receive a national flag." Nor will it be forgotten that yet other Czech legions are on their way across Siberia to join their strength to this army in France. Welcome as must be the pledges of the Allied Powers, it will mean still more to the martyr nations of Austria-Hungary that their own countrymen are fighting to deliver them from their present bondage.

The situation in the Caucasus has not been rendered more comprehensible by the announcement that the Republic of Azerbaijan, which was reported to have sent delegates to Berlin, is not the Persian Province of that name, but Tartar Azerbaijan, the territory lying south-east of Georgia and bordering upon Persia. Thus, while Georgia is supposed to have placed itself under the protection of Germany, Tartar Azerbaijan comes under

Ottoman suzerainty. Apart from the districts of Batoum, Ardahan, and Kars, which are annexed to Turkey, there remains a tract of country mainly inhabited by Armenians. This also is to receive a form of local government under the Turks; but the net result would be, if these arrangements were to hold good for any length of time, that the whole of the territory between the Black Sea and the Caspian would pass under the domination of Germany, to be exploited by her for her own ends in Middle Asia.

The report that the Germans are endeavouring to promote the union of the Bulgarian Church with the Roman Catholic Church does not come as a matter of surprise. A movement in this direction may be said to have been in existence for many years, and in the hurly-burly of Bulgarian politics has never wholly died down. At one time, when it was thought that the removal of the Bulgarian Exarchate from Constantinople to Sofia was necessary in order to curry favour with Russia, the mere mention of the possibility of opening up the way to Rome was sufficient to cause the project to be dropped, as it was realised that the Macedonian Bulgarians, who have never been without their influence in Bulgaria, would not consent to such a step. If the proposal is seriously entertained now, it is difficult to believe that Macedonian approval of it has been secured. On the other hand, the anxiety of the Germans to give a permanent basis to the breach between Bulgaria and Russia by detaching her from the Eastern Church, is at least comprehensible, and the Berlin authorities are not likely to be troubled by any consideration for differences of opinion that may arise among the Bulgarians over the question.

In his speech at the gathering at the Mansion House to celebrate the entry of Greece into the war, Mr. Winston Churchill very rightly made M. Venizelos the central figure. For the rest he drew in clear outline the story of the part that Greece has played in regard to the European struggle. History will surely rank high the attainments of a man who, overwhelmed in the general downfall of the Allied cause in the Near East, has yet within a short time succeeded in rescuing himself and his country from the ruins. The achievements of the Greek Army in Macedonia have shown that M. Venizelos had good material to work with. When a true perspective is possible, therefore, it may be that his greatest claim to the lasting gratitude of his countrymen will be shown to be not the mere routine work of reconstruction in which he has had, as Mr. Churchill pointed out, invaluable assistance from the Allies of Greece, but in the wisdom and foresight which he has brought to bear on Greek policy in connection with European affairs, when the direction of it has been in his hands. He has stood consistently for the unity of the Balkan Peninsula. To this end he called into being the Balkan Federation, and at the beginning of the great war was prepared to recommend a territorial exchange which would give Bulgaria a portion of Greek land, if by so doing the unity of the Peninsula could be secured.

To-day the provocation for any Greek to inveigh against the arch-enemy of his country is strong, and he can hardly be blamed for giving way to it. But we confess to a feeling of regret that the distinguished and honoured lieutenant of M. Venizelos in this country should have taken as his text at the Mansion House the crimes of "the predatory Bulgar" rather than avail himself of a unique opportunity of emphasising for the benefit of the British public, whose knowledge of Near Eastern affairs is altogether inadequate, the community of interest of the Balkan States that is one day to give them as a federation a position in Europe to which individually they can never aspire. M. Gennadius preferred to live in the present than to dwell on the future, and his speech reflected the martial ardour of the Greek troops that has recently carried them victoriously up the Skra di Legen. He uttered an emphatic "Hands off!" to an Ally of this country and of his own. The allusion was plain in the words "We only ask that the Peninsula may be left alone, free and owned by the peoples of the Balkans. We can expect no sure peace if others seek a footing there." The statement may be very true; but it is the hope and the belief of the Allies of Italy and Greece that the point at issue will be settled amicably between the two countries by an exchange of views between the responsible statesmen.

M. Gennadius pointed out that he was constrained to speak plainly regarding the suggestion that Bulgaria should be satisfied at the expense of Greece and Serbia, adding that he felt confident that "such an iniquity is impossible even as a topic of serious discussion." He is right in supposing that there is not the least chance of Greece being forcibly despoiled by her Allies for the benefit of Bulgaria. But what his audience missed in his speech was the reflection of the breadth of vision shown by M. Venizelos in distinguishing between the essential and the non-essential, and in his readiness to sacrifice the latter provided he could be sure of leaving Greece greater and more prosperous than when he first took charge of her destinies. One thing is certain—the Allies are not minded to incur all the sacrifices they have incurred for the prospect of leaving the Balkans identically the same storm centre as it has been for the last forty years. M. Venizelos in their eyes stands or the hope of better things, and it is a disservice to Greece for anyone to hint that the Balkan States will have learnt nothing and will have forgotten nothing as a result of this war.

In the course of his indictment of Bulgaria, M. Gennadius cited an incident of the summer of 1906, when "the Bulgars in twenty-four hours wiped out the flourishing Greek towns of Anchialos and Stenimachos, simply because they were inhabited by Greeks." The crimes that have sullied the pages of Balkan history are terrible indeed, and there is little likelihood of any attempt being made by Western peoples to exonerate the authors of those crimes. But when it is related that the Bulgarians' "whole history is a succession of pillage, murder and treachery," the British public's present concern is to know what hope there is for such a people in the future, and whether the only remedy offered by those who thus inveigh against them is to exterminate them lock, stock and barrel. Those who are more optimistic regarding the future of the Near East hold that the root of the trouble in the past lay in the tradition of vendetta that had settled on the peoples of the Balkans, so that it was practically impossible to shut off any one incident in a water-tight compartment and to say that on such and such people and on them alone does responsibility rest. The case quoted by M. Gennadius is particularly one to the point. As related by him, it stands forth as an unprovoked outrage that could only be perpetrated by utter barbarians. The Greek Minister, however, omitted to state that the Bulgarians in question deliberately set themselves to wipe out those two villages in July 1906, because they had been worked up into a frenzy by the fate, as reported to them, of their fellow-countrymen a few months earlier at the village of Zagoritchané, near Kastoria.

The story that led to the cold-blooded murders at Anchialos and Stenimachos, as M. Gennadius will recall, was that the village of Zagoritchané had been attacked by Greek brigands, who, in addition to killing women and children on the spot, had led some thirty of the men away to a neighbouring wood, and there cut their throats. We are not concerned with the accuracy in every or any detail of this report; but only mention it as an indication of a state of affairs in the Balkans which makes references to past crimes of no value as a contribution to the future settlement of the Near East. It may be, indeed, that the brigands acted under deep provocation; if it were so, it would still more confirm our contention.

It would not be correct to assert that the impending publication of the Montagu-Chelmsford report has aroused popular excitement regarding the future of the Indian constitution, but at the same time we are glad to recognise that anyone in England who cares about the subject has at last been given reasonable facilities to learn something regarding the issues it involves. In the last week or two there have been quite a number of Indian political articles, more or less illuminating, in various daily, Sunday, and weekly journals, while it must be a long time since any Indian topic was honoured by the almost simultaneous publication of three such books as those by his Highness the Aga Khan, Mr. Lionel Curtis, and Mr. G. M. Chesney. If, as there is some reason to fear, the report itself should turn out to be a somewhat heavy dish, the epicure is thus happily provided with a large and varied choice of *hors d'œuvres*.

A different, if allied, question was raised by *The Times* in its recent article on "a real injustice to India," the gist of which was that the Imperial Conference should take the initiative in obtaining practical recognition of the principle of reciprocity as between India and the Dominions. The reciprocity in question has nothing to do with tariffs, but is concerned with what was until last year the burning question of freedom to visit, or to settle in, any part of the Empire; India has been, and is, open to anyone, but the Dominions are not open to Indians; and one of the outstanding results of last year's Conference was the general agreement that in this matter India and the Dominions should stand on precisely the same footing. Agreement having been reached, the next step is legislation to enforce it, and it is legislation for which *The Times* is pressing.

Obviously the only thing that can be done is to empower India to restrict the admission of citizens from the Dominions. The "Free Nations" already have this power, and are not inclined to surrender it, so reciprocity means that India in her turn should be empowered to close her seaports. It is a little depressing that almost the first move towards the new conditions connoted by the Conference should have to be made in the direction of restricting rather than fostering Imperial intercourse, but we suppose it is inevitable, and we may, at any rate, hope that, if India is given new powers, she will employ them with such wisdom and discrimination as to furnish the rest of the Empire with a bright example of their proper use.

The case against India in regard to slackness in shipbuilding is not quite so black as it was painted in the letter from F. H. S. which we published in our last issue. It is true that an earlier start might have been made with advantage, but the possibilities of rendering substantial help "occurred to the rulers of British India" quite a long time ago, as time is measured now. For some months past there has been great activity in turning out cargo boats on the west coast, small in size, but capable of taking an active part in the coasting trade, and thus releasing larger vessels or easing the strain on the railways; while much more ambitious schemes are in hand, ships up to 1,500 tons are, we believe, actually under construction, and it is now fairly certain that the "national" dream of building steam vessels on the Hugli is, thanks to the Tata Ironworks, within measurable distance of realisation.

The main difficulty in any sudden advance is, as usual in India, the lack of adequate supplies of skilled labour. In the days of which "F. H. S." writes, shipbuilding was still a living art, and the tradition at least of the great Portuguese carracks built at Bassein survived in the Indian seas. A nucleus of skilled shipwrights was then available, and development involved mainly the organisation of unskilled or semi-skilled labour to "dilute," in the modern phrase, the small but efficient existing industry. It was the advent of the iron ship that destroyed the potential resource. The indigenous shipwright, skilled in handling teak-wood, is now scarcely to be found, and the present Controller of Shipping—if that be the precise title—has the more difficult task of creating the industry anew, a task in which he has our most cordial wishes for success.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 3.

Entertainment to Wounded Soldiers.

A monster tea party was given by General and Lady Allenby in the Ezbekia Gardens last week to over 500 convalescent soldiers, who were drawn from all the hospitals and convalescent homes in the Cairo district. They were conveyed to and from the Gardens in lorries and trams, and were provided with a most sumptuous tea. For the entertainment of the soldiers a display by the Cairo Fire Brigade had been arranged, and the convalescents, some of whom knew by personal experience what good "fire work" is, thoroughly appreciated the excellent display of the Cairo Fire Brigade, which fully maintained its reputation for efficiency and smartness.

Food and Other Supplies.

The wheat situation continues to improve. Very large supplies have been brought into Cairo by the Government, and the stringency in other towns is reported to have been relieved. The prices of flour have now been fixed for the whole country, and the next step will be the regulation of the price of bread. From what can be ascertained, the wheat crop is a good one, and the supply of breadstuffs will be ample, provided wastage does not take place and distribution is organised.

The Special Military Summary Court instituted in Cairo for dealing with contraventions of the orders of the Supplies Control Board held its first sitting last Friday. There were seven cases before the Court, in all but one of which a conviction was obtained. It is interesting to note that the sitting was attended by a large number of cereal merchants, who, it is to be hoped, will have been duly impressed by the attitude of the Court.

So that there should be no doubt as to the authority under which the Supplies Control Board is acting, and as to the jurisdiction to which persons disobeying its orders are amenable, a notice has been published to the effect that all orders issued by the Board are to be deemed orders under Martial Law, and that anyone guilty of an infringement thereof will be liable to be tried by Military Court.

In view of the fact that there is reason to believe that hoarding has been going on in Alexandria, all inhabitants of that City owning, possessing or controlling more than 10 ardebs of wheat or wheaten flour have been called upon to declare their stocks before the 7th instant. It is expected that large quantities will thus be made available for consumption.

Since the shortage of paper is becoming more acute, and merchants appear to be taking advantage of the difficulty experienced in obtaining fresh supplies from abroad, the Supplies Control Board has intervened, and has issued an order calling upon every person owning, possessing, or controlling any stocks of newspaper, printing, tribunal, writing, foolscap, or typewriting paper and school exercise books exceeding 20 kilos in weight to declare such stocks before June 22.

Department of Public Health.

A special Commission, under Dr. Andrew Balfour, has recently been engaged in looking into the Public Health Administration of Egypt. At its last meeting the Council of Ministers approved the formation of this Commission, which consists of Lieut-Colonel Andrew Balfour (President), and Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Stammers, Dr. E. S. Crispin, and Dr. C. Todd (members). The Commission is entrusted with the mandate to examine the organisation and duties of the Department of Public Health and its relation to other services of the State, to submit proposals tending to broaden the sphere of action of the department, and to suggest the number and nature of the posts necessary for the proper working of the department. The Commission is debarred from making any nominations to these posts.

The Banknote Issue.

Four days ago the National Bank of Egypt began the issue of P.T. 25 notes, in addition to the denominations already in circulation. Hitherto notes of the value of

L.E. 100, L.E. 50, L.E. 10, L.E. 5, L.E. 1, and P.T. 50 only have been issued, and the issue of a note of such a small denomination as P.T. 25 is an entirely new departure, which has been caused by the local shortage of silver coins. The Egyptian Government has done all in its power to meet the demand for silver coinage, and has imported very considerable quantities during the past two years, but the opening up of Palestine, where the Egyptian coinage is legal tender, the growing requirements of the Sudan, and the great prosperity of Egypt have created a demand for silver which even the new supplies from India could not enable the Government to meet. The issue of these and even smaller notes has been under consideration for some time. In fact, the notes have been ready printed for the past year.

Palestine News.

Since May 15 the iron railway bridge across the canal at Kantara has been open to traffic. Passenger trains do not run through yet, but goods booked to Palestine are taken right across from the Egyptian to the Military system. It is interesting to note that passengers from Cairo reach a point near Ramleh, in 13 hours now, and that if a motor is waiting for them they can be in Jerusalem within 15 hours of leaving the Egyptian capital.

It is announced that Gabriel Bey Haddad, who is on the Staff of the Military Government of Jerusalem, has been promoted Major in the British Army. Haddad Bey was for many years in the Public Security Department of the Egyptian Government, from whose service he retired ten years ago. When Borton Pasha was appointed Military Governor of Jerusalem he selected Haddad Bey as one of his principal assistants. Colonel Storrs, who succeeded Borton Pasha, very wisely retained him, for Haddad Bey, in the short time that he has held his new post in Palestine, has succeeded in acquiring great influence over all sections of the population and is proving most invaluable to the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration in the settlement of the many intricate problems which not unnaturally arise in the government of a country like Palestine.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

A resolution passed on June 27 by the Executive Committee of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee "begs respectfully to draw the attention of the War Cabinet to the enormous mortality among British and Indian prisoners in Turkey, and to urge that the Ottoman Government be asked without delay to enter into negotiations for a wide exchange of valid prisoners." A memorandum on this subject prepared by the committee states:—

> The death-rate of British and Indian prisoners in Turkey has been exceedingly high. Although no exact statistics are available, it would appear from figures given by Mr. Hope in the House of Commons on April 23 that more than half of the British soldiers, and almost as large a proportion of the Indians, have already perished in captivity.
>
> The efforts made by the Central Prisoners of War Committee and others to alleviate the condition of prisoners in Turkey are to a large extent unproductive. Owing to transport difficulties food and clothing either do not reach the camps at all or are many months—even over a year—on the way. The supplies which the Dutch Minister at Constantinople has been able to buy locally seem to be unsatisfactory both in quantity and in quality. Money has been remitted to camps, but owing to scarcity of supplies and to depreciation of the Turkish paper currency its purchasing power is very small. According to recent information bread costs from 2s. to 4s. per lb., sugar about 20s., potatoes about 1s., and other articles are proportionately expensive. In the winter the prisoners suffer severely from cold, because fuel is either unobtainable or beyond the prisoners' means.
>
> The Berne Agreement, recently ratified, provides only for the exchange of civilians, doctors, and invalids. To save further mortality it appears urgently necessary that the Ottoman Government be asked to agree to the exchange of a large proportion of the valid prisoners—say, of those who have been more than eighteen months in captivity. The committee is aware that the exchanges due under the Berne Agreement have not yet been carried out, but it does not consider that further negotiations should be postponed on that account. In view of the difficulty experienced in effecting a transfer of prisoners by sea the committee ventures to suggest that efforts be made to arrange for further exchanges to take place through the lines in Palestine, like the exchanges which were carried out in Mesopotamia in 1916.

GEORGIA AND TRANS-CAUCASIA

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

For the last three months the news from this important bridgehead from Europe to Asia has been of a most confusing nature, partly because the telegraphic lines of communication are controlled by the Bolsheviks and the Turks, partly because of confusion regarding names. One hears announcements about "Caucasus," "Caucasia," "Cis-Caucasia," "Trans-Caucasia," and Georgia. Before going further it is necessary, therefore, to give the correct names. The whole area of the Caucasus, situated between the Black and Caspian Seas, is divided by the chain of the Caucasian Mountains into two distinct parts—North Caucasia and Trans-Caucasia. In the North Caucasus the districts of Terek and Daghestan form a mountaineers' republic. They have declared themselves independent, and claim the entire area of North Caucasus, the capital of the new republic being Vladikavkas. This claim is not recognised by the Kuban Cossacks, who claim the entire territory of North Caucasus, and have constituted a separate republic, together with the Don Cossacks, with the capital of Ekaterinodar. The head of this Cossack republic, General Krassnoff, asked the commander of the German troops in the Ukraine to co-operate with him against the Bolsheviks. Whilst General von Eichhorn seems quite ready to accept the invitation, the German Ambassador in Moscow, Count Mirbach, appears to be against it. It is also reported that General Korniloff, with some Cossacks, is in North Caucasus, organising an attack against the Bolsheviks. The Caucasus is the more interesting as there are huge quantities of grain stored in that country, which the Central Powers would try to secure for themselves, and, with the capture of the entire Black Sea Fleet, this operation seems to be quite probable.

In Trans-Caucasia, after the appearance of the Bolsheviks in Petrograd, a separate State was formed, consisting of three nationalities—Georgians, Tartars and Armenians. It was a federal republic, with the capital in Tiflis, and a national army consisting of Georgians and Armenians.

As readers of THE NEAR EAST are already aware, the Bolsheviks, at the Brest-Litovsk Conference, ceded the large districts of Batoum and Kars to Turkey, entirely ignoring the Trans-Caucasian Government. This act was not recognised by the Trans-Caucasian Government, which mobilised the army in order to prevent Turkish invasion of the provinces. Being entirely isolated from Allied assistance, after stubborn fighting they lost Batoum and Kars, which Turkey occupied. After this Turkey offered to send delegates for peace negotiations, but the negotiations were broken off, the Trans-Caucasian Government declining the terms proposed by Turkey. Fighting was resumed, and the Turks penetrated into the eastern part of Trans-Caucasia, where they joined hands with the Tartars, who broke away from Trans-Caucasia and came under the influence of Turkey. At this stage Germany intervened and invited the Trans-Caucasian Government to send delegates to Batoum for negotiations. After these negotiations the Trans-Caucasian Government, which consisted only of Georgians and Armenians, was compelled to accept the loss of Kars and Batoum districts, but would not agree to abandon the important port of Batoum, on the Black Sea, the chief outlet of Trans-Caucasia. Germany and Turkey agreed to return Batoum, but suddenly Turkey made a new claim to the Soukhum district on the Black Sea. This was prevented by the concentration of Georgian troops in that town. By the occupation of the Kars and Batoum districts and by the breaking away of the Tartars, the only territory remaining in Trans-Caucasia free of enemy occupation was Georgia, inhabited by Christian Georgians; and on May 26 the Georgian Diet assembled in Tiflis and declared the Independence of Georgia.

It is rumoured that Turkey has demanded that the Georgian Government should send delegates to Constantinople for peace negotiations; and it is further declared that a Peace Treaty with Turkey has been signed, although nothing is known as to the terms.

Independent Georgia, after being stripped of her fairest provinces by Turkey, comprises 40,000 square miles of territory, with the capital in Tiflis; the Government is republican, and the Prime Minister is Mr. I. Ramishvili, member of the first Duma.

It is obvious that, under some pretext, the Turks and Germans will enter the country, in order to dominate it in the same way as they have done in Ukrainia. Dr. Paul Rohrbach announced some weeks ago that, through the domination of the Ukraine and Georgia, Germany hoped to obtain the necessary raw materials and strategic communications towards the Middle East. In addition to this, the Turks have penetrated Northern Persia. Without outside Allied pressure, it is to be feared that further penetration on the part of the Central Powers and Turkey will be continued far into the depths of Turkestan.

According to a Stockholm telegram, an unsuccessful attempt has been made on the life of Mr. A. Tchenkelli, Foreign Minister of Georgia, in Tiflis. A bomb was thrown by a Turkish agent, who was arrested. Mr. Tchenkelli was a Georgian member of the former Duma, and offered stout resistance to the Turkish Government in negotiations.

It is also announced that the Georgian diplomatic delegation has arrived at Berlin in order to settle the conditions of the Georgian State with the Central Powers. Constantinople has been proposed by the Central Powers as a place for conference. On June 19 thirty-two Georgian and Armenian delegates arrived in Constantinople from Trans-Caucasia. The leader of the Georgian delegation is Mr. Geogechkori, the former Prime Minister, and the leader of the Armenian delegation is Mr. Aharonian. This delegation is going to attend a special conference with the Central Powers.

It is once more evident that the centre of gravity in the Eastern contest between the British Empire and Central Powers is Trans-Caucasia and Georgia, which are entirely isolated from immediate contact with the Allied forces, and therefore left to the mercy of the Central Powers. This is the more clear as, according to a recent message from Tiflis, the Turkish Government is demanding the disarmament of Georgian and Armenian troops. Should this plan succeed, Trans-Caucasia will be left entirely undefended.

In face of all these happenings, it is very remarkable that the Bolsheviks have surrendered various economic concessions to the Central Powers, thus providing Germany with excuses for penetrating into the Middle East. In this way Germany is gradually completing her scheme of threatening India and Afghanistan along the road Berlin-Constanza-Batoum-Krassnovodsk-Kushk and through Erivan to Tabriz.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Last week I hinted delicately that Turkey's war aims, as outlined by the *Aati*, did not err on the side of moderation. As a matter of fact, it seemed to me that the gentleman who drew them up would probably take an outside size in *fezzes*. But after reading Count von Roon's views on what Germany's peace terms should be, I am bound to confess that the Turks' demands look quite modest. Serbia and Montenegro the Count would award to Austria and Bulgaria; Egypt would revert to Turkish rule again; various little adjustments of European boundaries in the West would be made, including "the cession of the Flanders and French coast as far as and including Calais" to Germany; the payment of £9,000,000,000 to the Huns would be made by the United States; *and* "the surrender of the entire British Navy to Germany" is demanded. My only wonder about the indemnity to be paid by America is that the confident Count did not make it a round sum—ten thousand millions. And as to the surrender of the British Navy, has he not heard that his friends the Turks are collecting such trifles? Obviously, then, the correct thing would be to throw it in with the Egyptian lot for Brother Turk, who could then run the smaller craft on excursions on the Bosphorus (and the Nile) for the benefit of Prussian cheap trippers of the future.

⁂

By the way, a correspondent has written, pointing out that the name of the Turkish newspaper referred to above is actually *Aati*, not Aali. "Aati," he writes, means "future," and is employed in Arabic and Turkish phrases, *e.g.*, *Sene-i-atiye*, next year; *Mushar (un) el atiye*, hereinbelow indicated. I am obliged for the information. When writing the original paragraph, I could not clearly decipher the name of the journal in question, owing to a blur in the printing, and, not feeling sure of my reading, put the alternative. Subsequently I found that in my first choice I had "spotted a winner." But I am sure that some of my readers will be glad to have the translation of the title, as given by my correspondent.

⁂

Another "impending apology." This time from the *Egyptian Gazette*. That esteemed journal begins a paragraph thus: "Philosophical circles in Cairo and Alexandria (if there are any)" . . . Shades of Rameses the Twoth. "If there are any," indeed!

A correspondent has kindly sent me another example of an oracle being given in Ancient Egypt by statues of the gods weighing heavily upon their bearers, as already described in these columns.* There was (writes my correspondent) a dispute as to the ownership of a field, which was decided in the manner referred to by the statue of the deified Pharaoh Aahmes I. when carried in his sacred barque (or ark) by his priests. One of the claimants to the field was a priest, "Pasar, son of Mes," and when the statue was carried into the field this priest's assertion that the place belonged to him was confirmed by the statue becoming very heavy. A monument shows the priests carrying the ark and Pasar adoring, "in return" (as my correspondent puts it) "for having had the field divinely decided to be his." The inscription says, *inter alia*:—"The priest Pasar came to the field which belonged (to my) son. Was established the truth. Came the God at the saying, 'It belongs to Pasar, son of Mes,' and *the god became very heavy* in the presence of the priests of Pehnebra." The names of the priests who were carrying the statue are given, and the inscription mentions that it was made by the temple sculptor, and that the judgment was given in "the year 14, Paophi 25, which my correspondent tells me was August 21, 1287 B.C." My correspondent adds: "The same belief still exists in Thebes. There is a recent sealed declaration there of bearers of the bier of Sheikh Es Said Yussuf, stating that when they reached the shrine of Sheikh Abu-el-Abbas the bier became so weighty they had to stop."

⁂

The latter case seems to be on a par with the story told by Mr. Somers Clarke of the happenings at Hilal; and, though the cynic would doubtless remark that carrying a heavy bier *is* tiring work, I should not be prepared to say that it could not be true. But with regard to the first case mentioned, I must admit I do feel a trifle sceptical myself. The fact that the claim was made by a priest and that the bearers of the statue were all priests also seems not insignificant. The priests of Ancient Egypt, we know, were not above a bit of trickery now and then, and it would obviously have been a very easy matter for them to "work the oracle" in this particular instance and in the particular manner cited. But against that we have to ask ourselves whether Pasar, son of Mes, would be anxious to perpetuate his gratitude to the deified Pharaoh if the "decision" had been obtained by fraud. So we are at liberty to pay our money and take our choice once more.

CORSAIR.

THE COPTS IN EGYPT.

A member of the Coptic community in London calls attention to certain passages in the article by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, published in our issue of June 14, which has given rise to comments among that community. He writes:—"May I ask whether Sir Malcolm McIlwraith could give any facts in support of his statement in your issue of the 14th ult. that the Moslems of Egypt argued (against the appointment of the late Butros Pasha as Premier) that if the Copts "are not even considered fit to be governors of a province, how can it be right to make one of their number the head of the whole Government?"

The second statement by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith to which our correspondent refers is:—"The Copt . . . though an admirable clerk and a very efficient man of business, is not, as a rule, a leader of men, and is unsuited by temperament and training to exercise executive authority. Such authority is, therefore, seldom entrusted to him, and there have not been, for instance, any cases (so far as I can remember) of Coptic Mudirs." Regarding this he writes:—"A long list of names of Copts who exercised high executive authority under purely Mohammedan rule is given in Mr. Leeder's 'Modern Sons of the Pharaohs' just published"; and he suggests that if Sir Malcolm McIlwraith cares to go through this list, he may see reason to withdraw his statement.

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* May 17.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Problem of Empire.

Last Friday *The Times* contained a leading article entitled "A Real Injustice to India." This article begins:—

> Last year the Imperial War Conference—at which for the first time the representatives of India sat with the Ministers of the self-governing Dominions—passed a resolution accepting the principle of reciprocity of treatment between India and the Dominions, and recommending to the favourable consideration of the Governments concerned a memorandum presented to the Conference by the Indian representatives. Has not the time come to go a step farther and to pass from abstract resolution to a definite constructive plan? The moment is favourable. The Dominion and Indian representatives are here again in no less good will than that which inspired the resolution last year. Mutual forbearance has done much to draw the venom which made the question of Asiatic immigration into the Dominions so dangerous some years ago.

The writer proceeds to remark, bluntly, that

> the real difficulty between India and the Dominions has not been overcome; and unless it can be disposed of it will remain a possible cause of offence, only too ready to the hand of ill-disposed persons who may be looking for an opportunity to make trouble between the various parts of the British Commonwealth. To pass a resolution accepting the principle of reciprocity and to leave it in the air, so to speak, without any attempt to found upon it a definite measure of reciprocal treatment, is to do a foolish and—it may well prove—a dangerous thing.

The Dominion prohibition against Indians settling in their country, the article points out, involves very severe restrictions upon visits by Indians, "even Indians of high position, whose good faith is beyond question and who have no desire whatever to do more than visit Dominion territory." These restrictions are irritating, and at times they have very awkward results; and they are one-sided in operation, since people from the Dominions can visit India without let or hindrance. Reciprocity, says the writer, in this case can only mean the assertion by the Government of India of the right to exercise control over people claiming the right to enter its country—an elementary right of any Government, and one already asserted by the Dominion Governments. The article continues:—

> As the settlement of Indians in the Dominions is precluded already, and as people in the Dominions have no desire whatever to settle in India, this would mean, in practice, that visits to India by people from any one of the Dominions would be subject to the same restrictions as that particular Dominion continued to impose on the visits of Indians—not a very serious thing from the Dominion point of view, but highly important in its moral effect in India. If, in short, effect is to be given to the reciprocity resolution of the Imperial War Conference of 1917, the Government of India must be in a position to assert its title to deal with the Dominion Governments—so far as the interests and sentiments of its people go—on terms of clear equality. Its power of decision should not be less, for instance, than that of the Crown Colony Government in the Transvaal when it determined to treat this very matter, pending the grant of responsible government, as the Government of a self-governing colony would treat it. This would be practical reciprocity; and we may add that it should be effected by a system making the restrictions operative at the port of departure instead of at the port of entry as at present.

"Bulgaria's Grievance."

In a leading article, with the above title, the *Manchester Guardian* remarks that the dispute between Turkey and Bulgaria, "already lively," has been intensified by von Kühlmann's references in the Reichstag to it. "The 'Dobrudja Committee,'" says the *Guardian*, "has issued a statement protesting against the 'ambiguous explanations' of Herr von Kühlmann, which really mean, it says, that in spite of his alleged impartiality, he supports the 'disloyal claims' of Turkey; lest the effect of this protest should be lost, the Bulgarian Government is circulating it abroad through the official telegraph agency. Later we read:—

> At the end of May the Bulgarian papers were talking threateningly about the "discomfiture of German policy in the Near East" which would follow if Bulgaria were not satisfied. Then, at the beginning of June, they began to suggest that the question was about to be settled in their favour: Turkey would receive compensation, "but not at the expense of Bulgaria. The view that something may be granted in the Adrianople district will never be realised; it has been definitely abandoned." Now comes von Kühlmann, with a speech in which, while approving of the union of the Northern Dobrudja with Bulgaria, he speaks sympathetically of the "highly undesirable" frontier with which Turkey has been left by her concessions to Bulgaria, and, by inference, of the justice of her claim to have it rectified. The Bulgarians are the more annoyed because they see with bitterness the rapidity with which Turkish ambitions are swelling all round the Black Sea. "The Turks," said one of the chief Sofia papers the other day, "believe that they can now achieve anything," and "to-morrow God alone knows what Turkey will be asking for."

"Berlin insisted that Serbia must be massacred."—*Prince Lichnowsky.*

"*An Italian Medical Officer who has recently returned from imprisonment in Austria states that the mortality of the Serbian prisoners represents almost 100 per cent. In Mathausen Cemetery alone 8,000 Serbs are buried. . . .*"—DAILY PRESS.

"*Serbia is annihilated, thanks to our intervention.*"
—BULGARIAN GENERALISSIMO JEKOFF.

The two statements quoted above are eloquent of the sufferings of the Serbian people.

In the prison-camps of the Central Powers the flower of Serbia's young manhood is being systematically annihilated.

These men in most cases die of hunger-typhus.

Their sufferings are awful to contemplate.

Do something to help them.

The Serbian Relief Fund, in addition to helping to maintain the Serbian refugees in foreign harbours of refuge, has, as far as its resources would allow, sent consignments of food to Serbian prisoners-of-war in the prison-camps of Germany and Austria. In many cases these supplies have been all that stood between the men and absolute starvation.

Will you not show your gratitude for the heroic self-sacrifice of the Serbian people during the early stages of the War by helping to bring some measure of comfort to the sons of Serbia who so badly need your help?

The Serbian Relief Fund is the only authorised Fund under British administration working solely for the benefit of Serbians. This Committee can translate a donation from you into food for starving Serbian prisoners-of-war, food, clothing, and medical aid for the old men, women, and young children exiled from their native land.

Do not hesitate—but *prove* your gratitude to Serbia and your sense of British responsibility to a little nation by sending a donation to-day to the Hon. Treasurer,

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, C.B.,
SERBIAN RELIEF FUND,
5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Parcels of clothing for men, women and children to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

(Registered under War Charities Act, 1916.)

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE CASE FOR DYARCHY IN INDIA[†].

We welcome this handy reprint of Mr. Lionel Curtis' letters on responsible government, which have led to much salutary discussion since their appearance in India last winter, and we advise everyone interested in Indian politics to get the book and study it carefully for himself. Mr. Curtis is, of course, no novice in the art of constitution-building, and his services in connection with the union of the States of South Africa are now generally recognised. He has faced the problem set by Mr. Montagu's momentous declaration of policy, and he finds the solution in what has come to be spoken of as Dyarchy, and which consists of two parallel governments, one of which, beginning with functions of small importance, shall gradually expand until it covers the whole field. The bureaucrat finds the idea horrible, and we fancy the subjects would find it occasionally inconvenient in practice. The case for it is simply that "you must learn to walk before you can run." The people of India have at present not the faintest idea of what responsible government means; they can never learn this from any government which is not responsible; therefore, give them at the start a government responsible for small things, roads and drains and the like, and let them learn by experience how to manage, and finance, their own affairs. As they learn the lesson, hand over by degrees the whole machine, and let the bureaucracy vanish finally with its long-drawn task fulfilled. The scheme is severely logical, too logical perhaps, for a country where the feelings tend to outstrip the reason, but our present purpose is not to recommend the adoption or the rejection of Mr. Curtis' proposals, but to urge people to get the book and master the proposals for themselves. They may agree with them or not, but in any case they will close the book with a clear and definite grasp of the problem which now awaits solution.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Rhymes from an Eastern Battlefield." By W. E. Gladstone Solomon. (London: W. Thacker and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

"India in Transition." By H. H. the Aga Khan. (London: The Medici Society, Ltd. 18s. net.)

"India under Experiment." By G. M. Chesney. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

"Boundaries in Europe and the Near East." By Colonel Sir Thomas H. Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., D.Sc. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Tales of the Sarai and Other Verses." By A. G. Shirreff. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Purdahnashin." By Cornelia Sorabji. With a Foreword by the Countess of Minto. (London: W. Thacker and Co. 2s. net.)

"Life's Fitful Fever." By Kate Everest. (London: John Richmond. 6s. net.)

"Three Campaigns." By Lawrence O'Shea. (London: Arthur H. Stockwell. 2s. net.)

◆

The July issue of *Production*—the journal of the British Empire Producers' Organization—sustains, or, rather, amplifies, the reputation which this publication has already established. Its contents are varied, interesting and instructive. Captain Richard Jebb writes on the Imperial Conference, and there are other articles on the New German Menace in Production, on Post-War Finance, and on Britain and the Levant.

◆

INDIA'S CHRISTIAN RECRUITS.

The recruits enlisted in India during the year ending March 31 numbered 285,200 combatants and 159,300 non-combatants. The Punjab Mahommedans, who form about one-thirtieth of the population, have supplied nearly one-fifth of the recruits, while one man in every twelve in the Frontier Province is serving. Some Punjab districts, however, have done badly, and one certainly has had its reputation redeemed only by the Christians in it. Sir M. F. O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, said in February:—"The only class in Lyallpur that has done well is the Indian Christians, whose battalion I had the pleasure of inspecting at Ferozepore last August. Most of these men were formerly humble menials, the servants of the Zemindars, but they have realised that *khidmat* (service brings *izzat* (honour), and they can hold up their heads henceforward, for they have shown that they are men and do not fear a soldier's lot in time of war."

SYRIA AND ITS FUTURE.

At the School of Oriental Studies on June 26, Mr. A. Sefi gave an interesting lecture on Syria. He said that the large number of Syrians now abroad enjoying peace and prosperity under the benevolent and liberal institutions of America, France and Great Britain, are seeking, and the Allies have promised to aid them, to obtain the full independence of their country from the Turkish rule, which had before the war, kept it backward, and since the war has meant the murder and deportation of a large number of its most liberal young men and families, and has left nearly 200,000 of its inhabitants to die from want. This treatment also roused the anger of their kinsmen the Arabs, who thereupon threw off their allegiance to the Ottoman Government, and for the past eighteen months have been co-operating, under the lead of the Shereef of Mecca, with our armies in Palestine, to drive away the Turk from Syria. The Shereef, a fine specimen of a highly cultured and honourable Arab, whom the Hejaz now acclaims as its king, is most ably seconded by his two sons in the field of battle. He has become for the Arabs, their Khalif also. This word "Khalif" originally meant, "Successor of the Prophet," and so it applied only to Abu-Bekr, the first Khalif. When Omar succeeded him, the Arabs began by styling him "Khalif of the Khalif," but finding it impossible to continue adding the future successor's style in the same manner, that is, K of the K of the K, of the K, and so on *ad infinitum*, they adopted the style of Amir Elmuminin: "Prince of the Faithful," which has since been his real title. Our Government now, the lecturer believed, addressed King Hussein as Majesty. This is (he said) the Syrian question of the present day.

Mr. Sefi continued: "It would be hopeless for me to attempt in a lecture of one hour's duration to explore the vast field of Arabian literary, poetical and scientific achievements in the past in which Syria is associated, or to describe localities, and supply the imagination with fascinating images of a land of abundant magic lore, perpetual sunshine and beauty of nature, only equalled in extent by its past and present tribulations.

"The classical limits of Syria are from El-Arish to the Euphrates, and from Ila to the sea. Its political border to the South is the River Kishon which divides it from the old principality of Samaria. Syria consequently comprises what we call Palestine, the land of the Philistines, Canaanites, or Phœnicians, from which was subsequently formed the old Jewish kingdom of the children of Israel. Palestine (P and F being interchangeable in Sanskrit) is of Sanskrit derivation and means 'the land of the Shepherds' as Goshen is 'Abode of the Shepherds' and Surya (Syria) is 'Regent of the Sun,' and so it is spelt in Arabic."

After giving some description of Biblical Syria, the lecturer went on to say, "At the fall of the Byzantine power in Syria at the hands of the Arabs, Islam overran the land. What was Islam? Nothing more, at first, than the old religion of the Bible, preached to the pagan Arabs in a particular version, and with new laws, which the state of the country called for. Mohammed's eloquence, however, was so great and his earnestness in God's cause so intense, that he inflamed the imagination of a warring race, and set it running to spread their newly discovered faith. The collection of Mohammed's sayings forming the Koran was accounted miraculous, as Mohammed was unable to read or write. And certainly it is a marvellous literary and poetical production, made to be chanted, like the Psalms of David.

"The Arabs took up the task and discharged the heavy mission laid on them. Opposition created war shocks; war created the appetite for conquests; and world power gave great wealth, and the taste for ease and comfort. The zeal for the new faith got swamped in worldly concerns, and intrigues among Moslems disintegrated their unity, and set their tide ebbing and rolling them back to their desert fastness as if nothing had happened! But not before they had left descendants and influences, which have lasted to this day, in Egypt, Persia, India, Africa, Spain, Italy, Malta and France. Freedom, however, was and is, of the essence of their nature, and was the basis of their early power.

"Turks followed the Arabs. No power is first raised to any extent, except on integrity, and so was the early Ottoman power. But with autocracy there is no guarantee, and Syria is now passing through its greatest trial. Its population is the most enlightened and best educated in the Ottoman Empire, and is mainly Mohammedan, except in the principality of Mount Lebanon, where it is mostly Christian. Beyrout formed part of the Lebanon until about 1840. The best chance for missionary work among such a community is in its example of Christian love, and helpful education, such as the Jesuits and Americans are giving.

"Palestine claims also, through the Jews, a separate organisation, but in fairness to all these peoples, a Customs Union for land produce must be established between them and between them and Egypt and Mesopotamia, in days to come—soon we hope. This will leave the very important question of protecting them from each other's future trespass and greed. We do not want another Balkans: one is quite enough! Arabia, however, is now alone in having a national government, so the others must learn how to manage their affairs. Perhaps what is now taking place in the cause of justice and freedom, will suggest to those of them who are abroad how to acquire military and administrative experience with the Allies."

[†] "Letters to the People of India on Responsible Government." By Lionel Curtis. (London: Macmillan and Co. Price 3s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. July	1918. June		1336. Ramadan.	5678. Tamuz.
5	22	Friday	26	25
6	23	Saturday........	27	26
7	24	**Sunday**	28	27
8	25	Monday	29	28
9	26	Tuesday	30	29
			Shawal	Ab.
10	27	Wednesday	1	1
11	28	Thursday	2	2

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left Cavendish Place for Ireland.

The Greek Medal for Military Valour has been conferred on Lieutenant-Colonel Helliwell, of the British Army.

Sir S. P. Sinha has been obliged to cancel his engagements for a few days owing to influenza.

On the suggestion of the Serbian Minister. the Elsie Inglis Memorial Chair of Medicine at Belgrade will be filled by a woman when the university resumes after the war.

Mr. Laurence Currie and Sir Marshall Reid, members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

On Saturday, at an open-air Investiture at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Theodore Morison with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India.

On June 22, in Cairo, the marriage took place of Major C. H. Reinhold, M.C., I.M.S., Staff, to H. Margharethe, eldest child of Charles Allington Gardner Hayward, of Allington, near Honiton, Devon.

An engagement is announced between Mahlon Wells Hole, A.E.F., and Marjorie Gavin Roberts, second daughter of Mr. T. Roberts, Bengal Civil Service, retired, and of Mrs. Roberts, Ingleside, Netley Abbey.

At Simla, on June 6, Captain H. N. G. Geary, Royal Engineers, youngest son of the late Grattan Geary, was married to Renée Joyce, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Fred A. Wilson, Indian Political Department.

The King of the Hellenes, says Reuter's Agency, has telegraphed to Miss Helena Schilizzi, expressing his congratulations and high satisfaction for her constant endeavour and successful work in aid of the Greek cause.

A Vienna telegram states that the ex-Shah of Persia, Mohammed Ali, arrived there on Sunday with his family and suite from Odessa. After a few days' stay in the capital he will proceed to Karlsbad for a cure.

An engagement is announced between Major William Wrexley-Smith (Indian Army) and Miss Barbara De Friston, eldest child of the late William Friston, artist, of London, and of Mrs. Friston, of Bournemouth, Hants.

An engagement is announced between Arthur V. Watson, late 22nd Cavalry, I.A., youngest son of the late Lieut.-General G. V. Watson and Mrs. Watson, and Margaret, younger daughter of the late Rev. Robert and Mrs. Merrick.

Sir Satyendra Sinha (member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday.

Mr. Duguid Stewart Gilkison, of Thornbrake, Wimbledon, chairman of Messrs. Peirce, Leslie, and Co., Ltd., Billiter Street, E.C., and the Malabar Coast, Southern India, who died on December 10, aged 77, left £206,247, of which £200,169 is net personalty.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Christ Church, Chelsea, at two o'clock on the 9th inst., between J. H. W. Knight-Bruce, Sixth Royal Regiment, and Daphne, widow of Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Ferguson-Davie, C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army. There will be no reception or invitations, but all will be welcome at the church.

The engagement is announced of Captain P. A. Clutterbuck, M.C., Coldstream Guards, eldest son of P. H. Clutterbuck, C.I.E., Chief Conservator of Forests, United Provinces, India, and Mrs. Clutterbuck, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Dorita, younger daughter of the late F. Seymour-Weldon and Mrs. Seymour-Weldon, of East Molesey, and granddaughter of the late W. Simpson, M.D., R.N.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant C. R. S. Paterson, Indian Infantry, fifth son of the late Colonel Paterson, I.A., and Mrs. Paterson, of 34A, Longridge Road, London, and Grace, only daughter of the late Thomas Quin and Mrs. Quin, of Thurles, Bournemouth, will take place shortly, leave permitting, at the Oratory, Brompton Road. The time and date will be notified later.

Major Sir H. Fairfax-Lucy, Bart., Chairman of the Warwickshire Territorial Force Association, and Inspector of Q.M.G.'s Services at Headquarters, Scottish Command, has accepted the Vice-Presidency of the Leamington and Warwickshire Branch of the Discharged Soldiers and Sailors' Federation. Sir H. Fairfax-Lucy's great uncle was Chief Revenue Commissioner to the old East India Company.

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This week the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has made a further payment of £20,000 for the provision of medical stores and comforts at advance depôts in Palestine, Egypt and the Near East.

The Italian Jewish community has elected Cavaliere A. L. Bianchini and Dr. G. Artom to go to Palestine as delegates to the Zionist Commission which is operating there to establish a Jewish national home.

M. Venizelos has sent a message to the Lord Mayor of London in which he said that he was "profoundly touched by the honour paid to Greece" by the banquet given at the Mansion House last week to celebrate the anniversary of Greece's entry into the war.

The Constantinople newspaper *Tiempo* reports that the Grand Rabbi of Turkey, Haim Nahum Effendi, intends to proceed to Switzerland, and has conferred with various members. It is rumoured that the Grand Rabbi has a political mission, and that his journey is connected with Turkey's desire for peace.

In response to the appeal on behalf of the Chair of Medicine for Serbia, which is to be the London memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, an anonymous donor has sent £1,000, and £100 has been promised if another £500 is forthcoming by this afternoon, when a meeting will be held at the Mansion House formally to open the fund. Contributions should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

In commemoration of the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war as Allies of the Entente Powers, a solemn Te Deum was rendered at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on Sunday morning. The Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by Dr. Moschovokis. The members of the Greek Legation attended in full Court dress, including M. Gennadius (the Greek Minister), M. Caclamanos (Minister Plenipotentiary), and M. Michalocopoulos (Special Mission). The Serbian Minister and his military suite were also present.

The Mayor of Candia (Crete) has sent the following telegram to the First Lord of the Admiralty:—"I beg you to accept the profound sympathy of the city of Candia on the death of the glorious Admiral Noel, liberator of Crete." The First Lord sent the following reply:—"Please accept the grateful thanks of the Admiralty for your generous message of condolence on the death of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Gerard Noel. Lady Noel asks that her gratitude may also be expressed to you." Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, who died on May 23 last (as reported in these columns at the time), was second in command of the Mediterranean Fleet in 1898, when he represented Great Britain in the Council of Admirals at the pacification of Crete, for which service he received the K.C.M.G.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The London *Gazette* announces that Major-General G. de S. Barrow, K.C.M.G., C.B., Indian Army, has been appointed temporary Lieutenant-General from M[illegible] to 29, 1918.

M. Milan Rakitch, who has been appointed Counsellor to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived and entered on his duties. He was formerly Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation at Stockholm.

OBITUARY.

Lieut. John Herbert Paterson, Indian Cavalry, attached Royal Air Force, who is reported killed while flying on an Eastern front on June 21, was the eldest son of Mr. John Paterson and of Mrs. Paterson, of Shalimar, Beckenham, Kent. He was twenty-five years of age.

Colonel Samuel J. Lea has died suddenly at Fairbourne, near Barmouth, aged sixty-seven years. He took part in the Nile campaign, fought in the South African War, and had been D.A.A.G. in Ireland. His only son, Lieutenant-Colonel Lea, is serving in France.

Lieut. George Young, Black Watch, who was reported wounded and missing on March 26, and thereafter a prisoner of war, is now stated to have died in hospital on April 8. A son of the late Mr. James Young, Calcutta, and of Mrs. Young, Rockmount, Helensburgh, he was living in India as a tea planter when war broke out; but in 1915 he returned home and took up a commission.

Lieut. Arthur Kinnaird Stanley, Gloucestershire Regiment, who was killed on June 15, aged twenty-three, in Italy, while gallantly leading his company, was the eldest son of the Rev. A. E. Stanley, Senior Chaplain, his Majesty's Indian Service, and of Mrs. Stanley, of The Croft, Billingshurst, Sussex. He was educated at the Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and enlisted on the day that war was declared.

Major Claud Fitzroy Clarke, Indian Cavalry, died in hospital in London last Sunday after a long illness contracted on service abroad. He was only son of Marion, widow of James Ferrier Clarke, M.D., late of Nightingale Lane. He was born in February, 1883, and obtained his commission in the East Surreys from the Imperial Yeomanry in 1903. After promotion he transferred to the Indian Army, in which he had his captaincy in 1911.

Major R. G. M. Pritchard, Yeomanry, attached Indian Cavalry, has died of wounds received in action on June 7. He was the third son of the late R. K. Pritchard, of Bryntirion, Bridgend, Glam., and was born in 1876. At the outbreak of war he held an appointment under the Home Office as Inspector of Mines for a Scottish district. He served with the Glamorgan Yeomanry in the South African War, in which he earned the Queen's medal with three clasps and was mentioned in despatches. After several months with his regiment during the present war he volunteered for service with the Indian Cavalry, and saw considerable fighting with them in France, being once wounded, before the regiment was transferred to another front, where he met his death.

Vice-Admiral Frank Hannam Henderson, C.M.G., D.S.O., died suddenly on June 26 at Haslar Hospital after an operation. A retired flag officer, he accepted a year ago an appointment on active service, and in a junior grade to that which he obtained in the Navy patriotically undertook the command of convoys. For his success in this work he was awarded the D.S.O. Born in 1850, he was the youngest of four brothers who became naval officers, the sons of Mr. John Henderson, J.P., of Felderland, near Sandwich, Kent. The surviving brothers are Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson, Admiral William Henderson, and Captain John Henderson. The late Admiral entered the Navy in December, 1862, and as a sub-lieutenant in the Vulture was promoted for his services in capturing a slave dhow off Ras-al-Had. During the Ashanti War, 1873-4, while a lieutenant in the Active, he was Transport Officer and Beachmaster, and received the medal for his services. He was senior lieutenant of the Eclipse during the Egyptian War, 1882, receiving the Egyptian Medal and Khedive's Bronze Star. While in the Eclipse, he jumped overboard from the poop of the ship when she was lying off Busreh, and rescued an ordinary seaman who had fallen from the main top. For this gallant action he received the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society. When commanding the Racoon he was in charge of a landing party in an expedition to the Lamu Forest country. As captain of the Fox, he was senior officer of the West Coast Division during the outbreak of rebellion at Sierra Leone. For his services on this occasion he was twice mentioned in despatches and received the C.M.G. In 1872, when promoted out of the Vulture, instead of returning home by sea, he rode across Persia, crossed the Caspian, and made his way back to England by way of the Volga and Moscow.

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Reuter's correspondent in Washington reports (July 1):—The United States has formally requested Turkey to furnish an explanation of the report that Turkish troops have sacked the American hospital at Tabriz and seized the American Consulate there. Officials of the State Department declare that the standing of the troops responsible for this indignity will have a bearing on the attitude of the United States in this matter.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1918.

NOTICE.—The publication of this issue of THE NEAR EAST *has been delayed for twenty-four hours, to enable us to include in it a summary of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reform.*—ED.

THE NEW ORIENTATION OF BRITISH POLICY IN INDIA.

Government have done well to publish without delay the joint Report submitted to them by the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India on "Indian Constitutional Reforms." To whatever criticisms it may be open it is an able and historic document, not unworthy of the theme with which it deals, namely, the trusteeship of this country for the welfare of one-fifth of the human race, inhabiting the vast sub-continent which is our Indian Empire. The growth of that Empire since its foundations were unconsciously laid little more than three centuries ago by a handful of merchant adventurers who sailed away under a charter granted to them by Queen Elizabeth in the closing years of her reign to seek out an almost unknown land across almost unknown seas, and to open up a new world to British enterprise, forms one of the most wonderful and, in spite of many human shortcomings, one of the most splendid chapters in our history. The East India Company, created merely to trade, became gradually, under the stress of changing circumstances, the one power capable of saving India from the anarchy and disintegration that followed the decay of the Moghul Empire. Both controlled and strengthened by the authority of the British Parliament, the company learned to govern as well as to trade, and ultimately, ceasing to trade, devoted all its energies to the colossal task of governing a dominion of which the expansion was bound to proceed automatically until it reached its natural geographical boundaries. For British rule, direct or indirect, could alone secure the establishment of the Rule of Law which the British people have steadily, though not always consciously ensued to whatever part of the world their power and their civilisation have penetrated, and which they are even now ensuing in the great war that is being waged against the international lawlessness of Germanic ambitions. With the establishment of the Rule of Law in India the ground was cleared for rearing the great framework of government and administration which have given India, as her best sons have recognised, a measure of peace, and order, and justice, and opportunities of moral and intellectual and material progress such as she had never known in the long course of her chequered history. The Indian Mutiny itself proved only a disturbing episode of which the chief result, mainly formal, was the transfer to the Crown of the authority hitherto vested in a great corporation whose functions and responsibilities had long since outgrown its original mercantile character. The Crown carried on the framework, and for the most part through the same agencies and by means of the same machinery.

It is at this stage approximately that the Report takes up the story of British rule. Its most notable feature during these last sixty years has been the growing ferment of new ideas imported into India by Western education, which has given for the first time in their history to the small but rapidly expanding class of Indians who have learnt English in their schools and Universities a common language and with it a common sense of nationhood and common aspirations towards the ideals of freedom and self-government which inform English literature and all that English literature stands for. This ferment and the unrest which it has created have been productive of both good and evil. Forces, some frankly revolutionary, others, in their essence, fanatical and reactionary, have too often perverted Western knowledge to dangerous uses. But, as the authors of the Report justly remark, "we must admit that the educated Indian is a creation peculiarly of our own; and if we take the credit that is due to us for his strong points we must admit a similar liability for his own." We cannot, at any rate, ignore him, for he not only has a monopoly to-day of all the liberal professions, and of the many Government services he is qualified to enter, but we have ourselves opened the doors of public life to him and given him steadily increasing opportunities of making his voice heard in the conduct of political affairs and even in the counsels of government. The Morley-Minto reforms were a notable recognition of his growing influence, for he was for the first time admitted even into the Viceroy's Executive Council, and given largely increased representation with largely increased powers except of actual control in new Indian Legislature. Lord Morley at the time stoutly repudiated any intention of paving the way for the introduction of Parliamentary institutions in India, but the subsequent course of events defeated his intentions, and the splendid rally of India to the Empire during the war, involving a widespread readjustment of views concerning the position of India within the Empire, led the Imperial Government as well as the Government of India to consider a new orientation of British policy in India, to which expression was definitely and solemnly given in the momentous Pronouncement of August 20 last.

The Report, which embodies the results of Mr. Montagu's Mission to India and of his conferences with Lord Chelmsford, does not disguise the enormous difficulties of the task we have undertaken. It is nothing less than the gradual transformation of the whole system of autocratic government under which we have ruled a vast Asiatic dependency into a system of responsible government, based on representative institutions, analagous to that by which the great self-governing Dominions now rule themselves. The first half of the Report consists of a masterly study of Indian conditions and of the present situation in India, which shows how slow and laborious the process of transformation must be. But the Secretary of State and the Viceroy are nevertheless convinced that it is our duty to face difficulties, and within our power to surmount them. They recognise at the same time that changes can only be made very cautiously and tentatively and within a relatively narrow field, lest we should shake the foundations of the great structure of government on which the welfare and peace of India must for a long time yet rest, and indeed the safety of the Empire. We publish on another page a summary of the principal recommendations they have made to the Imperial Government. They contemplate a first experiment in responsible government by devolving upon Indian Ministers, responsible to the Legislative Council in which there is to be an Indian elected majority, certain definite powers within the sphere of provincial government. If the experiment succeeds, those powers are to be periodically enlarged until they cover the whole range of provincial government and administration. While the Government of India and the India Office will have to relax proportionately some of the control they have hitherto exercised—as indeed the Royal Commission on Decentralisation recommended ten years ago—the paramount authority of the Supreme Government and of the British Parliament are to remain intact until India has qualified through progressive stages of political education to complete self-government. Meanwhile the creation of an Indian Upper Chamber, of an Indian Privy Council, and of a Council of Ruling Princes, the granting of British commissions to Indian officers and the larger employment of Indians in the higher public services are suggested as reasonable and practical measures for promoting the closer association of the best Indian elements with the British element, whose co-operation is essential to the political advancement of India towards self-government "as an integral part of the British Empire." The very complicated details of so large a scheme of constructive statesmanship will invite and will doubtless receive abundant criticism, and the scheme itself will probably satisfy neither the Indian Extremists, who are clamouring for immediate Home Rule, nor those amongst the British communities who refuse to recognise the slightest need for any change. But those who, equally averse from sweeping revolutions and from stagnant conservatism, realise that progress is the law of our national existence wherever British power has taken root, will not be daunted by the difficulties or even dangers which so great an experiment must involve, nor regard its success as beyond the compass of British statesmanship.

INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report, which covers 300 closely printed pages, is divided into two almost equal parts. Part I., entitled "The Material," forms the basis upon which the scheme of reforms presented in Part II., called "The Proposals," is drawn up. It starts with a comprehensive survey of the present situation in India, of the forces which were shaping it before the war, and of the changes which the war itself has wrought.

> The war has affected India in many ways, but above all it has become the predominant factor in the present political situation. Whatever qualifications may be needed in the case of particular classes, the people of India as a whole are in genuine sympathy with the cause which the Allies represent. The reasons of the entry of Britain into the war appealed to the educated classes, and they have never faltered in their allegiance. However much they may find fault with the Government, they are true in their loyalty to the British Crown, and, as it would be easy to show from their own lips, they fully recognise and value the higher aims of British policy. German ideas involving the subjection of the weak to the strong, and the maintenance of the theory that might is right fill them with repugnance and alarm; and the savage barbarities practised by German troops and sailors have repeatedly been contrasted with the clean methods of the Allies. The spectacle of Indian troops going forth gladly to fight for justice and right side by side with the British army appealed intensely to India's imagination. . . . But for the real and lasting effects of the war on India's destiny we should look neither to the generous help of the Princes, nor to the loyalty of the people as a whole, nor to the misguided activities of revolutionary gangs, nor yet to the attitude of the political leaders. They must be sought deeper, and, we think, in two main directions. First, the war has given to India a new sense of self-esteem. She has, in the words of Sir Satyendra Sinha, "a feeling of profound pride that she has not fallen behind other portions of the British Empire, but has stood shoulder to shoulder with them in the hour of their sorest trial." She feels that she has been tried and not found wanting, that thereby her status has been raised, and that it is only her due that her higher status should be recognised by Great Britain and the world at large. The war has given an interest in public affairs to many thousands who were indifferent before. Many men, using language familiar to them in the past, claim that she should receive some boon as a reward for her services, but we do not think that this expresses the general feeling well or justly. We prefer to say that we find a general belief that India has proved herself worthy of further trust, and of a more liberal form of government, and that whatever changes are made should be made in recognition of her own progress rather than as the reward for any services which she has rendered.
>
> Further, the war has come to be regarded more and more clearly as a struggle between liberty and despotism, a struggle for the right of small nations and for the right of all people to rule their own destinies. Attention is repeatedly called to the fact that in Europe Britain is fighting on the side of liberty, and it is urged that Britain cannot deny to the people of India that for which she is herself fighting in Europe, and in the fight for which she has been helped by India's blood and treasure. The revolution in Russia in its beginning was regarded in India as a triumph over despotism; and notwithstanding the fact that it has since involved that unhappy country in anarchy and dismemberment, it has given impetus to Indian political aspirations. The speeches of English and American statesmen, proclaiming the necessity for destroying German militarism, and for conceding the right of self-determination to the nations, have had much effect upon political opinion in India, and have contributed to give new force and vitality to the demand for self-government, which was making itself more widely heard among the progressive section of the people.

These paragraphs constitute the keynote of the Report.

Two important chapters describe the growth of the present administrative system, of the measures which have already brought about a closer association of Indians with the conduct of public affairs in the Legislative Councils, and especially under the Morley-Minto Reforms. Their relative failure is acknowledged and explained as follows:—

> In the light of these anticipations it is not hard to understand how the Morley-Minto constitution ceased in the brief space of ten years' time to satisfy the political hunger of India. The new institutions began with good auspices, and on both sides there was a desire to work them in a conciliatory fashion. But some of the antecedent conditions of success were lacking. There was no general advance in local bodies; no real setting free of provincial finance; and in spite of some progress no widespread admission of Indians in greater numbers into the public service. Because the relaxation of Parliamentary control had not been contemplated, the Government of India could not relax their control over local Governments. The sphere in which the councils could affect the Government's action, both in respect of finance and administration, was therefore closely circumscribed. Again and again a local Government could only meet a resolution by saying that the matter was really out of its hands. It could not find the money because of the provincial settlements; it was not administratively free to act because the Government of India were seized of the question; it could, therefore, only lay the views of the council before the Government of India. As regards legislation also, the continuance of the idea of official subordination led to much of the real work being done behind the scenes. The councils were really more effective than they knew; but their triumphs were not won in broad daylight in the dramatic manner which political ardour desired. This was one reason why more interest was often shown in resolutions than in legislation. The carrying of a resolution against Government, apart from the opportunity of recording an opinion which might some day bear fruit, came to be regarded as a great moral victory; and it is evident that topics that are likely to combine all the Indian elements in the council offered the best opportunity. Because the centralisation of control limited the effectiveness of the councils, the non-official members were driven to think more of display than they might have otherwise done; and the sense of unreality on both sides deepened. All this time the national consciousness and the desire for political power were growing rapidly in the minds of educated Indians; and the councils with their limited opportunities proved to be an insufficient safety valve. While therefore inside the councils there are signs of hardening opposition and the weariness which comes of sterile efforts, outside the councils the tide of feeling was rising more quickly. For a short time after their inception the Morley-Minto reforms threatened to diminish the importance of the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. It seemed as if the councils where elected members took a share in the business of government must be a more effective instrument for political purposes than mere self-constituted gatherings. But with the disillusionment about the reformed councils the popular conventions, where speakers were free to attack the Government and give vent to their own aspirations untrammelled by rules of business or the prospect of a reply, naturally regained their ascendancy; and the line taken by prominent speakers in them has been to belittle the utility of the councils, if not to denounce them as a cynical and calculated sham. We cannot now say to what extent improvement might have been effected by gradual changes in the rules of business, by relaxing official discipline, by permitting freer discussion, and by a greater readiness to meet the non-official point of view. However, this may be, events have proved too strong. The councils have done much better work than might appear to some of their critics. But they have ceased to satisfy Indian opinion, and their continuance can only lead to a further cleavage between the Indian members and the Government, and a further cultivation of criticism unchecked by responsibility.

A chapter on the existing structure of Government, in which full justice is done to its great achievements and to the high qualities of the public services, leads up to a dispassionate examination of the "Conditions of the Problem" in the light of Indian history and traditions and the actual state of the people, of whom the vast majority are a hard-working but profoundly ignorant peasantry absorbed in their daily toil and with no outlook beyond their village fields, whilst racial and religious and caste differences perpetuate ancient lines of cleavage far deeper than the Western mind is apt to realise. The one great ferment we have introduced into the social life of India has been Western education,

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
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KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

and the Report recognises its increasing potency both for good and for evil.

> In estimating the politically-minded portion of the people of India we should not go either to census reports on the one hand, or to political literature on the other. It is one of the most difficult portions of our task to see them in their right relation to the rest of the country. Our obligations to them are plain, for they are intellectually our children. They have imbibed ideas which we ourselves have set before them, and we ought to reckon it to their credit. The present intellectual and moral stir in India is no reproach, but rather a tribute to our work. The *Raj* would have been a mechanical and iron thing if the spirit of India had not responded to it. We must remember, too, that the educated Indian has come to the front by hard work; he has seized the education which we offered him because he first saw its advantages; and it is he who has advocated and worked for political progress. All this stands to his credit. For thirty years he has developed in his Congress, and latterly in the Muslim League, free popular convocations which express his ideals. We owe him sympathy because he has conceived and pursued the idea of managing his own affairs, an aim which no Englishman can fail to respect. He has made a skilful, and, on the whole, a moderate, use of the opportunities which we have given him in the legislative councils of influencing Government, and affecting the course of public business, and of recent years he has by speeches and in the Press done much to spread the idea of a united and self-respecting India among thousands who had no such conception in their minds. Helped by the inability of the other classes in India to play a prominent part, he has assumed the place of leader; but his authority is by no means universally acknowledged and may in an emergency prove weak.

After carefully analysing and rejecting the solution of the problem propounded in the Resolutions of the Indian National Congress and Moslem League, as altogether unsound in principle and leading in practice to a mere deadlock from which there could be no issue but either a dangerous leap into the unknown or equally dangerous retrogression, the authors of the Report develop their own proposals, which are set forth in Part II. They recommend in the first place a large re-adjustment of the relations between the Provincial Governments and the Government of India, with financial, as well as legislative and administrative, devolution, a complete separation of revenues, and separate powers of provincial taxation and provincial borrowing. Within this enlarged sphere of provincial government they are prepared to transfer certain specific powers—which might include in the first stage local self-government, urban and rural minor public works, primary and secondary and technical education, sanitation, excise, and taxation for provincial purposes—to Indian Ministers, associated with the Governor-in-Council, for the general conduct of government, but responsible for the exercise of the specific powers transferred to them to the Legislative Council, in which there should be an Indian majority elected on the widest suffrage that existing conditions in India could allow of, and subject to the maintenance of a communal representation wherever and as long as it remains indispensable. Indians would thus be able to learn self-government for themselves in a field which, at first narrowly circumscribed, would be capable of steady expansion if justified by results, until it finally came to include the whole sphere of Provincial Government. Meanwhile, the Governor-in-Council would retain, except in regard to the "transferred subjects," all his present powers, and provision is made for safeguarding his paramount authority for the purpose of securing legislation deemed by Government to be essential to the peace or tranquillity of the province which the Legislative Council might refuse to pass, or in other cases of direct conflict liable to produce dangerous consequences. The responsibility of the Governor-in-Council to the Government of India thus remains essentially untouched, as does that of the Government of India to the Secretary of State and the British Parliament.

The Report, in fact, lays down definitely that the Provinces are the domain in which the earlier steps towards the progressive realisation of responsible government should be taken, and that the authority of the Government of India in essential matters must remain indisputable pending experience of the effect of the changes in the Provinces. Whilst recommending a large increase of the Indian elected element in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, the Report therefore proposes the creation of an Indian Council of State as the supreme legislative authority for India, which together with the creation of an Indian Privy Council and of a Council of Ruling Princes, would presumably strengthen the conservative influences in the country and bring them into closer touch with the Supreme Power.

Other recommendations deal with the consequential reconstruction of the India Office and the India Council, the need for a closer relationship between the Native States and the Government of India, and the larger recruitment of Indians into the Public Services, in regard to which the Report goes a good deal further than the Royal Commission of 1912, but suggests also measures for protecting and improving the position of the European element. Except in respect of the immediate granting of British commissions to Indian officers and a more liberal recognition of Indian military services, the Report considers that the question of the Indian Army and of the larger changes that may be necessary in our military policy must await the end of the war.

The Report concludes with some interesting expressions of opinion as to the development of Indian industries and commerce, including a forecast of the recommendations of the Industrial Commission, the position and duties of the non-official British community, our obligations towards the Eurasian community, and the delicate but very vital question of social relations between Indians and Europeans.

This bare outline of a great State paper, admirably drafted and constructed, can do but very imperfect justice to the large and many-sided scheme which it develops. The spirit in which the authors of the Report have approached their task may perhaps best be gathered from the following passage:—

> We believe that the announcement of August 20 was right and wise; and that the policy which it embodies is the only possible policy for India. We have seen it estimated that the number of people who really ask for free institutions does not exceed five per cent. of the population. It is in any case a small proportion; but to the particular numeral we attach no importance whatever. We are not setting about to stir 95 per cent. of the people out of their peaceful conservatism, and setting their feet upon a new and difficult path merely at the bidding of the other five per cent.; nor would that be our reason, whether the articulate minority were 20 per cent. or one-half per cent. of the whole. Our reason is the faith that is in us. We have shown how step by step British policy in India has been steadily directed to a point at which the question of a self-governing India was bound to arise; how impulses, at first faint, have been encouraged by education and opportunity; how the growth quickened nine years ago, and was immeasurably accelerated by the war. We measure it not by the crowds at political meetings or the multiplication of newspapers; but by the infallible signs that indicate the growth of character. We believe profoundly that the time has now come when the sheltered existence which we have given India cannot be prolonged without damage to her national life; that we have a richer gift for her people than any that we have yet bestowed on them; that nationhood within the Empire represents something better than anything India has hitherto attained; that the placid, pathetic contentment of the masses is not the soil on which such Indian nationhood will grow, and that in deliberatly disturbing it, we are working for her highest good.
>
> If, then, our faith is right, what are the conditions of success? Obviously, there is much to change. The habits of generations have to be softened if not overcome; we have to call forth capacity and self-reliance in the place of helplessness: nationhood in place of caste or communal feeling. But we have great influences working with us in the spirit of liberty that is stirring in Asia, as in the rest of the world, and the intense desire of educated Indians to prove that their long period of tutelage may be ended, and that they may take their place in the forefront of the world as a self-governing part of the Empire. The task is a great and worthy one, but it calls for some effort and self-sacrifice from every element in the community.

DEATH OF SULTAN OF TURKEY.

As we go to press news reaches us, through Reuter's agent in Amsterdam, that the Sultan of Turkey died on Wednesday evening.

Sultan Mohammed V. (Mehmed Reshad Khan) was born in Constantinople on Shawal 21, 1260 A.H., or November 3, 1844 A.D., and was the son of Sultan Abdul Mejid and the younger brother of Abdul Hamid II., whom he succeeded. He was proclaimed Sultan on April 27, 1909, when Abdul Hamid was deposed by the Young Turks; and throughout his reign he was little more than a cipher, all power being in the hands of the so-called Committee of Union and Progress.

He was not deeply interested in politics, but it was generally believed that he was at heart more friendly towards England than towards Germany; and he did what he could to prevent his unhappy country from taking the fatal plunge into war.

He is survived by two sons: Prince Zia-ed-Din Effendi, born 1873; and Prince Omar Hilmi Effendi, born 1888. Upon the assassination of Prince Yussuf Izzeddin, Prince Wahid-ed-Din, a brother of the late Sultan, became Heir-Apparent. He was born in January, 1861.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Lent I.C. Servants. June 24.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether members of the Indian Civil Service whose services have been placed at the disposal of the War Office receive the same rates of pay whether serving in East Africa, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Egypt, Italy, France, or the Mediterranean, or whether there is any differentiation; and, if there is a differentiation, whether there is any reason why the same rule should not equally apply to all.

Mr. FORSTER: Indian Civil Servants giving military service under the War Office are, as a general rule, in receipt of Indian civil furlough pay, plus the standard military emoluments of a British officer in the area in which they serve. If the hon. and gallant member has in mind any particular case in which the treatment appears to him to be anomalous I shall be happy to inquire into it.

Colonel YATE: Will the right hon. gentleman inquire whether officers serving on the East of the Suez Canal get a different rate of pay from those serving on the west of the Suez Canal?

Mr. FORSTER: I will make inquiries.

Turks in Tabriz. June 27.

Sir J. D. REES asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs could give any information regarding the occupation of Tabriz by the Turks.

Lord ROBERT CECIL said:—The Turkish forces have been in occupation of Tabriz since the 7th inst. The British Consul and colony have left the city and are on the way to Teheran. It is understood that the enemy forces have taken possession of the British and United States Consulates and the United States hospital, and have disregarded the protests made to them on this head by the Spanish Consular Agent, under whose protection these premises had been placed.

German Missionaries in India. July 1.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether all German missionaries in India had now been interned or repatriated; and, if not, how many still remain and under what conditions they remain.

Mr. MONTAGU: More than two years ago the great body of missionaries of enemy nationality were repatriated from India. About 50 men were granted exemption on account of age, infirmity, long residence in the country, and the like, and they are no doubt still in India. A larger number of women, mostly nuns, were also for similar special reasons allowed to remain in India. For some of these persons residence in particular places, such as monasteries and convents, has been appointed. In other cases special restrictions of the kind have not been thought necessary, and have not been imposed.

Arms in India. June 3.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked whether, in view of the increasing external danger to India, the Secretary of State for India was yet prepared to consider the repeal of the Arms Act, so that Indians might no longer feel both degraded and helpless in the face of danger.

Mr. MONTAGU: The Government of India has in contemplation an amendment to the schedule of the Arms Act in order to remove racial discrimination.

Colonel WEDGWOOD: Is it not most essential that in a country where there are a considerable number of dangerous wild beasts, people should have the right to carry arms?

Mr. MONTAGU: I admit the force of the argument, but a great deal of misapprehension arises from confusing the Act and the schedules. I do not think the Act itself requires amendment.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

A serious fire at the Piræus on June 19 destroyed large stocks of foodstuffs and tobacco, valued at some millions of francs.

According to Herr Gothein, German Progressive Deputy, there is a complete crop failure in Roumania owing to the war and the weather.

Forty-five persons have been killed and many injured in a collision between an express and goods train between Mircesti and Roman, in Roumania.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters for British East Africa conspicuously marked by the senders for transmission viâ the Sudan will be sent by that route.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the war, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, sent a telegram of congratulation to M. Venizelos.

The Jewish Correspondence Bureau at The Hague reports that the Polish Zionists have resolved to collect 1,000,000 marks for the establishment of a colony in Palestine.

A deputation of Greek scientists and professors waited on M. Venizelos last week to urge the Government to take sterner measures against the anti-national activities of the reactionary remnants.

There are in India 600,000 blind people, of whom about 34 000 are in the Madras Presidency. The only schools for the blind in that Presidency are those of the Church Missionary Society at Palamcotta.

M. Malinoff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, has expressed his firm resolve to inaugurate a regime of order and strict equality in all domains of the State. It is expected that the Sobranje will shortly be convoked in extraordinary session

Mr. Nahum Solokow, having made certain representations as to Roumanian Jews on behalf of the Zionist organisation, Mr. Balfour has replied that the British Government are most anxious to do everything in their power to secure a just and permanent settlement of the Jewish question in Roumania.

During excavations in Cyrenaïca (Tripoli) two statues have been found, one representing a Roman matron of the second century, the other a winged figure of Victory. A new temple containing a colossal statue of Demeter, with long inscriptions belonging to the third century B.C., has also been discovered.

A Bucharest telegram states that the *Roumanian Gazette* publishes a Royal amnesty Decree pardoning all German subjects who have been convicted or are being prosecuted for offences committed with the intention of helping their country or for any infringements of the special law for enemy subjects.

A telegram from Sofia says that M. Radeff, who for a long time past has been in charge of the Political Section of the Bucharest Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Secretary-General of the Ministry in succession to M. Zlatanoff, who has resigned. M. Passaroff, Bulgarian Minister in Berne, has been relieved of his functions.

The executive committee of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund has set apart a sum of £5,000, to be devoted to discharged officers and men who require financial assistance to complete the studies which they were pursuing at Universities and schools of University rank, with a view to graduation, when they joined the Forces.

A Council under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury has been formed for the purpose of helping a number of Serbian Church students to complete their studies at an English University. The plan outlined by the Council involves the complete maintenance of nearly forty students, and includes not merely the cost of their education, but also the necessary expenses of board, lodging, clothes, etc.

Rainfall in India has been fair at Orissa, Chota Nagpur, United Provinces East, Bombay Deccan, Haidarabad, Malabar, and Madras Coast North; normal in Bay Islands, Burma, Assam, Kashmir, and Central Provinces proper; in excess in Bengal, Bihar, North-West Frontier Province, Rajputana East, Central India West, and Konkan; and scanty elsewhere. Some improvement is likely in the Arabian Sea monsoon.

The Mayor of Piræus has sent the following telegram to the Lord Mayor of London:—"On the occasion of the anniversary of the political union of Greece and her entrance into the war for right and liberty at the side of the Great Powers, the Piræus Municipality, whose first citizen happens to be M. Venizelos, addresses her sincere gratitude to the honourable Allies who saved once more the country from despotism and barbarism."

Replying to letters from Sir Stuart Samuel and Mr. C. G. Montefiore, on behalf of the Joint Foreign Committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Mr. Balfour has written confirming the publicly-announced statement that the British Government "have the closest sympathy with the emancipation of the Jews in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, and are anxious to do everything in their power to secure a just and permanent settlement of the Jewish question throughout the regions concerned."

Reuter's Agency is informed that an appeal has been made on behalf of the Armenians to the British Labour Conference. After declaring that the Brest-Litovsk Treaty will prove perhaps the greatest calamity in Armenia's history and horror, it goes on to speak of the unprecedented atrocities committed since the war in Turkish Armenia, when about a million persons have been massacred and the life of the country brought to a standstill. The appeal concludes with "a fresh and supreme appeal to democracy from a people which has suffered frightful martyrdom."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

A very appreciable advance has been made towards the economic union of the Allies after the war by the acceptance by the Inter-Allied Parliamentary Commercial Conference at its third annual meeting at Westminster this week of Sir Watson Rutherford's scheme for the establishment of an Inter-Allied Commercial League, the object of which is to carry out in all the Allied countries "such measures as may be adequate to secure that the German conspiracy to dominate the trade of the world, including dumping, espionage, and other similar practices, may be defeated." This step brings the question definitely out of the area of mere academic discussion into the field of action, and we shall probably not have to wait long now for developments.

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In view of Germany's pre-war trade methods the Allies really have had no option as regards the use of the economic weapon at their disposal, and it is surprising in the circumstances that they should have hesitated so long to make known their intentions. It will be interesting to see Germany's attitude towards the Allies' union in defence of their economic interests. Probably to deceive their people Germany's rulers will fall back on the cry that the Allies are contemplating an economic war, but whether Germans will be so deluded is another matter. It is certain, at any rate, that those of them who know their own history will have no illusions on the subject. Up to 1914 Germany gave the world an admirable exposition of the theory of economic war by conducting a trade offensive in other countries by means of the most unscrupulous tactics, and during the war she has shown exactly the same spirit in the treaties she forced on Roumania and Russia, both of which show clearly her views on "free commerce" when she feels able to carry her will into effect. Obviously between that policy and the preservation by the Allies of their own resources there is a wide gulf fixed. The one is economic war pure and simple, the other merely the closing of the open door.

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Rightly used, the economic weapon is likely to have no little effect in diminishing Germany's desire for resistance. The Allies control the most important sources of the world's supply of raw materials, and it is perfectly open to them to decide to cut Germany off entirely from these sources for a period of years in the event of the struggle being continued after a given date. There is ample evidence that Germany dreads this use of the economic resources of the Allies. The great warehouses at Bremen and Hamburg are empty, and Germany hopes to fill them, however the war ends, by the adroit development of her commercial penetration. Once the German business man becomes convinced that the Allies will make the fullest use of this weapon, and will be prepared to refuse to trade with him, and so bring him to economic ruin, we may see a rapid change in his attitude, which will be speedily reflected in the attitude of the German Government.

The Egyptian Industries Commission has reported adversely on the question of attempting to revive tobacco cultivation in Egypt in present circumstances owing to the need for increased food production. This decision has not been well received by a section of the native Press, which seems altogether to overlook the difficulties involved in imposing a further strain on the limited area of irrigated land. For obvious reasons it is out of the question to undertake any considerable extension of irrigation at the present time, and the land available for food production after the curtailment of the area under cotton leaves none to spare for other purposes. The introduction of tobacco cultivation, as I have already pointed out, would make an excellent addition to Egypt's industries, but it would be the height of folly to introduce the industry at the expense of food production, and thus lay a further and unnecessary burden on the tonnage of the Allies.

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Apropos of the recent reference in our Engineering Notes to the problem of providing efficient and economical transport in the Sudan it may be noted that the *Journal of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce* expresses the view that the research work of Mr. John Wells on the question of the production of gas from vegetable matter may have a far-reaching effect on the Sudan's development, especially in the South, where there are unlimited supplies of the material needed for the production of gas. "There would doubtless be considerable trade development," our contemporary adds, "in the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla Provinces if a cheap means of transport were available. Railways are costly to lay, and petrol-driven motor lorries very expensive to run. Recently accounts have appeared in the English newspapers of omnibuses being run on gas, and should this have been found successful there seems to be no reason why gas-driven lorries should not be made use of. Naturally the question requires very careful consideration, but it certainly looks on the face of it that it might be the means of providing cheap transport which is so necessary for the development of the Southern areas."

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The Indian crop forecasts have not infrequently aroused criticism on the ground of their varying character. In the case of the cotton crop a defect of this nature is obviously serious, and I am glad to see, therefore, that a number of valuable suggestions for remedying this shortcoming were laid by Mr. Findley Shirras, Director of Statistics, before the Indian Cotton Commission. Mr. Shirras showed that the relation of the season's outturn to the normal is rarely determined or reported, and that the tendency has been to underestimate a good crop. Only twice in the last ten years has the final forecast been in excess, while the average underestimate has been 9.6. This tendency was due, he explained, "firstly, to the ingrained pessimism of Indian cultivators and village officers. The cultivators possess an ineradicable instinct that it is imprudent to estimate a bumper crop as a bumper crop." Mr. Shirras suggested that the reporting agency should be improved by employing men with a practical training in agriculture, and he also recommended the advisability of enquiries from ginning firms after the ginning commenced as to how the crop was turning out.

Judged by the Western standard, Serbia's code of commercial law is remarkably stringent. A good instance is afforded by the regulation that the members of a board of directors are responsible to the shareholders to the extent of their entire wealth in the event of the management bringing about failure or the necessity of writing down capital. This law is excellent in theory, but I question whether it has worked out well in practice. Of course, it gives shareholders the most perfect security, given directors of standing, but I should think it must have operated to the detriment of initiative, and may have had some influence on Serbia's comparative lack of development. Another interesting law provides that if a person renders a second time an account which has been paid, and receives payment owing to the loss of the receipt, on its being proved that the account had already been paid he is imprisoned without the option of a fine.

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Egypt is evidently beginning to feel the silver shortage very acutely, for the recent issue of 25 piastre notes has now been followed by one of 10 piastre notes. In a communiqué on the position the Government state that the silver circulation, which was 2,500,000 at the beginning of the war, has risen to 7,000,000 owing to higher prices, the growing prosperity of the country and the tendency of small cultivators to hoard. The last reason, of course, holds good more or less throughout the East, and the average Egyptian is at least as great a hoarder as the average Indian, which is saying a good deal, his special weakness being silver ornaments for his women folk. Unfortunately, a remedy is hard to find for this Eastern practice, which was a nuisance in peace time, and might be described by a much stronger epithet now.

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Remarkably good results have been achieved by the Burmah Oil Company during the past year, the profits, after allowing for depreciation, amounting to £2.305,100, against £1,276,600 for the previous twelve months. Against the increased profit of £1,028,500 has to be set an increase of £920,000 in the excess profits duty, the amount due under this head being put at £1,250.000, against £330,000 for 1916, but even so the company has been able to raise its dividend from 30 to 32½ per cent., while part of the reserve is to be capitalised by the distribution of a bonus of one new share for every two now held, the new shares ranking for dividend from January 1 last.

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British manufacturers of motor-boat engines should keep the possibilities of the Indian market carefully in mind as regards trade after the war. There is a good deal of motor-boat construction going on in India at the present time, one firm, as a matter of fact, having turned out 100 launches in twelve months, and there is every indication that the use of motor-boats will steadily increase with the coming of peace. At the present time, while some of the engines come from this country, most of them are supplied by the United States. This is, however, essentially a market which should be in British hands, and it is hoped that our firms will leave no stone unturned to reverse the positions as soon as trade conditions permit the unlimited export of machinery.

COMMENTATOR.

THE EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

II.—The Development of Industry.

(*Continued.*)

The report states that the general conditions under which some of the small industries are carried on are very bad. The workshops are mostly situated in the worst parts of the town, where the ordinary requirements of hygiene are entirely neglected, and one in particular consists of several hovels, more or less ruins, where there is little light or ventilation, whilst in another prosperous workshop, where the motive power is provided by a team of cattle, the space is so small that workers and animals work side by side amid the worst possible hygienic conditions. Added to this drawback—for the absence of proper accommodation must react on the workers—there is a persistent disinclination to use improved methods, and in many cases the old tools and antiquated system of work merely tend to add to the cost of the finished article compared with the European variety. Moreover, the manner in which locally produced articles are put on the market is prejudicial to the interests of the producers. The latter keep very primitive books, if they keep any at all; in nine cases out of ten they do not know what an article has cost them to make, and their only preoccupation is to provide for their immediate wants. Thus they buy raw material only when they want it, and sell their products only when they require money. They have no idea of watching the markets, and are entirely at the mercy of the middlemen, who take full advantage of their peculiarities. The report cites the example of two centres, one of which, Akhmin, depended upon tourists for the sale of its textiles, and now that the annual invasion has ceased has taken no steps to find an outlet for the textiles for which it is justly famous; the other, Kena, a pottery centre, and where the makers, though they are in complete control of the production of the goolah (water bottle), far from co-operating in order to obtain the best possible terms, compete with one another, and so are at the mercy of the middlemen, who make enormous profits at their expense. It is to a great extent due to this mad rivalry between people of the same trade that the stagnation in certain branches exists to-day.

Progressive Methods Required.

The Egyptian industrial worker scorns publicity, and shirks anything which appears to be a call to progressive methods. That the small industries can thrive if properly carried on is proved by the fact that the few in which foreigners are engaged, such as soap-making, tanning, boot-making, shirt-making, and clothes-making, have made progress, especially since the outbreak of the war. Whilst, however, this is all very unfortunate, the Commission puts on record the fact that it has come across some Egyptian workers who have given proof of a spirit of order and progress. The evil, deep though it may be, is, in its opinion, not irremediable, and Egyptian industries, whilst showing serious defects, possess certain latent elements which may be productive of progress if properly handled. The Commission sees a ray of hope in the fact that the war has to a great extent awakened throughout Egypt activities hitherto unsuspected, and, looking at the results so far obtained, it is easy to see that the industries of Egypt only require for their development the assistance of circumstances and of conditions of which they have been deprived in the past.

With regard to the large industries, most of those which contribute to the wealth of the country are carried on by outside capitalists, such as the Cotton Spinning Company of Alexandria, the alcohol industry, the sugar refineries, and the seed crushers. There are also others, such as the metal, cigarette, cement, salt and soda, tarbush, brick, beer, rubber, preserves, cotton, rice, and flour milling factories, which also render considerable services to the community. Practically all of them have managed to survive the preliminary period of organisation, which is always a test; but numerous others created during the boom went under, and helped to add to the bad name which Egypt acquired during the crisis, and which conduced to an apparent confirmation of the theory that industry could not succeed here. Whilst nothing has been officially done to encourage industries, certain people have, notwithstanding, had the courage to "carry on," and the Commission considers that in the circumstances the situation as regards the greater industries holds out the best of hopes, and is worthy of the liveliest support. At the same time, it expresses its regret that, with but very few exceptions, the Egyptians should always have hesitated to put their capital into industrial enterprises, a feature which it hopes will disappear as soon as technical education has become more extended and a better organisation of industry has been brought into being.

Limitations of Agriculture.

Coming to the point of the country's need for new industries, the Commission raises the question as to whether agriculture will suffice to enable the people of the country to find the necessary subsistence. It points out that at the present rate of increase the population of the country in 1945 will be 20,000,000, and that if the total cultivable area is devoted to cultivation it will barely suffice to meet the needs of that population, unless in the meantime some very marked improvement takes place in the average yield per feddan; and this it may be noted is conditional on the present rate of increase being maintained and the people remaining in their present social condition. But it may be taken for granted that the social condition of the people will improve, and that consequently they will require more than at present, whilst improved well-being will conduce to a higher rate of increase. Further, there is every probability that in the very near future mechanical methods will be introduced for cultivation purposes, and as a result the number of people for which each feddan will provide occupation will become reduced. Resuming its argument, the Commission comes to the definite conclusion that agriculture alone cannot meet the needs of the people and bear the charge of the national and private debt, which together amount to about £E160,000,000. The Commission points to improvement and extension of agriculture and to the development of commerce and industry as the sole means for the country to meet the problems which cannot fail to confront it in the near future. Nor does it consider that agriculture will suffer from industrial expansion; rather will it benefit since the raw material required for those industries will consist for the most part in agricultural products, and thus the price will be raised and the country in general will benefit, whilst local industry may be able to provide agriculture at relatively cheap prices with some of the articles which it has hitherto obtained from abroad. The starting of industries in Egypt will not harm the great industrial countries, since, if it entails a reduction in the import of certain commodities which the country will itself produce, on the other hand the demand for other commodities will increase. The Commission sees in the after-war conditions which will bring about an industrial renaissance every hope that Egypt will have a share therein, for if Egyptian capitalists may not yet have learnt the wisdom of investing their funds in industrial enterprises the heavy taxation in belligerent countries will drive European capitalists to look for outlets where the fiscal charges are not so great, and there is every reason to believe that a great influx of foreign capital will take place into Egypt, where that capital will be used for industrial purposes.

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* The first article of this series appeared on June 7, and the first half of the present article on June 21.

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The Madras Government has sanctioned the establishment of an engineering school at Vizagapatam.

The Washington correspondent of the Associated Press announces (says a Reuter message) that the United States Treasury Department has arranged with Great Britain for the supply of rupee exchange, in order to finance in America civil and military business in Indian exports. The price of the rupee will be 35.73 cents for telegraphic transfers.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Irregular Business.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

An irregular business continues to be done in the market. Supplies in yarn and cloth tend to become more limited than ever. Official reports relating to the American cotton crop have been better than expected, and there is every probability of a yield next season of over 15,000,000 bales. Rather diverse news has been received relating to the Egyptian growth. It is understood that spinners will have to make fresh financial arrangements in connection with purchasing supplies from the Government after the end of this month. It is said that the system of three months' bills will be abolished as the authorities will require cash. Egyptian yarns remain very strong. Owing to the Bolton holidays many sellers have refused to quote, and a limited business has been done. It is exceedingly difficult to secure early delivery of certain counts and qualities. Some advices from Egypt with regard to cloth are a little better, but dealers on the other side are undoubtedly still over supplied. Trade for India has chiefly been in fine fancy goods. The off-take for China remains unimportant. Some useful lines have been put through for South America. American yarns have been very stiff in price, but the turnover has been restricted. There has been very little done in export bundles.

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BRITISH COTTON-GROWING.

At the annual meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association held in Manchester on July 2, Mr. William Howarth referred to the loss which the association had sustained by the retirement from the chairmanship of Mr. J. A. Hutton. From a financial point of view the work of the past year was very satisfactory; but the making of profits was not the chief object of the association, and the war had curtailed the development of the schemes of cotton production. The main difficulty was that of transit. It should be borne in mind that when, through the efforts of the association, a new road or railway was made, cotton was not the only commodity that was carried upon it. The Empire Development Committee now sitting in London could hardly spend its time more profitably than in considering the provision of proper transit in all parts of the world.

About the association's future, it was difficult to say anything with confidence. There were three alternative proposals before the Departmental Committee which was considering the question of cotton-growing within the Empire. The first was the formation of a Government Department to take over the work. The second, the reconstruction of the association as a public trust, with Government assistance and under Government control. The third was that the development of the work should be left to ordinary commercial enterprise. The last of these suggestions was generally considered as impracticable. The second seemed likely to be adopted. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. J. M. Thomas, of Rochdale, the Council's report and the statement of accounts were adopted. Lord Derby was re-elected president of the association.

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CHINA AND INDIAN OPIUM.

Mr. Balfour's announcement in the House of Commons on June 20 that the Chinese Government and the Opium Combine had concluded an agreement for the purchase of the stocks of Indian opium bonded at Shanghai and Canton (says Reuter's Peking correspondent) came as a shock to China, where it is realised that instead of marking the end of the opium traffic, this deal reopens the whole of China both to cultivation and smoking, and destroys the result of the years of magnificent work against the opium habit in which China has effected the greatest social reform in her history. The Government intends to establish a vast opium gabelle, but hesitates to announce the scheme. It is believed that a British intimation of disapproval of the scheme can save the situation and earn the gratitude of the whole of the Far East.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in May:—

Cotton.—The weather has been changeable and generally too cold, especially at night, to benefit the cotton. Rain and hail falling on the 4th and 5th caused a good deal of local damage. Towards the end of the month the weather improved and was more favourable. Water supply was ample. Resowing, thinning, hoeing, and watering are now proceeding. Mole-cricket and cut-worm attacks are common, and slight damage is reported; attacks from sore-shin are also occasionally noticed, but the damage caused is not of importance. Cotton-worm egg-masses have appeared on isolated areas. Owing to the unsatisfactory weather conditions of this and last month, the crop is now unquestionably late, although it is less so in Upper than Lower Egypt. Resowing had to be done twice and even thrice in many places, and the fact that it has proceeded up to the end of May shows to what an unusual extent it has been necessary. The early crop was affected most and the late one is doing comparatively well.

Wheat.—The weather has been generally favourable, though spells of hot winds occurring early in the month in Upper Egypt caused some damage to the unripe crop, shrivelling up the grains and delaying harvesting for a time. Harvesting, threshing, and winnowing are now general, but in a few provinces, owing to the scarcity of labour, they are not as much advanced as in the others. In Asyût and Girga, the crop has been harvested in excellent condition. It is giving a normal yield, though less than last year, owing to the severe attack of rust and the scarcity of artificial manures.

Barley.—Harvesting and threshing are nearly completed and winnowing is proceeding. The yield is appreciably above average.

Beans.—Harvesting is over and threshing practically finished. Despite the recent attack of rust the evidence of a good outturn throughout the country is unmistakable, and it is satisfactory to record the recovery of this crop after its failure in 1916.

Rice (Sêfi).—The weather is favourable. With an abundant water supply, a large increase in the rice area is expected this year. Watering and the preparation of land for the completion of sowing are in progress. The area already sown is coming up well, early rice having germinated regularly. Sowing of Fino is finished in Gharbiya, and Yapani is now being put in.

Millet (Sêfi).—Weather favourable and water supply ample. Sowing of late crop is still proceeding, while the early one is being thinned and hoed. Slight attacks of borer and mole-cricket are reported in Beni Suef and Minya, but the damage is insignificant. The crop is progressing favourably and is generally rather earlier than last season, except in parts of Beni Suef.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable though variable, and occasionally hot and windy. Weeding, hoeing, manuring, and watering are being carried on. No pests are reported. The growth is satisfactory, and early-planted canes are doing well. Planting seem to have continued later than usual this season.

MOROCCAN LOCUST BEANS.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that, by an Order of the Resident-General as Commander-in-Chief, locust beans have been added to the list of goods the export of which, from the French zone of Morocco, is only permitted in so far as concerns such quantities as are not retained by the "Service de l'Intendance," and under licence issued by the Director of the Service.

Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son have obtained permission to run a truck by the military railway between Cairo and Jerusalem for the conveyance of packages, weighing between 11lb. and 264lb., addressed to merchants and other private individuals. The service is weekly.

Speaking at a meeting of the Liberal Club in Athens M. Venizelos stated that all necessary measures were now being taken to enable Greece to cope with all the economic problems which would arise after the war.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

An Expanding Road Wheel.

Reference was recently made in these notes to the difficulties experienced in the East with the road wheels of vehicles. Private or commercial motor cars, tractors, wagons, or agricultural machinery are always in trouble, especially in the hot season, owing to wheel difficulties and consequent repairs, and the trouble is greater where rubber tyres are used. A new and very interesting design of road wheel, which has recently been brought out, will, we think, prove very popular with owners of vehicles with wheels for solid tyres. The object of the design is to overcome a difficulty frequently experienced when fitting band tyres, in that there is very often a slight difference between the outside diameter of the wheel and the bore of the metal band upon which the tyre has been vulcanised. The present device aims at expanding the felloe of the wheel while still maintaining it concentric with the hub. The wheel itself, although in one piece, is made with its two halves struck from different centres, so that at opposite points on the circumference there is a step, and between this part of the wheel and the base of the tyre are thus formed two grooved wedge-shaped spaces. Suitable wedges are made to fit these spaces, and by a slight conlective movement of these wedges in either direction the outside diameter of the wheel may be increased or diminished. The advantages in the use of these expanding wheels are obvious.

Regulations for Sale of Machinery

The new order of the Government for the sale of agricultural machinery and implements will be of particular interest to importers and users of such machinery in the East. It will remedy a situation which gave opportunities to profiteers at home, and aided the efforts of foreign competitors abroad to the detriment of British trade. According to the new Order: 1. On or after July 1, 1918, no person shall offer to sell, sell or deliver any agricultural or dairy implement not purchased by him direct from the manufacturer thereof unless he shall hold a permit from the Minister of Munitions for such sale or delivery. 2. On or after July 1, 1918, no person shall offer to sell, sell or deliver any agricultural or dairy implement purchased by him at a price exceeding the net cost thereof delivered to him by more than 17½ per cent. where such net cost amounts to £40 or upwards, and by more than 25 per cent. where such net cost amounts to less than £40, provided that this clause shall not apply to any offer, sale or delivery of (a) any agricultural implement at a price not exceeding £2; (b) any dairy implement at a price not exceeding £1; (c) any part of an agricultural or dairy implement at a price not exceeding 10s. 3. It shall not be made a term or condition of the sale of any agricultural or dairy implement that the purchaser shall purchase or cause to be purchased any other article or goods. 4. Every person dealing in agricultural or dairy implements shall keep a true and complete record of all such dealings, and the price at which every agricultural or dairy implement shall be purchased or sold by him, and shall furnish to the Director, Agricultural Machinery Department, Ministry of Munitions, as and when required by him, such returns as to agricultural and dairy implements purchased, sold or delivered by or to him at such times and in such form as the said Director shall from time to time direct. All such records shall be open for inspection by a representative of the Ministry of Munitions at all reasonable times. 5. For the purpose of this Order the expression "Agricultural Implement" shall mean any machine, implement, vehicle, or other article or part thereof designed or adapted or commonly used for agricultural purposes, etc. 6. All applications for permits under this Order shall be addressed to the Director, Agricultural Machinery Department (Price Control Section), Ministry of Munitions, 8, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

In conjunction with the above Order the Minister of Munitions has taken steps to control the prices chargeable by manufacturers for all agricultural and dairy machinery and implements, and no manufacturer will be allowed to receive any part of the percentages referred to in Clause 2 which are chargeable in addition to the manufacturer's prices to cover agency, distribution, and other selling expenses.

Gas Containers in the East.

Users of town-gas as fuel for their motors in the East find that the gas-containers on the top of the car soon lose efficiency, and deterioration begins sooner than expected. The Gas Traction Committee in its recently issued interim report put the life of a well-made flexible container at eight months. In a much shorter period an inferior fabric, or any fabric used for the purpose in hot climates, would develop porosity to such an extent as to involve a loss of 50 per cent. of its contents. A rubber paint which has recently been brought out will, it is said, effectively cure this defect. This new paint is applied in two coats, the first of which is almost absorbed by the fabric, whilst the second completes the proofing. The paint not only reinforces the proofing, but protects it from the action of the sun, so that it is true economy to apply it early in the career of the bag. It is rapidly applied by brush, and dries rapidly. It is made up in dark green, dark blue, and grey.

An Engineering Amalgamation.

The firms of Messrs. Ruston, Proctor and Co., Ltd., of Lincoln, and Messrs. R. Hornsby and Sons, Ltd., of Grantham, are well known throughout the Near East, and in that region it will be of much interest to their friends to hear that the two firms are to be amalgamated the new joint concern taking the title of Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd. An idea of the importance of the deal is furnished by the fact that the present capital of Ruston, Proctor, and Co., is £950,000, and of Richard Hornsby and Sons, £455,450.

WATER POWER IN INDIA.

In the House of Commons on July 1 Colonel Yate asked the Secretary of State for India what steps the Government of India proposed to take to inaugurate an early investigation into all possible sources of water power in India, with a view to a thorough hydrographic survey of the whole of India with regard to electric power.

Mr. Montagu said: The Government of India propose to constitute a small committee of electrical, mechanical, and irrigation experts to visit the different provinces, and, after conference with the local officers, to examine promising sites and to report whether a detailed survey is worth undertaking. The local Governments are being asked to collect information, both physical and commercial, in advance, in order to facilitate the committee's investigations

ADULTERATION OF INDIAN PRODUCTS

Mr. Montagu, replying to a further question by Colonel Yate, who asked what steps had been taken by the Government to put a stop to the mixing, adulterating, and watering of Indian-grown cotton, said:—The Government of India are now considering, in consultation with the Chambers of Commerce in India, the measures to be adopted to prevent the adulteration of Indian products, including cotton. Similar inquiries are being undertaken by the Indian Trade Commission in London. Special legislation has not been introduced, and hitherto the view held by the Government of India is that it would be extremely difficult to carry such legislation into effect, that trade would be seriously hampered, and that as a practical remedy such measures would prove ineffectual. While keeping an open mind on the subject, the Government of India consider that the proper agency for dealing with these abuses is the trade itself, either by an arrangement between exporters and buyers that the latter should insist on freedom from adulteration, or by the establishment, under the control of Chambers of Commerce, of some system under which the purity of products would be certified before export.

Including provincial subscriptions, the first Turkish Internal Loan amounts to £T14,000,000.

Burma's trade for the year ended March 31 was valued at Rs.30,57,27,981, against Rs.31,33,21,639 for the previous year.

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COMPANY MEETING.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

The 137th half-yearly general meeting of the stockholders was held on June 28 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., Sir Charles H. Armstrong (the chairman of the company), presiding. The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, referred in feeling terms to the death of Mr. Alexander H. Campbell, the oldest director of the company, and announced that in his place the directors had appointed Sir Frederick Sprott. Proceeding, he said that the first business was to sanction a dividend from surplus profits, and, as mentioned in the report, they proposed to distribute 35s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent., which made a total distribution for the year of 4¾ per cent., or ¼ per cent. less than was paid a year ago. This did not mean, however, that their returns were less, for their profit was considerably greater, but as the Inland Revenue authorities had raised the question of excess profits duty, and as they had not yet admitted the company's contention that they should be placed on the statutory basis of 6 per cent., they were compelled under the circumstances to carry forward a sum sufficient to meet a claim for excess profits duty if such should eventually be made.

The surplus profit for the year, after meeting all interest and other charges, was Rs. 2,00,49,181.0.2. After deducting 19-20ths for the Government share, there remained for the company Rs. 10,02,459.0.10, and this amount, less Indian income-tax, had been transferred to this country at 1s. 6d. exchange, which was 2d. above the normal rate, and the sum at their disposal in sterling was £70,940. This was a larger figure than usual, but some portion of the excess was due to the higher exchange at which the money had been remitted and the remainder to a considerable extent to the fact that they had been unable during the year to do much in the way of renewals and repairs. On this account they would have a large claim to put forward on the Inland Revenue authorities as a set-off against any amount that might be claimed from the company for excess profits duty.

Their percentage of expenditure to gross receipts for the half-year under review had increased from 50.90 to 53.65, although their train mileage was reduced, but that was, perhaps, hardly as much as they expected, for expenses had increased in all directions. Salaries and wages had been advanced, and working costs, including the price of coal, had steadily risen. During the current year they would have to pay a great deal more for their coal than they paid during the year just ended, and in many other ways expenses would also increase.

So far as could be seen at present, traffic prospects for the present war were satisfactory, but working costs were steadily increasing, and in all probability would continue to increase. As the monsoon had only just started, a forecast of next season's crops could not yet be made, but as India was very prosperous, there ought, in the ordinary course of things, to be a free movement of passengers and a large carrying trade in goods and raw materials.

Mr. J. E. Dallas seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The dividend, as recommended by the directors, was agreed to. The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the staff.

Prior to the general meeting, the eighteenth annual meeting of annuitants was held under the presidency of Mr. H. C. E. Wenden, C.I.E.

The Chairman said that since they last met they had unfortunately lost by death two of their annuity trustees, Colonel Firebrace and Mr. A. H. Campbell. Both Colonel Firebrace and Mr. Campbell had been annuity trustees since 1900, the date of the commencement of the annuities, and Colonel Firebrace had also, since 1916, been chairman of the annuity trustees. It was with much regret that they had lost the services of these colleagues, who had been for so long associated with the trust. The main business that day was to elect two trustees in the places of those whom they had so unfortunately lost, and the trustees suggested that Mr. A. Brereton and Sir Frederick L. Sprott should be appointed to fill the vacancies. Both these gentlemen were fully qualified to accept the position.

The appointments were unanimously agreed to.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The report of the Burma Ruby Mines, Ltd., for the year ended February 28 states that income and expenditure account shows a surplus of £3,601, of which 30 per cent. of profits payable to the Government of India absorbs £1,080. This leaves £2,521 to be carried forward, reducing the net deficiency to £6.754.

Burmah Oil.—The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 1s. 6d. per share, tax free, making 15 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 3s. 6d. per share, equal to a further 17½ per cent. per annum. This total of 32½ per cent. compares with 30 per cent. for 1916. Profits, after allowing for income-tax, amounted to £2.776.968. There have been allotted to depreciation £471,838, to fields reserve £80,000, to insurance reserve £20,000, and to general reserve £200,000. The carry forward is £1,383,977, subject to excess profits duty, estimated at £1.250.000. The directors also recommend the capitalisation of part of the reserve, to be issued in the form of 952,000 fully-paid ordinary shares, and to be allotted pro rata to ordinary shareholders registered 31st proximo. This will equal one new share for every two now held, and the new issue will rank for dividend from January 1 last.

The report of the Eastern Assam Company for 1917 states that the available balance is £51,957. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on December 15 last, and the directors now recommend that a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent. be declared, making 15 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year ended December 31, 1917. The balance to be carried forward at credit of profit and loss account will be £36,670.

The report of the Ouvah Ceylon Estates, Ltd., states: Profit for the year, £25,523; balance brought forward, after payment of excess profits duty to December 31, 1916, £3,242; interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (less income-tax), £4,000; transfer to reserve account, £2,500; leaving a balance of £22,265, out of which it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year 1917 (less income-tax), and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, a balance of £6.265.

The report of the Ceylon Proprietary Tea Estates for 1917 states that the net amount at credit of profit and loss, including balance brought forward after providing for 1916 excess profits tax, general expenses, directors' fees, etc., is £23.078. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 12½ per cent.), to place to income-tax account £750, to staff pension fund £750, to write off for depreciation £700, and to carry forward (subject to excess profits tax) £8.321.

The report of the Panagula Rubber Company for 1917 states that the net profit for the year amounted to £16.528, to which has to be added £1,725 brought forward from last accounts, giving a total to be dealt with of £18.253. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 8 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year; place to reserve (making it £11.000). £1,000, and to carry forward to next accounts £3,073.

The report of the Pundaloya Tea Company of Ceylon for 1917 states that the crop amounted to 891.218 lb. tea, a decrease of 183,055 lb. Balance at credit of working account amounts to £9.595, to which has been added interest and £3,833 brought forward, less excess profits duty £635, making £13.518. Deducting Preference dividend and setting aside for income-tax to December 31 last £3,154, the directors recommend a dividend of 7 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, payable 6th instant, and to carry forward £5,414.

The report of the Yataderia Rubber and Tea Co., Ltd., states that the profit for the year is £17,146, which, added to £3,834 balance from last account, amounts to £20.980. From this has to be deducted interim dividend of 2½ per cent. paid on October 13, 1917, £3,500, leaving a balance of £17,480, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—Final dividend of 5 per cent., making 7½ per cent. for the year, £7,000; reserve fund, £2,000; buildings and machinery account, £2,000, and to carry forward £6,480.

The report of the Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply for 1917 states that the net profit was £21.665, and £2,903 was brought in, giving £24,568. The directors recommend a dividend on ordinary shares of 3 per cent. for the year, free of tax, and to carry forward £4,258.

The report of the Delhi Electric Tramways and Lighting for 1917 states that the profit was £4,419, which with £1,089 brought in gives £5.508. Dividend on preferred shares at 4 per cent., payable, less tax, on 17th instant, £4,000; carried forward, £1,508.

The New Sylhet Tea Estates in 1917 made a profit of £9,382; brought forward, £2,826; excess profits tax refunded, £1,295. To general reserve, £2,000; dividend of 20 per cent., against 15 per cent.; forward, £4,811.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., have declared a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent., less income tax, for the half-year to March 31. This, with the interim dividend of 3½ per cent. paid in December, makes 8 per cent. for the year.

The transfer books of the ordinary stock of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company will be closed from July 6 to July 20 for the purpose of preparing the dividend warrants for the half-year ended March 31 last.

The directors of the British Burmah Petroleum Company have declared an interim dividend at 7½ per cent. per annum, or 3 3-5d. actual per share, free of tax, payable July 31 to holders registered July 15.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce the payment on July 15 of a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preference stock for the quarter ending 30th instant, and a first quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of tax.

The share transfer books of the Burmah Oil Company will be closed from to-day until July 17.

The transfer books of the Ordinary stock of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, Ltd., will be closed from July 6 to 20, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the dividend warrants for the half-year to March 31, payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

The annual meeting of the British Indian Tea Company will be held at the registered office, 14, St. Mary Axe, E.C., on July 19 at 11.30 a.m. The transfer registers will be closed from July 6 to 19 inclusive. An extraordinary meeting will follow the ordinary meeting, when certain regulations will be submitted for approval.

The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company have declared, payable 15th instant, an interim dividend of 5 per cent., or 1s. per share, on the ordinary shares, less tax at 5s. 3d. in the £.

The directors of Egyptian Markets, Ltd., announce a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for 1917.

The ordinary stock transfer books of the Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway Company, Ltd., will be closed from July 13 to 27 inclusive, for the purpose of preparing dividend warrants for the six months to March 31, payable to shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

The directors of Egyptian Delta Land and Investment have declared a dividend of 4d. per share, payable from the 1st instant.

Oil Outputs.

Baku Russian—Week ended May 25, 51.560 poods.

Anglo-Egyptian—Week ended June 23: Gemsah, 479 tons (against 22 tons); Hurgada, 6.079 tons (against 4,068 tons).

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

This has been a very short week owing to the Stock Exchange having been closed on Monday. But the slight revival in activity noted last week was followed at the re-opening of our market this week by quite a revival of business, and a good many transactions have taken place. Egypt has been sending over persistent buying orders, and locally buyers have also been taking a hand.

In Government stocks Unifieds have risen a further point to 90½. A like advance has taken place in Egyptian 3½ per cent. Prefs. City of Alexandria Bonds are also 1½ points up at 82½. The 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute 1894 and the 4 per cent. 1891 are both 1 point higher.

In Bank shares there has been no change in Nationals, but in Agriculturals all the shares offering round 6 have now been taken, and the market has a harder appearance. A fairly substantial business was done to-day in Agricultural Prefs up to £7 7s. ex div., at which there were further buyers, the price closing at 7⅜xd, representing a rise of about 5-16 from last week's level of 7¼ cum. div. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are a further ¾ higher at 17¾. Land Banks have improved ⅛ to 6⅞.

In Land shares there has been a fair amount of business in Béhéras, and Delta Lands have improved 4½d. to 13s. New Egyptians, on persistent buying, have improved 1-3 to 18s. 6d. In Sidi Salems there has been some renewal of inquiry, and the price is ⅛ higher at 2¼. Union Foncières on buying both from Egypt and locally have improved 1-16 to 3⅛.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions there has been a jump of half a point in Alexandria Waters to 12⅛, and Salts and Sodas have risen 3s. 3d. to 42s. 6d. Khedivial Mails, in changing hands round 44s., closed unaltered at 43s. Egyptian Markets are fractionally lower at 26s. 6d.

In Greek securities a fair amount of business has been done in some of the loans. 1881's and 1884's are both a point higher at 64 ex div. Monopolies are unaltered at 60 ex div. 1890's are 1½ points higher at 63½. 1902's have improved 1 point to 65 ex div., and the 1914 loan is also 1 point up at 76.

NAVIGATION OF THE DANUBE.

At the session of the Inter-Allied Parliamentary Commercial Conference at the House of Lords on July 3, M. Drago Yoksimovitch, a member of the Serbian delegation, submitted a series of propositions protesting against the treaty imposed upon Roumania regarding the navigation of the Danube, declaring the question to be of international concern, claiming for every Danubian State the right to participate in the settlement of the question, repudiating all the privileges forcibly acquired in this connection, and expressing the hope that the Allied Governments would, at the Peace Conference, secure the revision of this question in the interests of commerce and with special regard to the interests of the small Balkan States. Subsequently the Conference adopted a resolution affirming the European character of the Danubian navigation question, and embodying the propositions of the Serbian delegation.

◆

Mr. R. P. Carreras, Deputy Traffic Manager (Commercial) of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, who has spent 47 years in the company's service, is going on eighteen months' leave prior to retirement.

◆

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended June 21.		1918. Week ended June 20.
Cattle markets	364	..	305
General markets	429	..	407
Receipts (£).............	793	..	712
Total for year	33,330	..	26,393

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO

Notice is hereby given that a RESOLUTION was PASSED at the Ordinary General MEETING of this Company in Cairo on 31st May, 1918, adjourning the meeting to 31st August, 1918, at 11 a.m.

Shareholders wishing to be represented at the Meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., not later than 15th August.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. June 26	July 3
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	81	82½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89½	90½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	75	76
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	65	64xd
Do. 5 %, 1884..................	56	65	64xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887........	49	60xd	60xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	50
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	61xd	63½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	62	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	66	65xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	76
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	82
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	72
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7¼	7⅜xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank............	12	17	17¾
Bank of Athens..................	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6⅝	6¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5¼	5¼
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¾	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17½	17½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 9/16	6 9/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/6	22/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅛	13⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh.....................	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/7½	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co................	1¾	1 9/16	1 15/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	17/3	18/6
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅛	2¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	3 1/16	3⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅝	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord...........	1 3/16	26/9	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	11/16	39/3	42/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	43/-	43/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3 15/16	3 15/16

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for eleven days ended May 31.

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
May 21 to 31	5,605	..	33,020
April 1 to May 31..........	7,720	..	45,891

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON ST., E.C.2.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - - 710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 375.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The chief military operations in the East during the week have taken place in Albania, where Italian and French troops have made a successful advance. In this region the Allied front occupies an irregular line from the coast, north of the Bay of Valona, to the River Osum, where it turns north-east towards Lake Ochrida. Twice before during the last two months our Allies on this sector have assumed the offensive. On this occasion the results promise to be more substantial. The Italians on the western part of the line announce the taking of thirteen hundred prisoners; the French have to their credit the capture of the Mali Gjarpeef summit, Bosnia Mountain, an important position due west of Koritza. The Franco-Italian front in Albania falls behind the Allied line in Macedonia, and it would undoubtedly facilitate operations in the Monastir-Vardar sector, if the western wing could be moved farther north. The country, however, is mountainous and practically roadless, and for that reason does not lend itself to military operations on a large scale.

Although the reverse is a comparatively minor one, it will be particularly unpalatable to the Austrians at this juncture. They will not be in a position to reinforce their troops in Albania to any extent, and if the Allies can follow up their initial success, they will doubtless find that the constant bombing from the air to which Durazzo has been exposed has materially interfered with the whole scheme of the enemy's defence. The latest Italian report speaks of the action as still in progress. Hitherto the Allies have not been able to press home their small offensives in the Macedonian theatre. This was particularly noticeable in the recent fighting west of the Vardar, where the character of the advance justified the expectation that it would be possible to reach a definite objective in Bulgarian territory. In the new operations in Albania, British monitors are co-operating along the coast, and with the support of Italian naval forces should render the Austrians' task of reinforcing their front line still more difficult, as they must rely mainly on the road passing through Durazzo.

The interest attaching to the operations in Albania centres in their potentialities with reference to the Allied position in Macedonia. When the Franco-British Army landed at Salonika it was pointed out in THE NEAR EAST that the Greek port was by no means the most practical channel for bringing help to Serbia. In view of the fact that the Serbians, if attacked by the Bulgarians and Austrians, could only retreat by way of Albania, the suggestion was made that the ports of Alessio and Durazzo ought, even then, in October, 1915, to be occupied in order to protect the Serbian rear. All this, however, is ancient history to-day; but the fact remains that the occupation of Durazzo by the Allies would be the first step to a complete change in the character of the Macedonian operations. What is left of the old *Via Egnatia* leads from Durazzo through Elbassam to Struga at the northern end of Lake Ochrida, and thence to Monastir. It may not be an ideal transport route, but it offers a better line than the one at present occupied by the Italians and French in Albania, and if that line can be advanced still farther north, it will be invaluable as a lateral communication. Recent Italian successes in the Adriatic suggest that the Italian fleet may now be more free to play a part in the Albanian campaign.

The anniversary of Greece's entry into the war, which was marked in this country by a gathering at the Mansion House, was the occasion for special celebrations in Greece itself. The dominant note of that day was the national unity that had been achieved under the guidance of M. Venizelos. As far as can be gathered from the telegraphic reports, there was a complete absence of bellicose utterances, and the correct lead was given by the Prime Minister in emphasising the internal progress made by the country during the past year. M. Venizelos had a day or two before congratulated the Italian Government on the splendid successes of its army on the Piave, and he was not likely to introduce a discordant note in the proceedings by suggesting the possibility of a future clashing of interests between Greece and Italy. In a review of the conditions to-day as compared with those of a year ago, he had previously called attention to the satisfactory state of affairs in the Epirus, where hearty collaboration had been established between the Greeks and Epirots, whose common interests were tending to a closer *rapprochement*. The inference to be drawn from this allusion is that the delimitation of spheres of influence between Greece and Italy, who acts on behalf of Albania, has worked smoothly. The importance of any tendency in the Balkans to substitute harmonious relationships where opportunities for friction were formerly exploited to the utmost cannot be overestimated. It is the one task to which genuine statesmanship, wherever it is to be found among Balkan peoples, will devote itself at this time.

Guerilla warfare in the Hejaz and Southern Palestine continues with apparently uniform success for the Arab forces. The number of the Turkish posts that have been accounted for as a result of their raids since the declaration of independence by the King of the Hejaz must now be considerable. It would be of interest to know the estimated strength of the enemy garrisons still left in the country; for if a comprehensive effort, made perhaps with some Allied support, had any prospect of bringing the campaign in this region to an end, it would surely be a sound policy to make it, even at the risk of maintaining the *status quo* in Palestine for a brief space. A desultory campaign is not good for the troops taking part in it.

The death of Mohammed V., Sultan of Turkey, brings to an end the mute, inglorious career of one who was more suited to the uneventful life of a private citizen than to be a member of the ruling house of Turkey and destined himself to gird on the sword of Osman. It was part of the irony of his position that his reign should be marked by continuous warfare, and that the very circumstances which led to the consummation of the acme of Ottoman ambition—the elimination of Russia as a power to be feared—should also bring in their train the inevitable partition of the Ottoman Empire. The prospect before the new Sultan Vahid ed-Din is as unattractive as the fate of his predecessor. Whether he remains subservient to the Committee of Union and Progress, or decides to take the reins of government into his own hand, he must reap the reward of a policy that was not his own and submit to the further curtailment of the Ottoman heritage. For the moment, no doubt, he will be buoyed up, as his Ministers are, by the promise of German support in the near future, which is to restore to Turkey all the lands now in the occupation of the Allies and to confirm her in her hold on additional European territory. It is within the bounds of possibility that a serious attempt will be made to keep this promise; but if the Allies can introduce vision into the conduct of their Eastern campaigns, they should experience no difficulty in frustrating Turko-German plans from the very outset.

The hard logic of facts is dealing as severely with the Bolshevist school in Great Britain as with our extreme "Westerners." But while no golden bridge is to be offered to the latter, the former has the consolation of being able to worship at the shrine of the man who, having paved the way for Bolshevism by destroying with a stroke of the pen the discipline of the Russian Army, is now seeking to rehabilitate himself as peripatetic denunciator-in-chief of the Bolsheviks. Russia, it is to be hoped, will redeem the past without such help. There will be little desire in any quarter now to cavil with the verdict passed as the result of the latest successes in Russian Turkestan that Bolshevism merely implies "criminality let loose." In such circumstances it is hardly worth while to attempt to elucidate the situation where Bolsheviks, Germans, and Turks are contending for separate or joint mastery. For the moment the Caucasus is the happy hunting ground of all three. Salvation for unhappy Russia will have to come from the East, and until some form of ordered government is set up in Siberia there seems to be no prospect of administering the *coup de grâce* to German intrigue and Bolshevik criminality in Mid Asia.

The stand made by the Czecho-Slovaks against the riot of Bolshevik disorder would seem to have achieved surprising results in a short time—a clear proof that Russia needed only a definite lead to enable her to come to herself again. It should be remembered, however, that her task does not end with a mere revolt against Bolshevism. She needs to take up arms against the German invaders—armed and unarmed—and to hurl both back from her borders. This cannot be done by a few Czecho-Slovak divisions, nor can Russia mobilise and equip within the necessary limit of time her demoralised or non-existent army. Accordingly, if a Provisional Government in Siberia should set its face against Allied assistance, it will merely be giving to Russia with one hand what it is taking away from her with the other. The war has lasted too long for further mistakes in the Allies' Eastern policy. As far as can be judged, the unofficial element in Siberia is ready and anxious for Japanese intervention. It rests, therefore, with the Allied Governments to see that the official element does not prejudice Russia's interests through ignorance of the real state of affairs or of the Allies' purposes.

July is the month of Democracy, and it was in accordance with the fitness of things that the Report on Constitutional Reforms in India should see the light between Independence Day and the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. In our leading article last week we gave our own first impressions of the scheme set forth by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, and we have now to notice its reception by the public of this country. On the whole we think the writers have no grounds for complaining of a bad Press. The general attitude is one of wise suspension of judgment, but the suspension is tinctured with a strong element of hope that Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu will prove to have found the right line of action in a position of admitted complexity.

The only exception we have so far noticed to this general attitude is to be found in the organs of the Extreme Right, which lost no time in classing Mr. Montagu as a Bolshevik, or—along with Lord Chelmsford—as a pair of political cheapjacks offering a packet of quack nostrums to an ignorant or undiscerning public. These organs had, however, made up their minds beforehand, and so were able to spend in phrase-hunting the time devoted by others to the study of the report. Apart from them, the preliminary verdict is that it is a bold scheme of constructive statesmanship, or a conscientious attempt at reform, or some similar formula which leaves the door open for a more matured and detailed pronouncement.

In Anglo-Indian circles the balance is perhaps for the moment less favourable. The scheme is by no means universally condemned, but the practical difficulties in the way of its realisation are accorded at least their proper weight, and the tendency is noticeable to fix on this or that particular feature as unworkable. Allowance must, of course, be made for the factor of age; the younger generations are for the most part hard at work, and the Anglo-India of England is at present distinctly an elderly community, with vivid memories of an India which has passed away, and a somewhat vague perception of the changes which have come about. The views of the younger men tend, we should say, more in the direction of the phrase used by one of them: " "It's an awfully tough job, but we may be able to bring it off."

It is worth bearing in mind that the scheme of reform derives no adventitious support from the popularity of its authors. Lord Chelmsford is practically unknown to the man in the street, and is still blamed for the errors and omissions of his predecessors, though he has done his best to make them good. Mr. Montagu's popularity in Indian political circles is a thing apart, if it be any longer a thing in being. In England he is known chiefly for the indiscretions of his early Under-Secretary days, in the light of which the report reads almost as a palinode. To some extent, then, India may be said to be, for once, in luck; at least there is a reasonable prospect that her future will be decided on the merits of the case, rather than on considerations affecting the prestige of some popular politician.

Indian critics, who see in the Secretary of State's Council the chief stronghold of a reactionary bureaucracy, will be glad to notice evidence that it is moving with the times. In the note appended to the report by the Members of Council, they reserve to themselves freedom to reconsider the details of the various important measures suggested, "when public criticism shall have been received": that may not be the last word of Democracy, but at least it indicates an approach to the attitude of the aspirant who concluded his address to the electors with the pregnant phrase: "These, gentlemen, are my sentiments, but I can assure you that, if they do not suit, they can be easily changed"

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, June 10.

The King's Birthday.

There were no celebrations in Egypt on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday, but congratulatory telegrams were received by the Residency from all parts of the country and from all elements of the population. His Highness the Sultan cabled his congratulations direct to the King, and the Prime Minister, accompanied by the other Ministers, called at the Residency in order to give formal expression to their loyal wishes for his Majesty the King-Emperor and for the success of the British arms. During the course of the day H.M. the King telegraphed his thanks to the Sultan direct and to the Ministers through the High Commissioner. The Birthday list of honours is understood to contain the names of numerous officers and officials in Egypt and Palestine. As yet no official announcement has been made, although unofficially some of the names are known.

The Ramadan Fast.

To-day starts the Moslem fast of Ramadan, which will continue for the next thirty days. As is inevitable when the fast falls in the summer, the community suffers considerably; for not only is the temperature high, but the period intervening between sunrise and sunset is naturally longer than during the other seasons of the year. Official hours in the State Departments are fixed for Moslems as from 10 to 1 instead of 8 to 1, but in the circumstances little real work is done during those three hours. Owing to the lighting regulations, the mosques will not be illuminated during the Ramadan month, as is usually done, but the closing time of the native "cafés" has been slightly extended to meet the requirements of the fasters.

His Highness the Sultan.

Since his arrival at Alexandria, the Sultan has held two receptions, the first on the occasion of his taking up his official residence at Ras el-Tin, and the second on the first day of the Ramadan fast. On both occasions the attendance was very large. This is the first Ramadan reception that has been held since the year of the accession of the late Sultan Hussein.

His Highness is taking great interest in racing, and has purchased some very good horses, which are entered in his name and run under his colours. The Sultan has signified his intention of attending the meetings in Alexandria, as he did during the past season in Cairo, and the Alexandria Sporting Club has erected a special pavilion for his accommodation.

The Y.M.C.A.

The Young Men's Christian Association is still doing much good work in Egypt and Palestine. Depôts and huts have been erected at the various rest camps that have been created on the coast, and further extensions behind the lines are under contemplation, so as to provide the men with every means of recreation and relaxation during the tiring hot weather. It is interesting to note, as illustrating the enterprise of the officials in charge of the advance work of the Y.M.C.A., that during the Es Salt operations the Association's cars, carrying comforts for troops, were among the first to reach the east bank of the Jordan.

The Supplies Situation.

The special military courts created for the purpose of dealing with infringements of the Proclamations concerning supplies are being kept fairly busy; and some exemplary sentences have been inflicted in Alexandria and Cairo.

A congress of cereal merchants was held this week, under the presidency of Mr. W. Ross-Taylor, the chairman of the Supplies Control Board. Representatives from all the Provinces attended. The proceedings opened with a speech from Mr. Ross Taylor, who explained the reason the Government had had for intervening in the question of wheat. He pointed out that the original intention was merely to meet an emergency, and that it all depended on the attitude of the merchants whether the Government should continue indefinitely to buy up wheat in the provinces and supply consumers in the towns, adding that the Government was prepared to continue its present scheme and extend it to other cereals, if the situation warranted such extension. Mr. Ross Taylor said that the Government was ready to assist merchants to overcome the difficulties created by certain elements in the country, if the merchants for their part were ready to assist the Government. He suggested that an association of merchants should be formed to control the cereal trade, and that separate local committees should be created in each Mudiria to watch the transactions carried out there. In the end a committee, composed of representatives of the cereal trade in Cairo, Alexandria, and each Mudiria, was appointed to consider the question and also to elaborate a scheme for licensing *bona fide* cereal merchants to trade in cereals.

The general situation appears daily to be improving and the merchants are showing a markedly more amenable attitude.

MOHAMMED V. AND ASTROLOGY.

The news of the death of Mohammed V., Sultan of Turkey, has moved me to send to THE NEAR EAST the little story quoted below, relating to this monarch and hastily jotted down at the time it was told me. It is only a straw, but it shows which way the wind of inclination blew in the mind of Mohammed V. early in his reign, and in the days of the Balkan War, when his capital was threatened by the Bulgarian army that now professes to be in harmony (one cannot believe it) with present Germano-Turkish war activities and ambitions. It throws light, though but a passing beam, on the tastes of the deceased Sultan, kept for so many years of his life in an atmosphere of mental darkness and of physical fear, and yet at the same time cultivating, in his solitary, and perhaps heavy, way tastes for the mystic, the poetical, for religion, and for the languages of the Near Eastern lands. The future biographer will be likely to credit Mohammed V. with the virtues of a kindly disposition and a taste for, as well as a certain amount of knowledge of, the poetry and lore of his land, gained under most depressing and disadvantageous circumstances.

DECEMBER 17, 1912.—A Persian friend of ours, a poet, who is on our British Relief Commission staff, went to the Palace three days ago to see the Sultan about giving some extra *konaks* (houses) for sheltering some of the refugees during the winter. —— Bey reports to H—— that the Palace, or its attendants, were all in reposeful attitudes when he arrived, that his Majesty, together with his Chief Chamberlain, was listening with obvious patience to the report of a general just from the field. Suddenly the whole atmosphere changed, attendants woke up, the Sultan's face brightened with interest—the name of a modern Egyptian astrologer was mentioned, and his book on "The Future of Princes"! "Please get me two copies of this book," said the Sultan; "I am always deeply interested in the work of this man!" So astrology took precedence in interest to war—real, actual war. In spite of the fact that over in Scutari, at the railway station across the Bosphorus, there are railway carriages marked "Constantinople-Baghdad," we are still in the days of the Arabian Nights. Europe has airships; we still have astrologers.

M. A. P.

Royal Exchange
ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.

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SERBIAN SUFFERINGS.

We have received from the Serbian Legation a statement regarding the sufferings of Serbian prisoners in Austria-Hungary, from which we extract the following passages:—

Mr. Zivko Topalovitch, a barrister-at-law and one of the leaders of Serbian democracy, was recently released from Austrian captivity. He is a lieutenant in the Serbian Army, and was captured three years ago and taken to an internment camp in Austria-Hungary as a prisoner of war. At a meeting held at Corfu, under the presidency of Dr. Ninchitch, Minister for Public Works, Mr Topalovitch lectured on the conditions of the Serbian prisoners of war in the Austrian internment camps. His narrative is genuine and exceedingly valuable. With his excellent knowledge of the German language, and thanks to his being well known in Austrian Social-Democratic circles, he was able to furnish important information touching the life and treatment of our war prisoners and the civil population scattered all over Austria-Hungary in various internment camps.

In the Hungarian Pustas.

. . . Tired and hungry, exhausted from the strain of long fighting and marching, and from the lack of the most elementary necessities of life, our prisoners arrived from their march from Serbia to Upper Hungary in rags, bare-footed, and half-starved at the places allotted for their internment. And what places! Vast muddy, boggy ground, from which everywhere sprang water, enclosed by barbed wire, without roads or a single building; and into such enclosures our prisoners were driven and herded like cattle. These "internment camps" represented the common Hungarian Pustas, or deserts, so to speak. The half-starved prisoners were compelled to make their own shelters. A great number of them died before the completion of these shelters. Epidemics made terrible havoc among them, typhus taking a prominent place. The greatest mortality among our war prisoners at this time was due chiefly to the bad arrangements and lack of shelter. Those who survived were dispersed in various camps, consisting of barbed wire enclosures provided with huts made of wood. In summertime these huts afforded some kind of shelter, but in the winter they offered no protection against the terrible Carpathian cold.

The bulk of our prisoners arrived after the over-running of Serbia in the winter of 1915 and the spring of 1916. With the arrival of new prisoners the already over-crowded camps and huts became entirely intolerable. At this time the Austro-Hungarian authorities simply depopulated the northern districts of Serbia by carrying into captivity all the Serbian population without respect to age or sex. The frontier population suffered most, being carried away and interned all over northern Hungary. In this winter, which was very long and exceedingly cold, it seemed as if all the evils had conspired together to exterminate our people. The icy-cold Carpathian nights were not judged by a thermometer, but by the number of dead bodies of the Serbian soldiers. The wretched creatures, exhausted by want of food, clothes, and suitable shelter, were not able to resist this intense cold. There was no coal. Cards for coal existed nominally; but even the officers sometimes did not see a single piece of coal during a whole week. Beetroot was the only food available, but it did not contain the necessary nourishing ingredients for the human body, so that our men gradually wasted away until they became almost skeletons.

Insufficient Food.

All the hospitals were full of sick men and tuberculous cases. The number of our men was rapidly diminishing every day. It was quite a common thing to see a group of soldiers walking to their work when suddenly one of them would drop dead; his comrades would pick him up, put him in a little cart, and drive him back to the camp. Death was caused through exhaustion, the heart suddenly stopping, owing to lack of driving power.

When the first spring days came the soldiers began to eat grass from the neighbouring meadows. As a consequence of this a number of new and peculiar diseases developed, the abdominal organs being particularly affected. Many deaths occurred, the cause of which was medically ascertained to be due to the eating of grass. Only extreme desperation drove these hungry wretches to such a step. The victims were not only soldiers, but also officers. At night sleep was not possible, everyone having a mortal dread of bed, for during the night terrible pain and convulsions started, caused by hunger, which is more terribly felt lying down that sitting or walking. Very often we officers were compelled to jump through the window in the night in order to steal a beetroot.

In almost all these camps our people are mercilessly exploited, being employed on incessant and heavy work which is beyond their strength. Hungry and weak, they are driven into the munition factories, the sugar factories, and mines, working there in the most difficult circumstances and with only the daily pay of 6d. Very often there is neither air nor light. No matter whether they work or not, there is no possibility of finding any kind of food: they have only the food allotted them. Rules and regulations for the protection of workers are not applied to Serbian prisoners.

In the War Zone.

The terrible state of our prisoners is still more aggravated on the battle-front. Serbian war prisoners are employed on work which is forbidden by the Law of Nations. They are employed in the firing lines to perform duties that should be performed by the enemy fighting forces. How many of our war prisoners perished, as a consequence of wounds received, hunger, and cold, nobody can tell. Being in the war zone, they are all subjected to a regime of terror, and for the smallest offence they are shot. During the Russo-German fighting in the region of the Pripet, where the construction of roads and railways was practically impossible, and where even the cattle could not move, the Serbian war prisoners were employed to drag wagons with provisions and ammunition for the Austrian troops. For nearly a year these prisoners were employed on such work. Sick or exhausted men were not sent back so that these happenings should be kept secret.

The Austrian "straff" regime prevailed everywhere; at the front, in the factories, in the internment camps, as well as in occupied Serbia. This regime of beating and killing with the butt-ends of rifles and with heavy sticks is being applied everywhere and on everybody without any distinction of age or sex.

It is particularly applied to the Serbian people. But it seems that all this does not satisfy the infuriated Austrian jackals. A great number of Serbian people have been sent to Asia Minor under the tender mercies of the Turks. And who else is there to take care of these unfortunate people? In the Turkish deserts they will wither away like plants without water. In spite of all these tortures and this servitude, the greater part of our men are stoically enduring. Their enemies are the masters of their bodies, but not of their souls.

Even in such moments the majority of our people do not lose hope. They are suffering without uttering a word of reproach to anyone. At the same time, they feel entitled to the moral and material sympathy of their Allies

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

Although the Roumanian Socialist Party strongly opposed Roumania's participation in the war, the German military authorities have placed them all under arrest.

The following letter has been received by Mr. Sokolow on behalf of the Zionist Organisation from the Prime Minister's secretary in reply to a letter thanking the British Government for their promise to do their utmost to secure a just settlement of the Roumanian Jewish question:—"Mr. Lloyd George wishes me to thank you for what you say in regard to the friendship which exists between this country and the Jewish people, of which there has lately been such abundant evidence, and to reiterate the hope that the triumph of the Allies' cause will make possible the realisation of your people's aim to establish for themselves once again a national home in Palestine."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The compositors at the St. Clements Press are, as a class, an intelligent and amiable set of men, I feel sure. They read my writing, and occasionally they introduce novel punctuation into my notes, in a way beyond praise. But one of them, I suspect, is a villain of the very deepest dye who rejoices in perpetrating "bloomers"; and to him I attribute the appearance of "Balu Yusuf" instead of Bahr Yusuf (Joseph's Canal); of "Smugglers' Lane, Salcombe," instead of Smugglers' Lane, Holcombe, and some other liberties taken with proper names. And now——! Well, now he has converted "tuer" into "teur," and afforded the lynx-eyed *Independent* a chance to "Ziankali" me, so to say. If, therefore, you hear of "a norrible murder" in the neighbourhood of Portugal Street within the next few days, you will doubtless draw your own conclusions as to the victim and the avenger.

⁂

Apropos of printers' errors, I wonder who was responsible for a curious blunder in *The Times* last Saturday. In reading Mr. Lloyd George's message in connection with France's Day, I found this passage:—

> "Soldiers and people alike have, with unswerving courage and a fortitude and patience unique in history, valiantly stemmed the tide of a base and brutal militarism bereft of all ideals which, if successful, would break up and end the liberties of free peoples."

That, it seems to me, is exactly the opposite of what Mr. George intended to say; for surely he would tell us that it is the militarism, not the ideals, that would "break up and end the liberties of free peoples." In that case, we should expect to find commas before and after "bereft of all ideals." But perhaps the lawyer's instinct still survives, and the "comp" may be guiltless in regard to this particular offence.

⁂

The late Sultan of Turkey did not cut a picturesque figure on the world's stage. Abdul Hamid, with all his faults, did manage to impress his personality upon us; and may be said to have been a not entirely unpopular "villain." He could make our flesh creep at times. Poor Mohammed the Fifth had no such strength of character; he was a kind of "walking gentleman," or, at best, the "heavy father." But those who had opportunities of forming a first-hand opinion were almost always rather favourably impressed by him. At least, they all agree in describing him as amiable and thoroughly well-intentioned; and he appears to have been sincerely religious, without being fanatical. Perhaps the fact—for it really does seem to have been a fact—that he belonged to the Mevlevee Dervishes may account for his charity and breadth of view. That he was a mystic is very natural; his life had been a most unhappy one, and he doubtless turned from the world of "realities" to the world of "fancies" in sheer weariness of spirit.

⁂

I may have been a (respectable) pirate in my younger days, but I have never gone in for forgery, even on a small scale. I am, therefore, unable to speak as an expert; but it seems to me that a square coin would be rather easier to forge than a circular one. Now, the new two-anna nickel piece, which is being minted at Calcutta and Bombay, is square; and consequently I was not surprised when a friend told me a few days ago that it had not been in circulation a month before "spurious imitations" found their way on to the market, so to say. I hope, however, that this will not be allowed to militate against the new coin's claims to popularity. Square coins have certain advantages over circular ones—they can, for instance, be packed without so much waste of space—and if your Oriental wishes to forge a coin, the fact that it is circular, instead of square, certainly will not baulk him. As a matter of fact, your Oriental manipulator of the coinage is even more ingenious than his Western fellow. Some years ago I was told in more than one Eastern city that a particular issue of British gold coins was in strong demand among the natives, the reason being that the relief in these coins was unusually high, and that the natives had found that they could reduce this, to their own profit, of course, without making the coins impassable. Their *modus operandi* was simple but ingenious, and, I was told, they took great pride in their cleverness.

⁂

A number of the *Basrah Times* just received contains an advertisement of the Busreh and District Football League Cup Final. The list of prices of admission leads off with:—"Officers and Sister, Rs. 1." It would be of interest to a friend of mine to know whether officers are allowed to take in some other fellow's sister, and how many officers may take in one sister for one rupee. Not for worlds would I suggest to this inquirer that a nursing "Sister" may be intended.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

German Activities in India.

July 10.

Mr. MONTAGU, Secretary for India, in reply to Mr. Rowlands, said that the statement that before the war the East India export trade in raw hides was largely in the hands of, and controlled by, the Calcutta Hide Trade Association, which worked with a Hamburg association and by its methods virtually maintained a monopoly, was, he believed, substantially correct. The Calcutta Hide and Skin Shippers' Association consisted of seven firms, of which five had been wound up under the Enemy Trading Act, while from the remaining two enemy interests had been completely eliminated. He had ascertained from the Government of India that three alien employees (two Swiss and one Italian) of liquidated firms had started business. The export trade in raw hides was now controlled by the Government of India, who, on behalf of his Majesty's and the Italian Governments, purchased the exportable surplus of certain classes. As purchasing agents five British or Indian firms were employed, but other firms, including the two reconstructed firms and the three new alien firms referred to, were permitted to participate in the export trade of hides not required by the Government. They did not, however, in any sense enjoy a monopoly of such trade. The Government of India had the future regulation of this trade under consideration. The measures already adopted had done much to divert this trade to British and Indian merchants, and there was every reason to think that the enemy control of this important trade had been permanently eliminated.

Propaganda in India.

Mr. MONTAGU, in reply to Sir J. D. REES, who asked whether a publicity bureau had been established for the purpose of publishing reliable information and of counteracting enemy activities regarding the war among the peoples of India, said: Yes, sir. Boards have been formed in each province, with a Central Bureau at Simla, and the new organisation is being kept in close touch with the Ministry of Information here.

The San Francisco Conspiracy.

Sir J. D. REES asked whether the trial of German-Indian conspirators, concluded in May in San Francisco, clearly established the fact that the German Consulate at that city instigated, aided, and abetted an Indian revolutionary movement, and that proof was forthcoming of the payment of no less than £400,000 to one Bengali conspirator?

Mr. MONTAGU replied: The statement of my hon. friend is substantially accurate, though I cannot vouch for the exact amount of the large sums of money undoubtedly paid by the German authorities in the hope of fomenting sedition in India.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your last issue, in Notes of the Week, you seem to urge the Allies "to convince Serbia and Greece that they set more score on lasting peace in the Near East than on the most strongly supported historical claims to this or that strip of territory," or, in other words, that they would rather see a Bulgaria aggrandised at the expense of both Serbia and Greece (incidentally and Roumania), that would impose its recent acquisitions on her weakened neighbours, than the formation of the different Balkan boundaries on ethnographical principles. This contention applied to the rest of Europe would mean that Germany's achievements in East and West should be recognised as final. When in articles like this, which is but an example of scores of others, you set a contradictory logic first as to the aims and then as to the objects and means that the Allies should pursue, I fail to see in what way you are serving the Allied cause. What seems most evident in the present relations between the great western nations and Germany, according to this train of ideas, should not be applied in Eastern problems. Why this inconsistency?

Need we be constantly reminded of the causes that led to the present situation in the Balkans? The exaggerated tenderness shown towards Bulgaria that characterised the Allied point of view during the initiation of the Balkan crisis, in spite of all intervening events, is still apparently entertained in circles that ought to be better informed. It is forgotten that, broadly speaking, Bulgaria, especially after the Serbian defeat, stands politically in the Balkans in the position that is occupied by Germany in Western Europe. The avowed object of Bulgaria's policy, like that of Prussia, is the strengthening of her position for the ultimate domination of the Balkans. Her geographical position lends an irresistible support to this view; and while it determines her aims, by virtue of the Germanic expansion in the East it will necessarily draw her side by side with the Central Empires. These latter, in the circumstances, know only too well that there can be no better *point d'appui* for the furtherance of their aims in the East than Bulgaria, and, in fact, for this reason, broadly speaking, Bulgaria is bound eventually to play for them in the Balkans the rôle that is assigned to the Magyars in Hungary.

The position of the other Balkan States, which, moreover, are identified with the Allies, is quite different. In the course of future developments they will in no way play Germany's game, and, if anything, they will be the clearest expression of those principles that have been proclaimed by the mouthpieces of the Allies over and over again. Of these States, after the defeat of Serbia and the elimination of Roumania, the only one that offers possibilities for Allied scope in the Near East is Greece; and yet of all the small nations that are battling in the ranks of Germany's foes, there is hardly one whose potentialities are so ignored by Allied publicists, especially in England. This lack of essential knowledge is exhibited by none so much as by those very people to whom Near Eastern problems form the chief concern. We are thus witnessing another instance of depreciation of facts, and we are really afraid that only a Bulgarian descent to Salonika might, as it did in similar occurrences, bring the truth to the surface. Although it can hardly be disputed now that the original bartering of Serbian and Greek territories to a doubtful Bulgaria is the starting-point in the series of blunders of the Allied policy in the Balkans, this being also the main cause of ex-King Constantine's preponderance in Greece during the early years of the crisis, it is surprising that lingering ideas in support of Bulgaria's aims of conquest are still to be found persistently in organs like THE NEAR EAST. The reality of the situation is thus obscured, and we are drawn virtually again to face unnecessarily perplexing problems, solely for the sake of far-off dreams, as it were. In view of Germany's plans in the East, which are but a step from realisation, however, the Allies cannot afford to ignore where their real interests lie, and through which means they can strike effectively. A mere glance at a map of the Near East will show to anyone that, in the present state of affairs, Greece, and only Greece, can still offer to the Allies the possibilities for a new order of things in the East. Serbia may be satisfactorily restored, and the vista for a new South Slav State opened, only through Greece; Roumania given a helping hand only through Greece; nay, even Russia, possibly, I may venture to say, in view of the drawbacks and distance of an access through Siberia and Turkestan, might in the last resort be linked with the West through Greece. Even though the inherent difficulties may seem to be too great at the present for ventures on a large scale, the fact none the less remains that Greece is to-day an asset in the Allied battle front that can hardly be overestimated. Speaking of the Near East, Greece is to the Allies what Bulgaria is to the Central Powers, and the interests of the Allies will gain next to nothing if Bulgaria is allowed to retain her unjustifiable acquisitions. On the other hand, a strengthened Greece will be the best jumping-off ground for Allied scopes in the East, insidious influences never being able to deter her from her true mission.—I am, etc.,

G. G. SARRIS

67, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent, June 28, 1918.

***We cannot admit the accuracy of our correspondent's interpretation of the words to which he takes exception, as "historical claims" do not necessarily correspond with present-day "ethnographical principles." The goal that THE NEAR EAST has always kept before it is a harmonious Balkan Peninsula instead of one divided into two hostile camps; but there can be no alternative to the latter fate if Bulgaria is to be assigned permanently to the German sphere of influence. The analogy between Bulgaria's position in the Balkans and Germany's aspirations does not hold good, for the reason that, however German in attitude and method a Sofia Government may be, the Bulgarian peasant is not the willing slave of government-made opinion that the German proletariate is. It is not suggested that violence should be done to any of our Allies for a present enemy; but that the statesmanlike vision which led M. Venizelos to bring the Balkan Federation into existence for a definite purpose should become a permanent factor in the Near East, and convince all the States concerned that nothing short of a working agreement between them can promote the real interests of any one country. If our correspondent's view is correct, Bulgaria is to remain the Ishmael of the Balkans and there is to be no permanent peace in the Peninsula. We cannot subscribe to such a pessimistic view, nor can we despair of the wisdom of the different Governments proving equal to a solution which may entail minor sacrifices here and there for the sake of unmeasurable gain in the future.

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The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea through enemy action of mails for India and the East containing letters, etc., and parcels which were posted in London or received in London from the provinces on the dates mentioned :—Letters, etc. (June 20-27) and parcels (June 14-27) for Aden, British Somaliland, Ceylon, India, and Seychelles; letters, etc. (June (June 20-27), but not parcels, for Dutch East Indies, Malay States, North Borneo, Philippine Islands, Sarawak, Siam, and Straits Settlements; newspapers and other printed matter, samples, etc. (June 20-27) for Hong Kong and the South of China; parcels (June 14-27) for Egypt, Sudan, and Cyprus; unregistered letters, etc. (June 19-26) for the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force and Aden Field Force; parcels (June 12-23) for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force; and (June 12-27) for the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force and the Aden Field Force.

EDUCATIONAL.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN ASIA*.

This book is inadequately described by its title, for while it deals fully with the subject of India, its scope extends from Singapore to Cairo and Zanzibar. It is a book to be studied carefully by every student interested in the future of this huge portion of the world; the distinguished writer has from his position a much wider outlook than the ordinary Indian publicist, while his peculiar standpoint differentiates him from the well-known European authorities on these topics. To do adequate justice to the book would require a volume of almost equal magnitude, and we must content ourselves with giving a very brief sketch of its principal lines. First, as regards India, his Highness has no very novel proposals. He writes wisely and justly of the need for industrial development, educational and sanitary progress, social reform, a national army and navy, and other outstanding requirements; while, as regards constitutional matters, he follows closely the line taken by Mr. Gokhale, proposing large provinces and states, internally autonomous, and federated under a Viceroy, assisted by "an Imperial Senate." He will have none of Mr. Curtis' dyarchy; he desires the provincial executives to be responsible to the Viceroy, but controlled in legislation and in finance by assemblies based on a widely extended franchise, and he passes very lightly over the possibilities of a prolonged deadlock presented by this arrangement. The executive, after all, must have money, and must have certain legal powers. What is to happen when the Legislature persistently refuses these necessities? It is an awkward question, and we are not surprised that the amateur builders of constitutions should pass it by on the other side; but its existence has to be faced by the architects charged with the actual construction, and we fancy that Mr. Montagu must have learned this fact by now. The most striking part of the writer's contribution to the discussion of internal reforms is his insistence on India's imperative demand for an Emperor: he sees in King George the direct successor of Asoka and Chandragupta, and he urges that under the new conditions the Viceroy should be chosen from the Royal Family. Here he is undoubtedly voicing a very powerful sentiment of great numbers of people whose opinions rarely reach English ears.

Having thus reached a great Indian federation of autonomous provinces and states, his Highness proceeds to argue for its extension. Afghanistan, Persia, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Ceylon, the Straits, Egypt, and East Africa might all be expected to come, or to be brought, within its scope, and thus would be established an impenetrable barrier to the progress of German and Turkish ambitions across the south of Asia. He regards political pan-Islamism as dead, but evidently fears the pan-Turanian cult, and he points out that the complete federation would put Islam in a much more influential position than it can hold in India taken by itself. The claims of India to East Africa are urged with exceptional force and with intimate knowledge; Mesopotamia, it is argued, must be kept for the Arabs, and India's true line of expansion is to be found across the Arabian Sea. Such is the general scheme of the book, but a bald summary fails to do justice to the care with which it is built up and the arguments on which it is based. To appreciate these, the book itself must be read, and its readers will probably feel with the writer of these words that the ill-health which has of late prevented his Highness from personal activities in the arena of Indian politics has not been without compensating advantages, in that it has afforded the leisure for producing this luminous survey of an even wider field.

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* "India in Transition." By His Highness the Aga Khan. (London: Lee Warner. 18s. net.)

JUST PUBLISHED.
BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST.
By COL. SIR THOMAS H. HOLDICH, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., D.Sc., author of "The Gates of India" and "Political Frontiers and Boundary Making." With Maps. 8vo. 8s. 6d. net.
CONTENTS.—I. The Near East. II. Italy. III. The Czechs and Slovaks. IV. A Jugo-Slav Federation. V. Bulgaria. VI. Rumania. VII. Albania and Greece. VIII. Poland. IX. Russia. X. The Future Frontiers of Turkey. XI. Syria and Mesopotamia.
MACMILLAN & CO., Ltd., London, W.C.2.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Government of the British Empire." By Edward Jenks, B.C.L., M.A. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

"New Methods of Adjusting International Disputes and the Future." By Sir Thomas Barclay. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. 6d. net.)

"The Book of Strange Loves." By Regina Miriam Bloch. (London: John Richmond. 5s. net.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A Bucharest telegram says the Gregorian Calendar has been introduced in Moldavia and Bessarabia.

The War Office announced on Monday that there was no change in the situation on the Mesopotamian front.

Bombay is suffering from a visitation of a fever of the influenza type, which prostrates its victims for three days.

A meeting to welcome the American Zionist Medical Unit will be held at the London Opera House, Kingsway, on Sunday, at 2.15 p.m.

It is officially announced in Athens that seven of the ringleaders of the Serfidje disorders, a lieutenant and six sergeants, have been executed.

During June, on the Macedonian front, our aeroplanes shot down eight hostile machines and drove down five others out of control. We lost only one machine.

Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., speaking at Hull in support of the Zionist movement, said that there were real difficulties in the way, and the task of overcoming them would be a glorious one for Zionism.

The food question in Alexandria has now been entrusted to a new local commission composed of Midhat Yeghen Pasha, the Governor; Hopkinson Pasha, Dr. Granville, Miralai Garvice Bey, Mr. Abdy, and Mr. Halford.

At a meeting held at Sofia on Saturday, under the presidency of the Rector of the University, it was resolved to make a national celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the great Macedonian insurrection of 1903.

An official Turkish *communiqué* issued in Constantinople on July 7 says:—This morning five enemy aeroplanes attacked Constantinople with bombs. Thanks to our defensive measures, not even material damage was done.

The King of Italy has bestowed the Grand Cordon of the Crown of Italy on M. Popovitch, the Prime Minister of Montenegro, and has created other members of the Montenegrin Cabinet Grand Officers of the same Order.

A telegram to the Dutch Press quotes a Bucharest paper as saying that in the new Roumanian constitutional law the rights of the Crown will be changed in such a way as to affect the Crown's power of concluding alliances and declaring war.

A Ministerial circular issued in Cairo advises intending pilgrims to Mecca to notify their intention before July 21, in order that the requisite shipping accommodation may be found. The Holy Carpet leaves Suez on September 4 for Jeddah.

In commemoration of the silver wedding of the King and Queen, Major General his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has presented letter cases with a suitable inscription to 6.500 wounded sailors and soldiers in the hospitals of the London district.

The Greek War Ministry announces that as a result of a recent engagement between deserters and a pursuing force seven deserters were killed and twenty wounded. The casualties of the attacking force were one sergeant killed and one sub-lieutenant wounded.

Mr. Tilak has been granted permission to proceed to England in connection with an action for libel that he is bringing, on condition that he gives a written undertaking to abstain from all political activity in this country, and to return to India at the conclusion of the lawsuit.

A telegram has been sent by the Emperor of Austria to the new Sultan of Turkey expressing his condolences on the death of the late Sultan, and adding:—"The gigantic battles in which we have been involved have strengthened the alliance which unites us and Germany and Bulgaria."

The King inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Captain W. Street and Second Lieutenant W. E. U. Grove, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, on Wednesday. The men of the party are Chins and Burmans from Lower Burma, and are on short leave.

A magnificent example of Punjab loyalty is afforded by the Zemindars of the Lyallpur district, who have (says *The Times* Simla correspondent) spontaneously offered a gift of a twenty-fifth of the entire wheat crop, estimated to be worth 21 lakhs (£140,000), to the Government for expenses of the war.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. July	1918. June		1336. Shawal	5678. Ab.
12	29	Friday	3	3
13	30	Saturday..........	4	4
14	July 1	**Sunday**	5	5
15	2	Monday	6	6
16	3	Tuesday	7	7
17	4	Wednesday	8	8
18	5	Thursday	9	9

Lady Muriel Paget has returned to London from Russia.

Lord Lamington has left 26, Wilton Crescent, for Lamington.

Lady Maxwell has arrived at 7, Grosvenor Place, from Brighton.

Lord Islington has now recovered from his recent illness, and has resumed his duties at the India Office.

Captain Edward Davis, Military Attaché to the American Legation at Athens, arrived in London from the Continent last week.

Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Wilson, Governor of the Red Sea Province, has been awarded the Croix d'Officier of the Legion d'Honneur.

Major-General the Maharaja of Patiala was one of the guests at a dinner given by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

The King of the Belgians has conferred on the Maharaja of Patiala, on his visit to the Belgian front, the Broad Ribbon of the Order of Leopold.

To-day is King Peter of Serbia's seventy-fourth birthday. A service will be held at the Russian Church, but there will be no official reception at the Serbian Legation.

Sir Murray Hammick and Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan (Members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on July 4.

While inspecting Colombo Cathedral, the Bishop of Colombo met with an accident; owing to the collapse of the belfry-staircase, the Bishop fell a distance of 12 ft., but he is now progressing favourably at the hospital.

Mr. Herakles Mikhaïlides, who has been called to the Bar in London, is a son of Mr. M. J. Mikhaïlides, who was for some years a member of the Legislative Council of Cyprus, and recently President of the Municipal Council of Limassol..

M. Lefevre-Pontalis, the new French Diplomatic Agent in Egypt—who succeeds M. Defrance, transferred to Havre as representative of France at the Belgian Court—is well known in Cairo, having been Secretary at the French Agency from 1896 to 1899.

The engagement is announced between Lieut. Francis Rimington Bacon, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), only son of the Rev. R. C. and Mrs. Bacon, of 61, Bickenhall Mansions, and Winifred Marie, youngest daughter of Colonel G. H. Brook Coats, C.B., Indian Army, retired, of 5, Powis Square, Brighton.

The Queen, in reply to an inquiry from Lady Chelmsford, has signified her acceptance of a gift from the women of India in commemoration of the silver wedding of their Majesties, the gift to take the form of a fund for promoting the education of the children of Indian soldiers who have fallen in the war.

The engagement is announced between Captain P. V. Fearon, A.S.C., attached the Queen's Regiment, younger son of Colonel J. P. Fearon, D.L., and Mrs. Fearon, of Reigate, and Vera Mabel Drake, only daughter of the late Francis C. Drake, of the India Office, and Mrs. Drake, of Doverscourt, Bexhill-on-Sea.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London on July 31, leave permitting, between Lieutenant Cromwell H. Varley, D.S.C., R.N., only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Varley, 26, Barkstone Gardens, late of Tangier, and Georgiana Rosalind, only daughter of Captain H. A. Steward, the London Regiment, and Mrs. H. A. Steward, of Chilworth Hill, Surrey.

The marriage arranged between Reginald McC. Harrison-Wallace, lieutenant, the Royal Scots, only son of Mr. G. McC. Harrison-Wallace, late chief engineer in Sind, Karachi, India, and Mrs. Harrison-Wallace, and Evelyn Blanch Longman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Longman, The Lodge, High Wycombe, will take place on August 1 at All Souls, Langham Place, W., at 12. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The marriage took place, on July 4, at St. Marylebone Parish Church, of Mr. Waris Ameer-Ali, Indian Civil Service, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Ameer-Ali, of 2, Cadogan Place, and Miss Annie Marguerite Radford, daughter of Mr. Walter T. Hindmarsh Radford and Mrs. Radford, of 25, Park Crescent, Portland Place. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by her sister, Mrs. Noel Curtis-Bennett, as dame of honour. Captain Drew Faussett was best man, and the rector, the Rev. Dr. Morrison, officiated.

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King Ferdinand of Roumania has approved of General Averescu's retirement from the Army.

Under the auspices of the Persia Society, Mr. Alexander Finn will lecture next Monday afternoon at 3.30, at 22, Albemarle Street, on "Some Happenings in Persia."

Mr. William Hoey, D.Litt., of Oxford, late of the Indian Civil Service, Lecturer in Hindustani at Oxford, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £3,094.

M. Adossides, hitherto Director of M. Venizelo's Political Bureau and lately appointed Governor-General of Macedonia, has arrived at Salonika. His predecessor, M. Argyropoulos, has been appointed Minister to Scandinavian countries.

The Zionist organ, the *Judische Zeitung*, of Vienna, comparing the Jewish policy of the Entente and that of the Central Powers, remarks: "The dignified and unreserved declaration of the Entente in favour of Zionism has gained the sympathies of Jewry, whereas the Central Powers in this respect have never displayed anything but reserve and hesitation. By leaving the Jewish question in Roumania unsettled the Central Powers have lost a good occasion for gaining the gratitude of Jewry. The solution which has been adopted is dissatisfying and disappointing."

The King has given permission for the wearing of the following decorations:—Egyptian Order of the Nile.—Second Class: Mr. H. J. Boyd-Carpenter, Senior Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of Education. Third Class: Dr. F. C. Madden, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Egyptian Government Medical School. Fourth Class: Mr. W. J. Dilley, Lecturer, School of Engineering, Giza; Mr. H. Swift, Lecturer, Sultania Training College for Schoolmasters, Cairo; Mr. W. M.-Colles, Professor, School of Medicine, Cairo; Mr. R. Marquand, Director of the European Office, Egyptian Ministry of Education. Fifth Class: Mr. W. H. Brockway, Superintendent of Physical Training, Egyptian Ministry of Education.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. A. de Silfwerhjelm, Swedish Consul at Alexandria, has been promoted to the rank of Consul-General.

Bimbashi A. C. Hewitt, Equatorial Battalion, Egyptian Army, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Bimbashi Grove, Equatorial Battalion, Egyptian Army, has been transferred to the Sudan Government as Inspector.

Mr. J. R. de C. Taylor, of the Rifle Brigade, late R.F.C., has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to Sir William Manning, the newly-appointed Governor of Ceylon. On leaving Sandhurst Mr. Taylor was attached to the Flying Corps and gazetted to the Rifle Brigade. While flying in France last year he received severe injuries in an accident, from which he has practically recovered.

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Feeding Prisoners interned
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OBITUARY.

Lady Cunningham, wife of Sir Henry Cunningham, K.C.I.E., died on Monday at 83, Eaton Place, aged seventy-three. She was a daughter of the first Lord Lawrence.

Sir Clive Oldnall Phillips-Wolley has died in British Columbia. He was formerly Vice-Consul at Kertch, had done exploring work in the Caucasus, and was author of "Sport in the Crimea and Caucasus."

Colonel T. R. Cowie, of Hughenden, Sidcup, Kent, late of the Indian Army, has died at the age of seventy-five. He was employed under the military department until 1869, after which he was appointed to the Oudh Commission, and served in Oudh in various capacities, including that of District and Sessions Judge, until 1898. He retired in 1900.

Lieut.-General the Hon. Bernard Matthew Ward, C.B., a Crimean veteran, has died at Staplecross, Christchurch, Hants, aged 86. The only surviving son of the third Viscount Bangor, he entered the 47th Foot in 1850, and in the Crimean campaign took part in the Battle of Inkermann and the Siege of Sebastopol. He was mentioned in despatches, and in addition to the medal with two clasps received the Sardinian and Turkish medals.

Mr. Frederick Mytton Halliday died on July 3, at Old Park, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey, aged 83. The eldest son of Sir Frederick James Halliday, he entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1856, and became Commissioner in 1878. He was appointed Chairman of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, in 1887, and he officiated at various periods as an Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council. In 1889 he became a member of the Board of Revenue, and he retired in 1891.

General Sir William Campbell, who died on Friday at his residence, Marchwood, Malvern, aged seventy-one, entered the Royal Marine Artillery in 1864. He saw service in the Ashanti War, and later in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at the bombardment of Alexandria, the occupation of Port Said, and the surrender of Fort Gemal. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal and Khedive's Star. Sir William was A,D.C. to Queen Victoria and to King Edward VII.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Bovet, R.E., Divisional C.R.E., who died of wounds on July 5, was born in 1874, and obtained his commission in the Royal Engineers in 1893. From Chatham he went to India in 1895, joined the Bombay Sappers and Miners, and served as C.R.E. in Baluchistan in 1897, being mentioned in despatches. In January, 1903, he was ordered to Somaliland, where he was attached to General Manning's column, returning to India in the autumn of 1904. In the present war he had served in Egypt and in France, and had been twice mentioned in despatches.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of June 10, just received, contains news of the death of Mr. R. R. Smithard, Principal of the Higher School of Commerce under the Egyptian Department of Technical Education. Mr, Smithard had nearly thirty years' service in Egypt to his credit and had done much excellent work, first as an assistant master in the Government Schools, later as an inspector in the Department of Technical Education, and since 1914 as first Principal of the Higher School of Commerce. He was a prominent Freemason, and was P.D.G.M. in the Grand Lodge of Egypt. He had been an energetic voluntary war worker, acting as Secretary of the Classification Committee. He had been in very indifferent health for more than a year past.

Mr. James Sutherland Cotton, formerly editor of the *Academy*, died on Wednesday at Salisbury. He was born at Coonoor, in the Madras Presidency, in 1847, and was the third son of Joseph John Cotton, of the Madras Civil Service. Mr. Cotton always showed the liveliest interest in Indian affairs. He assisted Sir W. W. Hunter in compiling the "Statistical Account of Bengal," in twenty volumes, and also in the compilation of both the nine-volume and the fourteen-volume edition of "Imperial Gazetteer of India." He was also the author of a decennial report on the moral and material progress of that country, of a quinquennial report on its education, and of a "life" of Mountstuart Elphinstone in the "Rulers of India" series. He was hon. secretary of the Egypt Exploration Fund, and rendered valuable services in that capacity.

Major Claude Fitzroy Clarke, Indian Cavalry, died on June 30 at Lady Ridley's Hospital, 10, Carlton House Terrace, after a long illness contracted whilst on active service. After serving in the Boer War he obtained a commission in the 1st East Surrey Regiment, and in 1903 transferred to the 2nd Battalion and went to India. In 1907 he transferred again to the Indian Army and joined a cavalry regiment, with which he went to France, and fought in the first Battle of Ypres in 1914. In March, 1916, he was invalided home. Refusing an offer to return to India, he, at his own desire, rejoined his regiment in France early in 1917, and with it he served up to February of this year, when he was again attacked with his former complaint, from which he died. He married on August 22, 1906, Violet Wakefield Angelo, eldest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. E. Angelo, I.A.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No.: 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1918.

A HOUSE DIVIDED.

Opinion may be divided as to the prospects of a breach between Bulgaria and the Central Powers—a prospect contemplated by President Wilson more than six months ago, and one which he has presumably not yet abandoned. But there can be no doubt as to the bitterness of the internal struggle through which Bulgaria has been passing. Although allowance has to be made for the forcible methods of conducting political controversy habitual in the Balkans, it is obvious that in the present instance feeling has outstripped any consideration for unity as a national asset in war-time. Hitherto this consideration has held the field, and the unanimity shown by all political parties during the earlier stages of the war has been cited by friends and foes alike as proof of the popularity of King Ferdinand's foreign policy. If the Press is a reliable guide, the harmony of the Bulgarian nation is now a thing of the past, and we may infer that a change of Government was not effected until the untenable position of the Radoslavoff Cabinet had been well established. The late Prime Minister had been in power for five years, an unusually long period for Bulgaria, for it has only been exceeded once—by Stambuloff. As an inevitable result of this protracted tenure of office, Dr. Radoslavoff had added to the ranks of his enemies by the mere fact of his inability to satisfy all those who would look to him for place and preferment. But he might have continued to ignore his political opponents, if the general dissatisfaction with what is held to be the unnecessary prolongation of the war had not come to a head with the scarcity of food in the towns. Bulgaria is, probably, still self-supporting in the matter of foodstuffs, and the evidence that the peasantry is short of provisions is not convincing. On the other hand, difficulties of transport, from whatever cause arising, have curtailed the supplies of the towns and created unrest. At the same time, the peasants resent a war of unlimited duration, and do not appreciate the policy that compels Bulgaria to continue fighting when she has gained apparently as much as, if not more than, she wants. The result is a volume of criticism, which is well calculated to render the Germans anxious and to provoke the mild reprimand that the Bulgarians are unduly "sensitive." Bulgarian *amour propre* was gravely offended by the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest. If Roumania had been allowed to keep the Cernavoda-Constanza railway line and that part of the Dobruja lying to the north of it, feeling in Bulgaria would not have been as bitter as it now is as a result of the decision to take Northern Dobruja from the Roumanians without passing it on immediately to the Bulgarians. Probably from a belief in the value of a safety-valve, the Bulgarian Press was allowed to discuss freely and to emphasise the necessity for Bulgaria to adopt a very firm attitude in regard to the Northern Dobruja and to entertain no compromise on the subject of Turkish claims to a portion of the Maritza Valley. When, therefore, Dr. Radoslavoff was forced to give way on both points—for agreement with Turkey is to be antecedent to the cession of Northern Dobruja—his position was at once shaken.

The opening move in the battle between the different political parties took the form of mild reproaches between the Opposition Press for the subserviency of one or the other organ to the Germanisation of Bulgaria. The Nationalist *Mir* started the criticism of the Government with a tentative suggestion that the time had arrived for a new orientation of Bulgarian policy, prompted evidently by the tightening of the bonds between Germany and Austria-Hungary, and by the prospect of further pressure in the same direction being brought to bear upon Bulgaria. The *ballon d'essai* must have been regarded as successful, for, although when, a day or two later in May, the Emperor Karl arrived in Sofia, the *Mir* accorded him an exemplary welcome, on the following day it published an article which the censorship would not allow to be sent abroad. The tenor can only be gauged from the denunciation of it that followed in the official Press, which at once characterised the *Mir* and the party that it represented as "traitors to the National cause." Nationalists, who were "hirelings and foreign tools," were threatened with the direst penalties, while at the same time grave warnings were uttered against any attempt to undermine the national unity. As might have been expected, this reply was the signal for a general Press war. The Democratic Party's Press does not seem to have directly attacked the Government, but it subjected the relations between Germany and Bulgaria to a somewhat acrid analysis. In view of this attitude, the selection a few weeks later for the post of Prime Minister of the leader of the Democrats was calculated to give the Germans furiously to think, and it is not a matter for surprise that protestations were considered advisable as to the continuity of Bulgaria's foreign policy resulting from King Ferdinand's direction of Bulgarian affairs. The standpoint of M. Malinoff's organ was that Bulgaria could not accept the German estimate of what was or was not in her interest. Although the question of the Maritza territory affected only a few square kilometres of land, and for this reason might not loom large in the eyes of Germany, "whose blows are shaking the whole planet," the transfer of this piece of territory had been "the first condition" of Bulgaria's intervention in the war.

A further weapon in the Opposition's armoury, of which the Democrats made no little use, was the failure of the Germans to provide the Bulgarians with sufficient military support to enable them to withstand the Greek attack. While, therefore, it may be true that internal differences, including the problem of food supplies, led to the fall of the Radoslavoff Government, the fact remains that the quarrel of the party now in power with the late Cabinet turned mainly on the relations of Bulgaria with Germany. In these circumstances feeling between Sofia and Berlin is not likely to be over-cordial. Between this frame of mind and a definite breach of the alliance there may be a wide gulf; but the moment would seem to be opportune for making Bulgaria better acquainted with the war aims and peace conditions of the Entente Powers. In many quarters the mere suggestion that there must one day be peace between Bulgaria and the Allies arouses fierce indignation. The prospect is regarded as a betrayal of our friends, and a perplexed world is left to draw the inference that the Entente Powers will really be rendering a service to Europe and the Balkan States by leaving the latter at the end of the war in the same condition of rivalry and bitterness as that in which they were five years ago. Yet the same people are prepared to squander an enormous amount of time and ink on the subject of a League of Nations for the maintenance of the future peace of the inhabited globe. The Balkans have long been one of the worst storm centres, and for dealing with them there is an adequate League of Nations already in existence, with the requisite power and authority, as soon as Bulgaria is detached from the Central Powers, to lay down conditions of peace and to see that they are carried into effect. But it is never predicated of the League in the wider sphere that it should perpetuate injustice and enforce grudging acquiescence by a tyrannous use of power; the fundamental idea is the content of all the constituent parts. So, too, in the Balkans the Entente Powers have to aim at producing first a general contentment, as a result of even-handed justice rather than of vindictiveness, and then the Peninsula will keep the peace of its own accord. But so long as the settlement is approached from the point of view of any one single State, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, or Roumania, there can be no satisfactory solution. The problem is one for an impartial Court of Appeal: it cannot be decided by perfervid partisans in the market-place.

RUSSIA, POLAND, AND THE NEAR EAST.

By A. WYATT TILBY.

The Russian correspondents, or what remain of them, are uncertain whether what was a single Empire two years ago now contains fifteen or eighteen separate and sovereign Governments. Nor is the exact number important; what really matters is that none of these separate authorities shows the least sign of co-operating, far less of coalescing, with the others. The fact is, perhaps, not very surprising. Those who have held power once always like to keep it; it may be more attractive to be head of a local Soviet than a mere representative of a province in a Federal Assembly. This particular weakness of human nature is seen in every country—in America under Washington, in Australia when the Commonwealth was first mooted, and it has long been notorious in the Balkans. The point is that America and Australia have conquered this weakness; Russia has not done so, and shows no indication of doing so.

One of the difficulties in her path is in no danger of being overlooked. The division of Russia suits German policy admirably, for it keeps the giant Eastern neighbour helpless, and Berlin will spare neither time nor money to keep alive the Russian separatist spirit. But another difficulty in the path of Russian reunion is quite likely to be overlooked. It lies in the fact that the centre of gravity in the country has shifted from north to south.

When Peter the Great founded his capital he succeeded in creating a Government machine in the north of Russia. But Petrograd for two centuries has been little more than a Government machine. The real wealth of the country lies in the south, and the moment the machine of administration in the north was fatally damaged, the nakedness of Petrograd was visible. Petrograd was, and remains, an artificial political centre; it produced, and still produces, nothing but edicts. The one difference—it is a considerable one—is that before 1917 people obeyed the edicts, now they do not. The *raison d'être* of Petrograd has ceased to exist.

All things are possible in Russia to-day, but all things are not equally likely. It is very unlikely that in any reconstruction—that overworked word is more appropriate in Russia than England—Petrograd will regain its old political ascendancy. It has on its borders an independent and probably hostile Finland; it is too susceptible to German influence; it never has been, and never will be, an economic capital. Very probably its population will diminish now that the majesty of sovereignty has fled; it would not be surprising if the future of Petrograd was as the capital of a small north Russian State of the calibre of Norway or Sweden.

If that is so, something will have to fill the vacant place left by the eviction of the Colossus from Eastern Europe. And scanty as our information is, the general trend of events clearly indicates what is beginning to take the place of Russia. The weight of population, the fertility of a district and its mineral resources count for much when political geography is in the making; and the economic weight in the huge amorphous mass east of Germany lies in two great countries—Poland and the Ukraine. Those two countries, which together contain the greater part of the wealth of the old Russian Empire, or what is left of it, will be the centre around which the new State, or rather States, will group. We may take it that the maps of the future will reinstate Poland and the Ukraine as political entities, whichever side wins. Their boundaries, administration, and internal powers will differ according as the Allies or Germany wins, and they will in any event depend partly on the fate of Austria. But it is as certain as anything can be in these days of revolutionary politics that Poland and the Ukraine will emerge as entities on the new map of Europe that is drawn up by the Peace Conference.

The policies which these two States would adopt is another matter. Poland is naturally anti-German; its reason for being anti-Russian has now disappeared. The Ukraine is more susceptible to German, and perhaps still more susceptible to Austrian, influence; but the Germans have a pleasant way of exploiting their friends that leads to trouble, and the pro-Germanism of the Ukraine is admitted by the German Press itself to be diminishing, under the pressure of agreements made in Berlin and exploitations directed from Berlin. If this aspect increases in the politics of Kieff, the Ukraine will begin to grope after its own foreign policy. For a time it would be neither surprising nor reprehensible were particularism to prevail at a time of nascent national consciousness, and the Government declare that it had no foreign policy save that of peace with all its neighbours; that it had flung away ambition, that curse of Imperialistic States; and that such matters as the Black Sea and the Dardanelles and the Balkan problem were of no interest to the Ukraine. We all do these things when we are politically young; it is calf-love for an ideal.

Sooner or later, however, a foreign policy is bound to emerge under the pressure of economic needs, if not of political events. Unless Germany is content to ruin her home agriculture for the sake of her industries and the *beaux yeux* of her friends in Kieff, which is not a very likely supposition, the Ukraine will have to export its surplus corn elsewhere than to Austria and Prussia, now her only market for corn in Western Europe, and as it is improbable that rail-transport will be cheaper than sea-borne freight after the war, the Ukraine will have to interest itself in the navigation of the Black Sea and the Dardanelles. And the State that interests itself in those matters cannot, even by a magnificent gesture, renounce the Balkan problem.

How far the Ukraine will carry weight in Balkan politics is another matter. It may or may not achieve a stable home Government—so far it has lamentably failed in this direction. But even if it secures reasonable stability at home, it will not be able to devote all its energies to its southern neighbours. Unless old jealousies count for nothing in the new world, which some cynical politicians doubt, the Ukraine will not work very cordially with the other new State of Eastern Europe—Poland. The secular quarrel between the Poles and Ruthenians is by no means dead, and nothing is gained by pretending that it is. It has flamed out within the last few weeks over the eternal question of the partition of Eastern Galicia; there is always the Cholm device of the Germans to cause trouble; and memories are almost as long in Eastern Europe as in Ireland. Even if the Poles and Ruthenians were willing to bury the hatchet, some obliging German would always be ready to dig it up for them.

In the long run, however, Poland's political interest must follow her trade, which runs down the Vistula to the Baltic and not across the Carpathians and the Steppes. To the new Poland, therefore, Dantzig is vital and Eastern Galicia is not. On the other hand, although the Ukraine buys much from Germany and will have to buy more in the future, and also sells much to Germany, her main route of traffic must lie down to the Black Sea and not across the plain to Germany. A glance at the railway map in the pre-war Continental Bradshaw is sufficient to demonstrate this fact. If, therefore, human reason ruled human affairs, which it does not invariably do, there should not be any inevitable clash of interests between Poland and the Ukraine, and a *modus vivendi* between Warsaw and Kieff should be possible, with wise statesmanship at each end. There remains one consideration which cannot be fully discussed here. Germany foresees a shortage of minerals after the war, and her Press has made a dismal song about the Non-Ferrous Metals Act. But since Germany must have metals for her industries, and she cannot get them from the British Empire, she will seek them in Eastern Europe and on the Asiatic frontier, where Britain cannot, from the nature of things, have much influence. There are vast deposits of metals in the Caucasus, and the road to the Caucasus lies through the Ukraine. Unless Germany is thoroughly beaten, therefore, she will do her utmost to keep open the road through the Ukraine in order to secure the mineral wealth further afield. For that reason alone the German hand is likely to lie heavy on Kieff; and the Germans also, we may be sure, have not overlooked the fact that in the settlement of the Balkan question

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which they desire to arrange in their own economic interests, the Ukraine might have a good deal to say, unless German diplomacy made its hand felt in the capital of the new State.

But in the long run, unless Germany were to succeed in utterly dominating the new State, a Ukrainian fleet will become necessary in the Black Sea, and the old Turko-Russian question will have to be fought out once more in a new form. For the Russian renunciation of Constantinople may apply to Russia, which has vanished; it cannot permanently apply to the Ukraine, which has taken its place. The renunciation of the Russian revolution may in the end prove to be the seed of another war.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

In French Morocco.

In an article, "French Work in Morocco," the Tangier correspondent of *The Times* praises highly "the really admirable work that France has accomplished in her Moroccan Protectorate," especially during the war. He has recently made a journey through the French zone; and he comments: "The very fact that 1,600 miles of this distance was by motor-car and nearly 400 miles by military railway is sufficient to give some idea of the vast works which have been undertaken and carried out. The change from the anarchy of only half-a-dozen years ago to the peace and prosperity now existing is indeed remarkable." He continues:—

> A series of good crops has culminated this year in a superlatively fine harvest. The vast wheat, barley, and bean fields of the French Protectorate are a sight worth seeing. Never in the memory of the people have there been such crops. It is as if Nature has put forward a supreme effort in these days of need. Mile upon mile, almost for hundreds of miles on end, I passed through immense fields of wheat and barley, as level and as green, a few weeks ago, as a billiard table—to-day ripened.
>
> The result is admirable, and speaks volumes for the encouragement of the French authorities and the splendid response of the natives—for with very little exception the whole of these agricultural districts are owned and worked by the Moors. Their methods are naturally primitive, but the wealth of the result is enormous. All this grain will find its way to France.

As to German intrigues, the correspondent writes:—

> There are two principal regions in the Protectorate which the French have not yet occupied, and each of these regions forms a danger zone which cannot be overlooked. The first, extending along the borders of the Spanish zone for almost its entire length, was described in my articles published in *The Times* of April 30 and May 1. This strip of the French zone is strongly held by native chiefs directly in the pay of Germany and under German orders—Raisuli, Kassim ben Salah, and Abdul Malek. The forces of Abdul Malek are commanded by Germans, and there is a regular German camp situated in the mountains to the north of Taza, near the borders of the Spanish zone. They receive from the Mediterranean coast all the moneys and supplies necessary for carrying on their campaign. They are kept carefully informed of every movement of the German troops in Europe, so that their "acts and agitations" may coincide with the German offensives. Quantities of murderous incendiary literature reach them for distribution amongst the tribes.

The tribesmen of the northern spurs of the Lesser Atlas also are "kept in a perpetual state of agitation and aggression by German propaganda and German money." The article concludes:—

> I have motored in the last few weeks, almost alone and entirely unguarded, for hundreds of miles through country that has been closed for centuries, and into which any attempt to penetrate would have meant certain death, and everywhere I found a smiling, friendly, and satisfied people. It is, indeed a task of which France may be proud, but she must not close her eyes to the fact that all this peace, all this prosperity, is threatened. German intrigue, German propaganda, and German money are everywhere. The Spanish zone, of which so little is occupied, is a source of constant danger from the abuse the Germans have made of Spanish hospitality. From every side attempts are being made to destroy all that France has accomplished.

"A Puppet Ruler."

Under the above title a note in the *Pall Mall Gazette* describes the late Sultan of Turkey as "of no consequence before his elevation to the throne," and as having scarcely gained importance from the exchange of a prison for a palace. The writer goes on to say:—

> No more perfect instance of government by camarilla has ever been exhibited than that which Enver and Talaat instituted nine years ago, and have been able, by a propitious conjunction of circumstances, to sustain down to the present time. Much of its stability has been due to their own remarkable repertory of all the self-protective gifts of the desperado—still more, perhaps, to the convenience which Germany found in purchasing their support and their "cannon-fodder" for her own purposes. Under the signboard of "Union and Progress" they have succeeded in eclipsing the most horrible records of Ottoman power in the way of massacre and oppression, and in helping us to a more vivid understanding of the Dark Ages.

The *Manchester Guardian* comments in much the same strain on the dead Sultan:—

> Mohammed V., who has just died, passed from a prison to the throne, but the throne itself was a more magnificent prison. Though credited with the private virtues, he had no training for personal rule, and he was surrounded by men who had made him Sultan and were determined to remain his masters. Undoubtedly, throughout his reign he was a figure-head. The guess has been made that he did not approve Turkey's entry into the war, and perhaps the murder of the Heir Apparent by Enver Pasha and his colleagues may be taken to confirm this guess. Whatever the truth, he counted for nothing in Turkish politics.

Turkey's Anxieties.

The *Daily Graphic* also declares that Mohammed V. "counted for so little in his Empire that his death must not be expected to have any appreciable result in connection with the war." But it affords a good opportunity to glance at the situation in Turkey. After referring to Herr von Kühlmann's recent admission that all was not quite satisfactory as between Turkey and Bulgaria, the article continues:—

> That admission was a reflection on the diplomatic ability of the Emperor of Austria, who was sent to Constantinople by the Germans in May to compose the differences which had arisen between Bulgaria and Turkey over the partition of the Dobrudja. Turkey had demanded compensation in the Balkans for the Bulgarian acquisition of the Dobrudja, and the result of that demand was the placing of the northern part of the Dobrudja under a kind of commission of the Quadruple Alliance. That step angered Bulgaria exceedingly, and the Emperor of Austria did not succeed in persuading Turkey to abandon her demands for Balkan compensation. . . .
>
> There are other causes of friction between the Ottoman Government and Germany. One of these is financial. Turkey is hopelessly bankrupt. Her war debt alone demands an amount of interest which is in excess of the entire revenue of the Empire! Many appeals have been made to Germany for help, but all have been in vain. Nor is that all. When the Turks, owing to the disbandment of the Russian Army, were able to overrun the Caucasus again and make some easy conquests there, it was not long ere they received a stern hint from Berlin to the effect that they were not to carve up the Russian cake according to their liking. Altogether it is hardly surprising that a Bulgarian newspaper recently made a reference to "the anxious and dispirited Turks."
>
> Their military situation, with Baghdad and Jerusalem lost and their Eastern prestige shattered, cannot but add to their anxiety and depression. All this must react upon the hitherto strong position of the pro-German Enver Pasha.

Unfortunate Roumania.

Under the title, "The German Peace," a writer in the *Outlook* reviews the treaty forced on Roumania by the Central Powers. "If," he says,

> If any of our pacifists contemplate the possibility of making reasonable terms with the Boche, they should first study the plight of Rumania, and should then reflect what the peace terms imposed by an undefeated Germany would be like. Annexations masquerade as "rectifications of frontier," indemnities are levied in some specious fashion by a number of so-called agreements, and economic subjection is carefully concealed. The cry of "No annexations and no indemnities," the idea of no "economic war after the war," have been flouted by the Central Powers with all the cynicism and contempt which they would display towards a pliant and credulous peace conference.

The various humiliations to which Roumania has been subjected, the losses she has suffered, and the gains of her enemies are then considered in detail. The article concludes:—

> As some compensation for these drastic arrangements, Roumania is to have the fostering care of Germany. But she is first compelled to indemnify her enemies and numerous so-called neutrals for all the damage done by the German military measures.
>
> It is hard to say what is left to the unfortunate victim, yet the German National Liberal Party claims for the conquerors an over-abundance of generosity. According to her enemies, Roumania has been allowed to retain her original individuality: she is still a nation.
>
> Yes, she is still a nation, though with little left but the name. However, there are men who will keep the spirit of nationality alive until the day when full restitution will be made. Those who signed the treaty, said Take Jonescu, may call themselves Roumanians, but their souls have always been German. Their evil work cannot live. Roumania has still a king and queen, and thousands of loyal Roumanians are dispersed throughout Europe. To them the Allies owe a debt of honour, and that debt must be paid. The noblest war aims are those which are most simple and most imperative: the complete and unconditional restoration of Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania.

◆

On the occasion of Independence Day the King of the Hellenes and M. Venizelos addressed to President Wilson a telegram of congratulations.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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During the war banking institutions in general have had to cope with a marked increase in business, but none of the banks has experienced such expansion as Messrs. Cox and Co., the Army bankers. This process, due, of course, to the fact that Messrs. Cox and Co., as the chief Army bankers, have had to deal with a greatly increased number of military accounts, has been a progressive one since 1914, and the fact that the tendency has been considerably accelerated during the past year sufficiently explains the decision of the bank to increase its capital from £450,000 to £650,000. The balance-sheet shows that current and deposit accounts stand at £18,775,203, compared with £13,497,831 last year, and £4,088,811 in 1914. In other words there has been an increase since the war broke out of more than 300 per cent. The aggregate figures for the same years are respectively £19,653,620, £14,247,423, and £4,739,934. It may be noted that the liquid nature of the bank's assets has been more than maintained, and cash in hand, at call, and short notice now stands at £9,259,050, against £5,939,538 in 1917, and £1,200,443 in 1914. Other features of interest in the balance-sheet are the increase in the reserve fund from £80,000 to £425,000, and the bank's holding of £827,800 in Treasury Bills, which did not appear in the previous balance-sheet.

⁂

At the luncheon given by the Federation of British Industries and the Association of Great Britain and Serbia last week to the Serbian delegates to the Inter-Allied Commercial Conference, notable speeches were made by the Serbian Minister and Dr. Douritch, in which they emphasised the vital urgency for close economic co-operation between Serbia and the Allies, in particular Great Britain, after the war. The Serbian Minister gave an assurance on behalf of his Government of Serbia's economic unity with the Allies in the future, and pointed out that after the work of reconstruction their aid would be needed in helping Serbia to circumvent the policy of commercial penetration of the Central Powers.

⁂

One method, perhaps the most important for achieving this end, was pointed out by Dr. Douritch, who urged the necessity for Great Britain to take an interest in banking concerns in Serbia. Before the war, in Serbia as elsewhere, the Central Powers were enabled to carry on their commercial penetration, principally because their banking facilities gave them an advantage over other countries. Trade between this country and Serbia was hampered, for instance, because British business men did not understand, and consequently failed to make allowance for the fact that, as Serbia is an agricultural country, the inhabitants are only in a position to meet their obligations after the harvest. The German and Austrian merchants understood the position perfectly, however, and made arrangements through their banks for credit facilities, and so *faute de mieux*, the Serbians had to do business with them.

Happily there is now no question that British business men recognise their obligations with regard to trade with the Balkans, and especially with Serbia, Roumania, and Greece, but the doubt in my mind is whether they will translate their intentions into action in time, or whether they will postpone matters until it is too late for them to play their full part in post-war trade with these countries. So far I have seen few obvious signs of preparations; indeed, to my knowledge the tendency seems to be for British merchants and manufacturers even to put off advertising the fact that they exist and wish to do business until, to use their own delightful phrase, "they know quite what is going to happen." Of all policies I can imagine none more fatal.

⁂

The further extension of the basis of taxation announced by the Greek Finance Minister was only to be expected, as it was obvious that new sources of revenue would be required to enable the Greek Government to meet the liabilities it inherited as the result of the maladministration under the late King, and its growing expenses in connection with the war. The principal feature is a tax on excess profits, which is estimated to yield £1,600,000, and the other measures include the taxation of earned and unearned income, a tax on production, and a tax on Greek capital deposited in foreign countries. *Prima facie*, the new taxation seems to be well devised, and it should ensure that those business men—and by all account there are many of them—who have made large profits since 1914, shall contribute their fair share to the national exchequer.

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From Mr. Montagu's reply to a question by Mr. Rowlands regarding the position of the Calcutta hide trade it appears that the question of the control of this important trade after the war still remains undecided. What reason there can be for any further delay in taking the necessary steps to ensure that henceforward it will remain in British hands is a mystery. The history of the trade is fully known, as are also the dangers which must be guarded against in the future; while the authorities cannot maintain that they have not received the fullest guidance as to the best course of action. This is essentially one of those cases where preparation in advance is highly desirable, for it is impossible to say when the war may finish, and we may be quite sure that the Germans will be quite ready to take advantage of any loopholes that may exist to establish their former position in essential trades.

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It was inevitable that the light thrown during the war on the *rôle* of the German banking system in the enemy's policy of commercial penetration should raise the question of the conditions under which foreign banks should be allowed to establish themselves in this country in future. This question, it is understood, has been considered by the committee of clearing bankers, who have drawn up a report, which has been laid before Lord Cunliffe's Committee on Currency and Exchange, to the effect that certain restrictions on the operations of foreign banks here are advisable.

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The position of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields is shown by the report, which has just been issued, to have greatly improved during the year under review. The gross receipts amounted to £532,458, against £225,608 for 1916, and after deducting all working expenses and writing off £55,780 for depreciation a profit remains of £348,555. This enables the debit balance brought in to be met and leaves £6,399 to be carried forward. The company has a contingent liability in respect of accrued interest on income bonds and preference capital payable out of profits amounting to £121,332, and now as there are funds in hand it will be possible to commence the payment of these arrears. Shareholders have every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year's working, since it is evident that a continuance of present conditions will mean substantial dividends in due course.

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The factor responsible for the improved position of the company was the largely increased output from the Hurghada field of 134,500 tons, against 54,800 tons in 1916, and 34,261 tons in 1915. In this connection it may be pointed out that the directors state that the view that the western incline at Hurghada might be regarded as definitely proved, has now been confirmed. The sphere of the company's operations is, however, limited, and negotiations are in progress with the Egyptian Government with a view to larger areas being placed at the disposal of the company. This development is regarded as essential if Egypt is to possess an extensive oil industry, and the hope is entertained that the Government will see its way to meet the company in this respect.

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Some interesting extracts have been published by the *Il Sole*, of Milan, from a German confidential circular sent by the German Foreign Office to leading German firms with a view to preparations for trade after the war. Of these extracts the following, in particular, which is quoted by a contemporary, is most suggestive:—"It would be wise for all German houses having large interests abroad to employ in foreign countries representatives or travellers who may be able to successfully pass themselves off as French or British or American. There is a probability that for a certain period after the war German travellers and agents will meet with difficulties in negotiating business in enemy and even in neutral countries. We must undoubtedly be prepared to face a considerable amount of personal prejudice, and for that reason our commercial transactions would be rendered much easier by preferably employing travellers and agents who may be taken for British or French, or at least for Dutch, Spanish, or American." It is quite remarkable in the circumstances that the Germans should anticipate "a considerable amount of personal prejudice" in their future business dealings. Equally they seem to regard the peoples of the Allied countries as singularly simple individuals if they imagine that after all that has transpired they are again to be duped by enemy machinations.

COMMENTATOR.

BRITISH COTTON PRODUCTION.

Need for Increased Supply.

Exceptional interest attaches to the recently issued report of the British Cotton Growing Association at the present time, when so much attention is being paid to the question of the economic unity of the Empire, in view of the fact that the Empire is far from reaching that ideal as regards cotton production. That this should be the case is not due to any lack of the necessary facilities for cotton growing, since, as a matter of fact, with few exceptions, notably the British Isles, Canada, and New Zealand, most of the constituent parts of the Empire contain land suitable in every respect for the cotton crop. There is also the fact that much of the cotton grown within the Empire is not of the desired standard. With conditions as they were before the war, it might have been possible to go on for some years without making any special efforts to bring about a different state of things. Unfortunately, certain factors have come of late years to have an increasing influence on the situation, and their incidence makes it essential that the cotton production of the Empire should be greatly increased as soon as possible, and that for that purpose the fullest official support should be lent to those authorities to whom is due what extension of cotton growing there has been during recent years. Notable among these factors, and one to which pointed attention is called in the report, is the increased consumption of cotton in the United States. The process has been more or less a continuous one over the past twenty-odd years, but in the last few years the rate of internal consumption has been greatly accelerated. In this connection the report calls attention to the fact that "the Southern mills, in particular, are steadily increasing their consumption, going from 2,307,000 bales in 1910-11 to 4,350,000 bales in 1916-17." The following table gives a convincing picture of the development of the American cotton industry:—

	Crop.	American Consumption.	Percentage.
1890-5*	8,345,000	2,607,000	31·2
1896-1900*	9,549,000	3,208,000	33·5
1901-5*	11,087,000	4,010,000	36·2
1906-10*	12,109,000	4,619,000	38·1
1911-15*	14,394,000	5,346,000	37·2
1910-11	12,075,000	4,361,000	35·6
1911-12	16,101,000	5,391,000	33·5
1912-13	14,104,000	5,389,000	38·2
1913-14	14,552,000	5,503,000	37·8
1914-15	15,136,000	6,088,000	40·2
1915-16	12,862,000	6,810,000	53
1916-17	12,900,000	6,940,000	54

Outlook in India and Egypt.

Evidently, unless the present tendency should be checked, which there is no reason to anticipate, Lancashire must expect that each year less American cotton will be at her disposal, and the question arises how best to make good the shortage. India is the main producer of cotton within the Empire, but Indian cotton is not satisfactory in quality, and in addition not only is Indian consumption of it on the increase, but there is also a growing demand for it in Japan. It is very possible that the application of science to cotton growing (which was the subject of a series of able articles in these columns recently by Mr. J. W. McConnell) and the efforts of the authorities in India to put a stop to the practice of adulteration may eventually result in the production of a quality of cotton sufficiently good for any purposes. In that case, given an increased production, consistent with her growing requirements, India may play a very important part in the solution of the problem of sufficiency in cotton production. The problem would certainly be much simplified, as India's production amounted in 1916-17 to 4,827,000 bales, as compared with 631,000 bales produced by Egypt, the next important source of supply. In the circumstances, however, it seems more practical to base our hopes on increased production in fields where the cotton is of the required quality, and where local requirements are unlikely to compete with the export trade. Both these conditions are fulfilled in Egypt, and it is the more to be regretted, therefore, that in the years immediately preceding the war there was only a slight increase in the area under cotton cultivation, and while it amounted in 1911 to 1,711,241 feddans as against 1,128,151 feddans in 1897, it had only increased to 1,755,270 feddans in 1914; while the crop, which amounted to 7,495,600 kantars in 1910 and 7,383,740 kantars in 1911, was no more than 6,450,573 kantars in 1914. Last year's crop estimate shows a further diminution at 6,379,936 kantars, a yield which is, however, much in advance of the returns for 1915 and 1916. There is no question, however, that the yield can be immensely increased, and evidence given before the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the best method of continuing and developing the work inaugurated by the association was to the effect that by drainage and irrigation schemes another 800,000 bales of 400 lb. each might be added to the Egyptian crop.

Development in New Fields.

The work of the association has mainly been carried on in what the report terms "new fields in the British Empire," which include West Africa, British East Africa, and Uganda, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Sudan, and the West Indies. The production in these fields amounted in 1912 to 71,490 bales of 400 lb. each, in 1913 to 72,800 bales, and in 1914 to 82,350 bales, a rate of increase which would doubtless have been accelerated but for the war. As it was, the production was in 1915 75,200 bales, in 1916 78,800 bales, and is estimated at 72,600 bales in 1917. Values have, however, gone on increasing owing to the rise in prices, and while the 1911 yield was valued at £840,000, the figures for 1915, were £1,123,200, for 1916 £1,500,000, and for 1917 £2,700,000, a fact which may not be without its influence on future developments. It would be difficult to praise too highly the work of the association in encouraging cotton production in these regions, and it is certain that if hitherto the results of the association's efforts have been small if measured in statistics, this painstaking pioneer work will be of immeasurable value in years to come. Beyond question the most promising of these fields is the Sudan, the prospects of which may be estimated from the statement before the committee already referred to that by the aid of dams and irrigation works within a period of 25 years about 440,000 bales of 400 lb. each could be produced there every year. The prospects in other fields are also undoubted, while the war has brought within the region of possibilities the introduction of cotton-growing on a large scale in Mesopotamia, which in many respects offers ideal scope for its cultivation, but, while admitting that, there seems no question that the outlook as regards a marked extension of cotton production in the Empire in the immediate future centres on developments in Egypt and the Sudan, and whatever efforts may be made elsewhere, it is essential that our endeavours should be concentrated on realising the possibilities of these two countries. We quote, in conclusion, the statement in the report that "in comparison with Lancashire's requirements, it is true the British cotton growing production is small, but it is not negligible, and one must not lose sight of the fact that a very firm foundation has been laid for the benefit of Lancashire and the Empire. The Association's members may now see in the appointment of the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee evidence of having by their cheerful sacrifices of the past convinced the Government authorities that the question of the development of cotton-growing in the Empire is worthy of closer attention than it has hitherto received."

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COTTON GAMBLING IN INDIA.

A Reuter message states that powers have been given under the Defence of India Act to native rulers and to the Bombay Government to constitute a Cotton Committee to restrict gambling and forward contracts with the object of maintaining the supply of cotton for national industries.

CYPRUS CROP PROSPECTS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Everything points to another very prosperous year for the peasants. The barley harvest, when fully assessed, should prove to be more than 30 per cent. above that of last year, and wheat 20 to 25 per cent. The cost of labour has risen to double what it was not many years ago, when 1s. (9 piastres) a day was an average rate, while in the Papho District it was considerably less. Tobacco cultivation has, as anticipated, absorbed many labourers, especially women. Indeed, the employment of women and girls in this industry was one of the arguments which the Director of Agriculture always urged in favour of its resuscitation.

Carob growers and merchants are at present perhaps the most disappointed class, and owing to the very inflated prices paid for some consignments that have reached England there has been considerable heartburning on the part of those who have been less fortunate in disposing of their stocks. The exportation of last year's crop, so long delayed owing to want of shipping, has been gradually carried out. As much as £45 to £55 a ton (800 okes) has been paid for some parcels. This works out at about £5 a kantar (180 okes). In the past £1 a kantar has been considered a high price in Cyprus; while 16s. was often an average. No wonder, therefore, that while exaggerated prices have been fixed for other articles of produce—cereals, tobacco, etc.—both merchants and villagers should have been tantalized by the news of these sales. The latter, it is argued, might now at last have a chance of paying off their debts, which handicap all their efforts for improvement.

The Government has recently given notice that carobs of the next crop will not be allowed to be exported, and that the military authorities will be willing to purchase them at 20s. 6d. the kantar, f.o.b. Villagers have been petitioning the Government and their members of Council that these prices may be reconsidered, as being unfair. Carob merchants on their part, also, regard themselves as aggrieved. Indeed, when it is considered what high prices have been fixed for articles such as raisins and wheat, there seems to be some ground for complaint. The price of raisins is fixed at 3½ piastres the oke (£15 11s. the ton), about double the pre-war rate; that of wheat at 9s. the bushel being analogous.

The wine-producing villages are looking forward to another good season, but it is too early to make any forecast regarding the vintage. The movement of families to hill quarters has begun.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

A Reuter telegram reports that the condition of the cotton crop in Upper Egypt is 100 per cent., and in Lower Egypt 96 per cent. of the normal. The crop has considerably recovered from the effect of the much retarded start.

The Alexandria General Produce Association comments as follows in its monthly report on the cotton crop:—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during June has been generally favourable, although towards the end of the month there has been a little humidity. Crops in some districts are as well advanced as at this time in 1917, but, generally speaking, the crop is about ten to fifteen days late. Plants are healthy and in good condition. Eggs of the cotton worm have been reported in all provinces. Measures have been taken for destruction by picking off the affected leaves. Up to the present there has been no appreciable damage. Water irrigation continues to be abundant.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature has been generally favourable. Lateness of the crop previously reported still exists. Appearance of cotton satisfactory. In one or two isolated districts cotton worm eggs have appeared, which have been destroyed. Water abundant.

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A Reuter message state that a Bucharest telegram published in the *Vossische Zeitung* says that M. Inculetz, the Bessarabian Minister in the Roumanian Cabinet, has stated that in consequence of the long drought the harvest in Bessarabia was extremely bad.

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* The annual average for the period.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has not been at all active during the past week. Very few producers have been at all anxious to sell, and on the other hand buyers are afraid of paying to-day's prices for lots of quantity, especially when long delivery has to be given for the completion of contracts. There is a possibility of some trouble amongst the operatives as a result of the Control Board abolishing the rota system of "playing off" workpeople. Some difficulty has arisen in connection with the interpretation of the recent wages award, but no strike is expected. Users of Egyptian cotton and merchants are waiting for definite regulations relating to the control of the article from the beginning of next month. It is said that the local banks will have to be appealed to to finance imports. Some advices relating to the crop are not altogether satisfactory. The plants are late and a certain amount of resowing has been necessary. The strength of Egyptian spinners has been well maintained. Very little yarn has been offering for quick delivery. Some concerns have made very big profits during the past half year. Not more than a sorting up trade has been done in piece goods for Egypt. Rather better advices continue to be received from Persia. Operations for India and China have been very limited. Engagements of manufacturers are irregular, but there is no running after fresh orders. American yarns have again moved off quietly; but late rates are well held. Only retail sales have been put through in shipping counts.

Record Cotton Trade Profits.

According to Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, there has been more money made in the Lancashire cotton trade during the first six months of this year than in any similar period in the history of the industry. The majority of firms have made record profits. Mr. Tattersall has compiled an analysis of the stocktaking results of sixteen large spinning companies, and the figures show that on share capital there has been a gain of over 45 per cent. per annum, whilst on share and loan capital combined there has been a profit of over 33 per cent. per annum, after allowing interest on loans. The share capital of these concerns amounts to £608,552, and loans to £220,820. In the mills there are over 1,500,000 spindles. Most companies have paid either increased dividends, or a special bonus to shareholders. Sufficient details are not available for reliable figures to be published relating to the weaving section of the trade, but the past six months has been a very prosperous period, especially for firms who both spin and weave. Owing to the shortage of raw cotton, and the considerable amount of machinery stopped, demand in both yarn and cloth exceeds supply, and there is every probability of big profits being continued, at any rate until the end of the war.

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EGYPT'S TRADE IN APRIL.

Further Improvement.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 2.

The Customs returns for April show a further improvement in the external trade of the country. Imports during the month amounted to £E4,720,082 and exports to £E5,060,634, as against £E2,565,282 and £E3,227,617 respectively a year ago. The total for the four months is £E15,739,518 in imports and £E18,153,291 in exports.

The chief items under imports were preserved meat £E178,173, coffee £E60,542, vegetable oils £E71,314, stationery £E126,732, coal £E355,670, textiles £E2,643,799 (cotton piece goods £E1,592,117, woollen textiles £E97,309, cotton thread £E131,223, sacks £E304,216, ready made underclothing and hosiery £E120,626), manufactured iron and steel £E155,935, and tobacco £E262,333. The main exports were cotton seed £E508,226, sugar £E261,979, cotton £E4,192,889, and cigarettes £E51,375. No petroleum, benzine, or manures were imported or cotton-cake exported.

Commerce with the Empire.

In the increased trade of Egypt the British Empire had a good share. Great Britain sent goods worth £E2,500,554, as against £E1,502,751 the previous April, India increased her sales from £E113,512 to £E662,330. Australia rose from £E86,780 to £E181,903, and British African possessions from practically nil to £E35,823. France doubled her sales to £E236,997, Italy trebled hers to £E312,631, and Japan made a jump from £E30,500 to £E213,118; America and Chili were the only countries showing any considerable decrease. All the meat, flour, furniture, natural indigo, cotton yarn, sacks, coal, and 90 per cent. of the cotton piece goods and manufactured iron and steel came from the British Empire.

Under exports, Great Britain doubled her share to £E3,726,123, whilst the United States rose from £E302,941 to £E1,050,006; most of the other countries showed marked decreases. Between them Great Britain and the States took all the cotton crop, whilst the former took all the cotton seed and eggs. Most of the sugar went to French possessions in the Mediterranean. New silver to the tune of £E145,200 was imported from the United Kingdom.

Trade with the Sudan was fairly brisk. Imports totalled £E216,624, a slight falling off as compared with April, 1917, but exports jumped from £E117,588 to £E229,528. The principal items sent by the Sudan to Egypt were maize £E40,694, gum £E38,671, and livestock £E56,899, whilst the chief exports from Egypt were sugar £E81,230, and cotton piece goods £E59,124.

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EGYPT'S FINANCES.

Increased Surplus in February.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 30.

The February accounts of the Ministry of Finance show a further increase in the surplus at the disposal of the Government. During the month revenue amounted to £E1,442,752, and expenditure to £E1,238,528, thus bringing the totals to £E20,279,286 and £E16,600,593 respectively, as compared with £E17,811,972 and £E15,441,682 a year ago. There was, therefore, at the end of February a surplus of £E3,678,693, against one of £E2,370,290 on the same date in 1917.

Chief Features.

During the months the chief heads of revenue were: Customs £E334,244, tobacco dues £E120,382, mixed courts fees £E112,138, railways £E417,074, Excise £E83,398, and direct taxes £E94,462; and the principal items of expenditure were: Irrigation £E127,620, railways £E310,659, war gratuities £E47,362, War Office £E69,846, ghaffirs £E66,053, police £E45,215, pensions and indemnities £E61,377. With regard to the surplus this year, it is only right to point out that the 1916-17 accounts did not include excise or ghaffir cess, which account for £E1,022,369 this year. If this amount is deducted from the total revenue figure and allowance is made for the expenditure on the other side for ghaffirs, the extra amount included in the 1918 accounts is £E352,812, which makes the increase in surplus just under one million Egyptian pounds.

Estimate Exceeded.

It is interesting to note that the total revenue for the eleven months exceeds the estimated total for the year (£E19,525,000) by £E756,286, and that the total expenditure is £E2,924,407 less than the budgeted amount for the whole twelve months. Customs, fisheries, mixed courts fees, telegraphs, post office, railways, assay, sale of land, military exemption fees, state domains and mehkemehs receipts all exceed the totals budgeted for each of their departments, so that it is evident that the additional revenue is derived from almost every source open to the Government. In the case of mixed courts, railways, domains and customs, the excess over budgeted totals is already very considerable.

BRITISH TRADERS' ENTERPRISE.

Levant Chambers of Commerce.

The recent letter from our Athens correspondent describing the formation of a British Chamber of Commerce and Club at Athens has brought forth some interesting comments from a correspondent recently resident in Constantinople. "The new departure in Greece brings back memories," he writes, "of the foundation of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey at Constantinople some thirty years ago, an innovation which was not regarded with entire approval in official circles. The Chamber proved a great success, and its sphere of action was subsequently extended to include Roumania, Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria, its title being changed to the British Chamber of Commerce for Turkey and the Balkan States. It had several correspondents in each country, and it issued a quarterly publication, which contained most useful information for the development of British trade in all its branches. In time the Chamber became a very powerful institution, rendering invaluable services to British traders and manufacturers, its utility in this respect being fully recognised by the British Government. The next development followed in the last decade, when a British Chamber of Commerce was founded at Smyrna, which has also much good work to its credit. One of the staunchest supporters of this institution was the Vice-Consul, Mr. C. E. Heathcote Smith.

"As regards the Athens Chamber it is a noteworthy fact that out of the nine gentlemen appointed on the committee four have the advantage of having been connected with one or other of these Chambers. Thus, Mr. H. E. Mountain was secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey for twenty years, Mr. A. T. Waugh, British Consul at Constantinople, latterly attended the Board meeting, Mr. C. S. Butler was the representative and correspondent of the Constantinople Chamber in Athens, and Mr. C. Whittall was connected with the British Chamber of Commerce at Smyrna, so that the new Chamber will start its career with the great advantage of having the guidance of men fully cognisant of German methods in the Near East, an is to be hoped that their efforts to combat enemy commercial penetration after the war will meet with adequate support from bankers, manufacturers, and shipowners, etc., at home, whose failure to do so in the past allowed the Germans to carry out their ruthless commercial policy.

"With reference to the foundation of a British Club, it appears that Mr. Waugh, in the course of his remarks said: 'It was not an original idea and that 'it was taken partly from watching what the Germans were doing before the war,' etc. Apparently Mr. Waugh overlooked the fact that a British Club was founded in Constantinople early in 1913, one of the objects being that it should be a centre where all Englishmen could meet. It was hoped that in the course of time it would become the headquarters of every national institution, and, as a matter of fact, the British Chamber of Commerce had already considered the question of taking up its quarters under the same roof, but unfortunately the premises were not large enough, and did not provide sufficient accommodation."

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The Greek Minister of Agriculture left London on July 6 for Paris.

Mr. Bourre, general manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, has been appointed a director of that bank.

A German message from Jassy states that an economic agreement has been arrived at between Roumania and the Ukraine.

Messrs. E. Lugton and W. T. Gillies, of Lever Bros., Ltd., arrived at Khartoum at the beginning of last month. Mr. Gillies is to conduct an advertising campaign in the Sudan, in the form of demonstrations of Messrs. Lever's soaps, perfumes, etc.

A Berlin telegram states that the Roumanian Government intends placing the Roumanian gold reserves now in the Kremlin under the protection of the German authorities at Moscow. Hitherto the gold has been in the custody of diplomatists of the Entente.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

A Useful Flour Mill.

Nothing appeals to the Eastern agriculturalist like a machine that prepares flour or deals with water for irrigation, and which is within his means to purchase and employ on his own farm. Hence, flour mills and pumps are of particular interest to him, and, as a rule, head the list of what he will buy when opportunity offers. A new flour mill that has recently been brought out will be of much interest to such farmers and landed proprietors throughout the East. It is a combined stone mill and flour dresser which is low in cost, automatic in action, and requires no experienced assistance. The mill grinds by means of stones fitted on a horizonal snaft, running at a comparatively high speed, and is arranged to receive the wheat through an automatic feed, grind it into meal, and deliver the meal at the foot of an elevator, which carries it into the dresser. This latter machine extracts the flour in one, two, or three qualities, as desired, the product, as well as the bran and offals, being delivered into separate sacks. We understand that four sizes of this combined plant are made, with 14 in., 18 in., 24 in., and 30 in. stones, the elevator in the two larger sizes being placed between the mill spout and the dresser. This mill, it is said, is supplied for the production of Government regulation flour, which it does with success. What will attract the attention of Oriental buyers is the stones of the mill, for there is a prejudice against mills fitted with iron plates instead of stones, a design which has not been always successful.

Simultaneous Ploughing and Sowing.

An interesting achievement in connection with the national food-growing campaign will undoubtedly revive the spirits of Oriental farmers who are lamenting the "impossibility" of ploughing and sowing their land in time under existing difficulties, such as the scarcity of labour, machinery, and draught animals. These conditions prevail all over the world at present, and where there is a sufficient amount of energy remedies can be found for these drawbacks. Machinery is a little easier to procure now than before, not, of course, for "prompt delivery," but the sooner the order is given to the British manufacturer the earlier will be the delivery. The use of machinery solves the problem of labour. Draught animals such as buffaloes, bullocks, mules, camels, etc., for field work are now out of date; the price of three or four of them will buy a small tractor, which requires no food except oil when at work, and can do the one day's work of four bullocks in three hours operated by a farm lad or a woman.

The combined operation of ploughing and sowing is an innovation which should appeal to farmers who can procure or hire the necessary machinery. But it must be mentioned that the most serviceable machines for this purpose are of British manufacture, and buyers who cannot find or communicate with British manufacturers should hesitate to buy machines offered on the spot, or "to be delivered shortly," for it is said that a good number of agricultural and other machines are about in the East for sale with the names "Max" or "Fritz" chipped off or painted over. Intending purchasers must make a point of getting into touch with the British manufacturer; and, on the other hand, there is the corresponding obligation for the latter to make an effort to reach the Eastern market now awaiting him.

The operation to which we have referred is a further proof of the utility of the modern farm tractor. A War Agricultural Committee issued orders to the owner of a park to break up and plant 30 acres (14 hectares, or 33 feddans, or 120 stremmata) of rolling parkland with wheat. At the time the instructions were issued the season was well advanced, so that it was necessary to hasten the task with all speed. Two tractors were pressed into service, hauling two and three furrow ploughs, and breaking the land to a depth of from 5 to 6 inches. As the ploughing progressed one of the tractors was withdrawn from ploughing to be hitched to a disc harrow. Neither machine was kept continuously at the one task, a change-over being frequently made, and by this arrangement it was rendered possible to keep the disc harrow close up to the plough. While the third and final harrowing operation was in progress a seed-drill was set to work, frequent changing-over again being practised. Upon the completion of seeding, a combined harrow and roller, with the harrows working under the pole of the roller, was hooked on to the smaller tractor. Altogether, seven distinct operations were carried out in five tractor movements. The whole of the task was completed by two women who handled the tractors, and one man in charge of the implements, except in seeding, when the additional assistance of a boy was required.

MOTOR CARS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The number of motor cars in use in Europe is 522,112, according to figures compiled by the Fiat Press Bureau. Most persons, if asked which country had the greatest number of cars per head of population would reply England, and doubtless would be surprised to find that they were wrong. The record is held by the tiny principality of Monaco with one car for every 95.6 inhabitants. The country with the smallest number of cars, and also with the greatest number of inhabitants per car, is Crete, which is officially returned as having three cars or one for 121,666.6 inhabitants. Naturally, geographical conditions are an important factor in determining the proportion of cars, hence the fact that a country like Serbia had much leeway to make up before the war. The following is a list of cars in service in the Near Eastern countries in the last years for which returns are available :—

	Cars.	Year.	Inhabitants per car.
Bulgaria	3,050	1916	1,419.6
Roumania	2.500	1913	2,899.
Greece	800	1917	4,890.5
Turkey	500	1913	—
Serbia	200	1914	22,450.
Malta	100	1917	2,240.
Cyprus	15	1917	18,257.
Crete	3	1917	121,666.6

THE CEUTA-TETUAN LINE.

Some interesting particulars of the Ceuta-Tetuan railway in the Spanish zone of Morocco, furnished by the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan are given in the *Board of Trade Journal*. The Vice-Consul states that the line, which was officially opened in the third week of May, has a total length of twenty-five miles, mostly along a level plain; five tunnels of a total length nearly half a mile, and five small bridges had to be constructed. The line is of narrow gauge, only one metre, and the rolling stock consists of six 50-ton engines of American make, one saloon carriage, twelve other carriages of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class, and ten vans. It is a line that is not likely to be extended into the interior, though some day a line will presumably be laid to connect Tetuan with the Tangier-Fez railway. This, however, will have to be a normal gauge line, and will pass through much more difficult country than the Ceuta-Tetuan line.

The construction of this railway was decided in January, 1913, says the journal, when a decree was issued ordering the preliminary studies of the lines. The studies were concluded and the plan for the whole line presented in April, 1914. The work was entrusted to the engineering department of the Spanish zone, but, little or no progress being made, the construction and exploitation of the line was put up to adjudication, and the Compania Espanola de Colonizacion, which alone tendered, obtained the contract, the total cost of the work to be approximately 10,850,000 pesetas and the time allowed for the construction one year, which had later to be extended to two years.

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT IN MOROCCO

The development of railway communication is assuredly one of the most satisfactory spectacles which the zone in Morocco offers, says a French contemporary. Thanks to this work, the pacification of Morocco has been extended and effected with a minimum of troops. The various parts of Morocco have ceased to be isolated, the commercial exchanges are established, and the Empire rapidly becoming pacific, is unified. The iron horse, destined to enhance the economic value of the country, is penetrating towards the interior, and the collected products are being brought to the coast and exported to France. The railway, therefore, whilst acting as a conciliator, has been the principal agent of the rapid development of the country which has been the admiration of the traveller.

◆

The United States has advanced 15,790,000 dollars (£3,158,000) to Greece.

The British Government has approved the appointment by the Persian Government of Mr. J. A. Hill to be acting Consul at Sheffield.

The French Motor Car Co., Ltd., occupies the largest premises of any firm in the Calcutta motor trade in its new building in Circular Road. The company employs about 700 people in Calcutta and Bombay.

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— THE —

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NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

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Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000
Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Reserve - - - - - £237,500

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BRANCHES: MOROCCO—Casablanca, Fez, Mazagan, Marrakech, Saffi, Tangier.

CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

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N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

THE ADEN SKIN MARKET.

Effects of Shipping Shortage.

The winter season was a comparatively dull one in the Aden skin market, owing mainly to the lack of shipping space to the regular export markets, says a recent American consular report. Normally this market handles nearly equal parts of Arabian and African skins, but at present there are in Aden very few of the African or sun-dried skins known as flints. The Arabian or brine skins have been arriving in nearly normal quantities, but they are now coming in much more slowly, as the market is already overstocked. There have been a few African skins in the Aden market from British Somaliland, although it is reported that these skins, as well as the bulk of the Abyssinian skins, are being shipped direct from Jibuti. A week ago a few hundred bales of African skins from the Italian colony of Eritrea were reported to have arrived in Aden. For the past two years most of the skins from Eritrea have been shipped to Italy, but it is understood that the demand in Italy has fallen off recently and that some Eritrean skins will now regularly come into Aden on the chance that shipping space to Great Britain or America will be available.

Shipments via Bombay.

Some shipments have lately been made from Aden to Bombay for trans-shipment to the United States. Space is readily obtainable from Aden to Bombay, and local exporters hope to find space from Indian ports to America. Skins can be shipped from Aden to Bombay at a rate of Rs.120 per ton weight, and the reported Bombay-to-America rate is Rs.1,000 per ton weight. Recent quotations for any possible space direct from Aden to American ports have been from Rs.1,200 to Rs.1,400 per ton weight. A ton weight of skins measures up to 120 cubic feet, or about four bales of 350 skins each. The measurement of a ton, weight varies somewhat, according to the compactness with which the skins may be baled and according to the size or weight of the skins. Since the beginning of the present year 282 bales of skins have gone from Aden to Bombay and 78 bales to Calcutta for trans-shipment to America. There have been no direct shipments.

Prices below Normal.

Prices in the local market are about 16 per cent. below normal. Goat skins which normally are offered at Rs.24 per score can now be bought at Rs.20. Skins of this quality are selling at from Rs.26 to Rs.28 per score in Jibuti, because of the shipping space available. It is unusual for Jibuti prices to be as good as those prevailing in the Aden market; and the fact that they are now even higher is plainly an exceptional circumstance, and one which may permanently develop the growing tendency to export Abyssinian skins direct from Jibuti, in place of marketing them through Aden, as has been the long-established practice. At this time last year the local prices for skins were considerably higher than those paid normally, owing to the greater demand from abroad, which induced speculation. There are plenty of skins in Red Sea markets, and they can at present be had in large quantities if a means of shipping them can be found. The quality of the skins which have come into Aden this season is said to be fair, but this applies particularly to the brine skins, as too few flint skins have come in to permit an accurate estimate as to the general quality.

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East Indian Railway.—Annual meeting will be held at Cannon-Street Hotel, E.C.4, on 31st instant at 12.30 p.m.

Lord Brassey has accepted the Presidency of the British Federation of Iron, Steel, Tin Plate and Metal Merchants.

Machinery of all kinds, including belting for machinery, was imported by India last year to the value of £3,490,250, compared with £4,003,480 in 1916.

The *Neues Wiener Tagblatt* states that the harvest began throughout Hungary on June 29, says a Reuter message. The crop prospects are said to be good, though the harvest may be somewhat delayed owing to the weather, which is unfavourable, being ld and wet and lacking in sunshine.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bank of British West Africa.

The report of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that, after providing for current charges, rebate, bad and doubtful debts, there remains a net profit of £17,514 1s. 3d., to which must be added £18,176 16s. 5d. brought forward from last year, making a total of £89,690 17s. 8d. Of this sum £19,978 2s. 10d., being 3½ per cent. for the six months to the end of September, has already been distributed in interim dividend, and the directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 4½ per cent. for the second half-year, absorbing a further sum of £26,100, making the distribution for the year 8 per cent., less income-tax. £10,000 has been applied to writing down premises and furniture account, £10,000 has been added to reserve and £2,000 to the bank's insurance fund. The balance of £21,612 14s. 10d. is carried forward. The investments held stand in the books of the bank at less than their market value as on March 31, 1918. Notwithstanding the continuance of war conditions, the result of the year's operations is again satisfactory. A branch has been opened at Ebute Metta (Nigeria), and, as an experiment, a sub-branch has been established at Victoria Road, Lagos. The bank's branches in Morocco have been increased to five during the year by the establishment of branches at Fez and Saffi. The directors retiring by rotation are Mr. Clifford B. Edgar, Mr. George Miller, and Mr Mazzini Stuart, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The auditors of the bank, Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son, offer themselves for re-election. The warrants for the final dividend for the year will, subject to the adoption of this report, be posted to the shareholders on July 17. The ordinary general meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on July 17, at 12 noon.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for 1917 states that producing efforts were again mainly concentrated upon Hurghada field, with the result that a much larger output was obtained from this area. Total production of crude amounted to 134,500 tons, against 54,800 tons. Directors hope that application to Egyptian Government for larger areas will be granted. Erection at Suez of extended refining plant was completed at end of 1917, and capacity of refinery at Suez is now 1,000 tons per day. During the year, whenever refinery was not fully occupied with Egyptian crude, it was utilised to refine imported distillate for associated companies, and £75,172 has been received from them for treating this oil. The directors propose to write off for depreciation an amount based on that allowed by the income-tax authorities—namely, £52,000. The balance-sheet shows that operations have been sufficiently profitable to remove the adverse balance in the profit and loss account, and there are some funds in hand to start paying off the arrears of interest due on the Income bonds. The debit brought down was £342,156, and the year's profit of £348,555 leaves a credit of £6,399. The sum paid to the Egyptian Government in respect of the operations of the company since its inception amounted at the close of the year to £78,585. Phoposals are put forward for increasing the number of directors to eight and their remuneration to £2,400. The annual general meeting will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on July 18, at 2.30 p.m.

Alexandria Water.

The report of the Alexandria Water Company, Ltd., states that the balance of profit and loss account, after making provision for depreciation and usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend of 4 per cent., paid December 15, is £69,000, from which should be deducted 6 per cent., to complete, with the interim dividend, the 10 per cent. on the capital, £36,000, leaving £33,000, of which one-half is due to the municipality, according to the conventions, and the other half to shareholders, which represents 2s. 9d. per share, and this, added to the 6 per cent. above mentioned, makes a total of 8s. 9d. per share. The directors therefore recommend shareholders to fix the dividend payable at 8s. 9d. per share, which, with the interim dividend, makes a total dividend of 12s. 9d. for the year.

The Ederapolla Tea Company of Ceylon in 1917 made a profit of £8,788, against £10,135; final dividend is 15 per cent. (making 20 per cent. for the year), against 25 per cent.; forward, £3,139, against £2,739.

The Yatiyantota Ceylon Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £22,632, against £28,748. Dividend on the Ordinary shares is 10 per cent. (making 16 per cent. for 1917), against 21 per cent.; forward £7,998, against £6,365.

The report of the Shawlands Estates of Ceylon for 1917 states that, including £711 brought forward, the profit was £3,482. Directors propose dividend of 5 per cent.; to depreciation, £500; to taxation reserve, £750; to coast advances reserve, £300; forward, £682.

The available profit of the Colombo Electric Tramways and Lighting, after providing for debenture interest and including balance brought forward, £35,239, against £36,889. Dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, for 1917, same as 1916; £13,500 to general reserve and renewal fund, against £15,000; forward, £8,655, against £8,805.

The gross revenue of the Neboda (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estates for 1917 was £67,835, against £69,599, and the gross profit, including the balance from 1916, less excess profits duty for 1915 and 1916, was £48,476, against £48,111; final dividend is 7 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and the carry forward is £19,201 (out of which reserve has to be made for excess profits duty).

The profit of the Poonagalla Valley Ceylon Company for 1917, after providing for interest, amounts to £13,753, against £13,088; excess profits duty, 1915 and 1916, £4,330. Final dividend of 4 per cent. (making 8 per cent. for the year), the same; depreciation, £1,000; capital expenditure in 1917, £1,414; debenture redemption fund, £1,000; forward, subject to excess profits duty, £7,228, against £6,419.

The report of the Hewagam Rubber Co., Ltd., states that the net profit for the year, after writing of £2,000 from estates account for depreciation, and placing £1,460 to income and excess-profits tax reserve, and £750 to manuring suspense account, is £24,720, which, with £1,338 brought forward, makes £26,059, dealt with as under:—Interim dividend of 3 per cent., paid November, 1917, £7,200; dividend of 5 per cent., now recommended, making 8 per cent. for the year, £12,000; carrying forward, £6,859.

The directors of the Assam Oil Company announce that it is impossible to have the accounts prepared in time to call the meeting of the company during this month. They therefore propose to postpone it until after August. They have declared a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 19th instant, and do not expect to recommend any further payment on account of the year. The payment of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares involves the payment of an additional 1 per cent. on the Participating preference shares. The result of the year's work has been good, the profit being the largest yet earned.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of Eastern Assam have declared a further dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. (free of tax) for 1917, against 17½ per cent.

Piræus-Athens Peloponnesus Railway Company Four per cent. Bonds. The Bank of Athens will pay coupon No. 13 due 14th inst., at 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

With regard to the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Three per Cent. Bonds, Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce that the coupons and drawn bonds due July 15 will be paid on that date at their office, Austin Friars House, E.C.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30. The dividend, 10s. per share (less tax), will be payable on August 1. A year ago the dividend was 9 per cent.

The ordinary stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, Limited, will be closed from July 13 to 27 inclusive, for the purpose of preparing dividend warrants for the six months to March 31, payable to those shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

The tone of our market continues very favourable in all directions. Buyers are abundant, and there is great competition for everything offering.

In Government stocks Unifieds are again a point higher at 91½, while the Three and a-Half per Cent. Prefs. are ½ up at 76½. A feature this week has been the demand from Egypt for Turkish Four per Cent. 1891 and Three and a-Half per Cent. 1894. Both these are most attractive securities in view of the fact that they are both subject to annual drawings at par. In both cases prices have risen one point, to 83 and 73 respectively. City of Alexandria Bonds have recovered practically the whole of their dividend recently deducted at 82, but no business takes place as sellers are non-existent. In Bank shares Nationals are a further ⅛ up at 17⅝, after some business as high as 17¾. Agriculturals are also 1-16 firmer at 6 1-16, all shares available at the latter price having been absorbed. Agricultural Prefs. are 1-16 firmer at 7 7-16, but here also there are no sellers at present. A further substantial rise of ¾ has taken place in Anglo-Egyptian Banks at 18½.

In Railways, Delta Lights have large buyers near the current level, but no shares are on offer. In Land descriptions Aboukirs are 3d. firmer at 22s. 9d., with some business passing. Behéras have also given rise to a certain amount of business at the current level, and Behéra Prefs. are ⅛ up at 4½. In Delta Lands some small transactions have been effected round the current level, and the same remark applies to Foreign Trusts. Gharbieh Lands are 1-16th higher at 2, but there are only buyers about. In New Egyptians the price, after receding on realisations to 18s., is again firm and unaltered at 18s. 6d., after a very fair amount of business, this being about the only share in which there is anything like a free market. Sidi Salems have improved 1-16th to 2 5-16ths, with a few hundred shares changing hands and with further buyers about. In Union Foncières there has been a persistent demand, and the price is 1-32 higher at 3 5-32, but sellers are few and far between.

In Miscellaneous shares the feature has been the continual improvement in Salts and Sodas, which are 3s. 9d. up at 46s. 3d. This rise has been due to small local buying, and orders from Egypt are at a considerably lower level. Khedivial Mails are 6d. easier at 42s. 6d.

In Greek securities there has been but small business passing, and in a general way there are only buyers at the current prices. Ionian Banks have improved ⅛ to 5⅜, and Piræus-Athens 4½ per cent. Bonds continue wanted.

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ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JUNE 14.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	17⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	91
„ „ Div.	Frs.	121½
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 11/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	12½
„ priv.	L.E.	4½
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	179
Bons de Panama	Frs.	127½
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	84
„ Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	97½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 1/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 11/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 1/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	5 13/32
Bonded Stores	L.E.	8⅝
Unifiée	L.E.	91½
Privilégiée		78
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7
Nungovich Hotels	£	5 7/32
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5 3/32
„ Fondateur	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3¾
„ Ord		38/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	24¾
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅝
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
„ Jouissance	Frs.	167
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	440
„ Div.	Frs.	380
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	297
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 1/16
Egyptian Salt and Soda		39/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	705
„ Fondateur	Frs.	800
„ 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	388½
„ 1903 „	Frs.	290½
„ 1911 „	Frs.	280½
United Lands	P.T.	9¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		¾

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. July 3	July 10
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82½	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½	91½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	76	76½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	64xd	64xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	64xd	64xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60xd	60xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	51
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	63½	63½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65xd	65xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76	76
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	82	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	72	73
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	6 1/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅜xd	7 7/16
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17¾	18½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	6¼	6¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5¼	5⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17½	17⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6 9/16	6 9/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/6	22/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	4⅛	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅛	13⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	1 15/16	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/6	18/6
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2¼	2 5/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3⅛	3 5/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	42/6	46/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	43/-	42/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3 13/16	3 13/16

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 30, 1918:—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, April, 1918	2,121,879	1,856,000
Do. do. do 1917	1,987,403	850,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months 1918	+ 3,081,012	+ 7,955,333
1917	— 483,016	+ 885,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital	500,000
Reserve	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up)	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 376.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The war has produced no greater surprise than that of the appearance of a handful of the Slavic peoples of Austria-Hungary as the saviours of the once mighty Russia. For this in effect is the rôle now being played by the Czecho-Slovak troops who have successfully challenged Bolshevism. While the Allied Governments were still debating the ethics of their position, analysing political parties in Russia, or counting the number of Japanese Army Corps required for the occupation of a small corner of Eastern Siberia, the Czecho-Slovaks have pricked the Bolshevik bubble by the mere display of disciplined force in opposition to the mob-law preached by Lenin and Trotsky. The men who owe their presence in the country to their faith in Russia as the saviour of their race have themselves rescued the Russians from a fate perhaps more terrible than the one they had endured at the hands of Austria-Hungary.

But, as was urged in these columns last week, the troubles of Russia are not over because the Czecho-Slovaks have occupied a few points of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The main value of their assistance lies in the fact that they have proved that Bolshevism was not Russia, and that, lying cowed beneath it, was the sober sense of the real Russia, only waiting for a helping hand. How long the Allies would have continued to deny her the assistance she needed will now not be known. The soldiers on the spot have done what was required in so far as they have checked the orgy of Bolshevist criminality and have supplied rallying centres for the better elements of the great Russian people. Their achievement is the more remarkable as they can hardly have acted on any systematic plan. The total Czecho-Slovak forces in Russia can hardly have amounted to a hundred and fifty thousand. They are now spread in detachments over the six thousand miles that separate Vladivostok from European Russia; but everywhere they have shown the same capacity for making themselves masters of the situation and for inspiring confidence and respect among the distracted Russian people.

With the occupation of Kazan the Czecho-Slovaks have introduced an important rallying-point into Russia proper. Hitherto, their activities have been most marked in Siberia, where they have established themselves at various points along the railway between the Urals and the Pacific. The haphazard character of the movement has allowed a number of different Russian organisations to spring into existence, with a tendency to arrogate to themselves the status of provisional governments. At present, three of these governments, so-called, hold the field in Eastern Siberia, and to prevent unnecessary complications and delay, it seems to be the duty of the Allies to offer their assistance to the Russians in Siberia with a view to establishing a simple government which will gradually be able to extend its authority into European Russia. In the meantime, the Czecho-Slovak troops will form the nucleus of a reformed Russian Army. A few months or weeks ago their intention was to take ship across the Pacific in order to continue their real business of fighting the Central Powers. Now they have all the opportunities for service that they require, and there need be no further thought of returning to Europe.

The Italians and French continue to press forward in Albania, and the latter must be by now at no great distance from the great Roman highway that passes through Elbasan on its way from Durazzo to Monastir. This line may well be the prepared position to which the Austrians admit that they are falling back. Somewhere in the neighbourhood of Lake Ochrida the Austrian left will be in touch with the flank of the Bulgarian Army. If the Austrians are forced to yield more ground, the Bulgarian line must retire with them or be left at this point in the air. The recent course of the military operations in the Macedonian theatre points to the inability of the Allies to make much headway against the Bulgarians so long as the Austrians remained well to the south of Lake Ochrida. It was sound strategy that broke off the offensive after the capture of Skra di Legen, and gave fresh attention to the Franco-Italian position in Albania. The success of this left wing has been rapid, and if it can be pressed home yet a little farther, the effect must before long make itself felt on the Bulgarian battle front in Macedonia.

The only incident reported from Palestine during the week is an enemy attack on the British positions seven miles north of Jericho, and against the Jordan bridgeheads. In this part of the battle-line there have been no military operations of any importance, apart from air-raids, since April, when General Allenby's attempt to reach the Hejaz Railway was followed by an immediate withdrawal to the Jordan. After an initial success on the Abu Tellul ridges the enemy were driven back by a counter-attack, and lost over five hundred prisoners. The main interest attaching to this incident centres in the fact that of these prisoners three hundred and fifty were German. The Turks had been reinforced by German troops some months ago, but as it is unlikely that the numbers of the latter are very great, the loss in one action of four hundred or more—for they will have suffered casualties as well—will not be without its effect, particularly on the minds of the Turks, who will have been led to believe in the invincibility of the Germans. As the enemy report of these encounters claims that his gains at Abu Tellul were held in spite of extremely violent counter-attacks, we may also discount his statement regarding the fighting west of Jordan, which represents the Indian cavalry division engaged as having been "almost annihilated."

Among the million and more of American troops who have reached Europe special reference may be made in these columns to the Zionist American Legion and the American Zionist Medical Unit, both on their way to Palestine. The appropriateness of the Jews' forming separate regiments to take part in the recovery of Palestine has appealed to this country as well as to the United States; but the idea of a separate medical unit to aid in the sanitation of the land and the distribution of relief to the suffering population originated with the women Zionists of America. This organisation will ably supplement the medical work already being done in Palestine under British and American auspices, and it will conform to the traditions of all such work, inasmuch as it goes out to assist in the uplifting of all the people irrespective of creed. It will be no small factor in the success of the Zionist movement that it should prove itself a channel for the spread of civilisation throughout the countries bordering upon Palestine.

The Germans would seem to be showing themselves in their true colours in Roumania. In spite of the ratification of the treaty of peace there has been no relaxation of German control in the occupied territory; on the contrary, the Germans appear to be giving fresh turns to the screw they have fixed on the unfortunate inhabitants. According to the evidence of Roumanian officers who have succeeded in leaving the country in order to take service in France, one of the humiliations imposed is to compel all ranks of the Roumanian Army to salute German soldiers, even the privates. The result of these and other measures has been to alienate those Roumanians who might have been favourably disposed towards the Germans, unless it be the few people who benefit directly from the German occupation, as in the case of Government officials. Of the latter there are some to be found willing to perpetuate the system that has brought them position, and to this end an attempt is being made, it is said, to secure the reversion of the Roumanian throne for Prince Joachim of Prussia, one of the German Emperor's sons.

Unless our reading of the Roumanian character is at fault, there will be both active and passive opposition to the suggestion that King Ferdinand should abdicate. His position has been an exceedingly difficult one, and it is known that he has been ready to sacrifice himself, if by so doing he could render any service to the country. Hitherto, however, the Roumanian people have taken up the wise attitude that his retention of the throne is an asset to them. It argues an ignorance of the German character to suggest that a change of dynasty would secure to Roumania some alleviation of her lot. The German attitude towards the Roumanians is the result not so much of a policy as of character. German officials would find it impossible to treat the vanquished Roumanians in any other way, whoever occupied the throne. There might be some relaxation in the *mot d'ordre*, but the effect would not be appreciable to the rank and file of the Roumanian population. It is evident that opinion in Germany is dissatisfied with the decision to allow King Ferdinand to remain on the throne. A symptom of this feeling is to be noted in the attempt to create prejudice against the Royal family. A story is now published to the effect that the Crown Prince made an appeal to the Crown Council, when it was considering the ultimatum of the Central Powers, not to accept the peace conditions, but to continue the war until the bitter end. The episode, if true, would do credit to the heir to the throne, and there must be many in Roumania to-day who are wondering whether any fate could have been worse than their present one, when scarcity and disease are added to the humiliations they have to endure at the hands of the Germans.

It was inevitable that the ill-advised proposal to use Cyprus as a bait for Greek military assistance in the Near East at an early stage of the war should have given impetus to the agitation of a section of the Greek community for union with Greece. At the same time it attracted more general attention to the island, and the British Government may be supposed to have realised now not only that Cyprus plays an important part in the scheme of the British Empire, but also that it has been exposed in the past to a fatal policy of neglect or indifference on the part of Great Britain. That policy will have to give place to a more satisfactory administration in the near future in the interests of the colony as well as by way of an answer to one of the arguments used by the agitators. It is fair to the latter to state that officially they have dissociated themselves from Greek pro-Germanism. They realise that they stand a better chance of gaining their end by adopting the rôle of dutiful democrats and pleading the principle of nationality than by renewing past threats. The weakness of their case lies in the presence of a Turkish population, for it is evident that at a time when an end is to be put to the grievances of subject nationalities, Great Britain could not be a party to handing over a fairly large body of Turks to Greek jurisdiction. No doubt the position of Cyprus will come up for discussion, and for this reason as well as for the sake of the island it is to be hoped that the British Government will lose no time in putting into force a more generous policy in regard to the island and its needs.

The decision of the Central Powers to leave the dispute between Bulgaria and Turkey to these two countries has not brought about, so far, any improvement in their relations. In order to dispel any doubt as to the attitude of the new Bulgarian Government on the subject, a semi-official Note was issued in Sofia at the beginning of the month, roundly declaring the Turkish demands in connection with territory along the Maritza to be unjustified, and adding that Bulgaria refused to recognise the existence of a Maritza question. Perhaps the most pertinent comment in the Bulgarian Press is that of the *Mir*, which, after pointing out that the Turco-Bulgarian frontier was settled by the treaty of 1915, said: "Treaties concluded between the Allies ought not to be 'mere scraps of paper,' otherwise the alliances themselves will have no value."

The circumstances attending the dispatch of a Dutch convoy to the East have given rise to considerable criticism of the British Government on the ground that it has waived the right of search on the high seas. When all is said and done, there would seem to have been much cry and little wool. A Dutch Minister appears to have been indiscreet enough to declare that Holland proposed to send out an armed convoy which would resist search by either of the belligerent groups. The Netherlands Government was at once informed that the British Government would most certainly carry out its right of search. An appeal *ad misericordiam* evidently followed from The Hague, and, rather than be the cause of a Cabinet crisis in Holland, the British Government agreed to carry out its right of search before the convoy sailed instead of on the high seas. A far more effective search seems to have been exercised than would have been possible at sea, and the Dutch Government has had to put up with much in an endeavour to save its face. It only remains for a German submarine to meet the convoy and to mistake it for a fleet of British hospital ships.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 17.

The New Star.

The new star discovered in England has been plainly visible here in Egypt. It was first observed on June 9 by Mr. J. C. Radford, of the Egyptian State Railways. It rises due east about 7.30 p.m., and is distinctly visible shortly afterwards. According to the telegrams its magnitude in England was 0.9, but here in Egypt it is estimated at between 0.4 and 0.3.

The Zionist Movement.

Dr. Weizmann, accompanied by other members of the Zionist Commission, has just returned from a trip to Akaba, where he met Shereef Faisal, the son of the King of the Hejaz and the leader of the Shereefian army. It is understood that the meeting was most satisfactory and that, as a result, friendly relations have been established between the leaders of the Arab and the Zionist movements. The negotiations for the creation of a Hebrew University in Palestine have made considerable progress, and the laying of the foundation-stone will, it is expected, take place shortly.

Public Health.

The Public Health Commission, presided over by Lieut.-Colonel Andrew Balfour, is busy in carrying out its investigations, and is taking evidence from the senior officials attached to practically every administration. The Commission will also visit the more important centres in order to enquire into local conditions and verify statements made to it. It is at present in Alexandria.

A certain amount of anxiety has been caused by the appearance of typhus in various parts of the country. Energetic steps have been taken to combat the outbreak, and it is hoped that its extension has now been stopped.

Meanwhile, an agitation appears to be starting in Alexandria for the reorganisation of the local sanitary service. At one of its recent meetings several members vigorously attacked the Municipality on the score of the state of the public health in the city, and the manner in which the medical and sanitary staff is recruited. At the close of a somewhat lively meeting it was decided to appeal to the Government to authorise Colonel Balfour's Commission to investigate the state of affairs in Alexandria and draw up a special report with a view to a reorganisation of the sanitary service of that city.

The Agricultural Situation.

We are approaching the time when a decision will have to be taken as to the area which is to be allowed to be put under cotton in 1919. The reason a decision will have to be come to within the next two or three months is that under the agricultural system adopted in Egypt the cotton area determines the area which can be put under wheat and barley during the preceding winter. This year, it will be remembered, the cotton area was reduced, as a result of negotiations between the British and Egyptian Governments, to 1,350,000 feddans, or 400,000 feddans less than the normal. The object of this reduction was to enable the country to produce more cereals and make good the local shortage of breadstuffs resulting from the serious reduction of flour imports, which in pre-war years averaged about 200,000 tons per annum. There seems little doubt that the reduction in the 1918 cotton area will have to be maintained in 1919, as flour imports have not revived; but the question which now arises is whether the extra area put under cereals has been sufficient to make good the reduction in breadstuff imports. The Government experts and statisticians have no doubt by this time collected all the information necessary to show whether this is the case or not, and before the end of the summer we ought to have a definite decision on this point.

The Question of Supplies.

The improvement in the wheat position, as reported in previous letters, appears to be maintained, but the authorities are now being confronted with another serious problem—that of the sugar distribution. Egypt produces more than sufficient for the requirements of her population, and export of the surplus is very strictly controlled by the Supplies Control Board. There is, however, a shortage of supply on the local market, and investigation appears to prove that this shortage, as in the case of most other foodstuffs, is due in great part to the manœuvres of the middlemen.

It is not always the commercial element which is solely responsible for disregard of the tariff or frustration of the Government's intentions. Very often the general public is equally to blame, and contributes by its attitude towards the critical situations which arise. An illustration of some of the difficulties with which the authorities are confronted in this respect is afforded by what has taken place in connection with the distribution of Australian flour. As may be recollected, about a month ago, when the crisis was acute, the Government decided to intervene. It arranged to distribute Australian flour that it had managed to secure to the more needy classes of the Cairo population with a view to alleviating distress pending the arrival of the wheat which it had been arranged to purchase in the provinces. The flour was easily disposed of, and the urgent needs of the people appeared to be relieved. It has transpired, however, that many of the purchasers instead of using the flour for their own requirements resold it to bakers, etc., who, as bread is not subject to a tariff, were able to offer much higher prices than those at which the Government had sold the flour to the people, who, in exchange, purchased very inferior flour at lower prices, and so made a profit out of the well-meant action of the Government.

This curious mentality of the local population and the general lack of public spirit on the part of even the better-class Egyptians make the task of those who are responsible for the distribution of supplies in the country exceedingly difficult. In the circumstances, it may become necessary to take even more drastic and farther-reaching action than has been contemplated so far.

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PRISONERS IN TURKEY COMMITTEE.

We give below the full list of the members of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee. The office of the committee is at 25, Chester Square, S.W.1. The committee will be glad to receive donations to meet expenses, and we cordially commend its appeal to the notice of our readers.

The chairman is Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. The committee is as follows:—The Countess of Albemarle (Norfolk Regiment Prisoners of War Help Organisation); Miss A. M. Anderson, C.B.E.; A. Baker; Lieut.-Colonel Sir R. L. Baker, Bart., M.P.; Lady Henry Bentinck; J. Bliss, M.P.; E. A. Box (Official Secretary to High Commissioner for Australia); Miss Burbury (Hampshire Regiment, except 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th T.F. Battalions); the Lady Burghclere (Lady Burghclere's Prisoners' Fund); Sir J. G. Butcher, Bart., K.C., M.P.; Mrs. Clarence Buxton (Central Prisoners of War Committee); Mrs. Malcolm Campbell (R.A. Prisoners of War Fund); the Lord Carnock, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E.; Miss M. E. Chomley, O.B.E. (Australian Red Cross); Lt.-Col. Hon. T. H. A. E. Cochrane; Lady Gertrude Cochrane; Lt.-Col. Godfrey Collins, M.P.; Mrs. H. R. Bromley Davenport (Invalid Comforts Fund); Lord Devonport; Col. L. Dorling, C.B., D.S.O.; G. Owen Dunn; Hon. Mrs. Maxwell Earle; Mrs. Ernest Floyer; Major W. L. Foster, D.S.O., R.H.A. (R.A. Prisoners of War Fund); Major Arthur Haggard; Col. Sir Fred Hall, M.P.; Lady Henderson (R.A.F. Prisoners' Fund); Sir W. E. Hume-Williams, K.B.E., K.C., M.P.; Capt. E. H. Keeling, M.C.; Mrs. S. van B. Laing; Lady Lowther; the Lady MacDonnell (Irish Women's Association); Sir Charles McLeod; Sir John Mellor, K.C.B.; Mrs. Douglas Pass; H. E. Pears; Brigadier-General E. Page Croft, C.M.G., M.P.; Lieut. E. Pinnington; Lady Robb (Lady Robb's Prisoners of War Fund); F. O. Rybot; Sir Charles Seely, Bart., M.P.; Mrs. Stephenson (Essex Regiment); Lieut.-Col. A. Stirling, M.P.; Mrs. Algernon Strickland; Col. Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P.; Mrs. Thackeray; Miss Mary Thornton (Royal Navy Prisoners of War); Mrs. C. M. Wilson (Oxfordshire and Bucks L.I. War Prisoners' Fund); Cecil J. Wray (New Zealand Prisoners of War Department).

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Jews in Roumania, says the official *Steagul*, of Bucharest, are shortly to be placed by a Government Bill on an equal footing with other citizens.

Turkey now promises an early report on the Tabriz incident, when the American hospital was pillaged and the American Consulate occupied by Turkish troops.

THE ABYSSINIAN REVOLUTION.

(From a Cairo Correspondent.)

Meantime Tefri despatched a force of a few hundred for reconnoitring purposes to Misu station, which lies halfway between Diredawa and Adis Abeba. Yassou did likewise, with the result that a meeting occurred, a fight ensued, and Yassou's force, although it is said to have been superior, was defeated, leaving many dead and wounded on the battlefield. Overwhelmed by despair, Yassou hastened to his father's capital, to join forces with him. Realising now the gravity of the situation, he gave up all his previous plans, and proceeded to Walua by way of Diredawa. During his sojourn in Harrar he had gathered round him a number of Somalis—a fierce and warlike tribe living in the neighbourhood of Harrar and Diredawa. These, the Abyssinians attacked, killing many of them, as soon as Yassou fled; for they knew with what sinister design Yassou had been keeping them there. The same thing occurred in the vicinity of Harrar and Diredawa. As soon as the inhabitants learned of Yassou's flight and the triumphal entry of Tefri's men into the town, they cleared those places of the Somalis and Danakels, killing all who fell into their hands.

When King Mikhail, Yassou's father, heard of the plot in the capital and of his son's overthrow, he gathered together his men, numbering about 80,000, and marched on the capital. Arriving at Ankuber, a town about four days' journey from Adis Abeba, he attacked the inhabitants and killed all Tefri's partisans, who put up a brave fight against overwhelming odds. Intoxicated with this easy success, Mikhail's men gave themselves up to looting, drinking, and rioting for some days. Meantime Tefri had raised a considerable army, and on October 19 marched at its head, and joined El Feturari Hebet Jorjis, the Minister of War, one of the most distinguished Abyssinians, an able general and a true patriot, who had already met Mikhail at Kermash, a place near Ankubar. On October 27, the belligerent forces came to grips at Sejli. It was a fierce battle, which started at five in the morning and ended, at eight in the evening, in the rout of Mikhail's troops and his surrender. The losses on both sides are estimated at over 10,000 dead and wounded.

On returning with King Mikhail as prisoner, Tefri and his party had an enthusiastic reception. Mikhail was subsequently despatched to a place about two days' journey from Adis Abeba, where he is still living as an exile.

Zuditu, who had been acquainted with the supreme decision installing her on her father's throne, had now arrived; and was taken at night into Menelik's palace, which had fallen into a state of neglect during Yassou's reign. Ras Tefri also installed himself there, and set about preparing for the coronation ceremony. On February 11, 1917, Zuditu was crowned Empress of Abyssinia, in the Church of St. Jorjis, in the presence of the representatives of the Entente Powers, who had officially recognised the new Government.

After a wearisome journey through a dreary country, and over a bad road, Yassou arrived at Ankubar, where he learned of his father's march on the capital through Ankubar, of his laying waste that town, and of his surrender after the defeat of his troops in the battle of Sejli. Realising that he was no match for Tefri and his party, he decided to fortify himself in the mountain Mejdelé, which is a natural fortress, not to be carried by storm. Here he remained for some time, until he found means to escape to Dessi, where a few thousand of the inhabitants of Wulu, who had escaped from the battle of Sejli, rallied round him. With these he prepared to attack the Government troops. The opposing forces remained on the *qui vive* until August 30, 1917, when they met in a stoutly contested battle, which ended in the victory of the forces of the new government and the capture of the rebel leaders.

On receipt of this intelligence at Adis Abeba a salvo of guns was fired to announce the victory. Ras Tefri, who had intended joining the fighting forces, departed no more. As to Yassou, he fled away into the interior of the Danakel country, where he has since remained. All his partisans have forsaken him, and many of them are constantly arriving at the capital, to surrender themselves and beg protection.

Tefri's chief endeavour now is to re-establish order and reassure those who are still apprehensive of the inhabitants of Wulu, over which a governor has been appointed. A commission will shortly be proceeding from the capital with a view to delimiting the country according to the exigencies of the present situation.

One of the consequences of the revolution is the appointment of Ras Weled Jorjis, King of the Joundar, with the annexation of some territory thereto; another is the dismissal of Betuwud Hile Jorjis, the late Prime Minister, who is still in prison on the charge of having been secretly plotting with Yassou and his party against the new government. Dijaz Emru, one of Tefri's relatives, has been appointed governor of Harrar and district, receiving his authority and instructions direct from Ras Tefri.

There is general confidence in Ras Tefri's ability to effect the needed reforms in the domains of politics, administration, commerce, and public security. As happens in every country, however advanced it may be, after a revolution, a sort of anarchy has lately been prevailing; public security and justice are unsettled; and this is chiefly due to a misconception by the masses of the true principles of liberty. In spite, therefore, of Tefri's recognised ability, energy, and patriotism, the difficulties that beset his path are such that the progress of reform is bound to be slow, especially as he has not yet altogether a free hand, and as he lacks the necessary number of collaborators having ability, energy, and enlightened views equal to his own.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your very tactful and lenient criticism of the Greek Minister's speech at the Mansion House you rightly pointed out that what the British public desires to know in regard to the Balkans is by what means a stable condition of tranquillity and harmony can be established in those much-tried regions which will conduce to the future happiness of the Balkan peoples, and to the peace of Europe. It is not a question of satisfying Bulgaria "at the expense of Greece and Serbia." By the Treaty of Bucharest, Greece and Serbia satisfied themselves at the expense of Bulgaria, and what remains to be done is to arrive at an equitable settlement which will satisfy the reasonable claims of all. Unless this result can be attained, the Balkan menace to peace of Europe will remain as before.

Most persons will, I think, agree that the Mansion House is not a suitable place for the ventilation of Balkan animosities. Hitherto foreign diplomatists, when accepting the hospitality of the Chief Magistrate of the metropolis, have invariably imposed the greatest reserve on their utterances. M. Gennadius has brushed aside the valuable traditions of restraint which have always been maintained by his colleagues by addressing the summons "Hands off!" to an Ally of this country, and of Greece, by heaping a series of epithets—hitherto unheard at the Mansion House—on a rival Balkan nation, and by accusing a section of the British Press of deliberate suppression and perversion of the truth. While making these accusations M. Gennadius laid himself open to the charge of *suppressio veri* by keeping out of sight the massacres committed by the Greeks at Zagoritchané and elsewhere, the real cause of the pogroms at Anchialos and Stenimachos, which he declares to have taken place at those towns "simply because they were inhabited by Greeks." Furthermore, the "subsidies" and "military equipment," which, M. Gennadius states, were supplied to Bulgaria by Germany for some years previously to the war were, in

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* The first part of this article appeared in The Near East of June 21.

point of fact, delivered in accordance with the terms of a loan for which Bulgaria first applied to France and then to Great Britain in 1911, before having recourse to Germany. Owing to Greek intrigues in Paris, although Greece was then preparing to ally herself with Bulgaria, the loan was refused—first by the French and then by the British financiers—and Bulgaria was literally thrown into the arms of Germany.

Bulgaria has associated herself with the enemies of this country, and cannot escape the consequences of her error. But most Englishmen will agree that nothing is lost by fairness to an adversary.—I am, etc.,

Fiat Justitia.

London, July 10.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you allow me to thank you for your comments in your issue of July 5 on the speeches delivered at the Mansion House dinner to celebrate the entry of Greece into the war? It is good to remind us that the future of the Balkan States depends on the coming of a Balkan federation; exactly, you might have added, as the future peace of Europe depends on the formation of a League of Nations.

Are you not, however, hypercritical, if not unjust, in finding fault with M. Gennadius for his denunciation of Bulgaria? "There is not the least chance," you say, "of Greece being forcibly despoiled by her Allies for the benefit of Bulgaria." But as a matter of fact, to despoil Greece for the benefit of Bulgaria, in order to attain some sort of "settlement" in the Balkans, is exactly what was solemnly proposed by the *Quarterly Review* in an article the appearance of which nicely coincided with the visit of M. Venizelos to London last autumn.

And "to despoil Greece"—that is to reward her for fighting with us by taking away something she would have retained by remaining neutral—is also the gist of a proposal recently put forward in the interest of scientific frontiers by Sir Thos. Holdich, who proves his qualifications for writing about the Balkans and for presiding over the Geographical Society by proposing to compensate Greece by offering "as an equivalent for Macedonia" to restore *Crete*—which has belonged to her since 1913!

It was, therefore, not quite unnecessary of M. Gennadius to remind us that Bulgaria is as much the enemy of the Balkans as Germany is the enemy of Europe.

You regret that M. Gennadius should have recalled the Bulgarian destruction in 1906 of the Greek towns of Anchialos and Stenimachos. You go out of your way to assert that this outrage was provoked by a murderous attack by Greek brigands on the Bulgarian village of Zagoritchané. As a matter of fact, there is some evidence, I believe, that this story of a previous outrage at Zagoritchané was concocted after the event. But I will not weary you with a discussion about past atrocities. So strongly, so overwhelmingly do I agree with you that our "present concern is to know what hope there is for such a people" (as the Bulgarians) "in the future, and whether the only remedy offered by those who inveigh against them is to exterminate them, lock stock and barrel!" Of course, our concern is with the future, and our one war aim is to build a stable future in the Balkans as in Europe. Only, if we are fighting to bring the Bulgarians into a future Balkan Federation, it is not irrelevant to know something of the difficulty, to put it mildly, of the Bulgarian character in the past. "M. Gennadius," you say, "preferred to live in the present rather than to dwell on the future." Surely he was right. If, for example, we are fighting to bring the Germans into a future League of Nations, it is not unimportant to remember that the Germans sank the Llandovery Castle.—I am, etc.,

John Mavrogordato.

The Anglo-Hellenic League,
43, Aldwych, London, W.C.
July 11, 1918.

[We have not space to deal with each *non sequitur* in our correspondent's letter. Briefly it may be stated that there is a wide difference between "despoiling Greece forcibly" and a settlement, approved of by Greece, which, as proposed by M. Venizelos in 1915, would include a rectification of her northern frontier in return for compensation elsewhere. The central point of the remarks in The Near East which seem to have prompted our correspondent to send the above letter was that the massacres referred to by M. Gennarius had been provoked by a murderous attack by Greek brigands on a Bulgarian village. In regard to this our correspondent writes:—"As a matter of *fact* there is *some* evidence, *I believe*, etc." His belief may be a matter of fact, but it hardly affects the authenticity of an incident vouched for by British consular officials. It is certainly not a fact that "we are fighting to bring (*sic*) the Germans into a future League of Nations."—Ed.]

◆

At a convention held in New York of Orthodox rabbis in America resolutions were adopted warmly praising Great Britain and the other Allies for what they have done for the Jews in Palestine.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Indian "Reformers." July 17.

Lord Lamington asked his Majesty's Government whether there was any precedent for debarring an elector of this country who had committed no offence against the law from speaking in public, and whether they would not reconsider their decision prohibiting Dr. Nair from addressing public meetings or writing to the Press.

Lord Islington replied that the question of prohibiting Indians coming into this country from addressing public meetings on the subject of Indian reforms had received prolonged and careful consideration by the Government. The question was complicated by the former decision in connection with the visit to this country of Mr. Tilak. He agreed with Lord Lamington that Dr. Nair was a gentleman of the highest integrity and loyalty to the Crown. He had stated his intention to combat Mr. Tilak's influence in regard to Home Rule for India, but the Government thought that in imposing restrictions on one they should impose restrictions on the other, and this course was approved by the Prime Minister. He quite admitted that the action taken might be open to criticism, but he hoped Dr. Nair would continue to display that loyalty that had characterised him in the past by abiding faithfully and honourably by the conditions imposed on landing in this country. He was given an unconditional permit before leaving India, but on landing in this country was asked to give an undertaking not to speak on Home Rule.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Prisoners in Turkey. July 11.

Colonel Sir Charles Seely asked what steps the Government were taking to expedite the carrying out of the agreement for the exchange of English and Turkish prisoners of war concluded at Berne in September last?

Mr. James Hope: As I stated on June 24, we have endeavoured to hasten the execution of this agreement by making representations through the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople, the Spanish Ambassador at Vienna, and the British delegate at The Hague Conference. I should be extremely grateful if my hon. and gallant friend could suggest to me in private anything more that could be done. I may add that the agreement was concluded not in September but on December 28.

Mr. Hope, replying to a question put by Lieut.-Colonel Sir F. Hall said he could say nothing fresh on the subject of a further agreement for an exchange of prisoners with Turkey. But with regard to the terrible death-rate among our prisoners in Turkey, it must be borne in mind that the greater number of deaths occurred in the march up country from Kut, and however deplorable the present position, the mortality had not continued on the same scale.

Indian Reform. July 15.

Mr. Montagu (Secretary for India), replying to Colonel Wedgwood, said steps were being taken to embody in draft Bill form the proposals for Indian reform. Asked when he proposed to set up a Standing Committee of the House on Indian affairs, he replied that he could not answer the question until the Government had decided on the policy to be adopted. He could not say whether the draft of the Bill would be completed within three months.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying to Lord Henry Bentinck, stated that as soon as the delegates from The Hague had returned, the question of exchange of prisoners with Turkey would be dealt with.

Colonel Yate asked whether an allowance of money is made by the Dutch Minister at Constantinople to all warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, British and Indian, who are prisoners in Turkey; what the amount is for each camp; and whether he considers the amount adequate?

Mr. Forster: The Dutch Minister at Constantinople has been authorised to make money allowances within certain limits to warrant officers, N.C.O.s, and men, when he thinks it necessary. These limits are considered adequate. I will communicate the limits to my hon. and gallant friend confidentially, if he desires.

Colonel Yate asked Mr. Hope whether he was aware that, owing to the non-arrival of money at a prisoners' camp in Turkey, British prisoners were reduced to selling their clothing and the gold stoppings of their teeth in order to buy food; and whether he would endeavour to arrange for the establishment of an emergency fund at each camp in charge of the senior British officer or non-commissioned officer?

Mr. J. Hope: His Majesty's Government have received a statement to the effect mentioned by my hon. and gallant friend, which was, I believe, from Kedos. It was stated at the same time that, according to letters from that camp, dated February last, the issue of the relief allowance from the Netherlands Legation was three or four months overdue. An inquiry on the subject was made by telegraph of the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople, who replied that according to the receipt signed by the senior officer at Kedos the allowances were received with no such inordinate delay as would appear from the letters in question. The Dutch inspectors will be requested to investigate the origin of the apparent discrepancy. The Netherlands Minister has been consulted by telegraph as to the advisability of establishing emergency funds at the various camps.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The new Military Governor of Athens, General Ynisserlis, has announced his intention of making things unplasant for women who indulge in scaremongering. He will, he says, make a show of them throughout the streets. The idea seems an excellent one, if strictly carried out. In past days small children who told lies—or, shall we say, were guilty of perpetrating terminological inexactitudes?—were made to wear a red flannel "tongue" tied round their necks. How would it be if the scaremongers were treated the same way? *Their* badge of dishonour might be a representation of the "many tongues" with which Dame Rumour is credited.

⁂

For one moment of wild delight on Monday I had hopes of acquiring wealth with ease. An advertisement told me that "certain 1-rupee, 5-rupee, and 10-rupee notes of the Government of India" were "being washed ashore on the South Coast of England," and—well, I saw visions. But, it seems, the cold-blooded authorities have taken certain steps which would render nugatory any efforts on my part to emulate the professional "wreckers" who, I understand, are doing rather well these days. It is almost enough to make me hoist the "Jolly Roger" once more.

⁂

Ever since Herr von Kühlmann ran his infamous bureau for the dissemination of false information in Constantinople I have entertained a particular dislike for him, and his share in the humiliation of Roumania has only intensified the feeling. I am, therefore, frankly delighted that he has fallen, though—I need hardly add—I have no sympathy with those who engineered it. "When rogues fall out," etc. With Kühlmann's qualities as a statesman I am not much concerned, but I do know that his reputation as a man was bad, and deservedly so. His conduct in Bucharest was—well, worthy of a German Blackguard of Rank, shall I say?—and even the well-drilled and docile German Press seems to have got a bit restive about it. And in Constantinople he must have left behind him a reputation beneath contempt, as far as morals are concerned. Now he has failed as a statesman, his request to be allowed to retire having been "immediately granted" by the Kaiser. Yet the fatuous German journals had the audacity recently to compare this poor specimen of a man with our own Foreign Secretary! Morally, intellectually, in any way you may regard them, Mr. Balfour towers above von Kühlmann as a mountain towers above a midden.

⁂

Colonel Yate, who has an aptitude for conveying information in the form of (parliamentary) questions, recently asked the Secretary of State for India:—

> Whether he can state who are the Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hotchner, who are described in the letter addressed by Sir Subramaniya Aiyer, K.C.I.E., to President Wilson, as having graciously consented to leave their home in India in order to convey the letter to President Wilson personally in Washington; what position Mr. and Mrs. Hotchner occupied in India; of what nationality they are by birth; whether they travelled from India to America on a British passport; whether they are now engaged on propaganda work on behalf of the Home Rule for India League in America or elsewhere; and whether they are to be permitted to return to India?

In due time—it was on July 10, I think—Mr. Montagu replied that he understood that the lady and gentleman with the German-sounding name (that was not *his* expression of course; he is always studiously parliamentary) were United States citizens by birth, and that they had lived for some time at Adyar, in Madras. Then came what was to me the really interesting part of the reply. The interesting couple had, said Mr. Montagu, "co-operated in Mrs. Besant's theosophical work. They appear to be giving theosophical lectures in the United States. Mr. Hotchner is said to be at the head of the American section of the Temple of the Rosy Cross or the Brotherhood of the Mystic Star," etc., etc. After that, I was rather surprised to learn that "the question of allowing their return to India would be considered by the Indian Government, if and when they applied for a passport visa." I should have thought it would have been "turned down" without any consideration at all. Has not India enough Rosy Brothers-of-Mystic Stars without importing them from the United States?

Corsair.

A silver wedding gift of £2,000 from Sir Sassoon David will be, by direction of the King and Queen, devoted to the welfare of Indian prisoners of war, and the gift has been made over to the Committee of the Indian Soldiers' Fund for this purpose.

The Hope of a Nation

In the havens of refuge where willing workers toil to bring health and happiness to the war-ravaged Serbian exiles, there are thousands of little children whose tender years have known the privations and horrors of war.

These tiny mites are the hope of Serbia, for one day in the future they will go back to a free Serbia to be the seed of a great new nation built on the ashes of the old. Stay—it is too definite to say that—for it can only come to pass if we, who owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Serbia, determine that

The Children of Serbia
Shall be Preserved!

It is a fact that the infantile death rate among the Serbian exiles is terribly high. Death stalks among these innocent young victims of war and takes an increasingly heavy toll. More doctors and nurses, more hospitals and dispensaries, more food and clothing, more housing accommodation must be provided if the little ones are to be kept alive to repeople the new Serbia.

All *can* be provided if money is forthcoming. The money you subscribe is a message of hope for the Serbians and Serbia because the Serbian Relief Fund can quickly translate it into material aid, into life-giving assistance for Serbian children, and comfort and contentment for their sorrow-laden parents.

Whatever your donation may be—great or small it will be welcomed and gratefully acknowledged—it will play its part in sending succour to those who are in such sore need.

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Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Parcels of clothing for men, women, and children to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE IMPERIAL TOUCH.*

The "Side-Shows" of the Great War of Repingtonian anathema, undertaken by the Imperial Forces of the British Empire, will rank in history as true-blue offspring of the England of Drake, Clive, and Wolff. Not the least of them is the story here told in clear narrative by Mr. Massey, who by this little volume alone justifies his selection by the London Press to be their one and only war correspondent in Egypt. His unvarnished tale starts with the first Turco-German drive on the Suez Canal, and continues with the adoption of the Eastern offensive by the "Egyptian Expeditionary Force," the battle of Romani, the capture of El-Arish, the mile by mile laying of the desert railway, and the battle of Rafa, of January 8, 1917, which cleared the Sinai Peninsula of Turks and Germans, gave us first view of the Promised Land, and facilitated the capture of Gaza and Southern Palestine. The second portion of the book describes the Western Egyptian operations against the Senussi, culminating in the capture of the Siwa Oasis. The Desert Campaigns will no doubt be snowed under, years later, by leviathan volumes whose authors will be independent of the Censor; but all who keep libraries in Egypt, the men who have been through the campaigns, and their proud relatives throughout the Empire will doubtless treasure this early record of the Imperial Touch. The author has a very pleasant style, which can be grim or merry as the narrative demands. He insists in his opening on a protest to those who consider campaigning in the East or West frontiers of Egypt as a picnic compared with the famous mud of Flanders, and his story confirms the protest. He cannot refrain from quoting a gem of criticism attributed to the late Lord Kitchener on the occasion of his first war visit to the Canal: "Are you defending the Canal, or is the Canal defending you?"—whence, of course (*se non é vero é ben trovato*), the abandonment of canal dug-outs and the British entry into Jerusalem. Incidentally the author allows us to see how even in 1916 the new arm of the air made for rapid victory. One quotation may be allowed as a tribute to the boys "down under":—

Battle of Romani, August 4, 1916.—"The Royal Flying Corps opened the ball. . . . Round about Enna the Turks fixed bayonets and prepared to charge, yelling out the cry made for them in Germany: 'Allah, finish Australia.' To this the Light Horsemen replied: 'Allah, you bastards! We will give you Allah.'"

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Three Anzacs in the War." By Lieut. Eustace A. Dunn, A.I.F. (London: Skeffington and Son, Limited. 6s. net.)

"With the Austrian Army in Galicia." By Octavian C. Taslauanu. (London: Skeffington and Son, Limited. 6s. net.)

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* "The Desert Campaigns." By W. T. Massey (official Correspondent of London Newspapers with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force). With Illustrations by James McBey (official Artist) and Map. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. net.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Seventeen outlaws in the Lamia revolt in Greece have been proclaimed brigands.

Six hundred Greek Volunteers and Reservists from Egypt arrived in Athens on July 11. They were given an enthusiastic reception.

It has been declared in Vienna that the Austro-Hungarian Government has decided to take the whole of this year's Serbian harvest.

Turkish delegates from Kazan and environs—namely, Yusuff, Muzaferoff, and Osman Tokombetoff—have left Constantinople for Berlin.

Essad Pasha has left Salonika for Paris, where he will undergo an operation for cataract, subsequently joining his wife in Switzerland.

It has been decided by the Roumanian Cabinet to solve the Jewish question on the widest basis. The right of appeal to the Supreme Court will be given to those who have suffered any disadvantage.

The Jewish Correspondence Bureau at The Hague learns from Budapest that the representatives of the Jewish organisations in Germany have accepted the invitation of the Turkish Government to discuss the Palestine question.

The cruiser Mejidieh, which was mined on March 31, 1915, in the Gulf of Odessa, and subsequently raised by the Russians, has arrived at Constantinople. The cruiser was seized by the Germans after the capture of Sebastopol.

Representatives of the Entente Powers, says the *Vossische Zeitung*, have presented to Roumania claims for compensation for war material, bought and paid for by the Entente, which is still in the possession of the Roumanian Government.

A refugee reports that the Austrian garrison at Kragujevatz recently mutinied in consequence of the bad food supplied to it, and killed many officers. The mutiny was suppressed after a regular battle in which machine-guns and artillery were used.

Professor Sotiriades, of Athens University, who lately made a prolonged lecturing tour in the Peloponnesus for the purpose of enlightening the people on the war aims of the Entente, has arrived at Salonika on his way to visit the Greek Army on the Macedonian front.

The Government of India is considering the desirability of establishing four copyright libraries in India—one each at Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, and Bombay—to each of which it will be incumbent on the publisher of every book to send a copy of his publication for record and future reference.

Replying to birthday congratulations from the Serbian Government, King Peter said: "I put my trust in God and in the help of our Allies that we may soon join in celebrating the liberation and union of our people which has suffered so much, but whose courage has never been shaken."

In commenting upon the resignation of Herr von Kühlmann, the entire Turkish Press expresses regret at his departure from office, but the *Tasvir-i-Evkiar* adds: "Let us point out that German policy has not been completely infallible regarding our affairs during the control of Herr von Kühlmann."

The Maharaja Jam Sahib Ranjitsinhji, of Nawanagar, has sent the following telegram to Mr. Montagu, Secretary for India: "Please accept sincere congratulations on Indian reforms recommended by yourself and Viceroy to Parliament. My gratitude in special for recommendations on behalf of Native States, and my Order wish your progressive, enlightened, and generous scheme every success."

Mr. T. C. Wiggin, Superintendent of Minor Roads in the North Central Province of Ceylon, was killed on May 18 in the Tamankadua district of that island. Hearing that a rogue elephant was haunting Yakure, where it had killed a boy, he tracked it down, and after firing several shots without effect, hid behind a bush, where he was discovered and trampled so badly that he died while his servants were carrying him in from the jungle.

On the occasion of the name-day of King Peter of Serbia, M. Pasitch, the Prime Minister, sent to his Majesty a message of congratulation, in which he expressed the wish that "the Almighty may guard you so that you may be able to see the fruits of the sacrifices which the Serbian people have made for the greatness of their country and for the liberation and union of the Jugoslavs." In his reply, the King warmly thanked M. Pasitch and the Government for their message.

◆

BEYROUT COLLEGE.

A New York correspondent writes (July 1, 1918):—"The latest news from Syria, by way of New York, as late as the middle of April told of commencement (commencement exercises?) at the Syrian Protestant College at Beyrout as taking place two months earlier than usual. There were many references to the expectation of the college opening in the fall, and to plans to provide food enough for a boarding department next year through the courtesy of certain officials. The number of students enrolled reached 700 during the year, largely students of the Preparatory Department. At the date of writing there were not lacking covert references to sickness, implying cases of hunger-typhus and disease of the same nature."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. July	1918. July		1336. Shawal	5678. Ab.
19	6	Friday	10	10
20	7	Saturday........	11	11
21	8	**Sunday**	12	12
22	9	Monday	13	13
23	10	Tuesday	14	14
24	11	Wednesday	15	15
25	12	Thursday	16	16

Viscount Hardinge has arrived at Harrogate.

Sir Roper and Lady Parkington have left Brighton for Harrogate.

Lord Lamington arrived at 26, Wilton Crescent on Wednesday from Lanark.

The King has sent a donation of £100 to the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

Prince George of Serbia has left London for Paris, where he expects to stay.

M. Voyslav Marinkovitch, formerly Serbian Minister of Commerce, has arrived in London from Corfu.

Mr. G. Paddock, the American Consul at Tabriz, has reached Teheran in safety with a party of Europeans and Americans.

Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, has been awarded by the French Government the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.

King Alexander of Greece left Athens on Friday for Salonika, whence he is proceeding to the front to review the Greek troops.

On July 15, at 153, Banbury Road, Oxford, a son was born to Captain Leland Buxton, of the Arab Bureau, Cairo, and Mrs. Buxton.

We understand that Mr. Franklin E. Hoskins has been asked to become Honorary Director of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund's work in the Holy Land.

H.E. the High Commissioner in Egypt and Lady Wingate recently paid a visit to Jerusalem, arriving on June 11, and spending some days in visiting the principal historic sites.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Second-Lieut. Kenneth Francis Howlett, eldest son of Mr. Francis R. Howlett, Toppesfield, Maidstone, and grandson of the late General Sir Arthur Howlett, K.C.B., I.S.C., and Helen Boyce, eldest daughter of the late David B. Fairbairn, Balerno, Midlothian.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. J. Keith Edwards, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Edwards, of Mells Lodge, Halesworth, Suffolk, and Mrs. Osborne Roberts, widow of the late Osborne Roberts and twin sister of the Hon. Mrs. Melton Astley, and daughter of the late General G. A. Strover, Commissioner of Pegu, Burma.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel N. M. S. Irwin, D.S.O., M.C., the Essex Regiment, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Irwin, Motihari, India, and Margaret Mullock, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel S. G. Mullock, Essex Regiment, will take place at St. Marylebone Parish Church at noon next Saturday, July 20. Friends will be welcome at the church.

On July 15, at St. Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham, the marriage took place of the Rev. Thomas Wentworth Pym, D.S.O., Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge, temporary Chaplain to the Forces, second son of the late Walter Ruthven Pym, Bishop of Bombay, and Dora Olive, elder daughter of the late William Ivens, of Harboro' Parva, Rugby, and of Mrs. Ivens, 16, Victoria Road, Harborne.

The Indian representatives at the Imperial War Council and members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India were entertained at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on Wednesday by the London Moslem League. In the absence abroad of the Aga Khan, Syed Ameer Ali presided, and had on his right the Maharaja of Patiala, and on his left Sir Satyendra Sinha. Among others present were:—Sahibzada Aftab, Ahmed Khan, Sir P. Pattani, and Sir P. Bhupendra Nath Basu (members of the India Council), Sir Abbas A. L. Baig, Lord Lamington, Sir Theodore Morrison, Sir M. M. Bhownagree, Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, Sir James Dunlop-Smith, Sir Denison Ross, Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., Colonel A. C. Yate, Mr. A. S. M. Anik, and Mr. M. H. Ispahani.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Harold Thompson, C.F.A., eldest son of Captain John Pickering Thompson, A.S.C., and Mrs. Thompson, The Orchards, Longparish, Hants, and Miss Georgina Yule, second daughter of the late Andrew Yule, of Calcutta, and Mrs. Yule, 24, North Gate, Regent's Park, will take place, leave permitting, at 2 on July 20, at St. Stephen's Church, Avenue Road, Regent's Park.

The marriage took place quietly in London, on the 3rd inst., between Captain Nigel Laurie Mitchell-Carruthers, of the Indian Army, son of the Rev. W. and Mrs. Mitchell-Carruthers, and Mrs. C. O'Brien-Butler, widow of Captain C. O'Brien-Butler, Royal Irish Regiment, and daughter of Mr. C. O'B. Jameson, of Monasterevan, Co. Kildare. The Rev. W. Mitchell-Carruthers officiated, and the bride was given away by her uncle, Brigadier-General S. B. Jameson.

Last Friday, being the birthday of the King of Serbia, by command of the King, Mr. R. F. Synge, Deputy-Marshal of the Ceremonies, called on the Serbian Minister at the Legation to offer his Majesty's congratulations. His Excellency thanked Mr. Synge for King George's message, the full text of which was telegraphed to King Peter. During the day cards were left on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson.

A reception was given by the Northbrook Society at 21, Cromwell Road on July 11, in honour of Mr. Montagu. Mr. Austin Low, chairman of the society, welcomed Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Montagu. Others present included :—The Maharaja of Patiala and his staff, Sir S. P. Sinha, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, Lady Sydenham, Lord and Lady Carmichael, Sir Charles and Lady Bayley, Sir P. O. and Lady Pattani, the Rt. Hon. and Mrs. Ameer Ali, Sir Murray and Lady Hammick, General Sir Herbert and Lady Cox, Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan, Sir William and Lady Duke, Sir Theodore Morison, Col. Sir Havelock and Lady Charles, Sir Marshall and Lady Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Currie, Sir Frederick Fryer, Lady Curzon Wyllie, Sir Edward and Lady Chamier, Sir Richard Stapley, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Sir Herbert and Lady Holmwood, Sir Arthur and Lady Hertzel, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, the Hon. Gertrude Kinnaird, Mr. N. C. Sen, and Mr. G. R. S. Mead (secretary).

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Djambolet Bey, the former Turkish Minister at Stockholm, has been appointed Turkish Minister of the Interior.

The Lord Mayor has received a telegram from General Sir Francis Wingate, the High Commissioner of Egypt, stating that Egypt has contributed £2,870 in response to his appeal for France's Day.

The Rev. C. G. T. Colson, having resigned the Secretariat of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund to take up an Army Chaplaincy in France, Mr. Edmund Bourne, late Secretary of the Milnese Mission, has been appointed by the committee to the vacant post.

In the *Vossische Zeitung* Herr Georg Bernhard maintains that the greatest influence is still exercised by the Roumanian Queen. "On the balcony in Jassy she waves the French Tricolor, and she makes no secret of her belief that the Treaty of Bucharest will have to be revised."

On Monday, at a meeting of the Persia Society, held at 22, Albemarle Street, Mr. Alexander Finn delivered a most interesting lecture on Life in Persia some thirty years ago. We hope to give a report of the lecture in our next issue. The Persia Society has closed its course of lectures and discussions for the summer, but will reopen in October. For the autumn and following months an active propaganda has been prepared. Papers will be read, and probably a news sheet, containing items relating to Persia, will be issued by the society. Branches will be opened in the provinces. The object of the Persia Society is to make the country better known, and its secretary, Captain Hogg, 22, Albemarle Street, will be glad to give information to anyone desiring it.

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At Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, the King inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Second-Lieutenant H. W. Moore and Second Lieutenant R. B. Campbell. The men come from the Ranchi district of Bihar and from the United Provinces, and are on short leave from the Western Front.

The fifty-fourth annual meeting of the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army was held at 25, Haymarket on July 16, Lieut.-Colonel Alex. Grubb, J.P. (chairman), presiding. The report stated that the financial position was very satisfactory, and, despite the constant increase in the cost of living and management, there was still a balance. A large house at the very gates of the Royal School had been secured by the committee on favourable terms, and adapted as a real home for the youngest children. Educational work and progress had been very satisfactory. Lieut.-Colonel A. Grubb and Major-General Sir Edmund Leach, K.C.B., were re-elected on the committee, and Surgeon-General Sir F. W. Trevor and Major-General W. F. Cleeve elected.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

General Gramat, a Frenchman, has been appointed Chief of Staff to the Greek Army.

Mr. Landale Johnston has been appointed Sessions Judge of Kumaon in place of the late Mr. W. J. D. Burkitt.

Colonel A. Frantzis, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Greek Legation, has arrived and taken up his duties.

The *London Gazette* announces the appointment of Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) C. A. Fowler, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army, to be major-general.

OBITUARY.

Mr. James Dyer Tremlett, late of the Bengal Civil Service, who has died in the eighty-second year of his age, joined the Service in 1860, and was from 1884 till his retirement in 1889 a Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab.

Major-General William Allan, colonel of the Welsh Regiment, died at Bidborough, Kent, last Friday, aged eighty-six. With the Welsh Regiment he took part in the battles of the Alma and Inkerman, the assault on the Redan, and the siege and fall of Sebastopol. In 1890 he was brigadier-general commanding the troops in Cyprus.

We regret to announce that Prince Mirza Mohammed Ali Khan, Ala es-Sultaneh, G.C.V.O., father of the Persian Minister in London, died on June 24 in Teheran. The Prince, who was eighty years old, came of a distinguished Azerbaijan family, and had played an important part in his country's affairs for many years. He had been Persian Consul-General in India, in Baghdad, and in Tiflis, representing his country's interests in the Caucasus from 1882 to 1890, when he was sent to London as Minister. In the latter capacity he was in England almost fourteen years, and during that time he did all that was possible to increase the friendship of the two countries. In 1904 he was summoned to Teheran, but the following year he returned here as Ambassador Extraordinary, having been given the title of Prince by Muzaffar ed-Din Shah and entrusted by him with a special mission to King Edward. In 1906 he was summoned to Persia again and appointed Foreign Minister; and, though he returned to England as Special Envoy at the Coronation, his work thereafter lay chiefly in his own country. He was more than once Prime Minister, and whether in or out of office he served his country well. Sincere sympathy will be felt by the many friends in this country of H.E. the Persian Minister in the loss which he has sustained.

ANGLO-HELLENIC LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League was held on Thursday at King's College, London, the occasion being taken for addresses by Dr. Pember Reeves, who presided, and Professor Gilbert Murray. H.E. the Greek Minister also spoke.

Professor Gilbert Murray, in the course of his remarks, said that the true heritage of Greece had nothing to do with empire or territory; it was a spiritual heritage, and did not belong to Greece alone. If we wanted to read an inward philosophic account of the deterioration of character and exacerbation of feeling that took place during a long war, we had only to consult the pages of Thucydides. If we wished to turn to war's more comic and less edifying aspect, we found in Aristophanes a description of all the minor difficulties of daily life, all its limitations and absurdities. There we even found jokes about the Food Controller. If we thought how we were to build a better world when the war was over, it was not possible to do that without going back to the writings of ancient Greece and thinking again on the lines of Plato.

Of modern Greece, Professor Murray said that among the Balkan nations she was the most free, the best educated, and the most civilised. Her history was less stained with crime. Politically, the problems which she had been called upon to solve were of peculiar difficulty. The Greek nation was bound to expand, and had continually, though interruptedly, expanded against the pressure of stronger nations all round.

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FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1918.

INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

We have given in a previous issue a summary of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms, and we have now to express our opinion of the measures put forward by its authors, Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, and accepted as regards the main lines by their associates in the recent enquiry. With us it is a question of measures and not of aims, for, as our readers are aware, we have accepted the declaration of policy made last August as a settled fact, and we start with the postulate that India's feet are to be set on the road leading to responsible government, but that the pace of her journey is to be regulated so that her energies shall not be overtaxed. Further, we accept cordially the conclusion that nothing is to be gained by proceeding further on the lines of the Morley-Minto reforms; their essence is the absence of responsibility, and no conceivable development of their familiar features can lead to the object in view. We agree also that this conclusion leads necessarily to some form of administrative dualism during the inevitable period of transition; if complete responsible government is, as we postulate, to be reached by degrees, the functions of the administration must be divided for a time between the old executive and the new, and we have to consider whether the particular form of dualism now recommended is wise and workable. A complete criticism of it would fall under three main heads, the introduction of responsibility, which is essentially a matter of the franchise, the precise division of functions, and the working of the machine, but as regards the first and second of these the materials for judgment are still incomplete, since their determination is left to be worked out by committees. We are far from complaining of this feature of the scheme, which affords some grounds for hope that the various provinces will not be forced into a framework of administrative uniformity, but until the committees are set to work it would be useless to go into these matters in detail. There remains the working of the administrative machine, and here the details given in the Report are sufficient to enable a comprehensive judgment to be formed. The dualism is to be internal, that is to say, there are not to be two distinct administrations at work in the same area, but there is to be a single government with two branches, Ministers exercising the functions for which they are responsible, a Council exercising the reserved functions, and a Governor in charge of both branches, driving Councillors and Ministers as a team, and presenting to the public an appearance of unity which may or may not be in accordance with the realities of the situation. This is the essence of the scheme, and we proceed to its examination, passing by many topics which, however important in themselves, must still be classed as secondary.

Let us admit at once that the scheme is open to many of the objections which are now being urged. It is cumbrous, it is costly, it is far in advance of any really popular demand; it will embarass the men who have to work it, and annoy many of the men who have to vote; it will certainly not conduce to administrative efficiency as the term is understood in India, and the expert bureaucrat may fairly join the full-blooded demagogue in rejecting it with scorn and contumely. But when all these admissions have been made, the case is not closed. The authors of the scheme can plead that, confronted with a problem of unexampled magnitude, they have faced each difficulty in turn, and that, whatever the defects of their scheme may be, it will at least lead to the desired result, and set India's feet on that road which in all her wanderings she has never yet trodden. With those of us who are neither bureaucrats nor demagogues, that plea will carry weight, and taking the scheme as a whole, our considered opinion is that, given an appropriate division of functions and a sufficiently extended franchise, there is only one reservation to be made before we accept the main lines as a reasonable attempt to attain the end in view.

That single reservation is, however, by no means unimportant. As we read the Report, the writers when confronted with each successive difficulty, have thrown the burden of its solution on the provincial Governor, and so far as we can see, they have not paused to consider the cumulative effect of these items, the natural result being that the burden has become too great to be borne. If the scheme is not to break down, each province must be provided with a Governor of quite exceptional qualities. The Governor with his Council will remain responsible to Britain and to the Empire for the maintenance of law and order, a responsibility which will be no lighter under the new system than now; the standard of administration must, therefore, at all costs be maintained, while at the same time the level of statesmanship must be considerably raised. Hitherto, the Central Government has in practice assumed the duty of deciding on questions of policy, or at least has interfered to such an extent as to minimise the responsibilities of the Governor regarded as a statesman, but the provincial autonomy which is a feature of the new scheme will render this course impossible in future, and the Governor must have a greatly-increased share in determining the policy to be followed in the province under his control. Again, he must be even more of a politician than present-day Governors have learned to be, adept in leading and persuading, with a genius for compromise, and a certain flexibility of fibre, not very commonly found in association with the qualities of a firm administrator. Lastly, he will be called on to decide a variety of questions relating to the division of the provincial functions, and particularly the provincial resources, and he will need for their solution that calm and detached attitude which is sought for, though not always found, in the judicial sphere. Each province will require then not merely a wise statesman, a strong administrator, and a supple politician, but also an impartial judge, and the combination of qualities is by no means common. We do not assert that the resources of the British Empire are inadequate to the supply of Governors of the calibre required, but we are not confident that they will be secured by the existing methods of selection. Looking back over the last thirty years, we can recall no period when the personality of the Governor would not have imperilled the new scheme in at least one province of India, and there have been times when failures would have been more numerous than successes. It is, indeed, the fashion just now to build high hopes on a new world after the war, but we see no grounds for thinking that human nature will undergo a sudden change, and we anticipate that high appointments will continue to be determined in great measure by a consideration of competing claims, whether personal, Service or political, though the nature of the claims considered may possibly undergo some modification. Consideration of claims has not hitherto proved uniformly successful in providing India with the Governors she has needed, and whatever promises may be made, we do not believe that any guarantee of suitable appointments can be given for the future. In a word, we hold that the success of the scheme depends on better Governors than India is likely to get, and we urge its reconsideration from this point of view: if the burden is too heavy for the men who will have to bear it, the risk of serious failure becomes too great to be incurred.

BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST.

By JAMES D. BOURCHIER.

Sir Thomas Holdich's interesting and suggestive book ("Boundaries in Europe and the Near East"—Macmillan and Co.), which deals with the important question of territorial readjustment after the war, comes as a welcome contrast and corrective to much of the partisan literature which has latterly appeared in connection with this important and intricate subject, and will largely help to dispel the confusion which has thereby been created in the public mind. Appeals to the prevailing war spirit tend to deaden the sense of justice with which the grave problem of future frontiers in the Near East, and especially in the Balkans, should be approached, and the appearance of a dispassionate and scientific examination of the difficulties with which the question is surrounded is, therefore, opportune and timely.

In the outlining of new boundaries the author bases his views on two main principles—"firstly, of harmonizing results with the will of the people concerned, and, secondly, of the acquisition of strong scientific boundaries." As the root cause of boundary violation and aggression—the overflow of surplus populations—is universal and based on laws of nature, it can only be dealt with by an international agreement and fair geographical adjustment. It is necessary to divide nations into separate geographical units in such a manner as to set definite and scientific barriers between countries liable to mutual aggression. It is further necessary to give each country space and opportunity for internal development, such as may remove all incentive for discontent and desire for encroachment on other preserves. The first difficulty is to define the real basis of nationality; racial affinity cannot always be counted upon, and ties of religion and culture are negligible as binding forces; patriotism, on the other hand—*i.e.*, the love of a country—is the most potent of binding forces where it is strongly developed. But geographical environment, the author thinks, is what has mainly shaped and moulded the character of the various peoples of the Near East; and, this being so, they should be given, in the making of frontiers, a geographical environment shaped to suit their idiosyncracies and needs, in order that contentment and peace may be attained.

What, then, are the fundamental conditions of natural environment which conduce to the development of strong nations? Affinity of race and sentiment being "collateral questions," what are the primary necessities of geographical *habitat*? The first of these is sufficient space, the advantages of which in the fusion of diverse populations are illustrated in the United States and in the Argentine Republic. Next to space come conditions of cultivable land, means of communication with other countries, and open ports for the exchange of produce. Every country, to be contented and happy, wants its waterway outlet, either by sea or river. Finally, the natural boundaries must be well defined and as strongly defensive as nature or art can make them. In illustration of these principles, Sir Thomas Holdich gives a general description of the natural configuration of the Balkan Peninsula, which, unfortunately, is very inadequately supplemented by the map which appears as a frontispiece to his book. The important mountain barriers of the Carpathian and Rhodope ranges are duly delineated, but the still more important Dinaric system, which bars access from the interior of the Peninsula to the Adriatic, unaccountably disappears. The map, it may be added, is open to further criticism as representing only the Jugoslav and Roumanian national claims to territorial expansion, while those of the Greeks, Bulgarians, and Albanians are not indicated. A map showing the author's proposals for the readjustment of territories would have been very helpful; it is necessary to glean these one by one by reference to the several lectures which make up the book, and no opportunity is afforded of judging how the realization of his suggestions would affect the general political contour of the Balkan Peninsula.

Beginning with Italy, whose aspirations "must be regarded as inseparable from Balkan considerations," Sir Thomas Holdich observes that she is remarkably well provided with sea and mountain frontiers, and to this circumstance he attributes the might and magnificence of the ancient Roman Empire. But Italy aims at the command of the Adriatic and the possession of Trieste and Fiume, and it was mainly with these objects that she entered upon the war. Her aims are regarded with sympathy by the author, who believes that the Italian element in Istria and along the Dalmatian coast is "quite strong enough to warrant the claims of Italy on the score of race affinity." On what data he relies for this statement he does not say: it conflicts with the generally accepted view that the Italian population of Dalmatia is an almost infinitesimal minority, and that in Istria the Slovene and Serbo-Croat populations form the majority. In the town of Trieste only the Italians are more numerous than the Slovenes, who predominate in the suburbs. But the importance of the natural frontier provided by the "Dinaric backbone" appears to weigh most with the author, who seems disposed to assign not only Istria, Trieste, Fiume, and the Dalmatian coast to Italy, but also, in view of the importance of assuring her command of the Adriatic, approves of her appropriation of Albanian Valona at the gateway of that sea. In this way, he hopes, Southern and South-Eastern Europe will be protected against the Germanic advance. Whether he proposes the incorporation of Dalmatia with Italy or the independence of that province is not quite clear. On page 38 he suggests that Italy's eastern boundary should be defined by positions on the Dalmatian coast commanding the shores of the Adriatic, on page 67 he supports the independence of Dalmatia, and on page 73 he urges that this maritime province should become at least an Italian protectorate.

These proposals are open to criticism from the point of view of nationalities, as the author admits. So far as the Adriatic ports are concerned, their somewhat cosmopolitan character, like that of all the maritime towns in the Peninsula, may be allowewd. But how does Sir Thomas Holdich propose to satisfy the just claims of the Western Balkan nations to free access to the sea? He gives Cattaro, the natural port of Montenegro and her possession in the Middle Ages, to Italy, and accords to her only Castelnuovo, a small port on the Cattaro fiord, the inconveniently situated Antivari and the Boyana outlet in part controlled by Albania, now an Italian protectorate. As Italy will dominate the Cattaro inlet, and as she will possess Spizza, which dominates Antivari, she will practically control all the Montenegrin outlets. His treatment of Albania, which must some day aspire to independence, is still more severe. Of her two ports he assigns Valona to Italy and Durazzo to Serbia. Albania will remain a maritime State without ports; her only consolation will be the joint control of the Bogena outlet with Montenegro: this at best will only profit the districts in the extreme north of the country, and, for the present at least, to a slight extent, as the river is only navigable for small vessels In view of the immense advantages which he accords to Serbia on the Ægean coast, the author might well have left "the poor man's lamb" to Albania. It is difficult, however, to believe that the States of the future Jugoslavia would ever be satisfied with Durazzo as their only outlet to the Adriatic. Croatia without Fiume would be in a sorry plight, and the road from Durazzo, as the author states, is not of much use as a commercial highway to Serbia. Is it necessary to conclude that the Dinaric chain must always remain an impenetrable barrier to commercial access to the Adriatic? There is at least an important passage already open through the valley of the Narenta. Trieste is of such vital importance to Austria and to Hungary (if she loves Fiume) that any change of ownership can only be maintained in future at the point of the sword.

With regard to the future Jugoslav federation, consisting of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dalmatia, Croatia, Southern Styria, Southern Carinthia, Slavonia, Syrmia, and possibly a part of Carniola, Sir Thomas Holdich suggests no new frontiers, regarding existing boundaries as satisfying scientific conditions. On the south, however, he proposes great changes. He accords the whole basin of the Vardar to Serbia, including the port of Salonika and as much of Macedonian territory as will ensure its protection. The new boundary should enclose the whole basin of the Bistritza, starting from the Grammos peaks on the Albanian frontier and following the "great southern divide" (apparently the mountains forming the northern

WHITE HORSE WHISKY
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE.
KING OF SPAIN

boundary of Thessaly) to the Gulf of Salonika. On the east the new boundary would start from the tri-junction of Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, near Strummitza (as proposed by the Bucharest Treaty), and follow the eastern rim of the basins of the Struma and Mesta to the present boundary between Greece and Bulgaria, giving Serres and Kavala to Serbia. The proposal, which aims at satisfying the requirements of "a Greater Serbia, the premier State in a Jugoslav federation," with regard to new commercial outlets, will undoubtedly be welcomed by the Government at Corfu, but it takes no account whatever of nationalities, for the Bistritza valley (notwithstanding its name) and the coast line, including the Chalcidice Peninsula, are Greek; the Vardar valley is Bulgarian, and the indigenous population of Salonika is mainly Turkish and Jewish. Sir Thomas denies that there is any principle of homogeneous nationality to be found in Macedonia, but in this he is at variance with the principal authorities on the subject. For the northern frontier of Jugoslavia he provisionally accepts the Drave, and draws a line from near the head of that river to Fiume, which port, he thinks, Italy might claim, were it not the only Adriatic port open to the northern provinces (States?) of the Jugoslav federation. He appears to disallow the Jugoslav claim to the Torontal and to the region between the Theiss and the Danube.

With regard to Bulgaria, Sir Thomas Holdich points out the advantages she enjoys from her territorial compactness, quadrilateral boundary, and naturally defensive frontiers. Her only weak point is the artificial frontier with Roumania (drawn by the Bucharest Treaty). With the extension of Bulgarian territory to the mouth of the Danube—*i.e.*, the annexation of the Dobruja—this weakness, the author says, would disappear; consistency would require him to approve of the change, but he is naturally influenced by a feeling of delicacy towards Roumania. In regard to the strip of coast line left to Bulgaria at Bucharest, he remarks that it is singularly devoid of good harbours and ports, but he nevertheless holds that, if Bulgaria can construct a railway line to Porto Lagos (now a fishing village), she will be "hardly justified" in claiming Kavalla. At the same time he admits that, should Bulgaria acquire Kavalla, it would become her principal seaport. This indeed is only what we might expect, owing to her lack of any good harbour on the Ægean coast and the presence of a mountain barrier forbidding communication with the sea. Sir Thomas Holdich has no proposals to make with regard to future Bulgarian frontiers. The Bulgarian claim to Macedonia has no meaning for him, as it is based on nationality, and he regards the population of that country as a mere amalgam. He would approve, indeed, of a new frontier between Bulgaria and Serbia formed by the watershed between the Vardar and the Struma. This would give Kavalla and Serres to Bulgaria, while Serbia would have Salonika, and a kind of equilibrium would thus be attained; but he thinks that, for political reasons, this will not be carried out. In general he is fair and even sympathetic towards the Bulgarians. What had the Powers of the Entente, he asks, done to help Bulgaria in the hour of adversity, when the Treaty of Bucharest left her shorn of the greater part of the fruits of hard-won victory over Turkey "We must remember that it was Bulgaria who started the crusade on behalf of the Christian provinces of Turkey, and it was a well-prepared and hard-fighting Bulgaria that took the field. . . . It was the indomitable spirit of the Bulgarian peasant soldier, his hardness and his bravery, that was chiefly responsible for the defeat of the Turks." What was the result? "Bulgaria was frankly despoiled of very nearly all she had gained." After pointing out that the Treaty of Bucharest has been a signal failure, and that its effect was to sow the seeds of another war, Sir Thomas Holdich continues:—"No country in the world would have accepted the position into which Bulgaria was forced without a real (if unexpressed) determination to achieve *revanche* on the first opportunity. . . No other course could possibly have been expected of her." In view of the anti-Bulgarian philippics to which we are frequently treated, the author does well to remind us that "in the matter of savage barbarity there is nothing to choose between Greek or Serbian, Turk or Bulgarian, Balkan Moslem or Balkan Christian, and that it is to be found ingrained even in the highest product of Mid-European *Kultur* and philosophy." "The Bulgarian is neither better nor worse than his neighbours, and Bulgaria is bound from her geographical position to be powerful in any Balkan coalition. Therefore, it seems better in our own interests that Bulgaria should be strong and friendly."

Of Roumania Sir Thomas Holdich writes that she can claim a certain priority of interest owing to the extent of her territories, which exceed those of any other Balkan State, and the development of her commerce; he also appears to acknowledge the Roumanian claim to descent from Roman colonists, which is now treated with some scepticism by scientific writers. The Roumanians are most probably the descendants of Latinized provincials, with here and there some local admixture of Roman blood, especially in the Carpathians. Community of language, sentiment, and religion forms a better basis for the Roumanian claim to Transylvania than the assertion that that province was the original home of the race. This claim Sir Thomas Holdich regards as comparatively weak, while he attaches greater importance to the national pretensions to the Bukovina and Bessarabia. In the former province the Little Russian (Ukrainian) and Jewish elements are considerable; in the latter there is a genuine and fairly homogeneous Roumanian element, except in the southern districts. Of all the countries in the Peninsula, Roumania, as a buffer State between Austria-Hungary and Russia, needs strong defensive frontiers. In the Bukovina she would acquire a mountain stronghold of great military value; Bessarabia would make an important contribution to her fighting strength, but its eastern boundary, the Dniester, is not perhaps preferable as a defensive feature to her present boundary, the Pruth. The boundary with Bulgaria, which she acquired by the Treaty of Bucharest, though insisted on for strategical reasons, is, in the author's opinion, of no military significance whatever. Although rivers, as has been proved in the recent war, possess little defensive value as compared with mountains—the Germans were held up for a long time in the Carpathians, but, together with the Bulgarians, crossed the Danube with comparative ease—Roumania, if she loses the Dobruja, will gain the river as a frontier, and must balance this advantage, though coupled with the loss of complete control of the estuary, against the disadvantage of her former weak frontier. On the other hand, Transylvania is indefensible on the west, and, unless Austria-Hungary ceases to be dangerous, would it be wise for Roumania to part with the great defensive barrier of the Carpathians in order to occupy an exposed region?

Dealing with Greece and Albania, Sir Thomas Holdich observes that, owing to the fascination of her language, her history, and her beauty, Greece has always been treated by our politicians with a weakness which has almost amounted to political flirtation. Albania has also received a somewhat similar indulgence, and it seems almost improper to discuss hard facts in relation to these favoured nations. In both countries, and more especially in Albania, mountain barriers, by hindering communications, have produced much local independence of sentiment, and many persons are disposed to regard Albania as for the present at least incapable of self-government. To this it may be replied that a cantonal system like that of Switzerland, with a central Parliament, would probably be best adapted to present conditions. Owing to the absence of roads, sea communication along the coast is as essential to the economic development of Albania as a central trunk line is to that of other countries, and this would seem to be an additional reason why her only remaining port should not be assigned to Serbia. The author seems scarcely aware that in Albania religious differences count for less than in any country of the Peninsula, except perhaps Bulgaria. He notes the fact that it was a Greek bishop who ex-communicated the Albanian language, but omits to state that the Young Turks did practically the same thing. He rightly observes, however, that conversion to Islam has not made a Turk of the Albanian.

Sir Thomas Holdich justifies his proposal to transfer Greek Macedonia (as set up by the Bucharest Treaty) almost *in toto* to Serbia on the ground that, owing to the great mixture of races, ethnology may be dismissed in dealing with problems of geographical redistribution. The claim of Serbia to access to the sea cannot, of course, be denied, but the question would wear a different aspect if he would allow her to possess a sufficiency of ports on the Adriatic. Coast lines, he points out, now acquire an increased importance owing to the development of submarine warfare, and it is impossible to say how far Greece in the unregenerate days of her monarchy has not contributed to the destruction of the transports and liners of the Allies. Greece is essentially a maritime country; she possesses the nucleus of a powerful fleet, and must be reckoned with in the Balkan settlement. In addition to the seaports mentioned by the author, Greece possesses excellent harbours at Poros, Navarino, Corfu, and especially at Suda, in Crete; he seems to confound Crete, which he thinks has been refused by Greece, with Cyprus. With a view to the security of our communications with the East, we should maintain friendly relations with Greece; though we owe nothing to the Greece of recent history, we may owe much to her in future, and we must, therefore, satisfy her claims to compensation for the loss of Macedonia. She should have Crete (which, however, she has already), the province of Adrianople, and the "hinterland of the Black Sea," apparently even Varna and Burgos. There is no other alternative, the author thinks, unless to allow the Turks to remain or to permit Bulgaria to annex the rich province of Adrianople (accorded to her by the Treaty of London, drawn up by Great Britain). The idea of the author evidently is that Bulgaria will remain permanently hostile, which would certainly be the case if his suggestion was carried out. The claims of Greece in Asia Minor the author considers visionary, because he disregards the claims of nationalities; they may be excessive, but they should be satisfied in reason.

Sir Thomas Holdich writes rather as a geographer and a soldier than as a student of nationalities, and some of his conclusions may, therefore, seem strange to those who are familiar with the ethnology of the Balkan Peninsula. His book also contains interesting and valuable chapters on the Czechs and Slovaks, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Alsace-Lorraine, but space forbids criticism of them.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Palestine.

The *Menorah Journal* (New York) for June contains a number of articles grouped under the heading "Palestine Regained—What Then?" in which various well-known people express their views on this interesting subject. Viscount Bryce comes first. He says very truly, that "those who have sympathised with the sufferings which the Jews have had to endure in Eastern Europe, and who have admired the constancy with which they have clung to the venerable traditions of their race and faith, are glad to see that the fulfilment of the chief among their hopes seems now attainable—the hope that a part of the people of Israel might find a safe home in the land consecrated by their most sacred memories, and might be able to restore it to its long lost prosperity."

A very different view of the case is taken by Professor Morris Jastrow, Junr. He writes quite frankly:—"To my mind the establishment of a Jewish State, from the point of view that the Jews constitute a nation that should be given the opportunity of developing a national life, is fraught with the greatest possible dangers to the Jews and to the religious peace of the world." His article proceeds:—

In the first place, to hand over Palestine to the Jews, as the programme of the Nationalistic and Political Zionists demands, is to run counter to one of the fundamental issues involved in the war, namely, disposing of a country without the consent of those who live in it and who are by virtue of that fact its citizens. Palestine does not belong to the Jews; it belongs to those who live in the country. Even from the historical point of view it is not specifically the possession of the Jews. Long before the Hebrews came there, it was populated by a variety of groups who may be conveniently classed under the general designation of Arabs; and besides the Arabs, the population of Palestine also included many elements that were not Semitic. The ancient Hebrews conquered a *portion* of Palestine, dispossessing the earlier inhabitants, and, according to conditions prevailing in antiquity, the Hebrews became the owners and rulers, until they, in turn, were conquered by other peoples and deprived of their independence. We cannot ignore two thousand years of history and maintain that because the ancestors of the present Jews were for some hundreds of years in possession of Palestine, they have a prior right to become the rulers of that country. If we recognise the legitimacy of the Jewish conquest, then we must also recognise the legitimacy of the reconquest which took Palestine away from the Jews.

Furthermore, Professor Jastrow considers the establishment of a Jewish State would mark the return to a thoroughly antiquated and exploded form of political government, which would make citizenship dependent upon ethnic accident. A little later he writes:—

If the question of the former ownership of Palestine forms the justification for the present claims of the Jews on that country—then it is obvious that the claim must be restricted to that portion of Palestine that was actually in the hands of the Jews. As you are aware, this represents a small portion of the interior—a stretch of about seventy to eighty miles long by twenty to thirty miles broad. The seacoast was never in the hands of the Jews, the southern part being occupied by the Philistines, and the northern part by the Phœnicians. The richest section of Palestine to the east of the Jordan was never Jewish. It certainly would be an act of violence that would arouse the strongest opposition to make a modern Jewish State co-extensive with the *entire* Palestine; and on the other hand, to create a tiny State within Palestine would be an absurdity. That would be an *imperium in imperio* and prevent that natural expansion which is incident to growth and economic progress.

Again, Palestine is as sacred to Christians and to Mahommedans as it is to Jews, and it is certainly impossible to ignore so obvious a fact. To answer that the organisation of the Jewish State will not interfere with the privileges enjoyed at the present time by Christians and Mahommedans is merely to beg the question, for the main point involved in the idea of a Jewish State is the control of the country by the Jews. Considering that the Jews constitute about 10 per cent. of the population, the Mohammedans about 60 per cent., and the Christians about 30 per cent., it must be apparent that handing over the control of the country or any part of it to a minority will, apart from other considerations, arouse the greatest possible opposition, and intensify the sufficiently bitter feelings of Jews, Mahommedans and Christians towards one another.

Professor Jastrow, in a word, strongly opposes the idea of the Jewish State in Palestine. His article concludes: "I venture to think that an assured home for Jewish colonies, with local autonomy, and under conditions which will promote their growth, will answer all the requirements without involving the Jews of the world in complications that would ensue upon the actual organisation of a Jewish State, and which would seriously disturb the religious peace of the world and react most unfortunately on the status of Jews throughout the world."

Professor Jastrow is followed by Professor Werner Amran, who begins by saying: "After carefully reading Professor Jastrow's paper, I am convinced that he would be a Zionist if he had not misconceived the nature and aims of Zionism." After outlining his own understanding of what Zionism is, he continues:—

The fundamental error of Professor Jastrow's conception of Zionism is the thought several times expressed by him that Palestine will be "handed over to the Jews" without regard to the rights of the non-Jewish people now living there. He assumes this to be the "programme of the nationalistic and political Zionists." He also inferentially assumes this to be a necessary plank in the platform of orthodox Jews who, as he seems to think, desire to see the Temple and the ancient theocracy restored. But the Zionists do not want Palestine to be handed over to them, the Orthodox do not expect Palestine to be handed over to them, and the Powers will not hand Palestine over to them.

So far as Zionists are concerned, their wishes are set forth in the Basel platform, in which there is nothing about handing Palestine over to them. They demand the right for the present to enter Palestine under international protection, and for the future, when they are numerically strong enough, to be invested with responsibility—which is at the same time both a right and a duty—to take the leading part in the government of the land in which they live. They do not ask that Palestine should be handed over to them together with its Christian and Mahommedan populations, who should willy nilly be governed by a handful of immigrant Jews.

So far as the orthodox Jews are concerned, they are equally innocent of any such intent. They do expect the restoration of the Kingdom of David and of the Temple and the sacrifices on Mount Zion, but *they do not expect it now.* They expect this restoration Beaharith Hayamim, at the end of days, in the far-distant and indefinite future, by some miraculous divine intervention. As to the present problems, the orthodox Zionists are quite as practical as the non-orthodox Zionists.

Lack of space prevents our quoting further from this series of articles, but they certainly deserve study by all who are interested in the question.

Persia and Great Britain.

In an article "Policy in Persia," the *New Statesman* suggests that Persia will no doubt be drawn deeper than at present into the vortex of the struggle byGermany's political necessities, and that it may therefore be well to take stock of the situation. The writer then reviews the events of the past ten years, the policy that we pursued—against our will, very largely—in regard to Persia, and the feelings to which that policy gave rise in Persia.

The odium incurred by the Tsardom could not altogether be avoided by those who accepted it as a partner. Since the disappearance of the Tsar's agents from the Persian stage this odium has been laid more than ever upon our shoulders, and the process has been eagerly assisted by the German propaganda. Indeed, certain Persian leaders—and those not the least worthy or patriotic members of the nation—who saw in the Tsardom the chief national enemy, have unfortunately been induced to commit themselves to Germany and to look to her for Persia's salvation.

The article counsels the Persian people to be patient, remembering that the drawbacks of a policy pursued for ten years cannot be got rid of in a moment. It concludes:—

Meanwhile, the Russian danger to Persia has vanished, and the dangers which actually threaten her come not from Great Britain but from Berlin, Constantinople and Baku. The Democratic leaders at Tabriz, the Shahsevan and Jangali insurgents in the N.W. mountains, and other elements in Persia which are actuated at the moment by hostility to ourselves, could all testify to the designs on Azerbaijan, the richest and most nationalist of Persian provinces, which are being unfolded, under the guise of irredentism, by the Tartars of Trans-Caucasia. Ottoman troops, too, have crossed the Azerbaijan frontier (as they have frequently done in the past, since this province has for centuries been an object of Turkish covetousness), and a Turkish communiqué has triumphantly announced the occupation of Tabriz. But Turkish statesmen do not confine their ambitions to a mere portion (even though it be the richest) of Persian territory. They aim at binding Persia to Turkey as a subordinate ally, and in unguarded moments they have referred to the new relation between Germany and Austria-Hungary as their model. And behind Turkey stands Germany, who cares little for academic Pan Turanianism or Ottoman megalomania, but sees in these movements, and in the inevitable breakdown in which they will end, a step towards the establishment of her own dominion.

In face of this danger, Persia, England and all other countries which value their national individuality have the strongest reason to work together, and the utmost must be done on all sides to remove such misunderstandings as hinder this before it is too late.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The report of the Egyptian Markets for 1917 shows that earnings were again affected by cattle plague, the days lost through this cause being five times as many as in 1916. In the circumstances it must be regarded as satisfactory that the decline in receipts from this branch of business is only from £40,100 to £34,300, or a weekly average per market of £5 9s. 9d. against £6 8s. 5d. Improved receipts are recorded for the general markets, the figures being £21,800 against £18,300, representing an average of £3 9s. 11d. against £2 18s. 6d. The gross market receipts amounted to £56,400, against £58,600, and the revenue from nitrates, etc., to £19,000, against £17,000. The surplus amounts to £46,900, against £44,700, and the available balance to £53,600, against £49,800. Out of this £17,000 goes to the Government for their proportion of the profits and for excess profits duty, an increase of £7,000; the share and debenture sinking funds take £3,700, while £2,000 is allocated to the reserve. The ordinary dividend is 10 instead of 12 per cent., and that on the deferred capital £8 3s. per share instead of £13 3s.

⁂

It is a noteworthy fact that at a time of rising values Indian prices have on the whole shown a steadier tendency than those in most of the other countries affected by the war. This can be seen from a statistical review of prices and house rents in India at the end of 1917 compared with the figures obtaining in July, 1914, and similar periods. Wholesale prices have risen 43 per cent. in Rangoon, 68 per cent. in Calcutta, 94 per cent. in Karachi, 109 per cent. in Bombay, and 111 per cent. in Madras. Retail prices, however, which mainly refer to foodstuffs, show a much smaller increase, the percentages being 13 for Madras, 17 for Rangoon, 21 for Calcutta, 29 for Bombay, and 35 for Karachi. At the last-named place sugar, wheat flour, eggs, potatoes, and cereals showed the greatest rise, at Bombay, milk, tea, and meat, and at Calcutta salt and ghee. The rise in house rents has varied considerably and ranges from 41 per cent. in Karachi to 9 per cent. in Calcutta.

⁂

An interesting Indian company report is that of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company, a coal-mining undertaking, which has clearly had a most satisfactory year. The dividend is maintained at last year's rate of 3s. a share, but, in addition, a bonus of 8d. per share is recommended, making a return of over 6 per cent. Allowing for this distribution £20,000 is carried forward, £1,000 less than the amount brought in.

⁂

At the general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa this week the chairman, Lord Selborne, pointed to the many encouraging features of the accounts, notably the great increase of current accounts and deposits. On the other hand, he said, there were the many great and peculiar difficulties of the times, among them the shipping difficulties. He also referred to the fact that they had no longer a monopoly in West Africa. "That was a very agreeable situation so long as it lasted," he said, "but it could not permanently endure; and lastly, the charges they had to meet were constantly increasing." In view of these conditions, and with the future obscure, Lord Selborne added that he thought they would be doing the shareholders a bad service if they had adopted anything but a cautious and conservative policy. As regards the development of the bank's business, to which attention has so frequently been drawn in these columns, Lord Selborne referred to the good promise held out for the bank in Morocco. "The directors felt," he concluded, "that the proper policy for them to adopt was steadily, but prudently, to broaden the basis of the bank's operations, and wherever possible to occupy places left vacant by the Germans. It was proposed to extend the bank's operations to Egypt, and they were about to establish their first branch in that country."

⁂

An illuminating commentary on the extract I quoted last week from a circular stated to have been sent out by the German Foreign Office is provided by the *Hamburgischer Correspondent* which refers to the work of the Society of Commercial Agreements in dealing with "the question of employing in the interests of German foreign trade those Germans who before the war were resident in foreign countries." The journal says that some of these men "will be unable to return either because the German foreign business in which they were interested is liquidated and cannot be reopened, or because its continuance is regarded as unprofitable." This is putting it rather less diplomatically than the circular with its touching reference to the fear that Germans might encounter "a considerable amount of personal prejudice" after the war.

⁂

And how are these worthy Germans to be employed? On this point the journal is no less frank. "There must be many German houses," it says, "which realise that new men will be necessary to work up trade connections in enemy or neutral countries. The struggle in the world market will be keen, and intensive work will, therefore, be necessary. There is thus a supply of German labour for foreign countries and also a demand for it." In other words, the object of the society is to marshal as many regiments as possible of those Germans who took part in the policy of commercial penetration before the war as the best means of recovering Germany's lost trade (in conjunction, of course, with the employment of suitable foreigners as suggested in the circular). As evidence of the intentions of Germany to resume her aims of economic domination on a greater scale after the war I convey this instance to my readers. In the face of this and innumerable other examples of Germany's intentions the surprising thing is that there should be a single individual in the Allied countries opposed to the Allies taking the necessary steps in defence of their economic interests.

⁂

According to the official forecast this year will be the first since the outbreak of war in which there has not been a marked increase in indigo cultivation in India. The area under indigo for 1917-18 is put at 690,600 acres, and the output at 87,800 cwt. In 1914-15 the acreage was 148,400, in 1915-16 it had increased to 353,100, while last year it amounted to 756,400 acres. The yield of indigo was 55,100 cwt. in 1915-16, and 95,500 cwt. in 1916-17, two-thirds of which was contributed by Madras. Even the high figures for 1916-17, however, were only about half the totals for 1895, the year of the appearance of synthetic indigo.

⁂

In view of the difficulties existing at the present time the results of the past year's working of the Alexandria Water Co. can only be regarded as highly satisfactory. The quantity of water consumed declined from 21,934,000 to 21,567,300 cubic metres, but this was accompanied by an increase in consumers of 1,200, their number being 39,800 at the close of the year. The total receipts amounted to £176,100, a decrease of £3,200, and on the expenditure side working expenses were £6,600 higher, this being due mainly to the increased cost of fuel and pumping charges. The net revenue amounted to £95,600, against £105,400, and the available balance is £111,700 against £120,900; £12,000 is placed to depreciation against £12,100, the gratuity to the staff accounts for £3,300 against £3,100, while £2,900 is placed to provision against compensation compared with £700. This leaves the disposable surplus at £93,000, against £105,000 and the balance available after deducting the municipality's share provides a dividend of 12s. 9d, against 13s. 9d.

⁂

In regard to trade enterprise during the war, we should do well to take a leaf out of America's book. American firms intend to take a leading part in Balkan trade in the future, and they are not waiting until the war ends before making their plans. On the contrary, everything that can be done now is done. Thus, it is proposed, I believe, to establish a factory at Salonika to house agricultural machinery destined to help Serbians in rebuilding their country when the time comes. I do not in any way underestimate the handicaps that the war imposes on business enterprise, but while the Americans, for instance, may possibly be better situated in this respect than we are, I feel that there is really no reason why the essential business of preparation should be postponed.

⁂

Attention is being directed by the native Press in Egypt to the decline in sheep-breeding in that country, one paper going so far as to declare that in the absence of adequate measures "with the passing of time native sheep may disappear altogether." It is urged that the same care given to cattle-breeding that has been bestowed on irrigation and agriculture would have established sheep-breeding on a satisfactory scale, and would have enabled Egypt to have drawn an excellent revenue from wool. In the past, it is pointed out, sheep-breeding was the subject of considerable encouragement, notably by Mohammed Ali Pasha, who interested himself in the improvement of Egypt's wool produce, and for this purpose encouraged the importation of merino sheep. There is no question that the development of sheep-breeding on a large scale would be a desirable addition to Egypt's industries, but this, like other matters, is a question which can only be properly dealt with after the war.

COMMENTATOR.

EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

III.—The Question of New Industries.[*]

Turning to the question whether industry can succeed in Egypt, the commission records its opinion that Egypt must continue to give its prime attention to agriculture and increase its return so as to meet the needs of a growing population, and that industry must merely be regarded as a means of assisting agriculture and not of supplanting it. There is no intention to convert Egypt into an industrial country in the ordinary sense of the word. It is only desired to enable the country to produce all its requirements and sometimes those of foreign markets, and to prepare for the crisis which menaces it. In other words it is desired to give it as far as possible economic autonomy.

The question of fuel is always a large factor in the creation of industrial works; but the report considers that the relative dearness of coal need not constitute a real obstacle to the institution of industries except for those for which coal is the principal raw material, that the improvement of heating apparatus tends materially to reduce the cost of fuel; that engines worked by gas, petroleum, etc., can advantageously replace steam engines and give important economy; that the existence of oilfields in Egypt may one day solve the fuel problem; and that, apart from the abundant vegetable combustibles available in Egypt, it is possible that new forces such as the hydraulic energy of the water in the reservoirs may before long be put at the disposal of industry. In addition, there is a vast potential force which Egypt possesses in a more marked degree than most countries—sun-heat, which, as soon as science has found a means of harnessing it more effectively, could convert Egypt into one of the most intensive industrial centres the world has ever known. Thus most of the elements of production and energy exist in Egypt in a sufficient degree to permit of industries being started with every prospect of success. The commission is not blind to the fact that the non-existence of satisfactory iron deposits will entail that Egypt will always have to be dependent on the European metal industry; but she can easily provide for the repair of machinery which she cannot manufacture, and whilst Egypt cannot for the time being, at any rate, aspire to become an industrial country in the strict sense of the word, nevertheless she possesses the physical elements necessary for the existence and success of industrial activities.

Necessary Conditions.

With regard to the question as to whether there is room in Egypt for new industries, the commission considers that in each case certain fundamental conditions must be fulfilled. They are :—

1. The existence in the country of the necessary raw material. (In this case industries using agricultural products have the greatest prospect of success.)

2. The existence of a local market for the products of the new industry.

3. The articles produced should be such that if imported from abroad they would have to bear heavy charges of handling, freight, etc., relative to the cost of manufacture.

4. The labour necessary for carrying on the industry must be available in the country. (In regard to this the commission says that if the Egyptians lack directing qualities they nevertheless possess all those making for good workmen, and that, whatever defects they may evince if left to themselves, they would, under proper direction, be second to none in ability or application.)

5. The cost of the fuel necessary to the industry must add but a small percentage to the cost of production.

6. The existence of adequate capital. (Of this there is no lack in Egypt, and its investment in industrial enterprises is purely a matter of education, and in this respect also an industrial bank could do a great deal of good and render much assistance.)

Industries Recommended.

Taking next the question of the new industries which could be introduced with success into Egypt, the commission recommends the following to the attention of the Government and of those interested in the subject :—

The manufacture of paper (preferably wrapping paper) or pulp for which Egypt produces in abundance the raw material such as rice-straw, "bourdi" and other vegetable fibres, and in connection with which the commission has examined several projects which there is every reason to believe would succeed.

The ceramic industries, certain branches of which are already handled in the country, but of which many others such as china, porcelain, etc., could be profitably introduced.

Glassware.—The figures of the glass imports show that there is a very good prospect for a resumption of an industry which was at one time very prosperous in this country.

Ready-made clothing and boots, both of which have enjoyed considerable extension since the outbreak of the war. The former requires little motive power, and if endowed with more modern organisation could have great chances of success, although the raw material has all to come from abroad. As regards bootmaking, it is already practised in certain centres, but is productive of very defective work. In this instance the requisite raw material is available locally, and it only requires the local tanneries to be developed.

Chemical Manures.—Of these Egypt imports an enormous quantity every year, and it should be possible to produce them locally so as to reduce the cost of cultivation. In the main they consist of nitrogenous and phosphoric manures. The former could be produced in the form of calciocyanamide by means of the Assuan waterfall, whilst the latter could be produced out of the phosphates and superphosphates which Egypt possesses in such a large quantity.

Manufacture of Sisal Rope.—Sisal has been but recently cultivated in Egypt, but the experts who have examined the Egyptian variety declare that it is of first-class quality and that the fibre is of excellent length. The importance of this crop resides in the fact that it is cultivable on lands which cannot be sown with cotton. There is room for the cultivation of larger areas and for the erection of factories for the manufacture of rope and cord, of which the country requires a large quantity.

Preservation of Fruit, Vegetables and Fish.—Only one serious attempt has been made to preserve fruit on any large scale and practically none to preserve vegetables or fish. The cost of fuel involved is, however, small. There is plenty of labour available, certain specialised raw material such as dates, roses, and bitter oranges can be obtained in abundance in the country, and the local demand, judging by the Customs statistics, is fairly considerable. There is every reason to believe that the country could produce sufficient for its own requirements, and with the Government encouraging the growing of fruit trees and vegetables and protecting the fishing industry there is a very good prospect open to those who take up the preserving industry.

In addition there is the granite, stone, and marble industry, which, considering the vast amount of raw material existing, could be made quite profitable; the manufacture of candles, which now that the supply of stearine is locally assured by the Salt and Soda Co., has become a practical proposition; of starch, which has been started since the war, and for which all the raw material exists in the form of such agricultural products as rice, wheat and maize; and of sulphuric acids and other acids; and the weaving of woollen carpets, for which all the raw material exists, and which merely requires State assistance to put it on its feet, On each of these industries most interesting and detailed notes have been drafted at the instance of the commission, and are attached to the report as appendices. Space precludes any summary of the valuable information contained in those notes being given here.

(To be concluded.)

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[*] The previous articles of this series appeared o une 7, June 21, and July 5.

THE INDIAN HIDES TRADE.

Questions in Parliament.

July 15.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary of State for India whether, seeing that in the three and a-half years before the war nearly 19,500,000 cowhides were exported from India to the ports of Hamburg, Bremen, and Trieste, and this important Indian trade had practically passed into German hands, he would now state what measures had been taken, or were being taken, by the Government of India or the Home Government to prevent the possibility of this German monopoly ever being re-established, and to ensure that in future the industry be wholly British and Indian.

Mr. Montagu : I would refer my hon. and gallant friend to the reply I gave on July 10 to a question asked by my hon. friend the member for Dartford.

Colonel Yate : Is there any reason why there should be any further delay in settling this matter definitely? Why is it still under consideration?

Mr. Montagu : It is not under consideration. I gave a complete reply, showing that the German influence in this trade has been completely and permanently removed.

Colonel Yate : Were not the words which the right hon. gentleman used "The Government of India have the future regulation of this trade under consideration"?

Mr. Montagu : Yes. That refers to the after-the-war policy. I think all the steps possible for the moment have been taken.

A Calcutta Business.

July 17.

Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary for India whether Messrs. Ernsthausen, now Howieson, formed a company after the war began, called East India Exports (Limited); whether such company had been taken over or leased to Messrs. Grace Bros. and Co., who now sought a place on the British Hides Committee; and whether he would inquire into this matter, lest German influence, which formerly completely dominated this trade, would be perpetuated in any direct or indirect manner.

Mr. Montagu : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I understand that Grace Bros. (India) have either acquired the business of East India Exports (Limited) or purchased the Howieson interest in that company. If my hon. friend can supply me with information supporting the suggestion contained in the last part of the question I will consider whether any further inquiry is necessary.

Mr. Roch asked whether the attention of the right hon. gentleman had been called to a recent case in the Prize Court in which the position of Messrs. Grace Bros. and Co. was considered.

Mr. Montagu : Yes. Before this transaction took place we inquired both of the Board of Trade and Foreign Office if there was anything against the firm of Messrs. Grace Bros. and Co., of India, and we were informed that there was nothing.

Sir J. Rees : Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the activities of Messrs. Ernsthausen, now Howieson, are viewed with the utmost suspicion and disapproval by the whole of the British commercial community in Calcutta, and will he, therefore, strain a point and make further inquiry, as it is somewhat difficult to get information?

Mr. Montagu : It is difficult, but the Government of India and the India Office are consistently endeavouring to set up a hide industry in India, which will get rid permanently of all German connection, indirect or direct. I am informed in this case that the business has been sold outright to this new firm.

Mr. Holt : Will the right hon. gentleman carefully investigate the connection between the firm of Ernsthausen's, or Howieson's, and the new firm of Messrs. Grace Bros. and Co., whose conduct was commented upon in the Prize Court?

Mr. Montagu : Of course, in these matters we are concerned only with India, and must take the advice of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office.

Sir J. Rees : Is the right hon. gentleman aware that so long as Howieson's is a *persona grata* with the Government of India the suspicion of the British commercial community in Calcutta will never be allayed?

No answer was returned.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

American Machinery Regulations.

Reference has already been made to the new order of the British Government for the sale of machinery and implements, which, as was pointed out, will put a stop to a trade in the East that enabled profiteers to enrich themselves, and permitted importers to deal in machinery of doubtful origin. It is gratifying that similar and stricter measures have been taken in America. A proclamation recently issued by President Wilson requires importers, manufacturers, and distributors of agricultural implements and machinery to obtain a Government licence for trading. Licensees are required to furnish information regarding their business, whenever it is thought necessary, by representatives designated by the Secretary of the Agricultural Department, and must permit such representatives to inspect the property and records pertaining to their business. Information obtained in this manner is not to be disclosed without authority. Unjust profits, resales within the trade without reasonable justification, attempts to monopolise, unreasonable increase of prices or restriction of supplies, etc., are prohibited.

Ploughs for Asia Minor.

In view of the fact that in Asia Minor rain is practically unknown between April and October it is easy, granted that the new régime does not improve the climatic conditions, to form an idea of how a plough will have to be built in order to be able to turn up the soil of the sun-hardened surface. Although the hand-plough is now being used, it will certainly not be long before the tractor plough will have to be introduced. The great scarcity of draught animals in Asia Minor will make machine traction absolutely necessary in scientific farming, and the lack of labourers will not be the last reason to cause proprietors to change over to machinery. The difficulties in dealing with the soil begin with the ploughing. The ploughs really serviceable in Anatolia and the rest of Asia Minor must be fitted with special devices for the purpose of disposing of the weeds which grow very quickly and in great abundance, and cutting devices are necessary which can be used on level ground. In some parts of the interior the stony surface must be taken into consideration, and it is easy to conceive that in such districts only very solid machinery and implements can hold their own in the market.

A Useful Steam Tractor.

In some countries it may be a question of convenience or choice whether cultivation is done by oil tractors, steam tractors, or steam ploughing tackle, but in the principal agricultural districts in the Near and Middle East the question of fuel, the nature and condition of the soil, and the outlay are the things that have first to be considered. While in some parts liquid fuel may be easily obtained at a lower cost than hard fuel, such as coal, wood, etc., in others it may be the reverse. Again, while, for instance, a ploughing tractor can work satisfactorily in one part of an estate, in another, owing to the nature of the ground, it may give disappointing results. The present high cost of oil fuel and alcohol has considerably discouraged the purchase or employment of tractors with internal combustion engines, and steam tractors, therefore, are in much favour. Steam ploughing has been extensively used during the last two or three decades in Roumania, Greece, Egypt, Asia Minor, Southern Russia, and in some of the large Mediterranean islands, but, as a rule, only on large estates, for the cost of a steam ploughing tackle is beyond the means of the average farmer, who has to be content with the modern ploughing tractor. There has been, however, a certain amount of hesitation in purchasing these tractors in the East. Most, if not all, of them are designed or equipped for direct ploughing, and while they generally work satisfactorily, on soils liable to pack they meet with difficulties. In such cases cable ploughing is needed, and ordinary tractors cannot be used for direct as well as for cable ploughing on this account. A new type of tractor, which has recently been attracting the attention of British agriculturists, will undoubtedly be of much interest to landowners and farmers in the East and in countries like Morocco. It is a comparatively small, but powerful, steam tractor, of the gear-driven pattern, which can be used both for direct and cable ploughing, according to the condition of the land. It is fitted with a winding drum for cable ploughing, the drum being able to carry 150 to 200 yards of steel cable. The power is transmitted through a bevel wheel and clutch just inside the fly-wheel, and a bevel-driven vertical shaft to a pinion and gear on the drum. For paying out the cable the winding drum is disengaged by the clutch, which is within easy reach of the driver. The cable is prevented from uncoiling by an automatic brake on the drum, and a coiling gear ensures an even winding of the cable. It must be mentioned here that hitherto the machines used for this kind of ploughing have been big, powerful traction engines, but it must not be forgotten that since the engines of a tractor run at a much higher speed they are considerably more powerful for their size than the larger engines, and thus there is, after all, not such a very great disparity between the powers. The use of this new type of small machines increases the scope of cable ploughing possibilities, for with their lighter weight and greater handiness they can enter and work on fields where ploughing would not be profitable to the bigger and far more expensive tackle. One of the special features of this new type of tractor is the system of springing, which considerably reduces vibration and increases the life of the vehicle, and results, at the same time, in an economy of upkeep. The tender has a water tank with a capacity of 90 gallons, and an extra 45 gallons may be carried. The bunker will hold 2 cwt. of coal. When the tractor is not required for ploughing, the winding drum can easily be dismantled.

Small Threshing Machines.

With the approach of harvest the majority of farmers in the East are longing for the possession of a mechanical thresher. Those in hilly districts, and most of those in the plains, depend on the men who make it a business to go with a team of horses or oxen from village to village and thresh for the small-holders, at a price varying according to the demand, the competition, and the weather; with the war the price, of course, is very high. The threshing by these professional threshers is done in a primitive method. The sheaves of wheat or barley are scattered on a threshing floor, a circular piece of ground 20 to 30 ft. in diameter, with a pole fixed in its centre. The horses or oxen, tied together, run abreast around the pole, treading on the sheaves until threshing is completed. The separation of the wheat from the finely cut and bruised straw is done by winnowing in a soft breeze. A rain during the threshing is very injurious, and no breeze for winnowing often means many days' exposure of the wheat on the threshing floor. Yet these farmers have the means and can pay for a small modern thresher, but all they know in that line is the large threshing machines driven by portable engines which they see in the plains, but which are beyond their reach. In Scotland there are manufacturers who specialise in the small and light types of threshers, and such machines as used by Scotch farmers and colonials are very suitable for the Oriental farmer. They are made in various sizes, to work by hand, by treadle, horse-gear, small oil-engine, or steam engine. It is said that Scotch manufacturers of these machines have been doing remarkably well during the war, and can turn out machines in large numbers; but it is inexplicable why they ignore the great Eastern markets. The firms that will go into the matter seriously and introduce their small threshers in the Near and Middle East, before the war is over, will be amply rewarded.

Another Sea Tunnel.

Commenting on a proposal to construct a tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar, a Madrid contemporary (*El Mundo*) says:—"Once this tunnel is opened the position of Spain in the south of Europe will be as enviable as that which Germany enjoys in the north—the central position—which would concede to us enormous and positive advantages. At the end of the war Moorish soil will acquire great development by its means of communication, inasmuch as Morocco will be one of the countries where Europeans will go in pursuit of riches to replace what is now being squandered."

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Position Unaltered.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The conditions in the market during the past week have not shown any particular alteration. The general demand has continued quieter, but producers, owing to extensive engagements, have presented a stiff front to buyers. Although the authorities are constantly being pressed to provide more tonnage for American cotton there appears to be little probability of larger imports just at present. The abolition of the rota system has been postponed for a fortnight, and in the meantime negotiations for a settlement of the differences between the Control Board and the trade union officials are taking place. It is believed that some compromise will be arranged. Advices relating to the Egyptian crop have been rather less favourable and prices have advanced. Government types are now on view in Manchester. Egyptian yarns have hardened, and the undercurrent of demand remains healthy. It is extremely difficult to secure early delivery of certain counts and qualities. Some reports from Egypt with regard to piece goods are more encouraging. Offers have been about, but not much progress has been made in the way of fresh business. Staple goods for India remain slow. Something has been done in dhooties for Bombay. The China market remains under a cloud. Occasional transactions have been put through for Java and the Straits Settlements. Manufacturers are not meeting with quite so many orders from home trade buyers. American yarns have again been slower, but the tone remains firm. Users have now got rather larger supplies at the sheds and there is less pressure for deliveries. Export yarn demand may be described as dull.

THE INDIAN OPIUM TRADE.

Mr. Balfour, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to a question by Sir J. D. Rees on July 12, said:—The trade in Indian opium with China ceased with the expiration on December 31 last of the Agreement relating to opium concluded between the United Kingdom and China on May 8, 1911. His Majesty's Government would of course take all possible means to prevent the resumption of the opium trade between British India and China should any attempt be made to revive it. I have no precise information as to the firms and individuals constituting the opium combine, but I understand that it is a private and unofficial syndicate or association of merchant importers of opium at Shanghai. So far as I am aware, the functions of the combine are to regulate the price of the stocks of Indian opium in bond and generally to protect the interests of the members of the association.

Sir J. D. Rees.—Is it not the case that what has happened points to the general weakness of the policy pursued? Is it likely it can be carried out?

Mr. Balfour.—I understand, although it is a subject with which I have not very great intimacy, that there is every hope that the trade between India and China is finally severed.

GREEK CROP PROSPECTS.

The wheat, barley, oats, and rye crops in Macedonia are decidedly good over an area which is estimated to be 20 per cent. larger than last year, says the Salonika correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated July 12. In Thessaly the crops are still better over a similarly increased area, while Peloponnesus, Attica, Ætolia, Acarnania, and Epirus expect a bumper yield. Reaping is now nearly finished, and the safety of these winter crops is practically assured. The maize, tobacco, and other summer crops everywhere in Greece have been nourished by abundant rains, and now present a splendid appearance. The Government has taken measures to requisition all agricultural products at prices reasonably remunerative to the producers.

The Indian gold output for June amounted to 41.260 ozs., an increase of 370 ozs. on the return for the previous month.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Egyptian Markets.

The report of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1917, states that the number of cattle market days lost during the year was 4,403, as compared with 863 during the year 1916. No further additions to the number of markets outside the Government concessions have been made, but steps have been taken with a view to securing a considerable extension of the company's area of operations after the termination of the war. The gross receipts from the cattle markets show a decrease of £5,320, as compared with the year 1916, the total being £32,696 against £38,016. This decrease is entirely owing to the closing of markets. The gross receipts from the general markets continue to be satisfactory. For the year under review these were £21,824 as compared with £18,260 for the year 1916, an increase of £3,564, which is accounted for by the growing popularity of the markets and the prosperity generally of the country. The net receipts from the forty-seven slaughter-houses worked during the year were £1,560, against £2,043 from fifty slaughter-houses worked during 1916, a decrease of £483, principally due to the high price of meat. Three slaughter-houses, formerly worked by this company have, under the original agreement with Government, been handed over to local municipalities. The expenses in the trading account show an increase of £2,189, which is attributable in part to wages and expenses of market keepers, necessitated by the increased cost of living and higher scale of wages generally in Egypt, and in part to account adjustments. The net profit derived from the sale of miscellaneous articles was £19,896, as compared with £16,978 for the previous year, an increase of £2,918. In view of the very great difficulty experienced in securing supplies of chemical manures, in consequence of war restrictions, these results are considered to be highly satisfactory. The final settlement of the Government share of profits and the excess profits duty left an additional amount of £1,280 13s. 5d. for distribution to the deferred shareholders, for the year 1916. The dividend distributable on the deferred shares for that year was, subject to the adjustment of the above accounts, estimated to be at the rate of £13 3s. per share, the actual amount divisible was equal to £14 11s. 6d., 67/300 per share. The increases in the amounts disbursed have been adjusted in the accounts under review. The net revenue for the year 1917 from all sources amounted to £46,894 12s., an increase of £2,148 15s. 7d. over the previous year. After deduction of the amount of £17,000, which it is estimated will be required to meet payment of the Government share of profits for 1917 and of the excess profits duty, a balance of £29,894 12s. remains, which, with the balance of £6,740 7s. brought forward from 1916, makes a total of £36,634 19s. to be dealt with. After meeting the fixed charges of the annual premia for the amortisation of the share capital and debentures, £3,743 11s. 6d., debenture interest, £2,840, and carrying the sum of £2,000 to reserve, a balance of £28,051 7s. 6d. remains available for distribution. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend (No. 27) on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1917, of 5 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in December, 1917, a total of 10 per cent. for the year, absorbing in all £17,470; and in accordance with the terms of the memorandum of association of the company, and subject to settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government, and excess profits duty, the payment of a dividend (No. 8) on the deferred shares at the rate of £8 3s. per share for the year 1917, which will absorb £2,445 and leave a balance of £8,136 7s. 6d. to be carried forward, which balance is also subject to the settlements above referred to. The ordinary general meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on July 25, at 12 o'clock noon.

Hyderabad (Deccan) Company.—Final dividend for the year 1917 of 1s. per share, less tax, making a total of 3s. per share for the year, also a bonus of 8d. per share, less tax, carrying forward £20,781. For 1916 the distribution was 3s. per share, £21,884 being carried forward.

The net profits of the Imperial Ceylon Tea Estates for 1917 were £9,692 (against £10,881). From this £1,000 has been set aside for depreciation of buildings and machinery. Dividend of 5 per cent., less tax (the same); £1,000 is placed to excess profits duty reserve account, and £4,542 is carried forward (against £1,351).

The interim report of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31 shows that the approximate net earnings were £30,179 (against £32,882), which, together with £28,458 brought forward and £2,819 from interest and profit on exchange, makes £61,456 (against £62,749). Interim dividend of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock on account of the year ending September 30, 1918, subject to English income-tax less relief from Indian income-tax (the same as a year ago), leaving £36,915 to be carried forward, as compared with £39,249 carried forward at March 31, 1917. Warrants will be posted on July 31.

The report of the Darjeeling Company for 1917 states that accounts show profit of £14,292 and net balance of £12,828; adding £4,959 brought forward, makes available £17,787, subject to excess profits duty, if any. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, place £4,000 to reserve, making it £15,000, leaving £7,016 to be carried forward to next account.

The report of the Nedeem Tea Company for 1917 states that the balance brought forward (less excess profits duty for that year) was £23,055 and after providing commission profit was £63,604. Adding £519 for interest on investments and deducting £20,974 for income-tax, there is available £66,204. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent., less tax, payable 27th instant, making 20 per cent. for the year, allow for reserve £5,000, for machinery and tramway account £3,000, and for additional remuneration to directors £2,000, and carry forward £25,829.

The directors of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (10s. per share) for the half-year ended June 30, payable, less tax, on August 1. The balance-sheet shows:—Liabilities—Capital (subscribed, £27,314,260), 1,365,713 shares of £20 each, £5 paid, £6,828,565; reserve, £6,828,565; current deposit and other accounts, £230,425,743; acceptances, endorsements, etc., £8,139,002; total liabilities, £252,221,875. Assets—Cash, £72,456,800; bills discounted, £50,972,921; investments, £48,707,879; London County and Westminster Bank (Paris), £400,000; Ulster Bank, £1,904,219; advances and other accounts, £66,429,299; liability of customers for acceptances, £8,139,002; bank and other premises, £3,211,756; total assets, £252,221,875.

The Dalkeith (Ceylon) Rubber Estates' profit for 1917 was £16,358. Interim dividend of 1d. per share, but no final dividend; forward £16,197.

The gross profits of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Company for 1917, including balance brought forward from 1916, and after providing £750 for depreciation of machinery, is £28,491. Excess profits duty, 1916, absorbed, £4,612. The directors propose to pay a final dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 15 per cent., free of tax, for the year), to place £2,000 to reserve, and to carry forward £3,319, subject to excess profits duty.

Madras Electric Supply Corporation.—4 per cent. (9 3-5d. per share) on ordinary shares for year; £7,000 to a depreciation and renewal fund; £5,727 forward. Last year, no dividend on ordinary shares; 6 per cent. on preference shares; £6,000 to a depreciation and renewal fund; £5,836 forward.

The report of the British Indian Tea Company for the year ended April 30 last, states that after meeting all charges, including an interim dividend of 3 per cent., there is an available balance at credit of profit and loss of £19,742. Out of this balance the directors propose paying a final dividend of 9 per cent. (less income-tax) on the ordinary shares, making a total distribution of 12 per cent., and carrying forward a balance of £14,268

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway.—Interim dividend for half-year ended March 31 last, of 5 per cent. and bonus of 1 per cent. on ordinary stock, less tax at 3s. 9d. in the £, payable 29th instant.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.—After placing, as usual, £35,000 to sinking fund, directors declare interim dividend for half-year ended March 31 last of 3 per cent. and bonus of 1 per cent. on ordinary stock, less income-tax at 3s. 9d. in the £, payable 29th instant.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—Transfer books of cumulative 6 per cent. participating preference shares (issue 1909-1911 and issue 1918) will be closed from 17th to 30th instant, inclusive. Dividend warrants payable 31st instant.

The Bank of Bengal has declared a half-yearly dividend of 12 per cent., a bonus of 4 per cent., and a special bonus of 1 per cent. per annum. Rs.450,000 have been transferred to the reserve and Rs. 555,283 carried forward.

The Bank of Bombay has declared a profit on the last half-year of 15½ lakhs of rupees; dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. and a jubilee bonus at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum. Five lakhs of rupees have been transferred to the reserve and a similar sum carried forward.

The 3 per Cent. Debenture stock transfer books of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, Ltd., will be closed from July 1 to 13, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing interest warrants payable to those stockholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 21 tons; last week, 21 tons. Hurgada.—Production for week, 1,860 tons; last week, 12,799 tons.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN PERSIA.

It is believed that the cultivation of sugar-cane was formerly more important in the Province of Mazanderan than at present (says the American Minister at Teheran, Mr. J. L. Caldwell, in a recent report), for it seems that it has been abandoned on account of the difficulty in extracting the juice. Cane is cultivated at present round the edges of cotton fields, but it could doubtless be cultivated profitably on a large scale on soil of the right sort. The zone of cultivation is found in the rectangle formed by the Caspian Sea and a parallel line passing Amol, Barfaruche, and Sari. Since the beginning of the war, the price of sugar having greatly advanced, the cultivation has again been taken up. It is estimated that the harvest of the past year totalled about 120,000 Tabrizi batmans (1,560,000 lb.), of which Mazanderan consumed about half; 10,000 batmans were sent to Teheran and 50,000 batmans were transported in coasting ships to Enzeli, Chassovar, etc. The production is about 1,600 lb. per acre.

Two Varieties of Cane.

There are two kinds of sugar-cane grown in the province: First, the Indi Lale, the seeds of which are planted, which produces a syrup about the thickness of molasses of grapes, and second, Sheker Lale, of which one plants the shoots, yields a moist sugar which can be solidified. Before the war 12 khavars (of 8 pouds, or 288 lb. each) of moist sugar cost about 100 tomans to produce, and could be sold for about 120 tomans. Therefore, with such small profits, peasants could plant only around the edges of fields or in small quantities, for while the expenses of production amount to about 120 tomans for 12 khavars, that amount can now be sold for 240 tomans or even more. Moist sugar is worth at least twice as much as the syrup from Indi Lale.

Primitive Methods.

Sugar-cane is planted in the spring and must be harvested in the fall before it is cold enough for frost. The fields must be well tilled, with the help of oxen. Much moisture is necessary and in dry years good crops are not obtained. When the crop has been cut it is stacked on the ground; near by a hut is erected for cooking the juice. Four oxen are needed for crushing the cane. The juice is boiled during the night and about 50 mans (300 lb.) of dry reeds are used as fuel in one night. The process necessitates the presence of at least four persons. When done, the sugar is poured into moulds and removed as soon as it [illegible]

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

The tendency again this week has been a very favourable one, buying orders have been coming in in large numbers; but, unfortunately, the great scarcity of sellers has prevented much business being done.

In Government stocks Unifieds have risen 1½ to 93, and Egypt 3½ per cent. Prefs. are one point higher at 77½.

In Bank shares the feature has been a rise of 1-16 in National Banks to 18 11-16, whilst Agriculturals are ⅛ better at 6 3-16, and Agricultural Prefs. are 1-16 up at 7½. Anglo-Egyptian Banks, on the other hand, have fallen back after their recent heavy rise £1 to 17½. This decline is due to the reports that the contemplated working arrangements between the English Joint Stock Banks and foreign banks will not be permitted.

In Railways Delta Lights are 3-16 higher at 6¾.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs are fractionally higher at 23s., and Allotments are ⅛ up at 4¼. Behéras have been persistently enquired for from Egypt, and are ¼ higher at 13⅜. Delta Lands, on local enquiry, are 3d. higher at 13s. 3d., and New Egyptians are 9d. up at 19s .3d. on a persistent demand. Union Foncières have been bought for Egypt, and are ⅛ higher at 3 9-32, and Sidi Salems have improved 1-32 to 2 11-32.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are ⅛ up at 12¼, and Salts and Sodas are 1-32 higher at 2 11-32. Khedivial Mails have recovered the dividend at 2⅛ x.d.

In Greek securities the 1881 and 1884 loans are a point up at 65, the 1890 loan has risen 1½ points to 65, and Monopolies are 2 points higher at 62. The demand for these securities has continued, but business has been slack as sellers are scarce.

◆

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The head office of the Ionian Bank will be removed as from the 20th instant to Basildon House, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2.

Cheese production in Eastern Greece for 1917-18 is estimated at from 25 to 30 per cent. in excess of that of last year. Even so, the production will be something like 20 per cent. below normal.

Lloyds Bank announce that, in order to provide additional facilities for overseas trade, they have arranged to open on July 15 a separate Colonial and Foreign Department at their Manchester office, under the management of Mr. Frank Cawley.

The British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate state that an agreement has been entered into with the D'Arcy Exploration Company (a subsidiary of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited) for the exploitation and development of the Borneo oil interests owned by the syndicate.

ROUMANIAN FINANCIAL ITEMS.

The entire amount of the money borrowed by the State from the Roumanian National Bank for covering war costs is 1,600,000,000 leï (£64,000,000).

Roumania's National Debt, which has trebled since her entry into the war, to-day amounts to over £210,700,000, and to this sum, according to M. Saulescu, Minister of Finance, "must be added the burdens laid upon us by the Peace Treaty."

Besides a graduated income-tax and war profits tax, the following official measures are to be introduced in the Roumanian Chamber:—An alcohol monopoly, increase on probate duties, stamp duties, taxation of mortmain property, a special tax for coffee and tea, a reduction in the number of officials, and an internal loan.

◆

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended July 5.		1918. Week ended July 4.
Cattle markets	361	..	338
General markets	549	..	513
Receipts (£)	910	..	851
Total for year	35,031	..	28,011

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. July 10	July 17
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91½	93
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	76½	77½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	64xd	65
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	64xd	65
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	60xd	62
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	51
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	63½	65
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65xd	65xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76	76
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	73	73
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 1/16	6 3/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7 7/16	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	18½	17½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6¾	6¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅝	5⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17⅝	18 11/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6 9/16	6¾
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	22/9	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4⅛	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅛	13⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	18/6	19/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 5/16	2 11/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 5/32	3 9/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	46/3	2 11/32
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	42/6	2⅛xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3¼	3 13/16	3 13/16

The directors of the Bank of Madras have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. Rs4½ lakhs has been transferred to the investment account and Rs384,356 carried forward.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON ST., E.C.2.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, KHARTOUM, JAFFA, and JERUSALEM.

Subscribed Capital	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital	500,000
Reserve	710,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up)	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 377.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The death of the Tsar of all the Russias might have meant more to the Near East, if it had not been preceded by his compulsory withdrawal from the European stage so many months before and by the eclipse—temporarily, we believe—of Russia herself as a world power. To what extent Nicholas II. was personally responsible for Russian foreign policy during his reign must be left for the present an open question; the vacillation that marked the autocratic regime suggests that he was for the most part a pliant tool in the hands of others. It would be difficult indeed to reconcile his own well-known leanings towards peace with the restless ambitions that characterised Russian diplomacy. In the Balkans Russia was compelled to champion the Slav cause, but it may be doubted whether the Tsar entertained the Imperialistic designs in that direction that have been associated with his Government. He was credited with a strong liking for the Serbians, which would have sufficed to render the Bulgarians suspicious, and may have contributed to perpetuate the jealousy and unrest that have long been the bane of the Balkan Peninsula.

Although the personal influence of Nicholas II. in the Near East may have been negligible, the tragedy of his death is not likely to pass without leaving its impression on the Balkan people and their rulers. Where a foreign dynasty is on the throne the failure of the sovereign to sink his own identity in that of his adopted country inevitably discloses a tendency towards an autocratic regime. Autocracies, however, will be out of favour at the end of the war, and exotic Sovereigns in the Balkans will read in the murder of the Tsar a cogent warning against setting themselves up, even with the best intentions, as the sole arbiters of their people's interests.

An interesting picture of Mesopotamia under British jurisdiction was drawn in outline by Lord Robert Cecil on Tuesday in answer to a question in the House of Commons. The work of redeeming the country from the state of ruin into which it had fallen under the Turks is making very satisfactory progress. As might have been expected from Arab tradition, there is an insistent demand for education, which is being met as rapidly as the supply of teachers will admit. Already thirteen Government primary schools are in existence, as well as four municipal State-aided schools, a teachers' training school, and a survey school. Irrigation work, as was stated some time ago in these pages, has been undertaken on a comparatively large scale, with the result that large tracts of land hitherto untilled have been brought under the plough. Use has been made of mechanical tractors and artillery horses to supplement the ordinary means of cultivation, and a variety of naval craft has been liberated by the authorities to transport the harvest to its destination. The opening up of the country by road, rail, and improved water transport, Lord Robert Cecil continued, together with the establishment of security on the highways, has resulted in an increase of trade and a lowering of prices of commodities.

A further statement to the effect that the contrast between the improved condition of Mesopotamia and that of the neighbouring country occupied by the Turks had not failed to impress the population probably puts the case very mildly. The contrast is not infrequently the subject of comment in Arab papers and in Arab correspondence, but the very hyperbole in which the writers feel constrained to indulge renders it difficult for their tributes to be reproduced in the British Press. It is only right, however, that this Arab appreciation of Great Britain's effort, or as Lord Robert Cecil expressed it—the opinion that the British people mean well by the Arab race—should be generally known. An attempt will be made to challenge the establishment of the *pax Britannica* over Mesopotamia and Syria; but on this point the interests of the Arabs and of the world's peace can be shown to coincide, and the contrast between the present regime and the old must be continually emphasised to prevent the growth of the fallacy that the new order can be maintained without the guiding hand of the British administration.

The news from Albania continues to be satisfactory. Progress in this mountainous country must necessarily be slow, but the Italian and French troops continue to advance steadily. No less important than the fact that they are covering ground is the attitude of the Albanian population in the occupied territory. Assistance is freely rendered, the first desire of the Albanians being apparently to avenge themselves on their Austrian taskmasters. In point of mileage the Allies have still more than half the distance between Berat and Elbasan to cover. But that their rate of progress is taxing all the Austrians' powers of resistance is shown by the capture up to July 19 of over three thousand prisoners, together with considerable quantities of guns, ammunition, and military equipment. Some hundreds of Italian and Russian prisoners have also been liberated—a further indication of the extent to which the enemy's calculations have been upset by the Allied advance.

A correspondent with the Italian troops gives in *The Times* a picturesque account of the occupation of Berat. The proceedings were genuinely cordial, and General Ferrero, the Italian commander, appears to have won the hearts of the inhabitants by his kindly attitude and his declaration of Italian policy. The Italians had come, he announced, as friends and brothers, not as conquerors. They would respect alike the religions and the laws of Albania, but they would look to the Albanians to respect one another's religion. Independence and freedom were guaranteed; schools would be established where needed, and, no less important, good roads would be constructed. A start had already been made with the road connecting Berat with Valona, along which the Italians had advanced, and which is stated to be "as great a work of benefaction as it is a marvel of military engineering." The Italians do well to win the confidence of the Albanians by practical demonstrations of their goodwill instead of relying merely upon promises. They have no easy task before them in establishing a protectorate over the country; but the work will be half finished, if before the end of the war they can convince the Albanians that their material needs, which have been accumulating for many years now, have a better chance of being supplied under the temporary protection of Italy, than if Albania is once more left a prey to international as well as to domestic rivalry.

As the months and years pass it is impossible to disguise the cumulative anxiety that is felt in this country over the fate of British and Indian prisoners in Turkish hands. Such statistics as the authorities are able to supply are not reassuring. The total number of our soldiers taken prisoners by the Turks amounts to 474 British officers, 221 Indian officers, 4,815 other British ranks, and 9,769 other Indian ranks. Of the total of over fifteen thousand officers and men, over three thousand are known to have died in captivity, but very nearly the same number must be presumed to be dead, as all steps taken to trace them have been in vain. There has been no lack of effort in Great Britain and India to alleviate the lot of these prisoners, on the part both of the Central Prisoners of War Committee and other similar organizations; but the actual benefit to the men interned has been almost negligible in view of the fact that such a small proportion of the parcels sent ever reached them. It is very rightly feared that, unless more practical steps are taken to deal with the problem, the terrible mortality among the prisoners—already 55 per cent. for the British rank and file—will become higher still. By a resolution passed at the end of last month, which was published in THE NEAR EAST of July 5, the Prisoners in Turkey Committee has decided to urge the Government to enter into negotiations with Turkey for a wide exchange of valid prisoners. The proposal probably embodies the best solution available in the circumstances; but the dilatoriness with which effect is being given by Turkey to the Berne Agreement for the exchange of unfit and civilian prisoners does not promise well for any other undertaking on a still larger scale.

In discussing the subject in the House of Lords on July 24 Lord Newton was not optimistic. He pointed out that the Turkish Government probably "did not care a fig" whether their prisoners in our hands were released or not, and, consequently, they were not likely to display much zeal in effecting an exchange. He repudiated the suggestion that experts had not been employed in the negotiations with the Turks, and he assured the House that no means had been neglected to impress upon the Turks the advisability of coming to an agreement with us. On this point it can only be said that there are experts and experts, for the failure in the first negotiations regarding the Kut prisoners was clearly due in part to ignorance of or indifference to Turkish psychology. One interesting disclosure made by Lord Newton was that Austria-Hungary was responsible for the stoppage of parcels consigned to our prisoners in Turkey, and the British Government had accordingly stopped parcels sent to Austrian prisoners in this country.

The discussion of Indian constitutional reforms may now be said to have reached a definite stage, for while we cannot assert that, as some sanguine people hope, moderate opinion is united in favour of the official proposals, at least, there is no doubt that extreme opinion is united in hostility. So far as the Extreme Right is concerned, this attitude was manifest from the outset, while the news cabled last week from Poona shows that Mr. Tilak, on the Extreme Left, had attempted, and not without success, to rival the vituperative energy of a particular journal. The position taken up in each case is intelligible, though there may be two opinions regarding the validity of its logical foundation, but our present purpose is merely to record the facts. The scheme stands for the moment, like Mr. Pickwick, between Pott's fire-shovel and Slurk's carpet bag.

We must note by the way how unfairly the plan of muzzling Indian politicians in this country has worked out. As Lord Islington explained in Parliament last week, Mr. Tilak was permitted to come here on a pledge of silence, but he is still in India, and consequently can say what he likes. Dr. Nair, on the other hand, is in England, and therefore we are not permitted to hear his views. This is, we think, unfortunate as well as unfair, for while it was easy to forecast Mr. Tilak's attitude, we are by no means certain what Dr. Nair would say, and his opinion is much the more important of the two, because there is no doubt that he speaks for the silent and oppressed classes, whose cause he has made his own, and English people ought to know how the champion of the lower castes regards the Chelmsford-Montagu scheme.

As regards recent contributions to the discussion, we can record little that is either new or valuable. Letters have now taken the place of leaders, and the only letter we have seen which really counts is Lord Montagu of Beaulieu's plea for increased attention to the economic development of India. The Reforms report indeed implicitly recognises this need, and lays down that Government must shoulder its responsibility for the industrial development of the country, but despite this recognition, the risk remains that development may be sidetracked, while all the available energy goes to hauling the heavy political train. We welcome this letter accordingly, and we hope that the writer will secure the support of the English Press in keeping economic needs prominently before the public.

Many of the remaining letters, which do not count, are nevertheless interesting from the light they throw on the mental attitude of the writers, who may be divided into two classes: those who still dream and those who have just wakened up. The latter class are rubbing their eyes, and noticing that India somehow looks different; they are puzzled, and most of them want some sort of a commission to sit and find out what has happened. Their request is natural enough, but they would not have made it, if they had kept awake, and we earnestly hope that there is no chance of the question being hung up in this way. The facts are clear enough, amateur schemes have been sifted, official proposals have been made, and what is now wanted is the final decision of the Cabinet.

Of the writers who dream, the most interesting to our mind is Sir Bampfylde Fuller, who wants to scrap the authority of Parliament at the start. We have a great deal of sympathy with the suggestion, which would certainly appeal to genuine Indian sentiment, but we fear it is incompatible with the hard facts of practical politics. The present House of Commons is stale, too stale even to abdicate; the next House, which will be the first-fruits of our recent revolution, is an unknown quantity, and may in theory do anything; but we anticipate that it will resemble its predecessor in tenacity of power if in nothing else, and that it will want to see India much nearer to years of discretion before it begins to think of surrendering the guardianship which of late has been somewhat negligently and capriciously exercised.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 24.

The English Language in Egypt.

With reference to the resolution passed by the Egypt, Levant and North Africa Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce concerning the question of the establishment of English as the official European language of Egypt, and the incorporation in the Egyptian Legal Code and procedure of such items of English law and procedure as may be practicable, it would appear that the Chamber is not fully informed of the situation. The letter to the High Commissioner refers to the grave disadvantage suffered by British interests owing to the fact that the English language is not the official European language of the country, French or Italian having the preference in all legal procedures. This is, however, an incorrect exposition of the situation; for, since March, 1904, English has been one of the judicial languages recognised by the Mixed Courts, the others being Arabic, French, and Italian. As regards making English the official European language, every effort is already being made in this direction, but such a change cannot be made by a simple stroke of the pen.

Already the tendency as regards the linguistic medium is in every respect pro-English. In the ordinary schools English and Arabic are now the sole media of instruction, and in the higher schools the Law School is the only one where any courses are given in any European langauge other than English; it has, moreover, been definitely arranged that these courses shall disappear after next year. The young generation of officials nearly all speak English; while it is noticeable that a larger proportion of the higher Egyptian officials speaks the same language, as compared with what was the case a decade ago. Official correspondence is carried on more and more in English and in Arabic, and it is merely a question of time for English to become the official European language, without any arbitrary intervention; though so long as France and Italy have important commercial interests in the country their languages will have to be recognised before the Courts.

While on the subject of a linguistic medium, it is interesting to note that examiners all agree that the standard of English among students nowadays is very low, and that a Committee is sitting to investigate the question. The falling-off dates from the time when it was decided to start giving instruction in certain scientific and allied subjects through the medium of Arabic instead of English, and the situation has been aggravated by the depletion of the English staff of the Ministry of Education owing to the war. This changeover in linguistic medium of instruction was made in the face of much opposition, which still continues, and which based its objection on the fact that the standard of instruction in these subjects would fall off, if they were taught in Arabic. The question has been discussed on many occasions in this correspondence, and I do not now propose to devote any further space to the subject beyond saying that the general lowering of the standard of English amongst Egyptian graduates, if it is proved to be due to the change referred to, should certainly strengthen the position of those who have throughout opposed that change.

As regards the introduction of English law and procedure into the Egyptian Code, this is already being done, and the Note on the first year's work of the Capitulations Committee, a review of which appeared in The Near East of May 3 and May 17, clearly indicates that, in commercial matters at any rate, British precedents will be considered in the matter of filling gaps and remedying defects in the Egyptian Legislation.

The Question of Currency.

Notwithstanding the authority given to the National Bank of Egypt last month to issue bank notes of P.T.25, in addition to the denominations already authorised, the demand for silver currency has continued in excess of the supply; and the Egyptian Government has been compelled to issue currency notes of the value of P.T. 10 in order to relieve the situation. The causes, which have led up to this currency scarcity were dealt with in this correspondence at the time. In an explanatory note attached to the Ministerial Decision, the Government states that whilst before the war the quantity of silver in circulation was £E2,500,000—which sufficed for the country's requirements—to-day the amount in circulation has attained £E7,000,000, which is inadequate, and in view of the difficulty in obtaining silver and minting it, the Government has been forced to resort to the expedient of issuing currency notes. It points out that these notes are only an emergency measure and that as soon as more silver can be obtained, or the local demand decreases, they will be withdrawn; it adds that in order to insure that this is done at the earliest moment, all profit on the issue will be carried to a special account. Meanwhile, the currency notes, which are made legal tender in the same manner as pieces of P.T. 10, can be exchanged at the Government Treasuries for bank notes, and will be accepted by the Government in payment of taxes or any debt due to it. It should be mentioned that it is generally conceded that the issue of P.T. 25 notes was a mistake, and that they should have been for P.T. 20. The issue of currency notes of P.T. 10 will remedy this, while at the same time relieving the situation as regards silver currency.

The Native Bar.

A law has been promulgated this week modifying the existing regulation governing the Native Bar and admission thereto. The new law lays down that an advocate must at the end of his period of apprenticeship undergo a written and oral examination before he can be permitted to plead in his own name before the Central Courts. The previous regulations did not provide an examination at the end of the apprenticeship, and allowed an advocate to plead in his own name before the Central Courts after he had satisfied a special commission that he had spent two years attached to the office of a recognised advocate and had attended the courts regularly. It should be pointed out that the recent report of the Capitulations Committee laid down that for admission of advocates to the new unified Bar it would be necessary in the future to undergo an examination on the expiration of the period of apprenticeship; and this amendment of the regulations of the Native Bar may be regarded as an initial attempt to carry out this very sound recommendation.

Justice in Palestine.

The *Palestine News* announces the re-establishment of civil courts of justice in the occupied enemy territory. These courts will be based on the system in force under the Turkish *régime*, but will have certain modifications which will bring justice appreciably nearer the people. The highest court will be a court of appeal at Jerusalem. This court will also sit as a court of assize and will go on circuit, a procedure unknown under the pre-war administration. There will be two courts of first instance, one at Jaffa and one at Jerusalem, and, in addition, there will be in each of the other *kazas*, where there is no court of first instance, a special court, which will be composed of a British administrative officer and either a magistrate and a notable or two notables. These special courts will be convened when required, and will try cases beyond the jurisdiction of the magistrate. There will be in addition nine magistrates scattered about the country for the hearing of small cases or those in which both parties consent to bring their dispute before the magistrate's court. Great care has been taken in the choice of *personnel*. Several British officers with legal experience and knowledge of Arabic have been appointed to the courts, and the rest of the staff has been selected from local men whose integrity, qualifications, and ability are well known. The pay of the latter has also been increased to remove the temptation to which the inadequate salaries paid by the Turks laid them open. The courts will administer the law hitherto existing in the country, which will remain substantially unaltered except so far as special provisions may be necessary to provide for difficulties created by the existence of the war and special Turkish legislation, but the jurisdiction of the religious courts of the Moslem and other communities will remain untouched.

SUDAN NOTES.

IRRIGATION AND RAILWAYS.

(From Our Khartoum Correspondent.)

Khartoum, June 12.

A writer in the April number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, quoting Nubar Pasha's observation that the Egyptian question was the irrigation question, contends that the Sudan question to-day is the railway question. The general argument in support of this appears to be that it would pay the Sudan better to build railways in the Eastern Sudan than to construct irrigation works in the Northern Gezireh. The writer, who has clearly studied the question on the spot—though possibly not very recently—overlooks the rather obvious point that, so far as Egypt is concerned, as it was in the days of Nubar, so also it is now. The control of the Nile is literally of vital importance to Egypt, and, even to those who have no particular technical knowledge of the subject, it appears fairly obvious that the Blue Nile Dam is an essential part of Egypt's programme, which must be carried out as quickly as possible.

As a matter of fact, the proposal will be of great and lasting benefit to the Sudan, and offers an opening for the investment of foreign capital which, it is to be feared, no railway without some strong additional attraction would ever do. This is proved by the known interest taken in the proposal by the cotton spinners of Manchester and the recent announcement of British Government support. The Sudan will get the financial benefit, and can fairly be expected, therefore, to pay the interest on the capital expended. On the other hand, Egypt, equally jealous of every drop of water, undertakes other costly works—all part of a vast scheme—as a result of which the release of an adequate supply of water for the Sudan cotton crop is assured. The bargain is very fair.

It seems, therefore, at least probable that while the Sudan may be in a position to raise money for irrigation works and to secure the requisite approval of the Egyptian and British Governments, thereto (for both flags fly in the Sudan), its railway schemes, important and urgent as they are, may have to wait until the country can prove by increasing returns its economic and financial stability.

All interested in the welfare of the Sudan, however, and especially those who live in it, will at least hope that some strategic or other valid reason may induce the powers that be not to wait too long; and of all the schemes proposed (and they extend west, south and east), those advocated by the writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* do appear of supreme importance. The advisability of taking the line from Sennar to Gedaref *viâ* Singa, however, seems doubtful. Once the dam is built, river transport between that place and Sennar will be easy, and a bridge over the Blue Nile at Singa would be expensive, and can be entirely obviated by taking the line over the dam. The cost of such a bridge would go far to pay for a branch line to Singa, if really necessary. It is understood that the railway authorities have always advocated the route *viâ* Mafaza and Gedaref, but, as a result of careful surveys, advised against taking the line from Kassala to Suakin *viâ* Tokar because of the engineering and other difficulties in Khor Langeb and Khor Baraka and the fact that the region is subject to floods and sand storms, which at certain periods of the year would involve complete suspension of traffic. Tokar can be reached from Suakin by a branch line of sixty miles which will meet all requirements and which, being a branch line, could be more cheaply laid.

The line from Thamiam to Kassala would be 214 miles long, whereas from Suakin to Kassala *viâ* Tokar it would be 350 miles. This would mean a heavy additional outlay in capital, even were such a line practicable. From Kassala to Port Sudan *viâ* Thamiam would be about 342 miles and to Suakin *viâ* Tokar 350 miles, but Suakin to Port Sudan involves a further distance of forty-six miles.

One word more on the economic aspect of these questions. The writer in *Blackwood* asserts that a line from Sennar to Suakin *viâ* Singa, Gedaref, Kassala, and Tokar would pay far better than launching out into expensive irrigation schemes of unproved utility. This seems a somewhat rash statement. According to their published figures the Sudan railways have done well since the war, but this has been largely due to the heavy rains, which have enabled the country to make large exports of grain to meet military requirements. In 1917 practically 100,000 tons of dhurra were sent to Halfa and the Red Sea. Only four years ago the rains were so bad that dhurra had to be imported from India by the Government to feed the starving population. The railway must have traffic, and, therefore, wants, or should want, irrigation. Equally, the people need to be secured against starvation, and this is only possible when irrigation is assured.

One of the reasons, no doubt, for building the railway south of Khartoum was the irrigation scheme which lay ahead, but which could not be tackled without a railway. Similarly, the great attraction of the Kassala railway (as the article seems to realise) lies in the fact that an irrigation scheme for the Gash delta only awaits the arrival of railhead to be seriously considered. Other similar examples elsewhere might be quoted. Given a sound economic scheme, a railway will follow as surely as day the night. But Governments being human and finance being finance, the wise man is he who puts his scheme of development in the front line rather than his railway.

LIFE IN PERSIA THIRTY YEARS AGO.

Anecdotes and reminiscences interesting and amusing formed the subject matter of the paper which Mr. Alexander Finn read before the Persia Society at 22, Albemarle Street on July 15. Mr. Finn went out to Persia forty years ago, and was our Consul-General there for many years. Among other stories told, one related an adventure of a Mr. Hoeltzer, a great rider. Water is carried from one place to another by means of underground conduits called kanats, which have air-holes at intervals. As often as not these air-holes have nothing to show their whereabouts. One day, when a party were out coursing, Hoeltzer's horse was seen careering about riderless. The rider could not be found, so the men dismounted and walked up a line of wells. Presently they found a hat on the edge of one of these, and calling down, got a reply from a feeble voice that the speaker was quite safe, but standing up to his waist in water, and that the sides of the well were too slippery to climb up. Ropes were unobtainable, but eight pairs of stirrup leathers were buckled together, and the victim was hauled up battered and wet, but smoking a pipe and apologising to the ladies for keeping them waiting.

Mr. Finn described the horse racing, which in his day took place in March every year on ground to the west of Teheran. The course was within a few yards of two miles round, and there were six races. The first of these was six times round the course; others were two, three, or four times round it. There were never less than twenty-three starters, and on one occasion there were thirty-one. The jockeys were lads of fifteen or under, but one of them was said to have ridden in every race for six consecutive years. Another veteran in the field was a Turkoman horse with a diamond aigrette between the ears. This had been given by the Shah, because of the horse having won the great race five or six times running. His Majesty also gave the horse an annual pension of 100 tomans, and had him led out every year to look on at the scene of his former triumphs. The racecourse was kept by some 3,000 troops, and between the races dancing boys performed, and bands played.

"Mudakhil," said Mr. Finn, was a word which meant much in Persia. The nearest to an English equivalent was the word "persk." "Dak yek" (one in ten) was the acknowledged percentage of every seller or buyer (or both) on any transaction. The honest people were those who were content with that, but others sought a larger profit. In 1876 it was decided to light the main streets of the capital—of course, with oil. An Armenian, Jehangir Khan, was charged with the business, and made a profit of ten tomans on each lamp. But then he expected that when the lighting was completed he would be congratulated by the Shah, and, consequently, have to make a substantial monetary offering to His Majesty—so substantial that he would gain nothing on the transaction after all. A former minister had suggested the lighting of the streets within the palace enclosure: the idea was accepted, but, for so long as he lived, he had to pay for the lighting. But the Shah's English gardener managed to get neatly out of a similar position. One day the Shah said to him, "Staley, I hear you want to make me a present." "Yes," was the reply, "I have it ready close by." Staley went to fetch the present, and returned with a dish of radishes. The Shah laughed and said, "Zarang" ('cute).

"Pedder sookatch" (son of a burned father) was the commonest expletive. General Adrienne, an Italian artillery instructor in the Persian service, noticed that a bugler called out, "Pedder sookatch" three times every morning before sounding the reveillé. Asked why, he replied that he knew that every man in camp would be applying the epithet to him the moment the bugle sounded, and he liked to have his say first.

MOROCCO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, July 10.

The South Road.

Tangier is at present cheered by the presence of a Spanish official, who has reawakened the almost moribund hopes that the road southwards through the Spanish zone will be completed some day. Whatever blame may or may not be due to the Spanish authorities for the delay in a work that means so much both to Tangier and to the rest of Morocco, it must be admitted that the drawbacks of the track which now does duty as road have been much lessened, especially in winter, by the unvarying courtesy and kindness of both officers and men in the military posts in the country traversed. There are, indeed, few of any nationality who have ever lost their way, been benighted, or stuck in the mud between here and the French zone who will not testify to this fact. The individual soldier invariably gives ready help, and does not seek, and will not take, reward in any form. The officers put their services absolutely at the disposal of those in need of them, and whatever help they can give, whether it is to send soldiers to pull out or guard a car deep-bedded in the mud, or to turn out of their quarters and give shelter and food to the stranded travellers, is given with readiness and courteous zest; and their chief anxiety seems to be to prevent these stray guests feeling any sense of obligation.

Still, with all the kindly helpfulness that is met with on the way, the track from here southwards is almost impassable in even moderately wet weather, and the completion of the permanent road will be immensely welcome. As soon as the comparatively few miles, in the French as well as the Spanish zone, that are needed to link Tangier with the southern road system are finished it will be possible to go from Tangier by car to all western Morocco and past Fez and Taza to Algeria. When once again the autumn stream of those who seek sunny winter resorts begins to flow from England some part of it will certainly reach Tangier. There is little doubt, if the road is only open, that these visitors will not all be content to visit Tangier alone, but that many will go on by land to see the south, especially Fez and Marrakesh, which can already offer all that can be asked for in winter climate, beauty, and interest, and will soon, no doubt, be able to supply all other requirements of the most captious travellers.

Fire at Fez.

Details are only now reaching Tangier of a very serious fire that broke out in Fez on June 22, and destroyed a great part of the most important bazaars. A very important trade in Manchester goods is carried on in Fez and in the quarter that has been burnt, but, fortunately, it seems, though hundreds of little shops were destroyed, the main stores or warehouses (*fondaks*) were not touched. The most venerated mosque in Morocco, Mulai Edress, was, it is said, in danger, but, thanks to the energetic steps taken, no serious damage seems to have been done. The destruction of a place with such associations, especially at a time like this, would have had a great effect throughout the country, and it is extremely fortunate that the city was in charge of capable authorities. In the old days such a fire might well have involved the whole city.

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EAST v. WEST.

As towards the close of some hot Eastern day
  Beside the marble fountain I recline,
The world of care and labour falls away,
  The cool and blessed night at least is mine.

Thus should it be; and thus would I restore
  With thoughts of home the freshness of my heart,
Did not that Eastern genius bar the door
  Of fancy, saying "Thou shalt not depart."

So speaks he; and the moonlight steals along
  The countless arabesques; I seem to hear
From out the pillared dark the soft, sweet song
  Sung by the slave-girls to some dead vizier.

    In vain the Western spirit strives to free
    Itself from that Circean reverie.

Fez, 30/9/17.

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The Simla correspondent of *The Times* reports:—The Government has taken powers under the Defence of India Act to deport any person acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the defence of British India. Such powers already exist in regard to foreigners.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CYPRUS "TRIBUTE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of April 5 you published an extract from Captain Ferguson's article in *Chambers's Journal* to Cyprus. The statement made therein that the tribute to Turkey has ceased is incorrect. The proper way of putting it is that there never has been a "tribute" in the strict sense of that word: that the so-called tribute was never at any time paid to Turkey; that the money in question was, until lately, sent to London and divided equally between the French and English Governments. At present, a sum of approximately £45,000 is paid to France annually. On the other hand, the real tribute due by Egypt to the Sultan has ceased since the outbreak of war, while the so-called Cyprus tribute is still paid to France. I gave an explanation of the Cyprus "tribute" at great length in your paper of December 31, 1915; unfortunately, no one has impugned its veracity.—I am, etc.,

George N. Houston.

Kyrenia, June 12, 1918.

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COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons. On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

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Two classes of non-commissioned officers and men of the Greek Navy, classes 1910 and 1911, have been called up.

The Hetman of the Ukraine has confirmed the law establishing a Senate at Kieff which "will represent the highest legal and administrative authority in the land."

The War Office issued the following statement on Tuesday evening concerning Mesopotamia:—There is no military operation to report. Great heat prevails throughout the country, but the health of the troops remains good.

The Athens Court of Cassation having rejected the appeal of the Greek officers from Görlitz, Lieutenants Hazzopoulos and Calamaras, who were condemned to death for treason by Court-martial, the two officers were shot at dawn on July 22.

The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund now amounts to £460,000. Recent subscribers are: "Two American Admirers of Lord Kitchener" (per Viscount Reading), £5,000; The King of Tonga and the Europeans and natives of Tonga (per Sir Bickham Escott), £4,665; inhabitants of the Falkland Islands, £410; Europeans and natives of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (per Mr. E. C. Elliott), £377. All remittances should be sent to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, Mansion House, E.C.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

MONTENEGRO.*

The fates have dealt harshly with Montenegro. For her size—her population is little more than a quarter of a million—she has performed prodigies of valour, but she has been overwhelmed at a comparatively early period of the war, and now she can offer nothing to the Allied cause which has any chance of making itself felt among the armed millions on the Western front. As far as Great Britain is concerned, however, she is not likely to be allowed to sink into permanent oblivion. Tennyson's words are still with us:—

> O smallest among peoples! Rough rock-throne
> Of Freedom! warriors beating back the swarm
> Of Turkish Islam for five hundred years,
> Great Tzernagora! never since thine own
> Black ridges drew the cloud and broke the storm,
> Has breathed a race of mightier mountaineers.

and although she has had to bow before the storm, few will have regarded her present sorrow as anything but the prelude to a larger destiny. For this reason most people will be tempted to receive with a shrug of the shoulders the efforts that have been made to prejudice Montenegro in the eyes of the Allied Powers, to represent her as having been half-hearted in the fight, and too ready to discuss terms of peace with Austria-Hungary. There are many axes to be ground in the Balkans, and for a short period the situation in Montenegro was complicated enough to lend plausibility to any explanation. But a good deal of water has passed down the Drin since Mt. Lovtchen capitulated to the Austrians, and nothing can explain away the fact that Montenegro has undergone a cruel martyrdom at the hands of the enemy, and if it was for this that she made terms with the invaders, then she is to be pitied all the more.

Mr. Devine is one of the staunchest of Montenegro's friends, and in his attachment to the country and the people is at one with practically all those who know both. He occupies special ground in that he has been in close association with the Government and people both before and during the war. For this reason the criticisms and the intrigues directed against the country have touched him to the quick, and in writing a popular history of Montenegro he has felt obliged to take up the cudgels on her behalf against those who have attacked her with slander and insinuation. To the readers who have paid no attention to anti-Montenegrin bias the book may seem unduly weighted in this respect. But the author, realising that the object of those who started the campaign was to prejudice her in the eyes of the Allied Governments, and that Montenegro is not represented by a Minister of her own at the Court of St. James's, has taken the opportunity to deal at length with the Press campaign. Thus within a short compass we have a timely book, which gives a brief but readable summary of Montenegrin history and brings the tale down to the present day. Those who would understand why Montenegro has been assailed will find a full *exposé* of the personal equation in the episode.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"La Dobrogea (Dobroudja)." By N. P. Commène. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 3 fr.)

"Trois Etapes." By René Milan. (Paris: Librairie Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 3fr. 50c.)

"Our Allies and Enemies in the Near East." By Jean Victor Bates. (London: Chapman and Hall. 10s. 6d. net.)

"German Intrigues in Persia: The Neidermayer Expedition through Persia to Afghanistan and India." Translated from the German. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3d. net.)

"Roumania: Yesterday and To-Day." By Mrs. Will Gordon. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Spindrift." By V. de S. Pinto. (London: Chapman and Hall. 5s. net.)

"Asia Minor." By Walter A. Hawley. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Three Aspects of the Russian Revolution." By Emile Vandervelde. Translated by Jean E. H. Findlay. (London: George Allen and Unwin. 5s. net.)

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A legal Commission composed of five members, under the chairmanship of Judge Hall of the Egyptian Native Court of Appeal, recently visited Alexandria in order to select a suitable place for housing a new Civil Court proposed to be set up in that city in the near future.

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* "Montenegro in History, Politics and War." By Alex Devine. (London T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. Price 3s. 6d.)

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Life in the Karun Region.

Writing in the *Field* on "A Visit to Daniel's Tomb," Mr. R. Cheesman gives some pleasing pictures of animal life and wild scenery along the Karun River, in south-west Persia. He writes:—

> The head of navigation for the larger river boats is the village of Nasrie, situated on the left bank of the Karun below the first rapids. Nasrie fills a more important place in the life of the river to-day than even Ahwaz. The cargoes which are brought up to it have either to be carried to shallow draught boats above the rapids, or taken by picturesque caravans of camels, mules, and donkeys, with their fierce Bakhtiari drivers, on long journeys over the mountains into the interior. The landscape is a desert, the flatness to the north broken by occasional small sandstone ranges of hills and mounds, sun-baked and sterile; though the ruins of gigantic canals are witness alike to the former agricultural wealth of the country and to the engineering genius of its ancient dynasties. With an average rainfall, good crops of wheat and barley are still grown round the villages on either bank, and just for this short period the khaki uniform of the landscape is changed to green. But a drought may mean complete failure of the crops. In the plain the Persian gazelle waxes fat on a few scorched fibres of grass, and apparently exists without water; while jackals and wolves pick up a precarious living from any animals that die in the caravans. There are also desert foxes, small animals with long brushes, which have their earths in the mounds, and come out at sunset to prey on the flocks of large pintailed sandgrouse. Occasionally they may catch a see-see, the plump little partridge which lives on the bare hills In time of adversity they probably devour any carrion that the jackals leave. On the higher crags of the Ahwaz Hills a few pairs of Egyptian vultures and ravens nest in the spring.

Again, further up stream:—

> The jungles afford a sanctuary for numerous herds of the European species of wild pig, and at daybreak many family parties can be seen wending their way home from foraging expeditions in distant cornfields. First comes the boar, a black and brown patriarch with tusks beyond the wildest dreams of his Indian relative; and following him the sows, with their families of little striped piglets trotting in single file. It is possible that nearer the Pusht-i-kuh Mountains, where the jungles are broader and the reputation of the Bakhtiari tribesmen keep people from wandering off the beaten track, the Persian lion may still be found, but with the increase of more accurate firearms among the shepherds and herdsmen the decrease of lions was inevitable. Another rare straggler is the Persian fallow deer. I have seen specimens of his handsome spotted skin obtained in these jungles. In the spring the loud crowing of the francolin, a large partridge of black and brown, challenges his neighbour to combat; and the Persian nightingale—named after Hafiz, the Persian poet—arrests attention as he pours forth his tale of love in melodies equal to those of our English bird. The two species differ only in the slight matter of the length of wing feathers.

One of the quaintest creatures is the spring-tailed lizard, which lives in colonies and burrows in the desert. It is a large and quaint reptile with the unchangeable smile of a cathedral gargoyle. In May he sits outside his burrow in the sun in full war-paint, a glory of purple and bright yellow, which makes him look more grotesque than ever. The reason for his smile becomes apparent when he is handled. One naturally avoids the mouth, but as soon as the hand is considered in range, round comes the thick spring-tail with the suddenness of a rat-trap and the flick of a whip-lash. It is a grim kind of humour that appeals to lizards.

In Lower Mesopotamia.

A highly interesting account of an official tour made by the Deputy Civil Commissioner of Busreh and party is given by the *Busreh Times*. The tour took the party through the Gharraf region—the region watered by the Shatt el-Hai, that is to say, and the following passage will give some idea of life along this old bed of the Tigris:—

> The history of the country, physical as well as political, is written upon its face. Whether or no the Tigris once ran down what we call the Hai—the Gharraf is the Arab name for it—for centuries, every year, as the spring brought high water, a huge volume of water has come down this stream, which at other times is dry. Flood waters in this country, as all the world knows, carry an enormous load of silt. So the Gharraf, receiving nothing but flood water, has year after year built for itself a rapidly rising causeway along which it flows, well above the surrounding country. As the level of the river-bed rises so do the bunds along its banks, by which its waters are kept in place. The process, in the absence of any systematic conservancy, can have but one end. Sooner or later vigilance or material resources fail. The bank is breached. Miles of cornlands are flooded, and thereafter the river takes a new course, leaving to lands formerly dependent on it no trace of their prosperity save a name such as "Mother of wheat" or "Father of frogs" to tell of broad acres under winter or summer crops. This is the fate which of late years has overtaken Shattrah and the lands to the south and west of it adjoining Nasiriyah.
>
> Seven years ago the bank breached about three miles above Shattrah on the eastern side of the river, and a small canal, known as the Beda, found itself the unwilling and unworthy recipient of nine-tenths of the waters of the Gharraf. These it was, of course, quite unable to carry. Extensive flooding resulted all along its length, and thousands of acres formerly dependent in it were thrown out of cultivation. The consequent dislocation of tribal politics may easily be imagined. Every tribe, and every man in every tribe, fortified his position, if it were worth retention, alike against the waters and against his neighbours. If it were not, he moved elsewhere, and strove to snatch a parcel of watered land from some weaker or less wary fellow. Thick walled towers of mud rose from the earth on every side, like mushrooms, to guard alike the mouths of the channels and the lands lower down along these, over which their waters were spread. All this can be seen from any housetop in Shattrah, while the sun sinks to rest in a blaze of glory and the smoke of unseen fires hangs low upon the sky line, and countless flocks of swarthy sheep stuffed to repletion with delicious green grass come bleating homewards over the level plain.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

In a written reply to a question asked by Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. Hope says:—

Clothing is issued to British prisoners in Turkey by his Majesty's Government, or by the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople on their behalf. Officers receive pay from the Turkish Government at 4s. 6d. or 4s. per day, according to rank. They also receive a relief allowance from his Majesty's Government, through the Netherlands Legation, up to a maximum of £T.18 (£16 4s.) per month. Other prisoners receive a relief allowance up to £T.10 (£9) monthly, but no pay except when working, as regards which the Turkish Government has stated that they receive from 50ps. (9s.) to £T.1 (18s.) per week when employed at large working stations under the orders of the military authorities. Those employed in other work do not receive pay. According to the statements of prisoners, it would appear that they are by way of receiving from 3ps. to 5ps. (7½d. to 11½d.) per day, which, however, does not always reach them.

With regard to food, the Turkish Government has stated that British prisoners receive the same rations as Turkish soldiers, consisting, according to locality and season, of meat, vegetables, boiled wheat, bean oil, etc. Here again, it appears from the statements of prisoners that the rations are not sufficient. Officers receive no rations. I regret that, in the absence of reports by the Netherlands Legation, whose representatives were not allowed before the Berne agreement to inspect camps, his Majesty's Government have not comprehensive information. All the above refers to Indian prisoners equally as to Europeans.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. July	1918. July		1336. Shawal	5678. Ab.
26	13	Friday	17	17
27	14	Saturday........	18	18
28	15	**Sunday**	19	19
29	16	Monday	20	20
30	17	Tuesday	21	21
31	18	Wednesday	22	22
August 1	19	Thursday	23	23

Madame Gennadius, wife of the Greek Minister, has left town for Bournemouth.

The King of the Hellenes visited the Greek sector on the Struma on July 18.

The Maharaja of Patiala was enrolled an honorary freeman of Cardiff on Wednesday.

Essad Pasha arrived in Athens last week and paid a visit to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Lady Elcho has gone from Escrick Park Hospital for Officers on a visit to the Countess of Wemyss at Gosford.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, visited Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

Sir Ronald and Lady Graham were among the guests at a dinner party given by the King and Queen on July 18.

Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, arrived in Rome on Saturday. He has visited the Italian front, and will proceed to the British front.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attache to the Roumanian Legation, who left London for the Continent on Thursday last week, has returned.

The engagement is announced of Captain G. J. R. Lowe, R.A.M.C., to Madeline, only daughter of the Hon. C. R. Cumberland and Mrs. Cumberland, of Colombo, Ceylon.

On June 15, at St. Joseph's Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Lieutenant-Colonel F. F. Carroll, D.S.O., and Miss Evelyn Bernard, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. E. E. Bernard. The service was conducted by the Rev. Father Fitzmaurice.

The King has appointed, as an additional Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, in recognition of meritorious services rendered in connection with the war, Sirdar Kishen Singh, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Bharatpur Imperial Service Transport Corps.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Brigadier-General P. R. C. Groves, D.S.O., R.A.F., elder son of J. Groves, late of the Public Works Department, India, and Margot, elder daughter of the late Clayton Glyn, of Durrington House, Harlow, and Mrs. Glyn.

An engagement is announced between Douglas L. McKenzie Fearn, third son of the late Major G. H. Fearn, I.M.S., and Mrs. Fearn, of Panchgani, India, and Bertha Gwendolen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Nisbet, of Verona, Wilbury Crescent, Hove, and late of Maymyo, Burma.

The marriage arranged between Captain George Nigel Miller, 90th Punjabis, and Miss Dorothea Ella Robinson, younger daughter of the late St. George Robinson, of Woodville, Sligo, and Mrs. Robinson, of Lumville, The Curragh, will take place quietly at St. Ann's Church, Dublin, on August 6.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant A. A. L. Miller, R.N., surviving son of Sir John Ontario Miller, K.C.S.I., and Lady Miller, 6, Sussex Place, Hyde Park, W., and Evelyn Mary, second daughter of Mr. W. H. More, Crown Receiver for Wales, etc., and Mrs. More, Crown Lodge, Harlech, N. Wales.

Sir Alexander McRobert and Sir Logie Watson, of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, have recently returned to Cawnpore from Afghanistan. They went to Kabul at the personal invitation of the Amir, to advise his Majesty regarding an extension of the woollen mills originally established through the agency of the Cawnpore Mills Company. During their stay, which was rendered particularly enjoyable by the King's hospitality, a visit was paid to Paghman, his Majesty's summer residence. Afghanistan is a rich country, and the visitors were much impressed by one drive of forty miles through gardens and vineyards practically the whole time.

An engagement is announced, and the wedding will shortly take place, between Surgeon F. A. V. Denning, Royal Navy, eldest son of Doctor and Mrs. Denning, of Denmark Hill, S.E., and Daisy, only daughter of Engineer Captain Archie R. Emdin, C.M.G., Royal Navy, and Mrs. Emdin, of H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in August, between Commander Lionel Turbett, Royal Indian Marine, Director, Sea Transport, Mesopotamia, second son of the late Thomas Turbett and of Mrs. Turbett, 2, Crosthwaite Park, Kingstown, Co. Dublin, and Constance Hilda, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Rhodes James, Coonoor, South India.

M. Take Jonescu arrived in Paris on Sunday. He intends to proceed to most of the Allied countries in order to inform the various Allied Governments and enlighten the public regarding the position of the people in Roumania resulting from the Treaty of Bucharest, says *Reuter's* correspondent. M. Jonescu will visit Great Britain at the end of the month, and will afterwards go to America.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at the old Parish Church, Ayr, at 2.30 on Wednesday, August 14, between Captain Edward D. Atkinson, D.F.C., Royal Air Force, son of the late J. H. Atkinson, of Calcutta, and Nancy, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Rowan, Dunskaig, Ayr, Scotland. No invitations are being sent, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

A telegram from Berlin to the *Kölnische Zeitung* says that the ex-Khedive of Egypt is on his way to Germany to visit the Kaiser.

Sir Alexander Hope, 15th Bt., of Pinkie House, Musselburgh, late of the Bengal Civil Service, left personal estate of the value of £25,798.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that an influential Italian Committee for securing Armenian Independence has been formed. The committee includes the ex-Ministers Luzzatti, Barzilai, Ruffini, Scialoia, and Admiral Triangi, whose wife is an Armenian, the Mayor of Rome, and the Editor of the *Corriere della Sera*.

Yesterday afternoon, on the invitation of the Lord Mayor, a public meeting was held at the Mansion House to inaugurate the Serbian (Jugoslav) National War Aims Committee in Great Britain. Mr. Balfour, Sir R. Borden, Mr. A. Henderson, and the Serbian Minister were among the speakers. We hope to give a report of the meeting next week.

M. Marghiloman, Roumanian Prime Minister, states that the position in Bessarabia has now considerably improved. The land has been divided among the peasants by an autonomous National Council, which has also received the right to carry out agrarian reforms. The administration is autonomous, and the Government has only appointed a General Commissioner.

Commenting on reports in Roumanian newspapers that the Minister of Justice, M. Dobresco, has retired, and has been replaced by M. Mitilineu, the *Vossische Zeitung* says that M. Mitilineu is regarded by the well-informed as being in the Queen's confidence, having been her private secretary; and adds that apart from this, M. Mitilineu is known to be a friend of the Entente.

On Thursday, last week, the Indian representatives on the Imperial Conference and the Imperial War Cabinet—the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir S. P. Sinha—were entertained at luncheon at Claridge's Hotel by the Indian residents in London. Syed Ameer Ali presided, and among those present were: Mr. E. S. Montagu, Mr. W. Massey, Sir R. Borden, Sir Joseph Ward, Lord Islington, Lord Reay, Lord Desborough, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Lamington, Mr. B. N. Basu, Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Wigram, Sir F. W. Duke, Sir James Meston, General Sir Herbert Cox, Sir Valentine Chirol, Sir P. Pattani, Sir James Dunlop Smith, Sir Thomas Barlow, Aftub Ahmed Khan, A. Yusuf Ali, A. S. M. Anik, M. H. Ispahani, T. Lall, and N. C. Sen.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Kaimakam D. Mills Bey, Eastern Arab Corps, has been appointed second in command of the Western Arab Corps.

M. Jean Papas, who has been specially attached to the Greek Legation in London, has arrived and entered upon his duties.

Bimbashi G. C. Gowland, Military Works Department, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army with effect from June 5.

Mr. M. G. Harris, who was formerly British Vice-Consul at Cairo, is now acting British Consul-General for the City and Port of Alexandria.

Bimbashi I. R. B. Bond, M.C., Staff Officer, Khartoum District, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam, and appointed second in command of the Eastern Arab Corps, and replaced as Staff Officer, Khartoum, by Bimbashi H. B. H. White, D.S.O., Eastern Arab Corps.

It is announced that Mr. John Stavridi, Greek Consul-General in London, has ceased to be honorary counsellor to the Greek Legation. Mr. Stavridi has received a telegram from the Greek Foreign Minister explaining that, owing to the presence in London on a special mission of the Greek Minister in Petrograd, there is no longer any raison d'être for the post Mr. Stavridi occupied. M. Politis expresses his warmest thanks for the services rendered by Mr. Stavridi as honorary counsellor.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant Robin Creswell Carver, Royal Air Force, formerly of Benha, Egypt, was killed in a flying accident in England on July 17. He had his commission in August last year.

Lieutenant Eric Bainbridge, who was reported missing as long ago as September, 1916, is now officially reported dead. He was 18 years of age, and was the youngest son of the late Reginald Newton Bainbridge, of Assam, and Mrs. Emily Bainbridge.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Webster, D.S.O., M.C., Sherwood Foresters, who was previously reported missing, is now reported as having been killed on March 22. He was engaged in business in Bombay when the war broke out and joined the Indian Expeditionary Force as a motor dispatch rider, in which capacity he served on the Western front for some months. He obtained a commission in February, 1915, and was wounded twice. He had been confirmed in the rank of temporary lieutenant-colonel in command of a battalion of his regiment shortly before he was killed.

Captain Chetwode Percy Evill, M.C., is reported killed. The only son of the Rev. H. Marten Evill, of St. Martin's Vicarage, Hereford, he was educated at Haileybury and King's College, London. He obtained the degree of A.M.I.C.E. in 1910, and became assistant engineer on the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway in 1911. In 1914 he joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers and was attached to the Sappers and Miners. Later, attached to the Farid Khot Imperial Service Sappers, he served from May, 1915, to February, 1918, in the East African campaign, and during that period he was twice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the Military Cross.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

Hoyland—Wood.—On Friday, July 5, at the British Consulate and St. Andrew's Church, Patras, Greece, by the Rev. F. W. Moore, C.F., Captain Harold Allan Dilke Hoyland, Special List, British Salonika Force (formerly of Constantinople), to Winifred Helen, eldest daughter of F. B. Wood, Esq., I.S.O., H.B.M. Consul, Patras, and of Mrs. Wood.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Postmaster-general gives notice that the mail service to Roumania is suspended.

A special session of the Indian National Congress will be held in Bombay in the middle of August in connection with the reform scheme.

Rainfall has been in excess in Upper Burma, Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Punjab South-West, Kashmir, and North-West Frontier Province; fair in Lower Burma; and scanty elsewhere. The Bombay monsoon is likely to continue weak.

It is stated by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief that the worst reports of the famine in Persia are confirmed. The committee is cabling £20,000 to India for the purchase of grain, to be dispatched by motor-truck to Persia.

A *Reuter's* message from Athens, dated July 17, states: The Areopagus to-day rejected the appeal of Lieutenants Hazzopoulos and Calamaras and their accomplices. Lieutenants Hazzopoulos and Calamaras were sent on a secret mission to Athens from Görlitz, the German quarters of the Greeks who surrendered at Seres and Kavalla. The execution of these officers, and of the lawyer Counoupis, will probably take place this week.

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FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1918.

EGYPT AND "RECONSTRUCTION."

Although the war has brought nothing but gain to Egypt, it is symptomatic of the awakened interest in the essential things of national life, which is to be met with in every country to-day, that attention there is also being directed to the problems of the time when peace will have been restored. If in any part of the world a return to pre-war conditions might have been contemplated with some degree of complacency, it would be along the banks of the Nile. But apart from the changed spirit possessing the nations, Egypt, it has to be remembered, has acquired a new status, which gives her added responsibilities and makes fresh claims upon her self-respect. When the highways of the world once more teem with commercial activity, renewed, sooner or later, on a scale far greater than ever before, it ill behoves Egypt, situated on the bridge connecting the West and the East, to adopt an attitude of supineness. Moreover, it may well be that the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities, with all its complex problems for the different States whose conditions have been revolutionised by the events of the war, will introduce in regard to the chief necessaries of life a régime of "each for himself," with the inevitable disabilities for those who cannot keep themselves in the forefront. For Egypt, whose dependence on foreign trade may have presented no anomaly in the past, this prospect has rightly become a disquieting one, and she does well to formulate her plans betimes. Already during the war she has found it necessary to make various adjustments, and has learned that she cannot live on cotton alone. It was easy enough in the old days to rely upon the annual importation of two hundred thousand tons of cereals. Now there has to be a nicely balanced allocation of the areas under cotton and under cereals, and State intervention is required to enforce the decisions of the experts, in order that the country may not go short of breadstuffs. The inhabitants have been no less dependent on foreign sources of fuel, in addition to numerous manufactured articles, which, though not essential to everyday existence, have become so much a feature of modern life that they cannot be dispensed with readily.

Egypt has relied for so long upon her agriculture that the tradition has become established that she can never count upon an industrial future. The absence of coal and iron may prevent her from becoming a great manufacturing centre, but there would seem to be no reason why she should not remove from herself the reproach and material disadvantage of being a one-crop country. This, at least, is the verdict of a Commission appointed to ascertain to what extent the commerce and industry of Egypt have been affected by the war, and to make suggestions for the future. The Commission—a full summary of whose Report has been appearing in recent issues of THE NEAR EAST—raises the interesting point whether agriculture can be relied upon indefinitely to afford the people their subsistence. At the present rate of increase there will be twenty million inhabitants in a little over twenty-five years from now, and only a very marked improvement in the average yield per feddan would then meet the needs of the population, even if the total cultivable area were devoted to cultivation. This calculation, it may be noted, is based on the assumption that the people remain in their present social condition. It is far more likely that a considerable improvement will take place, and that the needs of the people will increase proportionately. Moreover, with the introduction of improved agricultural machinery the number of those for whom each feddan will provide occupation will become reduced, and other means of livelihood must be found. The Commission looks to the development of commerce and industry, as well as to an improvement and extension of agriculture, as the sole method of dealing with problems of the immediate future, and those that will have to be faced later. Practically the only obstacle in the way of the goal which the Report has in view is contained in the one word conservatism—the conservatism of the agriculturist, of the industrial worker, and of the trader who fears any change in the existing state of affairs which makes Egypt dependent on a large import trade. To remove some of their objections, it is pointed out that industrial expansion need inflict no injury upon agriculture, rather will it benefit the latter, as its raw material must be provided for the most part by the agricultural products of the land, while local industry may be able to provide agriculture at relatively cheap prices with some of the articles which it has hitherto obtained from abroad. Nor in the long run will the development of Egyptian industries prejudice the import trade; it may bring about a change in the commodities imported, but the increased prosperity of the country will be reflected in an increase in the volume of the goods received from abroad.

It is not to be expected that the goal which is thus marked out for Egypt can be reached without Government assistance, and the Commission has formulated a number of recommendations regarding the ways in which State aid can be given. They cover a wide extent of ground, ranging from temporary subventions and advances to reform of the Customs tariff and reduced transport rates. The Commission feels that, while there are adequate banking facilities in existence, there may be room for an agricultural bank and for one directly designed to assist and protect industrial enterprises. In regard to the Customs regime it favours a drastic revision of the tariff with a view to affording assistance to local industries, but it is careful to point out that it does not advocate ambitious schemes that might unfavourably affect the public revenue, or assistance to any enterprises that do not present adequate guarantees. Not the least valuable section of the Commission's recommendations deals with the question of industrial and technical education, into which it enters at considerable length. It desires to see industrial schools already existing brought into line with the industries carried out in the districts where they are situated, and others established for the purpose of assisting and supporting the industries of the different provinces. Hitherto, it may be inferred, the relation between the industrial school and local industries has been of the vaguest character. The matter, in the opinion of the Commission, ought now to be approached more uniformly and in a more practical manner, in order that the spirit of co-operation may be inculcated into all sections of the people, for the industrial renaissance of Egypt imposes obligations alike on capitalists, industrial masters, the workers, and the general public. Industries are by no means unknown to Egypt. For the most part, however, they have been carried out on a small scale in the past, and the Commission indicates those which are capable of expansion, as well as a number of new industries which seem to merit attention. The secret of success will lie in the extent to which the education of the Egyptian people can keep pace with the growing needs of the country. In this connection it may be well to inquire whether the great University of El Azhar is rendering to the country to-day the practical assistance that it must be within its power to render if organised on sound lines. Its prestige in the past could hardly have stood higher in the Arab world, but it will be found wanting if in the new era it is unable to adapt itself to the material needs of those who seek its guidance and instruction.

MAN AND HORSE.

By S. B.

In the East we are all interested in horses, they are so part and parcel of our daily lives; and in those lives most of us will have come across horses which, tractable enough with natives, have hated white men as a class with exceeding bitterness.

When that is the case it points to something wrong. When a horse is handled from an early age, and experiences nothing but care and kindness, it does not occur to him to be vicious. In India the early handling is in the hands of Indians, and Indians, though they mean well, are not always very wise. They will shut up a horse in a dark stable when he is the happier and the better for God's sunlight and an intelligent interest in his surroundings. They will tie him up head and heels when even a couple of hours a day in a paddock makes all the difference in the world. But they feed him and water him, not always very judiciously, and the horse knows that they make many mistakes; but the horse is very forgiving, and because the intentions are good he makes allowances.

Then he passes into the hands of the white man, and is ridden. It is possible that the white man does not ride very well, and often he regards the horse as a machine, a mere means of locomotion. A shoe pinches, the saddle is badly stuffed, and the horse is punished when it is the man who should be beaten. The horse refuses a fence and is thrashed, but often it is the man, not the horse, who baulked; and though the man may not confess it, the horse knows it. The man wants to ride faster than the horse can go, and then there is the whip. There is also the spur, and the spur is often used when there is no intention to use it, but merely because the man cannot hang on without his heels. The mouth is hauled about, the bit is too severe—it is all punishment for the horse. The punishment is unjust, and the horse is like a child; and, like a child, he resents injustice.

So the horse comes to hate the white man who rides him, and from the individual he comes to hate the race. He suffers the native grooms, the syces—they can groom him, and lift up his feet, and crawl under his belly to save the long circuit, and ride him barebacked with a watering bridle. The syces are fools; still, they mean well, and the horse all his life is suffering fools gladly. But the white man is another affair, and once the race hatred is acquired he has only to appear at the loose-box and the horse dashes at him with open mouth. The syce is permitted to saddle, but the white man must not mount. In one of Captain Thomas Williamson's charming old coloured prints of 1805 there is a picture of a sportsman trying to mount a grey country-bred. The syce is hanging on to the horse with a *jháran* over his eyes, the blindfolded steed is lashing out for all he is worth, and the white man is hopping about on one foot and aiming at the stirrup with the other. It is a picture to the life.

It must not, however, be assumed that all horses in India are like the murderer in Macbeth, whose only object in life was to make reprisals. The horse is very magnanimous, and more often than not he accepts memories of old wrongs with surprising toleration. The man-eater is the exception, and, moreover, the trait may not be the fault of his owner at any particular time. A horse of that description is nevertheless a nuisance, and the advice of Scripture to "agree with thy adversary while thou art in the way with him" is sound advice. I have personally not known any ordinary horse that firmness and kindness would not cure in the end.

The worst case I ever had was that of a Biluch mare—at least, she was nominally a Biluch, though the only Biluch part of her seemed to be her ears. She was a terror; the very sight of a white man came to her like the flicker of neuralgia, and aroused all the devil in her. She was such a freak, such a perversity, that only her beauty and her quality made the trouble worth while. For a month no food, no water, ever passed her lips unless I gave it with my own hands, and she came to welcome my coming with the soft neigh that horses give when they expect food. Then I took a risk—I went into her box empty-handed. She threw back her ears and showed her teeth viciously, but I stood my ground and told her I was surprised at her ingratitude, and she turned away ashamed. I had never any trouble with her after that.

Mares and geldings are seldom naturally vicious. If they turn ill-tempered and vindictive, it is because they have reason to believe that man is vicious, and they seek to defend themselves. They are what man makes them, and once convince them that man is kind and just and reasonable, and they will render loyal and cheerful obedience. But with entires it is different. We have been told how the Ardrossan colt hated Jem Robinson, how Mentor hated Mat Dawson, and how Muley Idris behaved when he had Fred Archer within reach of his teeth. In India, too, we have abundant examples. The T.B. Waler, "Recall," was a very bad-tempered horse; "Lucky Boy," winner in his day of the Civil Service Cup, was a perfect devil, and a horse by the T.B. Sir Simon de Montford, by St. Simon, was fit to kill any other horse he could approach.

The Arab horse is more usually a gentleman, but even Arabs can be unreliable. I once had an Arab that turned into a fiend when he was about eight years old. I left him in charge of an old syce, with whom he had been on good terms, when I went on leave, and found on my return that he had savaged the old man very badly. I then sold him, and his new owner wrote afterwards to say that the pony was an irreclaimable brute, "but," he added, "he is the best polo pony I have ever owned, and I would not part with him for worlds, though he has always to be played in a muzzle."

With entires we have, however, to remember what they are. The wild stallion of the prairie is as much a fighter as the jungle-cock. He has to be; he commands a harem, he protects his mares and foals. He holds his family only by fighting and defeating his rivals. He protects his family from man by vigilance, from wolves by courage and combat. If he were soft-hearted, mild-tempered, irresolute, he would cease to be; he would certainly not fulfil his business in life. And so it may be that domesticated entires may have instinctive memories of themselves in a wild state:—

"With flowing tail and flying mane,
Wide nostrils, never stretched by pain,
Mouths bloodless to the bit or rein,
And feet that iron never shod,
And flanks unscarr'd by spur or rod."

THE S. AND P. RELIEF FUND.

The C.O.S. should give its blessing to the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund for carefulness in investigation! In a land where begging has been reduced to a fine art from time immemorial, it would be easy to be imposed upon; but when it is part of the relief workers' task to care for the professional beggar with other sufferers, considerable acumen is needed. Sir Courtauld Thomson, British Red Cross Commissioner for Malta and the Near East, who has recently concluded a visit of inspection, speaks in the highest terms of the precautions employed against imposture. When you are relieving scores of thousands, a small army of investigators is needed, and this army is in the field and includes some Moslem ladies of high social position, whose work is a labour of love.

It is this thoroughness and the strong principles behind the organisation of the relief work which make its labours so acceptable to the military authorities in Palestine. Most cordial relations have existed from the outset between the Fund and the Army, and the Fund may be said to hold towards the military authorities in Palestine very much the position which the Red Cross organisation holds in relation to the Army. However perfect the Army organisation may be, in dealing with large tracts of occupied territory, there is a wide scope for voluntary enterprise, in moments of emergency, in supplementary ways, and in work outside the scope of the State.

To become self-supporting is to relieve the Fund, and every effort is made to put the destitute in the way of earning their own living. Hundreds of women are at work in Jerusalem, some of them making lace for sale. But now and again the supply of materials fails, and the relief workers have to discharge the women. Needles are hard to come by, and very expensive; cotton also is a heavy price. What with the terrible necessity of the would-be workers, the cost of materials, the difficulties of transport in war, the relief workers have need of all the courage and patience they can muster.

THE ABYSSINIAN REVOLUTION.

The Cairo correspondent who sent us the particulars of the Abyssinian Revolution that were published in our issues of June 21 and July 19, writes:—Since I last wrote, news has come from Jounder that its ruler, Ras Weled Jorjis has died, aged about 70. He was the son of Wizru Aya Hellush, daughter of King Sahla Salasi, the aunt of the Negus Menelik. He left no issue; and it is thought that the Government will send an official to administer the province provisionally. It is reported that the Government contemplates taking active steps in certain parts where disorder still prevails.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Army Commissions for Indians.

July 22.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary for India, replying to Colonel Wedgwood, said:—The King's commission will be granted to Indians under four categories—(1) A certain number of substantive King's commissions in the Indian Army to selected Indian officers who have specially distinguished themselves in the present war. (2) A certain number of King's commissions conferring honorary rank in the Indian Army to selected Indian officers who have rendered distinguished service not necessarily during the present war, and who, owing to age or lack of educational qualifications, are not eligible for substantive King's commissions. Such honorary commissions will carry with them special advantages in respect of pay and pension. (3) A certain number of temporary but substantive King's commissions in the Indian Army to selected candidates nominated partly from civil life and partly from the Army. (4) A certain number of King's commissions to Indians on qualifying as cadets at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. For this purpose ten Indian gentlemen will be nominated annually during the war for cadetships.

Colonel Wedgwood: Does that answer mean that Indian students in this country will be able to get temporary commissions, or will they be debarred unless they go to Sandhurst, under the third heading?—Mr. Montagu: Under the third heading they will be nominated in India.—Colonel Wedgwood: Even if they have obtained qualifications in this country by being at Oxford or Cambridge they will be ineligible for commissions?—Mr. Montagu: No commissions will be given without adequate training.

Mr. C. Roberts: Is there any provision for military training for these officers or candidates for that rank in India?—Mr. Montagu: Yes, sir. No substantive commissions will be granted without adequate training. It is intended to provide adequate training under the third heading in India.

Indian Reforms.

Mr. Denman asked Mr. Bonar Law whether, having regard to the fact that each month's delay in granting constitutional reforms to India added to the difficulties of granting them and diminished their value when granted, he would allow an early discussion of the Secretary of State's report?

Mr. Bonar Law said the subject was very important and also complicated, and before it could be properly discussed time should be given for its study. He knew the same thing was true of every member of the Government, and he fancied it was true also of most members of the House. He had already said that if there was a general desire for a discussion of the report he would find the opportunity. But he did not think anything would be gained by discussing it before the recess.

Mesopotamian Operations.

July 23.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Sir J. Jardine, who asked for information as to the military and political matters on the coast of the Red Sea, the Hejaz, and adjoining Sultanates, and in Mesopotamia, said:—General Marshall's operations on the Euphrates in March, and his subsequent operations in the neighbourhood of Kerkook in April, resulted in inflicting on the Turks casualties amounting to about 10,000 men, of whom 7,500 are prisoners of war, the capture of 30 guns, and much other war material.

As regards the operations of the Mesopotamia Political Administration, very satisfactory progress is being made in redeeming the country from the state of ruin into which it had fallen under the Turks. Thirteen Government primary schools, four municipal State-aided schools, a teachers' training school, and a survey school have been opened; extension classes in agriculture have also been started. The local demand for education is very insistent, and is being met as rapidly as the supply of teachers will permit. Large tracts of land hitherto untilled have been brought under the plough through the combined efforts of the people and the Political Administration; use has been made of mechanical tractors and artillery horses, which have supplemented the ordinary means of cultivation. The opening up of the country by road, rail, and improved water transport, and the establishment of security on the highways, have resulted in an increase of trade and a lowering of prices of commodities. The contrast between the improved condition of Mesopotamia and that of the neighbouring country occupied by the Turks, where disorder and famine are chronic, has not failed to impress the population and its leaders, the local notables, and tribal chiefs. The relations between our troops and the people are excellent, and a spirit of harmony and co-operation prevails. The opinion is frequently expressed that the British people mean well by the Arab race. Turning to the operations of the forces of our Ally, the King of the Hejaz, the casualties inflicted on the Turks by the Arab armies along the line between Dera'a and Ma'an amount to about 2,000, in addition to which two locomotives have been destroyed, 122 culverts and bridges demolished, and railway communication between those two points permanently interrupted. In the interior, five Turkish convoys, aggregating 1,500 camels, have been captured by the Shereef Ali, and a severe defeat has been inflicted on the Emir of Hail by the Shereef Abdulla.

Sir J. D. Rees inquired what kind of education was being given. Was it an English education? Lord R. Cecil: I am afraid I do not know the details, but I am sure it is the best education. In answer to other supplementary questions, Lord R. Cecil said he would inquire whether steps had been taken to open up the coal mines in a part of the area. The subject of irrigation was being considered, but he could not give the details of any scheme of that nature. He did not think that pilgrimages to the Hejaz had been interrupted.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. Hope, Lord of the Treasury, replying to Lieutenant-Colonel Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck, said: I am informed by the military authorities that the following deaths have taken place in prisoners' camps in Turkey since January 1, 1917:—Three British officers and 518 other ranks, including Colonials, one British naval officer and eight naval ratings; six Indian officers and 732 other ranks. I am informed by the military authorities that 474 British officers, including the Royal Navy and Colonials, and 4,815 other ranks, and 221 Indian native officers and 9,769 other ranks, have been taken prisoners by the Turks up to June 30 last. Fourteen British officers, including the Royal Navy and Colonials, and 1,655 other ranks, and five Indian native officers and 1,358 other ranks have died in captivity. The above figures include all those of whose deaths there is evidence; but I regret to say that, as I have previously stated, there are a large number of British and Indians missing who have not been traced.

A NEW INSCRIPTION OF ASOKA.

In the first number of the "Hyderabad Archæological Series," a scientific journal published by the bounty of his Highness the Nizam, there was printed, with translation, a commentary by pundit Rao Sahib H. Krishna Sastri, another specimen of an edict of Asoka, who is often called by French scholars Pujadari. The inscription was discovered in 1915 by Mr. Beadon, a mining expert, near to the village of Maski, not far from Lingsagar, and about a hundred miles distant from Siddapur, at which other texts of Asoka had been found.

Although there are several other epigraphic edicts or decrees of this king, this is the first one which assigns him the name of Asoka, which name we knew from Indian ancient literature. There is a certain similarity in the wording of the various specimens, and the new one, where defective from exposure, can, in most places, be restored from inscriptions found at Rupnath and at Bairat.

In all such cases the *editio princeps*, when examined by other specialists, has to be somewhat modified, and in this instance Monsieur E. Senart, the doyen of Sanskrit scholars in France, has in the *Journal Asiatique* given a fresh rendering of the text, with quotations from others, and philological arguments. At the same time he points out where the new text tends to improve our translation of previously-found inscriptions of Asoka.

Our space does not permit of a discussion of the reasons adduced by M. Senart for his rendering, but we give it in full, retaining the French because translations from translations are well known to be dangerous:—

> Au nom d'Asoka, cher aux Devas. Depuis plus de deux ans et demi je suis bouddhiste (laïque), et je n'avais pas beaucoup entrepris : mais voici un an et plus que je me suis rapproché du Samgha, et je m'en suis rapproché beaucoup.
>
> Ceux qui précédemment étaient dans l'Inde de véritables dieux, sont maintenant des dieux déchus. Cet objet est possible à obtenir même par les fidèles les plus humbles. Car il ne faut pas imaginer qu'un puissant seul le puisse obtenir. A tous, humbles et puissant, il faut dire : (Agissez ainsi et cet objet) sera acquis pour longtemps et il s'étendra, s'etendra indéfiniment.

Readers who are acquainted with Asoka's other statements will observe that here again part of his intention was to set forth that men such as the Brahmins and Ascetics professing to explain the esoteric meaning of the Vaishnavas and sacred books were no longer to be considered as veritable prophets or instructors. That their position was abolished by Asoka, and they had forfeited the confidence of the people, and their gods ceased to be respected also. J. O.

There was a severe earthquake shock at Cairo at 10.10 p.m. on July 16. No damage was done.

Finding it necessary to bring all means of transport strictly under Government control, the Greek Government has taken over the Piraeus-Peloponnesus railway.

On the occasion of the feast following on Ramadan, Moslems in Egypt offered up prayer that God might "grant complete victory to the magnanimous nation of Great Britain and her noble Allies."

A Kieff telegram says:—"Turkish authorities are undertaking the mobilisation of Mohamedans at Elizabetpol, Transcaucasia. Officers of the old Russian Army are appointed if they know the Turkish and Tartar languages."

The Postmaster-General announces that, as the mails for India and the East are no longer despatched on Fridays, but at irregular intervals, of which no notice can be given, it is advisable to post correspondence for those places as it is ready, and not to defer it until the end of the week.

Preliminary forecasts show that the acreage under jute in Bengal, including the State of Cooch Behar, is 2,250,836 acres, a decrease of 161,591 acres as compared with last year; that in Behar and Orissa, 150,567 acres, a decrease of 72,705 acres; and that in Assam, 90,300 acres, a decrease of 10,000 acres—a total decrease of 9 per cent.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I have read with considerable interest a paragraph on Balkan trade in the current issue of the *Mercantile Guardian*, which suggests that my view that Balkan trade prospects are fully realised in this country is not altogether justified. As I think my readers may be interested in the paragraph in question, I quote it in full:—

> An engineer who has put in thirty months in the Balkans studying Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Roumania, with an eye to the special interests of German trade, confesses disappointment. The markets will be inconsiderable for years to come. There is room enough for machinery and modern products, but as there is neither money nor enterprise the engineer understands that it is a vacant room. The people are too primitive. The conclusion is as one might expect, but it is not solely in Germany that false anticipations have been encouraged. At any rate, in British trading circles extravagant hopes have not been believed.

⁂

Some comment seems to be called for on the paragraph. I may point out that the engineer in question examined the trade prospects "with an eye to the special interests of German trade," and in the circumstances it is not surprising that the results of his inquiries were disappointing. As far as Germany is concerned, there is no question that the Balkan markets "will be inconsiderable for years to come." The Allied countries there have suffered too much at the hands of the Central Powers, both before and during the war, for it to be likely that there should be scope for further "commercial penetration" in the future, provided the traders of Great Britain and the rest of the Allies make it possible for them to abstain from trade relations with the enemy. If this country, France, and the United States do their duty, there will be a "vacant room" for the Germans and their allies in the Balkans, but it will not be because "there is neither money nor enterprise."

⁂

I have frequently pointed out that the Allies will be bound to give the fullest assistance to Serbia and Roumania in the shape of money and goods. Financial aid will naturally be the most important means of helping these countries to recover their former position, and, while Germany would no doubt be only too ready to furnish this aid on "terms" so that she might resume her dubious commercial manœuvres, she will be unable to do so for the simple reason that her finances will be unequal to meeting the normal calls on them. As to our contemporary's statement that "in British trading circles extravagant hopes have not been believed," it is scarcely a question of "extravagant hopes." No one expects the Balkan markets to prove a gold mine for traders, but they certainly will offer excellent prospects after the war, and both on this account and because it is a national duty to counteract German influence in the Balkans, British traders will be blind to their own interests if they fail to cultivate these markets.

⁂

Obviously if Palestine is to be developed in accordance with expectations a very considerable extension of banking facilities in that region will be required. It is, therefore, satisfactory to be able to record the fact that the Anglo-Egyptian Bank has turned its attention in that direction, and has established branches at Jerusalem and Jaffa. The premises which the bank has taken in these towns are those which formerly housed the Deutsche Palestina Bank, one of the subsidiary enterprises of the Deutsche Bank in the work of commercial penetration before the war, and one which Palestine will probably not be "privileged" to receive again.

⁂

A question of interest to former British residents in Turkey was raised in the House of Commons this week by Sir Fred Hall, who asked whether any steps had been taken, or were proposed to be taken, to compensate British subjects who have had to abandon their businesses and have had their goods and properties seized by enemy Governments. In answer Lord Robert Cecil pointed out that such claims obviously cannot be settled until the conclusion of hostilities. He would consider, he added, the suggestion that funds belonging to the Ottoman Government should be used for the purpose of compensating British interests in Turkey. The refusal to entertain requests for compensation before the end of the war will, it is to be feared, disappoint some claimants, but it is not to be supposed that the Government would turn a deaf ear to the applications of those for whom the withholding of some payment on account entails real hardship.

⁂

A contemporary relates a curious story regarding the methods adopted by the merchants of Baghdad to meet the demand of the British soldiers for Persian carpets and rugs. It seems that such brisk business was done in these articles when the troops first entered Baghdad that the traders came to the conclusion that it would be well worth their while to import carpets and rugs from Cairo and London. This intention was carried out, with the result, it is stated, that carpets and rugs that originally emanated from Baghdad have commenced to flow back there, and have been bought freely in the Baghdad bazaars at ever increasing prices. If we accept the facts as stated it makes a piquant story, to say the least of it, and one which is thoroughly in keeping with the ways of the East. Congratulations are no doubt due to the Baghdad merchants for their astuteness, but equally I must condole with the Shipping Controller on what appears to be an extraordinary waste of tonnage, which could surely be put to better use at the present time.

⁂

I am interested to see that the question of the adoption of English as the official language of Egypt on which I commented recently in connection with its advocacy by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has been receiving considerable attention in the Egyptian native Press. The attitude of these papers is distinctly one of cordial approval. Thus one journal says that "the English only do good and fulfil a duty if they think of promoting their language in any direction." Evidence in the same direction is to be found in the correspondence columns. Thus another journal contains a letter from "An Egyptian," in which he says:—

> Those who follow public affairs in Egypt are of opinion that the English have not made enough efforts to spread their language. Although there are a good many schools of foreign missions and many private schools which teach French, the English have not opened special schools to teach their language, and its instruction in primary and secondary schools of the Government has advanced very slowly.

These indications are the amplest support of my contention that an excellent opportunity of making the change presents itself at the present time, and I am tempted to ask, "Why the delay?"

⁂

Presiding at the recent general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Sir Marcus Samuel pointed out what Egypt owed to the development of the oil industry at the present time. "The opportune production of oil," he declared, "has saved Egypt from the horrors of a fuel famine, and relieved to an enormous extent the shortage of tonnage for the requirements of the Empire." Dealing with the future of the Hurghada field, he said that if an output of 1,000 tons a day was to be maintained it would be necessary to keep at least 30 wells in operation. "In the considered opinion of our technical advisers," he went on, "the anticlinal at Hurghada, in so far as it has been proved, would barely support that number. Consequently we have made most urgent representations to the Egyptian Government that it should enable us to explore for and, if possible, find further territories upon which a permanent business can be developed." He added that the company held certain exploratory rights over considerable territories from the Egyptian Government, but they had been unable to carry out any prospecting programme owing to war conditions and to the desire of the Government that they should concentrate on production at Hurghada.

⁂

The year has not been a good one for the Indian tea industry, but all the same a few companies have continued to make quite a satisfactory showing. The Jhanzie Tea Association, for instance, whose report has just appeared, achieved results very little below those of the previous year, the net earnings being £39,165, compared with £45,400. The dividend is all but maintained at 14, against 15 per cent., £5,000 is again placed to the reserve and contingencies fund, and £22,638 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. The crop amounted to 2,715,800 lb., against 2,495,200 lb. in 1916, but this increase was counterbalanced by the lower price obtained of 11.34d., against 12.74d. It remains to add that 9.117d. was the price per lb. paid by the Government.

⁂

The Department of Statistics in India recently issued some interesting particulars regarding industrial establishments in that country, showing that in 1915 there were 4,053 industrial establishments which provided employment for 1,335,147 persons; 171 of these establishments were owned by Government, local authorities, or State Durbars, and 3,882 either by companies or individuals. Cotton mills and cotton ginning and pressing factories employed over 400,000 persons, while the jute mills had 250,764 workers. The forty-one tanneries and leather works, it is interesting to note, had 9,339 employees. Particulars of industries employing less than 5,000 persons are not given separately; 649 industries come under this category, the employees totalling nearly 100,000.

COMMENTATOR.

THE MONTAGU-CHELMSFORD REPORT.

India's Economic Position.—I.

Not the least interesting portion of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report is a comprehensive survey of the commercial and industrial outlook in India and of the various developments in these spheres of activity in recent times. Explaining their reason for dealing with this question, the authors state that in the course of their discussions the conviction was forced upon them that economic factors enter largely into the political situation in India. In this connection they quote the following words of the late Mr. Ranade, which are most apposite in view of the insidious efforts of Germany to bring India under her economic domination by means of control of important industries such as the Calcutta hides trade :—

> The political domination of one country by another attracts far more attention than the more formidable though unfelt domination which the capital enterprise and skill of one country exercise over the trade and manufactures of another. This latter domination has an insidious influence which paralyses the springs of all the various activities which together make up the life of the nation.

Emphasis was laid in the recently issued report of the Egyptian Industries Commission on the disadvantageous position of a country more or less dependent on agriculture. That much the same view is taken of India may be gathered from the statement that the economics of a country which depends to so great an extent as India on agriculture must be unstable. It is pointed out that there is still no great margin of taxable capacity among the peasant classes ; that their poverty raises the question whether the development of industries would not materially raise the general level of well-being ; and that it is "clear that the lack of outlet for educated youth is a serious misfortune which has contributed not a little in the past to political unrest in Bengal." The report goes on to refer to discontent at the fact that the principal feature of India's trade "continued to be the barter of raw materials valued at relatively low prices for imported manufactures, which obviously afforded profit and prosperity to other countries industrially more advanced," and says that "patriotic Indians might well ask themselves why these profits should not accrue to their country ; and also why so large a portion of the industries which flourished in the country was financed by European capital and managed by European skill." Some such complaints, it is added, began to mingle with the criticism of Government that made itself heard during the time of Lord Curzon's administration ; and as it progressed the movement in favour of an industrial revival tended steadily to assume more of a political colour :

> The fact that India's foreign trade was largely with the United Kingdom gave rise to a suspicion that her industrial backwardness was positively encouraged in the interests of British manufactures, and the maintenance of the excise duty on locally manufactured cotton goods in the alleged interests of Lancashire is very widely accepted as a conclusive proof of such a purpose. On a smaller scale, the maintenance of a Stores Department at the India Office is looked on as an encouragement to the Government to patronise British at the expense of local manufacturers. In 1905 there was instituted as a bye-product of the National Congress an annual industrial conference, which had the result of linking the movement towards industrial independence more closely with politics ; and the fact that Government officials were allowed and even encouraged to assist the conference failed to compensate for the lack of a more striking manifestation of Government's good-will.

The report proceeds to point out that as the desirability of industrial expansion became clearer the Government of India fully shared the desire of Indian leaders to secure the economic advantages following the development of manufactures, and adds :—"We have observed elsewhere that English theories as to the appropriate limits of the State's activity are inapplicable to India. We believe that this is true in the case of industries, and that if the resources of the country are to be developed the Government must take action."

Economic discontents definitely merged in political agitation, the report goes on, over the Bengal partition. The swadeshi movement was the positive and the boycott the negative expression of the same purpose.

> The advanced politicians took up and tried to put in practice the ideas for new developments promoted by the newly-instituted industrial conference, while at the same time they encouraged or countenanced the boycott, which had been adopted in the hope of bringing pressure to bear on manufacturing opinion at home in favour of the annulment of the partition. These events synchronised with Japan's defeat of Russia, an event which dazzled the imagination of many young educated Indians. In Japanese progress and efficiency they thought they saw an example of what could be effected by an Asiatic nation free of foreign control. Many students helped by scholarships granted by patriotic persons or associations hurried to Japan for technical and industrial training. Many of them returned to take part in the *swadeshi* movement of the years 1907 to 1909. Numerous small factories for making matches, hosiery, pencils, cutlery and the like were started, and many collapsed through some or all of the many ways of breakdown, which must be expected when patriotism is called upon to make good the want of business experience and hard practical training. We are informed that the cause of failure generally was not so much the lack of some degree of technical knowledge as inability to apply it under commercial conditions.

Following the ineffectual boycott and the losses and disappointments occasioned by the failures of indigenous enterprise came the failures of Indian banks in the Punjab and Bombay.

> Side by side with this went on the steady progress of enterprises under British control, and a marked expansion of foreign trade. We feel no surprise that there remained a feeling of bitterness among the advanced party. But the moral of these disastrous adventures is one for all parties to read. The people have recognised their inability to carry out their own programme without the help and guidance of Government ; and they confine themselves for the most part to pressing their claims for State assistance and for a policy of tariff discrimination against foreign imports. Public opinion has expressed itself again and again in the Councils, on the platform, and in the Press. Moreover, the war has created a new position. The prohibition of imports from enemy countries was welcomed as giving India an opportunity, in spite of the difficulties which beset it, of replacing foreign articles by home products. After the war the need for industrial development will be all the greater unless India is to become a mere dumping-ground for the manufactures of foreign nations which will then be competing all the more keenly for the markets on which their political strength so perceptibly depends. . . . On all grounds a forward policy in industrial development is urgently called for, not merely to give India economic stability, but in order to satisfy the aspirations of her people, who desire to see her stand before the world as a well-poised, up-to-date country ; in order to provide an outlet for the energies of her young men, who are otherwise drawn exclusively to Government service or a few overstocked professions ; in order that money now lying unproductive may be applied to the benefit of the whole community ; and in order that the too speculative and literary tendencies of Indian thought may be bent to more practical ends, and the people may be better qualified to shoulder the new responsibilities which the new constitution will lay upon them. These considerations led Lord Hardinge's Government to recommend the appointment of the Industrial Commission which is at present sitting.

BANK AMALGAMATIONS.

Position of the Exchange Banks.

During the past few weeks considerable excitement has been caused in the City by the rumours of further bank amalgamations, in one of which it was said that the National Bank of India would be incorporated. The report concerning this institution, however, has been set at rest by the public announcement that it is not included in the combination. It is understood that when negotiations were in progress, and probably when Government sanction was applied for, the India Office raised objections to the participation of the National Bank of India in the scheme, with the result that their name does not now appear in the combine. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that the promoters have not given up hope that the objections made by the India Office may eventually be overcome. The amalgamation in question embraces various powerful interests in the City, as well as a large Scottish bank, and an institution with important connections in South America.

City opinion, although not exactly alarmed at these amalgamations, is beginning to look askance at them, and it may as well be said that they are not altogether in favour in the discount market. Opportunities have been taken of sounding Manchester exporters on this matter, and some of the merchants there have no hesitation in expressing their strong disapproval. Manchester opinion on this subject is not one to be lightly ignored, particularly by an Eastern exchange bank, because of the immense volume of shipments from that market to the East, which necessitate finance through the channels specially employed by the exchange banks. It is, of course, true that a large amount of the requisite finance is now supplied by other banks and discount houses, but the intimate connection between the Lancashire shipping firms and the exchange banks, which has been fostered for many years, is likely to be severely strained should any of them be absorbed by a combination, however powerful. It is possible that one of the arguments adduced in favour of such an amalgamation may be that further capital is necessary to provide for expansion and competition after the war, but the exchange banks to-day are stronger than they have ever been, and it may reasonably be assumed that they are in a position to keep their Eastern branches supplied with funds sufficiently ample to meet the demands upon them for crop movements and the requirements of trade. Further fresh capital, if required, would be forthcoming without any difficulty, subject to Treasury sanction.

No doubt after the war there will be a very large inquiry for money to finance new enterprises and furnish further accommodation for industrial developments, but it is not going to relieve the present situation in India to place large sums in the London market at the disposal of the exchange banks, because in present conditions the facilities for remitting money thence are so much curtailed that the credits could not be availed of to more than a very moderate extent. It is as well to emphasise this aspect of the situation because, even if it be true that Government are willing to grant assistance to the exchange banks by placing funds at their disposal here, the intention, to be of any service, will have to go beyond that, and include arrangements for transfer to India where the money can be used. Under existing conditions merchants and banks are tied hand and foot by Government restrictions, which have been borne with exemplary patience, and those imposed on the remittance of money to India and Ceylon have seriously hampered estate management and certain branches of legitimate trade.

Gold Mohur.

GREEK CONTROL OF TRANSPORT.

The Government has decided that, under present conditions, it is necessary to bring all means of transport strictly under Government control, as has been done in other countries at war, including the United States, says Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated July 17. As a result of this decision, the Government has taken over the Piræus-Peloponnesus Railway.

MOROCCO NOTES.

Favourable Crop Prospects.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, July 10.

A visit a few weeks ago to Morocco's chief grain growing districts fully confirmed the general report that this year's crops will be far above the average, even if they do not amount to a record. Such of the early crops as were still unreaped were as a rule splendid, and the late crops—maize, chickpeas, etc.—gave promise of better results than have been seen for very many years. The country has this year undoubtedly had very good luck—luck which, if only for the brilliant services rendered by her sons on the battlefields in France, she fully deserves. The authorities instead of being engaged, as at one time seemed quite possible, in seeking whence and how food could be brought to a country which had exported its last year's crops and had no crops this year, will now have the difficult but satisfactory work of finding tonnage to carry a very large surplus for export.

The fertility of the soil, when, as is usually the case, the amount of rainfall is sufficient, is remarkable, and the climate permits of a most unusual range of crops. The Agricultural Department continues experiments to find more valuable crops in order to make better use of the exceptional conditions, but so far as is generally known has not arrived at definite decisions. Strangely enough, until this year the country imported nearly all the European potatoes required. Years ago an Englishman grew on the coast, and exported to London, early potatoes which obtained the highest price on the market, but for some reason potato growing has not become general, though the condition for growing the crop, especially of early varieties, are admittedly excellent. It is quite certain that large areas of the country would make excellent vineyards; but any scheme of wine production on a large scale would probably clash with the interests of other wine growing centres, and it seems unlikely that such a use of Moroccan land would meet with favour.

Rising Land Values.

Moorish farmers, after several good years, and no longer afraid to draw attention to their prosperity, are much more ready to buy than to sell land, and cases are reported recently of their buying large blocks of land up to £8 per acre. They are keen farmers, and ready to adopt, whenever they see a probable profit, new crops and new methods, and this enterprise on their part is to be encouraged. Nevertheless, in course of time, and when, as is probable, a large number of Algerian colonists come to settle in the country, it is possible that there will be some difficulty in reconciling the interests of the new-comers and those of the natives. The responsible authorities are said to be most anxious that native landowning should not be in any way discouraged, and schemes have been proposed by which tribes which have rights over more land than they can at present cultivate should surrender the surplus on fair terms, thus making it available for European colonisation. So far the supply of uncultivated but useful land is very large, and there is room for all; but undoubtedly farmers of this most intelligent race of natives, capable of working up to the European standard and content with less than European profits, will often be able and willing to offer better prices for land than European competitors.

Among other produce of which there is this year a large surplus for [illegible]xport are almonds, but at the present [illegible]ent exporters state that they are [illegible] difficult position. Almonds ar[illegible] very few articles of Morocca[illegible]duce whi[illegible]re allowed to be sold fo[illegible] the French military [illegible] if it were allowed, near[illegible]ll be exported [illegible] England. The British Go[illegible]er, does not, it appears, at pr[illegible]t the importation from Morocco of [illegible] quantity than that imported in 1916: [illegible] the crop of that year was very poor, also some shipments made in that year did not arrive till the next year, and do not appear in the 1916 returns. The whole amount permitted has, it seems, been shipped without touching the present large crop, which is in great danger of finding no market. If this turns out to be the case the demand for cotton and other British goods in the almond growing districts will certainly be much less than it otherwise would be, as the growers will have less to spend. It is to be hoped that in view of the great need of preserving all outlets for British goods some concession may even now be found justifiable.

Expansion of Industries.

Under the influence of high prices and freight difficulties local industries are beginning to spread beyond Casablanca. Thus there is now a small soap factory in Marrakesh which turns out an article that is said to compete successfully both in quality and price with similar types of soap made in France. Another sign of development is the tendency that is now beginning to manifest itself for business to spread inland. Independent Morocco had important coast towns, inland cities such as Fez and Marrakesh, and small villages, consisting chiefly of huts or hovels, but there were extremely few centres to correspond with European country towns. There seems every reason to think this will no longer continue to be the case, and that little country towns will become numerous, each of them a fresh centre for development which will certainly raise the standard of life and the requirements of the country Moors. Some of the few existing country towns like Settat are developing a vigorous business life, and round some of the chief country markets, which, except on market days, had nothing but the butchers' poles to mark their existence, are springing up stores and shops which certainly mark the beginnings of new towns.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Uneventful Week.

Manchester, Wednesday.

As far as fresh business is concerned the week has been rather uneventful. Matters which require adjustment, however, tend to increase. A serious development has occurred in connection with the dispute between the Control Board and the Trade Union Officials. The Control Board resent the interference of the Board of Trade and it is said that the members are prepared to resign if their action is not confirmed. A communication from Sir Albert Stanley is expected before the end of this week. Some uncertainty still exists with regard to the conditions under which Egyptian cotton will be bought and sold from the beginning of next month when the Government takes over control. It is rumoured that the Egyptian futures market will be closed. There is scarcely anything new to be said as to the crop. A slump in American cotton prices has occurred in New York as a result of a report that the purchases of the Allied Governments in future will be made through the War Trade Department at Washington. Prices in Egyptian yarns have tended to advance and the scarcity of supplies is very acute. A very fair business has been done at full rates. Although rather more inquiry has been met with in piece goods for Egypt the sales have not been important. It is again stated that goods are moving off more freely abroad. A little more trade has been done in mull dhooties and jaconets for Bombay and Madras. Some testing of prices has occurred in shirtings for Calcutta. Government business has been about in heavy materials. American yarns have been rather more irregular in price when tested and the tone remains slower. Export bundles may be described as generally inactive.

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A new company has been formed at Alexandria, called the Eastern Trading Company, for the import and export trade. The company's capital is £E10,000 in £E4 shares.

The *Vossische Zeitung* states that the Roumanian Finance Minister, M. Saulescu, has announced that representatives of the Entente Powers have presented claims for compensation for war material, bought and paid for by the Entente, which is still in the possession of the Roumanian Government.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in June:—

Cotton.—The weather has been windy during the first-half and exceptionally hot in the middle of the month, and on the whole warmer and more favourable than in May; the nights were moderately cool and damp. Water supply is abundant. Besides the usual watering, hoeing and thinning are still going on in the late cotton. The cotton-worm attack, although prevalent in Lower Egypt and Giza, is generally light. Some isolated cases have been reported from Upper Egypt provinces. The work of hand-picking and burning of leaves infected with egg-masses is being vigorously carried on, and in rare cases newly-hatched eggs have been found. The pink boll-worm is reported to be present to a remarkable extent in the stigmas of flowers examined in Sharqîya, and the common boll-worm has been noticed in the terminal shoots in Beheira. The crop, favoured by the weather, has considerably, though not completely, recovered from the effect of a much retarded start. Flowering is profuse and the formation of bolls has commenced in early-sown areas.

Rice (*Séfi.*)—The weather has on the whole been favourable, but the prevailing high winds, especially in the afternoons, have been an unsatisfactory feature and have frequently necessitated running-off the water to prevent the waves from dragging the young plants up by the roots. Water supply plentiful. The sowing of fino is nearly completed in Daqahlîya. Yapani is still being planted. The shortage of labour for weeding and transplantation has somewhat retarded operations. Rice-worm is very common in Beheira and Gharbîya and is causing a certain amount of damage. The plants are looking well and the crop promises to be good.

Millet (*Séfi.*)—Weather favourable and water supply ample. Thinning, hoeing, and watering are being carried out. Attacks from stalk-borer are noticed in a few provinces, but damage caused is slight. Plants look uneven owing to the wide variations in time of sowing. Early-sown millet is in excellent condition, but the late-sown is still very backward and apparently suffering from lack of manure. The area put under millet this year is much larger than usual.

Sugar Cane.—Weather seasonable and water supply sufficient. Hoeing and watering are proceeding. The crop is progressing favourably and plants are healthy.

Wheat.—Threshing and winnowing are going on everywhere. The harvesting of the crop is still being carried on in a few districts of Daqahlîya, Sharqîya, and Qalyubyia. The results of threshings have been influenced by the attack of rust, these from the *Hindi* being excellent both in respect to yield and quality, whereas those from the *Baladi* have turned out less favourably. The yield of *Tibn* seems to be less than last year, probably owing to lack of artificial manures.

Bersîm.—Weather favourable on the whole, but the intense heat prevailing on some days of the month has caused some damage to the late crop. Grazing is still being carried, but to a very limited extent. The bulk of the seed crop is ripe and harvesting is general; threshing, however, is comparatively neglected. The yield is not quite satisfactory and is rather bad in places.

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INDIA'S JUTE FORECAST.

The preliminary forecast shows that the acreage under jute in Bengal, including the State of Cooch Behar, is 2,250,836 acres, a decrease of 161,591 acres as compared with last year, while that in Bihar and Orissa is 150,567 acres, a decrease of 72,705 acres, and that in Assam is 90,300 acres, a decrease of 10,000 acres. These forecasts show a total decrease of 9 per cent. as compared with last year's final figures.

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An embargo has been placed by the Bulgarian Government on all this year's grain crops of Bulgaria, Macedonia, the Morava district, and the Dobruja.

EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

III.—The Question of New Industries.*

There are in addition other industries which are in their infancy, but which could be easily developed, such as the modern tanning industry, the manufacture of soap, and the extraction of edible and lubricating oils, for all of which the raw material exists in the country, and the development of which the commission recommends to the Government's very serious attention. There are also certain industries, mainly what might be called native industries, which still require a certain amount of assistance, such as weaving, basket-making, tannery, leather work, metal work, woodwork, artistic and building industries, whilst there are others which have been created since the war, such as the tarbush trade, bedsteads, rubber, uniforms, cement, construction material and milling, which, having succeeded in establishing themselves, are deserving of every encouragement on the part of the authorities.

Methods of State Aid.

As regards the assistance to be given to industries, the commission puts it on record that only those are deserving of assistance which are stable, can withstand competition, and are of a nature to benefit the general public. At the same time the commission deprecates the idea that encouragement should only come from the State, and it reiterates its opinion that the people must also collaborate in any assistance which is given to any industry. This leads the report to detail the means by which State assistance can be given to industry. They are the following :—1. Reform of the Customs tariff; 2. Extension of professional education; 3. The exemption of Egyptian industries from all excise duties unless such duties are also imposed in the form of an additional Customs duty on similar imported articles; 4. The application of reduced rates and special facilities for the transport of Egyptian manufactured articles. To a certain extent this is accorded at present, but it should be more general, and although this might mean a decrease in revenue, it should in the long run be compensated by an increase in traffic. 5. The better adaptation of the Nile and canal and lock systems to transport work; 6. Preference to be given to local products and local firms over foreign products and foreign firms, in Government adjudications especially, when the prices offered are comparatively equal; 7. The granting of temporary subventions and concessions on favourable terms for the development of industrial enterprises of a nature to develop the country's resources; 8. State advances against guarantee to provide capital for creating, developing, or improving an industry; 9. Greater financial assistance by the State to enterprises of public utility affecting Egyptian industry; 10. The creation by the State of an organisation which would provide the preliminary expenses in the case of new industries and of a chemical laboratory for research work in this connection; 11. The creation of commercial and industrial museums and exhibitions; 12. The propagation of general information concerning commercial and industrial questions; 13. The creation of co-operative industrial societies; 14. The appointment of qualified specialists as instructors and travelling inspectors for the purpose of giving advice in the development and improvement of the smaller native industries; and 15. The creation of an industrial bank.

Assistance for Sound Enterprises.

The commission is not of opinion that the measures of State assistance which it has outlined would unfavourably affect the public revenues. It has no wish to recommend that the country's resources should be expended on objects of doubtful value, or the return from which would not be felt some long time, to the detriment of the many great development works which are before the authorities, and the execution of which will have such considerable effect on the country and the State. No assistance is to be accorded to any enterprise which does not present adequate guarantees, but in the event of such assistance being given the advances or expenditure incurred by the State, which would in any event not be of great magnitude, would assume the aspect of an investment from which it would derive benefit under many forms. The commission recommends a drastic revision of the customs régime so as to afford assistance to local industries, and it points out that if, contrary to its expectations, the concessions made to those enterprises are not entirely compensated by the raising of the duties on those articles which are better able to bear such higher duties, then there are new impositions which the State could levy, such as succession duties, stamp duties, income tax, etc.

Industrial and Technical Education.

The commission deals at length with the question of industrial and technical education, and takes branch by branch. As regards industrial education it recommends :—1. The existing industrial schools must adapt their syllabus more closely to the industries which are carried out in the district where they are situated, and must maintain closer relations with those industries and with the employers carrying them on; 2. The creation of industrial schools for the purpose of assisting and supporting local industries in certain recognised provinces, and an increase in the number of model workshops and finishing courses; 3. The introduction in some of the industrial schools of training in the building trade; 4. The elaboration of a more complete scheme tending to the better preparation of the teachers and foremen required at the industrial schools; 5. An improvement in salaries and prospects of the instructors and directors of agricultural schools; and 6. A more efficient control over the organisation and syllabus of the industrial schools by the central authority entrusted with the development of industry and industrial education.

Its recommendations with regard to technical education are as follow :—(1) Industrial chemistry to be taught in the Polytechnical and Arts and Crafts Schools; (2) reconstruction of the Bulac Arts and Crafts School and the erection of a similar institution at Alexandria; (3) the institution of closer relations between industrial employers and the schools; and (4) development of the artistic branch of industrial education.

Finally, the commission strongly advocates the creation of a permanent organisation to encourage, assist, direct and develop the commerce and industry of the country. This organisation, which should have attached to it a superior council of commerce and industry, should be either a Ministry of Commerce and Industry, constituted similarly to the other Ministries, or a department attached to a Ministry, but having complete independence of action and a separate budget; or, again, it might be formed by the centralisation of the existing organisations dealing with the subjects. Whilst making these recommendations, the commission abstains from stating its preference. Certain considerations of higher policy and of expediency enter into the question, and it considers that its duty is limited to calling the serious attention of the Government to the urgency of the question.

In conclusion, the commission devotes a section to what it calls the duty of the Egyptian nation in the matter of the industrial renaissance of Egypt, and it sets forth in a few eloquent lines the individual duties falling to the Egyptian capitalists, the industrial masters, the workers and the general public, who can all play their part in giving back to the industry of their country some of the glory which was hers centuries ago.

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* The previous articles of this series appeared on June 7, June 21, July 5, and July 19.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Post-War Prospects.

Everyone now understands that from the moment when peace is restored there will begin another, and still more costly, war—that of trade—for history tells us that a trade boom almost invariably follows in the footsteps of a great war, though depression may subsequently result, and the nation that has been defeated is the one that usually puts forward the biggest efforts to capture trade and to try to retrieve the fortunes shattered by the war. Therefore, German competition of a particularly virulent character may be expected; in fact, the Germans have already been very active in neutral countries and in countries where they can exercise direct or indirect influence. In Spain, it appears, they have been actively at work in taking over one concession after another, and dispatching travellers, male and female, in all directions in the Iberian peninsula; while their efforts in Russia, Roumania, and elsewhere in the East, are of a Machiavellian character, though, it is to be hoped, of ephemeral commercial results. However, there is ample evidence that they are preparing for the forthcoming trade war, and that, in fact, they are prepared; and it is even suggested that huge quantities of all kinds of machinery and implements and other goods are stored "to flood the markets of the world" as soon as peace is restored. In the meantime, we are without any definite plan of action; and, with regard to the engineering trade, it is stated that the reports of the Parliamentary Committee appointed in July, 1916, under the chairmanship of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, to consider the commercial policy of the country are unanimous that there must in future be increased combination in the engineering and other important manufacturing trades. It is excellent advice and evidence that the Committee, after a lengthy investigation, came to the right conclusion—that British engineers and other manufacturers could and should depend on their own resources in regard to initiative and enterprise, and help themselves instead of relying principally upon State aid. This view has been advocated in these columns since the war began. It was the systematic energy, initiative, and enterprise of our rivals, aided by the apparent indifference and inadequate business methods of British traders, that assisted them to gain markets in which British goods, and especially machinery, are highly appreciated. Let British business methods in foreign trade keep pace with the times, allow a slight relaxation of cast-iron rules, give opportunities to the foreign buyer to come into direct touch with the British manufacturer or his *boná fide* and responsible representative, and the German trader will be defeated. It is also necessary—at least, as regards the Near and Middle East—to study the changes that have taken place. New markets have opened; regions hitherto of small importance will now offer great opportunities to enterprising engineers and contractors; while the possibilities of the old markets for machinery are much greater than before.

Machinery for Greece.

An interesting glimpse of the trade possibilities in Greece was given recently by a British official who pointed out that the agricultural districts in Macedonia, Epirus, and the islands offer openings for good trade in machinery, flour mills, oil mills, and gas motors for working small plants, as well as in electric tramways and motor omnibuses for carrying mails and passengers in districts where there are no railways, etc. The business that can be done in Greece, says this official, is very important and of great value, and United Kingdom engineers and firms should do their utmost to secure some of the prospective trade. Goods, he adds, should be brought direct to the buyers' notice by advertisements. British machinery and articles of all kinds have always received a market preference in Greece, but the better methods adopted by foreign competitors tended to diminish the opportunity of British firms. Is such a market to be left alone until the war is over, when other competitors, who know the market will enter it fully prepared?

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CANARY ISLANDS—Las Palmas (Grand Canary). GAMBIA—Bathurst. SIERRA LEONE—Freetown, Sherbro. LIBERIA—Monrovia. FRENCH IVORY COAST—Grand Bassam. GOLD COAST and ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee, Tarquah, Winnebah. TOGOLAND—Lome. NIGERIA—Abeokuta, Calabar, Ebute Metta, Forcados, Ibadan, Jos Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Lokoja, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Warri, Zaria. FERNANDO PO—Santa Isabel.

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"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*

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Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.

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"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
'It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Messageries Maritimes.

The Messageries Maritimes report for 1917 states that the receipts of the Domain Privé were 28,874,229 francs and the expenses 22,041,851 francs; the receipts from the subsidised lines were 86,436,557 francs and the expenses 72,170,766 francs. The total excess of receipts over expenditure was thus 21,098,169 francs. It is proposed to devote the sum of 2,700,000 francs to the distribution of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares.

Beciu Oil Fields.

The report of the Beciu (Roumania) Oil Fields for 1917 states that operations are at a standstill owing to the property in Roumania having been destroyed by order of the British Government and in view of the impossibility of resuming operations in that country while the political situation continues as at present. As the company has no revenue there is no profit and loss account to submit, and the balance-sheet is practically the same as at December 31, 1916, subject to the inclusion of the expenditure which has been incurred during the year under review. A claim for the value of the property has been filed with the British Government, but settlement has not yet been effected. Meeting, 15, Leadenhall Street, E.C., August 1, noon.

The report of the Constantinople Land and Building Company states that no accounts have been received from Constantinople for the year 1917. The credit balance for 1917 is £153, which, added to £5,440 brought forward, makes £5,593 to be carried forward. Meeting, 25, Bucklersbury, E.C., 31st instant, 3 p.m.

The report of the East India and Ceylon Tea Company for 1917 states that trading profit was £29,814 and profit and loss account credit £24,287. The directors place to general reserve £4,500 and to provision for income-tax £3,000, and recommend a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, leaving to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, £9,257.

The report of the Imperial Ceylon Tea Estates for 1917 states that, after providing for income-tax, Debenture interest and all general expenditure, net profit amounts to £9,692. Directors set aside for depreciation £1,000, after which, including £1,351 brought in, there remains £10,042. Directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, place to excess profits duty reserve account £1,000, and carry forward £4,542.

The report of the Burnside Tea of Ceylon for 1917 states that net profit was £2,364, and £373 was brought forward, giving £2,737. Directors write off capital expenditure incurred in 1917 £783, and carry forward £1,963. Profits are more, but directors think it wiser not to recommend dividend.

The report of the Makum (Assam) Tea Company states that the accounts are delayed.

Directors declare second interim dividend of 7½ per cent. (9d. per share), less tax, payable 24th instant. Last year, final dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 5 per cent., making 20 per cent. for year.

The report of the Jhanzie Tea Association for 1917 states that profit was £39,165; £6,153 was brought in, giving £45,318. The balance for disposal is £37,638. The directors transfer to reserve £2,000, to contingency and extension fund £3,000, and recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. less tax, making 14 per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £22,638, subject to excess profits duty.

The accounts of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company for 1917, after setting aside £22,000 for depreciation and £5,000 to a dividend reserve, show a credit balance of £61,848; final dividend of 1s. per share (less tax), making a total of 3s. per share for the year, and a bonus of 8d. per share (less tax); forward £20,782.

The report of the Ceylon Estates Investment Association for the year ended March 31 shows balance brought in £2,392, less excess profits duty £1,305. Profit on year, £2,856; available £3,943. Directors propose dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, writing down tea machinery and factories by £300, transfer to reserve £400, and carry forward £1,133.

The report of the Noyapara Tea Company for 1917 states that the balance brought in was £7,745, profit for the year £6,632, and surplus from 1916 crop £532, together £14,959; income-tax balance of £594 leaves £14,365. The directors propose a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, and carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £11,865.

The directors of the Bank of Bengal announce the following profit distribution:—Dividend, Rs12,000; bonus to shareholders, Rs4,00,000; special shareholders, Rs1,00,000 (all free of Indian income-tax); reserve fund, Rs4,50,000; pension fund, Rs1,00,000; carried forward, Rs5,55,283. Total, Rs28,05,283. The above represents a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum, a special bonus of 1 per cent., or the same as last half-year.

The profits of the Nedeem Tea Company for 1917 were £63,604. Final dividend 15 per cent. less tax (against 15 per cent. dividend and 10 per cent. bonus), making 20 per cent. for year, against 35 per cent. Forward, £25,829, against £23,055.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., notify to the holders of Debenture bonds to bearer, amounting to £374,900, falling due on August 18, that the debentures will be paid off at Lloyds Bank, 72, Lombard Street, E.C. The debentures should be left at the bank three clear days for examination prior to payment.

Dooars Tea.—Dividend of 21¼ per cent. (4s. 3d.) per share on ordinary shares, making for 1917 27½ per cent., payable August 19, less tax at 5s. Accounts delayed.

Hyderabad (Deccan) Company.—Meeting will be held 30th instant at Winchester House, E.C., at noon. Transfer books will be closed from July 22 to August 3, inclusive.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—A meeting of holders of debentures will be held at 34, Bishopsgate, E.C.2 on August 2, at noon.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—Dividend of 18¾ per cent. (3s. 9d.) per share on ordinary shares, making for 1917 22½ per cent., payable August 19, less tax at 5s. Accounts delayed.

Monerakelle Rubber Estates.—Interim dividend of 4 per cent. on ordinary shares, less tax at 5s. 3d., in the £, payable 31st instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 20 tons (last week 21 tons). Hurghada production for week, 2,365 tons (last week 1,860 tons).

◆

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A petition has been presented to the Privy Council by Lord Inchcape and others for a Charter of Incorporation to the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom. All petitions for or against the grant should be delivered at the Privy Council Office on or before August 16.

At the annual meeting of the Indian Tea Association last week, Lord Sydenham was elected president for the coming year, in succession to Sir Henry Seymour King, to whom a cordial vote of thanks was passed for his valuable services to the industry.

The *Vossische Zeitung* states that the Banque Générale de Turquie, which was founded by the Hungarian Handelsbank and the Lower Austrian Escompte Gesellschaft, has opened its offices in Galata.

According to the *Neue Freie Presse*, the Bavarian Lloyd Company, in conjunction with the Deutsche Bank, has established the Bulgarian Lloyd Company in Bulgaria and the Roumanian Lloyd Company in Roumania. These companies will, it is stated, proceed to further developments in the Balkans.

An Annexe of the Greek Legation in London for the execution of Greek Government orders, etc., under the direction of M. Caclamanos, has been established at 25, Knightsbridge.

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EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended June 20.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
June 11—June 20	5,992	6,302
April 1—June 20	44,256	59,827

Dr J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

Safeguard your Health with this Reliable Medicine.

Cuts short attacks of
HYSTERIA, SPASMS, PALPITATION.
A true palliative in NEURALGIA,
GOUT, TOOTHACHE, RHEUMATISM.
Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE.
The Best Remedy known for
COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS.

ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN
DIARRHŒA, CHOLERA,
DYSENTERY.

Of all Chemists,
1/3, 3/-, 5/-.

Always ask for a 'Dr. Collis Browne'
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

We have had an active week and a general improvement in prices where altered. In Egyptian Government stocks some transactions have taken place in Unifieds round last week's level at 93, whilst the 3½ per cent. prefs. have changed hands at 78, an advance of ½.

In Bank shares Nationals have improved 3-16 to 18⅞, but the scarcity of sellers has stood in the way of business. Agriculturals have firmed up 1-16 to 6¼, but Anglo-Egyptians, after their recent heavy rise, have reacted a further half point to 17. In Railways Delta Lights have improved ⅛ to 6⅞.

Amongst Land descriptions some business has been done in Aboukirs round 23. Allotments have been in request at 4¼, but no business has been done in the absence of sellers. Behéras have changed hands round 13⅜. Delta Lands have been done at 13s. 6d. —an advance of 3d.—and look ripe for an improvement. In Foreign Trusts small transactions have taken place round the current level. New Egyptians have been a strong market, and a very large business has been done up to 20s. 6d., the closing price being 20s., an advance of 9d. since last week. Sidi Salems have been in persistent demand, but no business has been carried through whilst Union Foncières are 1-32 higher at 3 5-16. United Egyptian Lands are fractionally firmer at 1s. 7½d.

In Miscellaneous shares some small business took place in Alexandria Waters round 12¼, and in Egyptian Markets in the neighbourhood of 22s. 6d. Salts and Sodas have again been a feature, and are closing ⅛ higher at 2 15-32. Khedivial Mails are 1-16 up at 2 3-16 on buying orders from Egypt.

In Greek securities there is a further rise to record of one point in the 1881, 1884, and 1890 Loans to 66, and in Monopolies to 63.

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TRADE WITH PALESTINE.

The following additional particulars with regard to trade facilities with Palestine are given in the *Board of Trade Journal*:—

On goods shipped from the United Kingdom to Palestine via Egypt, free storage will be granted, when available, in the customs warehouses at Alexandria and Port Said. No Egyptian customs dues will be levied on goods in transit for Palestine. After eight days' storage in the customs warehouses above mentioned, goods may be transferred to the bonded warehouses at charges up to 6 piastres per ton weekly, but on goods which are not transferred to bonded warehouses, landing charges and porterage are about 15 piastres per ton. The quickest route for goods from the United Kingdom to Palestine is to Port Said and thence by rail. To facilitate handling, goods should be forwarded in packages limited, when possible, to 100 kilos weight; heavy costs will otherwise be incurred in sorting and repacking of the contents of bulky cases. Machinery should be packed with due regard to this consideration. It is desirable that exporters from the United Kingdom should appoint British forwarding agents in Egypt, who would keep them in touch with the Trade Information Bureaux in Cairo. Persons desirous of entering into trade relations with Palestine are reminded that they should apply in the first instance to the Commercial Relations and Treaties Department, Board of Trade, Gwydyr House, London, S.W.1, for the necessary licence to trade.

EXPRESS NILE STEAMER COMPANY.

It is reported that the Express Nile Steamer Company assets have been acquired by the Banco di Roma for £E72,000. The company, which was founded in 1906 with an authorised capital of £E100,000, last year purchased the assets of the Société Anonyme des Entrepots et de Commerce, which had a capital of £E28,000.

◆

Advices from Paris announce the forthcoming issue at 85 per cent. of an Interior Roumanian Loan without limitation of amount with a view to augumenting the budgetary resources in view of the large increase of expenses.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. July 17	July 24
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93	93
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	77½	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	65	66
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	65	66
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	62	63
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	51
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	65	66
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65xd	65xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76	76
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	73	73
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/16	6¼
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17½	17
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	6¾	6¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅜	5⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13½	18 11/16	18⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf.	8¼	6¾	6⅞
Warrants to Bearer	17¾	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	90	70½xd	70½xd
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	61	53	53
Do. Do. 3% Bonds			
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/-	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4⅛
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅜	13⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	13/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	11/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2	2
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	19/3	20/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 11/32	2 11/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 9/32	3 5/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/6	1/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12¼	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	2 11/32	2 15/32
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	2⅛xd	2 3/16
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3 15/16	3 15/16

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JUNE 28.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	17 9/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	94
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	128
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 11/16 xd
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13 1/16
,, priv.	L.E.	4⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	179
Bons de Panama	Frs.	131
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	88½
,, Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	98
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 1/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 11/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 11/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 5/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6
Bonded Stores	L.E.	9¼
Unifiée	L.E.	94
Privilégiée		79½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 1/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	5 1/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6
,, Fondateur	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅞
,, Ord		47/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	25¼
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4¾
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6 3/16
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
,, Jouissance	Frs.	168
Egyptian Markets		23/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	465
,, Div.	Frs.	395
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	335
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 5/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		43/4½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	710
,, Fondateur	Frs.	800
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	386
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	287½
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	9¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		¾

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended July 12.		1918. Week ended July 11.
Cattle markets	344	..	170
General markets	553	..	353
Receipts (£)	897	..	523*
Total for year	35,028	..	28,534

* Bairam holidays.

BANKING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - -	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up..	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,00,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 378.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

An important meeting was held at the Mansion House last week (at the moment when THE NEAR EAST was going to press) under the auspices of the Serbian (Jugoslav) National War Aims Committee. It was important for two main reasons: first, because a satisfactory settlement of the Near Eastern Question hinges upon an appreciation of Jugoslav war aims; and secondly, in view of the fact that the principal speech was delivered by the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who received a great ovation. Mr. Balfour's utterances were, as usual, of a cautious nature. But he listened to a formal statement of the Serbian war aims, and announced that in common with every member of the audience he had heard it with profound sympathy. For the rest he dealt mainly with the position of Austria-Hungary, and will have allayed the suspicions of those who have feared that the British Government was inclined to treat the Dual Monarchy too leniently. The last hope, said Mr. Balfour, that Austria can herself, of herself, and from herself develop into a free nation, a free and homogeneous nation, and can achieve freedom, has been shattered. There could be no hope for the Czecho-Slovaks in the north, and the Jugoslavs in the south, he added, if the Central Powers were victorious in this war.

The list of invited guests included the Italian Ambassador and the French Minister Plenipotentiary. In these circumstances it was not to be expected that there would be in the list of Serbian war aims any international indiscretion, or a repetition of the "Hands Off" warning addressed to Italy in the same building a few weeks earlier. The Serbian policy of "the Balkans for the Balkan peoples" was enunciated, but there was no reference to Dalmatia, and the principle was made somewhat skilfully to apply to Austria-Hungary and its absorption of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the other hand, it was stipulated that there should be no hegemony and no intervention in any form with regard to Balkan internal affairs, but free and independent development of the Balkan nations, which would naturally exclude all pretensions for domination of one over others, and would lead to a league of the Balkan States. No exception can be taken to this aim, and we welcome the bold declaration made during the progress of the war that a league of the Balkan States is still an aim of the Serbian Government. Indeed, all the speakers wisely insisted upon the point that the enemy of the Balkans was Austria-Hungary, and allowed it to be inferred, if they did not actually state it, that with the elimination of the Dual Monarchy the Balkan countries would be able to look after their own harmonious development.

As has been pointed out before in these columns, this is the only doctrine that can make a strong appeal to the British public. If the peace and security of the Balkans require the defeat and dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, there must be some reasonable prospect of the Balkan States keeping the peace among themselves afterwards. This would be impossible, if one State is to be kept in permanent subjection by the others. The position, no doubt, is in some respects anomalous, and cannot be rightly understood by those whose vision is bounded entirely by a Balkan horizon. It is necessary to recognise that Bulgaria has been an agent and not a principal. If she were not part of the Balkans which will have need of a league one day, the question of her punishment would present no difficulties. But part of her crime consists in playing the game of the arch-enemy, and when the influence of the latter has been eliminated, there will be a sufficiently strong element in Bulgaria ready to admit with conviction the error of the country's ways. The Balkan States have a strong interest in preventing any one of their number from remaining within the orbit of the Central Powers. They have, therefore, to see that their policy is calculated to detach Bulgaria from Austria-Hungary rather than to crystallise the present association between the two countries in a permanent union.

The Italian-French advance in Albania appears to have been stemmed for the time being. On July 24 the Austrians were able to launch a counter-attack, which, although repulsed, proved that the enemy had received some useful reinforcements. Before the end of the month the Italian official report announced that "the systematization on the line of resistance having been completed, our advanced troops on the Semeni and to the west of the Osum-Devoli have lessened the pressure against the enemy troops. Fighting activity has, therefore, diminished considerably." Whether the Allies have gained sufficient ground in Albania to enable other sections of the line to move forward on the Macedonian front remains to be seen. They are still some distance from Elbasan, through which the old Roman highway runs to Monastir, but the knowledge that the offensive may be resumed from this quarter at any moment will add to the embarrassment of the Bulgarians in the event of further activity on the part of the eastern portion of the line. In this connection it may be noted that two successful attacks against the Bulgarian positions were reported on July 30, one by British troops to the west of the Vardar, and the other by Serbian troops.

Pathetic interest attaches to the visit of M. Take Jonescu to England, in view of the bereavement which has befallen him in particularly tragic circumstances since he was here last. But a cordial welcome awaits the Roumanian statesman both on personal grounds and because he is known to represent the unconquerable spirit with which Roumania is facing her present troubles. He can do useful work in this country by letting his British audiences know at first hand something of what a German victory means for a conquered people. Speaking in Paris, M. Take Jonescu declared that the German slavery which has been imposed on Roumania has changed even the Germanophiles into Germanophobes, and he added that the English people does not know how to hate the Germans as the Roumanians know. We have no desire to share the latter's experience; but it will be well to remember, when owing to our island security we are tempted to let the dead past bury its dead, that the conditions imposed on Roumania were nothing as compared with those that the Germans are credited with having prepared for Great Britain and France.

The Metropolitan of Athens is expected to make a short stay in England on his way to the United States, where his presence is required in connection with certain ecclesiastical questions. Archbishop Melitios was formerly head of the Greek Church in Cyprus, and is well known as an out-and-out partisan of the union of that island with Greece. During his visit to England, however, it may be expected that he will prefer to keep this political question in the background, and to raise the much-canvassed subject of a closer association between the Church of England and the Greek Church. What practical advantages are to accrue to the two Churches is not always made clear by the advocates of more intimate ties, although in principle the proposal to bring two branches of the Christian Church closer together has everything to commend it. There are, however, not only differences in belief and ritual to be overcome. The Greek Church enters prominently into the life of the Greek people, but it is perhaps more to them as a national symbol than as a spiritual mentor and inculcator of a moral code. The parish priest, that is to say, officiates but does not preach.

The ex-Khedive has been paying a visit to Berlin, and has been receiving assurances which were evidently intended for Turkish consumption as well as to hearten him. There was nothing lacking in the stage management. The new German Foreign Secretary, Admiral von Hintze, made his *début* in public on this occasion, and delivered himself of the interesting remark that "the Egyptian people was longing for the return of its lawful Prince, to whose good government it owes its prosperity." We should like to think that the speaker believed the statement, as it would furnish conclusive proof that Germany is no longer as well served as she used to be by her agents in Egypt. The ex-Khedive, not to be outdone, supplied the antistrophe to the Berlin chorus: "The hearts of my poor people, enslaved by brute force, beat for the cause of the Quadruple Alliance, and believe in their liberation from the yoke of England." But the purpose of the meeting was the renewal of German promises for the "liberation" of Egypt, India, and the occupied portions of Turkey. With regard to this, it is unnecessary to attempt to improve upon the comment of the *Vorwärts*: "Such all-the-world-liberation will nowhere be taken as anything but war cant." And it adds brutally: "We have still quite a lot of liberating to do at home. With all our hearts we wish success to the Irish, the Indians, and the Egyptians, but they themselves do not expect that we shall be willing to shed any German blood for their liberation."

Although this all-the-world-liberation attitude of the German Government may deceive no one in Germany, it is likely to be used in certain quarters in this country in an attempt to weaken the British resolve that the war shall leave German militarism no encouragement for further schemes of world domination. Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, therefore, has rendered good service in calling attention in a letter to *The Times* to the real character of the man, who is declared by the German Foreign Secretary to be responsible for Egypt's prosperity, and for whose restoration to the throne of Egypt the people of the country are said to be longing. The British case against Abbas Hilmi is so admirably put in this letter that the salient passage cannot be too widely circulated.

It may be worth while, writes Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, in order to elucidate the meaning of "liberation," in this particular instance at any rate, to call the attention more particularly of the latter classes (i.e., Labour and Socialist circles in England) to the delicious humour of the declaration that the Egyptian people owe their prosperity to and are longing for the return of the man who, in spite of all that British control and advice could do to prevent it, by a skilful and unscrupulous manipulation of public trusts (*wakfs*) over which he had improperly obtained control, for years despoiled the poor and defenceless classes of his subjects, largely widows and orphans, of enormous sums of money destined by the founders to charitable purposes; who persistently and clandestinely tampered with the administration of justice in those Courts of Mohammedan law where he could exercise influence, with the same object and the same result; who obstinately covered with his protection corrupt judges who prostituted their office for his benefit or that of his friends; who surrounded himself with a gang of unprincipled adventurers and parasites who preyed upon the people in innumerable ways for their own and their master's enrichment; who, while spending nothing he could help on charity or public purposes, squandered upon female favourites huge subsidies in order to provide the funds for which he systematically sold titles and decorations to all who would pay for them, at a regular and well-known tariff; and whose zeal and solicitude for "good government," as distinguished from "the yoke of England," are strikingly shown by the circumstance, revealed by his confederate's counsel at the Bolo trial in Paris, that at the moment of his downfall he was preparing to foster the delicate and exotic plant of political morality in the new Representative Assembly, which he himself only a few months previously had inaugurated with considerable pomp, by bribing its members to do his bidding to the extent of no less a sum than 40 million francs!

The Zionist Commission, which left England last March under the leadership of Dr. Weizmann, has lost no time in giving effect to one important item of its programme, the creation of a Hebrew University at Jerusalem. Already before the war a site had been secured at Mount Scopus (Mount of Olives), and munificent donations had been promised from Jews in all parts of the world. The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone has now been performed, in the presence of General Allenby, of officers of the French and Italian detachments in Palestine, of a representative gathering of Palestinian Jews, a deputation of Egyptian Jews, and the heads of other communities. The establishment of a Hebrew University at Jerusalem has been a cherished project of Zionism for many years, and there would seem to be no reason why the ambition of an institution "founded complete from the beginning" should not be realised. The medium of instruction will be Hebrew, although this provision does not mean necessarily that all subjects from the outset will be taught exclusively in Hebrew.

The presentation made to Lord Morley by his Indian admirers may be regarded from at least two points of view. In one sense the occasion was undoubtedly well chosen, for it marks the close of a long and not inglorious period. As the Chelmsford-Montagu Report says, the reforms with which Lord Morley's name is associated were "the final outcome of the old conception which made the Government of India a benevolent despotism." That old conception was formally abandoned last August, though its logical basis had been sapped at a much earlier date, and it was obviously appropriate to recognise the devoted efforts made to strengthen a position which ten years ago was already becoming untenable. Lord Morley's bust will stand in the National Liberal Club as a reminder of the past and as a herald of "the coming of the milder day."

On the other hand, some at least of the audience must have been conscious that the Morley-Minto reforms cannot be truthfully described as a practical success. As Mr. Montagu, who, of course, was present on the occasion, justly says in the joint report, "the reforms of 1909 afforded no answer, and could afford no answer, to India's political problems," and whatever may be done in the future, there is no doubt that many of their most important features will have to be discarded. Educated Indians owe a debt of gratitude to Lord Morley, but the obligation is derived rather from his general attitude towards the country and the people than from any of the concrete measures which he introduced.

Regarding the new project of reform, there is little progress to be reported. The Chancellor of the Exchequer told the House of Commons last week that the members of the Government had not had time to read the Report, and no reasonable being can doubt that his statement was substantially correct, but delay will be a serious misfortune all the same. The matter is far too important to be disposed of by any authority below the highest, and England as well as India needs to know whether the undoubted risks of the Chelmsford-Montagu scheme are to be boldly faced, or whether a drastic revision of the proposals must be undertaken. Every month's delay must menace the difficulties of the overstrained administration in India, and officials as well as politicians stand in urgent need of a clear order, such as the Imperial Government alone can give.

The scheme for the grant of commissions in the Army to Indians appears to be a well-designed attempt to meet a really difficult situation. "Defence is of the essence of self-government," and now that England stands formally committed to the task of building up an Indian nation, it is impossible to refuse the claim of Indians to be admitted to the noblest profession in the world. On the other hand, in Asia at least, the Millennium is still a long way off, and till it comes the task of the Indian Army is likely to be much too serious to justify any risk of inefficiency among its leaders. The people who clamour most loudly for commissions have had very few opportunities of learning what an officer has to do, and on the evidence available the practical soldier is fully entitled to his opinion that the raw material is not altogether promising.

The question can be settled only by experiment, and the chief merit of the scheme now published is that it will give the experiment a fair chance. Some of the candidates will have proved their fitness in the field, the one absolutely conclusive test: others will have given evidence of at least their keenness by their activity in the recruiting campaign, and they with the other untried cadets will undergo what we have no doubt will prove to be a searching ordeal during the period of training at Sandhurst or some other school of instruction. We hope that most of them will succeed in making good, and that the failures, if failures there must be, will realise that they had chosen a profession for which they were unsuited, and return gracefully to civil life.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 1.

Egypt's Waterways.

The extraordinary rise in the price of all commodities brought about by the war has compelled the exercise of ingenuity for the utilisation to the utmost of local resources, and one of the most important questions that challenge attention in this connection is certainly that of improving Egypt's waterways. That the authorities are now fully alive to the importance of this question is evidenced by the reply of the Under Secretary of State for Public Works in Cairo to the communication submitted to him by the President of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt. The full text of this interesting correspondence has been published in the June issue of the chamber's journal, and no more useful purpose can be served than to give the widest possible publicity thereto, and invite the expression of expert opinion on a question so vital to Egypt's economic life. The Under Secretary of State, in dealing with the principal points of Mr. Williamson's letter, embodying the scheme he drew up at the request of the Chamber, dismisses the suggestion relating to the creation of cross canals for promoting direct water traffic from east to west in the Delta, as being too costly. In an open letter published in the *Egyptian Gazette* Mr. Williamson demurs to this in the following terms:—

> It may be so, but also it is possible that, after thorough examination and study, it may be found that, by providing a lock here and there to connected waterways of different levels, by increasing the depth of water in some sections of canals or drains, by widening or straightening other sections, and by excavating short new connecting links, it may be possible to pass boats of considerable size from east to west; but, be that as it may, that is only one out of many improvements to inland navigation which will come only when a special department is created to take in hand the improving of the river canals and drains of Egypt, as far as that can be done without detriment to the supply of irrigation water and the drainage of the land.

Mr. Williamson justly refers to the increased cost of coal, even after the war, as militating against rail in favour of water transport, and to this may be added, in support of his argument, the factor of the comparatively cheap and abundant supply of liquid fuel from the Egyptian oilfields which, in view of the continual improvement of oil motors, may be found to overrule any considerations of economy in regard to the cutting of these cross canals.

If this important question had received earlier attention and been solved, the country would not have experienced certain difficulties which it has recently encountered. Owing to the arrival of many heavy cargoes simultaneously, there has been considerable congestion on the railways, the principal medium of transport to the interior, whose capacities were already taxed to the utmost by military exigencies. The position became at last such that all the Customs quays and warehouses, and all the bonded stores were filled to overflowing, and the insurance companies refused to cover any further risks as their limits had been exceeded. It is said that one unfortunate steamer bound from the Far East lay about forty days in harbour before she could finish the discharge of her cargo. Her demurrage claim must form an interesting case.

Of course, other causes contribute to this abnormal congestion, but the fact remains that rail transport could not cope even with first requirements, and cases are known where consignees in Cairo have waited weeks before they could receive their goods from the seaports. Had a well-developed system of water transport been in existence, such a state of affairs would not have been brought about. The evil has been aggravated by the scarcity of river craft. All the available tonnage was, of course, requisitioned by the military, who, however, in spite of their need of much more, have been trying to accommodate the public as far as circumstances permitted. What is now a matter of immediate and urgent interest is the increase of river craft, and the military are said to have been exercising commendable activity in this direction.

The Retirement of Mr. D. A. Cameron.

With the retirement of Mr. Donald A. Cameron, who, after occupying the post of British Consul-General at Alexandria for nine years, has now left for home, an interesting and remarkable figure has disappeared from Anglo-Egyptian officialdom. Mr. Cameron began his official career in this part of the East as Consul at Suakin in 1885, whence he was transferred in the same capacity to Benghazi, Tripolitania. There he remained from 1888 to 1889, when Lord Cromer called him to hold a judgeship in the Native Court of Appeal, which post he retained until 1897. He again returned to the Consular Service, and was Navy Agent for the Suez Canal in 1903, and Consul-General for the Suez Canal district at Port Said from 1905 until 1909, when he succeeded to the retiring Consul-General at Alexandria.

Mr. Cameron is a good Arabic scholar, having published an Arabic English vocabulary in 1892. His "Egypt in the Nineteenth Century," which is now unfortunately out of print, may be considered as one of the best historical accounts of the period between the reign of Mohammed Ali and the British Occupation.

Economic Crises.

There has been quite a crop of "crises," but as the most serious of them, *viz.*, the petroleum crisis and the wheat crisis, have been satisfactorily settled, it is legitimate to hope that the authorities will not fail to cope with the others. These relate to bread, sugar, and cottonseed oil. Verily Egypt is the land of Paradox, and nowhere else would it be believed that, where the wheat problem has been solved that of bread would not be included in the measure. The agitation of the public and the Press seems to be moving the authorities to quicker action, and it is to be hoped that the profiteers will shortly be disposed of. Once wheat is brought within the tariff, there is no earthly reason why its by-product should be left outside and the public exposed to the greed of the bakers, who are selling their bread at prices out of all proportion to those of the tariffed *matière première*. The requisite administrative machinery for dealing with the situation is already in existence, in the Supplies Control Board. It is not long, however, since this board came into its present form, and some excuse may be found for its having so far found time to deal only with the more important phases of the economic problem. These minor questions are, indeed, engaging the attention of the board at present, and the President's success in dealing with the more difficult problem of wheat and flour justifies hope for a speedy solution of those minor ones. Already an order has been issued by Mr. Ross Taylor on behalf of the Supplies Control Board, laying down a series of restrictions in regard to inter-provincial transport of sugar, and it is expected that these measures will make it impossible for the profiteers to further indulge in stock hiding and surreptitious selling.

The cottonseed oil crisis was the very last one would have dreamed of. The production is far in excess of the requirements of the population, even making allowance for the practical cessation of olive oil imports; and yet in the country *par excellence* of cotton we find a dearth of cottonseed oil and the article selling at double the tariff price. The greater is the wonder, as cottonseed is a monopoly of the Government, and the oil manufacturers are already there under official control. A flagrant case of hiding of oil stocks has been brought to light recently, and the exemplary punishment of the offender should serve as a warning to others.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"BOUNDARIES IN EUROPE AND NEAR EAST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Reviewing the book of Sir Thomas Holdich, "Boundaries in Europe and Near East," Mr. Bourchier speaks of "scientific writers who treat with scepticism the claim of the Roumanians as descending from Roman colonists." Perhaps he alludes to some Magyar and Bulgarian chauvinists, but no one who has a wider historical knowledge would take these people as "scientific writers." Our existence as a very homogeneous people of nearly fourteen millions, without any dialect in our language, with profound Latin traditions, outweighs entirely all the theories of the so-called "scientific writers."

Regarding the book of Sir Thomas Holdich, I have to point out:—

(1) Michael the Brave, of Wallachia (1593-1601) united under his rule not only Transylvania and Wallachia, as Sir Thomas writes, but Moldavia, too. (At that time Bukovina and Bessarabia being an integral part of Moldavia.)

(2) In the seventeenth century the national sentiment of the Roumanians was not absent, and "their patriotism not dead," but quite the contrary. Our culture attained, at that time, a very high degree. Under Basil Lupu (the Wolf) and Mathi Basarab, Moldavia and Wallachia were the most powerful help for the culture in the Near East. In these principalities were printed books for Serbia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Mount Athos, even for the Christians of Arabia, and the Roumanians of Transylvania largely contributed to this cultural and pious work. ("The Travels of Macarius" Patriarch of Antioch, written at that time, offer a wonderful picture of Moldavia and Wallachia in the seventeenth century. English translation, London, 1824.)

(3) In the time of Sherban Basarab (not Sherman) the Bible was translated into Roumanian, and until now this translation is the most important monument of the Roumanian language.

(4) The election of Cuza (1859) was not a failure, as Sir Thomas says, but the greatest success of our social and political achievement. Modern Roumania was based upon his reforms.

(5) The present King of Roumania is not the son of the late King Carol (not Carlos), but his nephew.

We do not agree with Sir Thomas Holdich that a modern State would require "strong boundaries" à la Brialmont, because we are sure that humanity will repudiate the ideal of the militarism of the Central Powers.

The "strong scientific boundaries" could be a good guarantee for the so-much-desired peace of the world only if the power of nationality was not limited or oppressed, but liberated. The power of a State, we think, is not derived from its wealth only, but also from its intellectual distinction, from its moral tendencies and ideals. If a nation remains divided under different rules and laws, though enjoying "the geographical environment," and living in a State with "strong boundaries," it will be but a mutilated organism, and its intellectual unity will never be shaped, its contribution to human civilisation will never be what it might be.

This great war has implanted the principle of liberty in the breasts of all the nationalities, and fired their ideal of gaining freedom from oppressive laws to which they never consented. The freedom of all nationalities will establish the peace of the world, we think, better than "strong boundaries."—I am, etc.,

D. N. Ciotori.

46, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.

INDIA'S DEBT TO THE KING.

The annual meeting of the East India Association was held on July 30 at Caxton Hall. Lord Reay, who presided, in his opening remarks, referred to the King's announcement that after the war the Prince of Wales would visit India as well as other parts of the Empire. Very few heirs to the Throne, he said, had had such opportunities as his Royal Highness had had or had used them so well. The King was the first British Sovereign in history who had personal knowledge of every part of his widespread Dominions, and India owed a deep debt of gratitude to his Majesty for the interest he had shown in her affairs and his knowledge of them. The speaker warmly welcomed the decision to grant commissions in the Army to Indians who had shown, as he had always foreseen, that whenever the occasion arose our Indian fellow-subjects would prove their valour in the battle-field. It would be always remembered with pride that it was by the aid of Indian troops that the Germans were prevented from getting into Paris at the beginning of the war.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

At the time of the Spanish-American War, I remember, just after the capture of one of the Spanish fleets, an American paper published a cartoon that tickled my fancy. It depicted Uncle Sam, in the character of a little boy, dressed in a sailor's suit and regarding a lot of toy warships in some perplexity. "What am I to do with them?" he was asking, and his own answer was: "I know a little girl who collects 'em. P'raps I'd better give 'em to her." A portrait of the little girl in question, in the corner of the picture, showed Queen Victoria in *very* early Victorian garb, with shortish skirt and long pigtails and something-elses.

⁂

My thoughts have been carried back to this drawing by the messages which are finding their way to this country regarding what was formerly the Russian Black Sea Fleet. A few weeks ago I suggested that Turkey had (apparently) started collecting that kind of thing. Now, I see that she has actually sent a request to Berlin that the whole of the Black Sea Fleet should be handed over to her. Doesn't she wish she may get it! The German Government replied:—"1. That the Dreadnoughts and several other of the best Russian ships had been destroyed. 2. That the remainder of the fleet was the rightful booty of Germany, because the vessels were captured by the Germans. 3. That amongst the vessels captured there was not one that was in a fit state for navigation, that their repair would occupy many months, and that Turkey did not possess the means to carry out these repairs." This may, or may not, have been very satisfactory to Brother Turk, but if I were in his place I should want to know:—(1) How the Germans meant to effect the repairs, and (2) how they purposed getting their "rightful booty" past the inconveniently active British Fleet.

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In dividing the spoils, I see, Germany does not quite ignore her "allies." In face of their determination not to be forgotten, that would be a task beyond the powers of even the Prussian Superman. So Austria is to have a few "job lots" among the warships; Turkey and Bulgaria get one or two destroyers; and the "merchant fleet" falls chiefly to the Turks and Bulgars. The trouble is, of course, that in spite of German boasts about their mastery of the seas none of the new acquisitions dare show its bows outside the Dardanelles

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If you have ever seen an Arab, or other Eastern, funeral procession, you must surely have been impressed by the wailing of the women, and I should be much surprised to learn that the impression was a favourable one. It is, in fact, lacking in genuine feeling as a rule, and one is bound to suspect that the "mourners" extract much satisfaction from their own performance. Now, I see by the Egyptian papers, that Alexandria has had enough of it, and that women are no longer to take part in funeral processions there. It is as well. I remember seeing an American lady try to comfort an Arab woman who was wailing the death of a child (not her own, I hope). The woman looked very puzzled at first, but when the American lady's servant translated what was said to her, she burst out laughing. "The *sitt* must not worry. She herself did not grieve. But this weeping and wailing was just the custom of her folk." And she resumed her beating of her breast and her loud lamentations.

⁂

A certain gunner has been writing in the *Manchester City News* an account of a visit he and some friends paid to Kazimain, a suburb of Baghdad, famous for its glorious gold-capped minarets. Not unnaturally, he refers to the trams that run to the spot, which seem to have afforded him and his friends as much amusement as they cause to most Europeans who behold them for the first time. They are indeed "fair game." But the gunner's arithmetic—or his veracity—seems to be a bit at fault. For he first declares that the tram on which his party returned "proceeded at the leisurely pace of one mile an hour," and later announces that when he and his friends were in process of dismounting from the top "there was a distance of quite five hundred yards between the point where the first man got off and when the last of the four of us managed to reach the ground." I am not very strong in mathematics, but I think I am right in working the problem out at about seventeen minutes. Poor time for four presumably active British soldiers to take in alighting, even from a Baghdad-Kazimain tram!

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Italians in Albania.

A special correspondent of *The Times*, writing from Avlona on July 23, contributes an article "In Liberated Albania," in which he emphasises the different feelings entertained by the Albanians for the Austrians and for the Italians.

> Judging from what one heard and saw at Berat and Fieri, the whole of Albania must be simply seething with the spirit of revolt against the Austrians. At both these towns Albanian mountaineers were flocking to offer their combatant services to the Italians. While I was at Berat yesterday, two deputations which had succeeded in crossing the border line between the contending parties came to beg weapons with which to arm the peasantry in the rear of the enemy. They reported that many hundreds were already attacking the enemy in the north, and thousands of others only lacked rifles to follow their example.
>
> It is certain that the Austrians have aroused the bitter hatred of this people by their cruel treatment and merciless requisitions. A fair idea of what must have been the privations of the population can be gained by a walk through the streets of Berat and Fieri. The shops were open, but contained little that could satisfy the needs of the stomach. Of groceries there was not a scrap of any kind. The goods displayed consisted principally of hardware, ironmongery, glassware, and picture postcards. The only article that appeared to be really abundant was Hunyadi Yanos water, with which most of the shops were generously provided.
>
> No more striking evidence of the diametrically opposite conditions prevailing in the parts of Albania occupied by Italy and those held by Austria could be afforded than the contrast between the well-filled shops to be seen in Argyro-Castro and Avlona and the emptiness of those of Berat. Famine, we were informed, had caused hundreds of deaths in Berat alone. Even people who had well-to-do relatives in America anxious to succour them had died of starvation because of the impossibility of receiving remittances thence.

As to the improvement of communications—always one of Albania's great problems—we read:—

> The contrast between the roads on the Italian side and those for which the Austrians were till the other day responsible was no less remarkable than that between the food supplies of the people on either side. Indeed, the Austrians have done practically nothing to improve the roads which they found on their arrival in Albania. Their motor service was as meagre and defective as the Italian is abundant and perfect. It appears that in the whole district of Berat they had only six motor-cars, all in a dilapidated condition. Nearly all their transport was effected by Decauville and aerial railways. The Italians were not content with the sections which they captured between Berat and Fieri, but began immediately to make new roads. The extraordinary activity of the Italians may be depended upon to complete these new roads within a few weeks.

Good Work in Macedonia.

Mr. Thomas H. Mawson contributes to the *Contemporary Review* an article, "The British Soldier in Macedonia," which he begins by remarking, very truly, that the work of our men in that region "has all too long gone unrecognised." A little lower he says:—

> The work which I desire to advertise and commend is, in the pre-war sense, civilian rather than military in its character; indeed, though performed by a military force, it is a force which is civilian in its origin and composition. And while it is true that the military aspect of our operations is much more important than the official reports suggest, it is this civilian work which is revolutionising Macedonia. Most notably it is the civilian aspect which has in such a remarkable way endeared our soldiers and their officers to the native population; but the civilian achievements altogether are giving to the British Army and our race a status in the East such as we have never before enjoyed. Yet so far no one has thought it worth while to make anything beyond a passing reference to this most important part of our operations.

A great change has come over the attitude of the native population; and Mr. Mawson is of opinion that "the turning-point was the behaviour of the British Army on the night of the terrible fire which destroyed three-fourths of the entire habitations of old Salonika, and rendered houseless 75,000 people. It is on occasions like this that the evidence upon which is based the legend of the adaptability of an Englishman to every emergency is most pronounced." He continues:—

> When we grasp the fact that this large and congested population was removed without the loss of a single life, we begin to realise how hard and successfully our men worked.
>
> At the outbreak of the conflagration the British military authorities seemed to take supreme command at once, and, though the native population had had little experience of the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to a plain duty which always characterises our forces, they soon discovered and recognised that the spring of our action was not mercenary but humane. Our men, in a language universally understood, though not verbally expressed, naturally administered comfort and assurance and served all, irrespective of nationality or class, and the women and children simply flocked round them. There was general surprise that they should refuse every material recompense which the inhabitants tried to thrust upon them, and I am told that not a single case of looting or avoidable destruction of household or personal treasures was heard of. This, of course, goes without saying; they are only mentioned because the facts were a new experience to the native population, an experience which has placed British integrity upon a pedestal. The work of the Army, it need not be added, did not stop at rescue; it was extended to the feeding and improvised housing of the people, which was accomplished with amazing quickness, ingenuity, and success. The praise of the British was in every mouth.

Many other examples are given of good work done for the country and its inhabitants by our soldiers. We must content ourselves with one: the case of "a certain wretched village" which was transformed:—

> The village, comparatively near to one of our important lines of communication, was in such a disgusting state that it was an open question whether it should not for sanitary reasons be destroyed and the inhabitants removed from the place. The officer, however, set to work with a scavenging gang and likewise a draining, repairing, and water-laying squadron. Incidentally, he employed the inhabitants, both men and women, in the work of introducing cleanliness and order into the village, and by paying them for such tasks as washing their own houses evoked in them genuine amazement. At the same time he opened a canteen and communal kitchen run on the lines of an army canteen and at army prices—with the result that the native food profiteers were driven out of business. He further provided a public bath and instituted bath drills for every inhabitant twice a week—whether compulsory or not it is not for us to say. The outstanding fact is that the people appreciated so much the change wrought by the officer that six months later, when he had to depart to headquarters to take up other duties, the population wept and sorrowfully escorted him to the outskirts of the village, where he is to-day accepted as the ideal of an English gentleman, strong, just, and generous.

Old-Time Travel.

"Old Caravan Roads and Overland Routes in Syria, Arabia and Mesopotamia" is the title of a fascinating article contributed to the *Nineteenth Century* (July) by Mr. F. D. Harford. To some extent many of these roads have fallen into disuse, but for the traveller and the student of the past they still have much interest, and the article makes excellent reading throughout. Here is one paragraph:—

> The most interesting old caravan road, so far as Great Britain is concerned, was that across the "Great Desert" between Basra and Aleppo, which during its whole course of some 750 miles ran entirely through the Desert, following a chain of wells or springs, but without ever actually touching the Euphrates or passing through a town. During the eighteenth century and in the early part of the nineteenth century some of the official correspondence of the East India Company was sent by this route from Bombay to London, and *vice versâ*, as it was then the quickest route to India. Colonel John Taylor, in a book on overland postal routes, published by him in 1795, estimated the time required, under the most favourable conditions, for sending mails from Bombay to London by this route at ninety to 101 days, and from London to Bombay at sixty-four to seventy-nine days' actual travelling. In this book he gives a number of interesting itineraries from Constantinople, viâ Vienna and Hamburg, to England, and also from Dover to Venice, Genoa, and Messina, with the names of all the post-stations right across the Continent, details as to the inns, and the distance between each station.

To-day the traveller from Busreh (or "Basra") usually prefers the comfort of the B.I. to the fatigue of the "Great Desert," and the rare Europeans who do go overland usually keep close to the rim as long as possible. As for the old route it is never followed nowadays save by the hardy Bedawi—or the refugee! On the other hand, the northern routes from Baghdad *via* Deir and Palmyra, or through Meskene and Aleppo, are still fairly well used by both mule and camel caravans.

> It is difficult to say when caravans ceased to travel between Basra and Aleppo, but the introduction of steam navigation on the great rivers and the general insecurity conduced to this result. Mr. Barker, British Consul-General at Aleppo, writing in 1822, spoke, however, of caravans of 2,000 to 3,000 camels going from Baghdad to Aleppo twice a year in spring and autumn, "the routes being then secure owing to the commands of Mehemet Ali to the Arabs to desist from robbery, who obeyed them in spite of the remoteness of his seat of power." The British Consul at Baghdad reported in 1834 that of all the roads that led to Baghdad not one was safe for small parties of travellers, and that owing to this insecurity few caravans came from Damascus to Aleppo, but that even in that year they brought £250,000 worth of European produce to Baghdad. The routes from Damascus and Aleppo viâ Diarbekr, Mandeen, and Mosul were "absolutely impassable except for an army." The British Consulate at Baghdad, however, long maintained a rapid postal service across the Desert to Damascus, and the Ottoman Government followed its example.

On July 28 banners were presented to Jugoslav and Czecho-Slovak troops in Italy who are to fight side by side with the Italians.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE GUARDIANS OF THE GATE."[*]

Both these works are inspired by the same thought—that Serbia guards the gateway to the East, and that her independence means the end of German ambitions in the East. But the methods of proving the thesis are different, for each writer follows his characteristic bent. Mr. Laffan, a rising young University historian who has been with the Serbian Army, uses historical arguments to prove the thesis, while Mr. Price relies on his personal experiences with the Serbian Army to enforce it.

Mr. Laffan gave his lectures in the winter months to the British Motor Units associated with the Serbian Army. We should bear this fact in mind in viewing his book. On the whole, his sketches are slight but conspicuously good, and above all marked by a genuine attempt to be moderate and to look at matters from a historical perspective. He has read widely, and has the personal touch only given by one who has seen and known as well as read. Thus he brings before us Milosh—the founder of the Obrenovitch dynasty—and reveals, as in a flash, the strange semi-Oriental atmosphere in which he lived.

"His office of State was a little room furnished with maps and captured Turkish flags." He was "unable to read or write"—seated on cushions on the floor, with a turban on his head, he gave audience to his visitors, exactly in the fashion of his Turkish predecessors" (p. 35). "His wife imitated her husband's methods of dealing with rivals. When Milosh, who in so many ways continued the Mahommedan tradition, was captivated by other ladies, his wife would finish them off with a gun and then retire into the mountains until her lord's anger had evaporated" (p. 36). A thumbnail sketch of this kind makes it easier to understand modern Serbia, and the tremendous difficulties which she has surmounted.

Mr. Laffan treats of Macedonia and of Jugoslavia, two of the most vexed questions in history, with an obvious desire to be candid and fair. This treatment is a refreshing contrast to that of some apologists of Serbia, who have yet to realize that a country so heroic and with so splendid a history gains more by the moderate statement of her claims than by a fanatical one Even if one does not always agree with Mr. Laffan, one always feels that he is trying to be fair. The most important parts of his book are therefore perhaps not the historical ones, but those which deal with the events of the present day which he knows at first-hand —the military campaign for the recovery of Monastir and the political campaign which led to the proclamation of Jugoslavia at Corfu. His summary of Jugoslav aspirations (pp. 265-82) is particularly well worth reading in this connection.

Mr. Crawfurd Price's volume is evidently only an instalment of what is intended to be the standard military history of the war from the standpoint of the Serbian Army. His first sixty-six pages contain introductory political matter of no special novelty, but the whole of the rest of the volume deals with the Serbian part in the war to the end of 1914, with a wealth of first-hand information from Serbian Staff sources such as no other writer has produced. At times the writer appears a little overburdened with his material, but on the whole it is a direct and well-told narrative drawn from original materials which have been used by no other English writer. He appears also as no blind eulogist of the Serbs. His comments on the failure of the Serbian Staff to follow up the Austrians after their first invasion (132-3) are suggestive and illuminating. He makes us realize throughout the extraordinary difficulties produced by the lack of medical stores, tents, ammunition —even rifles; and the farther the narrative proceeds the greater becomes our astonishment at the heroic deeds of these peasant soldiers. We cannot but agree with Mr. Price that "the victory of the Kolubara was one of the finest deeds in military history."

From the technical point of view, apart from the deficiencies of material, the Serbian General Staff had great merits. Putnik and Mishitch were probably the ablest living Balkan strategists, and in Stepanovitch, Jurishitch and Mishitch himself Serbia had commanders of great merit in the field. Until the psychology of that singular democrat, the Serb soldier, is understood, we cannot appreciate the great achievements of his leaders, who understood how to direct this superb *élan* in exactly the right directions. As warriors the Serbs have always excelled; a few facts will show what men they are to-day. The marches recorded by these writers are truly astonishing. Thus the 14th regiment marched 64 kilos "between midday and next morning," and went into action immediately afterwards. A third Ban regiment (*i.e.*, oldish men) marched 74 kilos "as the crow flies" in just over twenty-four hours without a single casualty" (Laffan, p. 264). In the second Austrian invasion the combined division covered forty-three miles in twenty-four hours! (Price, p. 160.) One wonders if troops have ever been asked to do more, and the exploit of the 3rd Ban seems almost incredible. In the invasion of Syrmia, "chafing at the slowness of the movement, many threw themselves into the river and commenced to swim across, *singing as they swam.*" Again, there is the story of the colonel who seized the regimental standard and rallied his men and re-took an exposed height under an artillery cross-fire (Price, p. 161), and of the forty dare-devils who captured the heights above Semlin (Price, p. 171).

The men seem half children and half heroes of legend; perhaps their characteristics are best embodied in the Karageorges—King Peter and his heroic son, Crown Prince Alexander, who still bear traces of the sufferings of the terrible retreat. The portrait of King Peter prefixed to Mr. Laffan's book shows us a benign old man with a patriarchal beard. Yet Mr. Price tells us (p. 236) how, on his re-entry into Belgrade on December 15, 1914, "he stayed to trample underfoot a Hungarian flag freshly hauled down from his palace" before he proceeded "to a hastily arranged Te Deum attended by his sons and the British Military Attaché." One cannot help thinking of the romance of his life. Driven from Belgrade when a boy by his father's deposition, returning to it in 1903 as a King, driven from it in July, 1914, to return with glory in December. Again an exile in the retreat of 1915 amid an inferno of tragedy and sorrow such as no ruler of this age has witnessed, yet, "often on foot, despite his seventy-six years, sharing the misery and sufferings of his men." Men say the old man has said that he will not die until he sees Belgrade once more.

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[*] [1] "Historical Lectures on the Serbs." By R. G. D. Laffan, C.F., with a Foreword by Admiral Troubridge. (Clarendon Press, 1918.) [2] "Serbia's Part in the War, Vol. I. The Rampart Against Pan-Germanism." By Crawfurd Price. (Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1918.)

A TOOL OF THE KAISER.[*]

The work of stirring up a neutral, peaceable and not overstrong, nation to take part in a war for your own benefit, utterly regardless of the interests of your victims, is fit only for blackguards and ruffians; and W. Griesinger, the German agent whose doings in Persia are exposed in this pamphlet, stands self-convicted of being a blackguard of the first water. He had, before the war, committed some crime which could only be blotted out by the Emperor's pardon; and we may be sure that when he offered his services to the German Government he was welcomed as the right type of man to employ on its particularly dirty work. He was accordingly despatched as—to quote his own words—"member of Niedermayer's Expedition through Persia to Afghanistan and India."

His evil star prompted him to keep a diary while he was employed on this precious expedition; and in due time the interesting document found its way into British hands. Now, in the form of this threepenny booklet, it is likely to afford instruction and no little amusement to the English-speaking world at large. Of the objects of the expedition it is not necessary to write in detail; they may be summed up as the making of trouble for the Entente in any and every way possible, and it was hoped to set Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Persia—to say nothing of India—in a blaze. Fortunately for the countries concerned, those amiable hopes were not fulfilled. The Persians, Afghans and Baluchis proved to be not quite so pliant as Griesinger and his companions expected—and the Prussian character showed itself at once in violent abuse of these "mendacious," "underhand," "swine," this "cowardly pack of cads."

As a matter of fact, it is precisely this violent raging against everyone and everything whenever he fails to get his own way that makes Griesinger's diary such good reading to an Englishman. The "agent" of the Kaiser stands self-convicted as an abusive swashbuckler of the most foolish kind, who, though ready for any underhand work, accomplishes little or nothing, and is thoroughly and permannently disgruntled. He seldom finds a good word to say for anybody—we must except two Swedish officers of gendarmerie, "quite charming men. . . . splendid figures," with whom he and his companions got tipsy—but his bad words are many and violent. The Persians, the Armenians, the Baluchis, the Turks, are to him all "swine," and the Bengal conspirators with whom he and his gang hoped to work are "greasy, blackguardly revolutionaries," while officials who do their duty and refuse to let these German plotters run amok are marked down for assassination. But his hottest wrath and his choicest abuse are reserved for his co-plotters, the German Legation at Teheran, Field-Marshal Von der Goltz, and even the Great Ones in Berlin! As the Introduction points out, the Diary is indeed an interesting revelation of German temper and German blundering. It is a vivid document; we dare not call it a human one, for that would suggest that its author was human, whereas he is plainly only a low brute.

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[*] "German Intrigues in Persia: The Diary of a German Agent." (Hodder and Stoughton. 3d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. August	1918. July		1336. Shawal	5678. Ab.
2	20	Friday	24	24
3	21	Saturday........	25	25
4	22	**Sunday**	26	26
5	23	Monday	27	27
6	24	Tuesday	28	28
7	25	Wednesday	29	29
8	26	Thursday	Julkada 1	30

Sir Roper and Lady Parkington are staying at Harrogate for the cure.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough are leaving England for Ireland this week.

The Countess of Cromer gave birth to a son and heir at Hill End, Hitchin, on Sunday.

The Earl of Lathom has returned from India, and is staying in London for a few weeks.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne left 12, Cavendish Place on Wednesday for Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

To-day is the birthday of the King of the Hellenes, who was born at Tatoi in 1893. His father's birthday falls on August 3.

Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, who has been in Italy a week, returned to Rome on Friday from a visit to the Italian front.

M. Milan Yovanovitch, the newly-appointed Attaché to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived, and entered upon his duties.

Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

Mr. Pandeli Ralli having let his house, 17, Belgrave Square, to the American Ambassador, all correspondence for Mr. P. Ralli should be addressed to him at Alderbrook, Cranleigh, Surrey.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that on Sunday M. Poincaré, M. Clemenceau, and M. Pichon separately received M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian statesman, who will shortly leave for London.

When returning from the Serbian front, the train conveying King Alexander of the Hellenes was bombed by an enemy airman at Florina. The bomb just missed the engine. There was no damage or loss of life.

In the list of honours which appeared in *The Times* of July 29 we read that the King has been pleased to approve of the award of the D.S.O. to Captain S. H. La Fontaine, M.C., for services rendered during the campaign in German East Africa.

The Shah of Persia has conferred on Mirza Medhi Khan, the Persian Minister in London, the title of Ala-es Saltaneh, the rank of Prince, and the Order of Amir Nooyan, all of which were possessed by the Minister's father—the late Prince Mirza Mohamed Ali Khan.

Sir Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, one of the delegates to the Imperial Conference, was formally called within the Bar on Tuesday upon taking silk. As he was the first native legal member of the Viceroy's Council, so he is the first native Indian to become a K.C. at the English Bar.

The King has granted permission to Miss Anna Lilian Muncaster, M.B., Ch.B., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services as physician at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Ostrovo.

The marriage between Captain K. Murray, only son of the late F. H. Murray and Mrs. Murray, Bengal, India, and Miss Phyllis M. Daniels, daughter of the late Alfred Daniels and Mrs. Daniels, of the Old Vicarage, Chalfont St. Peter, will take place to-day at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, S.W.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place shortly, between Kenneth de Berniere Lynn-Smart, late Indian Army, son of the late Captain Lynn-Smart, R.N., and of Mrs. Lynn-Smart, of Frensham, and Audrey Ottilia, youngest daughter of the late Mr. A. J. Brown and of Mrs. A. J. Brown, Cheviots, Eltham.

The Maharaja of Patiala, who represented India at the Imperial War Conference, has left London for the Continent. Among those who saw him off at the station were Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James R. Dunlop-Smith, who represented the Secretary of State for India, Sir Satyendra Sinha, and a representative from the War Office.

The marriage will take place at St. John's Church, Ealing, at 10, on August 3, of Major Arthur Willis, York and Lancaster Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Willis, recently of the British Embassy, Constantinople, and Audrey, younger daughter of Mr. T. M. L. Thompson, formerly of the P.W.D., India, and Mrs. Thompson, of 14, Churchfield Road, Ealing.

The marriage will take place early in September (arrival from the East permitting) of Captain J. Donald Fraser, Lancers, Indian Cavalry, youngest son of the late Colonel Fraser, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Harden, Orchardton, Dundrum, County Dublin, and Hilda Marion, only daughter of P. C. Cowan, D.Sc., Local Government Board, Ireland, and Mrs. Cowan, Ailesbury Road, Dublin.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in September, between Elyn, only daughter of George Jasper Nicholls, LL.B., late Judge of the Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Nicholls, Longfield, Bideford, and Lieut. Hector Bruce Mackenzie, M.B., Ch.B., N.Z.M.C., son of Hon. Sir Thomas Mackenzie, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for New Zealand, and Lady Mackenzie.

The King has granted Mr. Fergus Armstrong, M.D., F.R.C.S., authority to wear the Cross of Officer of the Order of the Star of Roumania, with swords, conferred by the King of Roumania in recognition of his services with the Roumanian Red Cross at Jassy and Bucharest; and to Miss Florence Bryce Jack to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services with the Scottish Women's Hospital at Ostrovo.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* reports, on July 24:—The Metropolitan of Athens, Archbishop Meletios, has left for England, where he will meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a view to drawing closer the bonds between the Greek Orthodox and the Anglican Churches. From England he will proceed to America, where he will carry out the work of the reorganisation and reconstitution of the Greek Church there, installing an Archbishop and Bishops, and forming dioceses.

The British Government has recently presented to Mr. J. B. Jackson, of the Diplomatic Service of the United States, a loving-cup bearing the Royal Arms and a suitable inscription. Mr. Jackson, who was formerly Minister to Roumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria, was employed on special service in Germany during the early part of the war. He was engaged in visiting and reporting on the prison camps, and he was able, by his influence and sympathy, to mitigate in some degree the sufferings of the British prisoners.

On Thursday last week (July 25) Lord Morley was presented with his bust in marble, which had been subscribed for by his Indian admirers. The presentation took place at the National Liberal Club. Lord Lincolnshire, the President, was in the chair, and among those who attended were Mr. Montagu (Secretary of State for India) and Mrs. Montagu, Mr. Birrell, M.P., Princess Dhuleep Singh, Sir S. P. Sinha, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree (Chairman of the Presentation Committee), Mr. N. C. Sen (Secretary) and Mrs. Sen, Sir Abbas Ali and Lady Baig, Lord and Lady Carmichael, Sir William and Lady Duke, Sir A. and Lady Hirtzel. Sir Edwin Pears, Sir P. Pattni, Mr. Basu, and Sir C. and Lady Lyall.

◆

The ex-Khedive of Egypt has been visiting German Main Army Headquarters.

It is stated that the King of Bulgaria has gone abroad for reasons of health.

The Hong Kong St. George's Society has sent through Mr. Murray Stewart a donation of £1,500 to the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

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The Agent-General for Victoria, Australia (Sir Peter McBride) has received authority to pay to the Serbian Minister £500 from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne's Serbian Relief Fund, making the total amount of charitable funds received from Victoria for distribution by him £452,661.

The Crown Prince of Serbia, telegraphing his greetings to the Lord Mayor of London in connection with the meeting organised last week under his presidency, expresses his resolve and that of his people and army "to fight to the end at the side of our mighty Allies in this struggle for the freedom of the world."

The King has granted permission to Mr. Graham Hutcheson Stewart, master of the steamship Figuig, and Mr. Arthur Pitto, agent of the "Santé Maritime" at Casablanca, Morocco, authority to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Shereefian Order of the Ouissam Alaouite, conferred by the Sultan of Morocco for valuable services.

Professor Pavle Popovitch, last Friday, at 9, Ennismore Gardens, delivered a lecture entitled "A Chapter of Serbian Literature." The paper dealt chiefly with the stay in London of M. Obradovitch (1742-1811) and his impressions of his visit. Mrs. Aldridge, who presided, appealed for contributions to the Serbian Red Cross Fund, which sends parcels to prisoners of war in Austria and Germany, looks after Serbians who require help in London, and provides many Serbian women and children with clothing.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that a Berlin telegram announces the death in that city of Hakki Pasha, Turkish Ambassador. Hakki Pasha was fifty-six years old, and had held many positions of importance both under the old régime and under the Young Turks. Abdul Hamid held him in high esteem and entrusted him with several missions; and he had been at various times Minister of Education, Minister of the Interior, and Grand Vizier. He had also been Turkish Ambassador in Rome, and came to this country in connection with the Baghdad Railway negotiations.

OBITUARY.

Lord Wenlock, who died on July 25, at Hestercombe, Taunton, saw service in the Sudan in 1884-85, and received the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

Brigadier-General R. A. Gilchrist died on July 30 at Bowood, Folkestone, aged seventy-two. He joined the Indian Army fifty-three years ago, and took part in the Abyssinian Expedition in 1868.

Colonel Henry Isham Wheler died on July 28 at St. Helier, Jersey, in his seventy-ninth year. He served in the Bhootan Expedition in 1864 and received the medal with clasp. He retired from the Bengal Staff Corps in 1883.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Gunter, late East Lancashire Regiment, died on July 30 at Clifton, Bristol, in his seventy-seventh year. He received his first commission in 1858, and saw service in the Afghan War of 1879-80. He was present at the Battle of Ahmed Khel and the action of Urzoo.

Lieut.-Colonel Laurence Corban, whose death at Llandrindod Wells is announced, saw active service in the Egyptian campaigns of 1882 and 1884-5. He was present at Mahuta, Kassassin (both engagements), and Tel-el-Kebir. He was mentioned in despatches, and received the Egyptian medal with clasps and the Khedive's Star. On retiring at the end of 1898 he became Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Hereford, where he took an active part in political affairs.

Captain Charles David Danby, M.C., R.A.F., who is reported killed, held an engineering appointment in Egypt under the Government when war was declared, and at once came home and obtained a commission in the Royal Tyne Engineers. He was transferred in the spring of 1915 to the R.F.C., and was later sent to the front. He was one of the first to take photographs over the enemy lines, and was awarded the M.C. for a daring flight, from which he returned with valuable photographs. He also received thanks and a congratulatory note from the Commander-in-Chief. He was killed in an accident while flying in the North of England on July 18, a few days after his thirty-first birthday.

"TURCO-ARMENIAN PEACE."

A telegram received by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., chairman of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, reports that the peace treaty between "the Armenian Independent Republic of Ararat" (capital, Erivan; population, 400,000) and Turkey has been ratified at Constantinople. The telegram adds:—

"Armed peace prevails at present, except in the district of Baku, where Turco-German Tartar forces are trying to force their way to Baku. Fighting is going on 80 miles west of Baku. Except for several sporadic murders, there have been no large-scale massacres of Armenians hitherto. Prospects are distinctly gloomy. Our compatriots at Kars, Alexandropol, and other districts occupied by Turks have left their homes at Vladikavkas. Great distress prevails."

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1918.

AFTER FOUR YEARS.

The Allies enter upon the fifth year of the war in good heart. It is not claimed that the end is in sight, or that the remainder of the stupendous task set them is otherwise than difficult and hazardous; but they have much to encourage them for the work before them, and in this spirit they renew their determination to see the thing through. Mistakes there have been, and may well be again; not the same mistakes, it is to be hoped, but the problems to be solved are intricate and numerous, and it is inevitable that war-wearied human nature should seek to shirk some of them, in the belief that, if it makes sure of the major difficulties, the minor ones will right themselves. This view must be persistently challenged, for the existence at the end of the war, unsolved, of the least of the questions around which it is being fought, will inevitably leave the germs of future trouble once more to infect the world. The return of August 4 affords an opportunity of taking stock of the general situation, both military and political, as well as in regard to any advancement towards the establishment of a new order after the war. For the purposes of this review our horizon has to be restricted to the Near and Middle East; but it cannot be overlooked that the ultimate decision has to be sought against the German army, wherever the bulk of it is to be found—and that, as things are, implies the Western front. While, from the point of view of numbers engaged, there can be no comparison between the battlefields of France and Italy and those of the different theatres in the East, the latter are not to be contemptuously dismissed as side-shows, after the manner of the military "expert" endeavouring to camouflage his ignorance of the complicated political questions that centre in South-Eastern Europe and Western Asia. The simile of the beleaguered fortress still applies to the Central Alliance, in spite of the freedom of action that they have temporarily won by the defection of Russia; and it requires little imagination to appreciate the damage that might have been inflicted on the Allies, if they had failed to throw a cordon round the whole perimeter from which Germany or her subordinates could issue to attack the army of investment. Circumstances, or the Allies' errors of judgment, have allowed the enemy garrison to retain its outer lines of defence in the East at a considerable distance from the centre of its system. Instead of winning Bulgaria over to the Allied cause and marshalling the Balkans for an attack on Austria-Hungary, the Allies have only been able to establish a small foothold on the Macedonian coastline. The attempt to roll up the Turkish forces by the capture of Constantinople failed, and it was only possible to renew the attack on the confines of the Ottoman Empire. Notable progress has been made both in Mesopotamia and Palestine; but the fact remains that the successes in these regions have been too remote from Turkey's nerve-centre to weaken the hold that the Germans have fastened upon the country through the corrupt clique that dominates the capital. It follows, therefore, that if Turkish resistance is to be overcome by military defeat alone, the beginning of the fifth year of the war finds the Allies still a long way from being able to drive an effective wedge between the Central Powers and their vassal states.

In a war of this duration, however, a variety of considerations intervene to reinforce a purely military decision. Especially is this to be anticipated in the case of countries whose peoples, as distinct from the Governments and a few political supporters, have never taken kindly to the domination established by the Germans under the name of an alliance. Thus, in Bulgaria and Turkey, is to be met none of the enthusiasm for a popular cause which will carry the Germans, and, in a lesser degree, the German-Magyar population of the Dual Monarchy through the direst economic straits, with the probable result that sooner or later public discontent will paralyse the Government's powers of resistance. It is an encouraging factor of the situation to-day that the Allied Governments have brought themselves to pay more attention to the political aspect of the powerful organisation by means of which Germany hoped to impose her will upon a subject world. The most has not yet been made of the opportunities offering; but the leaven is working gradually. It was not, however, only in regard to enemy countries that the Allies stood in need of a new political orientation. Unwillingness to subject their own war aims officially to a critical analysis had been carried to somewhat dangerous lengths, and numerous cross-currents had been gaining power and volume in the Alliance itself. This source of weakness has now been almost entirely eliminated. The vagueness that characterised the Allies' intentions with regard to Austria-Hungary and the future of the Czecho-Slovak and Jugoslav peoples has given place to a clearly enunciated pledge. The disintegration of Austria-Hungary is to be effected, in order that the subject nationalities may be free to work out their own independent development. There is, perhaps, some justification for the omission to place on record the Allies' views in regard to the future settlement of the rest of the Balkans. But, as the peace of Europe can never be guaranteed as long as the seeds of disunion and unrest remain in the Balkan Peninsula, it would seem a natural precaution to take to emphasise the need of a settlement that will make for the harmony of the constituent States. We are of opinion that the ground which has yet to be covered before this goal is reached is sufficiently difficult to render it advisable that those countries which have to tread the road should be familiarised as much as possible with the details of the route. The Allied Governments, however, seem content to put off the consideration of the question, with the result that public opinion in some of the Allied States is encouraged to indulge in individualistic theories instead of concentrating its attention on the means of ensuring the harmonious co-operation of the Balkan countries.

For the steps taken to facilitate the establishment of a new order after the war our examination is of necessity restricted to the portions of the Ottoman Empire which have been liberated from Turkish jurisdiction. In the Hejaz, which has gained its freedom by its own efforts, we are able to see the beginning of a regime of order and enlightenment that, for the first time since the benumbing influence of Turkish sovereignty overtook the land, will allow the Arab to display his capacity for political and economic progress. In Mesopotamia the primary consideration is, under British guidance, so to develop the natural resources of the country that its former glories may be revived, and that the Arab world may have an object-lesson of what is required as the material basis of a successful modern State. The position in Palestine is not so simple. As far as the section under British military occupation is concerned, all possible steps are being taken to alleviate the wretched condition into which Turkish misrule or neglect has brought the land and its inhabitants, and no effort is spared to satisfy its immediate needs, whether in the matter of communications, food, water-supply, or agricultural implements. More ambitious schemes for promoting the well-being of the country have to be postponed, both because the area occupied is relatively small, and in view of the decision to promote a Jewish settlement of Palestine after the war. With regard to other countries in the Near East, the work of preparing for the period of reconstruction is practically confined to steps initiated for the promotion of inter-Allied commercial interests. In this respect Great Britain has a special need to be up and doing, and we may point with satisfaction to the measures taken to familiarise British manufacturers with the openings for trade in the Near East, and Near Eastern purchasers with the facilities existing for the supply of all their needs by British factories. The war has brought the Near East and Great Britain much closer together. The future must not be left exclusively either to the soldiers or to the traders. In between their operations will come a Peace Congress that will crystallise the decisions of the Allies in regard to the future of this part of the world. It is for the people of Great Britain and the Allied countries so to keep in touch with Near Eastern affairs that they may be able to ensure that their Governments will reject any proposal for a settlement that does not guarantee the permanent peace of the Peninsula.

A JEWISH FEAST.

THE ANNUAL FEAST OF RABBI SIMEON BEN YOKHAI AT MERON.

Annual festivities at sacred tombs are common to all the three great religions in Palestine. Thus the "Holy Fire" in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre draws thousands of Oriental Christians together every Eastertide, and at the same time the Moslems from all over the land pour down into the Jordan Valley to celebrate the feast of Nebi Mûsa at the (to them) traditional tomb of Moses. Both these celebrations have been repeatedly described. The corresponding Jewish feasts held in Galilee are little known outside Palestine, but are certainly quite as picturesque, and among Oriental Jews are times of great rejoicings. These two annual spring festivals are the one at the tomb of Rabbi Meyer Baal Nes, held on the thirtieth day after the Passover, at Tiberias, and that at the tomb of the Rabbi Simeon ben Yokhai on the thirty-third and thirty-fourth days after the Passover, at Meron, on the slopes of the Jebal Jermak to the west of Safed. The latter is the more ancient feast, but many Jewish pilgrims manage to attend both, and hundreds of Jews stream up from Tiberias—every donkey, mule, and horse available being requisitioned—to attend the great gathering at Meron. It is not my purpose to enter into any historical account of the gatherings, or of those in whose honour they are held, but as I had an opportunity of attending the Meron feast some years ago, and as, with the influx of new ideas into the land, it is to be feared that many of the picturesque features will fade away, I propose to narrate—from notes taken at the time—my impressions of the occasion.

We left Safed on Thursday, May 2, at 5 p.m. Pilgrims had been pouring along the road to Meron all the day long, and at 2.30 that afternoon a famous Torah (copy of the law) from the Chief Sephardim Synagogue had been carried in procession—its passage to Meron being celebrated by a great collection of alms en route. This much-venerated Torah is said to have been stolen some centuries ago and to have been carried to Constantinople; but from there it returned of its own accord, a month or so later! When we took the road, there was one almost continuous line of people walking or riding to Meron. At an old cistern—Bir esh Shih—about halfway, a tent had been erected, and bread and water were being distributed gratuitously to those in need. A few yards further on is a ruin reputed to be the tomb of Rabbi Yosëa Galilee; here a number of Jews were collected together reciting prayers.

Our fresh horses steadily outstripped the jaded and overloaded beasts, each conveying the food and household utensils, as well as at times two or more members of a Jewish family.

Close to Meron itself we passed the Chief Rabbi of Safed, whose bowed and aged frame was swaying about on the back of an ass. A mounted Turkish soldier, with rifle to knee, rode in front for his protection. A few yards farther. and we found ourselves amidst the excited crowds scattered around the tomb. Before we could dismount a group of three musicians commenced a musical welcome in our honour, which we promptly diverted to greet the arrival of the more honourable visitor behind—the Chief Rabbi. As the setting sun left us but a few minutes more of daylight we hastened to use its light to visit the tomb of the famous Hillel, on the hillside to the west. Here are shown the sarcophagi of the great teacher and of his thirty-six disciples—all, alas! to-day empty. It is a strange underground chamber with the sarcophagi on three sides, each with a massive stone lid. In the darkening interior we could see the drops of moisture gathering on the roof, to fall upon the puddles on the floor, while every sarcophagus was brimful of water. The damp, the gloom, and the semi-desertion of the site were in strange contrast to the flaring lights and noisy crowds gathering around the tomb of Simeon. The only visitors to Hillel's tomb were two Yemen Jews from Silwan (Siloam), who, like a large proportion of those in the neighbourhood, were unblushing mendicants.

Crossing some fields towards the site of the festal proceedings, we reached the rear of the Synagogue just as a burst of applause from the roof marked the conclusion of a sword dance by two Aleppo Jews. We then entered the outer court of the Synagogue. The centre was occupied by a booth sheltering the stalls of several provision sellers, and round this gyrated a vast moving crowd. By squeezing and pushing—and being pushed—we at length pressed our way into the shrine itself and found ourselves before the tomb of the saint. This, a raised oblong structure of whitewashed stone, occupied the south-east corner of the building, and was ablaze with the candles of the worshippers. A few pious Jews, in marked contrast to most of those present, were engaged in prayer. Nearer the centre of the Synagogue was the less honoured tomb of Rabbi Eliezer, Simeon's son. As we wandered about, an ever-increasing string of beggars attached themselves to us, and we were not sorry to escape again into the open courtyard. Thence we ascended a stone staircase to the surrounding gallery, from which the swaying multitudes in the court below could be observed. Although all the front places had been taken hours before, one kind old Jewish matron made a place for me, from which I could look down for hours upon the proceedings. It was now growing dark, and the young folk on the roofs and galleries occupied themselves by throwing a stream of flaming green and red matches upon the heads of the dense and moving crowd. Some landed upon the straw mat, but not a few, impelled with surer aim, did visible damage to hats and clothes. The utmost good humour appeared to prevail, however, and I had many friendly greetings from happy faces. I only saw one quarrel, when a young man, apparently the worse for liquor, forcibly ejected a woman from a seat which he coveted.

Two Jewish bands—fiddle, drum, and cornet—played turn about without cessation in friendly rivalry, but barbaric discord; and circles of Jews revolved in the court below. Sometimes they would dance shoulder to shoulder, with arms closely intertwined; at other times they threw themselves about, frantically waving their arms up and down. The Ashkenazim Jews, with their long cloaks, fur-lined caps, their *peyût* and their long ragged beards, looked most extraordinary, throwing themselves in wild contortions as they circled round in front of the Synagogue door. In another part a circle of Separdian (Spanish-speaking) Jews went through various forms of more dignified, though, perhaps, more noisy, dance.

At times one could see in the semi-darkness swords being slowly waved, while at others a chorus in honour of Rabbi Simeon, accompanied by clapping of hands, would vary the programme. Suddenly the former group was joined by a man with a girl of about seven perched upon his shoulders. She was clad in white, with a gold braided cap on her head, and while she clung with all her might to her father's head, he twisted and turned and gyrated among the dancers with unwearied energy. We learned that she was a child who had during the past year been spared to her parents through a severe illness, and this was their way of returning thanks—probably in fulfilment of a vow made in the hour of anxiety. This father was soon joined by others bearing shoulder-high boys of three years old who had been brought to have their side locks trimmed by the Rabbis on the morrow. Some of these children seemed to be actually enjoying themselves—as, with us, such children enjoy bank-holiday outings, with all the attendant discomforts—but one could not help wondering what they would be like the next morning after such a shaking-up, in such an atmosphere, at such an hour. The darkness was now deeper, and only a few lamps suspended over the court, supplemented by frequent fireworks, illuminated the scene. Presently, looking eastwards to the mountain mass of Safed, we saw amidst the twinkling town lights a number of brighter points, which, we learned, were bonfires lit there in honour of the feast.

About nine o'clock the excitement around us—on the Synagogue roof—deepened, and presently an iron brazier

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

upon a pole, which had been filled with clothes saturated in olive oil, was ignited. A middle-aged Jew from Bokhara waved this torch with wild delight, holding it at times suspended over the dancing crowds below—illuminating a scene quite Dantesque—and at other moments shaking it recklessly over the people around him on the roof. The Turkish guards took speedy advantage of the illumination to detect and summarily eject any Moslems they found scattered among the crowd. When the flames flagged fresh clothes —now a *kumbaz* (cloak), then a *kamis* (shirt)—were thrown upon the top. The holder of the brazier became more and more reckless in his movements, and scattered clouds of sparks and blazing fragments of garments, while the packed multitude around him jumped and shouted in excitement. Once in wilful carelessness, to the great disgust of the *Shammas* in attendance, he brought the blaze almost in contact with the sacred *adlakah*, or bonfire, the kindling of which is the chief feature of the evening.

This bonfire consisted of a pile of garments saturated in pure olive oil arranged upon a pillar of stone about five feet high. Two such constructions are built upon the roof, one in honour of Simeon and one of Eliezer. Over each a *Shammas* (Synagogue servant) presided, and all the evening each was occupied in accepting offerings of garments and olive oil for the fire. While oil was being freely given, the attendants did no little business by selling, at an enormously enhanced value, small quantities of it for its supposed healing virtues. As the time drew on the presentations of oil arrived with increasing rapidity.

About 9.30 there was a stir along the gallery, and a group appeared escorting the Chief Rabbi, whose duty it was to kindle the Adlakah in honour of Rabbi Simeon. This privilege is annually sold, and this year it had been purchased for 25 Napoleons by a Jew in Russia who, being unable to attend himself had, as is customary, deputed the Chief Rabbi to act for him and kindle the fire in his name. The aged Rabbi was assisted to a step within reach of the bonfire; he then wound a silk scarf soaked in oil around a stick, and having kindled this from the brazier, attempted to light the oil-soaked mass of garments. They were somewhat slow to ignite, so the brazier itself was lowered until it almost rested upon the combustibles. Sparks flew in clouds and were thrown by the wind over the Chief Rabbi and his supporters; the fur-lined cap of the former showing signs of ignition was hurriedly removed, leaving him in his less dignified skull-cap. To us the old gentleman would have seemed to be in a very uncomfortable position but for the glimpses we caught of his earnest and delighted face at intervals as he actively poured streams of fresh oil upon the blazing flames. As the fire blazed, a perfect frenzy seemed to take possession of the crowd, which, amid loud shouts, danced up and down or surged backwards and forwards. After a quarter of an hour the second fire—close to where we stood—was kindled, without special ceremony, from the first bonfire. Most of our neighbours gave themselves up to having a "good time," and roared, shouted and gesticulated with delight. In contrast to the majority, we saw three aged dames peering from a recess close to the fire, whose scared and shining faces were animated by the deepest reverence, while their toothless jaws worked up and down with mumbled prayers.

A third beacon was now kindled, just over the entrance, near the tomb of Rabbi Isaac Nifhah, and shortly afterwards, as we were leaving, we saw a blazing brazier being carried up the hill to light yet another bonfire at the tomb of Rabbi Yohannan Sandlar.

We picked our way out of the noise and smoke into the quiet environs. As we mounted our horses the moon rose calm and still behind the mountains of Safed, to disappear as we descended the steep and rocky hill from Meron, to reappear once more as we pursued the quiet and now deserted road back to Safed.

We left the crowds to carry on, amidst growing excitement and licence, their semi-pagan ceremonies all the night through and for twenty-four hours beyond. Noise and crowds and blazes seem to appeal to the multitude everywhere under the patronage of various religions. The "Holy Fire" in Jerusalem presents almost identical features—similar disorderly and excited crowds, loud chants and shouts, and finally a blaze of light. A good old-fashioned "Guy Fawkes" day of half a century ago—originally a semi-religious demonstration—appeals to the same tastes.

It has been stated that at Meron costly garments and even jewellery are cast into the fire; but I saw nothing of this kind of offering, and if such a custom existed, it is not continued now.

The second day of the feast is not so important as the first, but is marked by one custom peculiar to itself. Jews on this occasion bring their three-year-old boys to the tomb of Rabbi Yohannan in order that the Rabbis may cut their hair to make the beginnings of the *peyût* or side locks so greatly valued by the orthodox.

E. W. G. MASTERMAN.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The introduction of an alcohol monopoly in Roumania has finally been decided upon.

King George's Fund for Sailors has received £1,500 from the Viceroy of India, representing the first response to his appeal.

A Kieff telegram to the *Rheinisch Westfälische Zeitung* states that the efforts of General Skoropadski to sever the Ukrainian Church from the Great Russian Church have failed.

Roumanian troops in the districts not occupied by the Central Powers are distributed as follows:—The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Army Corps are in Moldavia; the 5th Army Corps is in Bessarabia.

Rainfall has been in excess in Assam and Mysore; normal in Upper Burma, Bengal, Kashmir, and Madras South-East; fair in Lower Burma, and scanty elsewhere. The Bombay monsoon is likely to continue weak.

On the anniversary of Serbia's entry into the war, M. Pashitch sent to Mr. Lloyd George a long telegram congratulating him on what he has done for the Allied cause, and expressing Serbia's confidence in the near dawn of victory.

Sunday, the anniversary of Austria's declaration of war on Serbia, was duly observed among the Serbian troops and in the schools of Corfu. A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the defenders of Serbia who have fallen in battle.

The Postmaster-General announces that, according to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, parcels may again be accepted for transmission viâ Switzerland to prisoners of war in Turkey. Such parcels may be posted at any post office.

A Roumanian Legion of 20,000 men, to be recruited in the United States and the Allied nations for service against Germany, will be formed immediately under plans adopted by the National Roumanian League in session recently in Youngstown, Ohio.

It is stated by the *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung* that the Ukraine naval ministry is taking possession of the shipyards in Nicolaievsk, declaring at the same time that Nicolaievsk will be Ukrainian territory, although hitherto it has belonged to the Crimea.

On July 25, at Buckingham Palace, the King inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Second Lieutenant H. Bull (Indian Army Reserve of Officers). The men of the party came from the United Provinces, and were on short leave from the front.

The famous explorer, Sven Hedin has just published a book entitled "Jerusalem," forming the first part of a larger work dealing with Palestine, in which he defines Zionism in the following words:—"Zionism is the struggle of Judaism against annihilation, and its object is the building-up of a genuinely Jewish population in Palestine, with agriculture as its economic basis and Hebrew as its vernacular."

According to the *Israelitisches Wochenblatt für die Schweiz*, the "Makkabi" Zionist Society for Zurich, in response to an appeal of the National Fund Commission, has decided to purchase at least 100-200 *dunam* of land in Palestine. The Jews of Switzerland have in this way commenced to fall into line with those of Galicia, Poland, and Russia, where large sums have been subscribed for this purpose, especially (in the last-named country) since the British Declaration.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* announces the foundation of a Hebrew university at Mount Scopus, near Jerusalem. General Allenby attended the ceremony, as did French and Italian officers and a deputation of Egyptian Jews. Twelve stones, symbolical of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, were laid, the first by Dr. Weizmann, the others by representatives of the various branches of Jewish life in Palestine and the Diaspora. Chairs will be created for all arts and sciences, and will include one for Arabic.

Speaking at a luncheon given on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel by the Candlewick Ward Club to representatives of the Allied Nations, the Greek Minister said that when victory came, as come it would, the gratitude of the world would go out to England for her great share in carrying on the war and maintaining it to a victorious end. The Serbian Minister said that the whole of the civilised world was pitted against Germany. Victory was now approaching, and the victory would be due to the fact that Great Britan had exerted all her force and used all her resources.

THE GERMANS IN ROUMANIA.

From an officer of high rank who has just reached London from Roumania Reuter learns that the Germans in that country are pursuing their "scrap of paper" policy. They go far beyond even the barbarous exactions of the peace treaty, and are daily imposing new conditions. They have demanded 120,000 tons of grain, and in case of non-compliance threaten to starve the population of occupied Roumania. The Germans also uphold the demands of the Bulgarians for 126,000 tons of grain, and declare that if these are not given they will not surrender the Roumanian prisoners, who are being brutally treated.

The German policy is to bring about a revolution and the removal of the King and Queen, together with all politicians faithful to Roumania and the Allies.

The food conditions are terrible, and famine confronts the country. Already Roumania has lost by death through the war 800,000 people, or 11 per cent. of the population, a figure which will be vastly increased by starvation.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Commissions for Indians. July 25.

Lord Sydenham asked whether steps were being taken to grant commissions to selected native officers of the Indian Army who had rendered distinguished service in the war, and whether provision was being made to confer commissions on young Indians trained in the Imperial Cadet Corps or elsewhere.

Lord Islington (Under-Secretary for India) said that the subject of granting commissions to the Indian Army was an innovation, but it was of great importance to the future of the Indian Army and the interests of the Empire. The proposals for commissions which the Government had approved fell under different categories. There was, first of all, that which allowed that every year a definite number of commissions in the Army would be given to young Indians, who would go through a course in a military training college prior to the commission being granted. For the present ten commissions would be granted each year under that category. The cadets would come to this country and be trained at Sandhurst. The question as to the age of these cadets had not been finally decided, but a decision would be arrived at shortly. At Sandhurst the course would be precisely the same as that for British cadets, and it was hoped that the first batch would be admitted in January next. For the present it had been decided that all cadets should come to this country. As to the second category of Indian officers alluded to in the speech of his noble friend, a limited number of permanent and substantive King's commissions were to be given to the native Indian Army as special rewards to those who had distinguished themselves in the present war. There were already a not inconsiderable number that were about to be appointed who would come in this category, but the number had not yet been decided upon owing to the difficulties in obtaining the information necessary from the different theatres of war. In addition, it had been decided to grant a certain number of King's commissions, conferring honorary rank in the Indian Army, to specially selected Indian officers. He reminded the House that India had already during the war recruited over a million men to serve in his Majesty's forces, and an offer to raise a further half million during the present year had been made. It was felt both by the Government of India and the Commander-in-Chief that such sacrifices in the common cause could not rightly be taken advantage of unless Indians were granted commissions in numbers corresponding in some measure, at any rate, with the expansion of the Indian Army. His Majesty's Government, therefore, had approved the grant of a considerable number of King's commissions to be held temporarily during the war. The Indians nominated for these temporary commissions were to be drawn both from civil life and from the Army, and the age limit was to be between 19 years of age and 25. Those selected from civil life would be nominated by the Viceroy on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, local governors, and political administrators. It was hoped that many young Indians of high territorial position would now join the Army and make it a life career. As regards temporary commissions, preference would be shown to officers and non-commissioned officers who had proved their aptitude for leadership, and every candidate would be subjected to a qualifying examination as a test of his general education. All candidates eligible for a temporary commission would have to join a school of instruction. At the end of the war these temporarily commissioned officers would be eligible for appointment to permanent commissions.

Case of Dr. Nair. July 31.

Lord Lamington asked whether, in view of the speeches and communications to the Press that had been recently made in this country, the Government would not relax the embargo enforced on Dr. Nair or any other Indian from expressing his opinion?

Lord Islington said that since the last debate on this subject the Government had further considered the position. They had decided to release Dr. Nair from his undertaking, and he had been informed accordingly. In view of the principle of non-differentiation, the Government had also considered the case of Mr. Tilak, who was coming to England in connection with a lawsuit, and on his arrival they would deal with any appeal he might make.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

For Prisoners in Turkey. July 25.

In reply to Captain Stanley Wilson, Mr. J. F. Hope said: No pilfering of parcels for British prisoners of war in Turkey while passing through Austria has taken place recently because the transmission of such parcels through Austria has been stopped for the past five months. It is for this reason, therefore, and not on account of any pilfering in Austria, that the delivery of parcels to Austrian and Hungarian prisoners of war in British hands has been stopped. In view of the far greater numbers and necessities of the British prisoners of war in Turkey, I cannot agree that this measure should be reconsidered on account of any possible consequent stoppage of the delivery of parcels to British prisoners of war in Austria. I am happy to be able to inform my hon. friend that another method for parcels for Austria was adopted some time ago, and I have seen a letter from a British prisoner of war in Salzerbad, dated June 8, in which he stated that the parcels had arrived in sacks on the previous day, and that there was a decided improvement in the food parcels. Parcels for Turkey are also to be sent viâ Switzerland, so soon as their transmission through Austria is resumed, and endeavour is being made to arrange for their packing at Geneva and conveyance to Constantinople in special sealed sacks.

Indian Commissions. July 29.

Major Sir S. Scott asked how many commissions in the Imperial Army are to be granted to natives of India, and whether the proposal has received the approval of the Army Council and the military advisers of the Government.

Mr. Montagu: No actual number has been fixed. The proposals were formulated by the Commander-in-Chief in India, and approved and recommended by the Government of India. The military members of the Army Council were not in agreement with the Government of India and their military advisers.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck asked the Under-Secretary of State for War what steps have been taken to ensure that the British doctors who are prisoners in Turkey are suitably distributed among the different prisoners' camps; and whether he will arrange that our rights for exchange of doctors under the Berne Agreement shall be waived, in so far as to allow of at least one British doctor remaining at each camp, and at least one per 1,000 prisoners at camps with more than 1,000 prisoners?

Mr. Macpherson: This matter is under consideration, and I hope that it will be possible to make arrangements on the lines suggested.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck asked what reply has been received from the Dutch Minister at Constantinople to the question whether he can continue to supply clothing locally to British prisoners; and whether, as the dispatch of clothing to officer prisoners is permitted and the date on which the clothing to be sent by the repatriation ship will leave Alexandria is uncertain, the War Office will sanction the dispatch of clothing and blankets overland to non-commissioned officers and men?

Mr. Macpherson: As it is probable that the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople will be unable to supply clothing to the men in Turkey in the future, and as information has been received that the Austrian Government have removed the restrictions on the dispatch of parcels through Austria, it is hoped to arrange for the dispatch of goods overland, as the date of departure of the repatriation ship from Egypt is still unsettled.

Indian Pay and Income Tax.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary of State for India whether, considering that officers who entered the Indian Army before July 1, 1881, who accepted the leave rules of 1886, are residing out of India pending retirement on leave pay until such retirement, and that though leave pay is reckoned as full pay the Income Tax Commissioners are not conceding to those officers the concession granted under Section 31 (b) of the Finance Act of 1916, while, on the other hand, the Secretary of State for India has ruled that these officers, though they receive pay at leave rates, are not on leave, but are unemployed officers, and, therefore, he cannot move the Treasury to treat these officers as though they were on leave, he will now put a stop to the hardship to these officers by permitting those who have attained the age limit to be retired on the pensions due to them?

Mr. Montagu: I am in correspondence with the War Office on the subject of allowing senior officers on the unemployed list to retire on pension, and shall endeavour to arrive at a decision with as little delay as possible.

Colonel Yate: Will the decision be arrived at before the adjournment?

Mr. Montagu: That depends on the War Office. I hope so.

"A First-class Fighting Man." July 30.

Colonel Wedgwood: Whether the Under-Secretary of State for War was aware that no effort had been made to recruit blacks from the Sudan?

Mr. Macpherson: I do not know about the Sudan, but the figures of recruiting in other Protectorates are very remarkable.

Colonel Wedgwood: Is not it well known that the Sudanese are the best fighting men?

ROYAL SCHOOL
FOR
Daughters of Officers of the Army.

Patrons:
Their MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN
and HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.
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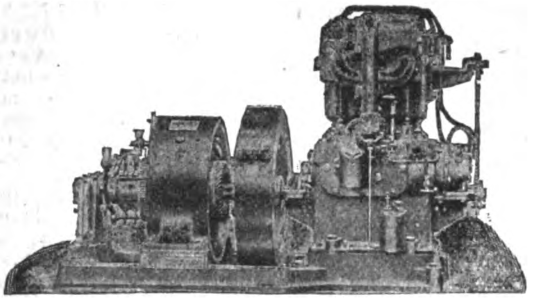

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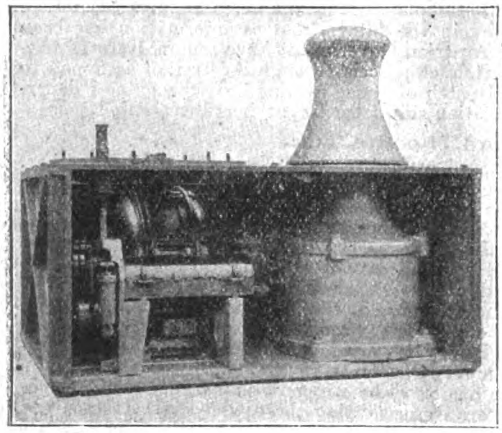

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Unmistakable evidence of the strong feeling on the part of British traders in favour of a policy calculated to defend the economic interests of the Empire is to be found in the recommendations laid before Mr. Hughes by the deputation representative of the organised rice trade of the Empire with regard to the future of the trade after the war. In order to appreciate the cause of these extremely drastic proposals it is necessary to recall the history of the Burma rice trade, which affords one of the most glaring examples of the neglect of the Empire's raw materials. India's contribution to the world's rice supply has been about 40 per cent., and in 1913-14 British countries took 42.6 per cent. of this amount. The United Kingdom's share was, however, very low, being only 6.7 per cent., as against 13.8 for Holland, 13.1 for Germany, and 8.7 for Austria-Hungary. This was not because there was no greater demand for rice in this country, but simply because rice-milling, once a flourishing industry here, had been practically killed by foreign competition, and though the consumption of rice was on a large scale, it came to us from India through foreign countries.

⁂

During the war the position has been that the absence of foreign competition has led to a revival of the rice-milling industry, but the permanence of a trade restored by such artificial conditions can scarcely be counted on unless definite steps are taken to encourage the trade. The proposals in question meet this need in a most thorough manner. It is proposed to place an additional export tax of five annas per maund on shipments to Europe outside the United Kingdom, and to prevent any foreign participation in the rice-milling industry for twenty-five years. The recommendations further provide safeguards for the trade in Burma by ensuring that traders of other nationalities can only carry on business under licenses renewable annually and under strict Government control. The policy embodied in these recommendations is certainly calculated to protect the rejuvenated rice-milling industry of the United Kingdom, and to further the utilisation of Indian rice within the Empire.

⁂

Conditions in Roumania just now are better imagined than described. Nominally Germany has made a peace with Roumania which gives her a semblance of self-government; actually the country is at the mercy of the enemy, and has to submit to the treatment that would be accorded to a vassal state. A vivid glimpse of the present state of things was given to a representative of Reuter's Agency by an officer who has just reached this country from Roumania. He stated that Roumanian industrial enterprise is being stifled by the Germans, and that all machinery, except plant for oil wells, has been taken out of the country. In addition, 97 per cent. of the normal exports of the country are in German hands. The picture is rounded off by his statement that Germany demands 120,000 tons of grain, threatening to starve the population in the event of non-compliance, and also supports Bulgaria's demands for 126,000 tons of grain. Clearly there is only one hope left to the Roumanians, and that is the victory of the Allies. Their sufferings, pending that event may be terrible; but, however insupportable their lot, they will be buoyed up by the sure and certain knowledge that the Allies will in the end reverse the treaty which spells the end of Roumania as a country.

⁂

Considerable attention is being paid in Italy, says a writer in a contemporary, to the question of the establishment of a ferryboat service between Otranto and Valona. This project is of special interest, because it is probable that one of the first railways to be constructed in the Balkans after the war will be the line from Valona to Monastir, and when that is completed there will be a second route to the East outside the territory of the Central Powers, though it is scarcely likely that the Valona route will prove a very serious rival to the proposed Jugo-slav route.

⁂

A question to which I have devoted some little space—the adoption of English as the official language in Egypt—formed the subject of an interesting note in last week's letter of our Cairo correspondent, in which he explains that every effort is being made in the direction of making English the official European language, but that a change of this kind cannot be effected "by a simple stroke of the pen." The tendency, he points out, is in every way pro-English, and the only unsatisfactory feature he records is that the present standard of English among students is very low, and is now the subject of inquiry by a committee.

⁂

The announcement this week that the Egyptian Government has decided to issue notes for P.T.5 provides an interesting commentary on a reference in the same letter to the currency question. Our correspondent pointed out that the issue of notes for P.T.25 failed to meet the situation which had arisen through the shortage of silver, and the Government had, therefor. been compelled to issue notes for P.T.10. Evidently this measure has not proved sufficient, and the authorities have had no choice but to issue notes of a still lower denomination. The most interesting feature in the situation is that there is now almost three times the amount of silver in circulation in Egypt than there was before the war, but the country's requirements have undergone such an expansion that even that increase is not nearly adequate.

⁂

It is interesting to recall the fact that Fez, which was recently the scene of such a disastrous fire, had at one time in the distant past almost a monopoly in the production of morocco leather, which it owed to the arrival of refugees from Cordova. Fez was also formerly famous for the manufacture of the headgear known by its name. It gradually lost this trade, which was taken over by the Balkan towns and by Turkey. In this connection it is worth mentioning that an attempt was made in recent years to manufacture the fez in this country. There is no reason why this trade should not be carried on successfully here, and perhaps further attention will be given to the question after the war.

The appreciation in Egyptian securities still continues, fully bearing out what has been said in these columns with regard to the continuance of the prosperity that has come to Egypt as the result of the war. The absence of the usual throngs of tourists has been more than compensated for by the presence of the troops, while the continued rise in land values is a sufficient indication of the demand for Egypt's produce. Nothing could bring out more clearly the change that has taken place in Egypt than a comparison between the prices of the leading securities at the outbreak of war and at the present time. Beheras furnish a good example of the process that has been going on. When war broke out they stood at $8\frac{1}{4}$, while their present figure is $14\frac{3}{8}$. The shares of the National Bank have risen from $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $21\frac{1}{8}$, New Egyptians are 22s. against 10s., and Union Foncières, to give a final instance, are $3\frac{15}{32}$ against $1\frac{1}{4}$. These changes speak for themselves as to present conditions in Egypt. As to the future it can only be said that the prosperity of to-day is generally held to rest on firmer foundations than that of over a decade ago. It follows, therefore that any reaction that may come will not have anything like so serious an incidence as was the case at that period.

⁂

The tribute paid to Major W. I. le Breton by Colonel St. John Cooke at this week's meeting of the Egyptian Markets was well deserved, for his services to the company have been of inestimable value during his thirteen years' tenure of the chairmanship, and it would be difficult to exaggerate the influence on the company's position of his strenuous work and self-sacrifice on its behalf. Colonel St. John Cooke pointed out that since Major le Breton joined the board "the company has prospered as it never did before, and it is continuing to prosper." The character of its prosperity may be gauged from the fact that the company has paid an average dividend of 10 per cent. on its ordinary shares for the past seven years, a rate which has been maintained during the war despite serious difficulties. For eleven of the years of his chairmanship Major le Breton has also been managing director, and he now feels that the time has come when he can only retain the chairmanship. It was, therefore, decided at the meeting to appoint Mr. F. J. Horne, the secretary of the company, to the managing directorship, an appointment on which the company is to be congratulated, for Mr. Horne's valuable services during his nineteen years as secretary are the best possible proof that he will prove a worthy successor to Major le Breton.

⁂

A very satisfactory survey of the position of the East Indian Railway Company was given at this week's meeting by Sir David Barbour, who pointed out that the net receipts for the year showed an increase of Rs. 69 lakhs on the figures for 1917. For the past half-year the gross receipts were Rs. 628 lakhs, as against Rs. 583 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1917, while the expenditure has only slightly increased at Rs. 221 lakhs against Rs. 218 lakhs. This improvement, it may be noted, has been fully maintained in the current half-year, the gross receipts from April 1 to July 27 showing an increase of Rs. 42 lakhs on the figures for the corresponding period in 1917.

COMMENTATOR.

THE MONTAGU-CHELMSFORD REPORT.

India's Economic Position.—II.

In addition to political considerations it is pointed out that "on economic and military grounds Imperial interests also demand that the natural resources of India should henceforth be better utilised." To traders of limited outlook new sources of manufacture may be regarded with apprehension, but it has to be borne in mind that by the creation of wealth purchasing power is increased, "and changes in the configuration of trade that disturb individuals must be accompanied by a total increase in its value which is to the good of the whole." With regard to the military grounds reference is made to the strong light thrown by the war on the military importance of economic development :—

> We are agreed therefore that there must be a definite change of view; and that the Government must admit and shoulder its responsibility for furthering the industrial development of the country. The difficulties by this time are well-known. In the past and partly as a result of recent *swadeshi* experiences, India's capital has not generally been readily available; among some communities at least there is apparent distaste for practical training, and a comparative weakness of mutual trust; skilled labour is lacking, and although labour is plentiful, education is needed to inculcate a higher standard of living and so to secure a continuous supply; there is a dearth of technical institutions; there is also a want of practical information about the commercial potentialities of India's war products. Though these are serious difficulties they are not insuperable; but they will be overcome only if the State comes forward boldly as guide and helper. On the other hand, there are good grounds for hope. India has great natural resources, mineral and vegetable. She has furnished supplies of manganese, tungsten, mica, jute, copra, lac, etc., for use in the war. She has abundant coal, even if its geological distribution is uneven; she has also in her large rivers ample means of creating water-power. There is good reason for believing that she will greatly increase her output of oil. Her forest wealth is immense, and much of it only awaits the introduction of modern means of transport, a bolder investment of capital, and the employment of extra staff; while the patient and laborious work of conservation that has been steadily proceeding, joined with modern scientific methods of improving supplies and increasing output, will yield a rich harvest in future. We have been assured that Indian capital will be forthcoming once it is realised that it can be invested with security and profit in India; a purpose that will be furthered by the provision of increased facilities for banking and credit. Labour, though abundant, is handicapped by still pursuing uneconomical methods, and its output would be greatly increased by the extended use of machinery. We have no doubt that there is an immense scope for the application of scientific methods. Conditions are ripe for the development of new and for the revival of old industries on European lines; and the real enthusiasm for industries, which is not confined to the ambitions of a few individuals, but rests on the general desire to see Indian capital and labour applied jointly to the good of the country, seems to us of the happiest augury.

A policy of financial subsidies, it seems, is favoured by many Indians as the best method of recovering the lost ground. In this connection the report states that if the speculative element in Government activities is to be minimised there must be a marked expansion of the technical services of the country. The financial success resulting from the appointment of scientific officers to the agricultural services suggests, it adds, that opportunities have been lost in other directions :—

> We are advised, for instance, that tanning, glass-making, soap-making, sugar-refining, and the manufacture of a great variety of vegetable dyes, drugs and essential oils are instances of industries which are now pursued on primitive lines and which present obvious opportunities for the application of technical science. The old metallurgical and chemical industries of the country, which have fallen even more completely into decay through the importation of foreign articles, also offer opportunities for profitable investment on a large scale if conducted on modern lines.

The Industrial Commission.

The writers state that they understand that the report of the Industrial Commission "is likely to lay stress on a substantial increase in the scientific and technical services of the country and their organisation under a separate department of the Government of India, whose business would bring it into close relations at various points with the Department of Commerce, the Army Department, the Department of Education and the Finance Department." The view is expressed that the questions waiting to be solved will give ample scope for this new agency, and that they are sufficiently related to justify a new administrative unit.

Connected intimately with the matter of industries, the report goes on, is the question of the Indian tariff, a subject which was excluded from the deliberations of the Industrial Commission because it was not desirable at that juncture to raise any questions of the modification of India's fiscal policy.

> We have no immediate proposals to make; we are anxious merely that any decisions which may hereafter be taken should be taken with full appreciation of educated Indian opinion. The theoretical free trader, we believe, hardly exists in India at present. As was shown by the debates in the Indian Legislative Council in March, 1913, educated Indian opinion ardently desires a tariff. It rightly wishes to find another substantial base than that of the land for Indian revenues, and it turns to a tariff to provide one. Desiring industries which will give him Indian-made articles to use, the educated Indian looks to the example of other countries which have relied on tariffs, and seizes on the admission of even free traders that for the nourishment of nascent industries a tariff is permissible. We do not know whether he pauses to reflect that these industries will be largely financed by foreign capital attracted by the tariff, although we have evidence that he has not learned to appreciate the advantages of foreign capital. But whatever economic fallacy underlies his reasoning, these are his firm beliefs; and though he may be willing to concede the possibility that he is wrong, he will not readily concede that it is our business to decide the matter for him. He believes that as long as we continue to decide for him we shall decide in the interests of England and not according to his wishes; and he points to the debate in the House of Commons on the differentiation of the cotton excise in support of his contention. So long as the people who refuse India protection are interested in manufactures with which India might compete, Indian opinion cannot bring itself to believe that the refusal is disinterested or dictated by care for the best interests of India. This real and keen desire for fiscal autonomy does not mean that educated opinion in India is unmindful of Imperial obligations. On the contrary, it feels proud of, and assured by, India's connection with the Empire, and does not desire a severance that would mean cutting the ties of loyalty to the Crown, the assumption of new and very heavy responsibilities, and a loss of standing in the world's affairs. Educated Indians recognise that they are great gainers by the Imperial connection, and they are willing to accept its drawbacks. They recognise that the question of a tariff may be mainly, but is not wholly, a matter of domestic politics. We could not conclude our discussion of India's industrial development without some statement of what we believe to be the opinion of educated Indians upon this subject. But our inquiry has not been concerned with fiscal questions; and the views expressed upon them have come before us only as the main reason which those who ask for popular control over India's finances gave in support of their request. It is obvious that any tariff that might be framed for India must take account not only of the views of educated Indians, but of the probable incidence of the burden of taxation upon the masses of the population. It has been decided by Parliament that the fiscal relations of all parts of the Empire and the rest of the world should be considered after the war, and we assume that this consideration will be by an Imperial Conference on which India will be adequately represented.

The report then refers to the non-official European community in India, who in the main "are engaged in commercial enterprises; but besides these there are the missions. . . . There are also an appreciable number of retired officers and others whose working life has been given to India, settled in the cooler parts of the country." When complaints are rife, it proceeds, that European interests are selfish and drain the country of wealth which it ought to retain, it is well to remind ourselves how much of India's material prosperity is due to European commerce.

> Our concern, however, is not so much with the past as with the future. From discussions with them we know that many of them accept the trend of events, and are fully prepared to see Indian political development proceed. India has benefited enormously by her commercial development in European hands; nor is the benefit less because it was incidental and not the purpose of the undertaking. What, then, are the obligations of the various parties? Clearly it is the duty of British commerce in India to identify itself with the interests of India, which are higher than the interests of any community; to take part in political life; to use its considerable wealth and opportunities to commend itself to India; and having demonstrated both its value and its good intentions, to be content to rest like other industries on the new foundation of government in the wishes of the people. No less is it the duty of Indian politicians to respect the expectations which have been explicitly held out; to remember how India has profited by commercial development which only British capital and enterprise achieved; to bethink themselves that though the capital invested in private enterprises was not borrowed under any assurance that the existing form of government would endure, yet the favourable terms on which money was obtained for India's development were undoubtedly affected by the fact of British rule; and to abstain from advocating differential treatment aimed not so much at promoting Indian as at injuring British commerce. Finally it is our duty to reserve to the Government the power to protect any industry from prejudiced attack or privileged competition. This obligation is imposed upon it, if not by history, at least by the duty of protecting capital, credit, and, indeed, property without discrimination.

SHIPBUILDING IN INDIA.

The Government of India announces that recent investigations do not confirm the supposition that the local resources of India, in existing war conditions, can economically be turned to account for the construction of cargo steamers for Government use (says Reuter's Simla correspondent in a message dated July 25). The Government is, however, prepared to encourage the construction by private enterprise of such wooden sailing ships, with or without auxiliary power, as can be readily built in India. The proposals for building ferro-concrete ships in India are to be held in abeyance for a few months pending the results of experiments elsewhere.

The trade returns from British India for June show that the imports have increased by £2,918,000, and the exports by £421,000, compared with the corresponding month last year.

The *Rheinisch-Westfaelische Zeitung* states a corn monopoly will be immediately established in the Ukraine, in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet, which orders all producers to deliver their produce direct to the State depôts.

BURMA RICE INDUSTRY.

Proposals for Post-War Control.

Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, received a deputation of representatives of the associations in the rice trade connected with the British Empire Producers' Organisation, on July 30 to discuss proposals concerning the trade in rice after the war. The deputation, which represented the Burma Rice Shippers, London and Liverpool Rice Brokers' Associations, Liverpool Rice Millers' Association, Liverpool Seed, Oil and Cake Trade Association, and Liverpool Exporters' Association, put forward recommendations providing for the elimination and liquidation of all enemy rice milling firms in Burma; to make it impossible for subjects of enemy countries to reside in, trade in, own property in, or own a share or influence in any firm in Burma, at least for a considerable number of years after the termination of the war; and to allow firms of Allied or neutral nationality, and eventually all firms of enemy nationality, to reside and trade in Burma only under licence renewable annually and subject to strict Government control. They also proposed to place an additional export tax in Burma of five annas per maund on all shipments of rice to Europe—the United Kingdom excepted, direct or indirect—and to prohibit any alien, or his representative, from setting up or working any rice mill in the United Kingdom or British possessions for a term of twenty-five years.

On behalf of the deputation Mr. R. McCraken (chairman of the Rice Section of the Organisation) said that altogether about 99 per cent. of the rice imported into Great Britain was supplied by the associations they represented.—Mr. C. Findlay said the surplus of the Burma crop annually available for export was from 2½ to 3 million tons, of a normal value of about twenty millions sterling. Before the war about 40 per cent. of the European milling and export trade was in German hands.—Mr. Charles Wimble said the rice from Burma had been taken to Hamburg, finished, and dumped down here to the detriment of British trade. He also declared that railway charges in the past in this country had been more advantageous to the Germans than to the home trader. This had been harmful to the industry in Great Britain, and mills had had to close down.

Mr. Hughes said the rice industry seemed to be an industry in which it was possible for the British Empire to be self-contained. The policy which they advocated of developing and maintaining a trade which had been built up largely by British capital, and wholly on Empire territory, had his earnest support, and he would be pleased to do anything he could to help them in eliminating those enemy interests which threatened that great industry. They would not expect him to commit himself to all the methods by which they proposed to accomplish that object. He added that he had no doubt the British Government would develop the policy which by a recent declaration it had enunciated of accepting the principle of the Paris Economic Conference. It had declared that it was in favour of what was known as Imperial Preference. He expressed no opinion about either of these things, except to say that they seemed to him, along with other steps that the Government had taken in regard to Imperial trade—such as the purchase of certain raw materials from Australia and elsewhere for the purpose of manufacture in this country—finally to indicate the road that the Government proposed to take. He could not for the life of him see, in the face of what had been said and done, that the Government could adopt any other policy than that which, at any rate, involved a radical departure from their economic policy before the war.

◆

THE CALCUTTA HIDES TRADE.

In the House of Commons, on July 24, Mr. Rowlands asked the Secretary of State for India (1) whether he was aware that the firm of Schroder, Smidt and Company was closed down under the Enemy Trading Act, and that J. Frericks, who was the manager of the firm, had started in business for himself; could he say what was Frerick's nationality; whether Schroder, Smidt and Company were connected with the Calcutta Hide Trade Association; if so, what action had been taken in order to prevent the trade again going into the same channel; (2) whether he was aware that the firm of Smidt, Sanders and Company was closed down under the Enemy Trading Act, and that Max Staub, who was the manager of the firm, had started business in his own name; could he say what was Staub's nationality; whether Smidt, Sanders and Company were connected with the Calcutta Hide Trade Association; and, if so, what action had been taken in order to prevent the trade again going into the same channel?

Mr. Montagu: The two firms have been wound up under the Enemy Trading Act. They were connected with the Calcutta Hide and Skin Shippers' Association. The two individuals mentioned are Swiss by nationality and were in the employ of the firms. They have since started business in the trade on their own account, and are carrying it on to the limited extent described in my answer to my hon. friend's question of July 10. I am asking the Government of India whether they are satisfied that they are not acting in any way on behalf of the liquidated firms or still associated with them.

◆

INDIA'S LAC PRODUCTION.

Colonel Yate asked the Secretary of State for India, on July 29, whether, in view of the importance of lac to the commercial and military interests of the Empire, and the fact that India held a practical monopoly of this natural resin, large quantities of which used to go to Hamburg and Bremen before the war, information could be given as to what measures would be adopted by the Indian Government to encourage the production of Indian lac and facilitate supplies to British markets?

Mr. Montagu: I can at present make no statement on the subject, but the general question of post-war economic policy is now engaging the close and constant attention of the Government of India.

◆

An agreement has been made between the Secretary of State for India and the Tata Steel Company, by which the latter acquires additional land for extensions, and undertakes to expend £2,000,000 within ten years.

EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

British Empire's Share.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 20.

The detailed statistics of the Customs Administration for 1917 have just been issued. and it is interesting to see the position held by Great Britain and the other parts of the Empire in the import and export trade of Egypt. Of the total imports the British Empire supplied 61.9 per cent., as compared with 62 per cent. in 1916 and 37.6 per cent. in 1913; of the exports the Empire took 60.8 per cent., as against 53.7 per cent. and 43.4 per cent. in 1916 and 1913 respectively. No other country comes anywhere near.

Coming now to the various categories and taking imports first, we find that the British share is as follows (the country given in brackets is either the runner up or the highest on the list):—Cotton tissues 86.2 per cent. (Italy 12.8 per cent.), in coal 98.8 per cent., sacks 99.7 per cent., worked iron and steel 85.2 per cent. (America 8 per cent.), cotton threads 92.1 per cent. (Italy 6 per cent.), flour 99.5 per cent., coffee 49.2 per cent. (Brazil 29.8 per cent.), machinery 49.5 per cent. (Switzerland 24 per cent.), fresh fruit 45.5 per cent. (Italy 28.4 per cent.), tea 38.6 per cent. (other far Eastern countries 57.3 per cent.), alcohol and liqueurs 59.2 per cent. (France 27.7 per cent.), mineral oils 47.8 per cent. (America 28.4 per cent.), other oils 52.2 per cent. (Italy 17.8 per cent.), millinery 24.5 per cent. (Japan 41.3 per cent.), rice 99.6 per cent., ready-made linen 38.4 per cent. (Japan 24.5 per cent.), wines 52.7 per cent. (France 22.6 per cent.), pepper 91 per cent., writing and printing paper 42.8 per cent. (Italy 26.4 per cent.), indigo 100 per cent., skins 50.5 per cent. (France 19.4 per cent.), boots 56.1 per cent. (Switzerland 33.7 per cent.), beer 72.5 per cent. (Holland 23.4 per cent.), condensed milk 39.5 per cent. (America 28.6 per cent), common soap 87.6 per cent. (Greece 5.9 per cent.), ready-made clothes 50.4 per cent. (France 23.7 per cent.), drugs and medicines 51.6 per cent. (France 31 per cent.), meat and preserved fish 98.9 per cent., and tissues other than cotton 62.3 per cent. (Italy 11.3 per cent.), chemical manures 5.3 per cent. (Chili 92.3 per cent.), haberdashery, etc., 32.5 per cent. (France 25.2 per cent.). In practically every category the British Empire has improved its position as compared with 1916, the only notable exceptions being chemical manures, machinery, pure alcohol and liqueurs, and boots.

Turning to exports we find that the Empire has the monopoly of cotton seed, cotton cake, natural wool, and that all but 0.1 per cent. of the eggs and silver ingots were taken by it. Of the other categories it received under cotton 62.1 per cent. (America 15 per cent.), sugar 45.2 per cent. (France 45.4 per cent.), cigarettes 35.1 per cent.), gum 13.7 per cent. (France 76.1 per cent.), onions 81.3 per cent. (France 11.1 per cent.), rice 24.8 per cent. (Greece 64 per cent.), gold bar 98 per cent., natural phosphates 89.6 per cent., salt 94.7 per cent., cotton seed oil 2.7 per cent. (France 90.2 per cent.), flour 60.6 per cent. (Rhodes 32.5 per cent.), common soap 72.4 per cent. (Arabia 20.5 per cent.).

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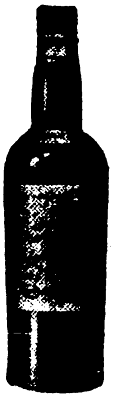

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ASHANTI—Accra, Axim, Cape Coast, Coomassie, Koforidua, Nsawam, Saltpond, Seccondee,
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"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet.*
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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Markets.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on July 25, Major W. I. le Breton (chairman of the company) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Our report has told you that we lost, in 1917, more than five times the number of market days, to horned cattle, that we so lost in 1916. In other words, 4,403 in the one year, against 863 in the other. A year ago I had to warn you that a serious increase of cattle plague was then taking place, but, serious as this has been, I must guard against exaggeration of it, by explaining that a considerable number of the days lost was due to the desire of the authorities to discourage free dealings in animals at our markets, which, it was believed by them, would aid their slaughter. Under these additional adverse conditions I feel you will share our satisfaction that the decrease of earnings from our cattle markets only amounted to £5,802, or about 15 per cent. Had it not been for the causes explained these receipts would undoubtedly have established a record.

The receipts from our general markets continued to show satisfactory increase, viz., of no less than £3,564. Our combined receipts from cattle and general markets are consequently only £2,240 below the previous year, and this is more than wiped out by the additional profits we have made from our miscellaneous business. Our business with the salt companies of Egypt has taken a decided turn for the better, and, under a recent arrangement with the Salt and Soda Company, the entire profit remains our property. Turning now to the business we have done for the Government, we have made about the same profit as in the previous year, from forage classed as "Dreis." I mentioned to you at our last meeting that at the beginning of the year under review we obtained from the Government a contract for the supply of another kind of forage, known as "Tibbin." I can only tell you that, as a result, we made a fair profit on the first contract, but at the close of the year the accounts for the second period had not been adjusted, so we have not felt justified in taking any profit on the latter into the accounts of the last year, and whatever there is will come into the accounts for 1918. This contract has terminated. At the request of the Government authorities in Egypt, we undertook for them the sale of a small quantity of German dyes seized at Alexandria. We carried out this little business, under somewhat difficult conditions, in a manner that not only earned the approval of these authorities but drew very useful attention to our successful management of it, and, as a consequence, I am most pleased to tell you that we have secured the sole agency from Messrs. Levinstein for the sale of their dyes in Egypt. Our expenses show a bigger increase than is really the case. The explanation of this is that in former years we had to debit our miscellaneous business and credit our expenses with certain charges for its conduct and supervision by our staff. Under the arrangements which were the subject of our recent extraordinary general meeting, and which were given effect to from January, 1917, we are no longer required to do this; our working expenses are, therefore, not relieved, but correspondingly our profits on such business are not reduced. Apart from this, however, we have had to grant increases of pay and also a war bonus to our staff, the latter for the duration of the war, to meet the enormously increased cost of living in Egypt. We have also had to pay considerably more for materials and for printing.

Our report will have shown you that, after providing for our sinking funds and debenture interest, the resulting sum for disposal is £40,311 0s. 6d., an increase of £2,148 15s. 7d. over the previous year. We are glad to be able to recommend that the ordinary dividend, for the seventh consecutive year, be made up to 10 per cent. by our now declaring a final distribution of 5 per cent., and that our deferred shareholders receive £8 3s. per share. We have put aside £17,000 to meet the estimated participation by the Egyptian Government and the liability for excess profits, which latter, as you are aware, is now taken at 80 per cent., against 60 per cent. last year. We have put £2,000 to reserve, making this up to £8,500, and if our recommendations be approved our carry-forward will be increased by £1,396 0s. 6d. We have, I fear, no right to reckon upon any improvement in the general conditions which so seriously affect and distress us all. Our market earnings this year, according to quite recent advices, are now being further affected by the compulsory recruiting of the natives for labour and transport services and have fallen considerably. So long as our markets continue closed to horned cattle and suffer from a shortage of other animals, and also in the attendance of the public, our consequent loss must go on increasing, but not so comparatively, for we have already reached the time at which our markets suffered heavily last year from being closed to horned cattle. On the other hand, if any important number of our markets be reopened, we should recover, I believe, by leaps and bounds. Similarly, with regard to our most important manures. We are hopeful that our recently-acquired agency for dyes may be of considerable value to us. I have told you that we have already proved our ability to deal with such business. The immediate want of dyes has been recognised by the Government of Egypt, and as a consequence of their action a small quantity has already been consigned to us by the manufacturers. In conclusion, I would again make the somewhat unnecessary suggestion that our best thanks are due to our able general manager, Mr. C. E. Duffield, to his assistants and the staff generally. In spite of greatly reduced staff and of exceptional difficulties, delays in correspondence, shortness of supplies in important directions, and the carrying out of work for the Government under very stringent regulations, everything under Mr. Duffield's control has been carried on without any avoidable hitch.

The Chairman then moved the report, which was seconded by Lieut.-Col. A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., and was carried unanimously. The retiring directors (Major W. I. le Breton and Mr. W. O. Joseph) were re-elected; the retiring auditors (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Company) were reappointed; and the dividends on the ordinary and deferred shares as recommended were agreed to.

Lieut.-Col. Cooke, explaining to the meeting that they could no longer persuade Major le Breton, the chairman, from carrying into effect the desire expressed by him four years ago, to reduce his duties in connection with the company, said:—Since the retirement—11 years ago—of Mr. A. F. Joseph from the position of managing director, that position has virtually been filled by Major le Breton, and our first proposal is that, as a graceful and practical form of recognition for the extra and special work done by him since then and of the satisfactory results accrued therefrom to the shareholders, a sum of £1,000 be voted to Major le Breton, and I would like to add that this represents to a small degree only the value of his services to the company and our appreciation of them. I make this proposal with peculiar pleasure, as I have had the privilege of sitting on the board with Major le Breton for more than eight years, during which time I have seen the hard work he has put in and the very close touch which he has personally maintained between our fighting forces in the Egyptian fields and your directing board in London. Now, gentlemen, I have explained to you the wish of our chairman to retire, and that he has, at our urgent request, agreed for the present to retain his position, but he still feels a desire to be relieved of such of his duties as are additional to those of chairman; in other words, the duties of a managing director. In order to relieve Major le Breton of the additional work, and thus retain his services as long as possible, we propose to appoint such a managing director, and we have agreed, subject to your approval, that Mr. F. J. Horne, who has acted as secretary for the past 19 years—practically from the commencement of business by the company—is the most suitable man for that position. This appointment can only be made by increasing the number of directors, and we are, therefore, going to ask you to sanction an addition of one more director to the board on the distinct understanding that the next vacancy which occurs on the board will not be filled. It is proposed that the position of secretary thus vacated will not be filled until the vacancy on the board above referred to has occurred, so that the additional cost to the company will be very small.

The motion, "That the approval of the meeting to a payment of £1,000 to Major W. I. le Breton be heartily accorded as a slight recognition of his valuable services to the company, and to the number of directors being increased to a maximum number of six for the purpose of appointing Mr. F. J. Horne as managing director to the company," was seconded by Mr. W. Home, and was carried unanimously. Major le Breton and Mr. Horne briefly thanked the meeting, and the proceedings then terminated.

East Indian Railway.

The seventy-first annual general meeting of the East Indian Railway Company was held on July 31, at Cannon Street Hotel, the deputy-chairman, Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., presiding in the absence through ill-health of Lieut.-Col. Richard Gardiner, R.E., the chairman of the company. The secretary (Mr. C. W. Young) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the earnings for the year ending March 31 were in excess of the earnings of the previous year by 76 lakhs of rupees, in round figures; the working expenses were in excess of 7 lakhs, and the net receipts increased by 69 lakhs. For the half-year ending March 31 last the gross receipts had been, in round figures, 628 lakhs of rupees, as against 583 for the half-year ending March 31, 1917, while the expenditure had been 221 lakhs, as against 218 lakhs. That left a balance of 407 lakhs for the half-year, from which must be deducted the various interest and annuity charges, and also the payments to the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka and the South Behar railways. A sum of 202 lakhs remained to be divided between the Government and the company, of which the company's share was Rs.16,82,269, which was reduced by payment of Indian income-tax to Rs.15,80,640. That amount had produced in sterling the sum of £118,494, and, with the balance brought from the last account, enabled the board to recommend a dividend of £1 7s. per cent., making with the dividend paid in February last a total dividend of £2 16s. per cent. for the year 1917-18, subject to the payment of income-tax at the rate of 3s. 9d. in the £. For the current half-year the prospects from a financial point of view were quite satisfactory, the gross receipts from April 1 last to the 27th of this month being in excess of the receipts for the corresponding period in 1917 by no less than 42 lakhs of rupees.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Kilbracken, G.C.B., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed the payment of a dividend for the half-year (subject to English income-tax at 3s. 9d. in the £) of £1 7s. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital, Class "D," of the company, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. Mr. Albert B. Miller seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Lieut.-Colonel Richard Gardiner, R.E., as a director of the company. Lord Kilbracken seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The Chairman said that, to fill the vacancy on the board caused by the death of Mr. F. M. Halliday, the directors had taken the occasion to mark their sense of the services rendered to the company by Mr. Young, as secretary for nearly eighteen years, by electing him to a seat on the board, and by nominating him managing director instead of secretary. In that way they would retain Mr. Young's valuable experience, which would have been lost had he severed his connection with the company. He moved Mr. Young's re-election. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously, and the retiring auditor, Mr. Herbert M. Adler, was reappointed.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

There has been a large business doing this week with a general rise in prices.

In Government stocks, Unifieds and 3½ per cent. Prefs. finish 1 point up at 94 and 79 respectively. City of Alexandria Bonds have also improved a point to 83. There has been a jump of 2 points in Turkish 4 per cent. 1891's to 85, and of one point in Turkish 3½ per cent. 1894's to 74.

In Bank shares Nationals have been a feature, persistent buying orders carrying the price up 2¼ to 21⅛. Agriculturals have improved ⅝ to 6⅞, and Agricultural Prefs. are ¼ up at 7¾. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have turned the corner, being inquired for again round 17⅛, a rise of ⅛, whilst Land Banks have jumped ⅜ to 7¼. In Railways, Delta Light are ¼ up at 7⅛, but the lack of sellers prevents business.

In Land shares Aboukirs are 6d. higher at 23s. 6d. Béhéras have risen 1¼ to 14⅜ on buying from Egypt, and Béhéra Prefs, are 3-16 higher at 4 11-16. Delta Lands have again come into favour, and have risen 2s. 3d. to 15s. 9d., whilst Foreign Trusts are 6d. up at 12s. 3d. The latter security looks cheap in view of the appreciation in many of their holdings. There has been a revival in Gharbieh Lands, which have been neglected for so long, and to-day some few hundred shares changed hands at 2¼, at which price there were still buyers. New Egyptians have been largely bought, and the price closes 2s. higher at 22s., after business up to 22s. 6d. Another interesting feature has been the revival in Sidi Salems, which, on buying orders from Egypt, have to-day risen to 2 9-16, an advance of 7-32. Union Foncières have been a strong market, and are 5-32 higher at 3 15-32.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are ⅜ up at 12½, and Salts and Sodas have improved 3-32 to 2 9-16. There has been a big demand for Khedivial Mails for Egyptian account, with the result that the price closes 4s. higher at 47s. 9d.

In Greek securities the scarcity of sellers continues, and there is a further slight appreciation in prices.

◆

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Traders in the market continue to hold diverse views as to what attitude should be adopted at the moment. There is a fear in some quarters of prices going still higher, but at the same time there is a feeling that depreciation in values may take place within the next few months. At the time of writing the dispute between the Cotton Control Board and the operatives is still unsettled. It is hoped, however, that as a result of the deliberations in London, some adjustment of the difficulties will be reached. Generally favourable advices have been received relating to the Egyptian crop. Considerable interest will be taken during the next week or two in the working of the Government regulations with regard to the control of the article. Certain users may be harassed by not being able to meet with their usual types. Egyptian yarns remain very strong. Demand in most counts and qualities has exceeded supply. Now and again special prices have been paid for early delivery. In piece goods for Egypt the increased inquiry has been maintained. As a result of freer clearances in Cairo, rather more business has been done here. Lancashire goods are now having to compete to a greater extent against Japanese makes. Decidedly more inquiry has been met with in cloth for India than for some time back. An encouraging business has been done in light bleaching goods, and occasional sales have been put through in grey shirtings. Although many of the offers are too low, it is believed that dealers on the other side are being forced to operate on a larger scale. No news of any importance has come through from China Now and again fair Government contracts have been arranged. American yarns have been somewhat irregular in price when tested. During the last day or two a little more business has been done. Export yarns remain slow, especially for India.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		July 31
	July 27 1914	July 24	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	83
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93	94
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78	79
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	66	66½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	66	66½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	63	63½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	51
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	66	66½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63⅛
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65xd	65½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	62	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	76	77
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	73	74
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6¼	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7½	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	17⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	6¾	7¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6⅞	7¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	18⅞	21⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	6⅞	7⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	23/-	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅝	4¼	4¼
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13⅛	14⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4½	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/6	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	11/9	12/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2	2¼
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	20/-	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 11/32	2 9/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 5/16	3 15/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/7½	2/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	2 15/32	2 9/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	2 3/16	47/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3 15/16	3 13/16

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended July 19.		1918. Week ended July 18.
Cattle markets	264	..	228
General markets	482	..	432
Receipts (£)	746	..	720
Total for year	36,674	..	29,254

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follow on the undermentioned days:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
July 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	1,110,000	1,230,000

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14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

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Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

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Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
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BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fachen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

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Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
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Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
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By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 379.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East has suffered too much from the course of events in Russia to remain an indifferent spectator of the interesting developments now taking place in Siberia. Five months ago attention was drawn in these pages to the German menace to Asia, and to the culpable delay on the part of the Allies to invite Japan to pull her full weight in the Alliance. But valuable time continued to be lost by the failure of one or more Governments either to appreciate the gravity of the situation or to be able to overcome past prejudices. From the achievements of the Czecho-Slovaks in Siberia it is evident that only the nucleus of a disciplined force was required to provide the better elements in Russia with the rallying point that they needed. Now, at last, the Allies' hands have been forced by the courage and determination of a small body of men, who were called upon to stem the Bolshevist tide under the most adverse conditions. The fact that they hail from the Near East is of good augury for the part that that region will have to play after the war as the barrier to any revival of Germany's efforts to dominate Asia Minor and the Middle East.

The exigencies of diplomacy have required that the proposal for Allied action in Russia should emanate from the United States and be formally accepted by Japan. From Washington and Tokio have issued two documents explanatory of the circumstances which have led to the steps now being taken. Both are typical of the authors. The Japanese declaration calls attention to the danger to which the Czecho-Slovaks in Siberia are exposed, and connects the dispatch of troops with the necessity for relieving the pressure on the Czecho-Slovak forces. It contains, also a formal guarantee that on the realization of the objects indicated all Japanese troops will be immediately withdrawn from the Russian territories and the sovereignty of Russia will be left wholly unimpaired in all its phases, whether political or military.

The American declaration is fuller, and is eloquent of the misgivings that clearly have had to be overcome before President Wilson could bring himself to sanction the dispatch of troops to Russia. Even now the term "military intervention" is expressly ruled out of court, and it is stated that "as the Government of the United States sees the present circumstances military action is possible in Russia now only to render such protection and help as is possible to the Czecho-Slovaks against the armed Austrian and German prisoners who are attacking them, and to steady any efforts at self-government or self-defence in which the Russians themselves may be willing to accept assistance, whether from Vladivostok or from Murmansk and Archangel." Accordingly the proposal is that the Governments of the United States and Japan should each send "a force of a few thousand men to Vladivostok, with the purpose of co-operating as a single force in the occupation of Vladivostok, and in safeguarding, so far as it may, the country to the rear of the westward-moving Czecho-Slovaks."

There can be little doubt that, if the action of the Allies is restricted to the occupation of Vladivostok, it will not constitute any very serious embarrassment to Germany, nor will it bring much practical help to Russia. A subsequent clause in the American declaration, however, suggests that a loophole has been left for a more adequate expedition. "No conclusion," it is added, "that the Government of the United States has arrived at in this important matter is intended as an effort to restrict the actions or interfere with the independent judgment of the Governments with which we are associated in the war." In these circumstances it is to be hoped that Japan will take a broader view of the position, and will realise that the principle on which she should act is that of "*Bis dat qui cito dat.*" The demoralised and demobilised Russian troops, with hundreds and possibly thousands of officers murdered, cannot, with the best intentions, become effective armies in a few weeks or months. Even if they could, they would be almost entirely lacking in equipment, especially artillery. On the other hand, every encouragement should be given to Russian Volunteer Forces to join the Japanese. The Bolsheviks are evidently becoming desperate, and will not hesitate to give the Germans all the facilities at their command to cope with the situation. The Germans will certainly try to force an issue before the Russian reorganisation is completed, and, although the vast extent of Russia will prevent them from making any lasting impression, the lot of that part of Russia under their domination will become worse than it is already. There is a further possibility that they may even succeed in mobilising Russians against what they would term the Japanese invasion.

President Wilson's dilemma can be appreciated; but experience is entirely in favour of a bold policy. The

Allied cause has suffered enough in the past from half-hearted efforts. There can, however, be no question that it was a happy inspiration to announce that the United States propose to send to Siberia "a commission of merchants, agricultural experts, labour advisers, Red Cross representatives, and agents of the Young Men's Christian Association, accustomed to organising the best methods of spreading useful information and rendering educational help of a modest kind." The usefulness of these novel camp-followers, however, will be proportionate to the military successes of the Japanese and Czecho-Slovak forces.

While, as is suggested elsewhere in this issue, it is well that any misunderstanding entertained with regard to the international position should be ventilated, it seems necessary to point out that a great deal of superfluous anxiety is being displayed at this moment in Greece. As if acting on a *mot d'ordre*, which most certainly does not emanate from the Government of M. Venizelos, the Greek Press is giving utterance to many sentiments which do no credit to itself and are not helpful to the Alliance. If Bulgaria "holds under its sanguinary claws populations belonging to Greece, Roumania, and Serbia," the fault is in part, though not exclusively, that of Greece's late King and of the three States which dictated the Treaty of Bucharest, 1913. Before peace is made with the "Bulgarian wolf" the sanguinary claws will have been not merely cut, but extracted. In any case they are entirely artificial, and, as was shown in the second Balkan War, are powerless to do any harm unless their roots are firmly fastened in German militarism. This latter evil will have ceased to exist after the war, and therefore the Bulgarian bogey will lose all the frightfulness which it has worn for the last three years. The views of the Greek Press as to the settlement of the Balkan question would be welcomed at this time; but if they merely recapitulate the terms of the Bucharest Treaty, the Press must be told that that particular solution has been tried and found wanting. The Entente Powers have no desire to favour Bulgaria at the expense of their Allies, but they must evolve a lasting settlement in the Balkans, and no disucssion on the subject can be profitable, unless it starts from this point and keeps this end in view.

A striking commentary on the policy that has always been put forward in these columns as the only feasible one for the future of the Balkans Peninsula was supplied in a message to *The Times* on the new Greek Army from its Salonika correspondent. Unfortunately, the end of the article disappeared in the later editions of the day's issue, and the passage in question may, therefore, have escaped the notice of many. The correspondent had described the splendid qualities shown by the Greek soldiers, and closed his narrative with a reference to the hospitals that he had visited after the Skra di Legen battle in which the Bulgarian wounded were lying side by side with Greek patients. He added:—From French, as well as from Greek officers, I heard that, when the 1,700 prisoners had surrendered, the first words of the Greek soldiers to them were fraternal and conciliatory: "We have done our duty. You have bravely done yours. The fortune of war has favoured us, so now let us be friends." This spirit holds out a far brighter promise for the future settlement of the Near Eastern question than the mutual bandying of atrocity stories.

The Turkish occupation of Urumiah, a town some sixteen miles to the west of the lake of the same name, indicates that the Turks are continuing their penetration of the north-west of Persia in spite of all that is happening elsewhere to distract their attention. Their aim is to extend Ottoman rule to the Caspian Sea and possibly beyond, in order that they may at least be able to point to some compensating successes in the event of the return to peace finding the British in possession of Mesopotamia and Palestine. The immediate objective is Baku; but in view of the opposition that is likely to be encountered in that region the Turks seem to be attempting to reach the Caspian Sea through Persia with the idea of approaching the port both by sea and by land. In this enterprise they can count on the support of the Germans, who are anxious to see the Turks prepare the ground for their own *Drang nach Asien*, but have no intention of allowing their vassals to retain all the spoils of victory for themselves.

The German-Turkish thrust across the Caucusus to the Caspian Sea represents a serious breach in the Allied investment of the enemy fortress. In Baku the Germans will secure much-needed supplies of oil, and the possession of the town will complete the conquest of South-Eastern Russia. Their command of the Black Sea renders this advanced post to some extent independent of the course of events in other parts of Russia, and they might hope to retain the Bucharest-Batoum-Baku line when other ways of approach to Mid-Asia are barred to them. What, then, is the Allies' answer to this move on the part of the enemy? Much will depend on the extent to which the Allied Governments have been able to envisage the war and Germany's deep-laid plans as a single whole. If the "Western" obsession remains, they will probably wish to ignore the Caucasus, and be content to see General Marshall busied with the economic development of Mesopotamia rather than using his resources to bring the campaign in this theatre to a close. If, on the other hand, longer views prevail, the importance of establishing a further rallying point for the Russians against Bolshevism and the German invasion will be realised, and General Marshall will receive, from whatever source may be available, sufficient reinforcements to enable him to clear Persia of the enemy and to afford some measure of support to the Caucasian peoples, who are by no means anxious to bow their necks to German and Turkish invaders.

It is satisfactory to hear of continued activity on the part of the Royal Air Force in the Mediterranean. As has been pointed out before in these columns, both Palestine and Mesopotamia are far removed from the nerve centre of the Ottoman Empire. What is required now is that British pressure should be felt by those Turks who come more immediately under the spell and power of the Committee of Union and Progress. The Air Force in this respect can act the part of a whole battery of long-range guns, carrying three or four times the distance of the "Berthas" that have been trained on Paris. A summary of recent raids mentions attacks on Kuleli Burgas, on the Oriental Railway; on Karagatch station, the present bone of contention between the Turks and Bulgarians; and on Uzun Keupri, where the station and an aerodrome were successfully bombed. Further attacks have been made on military and naval objectives in Constantinople. Not the least advantage of this policy is that it must strengthen the conviction of the average Turk that the absence of immunity from air raids is to be connected with the waning power of Germany.

There is in existence a book containing the names of a large number of Spaniards, arranged by towns and occupations—the number is probably less than 47,000—who have desired to place on record their unbounded admiration of Germany, her methods, her achievements, and her *Kultur*. The trees on the cover of the volume, bearing the coats of arms of Spain and Germany, with their branches and roots intertwined, are intended to represent the closeness of the ties that in the opinion of the signatories link the two countries together. With the possible exception of the people whose names are to be found in this suggestive publication there can be few Spaniards who can be satisfied with the use to which their country is being put by Germany for the furtherance of her intrigues in Morocco. So long as the resultant trouble was confined to French territory, Spain had no need to be put seriously out of countenance; but the stirring up of native tribes to lawlessness and pillage is apt, like unrestricted submarine warfare, to react on neutrals as well as enemies. This stage seems to have been reached in the north-west corner of Africa, where the tribesmen, having been driven away by the French from the hunting grounds to which they were sent by German agents with German gold, are now continuing their outrages at the expense of the Spaniards. The situation would be, of course, intolerable to any other nation.

The news from India, published at the end of last week, shows, at any rate, that the political extremists are not to have things all their own way. At the outset they made a bold effort to stampede opinion in opposition to the Chelmsford-Montagu proposals, but the manifestoes of the moderate leaders in Bombay and Madras, taken with items of news from various other parts of the country, suffice to establish the failure of that attempt, and they are now doubtless concentrating their energies on organising a hostile majority in the impending special Session of the Congress. Prophecy regarding the action of that somewhat elastic body would be futile; there may conceivably be a straight vote, the issues may be conveniently clouded, India may once again effect a synthesis of contradictions, or finally there may be a definite split. All these things have happened before, and we shall hear in due course which of them happens on this occasion.

On this side the most interesting pronouncement of the week-end was the address delivered by Dr. Nair, now in enjoyment of the privilege of free speech through the somewhat tardy concession we recorded last week. Dr. Nair is afraid that the Brahmins may be able to capture the new constitutional machinery and use it to the detriment of the classes for whom he speaks, and undoubtedly this is a danger which must be taken into account. Given a narrow franchise and a perpetuation of the privileged position now enjoyed by the dwellers in the towns, it is by no means improbable that the interests of the peasants would suffer, not because Brahmins as a class are malignant or oppressive, but simply because, like most of us, they are the creatures of their environment. As we have said before, the franchise is the essence of the whole matter, and until its limits are settled, judgment on the scheme of reform must necessarily be suspended.

We notice, by the way, that an attempt is being made to discount Dr. Nair as being nothing but an anti-Brahmin, and we must enter a protest against any attempt to extend to this country the immunity from open criticism which Brahmins still enjoy in most parts of India. As David Harum said, "a reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog," and Brahmins who for a good many centuries have enjoyed the best that India has to offer will be all the better for hearing from time to time a little of the candid, or even caustic, criticism which is common form in those lowly Indian circles which their position debars them from frequenting.

So far as it has gone, the whole discussion of Indian reforms gives point to Sir Frank Younghusband's comment that it is a great adventure upon which we are about to embark. In that respect it is like all England's dealings with India since the far-off days when Queen Elizabeth granted the first charter to "certain adventurers of the City of London" for "traffique and marchandise to the East-Indians," and we shall do well to approach it in the same spirit—an adventure, indeed, and one to be undertaken and carried through with the caution, zeal and ability which marked the preparations of Thomas Smith, James Lancaster, and the other "committees" of the original East India Company.

The debates of last Tuesday carried the matter a stage further. Little that was said was new, but on the whole both Lords and Commons did justice to the occasion, and it was made perfectly clear that while the principle of the gradual extension of responsible government meets with practically unanimous approval, the methods of procedure proposed by the authorities have been received in a favourable though not an uncritical spirit. Lord Sydenham's rather gloomy prognostications are clearly not shared by any large proportion of the Legislature, and it is fair to say that the dominant note in the debates was hopefulness.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 8.

Syria and Palestine Relief Fund.

Bishop McInnes, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, has published lately in *Al Mokattam* an account of the five months' work done by the Relief Fund which owes so much to his initiative. This account has been circulated also among the various Christian communities and the Moslems in Jerusalem, in order to dispel certain misconceptions and to reply to certain criticisms in regard to the manner of distribution of relief. The Bishop begins by affirming the high principle on which the Fund was founded—viz., to afford relief where it was most needed, irrespective of creed, and adds pointedly that, whereas the greater part of the money was subscribed by Protestant churches in Great Britain, America and other parts of the world, it has been distributed without favour among the poor of the various Christian churches and of the Moslems as well. If the Jews have received only a small share, it is because they needed help less, having already been well supplied by their own funds.

Reverting to the criticism in regard to the manner of distributing relief, the Bishop explains that of the two gifts received from the Cairo Committee, the first, consisting of £250, was devoted to special medical work in Khan Yunes. As to the second, which consisted of £1,000, and part of which had been received from friends in Manchester for use in Southern Palestine, half of this amount had already been spent in Jaffa, Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, and other places; while of the remainder £250 was spent on the needy Moslems of Jerusalem. The misconception arose from the fact that some of the Christian churches, having heard that the Bishop had received this £1,000, each thought that the sum was destined for its own community. It was, of course, impossible for the Bishop to depart from the principle of giving relief without any distinction of creed. He makes this mild reproach: "Indeed, it is hoped that there are not many people who would really wish that, before giving bread to a starving mother and her children, or receiving a sick man into hospital, we should first ask: "To what religion do you belong?"

The figures given in the concluding part of this report are so interesting that they may be reproduced:—

> It may interest readers to know that of our forty-eight British and American workers now carrying on relief work in Palestine no less than forty-five are honorary workers, their salaries not being paid by the Relief Fund, but by other societies and bodies who have most nobly lent their services during this time of great need.
>
> The following are the statistics to which I alluded above, made up (in round figures) to the end of May for Jerusalem alone:—More than 17,000 garments have been distributed, 2,600 blankets, 43,000 kilos of rice, 16,500 tins of milk, 3,200 food rations per

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Government stores, 25,000 oranges, 57,000 portions of soup. All these distributions have been made after careful examination of each case by a band of voluntary investigators, for whose services we are very deeply grateful.

We are housing, clothing, feeding, and teaching about 600 orphans, employing about 450 women in sewing, etc., and treating many thousands of sick people in our hospitals and dispensaries. The cost of these various enterprises works out as follows: £2,660 on orphanages, £1,200 on soup kitchens, £1,700 on clothing, £470 on free distribution of rice, milk, oranges, and food rations, £1,750 on medical work, £1,550 on industrial work, £550 on special help for refugees, £1,000 on cash distributions through the Military Governor to various committees, £3,400 on automobiles, and £780 on miscellaneous expenses. Grand total spent by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund in Jerusalem to the end of May, 1918, £15,000.

As the war drags on the amount of misery increases, and along with it the need for help. The Syrians of Egypt, seeing that no help can be sent to their fellow countrymen beyond the occupied territory in Palestine, have lately turned their attention to the poor refugees in their midst, whose needs have been growing with the progressive rise in the prices of all necessaries of life. Over 400 families of such unfortunate refugees are now receiving help.

Anglo-Egyptian Recipients of Birthday Honours.

In this year's Birthday Honours Anglo-Egyptians have not been forgotten. Twelve of the higher officials who have rendered special services in connection with the war have received the O.B.E. (4th class), Sheikh Mohammed Mustafa El Marghani, Grand Kadi of the Sudan, being appointed an Honorary Officer. Special mention may be made of Mr. Robert Earle Monteith-Smith, Assistant Director-General of Public Security, and Chairman Executive Y.M.C.A., Egyptian Expeditionary Force, who has rendered signal service in ably and promptly solving the petroleum problem, which at one time assumed an alarming character. The system devised by him has proved such an unqualified success that its adoption is now being recommended for coping with other economic crises, with, of course, such modifications as the circumstances of each case require.

The Pilgrimage to Mecca.

In accordance with its traditions, the Government has this year afforded all facilities possible under existing conditions for the performance of this sacred duty, which is of primary importance to Moslems. Owing to the difficulty of transport, certain regulations had of necessity to be laid down for strict observance by intending pilgrims. The limited number provided for will have obtained the privilege in the order of precedence by application.

The Mahmal ceremony in Cairo will take place on August 31, and the procession will leave Suez on September 4. In view of the unusually high cost of transport, the following rates will be found to be very moderate:—£E20 per passenger, 1st class; £E15, 2nd class; £E10, 3rd class. These rates do not include the following charges:—Quarantine dues, £E1.60; sanitary dues at Jeddah, 190 milliemes; insurance of provisions, £E1½; passport fee, 125 milliemes—all of which apply equally to each class. Of course the pilgrim will have to pay his own railway fare to Suez and back, as well as that of food during the sea voyage. The Government will undertake to provide the necessary facilities for camel transport between Jeddah, and Mecca and Arafat, and will publish in due course the expenses relative thereto.

Protection of Nile Bridges.

In view of the prospect of an unusually high Nile and of the increasing call on labour for Army auxiliary work, the Government has this year been compelled to enact a law empowering the local authorities to requisition labour for the protection of Nile bridges. This may seem reminiscent of the Corvée, but it differs therefrom in two important points; first, the payment to the labourer of good wages; and secondly, the absence of any brutal treatment, the Kurbash in pre-Occupation days having been the almost invariable accompaniment of the Corvée. As many as 10,000 men have been called out for work on this public service. In one Irrigation Circle in Upper Egypt, where the dearth of labour does not seem to be so keenly felt, this extreme measure has not been applied, and the work has been given to contractors by tender.

TANGIER AND GREAT BRITAIN

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, July 26.

The Growth of Casablanca.

A few weeks ago a local French paper published a detailed study of the maritime questions affecting the French zone of Morocco, which pointed out how greatly the future of Casablanca port depended on the future of Tangier. The writer dwelt on the extraordinary advantages which Tangier's position, at the junction of the Mediterranean and Atlantic, gave her as a port of call and transhipment, and held that, if Tangier became French, the position would be taken full advantage of, but that in any other case a considerable part of Tangier's possible traffic would go to Casablanca.

It may be doubted whether all the hopes built on Casablanca port in the way of attracting passing traffic, of becoming in some measure the substitute for Las Palmas, will be fulfilled, but that it will justify the expense incurred on it is practically certain. Contrary to much expectation the harbour works, which have now arrived at a point more than half a mile from land, have not seriously suffered from the heavy seas which they have to face, and a very few years should see Casablanca with a great, secure, well-equipped harbour able to meet all modern requirements. The French Protectorate in Morocco will then have, with subsidiary ports, which are now in course of improvement, extremely good shipping facilities within easy reach of all its most fertile provinces. Tangier, even when linked up by railway, could scarcely be a serious rival in any but passenger traffic to Casablanca, and certainly cannot be said to be in any sense essential to the development of the French zone.

Sir Harry Johnston in an article published some months ago in the *Daily Chronicle*, and written in answer to a letter advocating the cession of Gibraltar to Spain, held that such a cession might perhaps be contemplated, if Tangier were given to Britain in its place. Such an exchange has long been a familiar theme of local discussion, and the idea has its supporters even among those who have very close ties with Gibraltar; though it is taken for granted that in such an event those whose interests in Gibraltar had to be sacrificed would not be allowed to suffer.

The Statue of Tangier.

The present political position of Tangier is not easy to define. A few years ago she was apparently within an ace of receiving definite status, with the powers, obligations and privileges of the Powers concerned carefully laid down. At the last moment the scheme proved unacceptable to one at least of the nations involved in it, and Tangier has continued under rather a vague form of government that certainly ought to be unworkable. Tangier is still part of the Sultan's country, still *makhzen*, but with the special position, recognised in international agreements, which, in effect, leaves much power of obstruction, though, perhaps, less of initiative to the Diplomatic Corps, consisting, of course, at present only of representatives of the Allied or neutral Powers. The actual municipal work is largely performed by a body originally formed out of subscribers to a fund for dealing with matters concerning the health of the town, but now, apart from the official representatives on it, nominally elected so as to ensure that each colony shall, more or less, be represented by a number equal to its importance.

It is not an ideal form of government, and it supplies plenty of anomalies which can easily be made food for ridicule; but bad as the system is, and great the advantage that is often taken of it, Tangier rubs along in many ways better than towns with a perfectly definite and logical form of government, and all the most modern apparatus of municipal life. The freedom enjoyed is almost unlimited, and it is not abused as much as might be expected. Many who arrive here from more regulation-ridden centres sigh with relief on arriving on a pier where there is not an official to be seen, no formality but the Customs, and, apparently—fortunately, only apparently—no supervision. Such freedom in war-time might be regretted, and must have its dangers, but, at any rate, they are less than those which the conditions of the surrounding country present. There are scarcely any town police, and those that there are can only act in a very limited sphere, but their absence is only occasionally regretted; there are sanitary attempts, in default of a sanitary system, but the general health is good; there are scarcely any taxes, but, except for the want of a good water supply, the absence of the things for which taxes are supposed to pay, is not very acutely felt. Altogether, if it were definitely settled that Tangier should remain international, and it were realised that no effort of any Power to emphasise its local importance could possibly affect Tangier's status, it would almost seem that Tangier might form the exception to the rule that condemns international government as sterile and unprogressive.

That Tangier is still to some extent, as Sir Harry Johnston says, Anglicised is certainly not due to any encouragement given by the British Government. Other governments have not spared money, effort, or thought to increase their national influence and interests in Tangier; ours, till recent years, has stood coldly aloof, and has not only failed to show any initiative in attempts to improve the country's position, but has been apt to discourage the initiative of individuals. Other countries lavishly supplied schools, not only for their own colonies, but to teach their own languages to colonies which had no schools of their own. There was once a British school which, though it had some financial help from the British representative, was never given the personal encouragement and care that would have made it flourish; and it ceased to exist. To-day, comparatively few out of a considerable and most loyal British colony can speak their country's language. No effort was made to hold the colony together, to celebrate national occasions, to encourage any feeling of patriotism. It was a colony to be controlled, but not encouraged. The chances given by the nearness of Gibraltar, which, in any other country's hands, would have been used to encourage national interests here, was left, officially, unimproved, and except for an occasional visit from officers coming to Tangier for pig-sticking, or parties of soldiers spending a few hours' leave, Tangier was allowed as few reminders as possible of Gibraltar's existence.

British Interests.

Despite all, British interests here are by no means dead, and could, with the smallest encouragement, make up all lost ground. The added beauty which trees and verdure have given Tangier is due almost entirely to British and American effort, which transformed the district known as the "Mountain" from a comparatively bare hill into tree-clad slopes that could scarcely be beaten for picturesqueness and varied beauty. The finest houses and grounds were made, and are still owned, by members of the British colony, to whom, and to the American colony, now, unfortunately, very small, it was due that the possibilities of Tangier as a residence for Europeans were discovered.

The British trade with Tangier, has, in face of the impetus which the establishment of a French Protectorate in the south of Morocco gave to that country's hopes and trade, lost its leading place; but it is still large and sound and deeply rooted, and could with very slight encouragement make up its lee-way. The tourist traffic, of an importance which must ever grow, has always been substantially British, and, a perhaps natural accompaniment, the majority of the chief hotels are British.

Of recent years there have been many signs of reviving British interests in Tangier; there have been some additions, the most considerable for many years, to the list of British commercial enterprises, official interest in the colony is much more sympathetic and lively, and the colony takes in the local life a far more energetic part than in the preceding years.

The scheme for giving Tangier a good enclosed port had made great progress before the war; the plans were ready, and there is little doubt that, if the war had not come, they would now be in hand. The war, must, of course, affect the whole scheme, but no one can doubt that through one agency or another Tangier will before long have the port which the position so thoroughly justifies. The Tangier-Fez railway has reached the stage of awarding some of the contracts for the work; and before many years Tangier will be linked by railway with Algeria, South Morocco, and eventually it may even be with South Africa and Cape Town. A few days ago a formal application was reported to have been made by a French company for a concession to make a tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar, starting, it is said, from Tarifa. One of the views taken by those in favour of such a scheme is that, the tunnel once made, the Moroccan railways could be extended southwards to reach, eventually, Dakar, which would become a great port for South America in railway connection with Europe.

The Tunnel Project.

Whether the scheme of a tunnel under the Straits is, within any reasonable time, practicable or not, the promotion of the scheme is at least one more indication of the great importance that is being attached to the possibilities of joining Africa much more closely than before to Europe at the point where the two most nearly approach each other. It is not in the least likely that Great Britain, however great her wish to remove all obstacles to close friendship with Spain, can contemplate losing all footing at a point so vital to her maritime interests as the Straits. Tangier and her zone would have certain great advantages which Gibraltar lacks; it is not in any way necessary to the full development of the French zone; indeed, its occupation by France would not be by any means universally popular in that zone. Spain will, before long, have in Ceuta a port of much greater possibilities than are generally appreciated. If Tangier is not to be international, and, in the general removal of all causes of friction which the after-war settlements are expected to achieve, Gibraltar is to be returned to Spain, it would be difficult to find an equivalent which would be more in keeping with the object of the settlement than the substitution of Tangier for Gibraltar.

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M&C

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Lahore and Islam.

The *Moslem World* for July contains several articles of strong interest. "Some Non-conforming Turks" gives some description of the Alevi Turks of Asia Minor, a little-known people that will repay study. Mr. Robert Williams, a well-known architect, writes instructively of "The Mosque of Ibn Tulun." A subject of which very little is known is dealt with in "Islam in French Indo-China," and Mr. Howard A. Walter contributes a paper on "Lahore as a Moslem Center," which contains several points that will set not a few readers thinking. For instance, many people are likely to be surprised by what Mr. Walter writes of Moslem missionary enterprise; and certain "hymns" by a Western Moslem writer, which are quoted are likely to be read with mixed feelings. Mr. Walter concludes his article as follows:—

> These are momentous days for Islam in India, on whom many problems are pressing—of whom many questions are demanding an answer. Is Pan-Islamism a wholly dead issue? Shall Islam in India join hands with its age-long rival, Hinduism, in a political programme which puts India before Islam, even as the Young Turks placed Turkey first and Islam second in their hearts? Is rationalism to win the day over against belief in Islam as a revealed religion, as the split in the Ahmadiya movement and the trend in the Working Mission in England might seem to indicate? Is Mohammed to be defended, or glorified, or offered to mankind as the practical leader whom this war-stained, matter-of-fact world needs? And just emerging over the horizon, suspected at present by only a few of the leaders, are the problems raised by the higher critical labours of scholars like Lammens and Caetani, in the West, which threaten seriously to undermine not now the moral character but the very historic personality, in any full and real sense, of the Prophet of Islam. The influence of the Moslems of Lahore in answering these urgent questions for Indian Islam generally is certain to be of increasing importance in the years to come.

India's Middle Classes.

The current *International Review of Missions* contains two interesting articles on Indian topics: "The Awakening among the Middle Classes of South India," by the Rev. H. A. Popley, and "Education and Script in India," by Dr. H. U. W. Stanton. In the former article the writer tells us that "the present political awakening in India has suddenly brought to the front the great middle classes, who constitute the bulk of the population in this country." Long called "the voiceless masses," they are to-day no longer voiceless; they have found their voice, and at the same time they have awakened to political self-consciousness. And we read: "The proximate cause of this awakening is the sudden realisation of the danger of an unfriendly oligarchy being thrust upon them, and of their silence being taken for consent." It seemed impossible that the middle classes could ever invite and follow with any consistency a definite leadership. But, says the writer, they are doing it to-day throughout South India:—

> Perhaps this sudden rising up of the middle classes in South India is one of the most remarkable events in the history of this much-divided peninsula. A year ago, to all outward seeming, they were sleeping still the profound sleep of ages, the merchant busied in money-getting, the cultivator in making the most of his land. To-day throughout the length of the peninsula from Vizagapatam to Cape Comorin, they are dramatically alive, organising conferences, establishing newspapers, and collecting funds for education and similar objects. To one who has watched them for years and who has long tried to come close to them, it seems almost a miracle. It is true that much of what is now coming to expression was there even in the days of seeming sleep. Many of them felt their terrible inferiority, many of them longed for a new India. But the great mass cared for none of these things. To-day, however, they care, and India is no longer a name, but a reality to many of them.
>
> In order to attend these conferences, simple villagers have travelled miles on foot and in train, and have understood for the first time that they had something to say as regards the government of the country. The day is fast disappearing when we shall find any considerable body of people in India who take no interest in the Government which rules them, and who are not sure whether the English have been succeeded by someone else.

We have not space to quote further from the article, but it will repay reading in the original.

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ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.
Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East and of Africa, and on Oriental and African Religions and Customs.
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Indian Reform Proposals.

Commenting on the reception accorded to the Montagu-Chelmsford Report by Parliament, *The Times* says: "The broad purpose of the Report and of the declared policy of the Government obtained almost unanimous sympathy and approval." There is much in the Report that still requires careful consideration, but it will be the task of Parliament to make its dry bones live and to set them in motion. Referring to the origin of the Report, *The Times* says:—

> The movement for a further enlargement of Indian liberties began, as Mr. Montagu rightly said, while Lord Hardinge was Viceroy, so far as official action was concerned. It was only the unforeseen circumstances of Mr. Austen Chamberlain's resignation of his post at the India Office which sent Mr. Montagu to India in his stead. The announcement of August 20 was a declaration of the deliberate and considered views of the War Cabinet. It was not merely an expression of Mr. Montagu's personal purpose, as is sometimes falsely alleged. In his capacity as Secretary of State for India he was acting as the mouthpiece of the British Government, though the declaration had his fullest support. We trust that there will be no further attempt to suggest that the great measures now foreshadowed sprang unbidden from the brain of Mr. Montagu, who, in conjunction with Lord Chelmsford, has discharged with great skill and tact the onerous mission entrusted to him by the Cabinet. It is nothing short of mischievous that the people of India should be told by implication that they owe this firm pledge of constitutional progress to an individual rather than to the whole Government.

In connection with the proposal that a Select Committee of the House of Commons should be appointed to report to the House on Indian affairs during the preceding year, *The Times* observes:—

> Such a step would restore the intimate interest of the House of Commons in Indian questions, which to a great extent was suffered to lapse when Crown rule replaced the control of the Company. At the same time we must point out that such a Committee can be successful only if it is thoroughly representative. It must not be allowed to fall into the hands of a little coterie claiming to possess special knowledge of India, which is often obsolete. Indian questions became anathema in the Commons when a few members, hardly any of whom had won great eminence in India, took possession of the House on Indian Budget nights and addressed dull harangues to empty benches. The Select Committee should be so constituted as to command the respect and confidence of the whole House.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS & REFUGEE FUND

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

DEAR SIR,—With reference to a cable which appeared in your issue of the 2nd inst. from Kasvin, saying "Great distress prevails" among the Armenian population in Transcaucasia, will you kindly inform your readers that a way has opened by which this fund can send money out for relief? We have to-day sent £500. Thousands of pounds are wanted for bread. I shall be thankful to receive contributions for the purpose. Cheques should be made payable to Mrs. Lydia Chambers, Hon. Treasurer, Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Holland Park."—I am, etc.,

EMILY J. ROBINSON (MISS),
Hon. Secretary.

35A, Elsham Road,
Kensington, London, W.14.
August 6, 1918.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

Mr. Alex. Devine recently wrote to the Earl of Plymouth, Hon. Treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, expostulating against the attitude of certain partisans of Serbia in this country who have associated themselves with attacks on Montenegro. Lord Plymouth replied as follows:—

> "54, Mount Street, London, W.1, July 31, 1918.
>
> "Dear Mr. Devine,—I can assure you that the Serbian Relief Fund has nothing whatever to do with any of these political intrigues, and I was unaware of their existence. We have appealed for money, and we distribute the funds committed to us for the sole object of relieving the distress of the suffering Serbian population, both in their own country and in exile.
>
> "You will find in me a strong supporter of the rights of Montenegro to be consulted as an independent State concerning the future settlement of the Balkan question. My idea of a Jugoslav Kingdom was in the direction of a voluntary association of the States of Slav origin to determine their own future, freed from Austrian and Turkish domination. I would never for a moment support any intrigue which had for its object the ultimate disposal of any independent State without its own consent freely and constitutionally given.—Yours very faithfully,
>
> "PLYMOUTH."

◆

On the occasion of the opening of the fifth year of the war, General Paraskevopoulos, commanding the Greek First Army Corps, has telegraphed to the British Commander-in-Chief in Macedonia a message of greeting, in which he expresses confidence in the victory of the Allies. The British Commander-in-Chief has replied warmly thanking him for his message.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

INDIA UNDER EXPERIMENT.[*]

The publisher's announcement informs us that the object of this book is to forecast as far as possible the changes contemplated in the Indian constitution, and to explain the dangers and difficulties which lie in the path. On such topics Mr. Chesney has every right to a respectful hearing, and if his forecast has not been very successful when judged in the light of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, his statement of dangers and difficulties is on the whole an excellent piece of work, and should be read along with the Report in question by students who realise the importance of a thoroughly competent *advocatus diaboli.* The book is, in effect, an incisive, and at times somewhat bitter, analysis of the varying elements comprised in that heterogeneous entity which is spoken of as India, and it brings out very clearly the difficulty, though not, to our mind, the impossibility, of harmonising them into a great and powerful nation. Its effectiveness is to some extent marred by two faults: the author's knowledge is not always up to date, and in a few cases he states as present facts things that have ceased to be facts during the last few years; while we think the argument is weakened by the bitterness with which Mr. Montagu is spoken of, a bitterness which almost suggests that the writer accepts the position of advocate which we have ventured to assign to him. Substantially, however, the picture is true, though the colours may be unnecessarily lurid, and though details might be altered here and there, and its effect is greatly enhanced by the skill with which it is drawn. Mr. Chesney does not profess to solve the problem of India's future, but he gives material assistance towards realising how the problem stands.

TALES OF THE SARAI.[†]

There cannot be the least doubt that, if the author's wish is gratified, and this book of poems, a second Calverley's, should "go to France," it will win him friends galore. The setting is Indian, but the reader does not require to have set foot east of Suez or even south of Dover to appreciate both the rhyming and the philosophy of our poet, for though he would call himself a rhymester, Mr. A. G. Shirreff belongs to a much higher category of bards. In the tales that give their name to the small book a happy device has been chosen to link together a bizarre collection of verses witty and wise, slight and profound. In the shorter pieces Mr. Shirreff lets his capacity for contortionist verse run riot in happiest vein. "Majora canamus," it is needless to point out, tells in the first person the exploits of the Major, who ends thus:—

> Else you might have seen (you miss a
> Treat) how Rowland Ward had vied with
> Nature in the look of disa-
> ppointment and the squint he died with.

It is only fair, however, to our poet to add the closing lines on the sonnet entitled "Frater Ave."

> Not such the life you did not shrink to leave
> Without a word of doubt or of regret
> At the great call, not such the death you braved,
> When with a laugh you leaped the parapet;
> Dear brother, by your faith may I be saved,
> Now you are dead, I dare not disbelieve.

THE HEART OF THINGS.[‡]

Probably this book will not appeal to a very large circle, but its appeal to those who value originality of thought and sound work will be strong. The story which gives its title to the book is at once the longest and the most important: it is strong enough to grip us even while its central figure repels us as much as he repelled most of the people who were brought into contact with him; and we read it with the same interest that we read some of Poe's best tales. The idea upon which it is built is a clever one, and its imaginative side is handled very deftly; but those who are acquainted with the region in which the scene is set—the lower Euphrates—will find a good many rather irritating inaccuracies. Such errors would matter not at all in bad work, but in work so good as Mr. Cornish's they jar. Nevertheless, as so few people do know that district, most readers will be able to enjoy the story—and its companions—heartily. We can only regret that the author, who was killed in action in 1916, will not be able to give us more of his honest and sound work.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE WAR.[*]

The first essential for an English reviewer of M. Lebon's book is to acknowledge his appreciation of the part we have played in the war, and his generous recognition, on behalf of France, that we have suffered severe economic losses, not merely in man-power but in ships and trade. The replacement of those losses is, as he states, a serious problem for the future, but we have confidence that we shall tackle them successfully. His whole chapter on the economic life of Great Britain after the war is a careful examination of the position in which this country will be; it is not, however, quite up to date, since it puts the excess profits tax at 60 instead of 80 per cent., and it does not recognise—what is at last beginning to be recognised here—that the tax will survive the war some years. M. Lebon states in his survey of France and French industry that France realises as well as we do that she was lacking in certain industries before the war, and that she has already begun to create those industries during the last four years. That must be put to the credit side of the war, and it is one of those indications which make one firm in the belief that France, like ourselves, will emerge really stronger, because more self-reliant, from the war than she was before.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Macedonian Musings." By V. J. Seligman. (Allen and Unwin, Limited. 5s. net.)

"War Pensions and Allowances." By J. M. Hogge, M.P., and T. H. Garside. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"War and Revolution in Asiatic Russia." By M. Philips Price. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Girl from Kurdistan." By Jessie D. Kerruish. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"The Prussian Lash in Africa." By "Africanus." (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. 6d. net.)

COURAGEOUS SERBIA.

Mr. Lloyd George has sent the following telegram, dated August 5, to M. Pashitch, Serbian Prime Minister:—

"My warmest thanks for your telegram. Greetings from Serbia are especially welcome, because, in this great struggle for human freedom, no country has shown greater steadfastness and courage than Serbia. You are certainly right in believing that the day now fast approaches when the attempts of autocratic power to withstand the advance of democracy and to impose on the free peoples of Europe a militarist *Kultur* will have definitely failed. The Allied successes in Italy and on the Marne, the splendid stand of the Czecho-Slovaks in Russia and Siberia, and the matchless endurance of our own people, all point to final victory for our cause, and to the early liberation of your country and your compatriots from an alien yoke. Stand firm through these last days and your reward will be sure."

BRITISH COURTESY.

An indirect but striking testimony to the courtesy of the British military authorities in Palestine is paid by a correspondent of the *Pester Lloyd* of June 30 in an article describing a department of the Berne International Peace Bureau, which is a kind of clearing house for inquiries as to missing relatives and friends from all parts of the world. A not unimportant part of the correspondence relates to Palestine, and it is remarkable what trouble the British military authorities take to satisfy inquirers. Thus an inquiry having come from London with regard to a family in Tel Aviv, application was made to Alexandria, and an answer came from the English Military Governor giving the fullest details:—"The whole family is well, one daughter is teaching in Jerusalem, while the father works on the Jewish relief committee." A telegram from Berlin asks if Mr. and Mrs. N. Cohn are still alive. After a few days comes the answer, "Both Cohns well," signed by the Military Governor. A request will often come to the Bureau to find someone in Jerusalem to say "Kaddish" for persons who have died without children, and the British authorities, as usual, lend every assistance.

The committee of the Serbian Relief Fund appeals to the Sunday-schools of Great Britain to further its work by a special Sunday for Serbia on September 1, to interest British children in Serbian child refugees. A Children's Roll of Sympathy will be presented to the King of Serbia, containing the name of every Sunday-school, department, or class contributing £1 or over to Serbian relief. Certificates recording the gift will be awarded. Leaflets have been prepared telling the story of Serbia in such a way as to appeal to boys and girls. These may be obtained from the Secretary, Children's Branch, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

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[*] "India under Experiment." By G. M. Chesney. (London: John Murray, 5s. net.)

[†] "Tales of the Sarai." By A. G. Shirreff. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 2s. 6d. net.)

[‡] "Beneath the Surface" and Other Stories. By Gerald Warre Cornish. Grant Richards. 6s. net.)

[*] "Problèmes Economiques nés de la Guerre." Par M. André Lébon Payot et Cie, Paris. 4f. 50c.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. August	1918. July		1336. Julkada	5678. Elul.
9	27	Friday	2	1
10	28	Saturday........	3	2
11	29	Sunday	4	3
12	30	Monday	5	4
13	31	Tuesday	6	5
14	August 1	Wednesday	7	6
15	2	Thursday	8	7

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, has been visiting the Greek Army in Macedonia.

M. Michael B. Boeresco, Counsellor of the Roumanian Legation in London, is on a visit to Paris.

The King has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of Mr. Alex. Devine's book on " Montenegro : in History, Politics, and War."

M. Milan Gavrilovitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has left London for Athens, where he will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, arrived from Rome on Saturday at Eze, near Nice, where he will stay for some time with his family.

Professor Richard Norton, who was Director of the American Expedition to Cyrene, North Africa, in 1910, died in Paris on August 2 from meningitis.

The King has granted authority to Mr. C. D. Rawlins, lately British Consul at Canea, to wear the decoration of an Officer of the Greek Order of the Redeemer.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation and chief of the Roumanian Government Committee, left London for West Drayton last week.

The Paris newspapers state that General Iliesco, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Roumanian Armies, will take command, at the French front, of a Transylvanian Legion.

It is now announced that the Metropolitan of Athens and the members of the Mission under his presidency are proceeding to America direct from France, and will visit London on their return journey to Greece in the course of the coming autumn.

A marriage has been arranged between Arthur Ferguson MacCallan, M.D., Director of the Ophthalmic Hospitals, Egypt (Major, R.A.M.C.), and Hester Macneil, youngest daughter of Bishop Boyd Carpenter. The marriage will take place in Cairo early in September.

At a luncheon given on Saturday in honour of King Alexander's birthday, M. Venizelos presented the King with the Military Medal for the coolness shown by his Majesty during his recent visit to the front when bombs were dropped near his motor-car by an enemy aeroplane.

An engagement is announced between Gerard Linton, late 31st Punjabis, younger son of General Sir Henry B. B. Watkis, K.C.B., and Lady Watkis, of Farnborough, Hants, and Marjory Eveline Noel, third daughter of Captain W. W. Gascoyne and Mrs. Gascoyne, of Court Lodge, Westwell, Ashford, Kent.

M. Take Jonescu, who saw Mr. Balfour on Tuesday, brings his brief visit to London to a close this week. He returns to France, where he will probably have an opportunity of seeing M. Pashitch. A meeting later with M. Venizelos should help to prepare the ground for a joint understanding between Greece, Serbia, and Roumania on the subject of a Balkan settlement.

The King has granted permission to the Hon. Mrs. Alice Erin Massey to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services under the Serbian Relief Fund; and to Miss Kate Cary to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the same Order, conferred in recognition of her services at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Salonika.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in India on the 11th September, between Captain Frederick Chalmers Bourne, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, eldest son of Sir Frederick Bourne, C.M.G., and Lady Bourne, of Mayfield, Sussex, and Heather Frances, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Burbury, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, attached to The Rifle Brigade, and Mrs. Burbury, Sialkot, Punjab, formerly of Keresforth, Barnsley.

The King was represented by Major C. F. Romer at the funeral on Saturday at Charlton Cemetery of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Geary, K.C.B., R.A. The funeral was with military honours, and the service was conducted by Bishop Leeke, late Bishop of Woolwich. A number of officers and men from the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Artillery, Woolwich, attended.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Cyril Noel Wilson, The Buffs, only son of Mr. Cyril Wilson, of 3, Morpeth Terrace, London, and Noël Rosemary, second daughter of Colonel Crole Wyndham, C.B., late E. of I. Lancers, and Mrs. Crole Wyndham, of 51, Augusta Gardens, Folkestone, and granddaughter of the late Sir George Barker, K.C.B.

An engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, leave permitting, between Major Rawdon J. Macnabb, Indian Cavalry and Indian Political Service, third son of the late James William Macnabb, of Arthurtone, Bracknell, Berks, and W. G. M. (Clova) Railston, only daughter of Colonel H. E. and Mrs. Railston, of 23, Queen's Gate, S.W., late of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

The Mansion House Fund for the relief of sufferers by the Salonika fire raised £12,500.

M. Chubinski, Ukranian Minister of Justice, is to be succeeded by M. Romanoff, who has hitherto been his assistant.

Captain Gordon Bell, who was killed while flying in France, on July 29, was the first airman to fly over Constantinople and across the Dardanelles into Asia Minor.

Colonel William McWatters, R.A.M.C. (retired), of Alverstoke, Hants, who served in the Afghan War, 1878-80, and the Hazara Expedition, 1891, left property valued at £4,145.

In accordance with General Mackensen's advice, the German Government has decided to drop the case brought against M. Bratiano, the ex-Prime Minister of Roumania, by the Government, as an acquittal was practically certain.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Eugenius Alfred Roche died at Brighton on August 1, at the age of sixty-four. He received his first commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1877, and retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel after thirty years' service. He took part in the Afghan War of 1878-80, and received the medal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Archer Clive, Grenadier Guards, of Whitfield, Allensmore, Hereford, and Chester Street, S.W., twice M.P. for South Herefordshire, and at one time Parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary for India, who was killed in action on April 5, has left estate of the value of £264,724, with net personalty £47,401.

Rear-Admiral George Robert Lindley, C.B., died on August 1, at Temple Ewell, Dover, aged sixty-eight. He served on H.M.S. Achilles during the Egyptian War, and was awarded the Medal and the Khedive's Star. In 1893 he commanded a Naval Brigade in Witu territory, East Africa, for which he received the C.B., and the South African medal with clasp.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Geary, K.C.B., died at Camberley on August 1, aged eighty-one. On leaving the Royal Military Academy he obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery at the age of eighteen, and in the same year joined the siege train at Sebastopol, and was present in the trenches at the bombardments on June 6 and 7 and August 17, 1855. He witnessed the fall of the fortress, and received the medal with clasp, the Order of the Medjidieh, and the Turkish medal. In the latter part of the Indian Mutiny he was present during field operations in the Judgespore district, and served with the Gorruckpore Field Force. Having attained the rank of captain in 1862, he was later selected as brigade-major to the artillery that embarked with Lord Napier of Magdala for Abyssinia. He landed at Zula on January 1, 1868, and was present at the capture of Magdala and the action of Arogee; for his services he was mentioned in despatches, promoted major by brevet, and received the medal.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Durazzo was bombed again on August 3.

Hunger riots are reported at Simferopol in the Crimea.

Wheat in Roumania is a failure as a crop, and maize is only medium.

Since July 5 the *Palestine News* has commenced to add to its Hebrew edition a literary supplement, under the direction of S. Ben Zion Gutmann, of Jerusalem.

Additional gratuities and war bonuses, ranging from 12 rupees to 60 rupees for every six months' service, are sanctioned during the war to Indians of all ranks in the Army.

Last week the Reporter read in the Roumanian Senate the report of the Parliamentary Commission on the inquiry into the conduct of the members of the Bratiano Cabinet.

By 94 votes to 9, the Roumanian Chamber has passed a Bill to compel workmen to work on the railways. A Bill temporarily suspending the inviolability of administrative officials was passed by 84 votes to 2.

Five Greek shipowners have been fined from £50,000 to £110,000 each, and ordered to pay indemnities of a similar amount for having sold steamers to foreigners in contravention of the law forbidding such sales.

In the House of Lords, on August 2, Lord Curzon said that Sir Ernest Cassel, by his generosity and public spirit, had largely contributed to the regeneration of Egypt during the last fifteen or twenty years.

By 84 votes to 13 the Roumanian Chamber has passed the Bill giving—as agreed by the peace treaty of Bucharest—civil rights to the Jews who fought in the campaigns of 1913-1916. The Senate had already passed the Bill.

M. Michalakopoulos, Greek Minister of Agriculture, who has returned to Athens from abroad, expresses much gratification at the settlement of various Greek questions attained through the British Government's good will.

General Ismail Hakki Pasha, Chief of the General Commissariat of the Turkish army, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for War. He is succeeded as Chief of the Commissariat by Colonel Mustapha Nuri.

In the name of the Indian Army, the Commander-in-Chief in India has telegraphed a war anniversary message to Sir D. Haig, who has replied:—"All ranks join with me in sending grateful thanks, and voice your confidence in final victory."

General Garioni has succeeded General Ameglio as Governor-General of Libya. General Garioni went out with the first expeditionary force and was Governor of Tripolitania in 1913-14, when the Italians penetrated to Fezzan and Ghat.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—A Constantinople telegram states that, of 7,500 French and British civilian prisoners in Turkey, only 568 French and 666 British have asked to be sent home. This is adduced as a proof of the good treatment of enemy subjects in Turkey.

Subject to certain restrictions, letters, postcards, parcels (up to eleven pounds), and money orders may be sent free of all postal charges to prisoners of war interned abroad. Full details as to regulations and limitations will be found in a circular just issued by the General Post Office to postmasters.

Under date August 11, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—The Essen *Allgemeine Zeitung* states that a Coalition Cabinet has been formed in the Crimea, whose aim will be the development of closer relations with the German military authorities. The new Cabinet includes members of German origin.

The *Egyptian Mail* announces that it is proposed to form a historical society in Cairo to occupy itself exclusively with the history of Egypt. Among those who have already joined this society are Mahmud Fahmv Pasha and Ahmed Lutfi El-Sayid Bey. It is one of the conditions of admission that members should be Egyptians.

The Secretary of State for India announces that certain improvements have recently been made in the pay and prospects of the Royal Indian Marine, and also in the grades and designations of officers. Further particulars and forms of application for appointment may be obtained from the Secretary, Military Department, India Office, S.W.1.

The *Palestine News* of July 5, states that the idea of forming a Jewish battalion to join the British force in Palestine is being eagerly taken up among the Jews there. A large number have already volunteered, and a still larger number will follow. They are inspired with the thought of fighting in the regions of Samaria and Galilee, which have been made historic by the exploits of Bar Cochba and his followers.

The Copenhagen Zionist Bureau reports that during the past year there has been a great revival of Jewish nationalist feeling among the Jewish population of Persia, which numbers a hundred thousand souls, and has suffered severely from the war. A large group of young Jews in Teheran has resolved to found a Zionist organisation in Persia, with the central committee in Teheran, and branches in other communities.

Reuter reports that at Salonika on Sunday, July 7, a cinematograph film showing General Sir Edmund Allenby's official entry into Jerusalem and his reception by the heads of the religious communities was projected for the second time at the local cinema and attracted a large audience, the hall being packed to its utmost capacity. The Jewish inhabitants largely preponderated, and cheered the different views with the greatest enthusiasm. A description of each picture was given in Hebrew and Greek, and every Hebrew inscription was greeted with an outburst of loud and prolonged cheering on the part of the Jews present. The Greeks also manifested their appreciation of the display, especially cheering the pictures showing detachments of the Allied troops proceeding to take up their respective positions for the ceremony.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1918.

A BALKAN CONFERENCE.

The timely ventilation of Greek misgivings on the subject of "Bulgarophils in England" serves as a warning against further delay on the part of the Allied Governments to come to an understanding among themselves with regard to the future settlement of South-Eastern Europe. According to a message to *The Times*, exception is taken to "persistent attempts of certain political circles in England which are advocating the purchasing of Bulgaria at the expense of Serbia," and in general the fear is expressed that the Allies may be willing to make terms with the Bulgarians that might not be endorsed by the Serbians and the Greeks. The reference is not clear, but in so far as it is a protest against any attempt to introduce a one-sided settlement in the Balkans it will be supported by all those who have the welfare of the Peninsula at heart. For too long the interests of the different countries have been regarded as irreconcilable, and each State in turn, knowing the fate that would be in store for it, if either of its neighbours dictated the terms of a settlement, has desired to see its own policy prevail. One effect of the war must be to put an end to this condition of affairs, and no words can be too harsh for those among non-Balkan peoples who have caused a separatist interpretation to attach to the terms Philhellene, Serbophil, and Bulgarophil, and have encouraged or connived at the unfortunate antagonisms of the three countries. It is clear that no statesman worthy of the name belonging to one of the Entente Powers would propose a Balkan settlement which, while satisfying Bulgaria, would leave responsible people in Greece or Serbia with a sense of grievance. But, unfortunately, there are apparently a large number of enthusiasts who are anxious to see perpetuated the state of things existing as a result of the Second Balkan War. The Treaty of Bucharest, 1913, was the typically Balkan solution of the Balkan problem. Bulgaria had been very properly chastised in a war that she had precipitated, and her enemies proceeded to act upon the principle of "*Vae victis.*" The result was Bulgaria's action in the European War, and, in passing, let it be said that the Entente Powers cannot divest themselves of responsibility for the Treaty of Bucharest. If we understood aright the attitude of those who champion the cause of mutual hatred among the Balkan peoples, they have nothing to suggest for the settlement after this war that is in any way an improvement on the principle upon which Roumania, Greece, and Serbia acted in 1913. Needless to say, the Bucharest policy is one to which no true friend of the Balkans will subscribe to-day.

There is a tendency to confuse the issue in the Balkans by calling the Bulgarians the Germans of the Peninsula, and by classing those who hold non-partisan views regarding the future with pacifists, who would make terms with Germany before she has acknowledged defeat. That the analogy does not hold good is proved by the fact that if, as might well have happened, Bulgaria had joined the side of the Allies in this war, the terms of the Treaty of 1913 would have been subjected to revision as a matter of course. Why? Because those terms represented, and were meant to represent, not an equitable solution of the Balkan problem, but the most drastic punishment that could be enforced at the time for Bulgaria's wrong-doing. Moreover, they would have been revised with the cordial approval of Serbia and Greece. It so happens, however, that Bulgaria, instead of making amends for her offence of 1913, has aggravated it by further and worse wrong-doing. What is to be the attitude of the Allies? Again, one of unreasoning vindictiveness, or is there to be a conscientious effort to inquire into the Balkan question, to understand it, and to evolve a lasting settlement? There can be no doubt as to which action will be in keeping with the spirit of justice and enlightenment that is actuating the Allied nations in the present struggle. Germany entered the war with no grievance, and the League of Nations will not be called upon to accord her fair-play that had previously been denied her. Yet it is certain that, if the principle of the Treaty of 1913 be repeated in the case of Bulgaria at the end of the war, the Bulgarians would have a case to submit to the League. Four weeks ago, in these columns, we suggested that it was never predicated of the League that it should perpetuate injustice, and enforce grudging acquiescence by a tyrannous use of power. The same point was elaborated by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons last week. "A League of Nations," Mr. Balfour said, "broadly speaking, is designed to maintain the territorial *status quo*. If the territorial *status quo* is inherently unjust, if it is of a kind which cannot conduce to stable relations and peace, no machinery which you can devise will be strong enough to coerce or compress the forces with which mankind will have to deal. You must do your best to see that the world as reconstituted after the war is a world in which the territorial *status quo* is a tolerable and possible state of things."

If this view be sound, the Allies must abandon the Treaty of Bucharest principle in formulating their solution of the Balkan question. This contention, however, does not imply that they must rush to the opposite extreme and meet Bulgarian views to the exclusion of Roumanian, Greek, and Serbian. What is required is that the three last-named Governments should be invited to review in conference, under the ægis of Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States, the Balkan situation, with a view to arriving at a definite solution to be carried into effect at the end of the war. The aim will be to arrive at "a tolerable and possible state of things," in accordance, as Mr. Balfour added, "with the principles of public morality and general enlightenment," which it will be possible for a League of Nations to stabilise. Such a conference, if it is to carry out its task thoroughly, must be protracted, and for this reason no time should be lost in summoning it. We are of opinion that, under satisfactory guidance—the Treaty of Bucharest proves that the unaided instinct of the Balkan States would be at fault—the conference could evolve a satisfactory settlement which could be embodied in the final terms of peace. It is not suggested that such a settlement would incorporate the views of Greek, Serbian, or Bulgarian extremists. Rather would it be the considered judgment of a court of appeal that had to decide between conflicting claims and to formulate a solution which would serve the true interests of the Balkans as a whole. But the exchange of views would enable all the parties concerned to follow the line of reasoning that determined the verdict, and we refuse to believe that, even where disappointment was felt, there would be found any real sense of grievance. Until such a course is adopted, there may well be misgivings among Greeks and Serbians, and opinions, equally erroneous, regarding the Allies' intentions, will probably be entertained in Bulgaria. A policy calculated to remove possible sources of friction among the Allies, and one that may exercise an important influence on the duration of the war, by detaching the Bulgarians from the Central Alliance, is surely worthy of being adopted.

KAZAN (AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIA).

The occupation of Kazan by the Czecho-Slovaks, which was announced some days ago, and, in the absence of contradictory reports, may now be considered secure, marks an important stage in the reconstruction of Russia. In the first place, it has a strategical import, for whoever holds Kazan commands the whole course of the Volga below it to its delta in the Caspian Sea. Even if we confine our expectations within the most moderate limits, as it is still wise to do, the control of this great river line should at least give the Czecho-Slovak forces, and the new political organisations which are springing up in Siberia behind them, a strong bulwark against a possible Bolshevik counter-offensive or some sudden move on the part of the Austro-German force cantonned in the territories ceded at the peace of Brest-Litovsk. But if the Czecho-Slovak movement is still gathering momentum—and the signs all point that way—then the Volga will serve it not merely as a defence of what is already won but as a high road to further successes.

The Volga—at any rate, during the ice-free months—has always been the central artery of communications in European Russia; and since the Revolution its importance has been increased by the falling-off of the railway traffic, especially on the two chief north-and-south lines—Moscow-Rostoff-Baku and Moscow-Orenburg-Tashkend—which have virtually broken down. The Bolsheviks of Moscow, Baku, and Tashkend are dependent for communication with one another upon the steamer service on the Volga and the Caspian Sea, and this is the sole route still open for the barter of commodities, to which the commerce of these regions of Russia has been reduced. Moscow is sending its manufactures down the Volga to elicit return freights of Caucasian oil and Turkestan cotton; while the starving provinces of Central Asia are looking (though in vain) to the Volga and Caspian for shipments of wheat. The control of the Volga places this traffic at the Czecho-Slovaks' mercy, and it also opens to them a military route for co-operation with those elements in the Caucasus and on the Don which have neither recognised the Bolsheviks nor accepted the hegemony of Germany.

In other words, the occupation of Kazan opens up the first, though still distant, prospect of a restored eastern front, and its importance will not come as a surprise to anyone who knows its history as a city.

Kazan is situated at a commanding point in the Volga basin, both for strategy and trade. Just below it the Volga is joined by its great north-eastern tributary, the Kama—itself a navigable river with tributaries of its own, which lead, by easy portages, eastward to Siberia or northward to Archangel. And a few miles below this, again, the Volga system passes out of the forest zone of Northern Russia into the rich "black earth" belt, which is the northern fringe of the steppe.

The Volga is to Central Russia what the Dnieper is to the Ukraine, and historically Kazan on the Volga and Kieff on the Dnieper have played almost identical parts.

Both cities have stood on the frontiers of forest and steppe, and have been outposts, by turns, of the one and the other. And each has drawn its religion and civilisation, like its merchandise, up its river from the ancient centres of human culture in the south. Kieff drew upon Constantinople, Kazan upon the Persian provinces on the south coast of the Caspian Sea, and ultimately, through Persia, on Baghdad. Kieff was converted to Orthodox or "Greek" Christianity towards the year 1,000 A.D., Kazan to Mohammedanism about a generation earlier, soon after the year 950.

Kazan has thus been a Moslem centre for nearly a thousand years, but it has always been a Moslem island in a sea of Pagan, and latterly of Christian, populations; and since the Russian conquest in the middle of the sixteenth century, it has been incorporated in a Christian State. The Kazan Moslems were treated more tolerantly by Russia than most Moslems conquered by Christian governments at that date. The Moors in Spain, for instance, were compelled to become Christians or to leave the country; but the Kazan Tartars were never presented with this alternative. They were allowed to continue in their homes as Moslems, and profited by the commercial opportunities which their city, with its magnificent geographical position, saw opened to it by the extension of the Russian Empire towards the south and east. They took kindly to the Russian connection, and became a prosperous "bourgeois" element in Russian society. No Moslem community exists to-day which has been longer than they under European government, and they are particularly adapted to be a connecting link between the two civilisations.

After the Revolution, the Kazan Moslems led a movement for the cultural autonomy of all Moslems in Russia as integral members of the Russian Empire. The tolerance they had received, though remarkable for the sixteenth century, had not advanced with the times, and like most of the non-Russian elements in the State, they had a just claim to much greater freedom of self-development. On the other hand, as a minority in their own territory, they very reasonably feared the consequences of a break-up of Russia into independent territorial entities. Unfortunately, the growth of disorder in Russia prevented their essentially moderate policy from prevailing against the extreme programme of those who wished altogether to sever their connection with a State whose future seemed so uncertain. And the Bolsheviks, who in December made a high bid for the Moslems' support, came more and more into collision with them as their own position grew more precarious. Last May a Moslem National Assembly sitting at Kazan was dispersed, and there were collisions between the Moslem population and the Soviet troops. During the same month the All-Russian Moslem Council at Petrograd was forcibly dissolved. And after this there is nothing surprising in a report that delegates of the Kazan Moslems are on their way to Berlin.

But for the Kazan Moslems, as for other liberal elements in Russia, the situation is transformed by the Czecho-Slovak advance. Instead of having to seek refuge from violent repression in extreme courses, such as sovereign independence or appeals for German aid, they have now more chance than at any previous moment since the Revolution of obtaining what they want by moderate means.

Their original policy was essentially reasonable, and in accordance with the true interests of Russia as a whole. It is to be hoped that they will now return to it, and that other Russian Moslems will follow their lead.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting of this Society was held on July 31 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. Sidney G. Hough being in the chair. The following new members were elected :—Alexander, Robert, Slateford, Midlothian; Armstrong, Forster, Beacon Grange, Hexham, Northumberland; Baird-Carter, A., 70, Jermyn Street, S.W.; Carson, Joseph, Pine Lodge, Theydon Bois, Essex; Clarke, Capt. T. A., Farran House, Farran, Co. Cork; Deane-Drummond, H. D., The Boyce Court, Dymock, Glos.; Edmonds, Capt. L., Cholderton Lodge, Cholderton, Salisbury; Fox, R. B. Carlton, Burythorp House, Malton, Yorks; Herbert-Armstrong, Brig.-Gen., 51, Eaton Place, S.W.; Horsburgh, Lieut. H. A., R.N., Stone House, Cullercoats, Northumberland; Lusty, William J., Salway House, Woodford, Essex; McCarthy, J., Drishame Castle, Mill Street, Co. Cork; Middleton, the Lord, Birdsall House, Malton, Yorks; Mucklow, Edward, Wood Hill, Bury, Lancs; Neilson, Capt. H. Stout, Althea House, Darien, Conn., U.S.A.; Scrimgeour, Miss E., Woodhouse, Midhurst; Sharp, Mrs. M. M., Stamfield House, Bourne, Lincs; Timmis, Major Reginald G., D.S.O., Royal Canadian Dragoons, B.E.F., France; Webb-Ware, W., 46, Burton Court, Chelsea, S.W.

The Council deplored the loss of one of their members of Council, Mr. Henry C. Stephens, of Cholderton Lodge, Salisbury, whose death occurred since the last meeting; and passed a vote of condolence and sympathy with his relatives. In the death of Mr. Stephens it was felt that the Society had lost a generous and enthusiastic supporter.

A satisfactory letter from the War Office was read with regard to Arab horses and mares in Mesopotamia and Palestine.

The Council examined and accepted the large number of entries received to date for the Arab Horse Stud Book and the Arab-bred Register, entry forms for which can be obtained from the Secretary, Rev. D. B. Montefiore, Islip, Oxon. The Council then adjourned to their next meeting on Wednesday, October 9 next, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Austrian and Turkish Prisoners. Aug. 1.

Lord Newton, replying to Lord Harris, said that the Austrian Government had approached us with a view to the exchange of civilian prisoners, of whom we held many more than they did. We replied that we were prepared to exchange the civilians on a head to head basis; but that as regards the surplus we were not prepared to enter into any negotiations with them until the Turkish Government had carried out their agreement with us with regard to British prisoners in their hands. In other words, we proposed to utilise the Austrian Government for the purpose of putting pressure upon their allies for the benefit of our prisoners in the hands of the Turkish Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

German Prisoners in Egypt. July 30.

Colonel Yate asked the Under-Secretary of State for war for what reason the military European German subjects taken prisoners of war during the operations in German East Africa had not been removed to India for internment in the same manner as the German residents in British East Africa were removed; how many of these Germans were now in German East Africa, and what was going to be done with them?

Mr. Macpherson: German combatant prisoners of war are transferred to Egypt for internment as opportunity offers. According to the latest information on the subject received in the War Office, there were fifty-two German combatant prisoners of war in German East Africa, and presumably these were awaiting transfer to Egypt.

Leave from Mesopotamia. Aug. 1.

Sir C. Hobhouse asked whether, in one of the British divisions in Mesopotamia, the total number of officers given leave this year was only five, and whether many of the officers had not been home on leave for four years.

Mr. Macpherson, Under-Secretary for War: I have no definite information as to the accuracy of these statements. Leave for troops serving in the East is dependent on transport facilities, and the accommodation available is unfortunately very limited. I hope in the near future it may be possible to increase considerably the number of troops granted leave from Mesopotamia and other theatres of war in the East.

Sir C. Hobhouse: Will the hon. member make inquiries and endeavour immediately to secure leave for these officers who have had none for four years?

Mr. Macpherson: Nobody is more anxious to give leave to the officers and men than the general officers commanding-in-chief. I have been in communication with general officers commanding in the East, particularly in Salonika, and the last telegram received expressed the wish that I should do something on this side to provide transport, and we are now negotiating with the Shipping Controller and the Admiralty and the other Departments concerned.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. Albion Richardson raised the question of the condition of British prisoners in Turkish hands, and urged the necessity of taking immediate steps to alleviate it. More than half of the men captured by the Turks as prisoners of war had perished, and the mortality was due to the want of proper food and clothing. If it was a question of money, the food and clothing of these prisoners was a burden which the State ought to bear.

Mr. J. F. Hope, Lord of the Treasury, thought that the hon. member had perhaps exaggerated the mortality among the prisoners, but it was serious enough. The latest figures received showed a more or less steady decrease in the mortality. He agreed that no effort should be spared to get the prisoners out of captivity as quickly as possible, and to alleviate their sufferings while they remained in captivity. As far as he knew, no step which could have been taken to secure the carrying out of the Berne Agreement had not been taken. It was not very hopeful to suggest the extension of the agreement with the Turkish Government when so little progress had been made in carrying out the existing agreement, but there would be no difficulty, he thought, on our side in extending it. The thing to do now was to concentrate on supplying the British prisoners with food and clothing. One difficulty had been removed. The Austrian authorities had stopped the parcel post through Central Europe for a considerable time, but now they had removed the prohibition and agreed to sealed railway trucks being sent through from Switzerland, and this would prevent pilfering. But it was one thing to send parcels through Central Europe and quite another to get them delivered at the prisoners' camps. What had now to be done was to devise an organisation which would see the parcels through all the way from Switzerland and then from Constantinople across to Asia, and from the landing places to the camps. That was no easy matter, but it was being most energetically taken in hand. Individuals could not send clothing to Turkey in the ordinary way, because there was every probability that if it were so sent it would fall into enemy hands, and never reach its destination. Arrangements were now being made for sending a double supply of clothing. His Department was taking every possible step to ensure that our prisoners would not have to face next winter without a proper supply of clothing or a proper supply of food. The Dutch Minister at Constantinople was entrusted with the adoption of all possible measures of relief.

India and the War. Aug. 2.

Mr. R. MacDonald gave notice that on the motion to go into Committee on the Indian Budget he would move: "That this House welcomes the report on Indian constitutional reform, and asks for further opportunities for discussion at the earliest possible moment."

Mr. C. Roberts gave notice that on the same occasion he would call attention to the services of India in the war and move a resolution.

Prisoners in Turkey. August 7.

Lord Cavendish-Bentinck drew attention to the deplorable condition of British and Indian prisoners in Turkey. The position of the officers in regard to allowances was deplorable, having regard to the rate of money exchange, and he asked whether the Government were not prepared to make a more generous money allowance to these officers. With regard to the men, they lived in a state of semi-starvation. He wished to know what steps the Prisoners of War Department were taking to ensure that these men got food and clothing.

Mr. J. F. Hope, Lord of the Treasury, in reply, said that the Prisoners of War Department had already formulated definite proposals for exchange of prisoners with Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria, and those proposals were now before the other Departments at home, and there would be no delay in dealing with them. The agreement with Turkey was on paper most satisfactory, and the machinery had been thoroughly thought out. The real difficulty in carrying out the Berne Agreement was of a different kind, whether owing to sinister influence, apathy, or some other cause. This made him a little doubtful as to the success of any wider proposals; but that was no reason why they should not be made. As far as the Prisoners of War Department was concerned, they had already been made. It was a mistake to suppose that experts in Turkish matters had not been employed at Berne. Two gentlemen who knew Constantinople thoroughly took an active part in the negotiations, and the agreement, good as it was on paper, was largely due to their knowledge and energy. Arrangements were being made to send complete clothing and blankets to our prisoners, and steps were being taken to ensure practically that there should be no delay. With regard to getting supplies which reached Turkey up inland, we must depend on the good offices of the Dutch Minister. A new arrangement had been devised to meet the wants of our prisoners in Turkey in the matter of money. The condition of our prisoners was undoubtedly deplorable in the last degree, at any rate in the case of the rank and file. There had, however, been a great improvement in the mortality.

Indian Reform.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report was debated in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday. Pressure on our space forbids our giving any report of the speeches, but the subject is dealt with in Notes of the Week.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

While much has been done with regard to the trade relations between the United Kingdom and Serbia and Roumania after the war, comparatively little attention has so far been paid to commercial intercourse between this country and Greece. This will shortly be rectified, as I learn that a Greek Industrial Mission, consisting of a number of leaders of Greek industrial enterprise, is coming to this country at the invitation of the Federation of British Industries, to undertake a tour much on the lines of that of the recent Serbian Industrial Mission. I may add that the scheme has the full approval of the Department of Overseas Trade, and is cordially supported and approved by M. Venizelos.

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I understand that the mission will arrive in London on September 15, and will then visit the chief industrial centres, going over in every place a certain number of large works. Among the manufactures which they will see are electric cables, cars and aeroplanes, rubber, rolling stock, lace, agricultural machinery, chemicals, soap, spinning and weaving, steam engines, locomotives, etc. The tour is being undertaken partly with a view to demonstrating to the Greek business men the great industrial power of England, and partly with a view to promoting closer trade relations between the two countries. In the latter connection it is well to remember that the business that can be done through Greece is not only confined to Greece itself, but extends to the Near East generally, including the Levant and Egypt.

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While I am on this subject may I once more impress upon our merchants and manufacturers that there is no time like the present for preparing for trade after the war? The visit of these Greek business men offers them an admirable opportunity for finding out just what kind of goods will be needed in Greece in the future and what the market conditions will be like. They must avail themselves of this chance of obtaining the requisite information, and when they have it, must act upon it by cultivating the market while the war is still in progress. In other words, they must prepare for the future by letting their prospective customers know of their existence and of the wares they have for sale. That, of course, means advertising on an extensive scale, and from what I know of British merchants and manufacturers it is the last thing they are willing to do. But it is an absolute essential if they mean to obtain fresh trade and even to hold what they have.

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The position of the gold mining industry has been attracting much attention of late, and very naturally so, because this vital industry has been very seriously affected by the war since expenses have risen all round, and yet the gold is still purchased by the Mint at the pre-war price of £3 17s. 10½d. per standard ounce. The grievance of the gold producers is increased by the fact that this price is no longer payable in gold coin, but by credits corresponding to paper money values, which, it need hardly be said, may entail actual losses under conditions of foreign exchange. The constant rise in values tending to the continual increase in expenditure has brought matters to the stage when, in default of action by the Government, some of the low-grade mines in the Empire may be forced to close down for the time being, a development which would obviously be most serious in view of the fact that we need all the gold we can produce.

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It seems probable, however, that at last the critical position in the industry is to receive attention. At the recent meeting of the combined gold producers of the Empire a committee was appointed for the purpose of explaining the situation to the Government, and it is understood that the authorities, who as long ago as last autumn had the urgency of the matter impressed upon them, have decided to institute an official inquiry into the gold production question. I have not too much faith in "inquiries," for they are apt to be slow and to consider matters outside the immediate scope of their reference, and in the present case I can well imagine that the question of the gold standard may prove a tempting subject for discussion. That question can very well be discussed after the war. The immediate need is for increased gold production, and I trust, therefore, the inquiry will be speedy. There is no reason for delay, for the solution is obvious, namely, to make the mint price equivalent to what gold will buy.

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The latest reports give a highly satisfactory account of the condition of the Egyptian crops. Circumstances appear on the whole to have been very favourable this season, as, for instance, in regard to the water supply, which has been sufficient to meet requirements. The cotton crop outlook is particularly good, this week's news being to the effect that the condition of the crop in Lower Egypt is 98 per cent. of the normal, while in Upper Egypt the percentage is 101. At one time the prospects of this crop were indifferent, but, thanks to the weather, it has made a rapid recovery after a belated start. Other crops which promise specially good results are rice (despite the fact that some trouble has been experienced from the rice-worm) and sugar cane. In general, however, the outlook is so propitious that it is scarcely necessary to differentiate between the crops.

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The Egyptian State accounts for the financial year 1917-18, which have just been issued, show a revenue of £E23,166,074, and an expenditure, including Egypt's contribution of £E3,000,000 to British war expenditure, of £E22,496,948, giving a surplus of £E669,126. Compared with the estimates, these returns shown an excess of more than £E3,500,000 as regards revenue, and slightly under £E3,000,000 for expenditure, both totals being, needless to say, the highest on record. The main factors responsible for the increased revenue appears to have been the excellent returns given by cotton and cereals, and the prosperity that has come to the country through the presence of British troops, while the increased expenditure is principally accounted for by the incidence of higher values.

In the light of these returns, I can only reiterate my view that the estimates for the current year will, unless some totally unexpected circumstances intervene, prove to be very much at variance with the final results. The estimates, it will be remembered, provided for a revenue of £E22,900,000, and an expenditure of £E23,250,000, thus making allowance for a deficit of £E350,000. So far as can be seen very much the same factors that affected the results for 1917-18 will again be in operation. It is difficult, therefore, to see why, even if prices are on a slightly higher level, there should not be a fair surplus instead of a deficit, and I shall be much surprised if this does not turn out to be the case.

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An interesting tea company report is that of the Doom Dooma Tea Company, one of the most important Assam plantations. The crop amounted to 4,798,700 lb., a slight decrease on the previous season, when it was 4,829,700 lb., and it realised an average price of 10.75d. per lb., which, with the Indian cost at 6.22d. per lb., gives an excellent margin. The net earnings of the company were £61,800, against £84,100 in the previous year. This suffices to give a dividend and bonus of 15 per cent., against 17½ per cent. last year, while £9,800 is placed to extension account, and £47,900 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty.

⁂

I note with interest that the Greek banks are beginning to follow the now universal banking practice by establishing new branches for foreign business. Thus the Bank of Athens recently opened a branch at Marseilles, and intends, it is stated, to open one at Barcelona, in view of the development of commercial relations between Greece and Spain. No doubt the example of the Bank of Athens will prove an incentive to other Greek banking institutions, and I shall not be surprised if we hear news before long of similar movements on the part of other Greek banks.

⁂

It is worth noting that the mineral resources of Turkey have been coming in for increased attention of late. Thus it appears that within a comparatively short period no fewer than ninety applications have been made for concessions in one vilayet alone. Needless to say, the enemy countries are prominent in the matter. Krupps are said to have obtained the rights in two chromite ore mines and to be in negotiation for two others, while a German subject has obtained a concession to work a manganese mine, and an Austrian has obtained a concession of the same nature. Chromite ore deposits seem the most sought after, so far some sixty concessions having been granted. Enemy companies and subjects are not alone, by the way, in seeking concessions, for the Turks themselves have apparently been showing most unusual activity in this direction. This enterprise on their part is, perhaps, to be read in the light of their knowledge of the commercial penetration of Germany and Austria, and it has no doubt obtained inspiration from the reported discovery of fresh deposits of iron ore, chromite ore, coal, and nickel ore.

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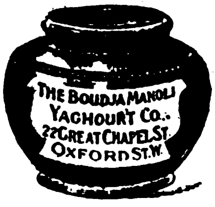
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BRITISH TRADE WITH GREECE.

Prospects of Development.

Special interest attaches to the approaching visit of the Greek industrial mission in view of the fact that trade relations between the United Kingdom and Greece before the war were of an important character. For reasons with which our readers are well aware, our trade with Serbia, Bulgaria, and Roumania has been on a comparatively small scale, but this has not been the case with Greece, for, as the trade returns show, the United Kingdom has held a prominent place in exports to as well as imports from our Ally. The main factors responsible for this are no doubt the accessibility of Greece to our shipping, and the fact that both countries have commodities that the other needs; but a third reason—and one of no small importance—is to be found in the tendency of the Greeks to establish bodies of traders in other countries. They have done this in the larger Mediterranean ports and in the Black Sea with beneficial influence on their mercantile marine, while in this country London, Liverpool, and other leading commercial centres can each show an important Greek community. In this respect the Greeks have an advantage over the other Balkan countries, for they are heirs to tradition, and it is surely not going too far to regard their commercial communities as the development of the process which first began when little bands of colonists set out from Ancient Greece to found City States on the coast of Asia Minor and further afield. There can be little question that these communities have had a very considerable influence on the direction of Greek trade, and in the future they will be an invaluable factor in furthering the results of the work of the coming industrial commission. For, while the volume of trade between the United Kingdom and Greece has been considerable, there is wide scope for improvement; trade prospects in Greece after the war will be much more important than in the past, as, for instance, in connection with the rebuilding of Salonika, schemes of railway development, and construction work in general, in all of which this country should play its part. Then it has to be remembered that as in other Balkan countries Germany and Austria carried their work of commercial penetration into Greece, and a substitute must be provided for their trade relations with our Ally if they are to be effectively prevented from continuing their work after the war. It is gratifying to know that, thanks to developments during the war, British merchants and manufacturers are alive to the fact that the national interest demands that they should cultivate intimate trade relations with Serbia and Roumania; it is to be hoped they realise that precisely the same reasons hold good with regard to Greece.

The Agricultural Outlook.

In this connection it may be noted that the development of increased trade with Greece should not be difficult, because Greek exports, mainly consisting of agricultural products, cover a very wide range, and because Greece will probably always be in the main dependent on other countries for manufactured articles. The extent to which Greece is an agricultural country may be gathered from the fact that more than half the population is directly or indirectly engaged on the land. The soil, it may be added, is very rich in the plains and valleys, and, given an adequate water supply, produces magnificent crops, which affords an additional reason why it is to Greece's interest to concentrate her attention on agriculture to the partial exclusion of industrial aspirations. Unfortunately, until recent years, agriculture has in the main been carried on in a haphazard manner, with primitive methods, with the result that Greece has not obtained anything like her full benefit from the soil. Modern methods have been introduced, however, and are now gaining ground, and no doubt a great impetus will have been given to agricultural developments in Macedonia by the presence of the Salonika Force. Much leeway has to be made up, however, and it would be unwise to expect miracles to happen. Greek agriculture has suffered too many hardships in the past for an unduly rapid improvement to be at all likely. The main obstacle to advance is no doubt the conservatism of the peasantry; but this is only one of many important factors—notably lack of capital, absentee landlordship, sparse population, bad roads, growing distaste for rural life, etc., all of which have had more or less influence on the position.

It is a characteristic of agricultural countries that they are only too liable to suffer adverse periods owing to crop failure, but fortunately Greece does not come into this category, for the wide range of her agricultural products prevents the failure of a few crops from having an undue effect. Thus the cereals grown include wheat, barley, rye, and maize, the area covered being, according to the latest figures, 2,029,000 acres, or 57.45 per cent of the cultivable soil. The best cultivated crop is currants, which also enjoys the greatest favour throughout the country. This crop has been one of the mainstays of Greece's economic life, but has also been responsible for much trouble among the cultivators. Currant growing became really popular between 1877 and 1880, when the French vineyards were suffering from phylloxera, and the French wine producers imported currants on a large scale for blending purposes. Greek currant production grew enormously, and when in due course the French vineyards recovered and a heavy duty was placed on currants, a period of much severe depression set in, and from then onwards the unwanted surplus has been a constant problem. Olives are next in importance to currants, and in 1906 some 250,000 acres were devoted to their cultivation Other crops of importance are tobacco, which yielded 102,275,710 lb. in 1917, nuts, of which the yield was 1,692,900 lb., figs, and rice.

Industrial Prospects.

The need for importing coal is the principal factor limiting Greek industrial development. There are, however, many local industries, some of them of considerable importance, and the wide field they cover may be gathered from the fact that flour mills, cloth, cotton and silk spinning mills, shipbuilding, and engineering works, oil presses, tanneries, soap mills, powder and dynamite mills, and the manufacture of such articles as paper, glass, matches, gloves, candles, etc., have all provided fair avenues of employment. The greatest prospects before Greece in the direction of industrial development consist, however, in the utilisation of her mineral resources, in which the country is very rich—lead, zinc, copper, manganese, iron and sulphur all being present in considerable quantities. Thus the famous mines at Laurium afford employment for several thousand workers; and other important mines are the iron ore mines at Larimna, in Locris, the neighbouring mines in Euboea, the sulphur and manganese mines in Melos; while marble is found in many parts of Greece, notably, of course, at Mount Pentelicos. Reference to the country's mineral resources would be incomplete without mention of the deposits of emery, salt, millstone, and gypsum, all of which are worked by the State, and there is no reason for thinking that the known sources by any means exhaust the country's mineral wealth, for history tells of valuable mines whose whereabouts is still unknown, and there is no doubt still scope for the prospector in the country.

Trade before the War.

Turning to the figures for exports and imports, we find that in 1913 Greek imports were valued at £6,868,220, the exports being valued at £4,593,438. Of these totals the United Kingdom's share in the imports amounted to £2,536,678, and the exports to £2,202,486. In both cases the proportion is high, but it is not exceptionally so, as may be seen from the figures for 1905, when Greece's exports amounted to £3,347,000, and her imports to £5,670,000, the United Kingdom's share being respectively £917,000 and £1,100,000. A comparison of these figures brings out the fact that before the war our commerce with Greece was increasing, and it is noteworthy that the exports and imports nearly balance, a fact which should give additional value in the eyes of the Greeks to the development of closer trade relations with this country. In the case of the enemy countries exports to Greece were well in excess of imports from that country. Thus Austria's exports to Greece amounted in 1905 to £777,000, but her imports from that country only amounted to £315,000, while Germany's exports were £555,000, and her imports £300,000, or just a little over half that amount. In short, the enemy countries found a ready market in Greece for their wares, but their own purchases in Greece were insignificant. There is not the slightest need for this trade to be re-established after the war. Greek products can readily be taken by the United Kingdom and the other Allies, notably France, Italy, and the United States, and between us we can more than provide the imports which Greece took from enemy countries. It will be the fault of the Allies, and, in particular, of this country, if the hand of the commercial Teuton is again laid upon Greece, and it may be hoped that if they do not realise their responsibilities already the Greek industrial mission will bring their duty home to our merchants and manufacturers.

MOROCCO.

Outlook for British Trade.

A very important memorandum on the necessary conditions for the success of British trade with Morocco has been received by the Department of Overseas Trades through the Foreign Office from the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco. The published parts of the memorandum deal with such questions as the shortage of shipping, trade representation, and trade conditions, such as the need for long credit, stress being laid on the advantage the Germans possessed before the war in all these respects. It will be noted that the necessity for an adequate shipping service, which has been the subject of constant emphasis in THE NEAR EAST, is referred to as the most essential condition for the development of British trade with Morocco. We give below some extracts from the memorandum:—

"Opinion is quite unanimous that, however favourable all other conditions may be, no great progress can be made unless British trade is served by a steamer service as efficient as the German steamer service used to be. The German service was maintained by some twenty steamers of 1,500-2,000 tons. The Moroccan coast was, for purposes of steamer service, dealt with in sections, for each of which special arrangements were made. It was rare to find a port without a German steamer at anchor in it. The steamers stayed on the coast any length of time that was necessary, even if it were three or four months, until all their cargo was delivered and they had shipped all the cargo offering. The regular route of these steamers included Hamburg, Antwerp, Lisbon and the Moroccan ports, but they would arrange to take cargo to or from many other ports, notably London, Barcelona, Genoa, and the United States, and such cargo was almost invariably handled to the satisfaction of the shippers. It was rare that any serious complaints as to the service were made, and such as were received were given the most careful attention, and claims for damage were as a rule met generously. The trade was most carefully studied and handled and the captains invariably behaved as though they had a most personal interest in the efficiency of the service and the satisfaction of shippers. The company was always ready to meet unusual conditions, and would readily send special steamers when the cargo offering could not be dealt with rapidly enough by the regular service. Owing to the regularity and excellence of the service, and not, it should be noted, to lowness of freight, British trade before the war became greatly, and in the southern ports almost entirely, to depend on the German steamers. It must be remembered that the German steamer companies began a Moroccan service when Germany's trade in the country was very small and there appeared no opening for their enterprise. Before many years had passed they had succeeded, while, it is believed, making a very satisfactory profit, in diverting a very great part of the trade, especially the exports from Morocco, from London to Hamburg, and formed the main instrument by which Germany obtained a great and steadily increasing hold on the Moroccan market. In addition to the cargo steamer line, which, though providing on their boats excellent passenger accommodation, did not permit passenger traffic to interfere with its cargo work, the Germans had a first-class passenger service maintained by the powerful "Ost Afrika" line of passenger steamers running from Bremen and Southampton, and calling once a month at Tangier. Austrian trade, though very small, was served by a monthly service of passenger and cargo boats running, between Trieste, Fiume, Algiers and Moroccan ports.

British Shipping Facilities.

"British trade, though much older and larger than the German trade, was served in the matter of steamers much less satisfactorily. The Royal Mail Steam Packet maintained, as a rule, a fortnightly service, starting from London, calling at Tangier and most west Moroccan ports, and returning by the Canaries. Their steamers were essentially tourist passenger boats, and, though bringing and taking cargo, were so much bound to time by a very strict fixed itinerary that very often they could not stop to deliver all their cargo, or to take what was offering. Their use for the bar ports, where, of course, it is often necessary for steamers to wait for some days for favourable conditions, was very limited. The other British line, the Power Steamship Co., with some three steamers of from 1,000-1,500 tons, kept up an approximately monthly cargo service, which has been of great value to British trade. These boats, however, which had to serve the whole coast from Melilla to Mogador, although used by the captains in command, and most of the agents in Morocco, with the utmost energy and consideration for shippers' needs, could not possibly provide facilities to compare with the German line.

"The result of the insufficiency of the steamer service between Morocco and Great Britain has been disastrous, although its effects have been to some extent disguised by the very considerable expansion of Moroccan trade as a whole. Trade has been more and more diverted from Great Britain; those who were most desirous of drawing their supplies from Great Britain were forced, even for those goods which could best be obtained in Great Britain, to rely more and more on foreign sources; and native merchants, in giving their orders for Manchester goods, have been known to stipulate that these must be sent by German steamer as the only means of ensuring approximately the date of delivery. The committee is confident that it is expressing the opinion of all British merchants engaged in the Moroccan trade in stating that it is essential, if British trade is to progress or even to maintain itself, that the steamer service with Great Britain should be immensely improved, and the trade supplied with facilities for sea transport at least equal to that of its competitors. In making this statement the committee is anxious not to seem forgetful of much good work which the existing British companies, with the limited means that they thought fit to employ in the Moroccan service, have often rendered, and would especially express the gratitude of merchants for the work done during the war, which has been invaluable, and beyond what, under the conditions, could possibly have been expected.

"In connection with the shipping question the committee desires to point out the great handicap placed on British shipping and trade alike by the very high charges at British ports, which have often been sufficient to decide the choice of port of shipment or discharge in favour of Hamburg, and to the great advantage German trade enjoyed in the low railway rates and special transport facilities allowed for goods for export.

Travellers.

"Up till the present time few British travellers have visited Morocco except in connection with those articles in which Great Britain has a very strong position in the Moroccan market, and even these were occupied rather in visiting and assisting their firms' local agents than in opening up fresh country. Steps such as those taken by the Germans—sending men to travel and stay in the interior to study native wants, even employing artists to visit villages and translate into colour sketches, before local critics, the suggestions of the natives as to the shape and colour most popular for articles of clothing and adornment—have never been contemplated. Such new branches of British trade as have been added to the main staples have as a rule been introduced by local British firms who have induced British manufacturers to supply what was wanted. It is not suggested that single firms dealing in an article for which the demand is not yet great could afford the expense of sending a thoroughly competent man to spend a considerable time in the country to open up a trade, but that groups of firms, especially firms in allied but not competing trades, should combine to do so. It would, of course, be useless to send a representative who did not know French well; a knowledge of Spanish would be most desirable and a thorough acquaintance with metric weights and measures would be essential.

Market Requirements.

"German merchants derived great help from the liberal terms of credit allowed by them, which though nominally stipulating, as a rule, for payment in four or five months, were very readily extended to very much longer periods on payment of interest. Since the war there has been a great restriction of credit and most business has been done on the terms of cash against documents at destination, but after peace has been established it is quite certain that it will again be necessary to give substantial credit. The committee believe that there has long been a misconception among firms in Great Britain, which have not had great experience of Morocco, as to the danger of granting credit in this country. In past times bad debts, when ordinary care was taken, were rare, and, though since the partial Europeanisation of the country failures are more common, it is still possible to allow long credit with safety, and it is probable that even the apparently excessive freedom with which Germans granted it was fully justified by results. In connection with the general trade methods followed by German merchants in this country, which combined careful development of the most minute opportunities of trade with a readiness to take risks and incur losses which to their competitors was incomprehensible, the interesting fact has come to light since the commencement of the war that practically all the German firms in Southern Morocco were financed by money from England. The committee is of opinion that merchants entering the Moroccan market must be prepared to allow, when competition compels it, long credit, and that if they work through their own branch, or through thoroughly reliable firms who are acquainted with the local business men, that they can do so without undue risk. Losses that have been suffered have been largely due to absence of care in selecting agents or failure to show any discretion in the grant of credit.

"In Morocco, as elsewhere, German trade profited greatly by carefully prepared price lists and catalogues, of which a typical example accompanies this report. They were always printed in the several European languages most current, and prices, weights, measures and sizes were quoted in such a way as to be understood by the principal buying nationalities. A great improvement has recently been noted in British price lists, some of which have every good feature possessed by the German price lists, and sometimes are even clearer and better turned out; the improvement is, however, confined to a few firms. With the advancing prosperity of the country it might be advisable in some cases to incur the expense of printing the text in Moroccan Arabic as well as European languages. A great inducement to dealing with German firms and travellers was their ability and willingness to quote prices, inclusive of packing and all expenses, c.i.f. Moroccan ports, and—a facility due to the zeal of German manufacturers for foreign trade and a good steamer service—to guarantee rapid delivery. It cannot be too clearly realised that the facility of knowing without long calculations the exact cost delivered, and the absence of delay in delivery often, especially in the case of small buyers, counterbalance in Morocco great defects of quality, and even to some extent higher price.

Representatives.

"It has very often been noted that British firms are, as a rule, reluctant to give their agents abroad the strong support necessary at the beginning to establish their goods on the market. Instead of sending their own representatives or selecting local agents with great care, and then allowing them liberal conditions and giving strong support, they often bestow their agencies with little discrimination, but are extremely reluctant to take the necessary steps to give their agents a good start. A striking Moroccan instance may be quoted, in which several motor-car firms—one English and two important German firms—were approached with a view to obtaining an agency. The British firm required its prospective agent to guarantee the sale of a number of cars that, under the circumstances, was quite impossible. The German firms not only dispensed with any guarantee of purchase, but were willing to supply gratis a car and a chauffeur for advertisement and demonstration.

"British firms as a rule are averse to trusting their agents with sufficient stocks, and expect them to obtain orders before the goods have been much known in the districts or have proved their suitability to the local markets.

"Undoubtedly one of the chief weak points of British Moroccan trade, and one which afforded, and still affords, great openings for competitors, has been the small number of British firms compared with the importance of the trade. If all those whose chief business it is to represent British houses were British subjects, the size and influence of the British colonies would be much increased, and the soundness and chances of expansion of the trade would be very much greater. It is not suggested that it is desirable to remove and replace by British subjects foreign agents who have done good work and whose interests and sympathies are with British trade, but that British firms entering the Moroccan trade should, whenever possible, make the initial and well-repaid effort of establishing their own countrymen as their resident agents, or, if forced to rely on foreign agents, make absolutely sure that they will not use their position, when occasion serves, against the interests of British trade.

Meeting Country's Needs.

"In the principal article of British Morocco trade—cottons—British manufacturers have catered for the country's needs with the greatest care and skill. The success achieved has been largely due to a thorough study of native taste and the supply of the exact articles to meet it. If the same course were followed in the numerous branches of trade which are now, through the country's development, becoming important, many of them could undoubtedly be to a great extent supplied from British sources, but so far there has been little apparent attempt to do so. Many cases could be quoted in which British manufacturers have, when urged to modify their products in order to suit the market, either been unwilling or unable to make any of the changes required, or have been content to make such alterations as in their opinion ought to be adequate. One of the most common objections was the cost of adapting their machinery to turn out the desired product. One of the chief failures to follow the demands of the Moroccan market has been in connection with the supply of broadcloth, samples of which of the current qualities accompany this report. The supply of this cloth to Morocco was many years ago a monopoly of British manufacturers, who produced an article of first-rate quality that was much liked by the natives. When, however, the Germans established houses in the country, they introduced much cheaper qualities attractively finished, and succeeded in getting the greater part of the trade. No serious attempt to compete in these inferior qualities has ever, we believe, been made by British firms. Until British manufacturers are convinced that the demand, in this and other articles, for cheapness, combined with superficial attractiveness, is worth seriously catering for, there will remain a large trade ready for exploitation by the Germans if or whenever they are free to undertake it."

BOMBAY MONSOON WEAK.

. The break in the monsoon is causing anxiety, especially in the cotton districts (says *The Times* Bombay correspondent in a message dated July 19). Agricultural reports show that sowing and transplantation have been delayed in many districts through want of rain. The rainfall is almost universally much below the average, and the temperature everywhere is high. In Bombay City the rainfall is 22 inches below normal.

Five Greek shipowners have been fined from £50,000 to £110,000 each, and have been ordered to pay indemnities of a similar amount for having sold steamers to foreigners in contravention of the law forbidding such sales.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Balkan Engineering Prospects.

Individual aptitude and comprehensive facilities for obtaining first-hand and thoroughly reliable information concerning any particular market, or markets, were the principal advantages which German manufacturers possessed in their efforts to attain trade domination. The State, by its well organised and business-like consular service, and the Press by its reliable commercial intelligence and advertising efficiency, did everything possible to further their efforts and encourage their enterprise. We have pointed out the nature of German competition that may be expected immediately after peace is restored, and have referred to German efforts in Roumania to secure complete control over the resources and markets of that fertile and progressive country. Germany's eagerness to exploit Roumania and to consolidate her position there can be well understood in view of the value of the Roumanian market before the war. At that time, for reasons which are thoroughly familiar to our readers, this market was the monopoly of the Central Powers, and they are evidently determined to retain it in the future if they can possibly do so.

What the Roumanian and other Balkan markets meant to the Central Powers may be illustrated by a few figures from the trade returns for the year before the war. In that year Roumania purchased agricultural machinery from Germany to the value of £215,900, from Austria-Hungary to the value of £64,750, while she only imported from the United Kingdom to the value of £17,000. Bulgaria's imports of agricultural machinery from Germany amounted to £69,350, from Austria to £20,450, and from the United Kingdom to only £5,000. Serbia's imports of the same commodity from Germany amounted to £20,300, from Austria to £9,800. while she took nothing from the United Kingdom. Besides agricultural machinery, internal combustion and explosion motors, gas turbines, machine tools, road locomotives, steam rollers, pumps, and pumping machinery, electrical appliances and apparatus, etc., were also imported to the value of from four to six figures for each item by each of these Balkan States; the largest imports coming from Germany and the smallest from the United Kingdom. Roumania always took the largest share.. Taking into consideration the fact that these purchases took place soon after the Balkan wars we have the most convincing proof of the recuperative character of the Balkan States, and their speedy recovery from their internecine struggles should remove the last shadow of doubt from the minds of British manufacturers that these States will offer just as good markets after the war as they did before. It is certain that there will be an unprecedented demand on the part of the Balkan States for all kinds of machinery as soon as peace is declared, and the question is whether we shall be as ready to supply them with goods as we shall be to provide them with the capital necessary to repair the ravages of war. If we are not prepared, it is certain the Germans will be astute enough to take full advantage of our unpreparedness by providing these markets with goods of all kinds, if they think there is the slightest chance of commencing their commercial penetration again.

It is regrettable for the prospects of British post-war enterprise that pessimistic views should still be held in some quarters with regard to Balkan trade, partly on the ground that the peoples themselves are devoid of the requisite enterprise. There is no justification for this. Labourer, artisan, peasant, farmer, and tradesman alike are just as alive in the Balkans to the necessity for hard work and constant progress as they are in many more developed countries. It has also to be remembered that while war impoverishes a State it may not affect the people in the same degree, and with the exception of the Serbians whose country is at present almost entirely in the hands of the enemy, all the other Balkan peoples have had opportunities of making money during the war, and the extent to which they have taken advantage of their opportunities will affect the rapidity with which they recover from the effects of the war. The savings of a people will prove very useful when tradespeople are trying to replenish their stocks; agriculturists are in great need of implements and machinery, whilst Governments are trying to start the construction of bridges, railways, rolling-stock, waterworks, roads, factories, etc.

Algerian Cement Imports.

In view of the rapid growth of Algeria's imports of cement before the war, it seems possible that this country may offer an opening for British cement manufacturers when normal trade conditions can be resumed. Considerable attention has been paid, it is true, to the manufacture of cement in Algeria, but the demand for this commodity is not likely to be satisfied by home production for some years, as the quantity of cement required is certain to be on the up-grade in the future. The annual production of cement factories in Algeria is roughly 190,000 tons, and the country's requirements can be gauged by the fact that the imports in 1913 amounted to 90,039 tons, against 40,150 tons in 1908, and 38,421 tons in 1904. These figures show that the demand for cement was rapidly increasing in Algeria when war broke out, and there is every reason to think that the imports for 1913 will be largely exceeded after the war, since building construction has, of course, been greatly curtailed by present conditions, and there is a vast programme of port extensions, railway development, and general building operations awaiting attention. France has hitherto supplied most of the imported cement, and in this respect French exports have the advantage that there is no duty on the French product, while transportation costs are lower than from other countries. Post-war conditions may make it possible, however, for this country to secure some share of this trade.

A Machinery Market.

It is evident that Algeria will present one of the most promising markets for agricultural machinery after the war. There is a shortage of labour for the land, and it is believed that those workers who have taken advantage of war conditious to leave the land for industrial employment are unlikely to return to it, and it is recognised that, should that be the case, it will be essential to make an extended use of labour-saving devices. The Algerian market requires cultivating with care, and it is, therefore, highly desirable that British manufacturers and exporters of agricultural machinery should lose no time in making themselves acquainted with the market conditions, and in making their goods known to Algerian agriculturists.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Advance in Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

A distinct advance in prices has occurred in the market during the past week. This has been due to bullish raw cotton advices from the United States, and a much smaller crop is expected than a month ago. The development in the situation has stimulated demand in certain quarters of the market, but actual operations have been somewhat irregular. Reports from Egypt with regard to the growth there have been rather mixed, but, on the whole, the plants seem to be doing fairly well. Users of Egyptian cotton are adjusting matters to the new Government regulations. It is still hoped that merchants before very long will be able to offer their private marks in addition to Government types. Prices in Egyptian yarns have tended to harden, and the undercurrent of demand remains healthy. An increased inquiry has been reported in piece goods for Egypt. That market tends to become a more important distributing centre as direct exportations to several Near Eastern outlets are impossible. An extensive demand has again been dealt with in a variety of goods for India. Certain kinds and qualities of light materials have been bought freely and a very fair trade has been done in grey staples. Owing to limited production and long engagements manufacturers have been very independent. American yarns have been raised in price, but quotations have shown a good deal of irregularity. Most of the buying has again been in medium counts. An increased demand has been experienced in yarns suitable for France.

EGYPT'S TRADE IN MAY.

Improvement Maintained.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 9.

The Customs statistics for May show a further improvement in the trade of Egypt. Imports during the month amounted to £E4,123,219 and exports to £E3,122,664, as compared with £E2,065,008 and £E2,561,295 respectively a year ago. The tendency of the balance of trade to swing over against the country is shown by the fact that as a result of the five months now under review imports have increased by £E8,030,019 and exports by £E3,147,263 on 1917 figures, when the balance was £E6,295,974.

The chief imports during the month were: Hides, skins and tanned goods £E42,354, wheat and maize flour £E160,097, sugar £E88,056, coffee £E68,161, vegetable oils £E97,418, stationery £E183,657, coal £E263,970, medicinal and chemical products £E55,569, textiles £E2,046,515 (cotton yarn and thread £E92,610, cotton piece goods £E1,372,623, woollen textiles £E86,153, silks and ribbons £E58,854, sacks £E103,459, ready-made underclothing and hosiery £E117,046), manufactured iron and steel £E162,943, smallware £E56,492, and tobacco £E246,655.

The main exports were: Hides, skins and leather goods £E60,631, rice £E38,124, cotton-seed £E310,275, sugar £E36,166, gum £E53,419, cotton £E2,412,636, and cigarettes £E56,166.

Trade With the Empire.

Great Britain increased her share of the imports from £E880,186 to £E2,469,945, India from £E221,022 to £E403,946, and Australasia slightly to £E120,154. (The Empire was responsible for all the flour, vegetable oils, coal, cotton yarn and thread, sacks, most of the iron and steel, and cotton piece goods, and 75 per cent. of the coffee); France increased her sales from £E72,291 to £E181,093 (silks and ribbons, medical and chemical products, manufactured dyestuffs and paints, ready-made underclothing and hosiery), Japan hers from £E26,550 to £E121,556 (matches, glass and crystal, stationery, ready made underclothing, and hosiery, cotton piece goods, tobacco), Persia hers from £E4,112 to £E28,411 (all the petroleum), and Sweden hers from £E1,377 to £E35.109. The United States fell off by two-thirds and Greece and Italy both showed slight decreases.

Under exports, Great Britain rose from £E901,725 to £E2,615,497 (all the cotton-seed, 50 per cent. of the gum, and over 90 per cent. of the cotton). The United States, France, Japan, Greece, Switzerland and Italy all showed decreases—with the exception of Italy, somewhat considerable ones.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was brisk, imports into Egypt rising from £E205,931 to £E263,942, and exports to the Sudan from £E131,528 to £E186,872. The chief imports were livestock £E79,798, hides and skins £E27,418, cereals £E80,838, gum £E30,567, cotton £E25,181. The principal exports were sugar £E31,975, cotton piece-goods £E40,528, and tobacco £E16,182.

INDIAN TEA ESTATES AND INCOME TAX.

The Government has decided to exempt the industrial profits of tea estates from income-tax up to March 31 next (says *The Times* Simla correspondent in a message dated July 26). The Government vigorously repudiates the charge of bad faith in connection with the new Act, and declares that it took every measure it thought likely to acquaint the commercial public with its intentions. It suggests that if the Tea Association considers that the Government's interpretation of the law is incorrect, it can seek a decision in the Courts.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* states that the Trieste branch of the Oesterreichische Kreditanstalt (in Vienna) has obtained official sanction for founding a limited company under the style "Shipping Company 'Liburnica,' formerly Eredi Matteo Premuda and Co." The share capital is stated to be 3,800,000 kronen.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The directors of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company announce that, in consequence of the uncertainty and delay in mails from abroad and the time required to realise the company's produce, it will not be possible to hold the general meeting this year until early in October.

The report of the Futtickcherrie Tea Company for 1917 shows a profit of £795. After adjustment, including £1,395 realised in excess of estimates for season 1916 and deducting excess profits duty £682, there is an available balance of £1,912. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, and to carry forward (subject to excess profits duty) £1,112.

The net profit of the Bandarapolla Ceylon Company for 1917 amounted to £10,737, against £15,115. Final dividend of 15 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, against 20 per cent.; to the estates account for depreciation of buildings and machinery, £1,000, the same; forward, £3,072, against £5,834. An extraordinary general meeting will be held on August 9, for the purpose of altering the articles of association.

The net profit of the Singlo Tea Company for the past year amounted to £36,942. Directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary capital of 20 per cent., of which 3¾ per cent. was disbursed on April 22; forward, £33,863, subject to excess profits duty. The profits for 1916 were £72,644, and the dividend 20 per cent.

The report of the Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company for the year ended March 31 states that the balance of the general revenue account is £709. The directors propose, after transferring from the reserve account £3,500, to recommend a dividend of 3 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary capital, making 5 per cent. for the year, leaving £232 to be carried forward.

The report of the Noyapara Tea Company for 1917 states that the profit was £6,632. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, leaving to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty, £11,865, including £7,745 brought in.

The report of the Travancore Rubber Company for 1917 states that amount at credit of profit and loss, including £5,431 brought forward, after allowing £719 for depreciation on buildings, machinery, etc., making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts and payment of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, is £20,463, which the Board recommend should be carried forward, subject to directors' and auditors' fees and excess profits duty. The latter will again require a very large sum. So far expenditure for the current year has had to be met out of 1917 profits, because, owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing, no money has yet been received in respect of the current year's crop. In view of these facts the Board have reluctantly come to the conclusion that they are not justified in recommending the payment of any further dividend.

The Paris-Maroc Company, which is a subsidiary of the Paris-France and Nouvelles Galeries Reunies group, realised, in 1917, a net profit of 1,060,471 francs. The capital is to be increased shortly from 6,500,000 francs to 10,000,000 francs.

The gross profit of the Credit Franco-Egyptien in 1917-18 amounted to 1,038,646 francs, and, after deducting 350,949 francs for general expenses, there is a net profit of 687,697 francs against 596,825 francs in 1916-17 and 479,156 francs in 1915-16. The dividend will probably be maintained at 9 francs.

The report of the Balijan Tea Company for 1917 states that the profit was £6,906, which, with additional profit made on account of 1916, £4,451, and £15,820 brought forward, after payment of final dividend for 1916, makes £27,177. Deducting excess profits duty 1916, £2,458, and interim dividend there is left £22,619. The directors recommend a final dividend of 14 per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £17,719, subject to excess profits duty 1917 (if any), and also an amount payable on additional profit for 1916.

The report of the Longai Valley Tea Company for 1917 shows crop 1,198,428 lb., estimate 1,320,000 lb., 1916 1,206,008 lb. Profit £3,230, brought forward £16,928, net balance credit £15,856. Directors recommend final dividend of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares, less tax, making 7 per cent., and carry forward £11,506.

The Doom Dooma Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £61,762, making, with additional profit made on account of 1916 of £22,606 and the amount brought forward, £36,426, a total of £120,802. Excess profits duty paid on account of 1916, £27,559; final dividend of 7½ per cent. (making 12½ per cent. for the year), less tax, and bonus of 2½ per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, against 17½ per cent.; to new extension account, £9,845; forward, £47,897, out of which there will have to be paid excess profits duty, the amount of which has yet to be decided.

An extraordinary general meeting of Egyptian Markets will be held at 213, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, on August 16, at 12 noon.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of Egyptian Markets, Limited, declared a final dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax) for the year ended December 31 on the ordinary shares, payable from July 26, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Clements Lane, London, E.C.

Nestor Gianaclis.—The Bank of Athens will pay debenture coupon No. 14, due August 1, at 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

The directors of the Balijan Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 14 per cent., less tax, on account of 1917, making 20 per cent. per annum.

The directors of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company have declared a final dividend for 1917 on the ordinary shares of 12 per cent., less tax, making 17 per cent. for the year, payable on and after August 17.

The directors of the Financial Times, Limited, have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended June 30 last, payable August 26, to all shareholders registered August 19. The preference share transfer books will be closed from Monday, August 19, to Monday, August 26, both dates inclusive.

The dividend on the preference shares of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31 will be 3½ per cent., subject to confirmation at the meeting.

◆

The London County Westminster and Parr's Bank announce that branches of their French auxiliary, the London County and Westminster Bank (Paris), have been opened at 37, Rue de la République, Lyon, under the management of M. André Valiet, and in temporary premises at 31, Rue Paradis, Marseilles, under the management of Mr. Paul Coste Morson.

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	27,314,260
PAID-UP CAPITAL	6,828,565
RESERVE	6,828,565

(29th JUNE, 1918)

Current, Deposit and other Accounts ...	£230,425,743
Cash in Hand and at Bank of England ...	42,931,098
Money at Call and Short Notice ...	29,525,701
Advances and Discounts	117,402,229

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EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

A large business has again been put through this week in Egyptian stocks, and there is a further general advance in prices where altered. Large buying orders have been coming in from Egypt, no doubt prompted by the good military news, by the satisfactory accounts of the growing crops in Egypt, and the big accumulation of funds there seeking investment.

In Government stocks there are constant buyers, but no quotable change in prices. Sellers remain very scarce, and some large blocks are wanted to satisfy the present demand.

Amongst Bank shares a fair business has been passing; but whilst Nationals remain firm, Agriculturals are 1-16 easier at 6 13-16, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ⅛ down at 17.

In Railways, Delta Lights have been done in a small way at 7⅛; but the price has since strengthened to 7¼, on the declaration of a dividend of 3½ per cent. for the year ended March 31 last.

In Land shares Aboukirs have risen 1s. 3d. to 24s. 9d., Egypt having now come into the market as a buyer of these shares. Land Allotments are in strong demand at the current quotation, but no business results, as there are no sellers. Béhéras have improved ¼ to 14⅝, and there has been quite a fair amount of business passing. Delta Lands have continued the improvement started last week, and are a further 6d. up at 16s. 3d. on a renewal of demand from Egypt. Foreign Trusts have improved 6d. to 12s. 9d. with a small business passing. Gharbieh Lands are a further ⅛ higher at 2⅝, but there are very few sellers of these shares at the present level, which is still a very depreciated one. In New Egyptians a very large business has been transacted, and the price to-night is 6d. higher at 22s. 6d., with a strong upward tendency, there being a very large demand for Egyptian account. Sidi Salems have further strengthened 1-16 to 2⅝, and here also Egypt has been a buyer; but sellers are pretty scarce even at the present advanced level as compared with some time back. Union Foncières and United Egyptian Lands have also been in constant demand for Egypt, and a very fair business has been put through. The former close to-night 5-32 higher at 3⅝, and the latter have improved 4½d. to 2s. 7½d.

Amongst miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Waters are 3-16 up at 12 11-16, Markets have recovered some of their dividividend at 26s. x.d., and Salts and Khedivial Mails have been strong features. Salts are ⅛ up at 2 11-16, and Khedivial Mails have improved 7s. 3d. to 55s.

Amongst Greek securities there are pretty large buyers round current levels, but practically no business is doing owing to the absence of sellers. The only quotable changes to record, however, are a rise of 2 points in Rentes to 53, of 1 point in 1910's to 64, and of 1 point in 1914's to 78. The 5 per cent Currant Bonds are quoted about unchanged at 93 x.d.

◆

Wheat in Roumania is a failure as a crop, and maize is only medium.

Lord Inchcape has been appointed a director of the Great Western Railway in place of the late Mr. Albert Brassey.

The Zemindars of the Lyallpur District, Punjab, have generously offered one quarter of their entire wheat crop to the Government, to cover part of the expenses of war.

A telegram from Bucharest, received through German channels, states that the Minister of Finance, M. Saulescu, has declared that the introduction of an alcohol monopoly has finally been decided upon.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. July 31	Aug. 7
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	83	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	94	94
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79	79
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	66½	66½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	66½	66½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	51	53
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	66½	66½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65½	65½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	77	78
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	93xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74	74
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅞	6 13/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17⅛	17
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	3¾
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅝	5⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅛	21⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅛	7¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/6	24/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4½	4½
Béhéra Co.	8½	14⅜	14⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/9	16/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	12/3	12/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅝	2½	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	22/6
Sidi Salem Co.	[illegible]	2 9/16	2⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	3 15/32	3⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/3	2/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12 11/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6	26/-xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	2 9/16	2 11/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	47/9	55/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3 15/16	3 15/16

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JULY 5.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	17½
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	96
" " Div.	Frs.	142½
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12¾xd
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13½
" priv.	L.E.	4¾
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	178½
Bons de Panama	Frs.	139
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	93½
" Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	99½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 3/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 9/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 3/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 1/32
Bonded Stores	L.E.	9¼
Unifiée	L.E.	94
Privilégiée		81
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 3/32
Nungovich Hotels	£	5⅞
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6⅛
" Fondateur	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅞
" Ord		44/3
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	25½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅞
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅝
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	173
Egyptian Markets		23/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	487
" Div.	Frs.	410
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	336
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6 5/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		44/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	711
" Fondateur	Frs.	800
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	388½
" 1903 "	Frs.	290
" 1911 "	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	9¼
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		27/32

◆

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended June 30.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
June 21—June 30	4,672	6,457
April 1—June 30	48,928	66,284

◆

Applications for the second Indian War Loan have reached 20 crores of rupees.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.
Incorporated 18[illegible].
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - [illegible]
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000
HEAD OFFICE—
BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2
BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.
Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA
(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)
CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - [illegible]
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000
London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.
Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS
Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - Rs.50,00,000
Head Office: MADRAS.
Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (Outstation, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (Outstations Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (Outstation, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (Outstation, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.
Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.
Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.
Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.
Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.
By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, Secretary and Treasurer

BANK OF BENGAL
Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000
Head Office: CALCUTTA.
Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.
Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.
Current Accounts opened free of charge. Fixed Deposits received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and Remittances made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. Discount [illegible] opened and approved. Mercantile Bills discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.
By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WAR[illegible]
Secretary [illegible]

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 380.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Allied advance on the Western front has again been the dominating military event of the week. In other theatres of war there has been little activity except in Albania, where the Italians have compelled the enemy to evacuate the Jagodina bridgehead and pass to the right bank of the river; but the Serbians chronicle a successful raid, and there have been encounters on the Hejaz front, of which the Turks, as usual, report the repulse of the enemy after heavy losses. In addition, a whole series of successful British raids has been announced in Palestine on the Jerusalem-Nablus road, in which 600 of the enemy were killed and taken prisoner, and guns were captured.

The effect of the Allied victories in the West is already shown in the East. It is reported that the Germans have sent an urgent request for reinforcements to the generals commanding their armies in the East. But Mackensen, who is in command in Roumania, is said to have replied that the agitation existing among the Roumanian population made it more desirable to send reinforcements there than to withdraw them for employment on the Western front—a remark which is probably more than justified by the bitter indignation of the people at the way in which they have been exploited by the Germans. And the German generals in the Baltic provinces and the Ukraine appear to have been equally urgent in their demand for reinforcements in those countries.

The Germans find themselves, in fact, again menaced with the prospect of war on both fronts. The landing of the Allies at Vladivostok and Archangel appears to have taken the enemy as completely by surprise as the transport of American troops to France; the very serious possibilities of the Czecho-Slovak movement in Siberia are now fully recognised in Berlin; and the counter-revolutionary movement in Russia and the Ukraine is equally disconcerting to the Teuton. So menacing is the latter to Germany that von Helfferich has left his post owing, it is said, to the fear of assassination. The Germans, meanwhile, are calling on the Bolsheviks to suppress the counter-revolution of the Czecho-Slovaks and to evict the Allies, and no doubt the Bolsheviks would do so if they could—they have, in fact, already practically declared war on the Entente. But desire, as Falstaff found, often outlives the performance, and the Bolsheviks are now practically powerless. Lenin and Trotsky are said to be so afraid of assassination as to move their quarters day by day, and the German Press sorrowfully confesses that the day of these useful auxiliaries is practically over.

There are signs in plenty that the situation may be radically transformed in the East. The treaty of Brest-Litovsk, as one German journal remarks, is dead; and Germany, so far from finding prostrate Russia a source of strength to her, finds it at this moment a source of weakness, since it demands a large garrison, and has by no means provided Germany with the supplies that were so confidently expected. The present position is quite incalculable, and its possibilities infinite; the one thing certain is that Germany can no longer count on Russia either as being out of the war or look upon her as a milch-cow. Whether it turns to the advantage of the Allies depends very much on the action of the Allies. They have been blamed for remissness in the past, but it was in fact impossible to deal with the Bolsheviks, and those who urged them to do so made the suggestion less with the desire of helping with the war than helping the Bolsheviks. The time has now come to strike, and to strike hard.

It is noteworthy that the Vladivostok and Archangel enterprises have not yet given rise to any of those protests against dissipating our energies which were evoked by the Salonika and Palestine expeditions. A cynic might interpret this as meaning that one can be an "Easterner" so long as one is a Far Easterner; but the truth probably is that even the most extreme Westerners have now realised that the war must be won in the East as well as the West if it is not to be lost in the East and won in the West. If Germany intends to use Belgium as a pawn, so much the more would she use Roumania and the Russian provinces, which she already regards as hers by right of cession. As it is nowhere suggested that we should let the East of Europe go by default, action there was inevitable.

While Berlin is preoccupied with Russia, she is not allowed to forget that Bulgaria also is dissatisfied. King Ferdinand is taking the waters at a German spa, and his subjects have seized the opportunity to vent their feelings openly as to their position. It is even suggested in Germany that the disease from which the King is suffering is less physical than political, and that he left his country on account of the spread of republicanism—which will scarcely be cured by the doctors of Bad Nauheim. But the semi-official Sofia newspaper, the *Radical*, has also spoken very freely about the domination of the Quadruple Alliance by Berlin, and has, in addition, complained that "all the booty taken in Roumania, including railway cars and locomotives," has been seized by Germany. Bulgaria further makes it a grievance that she is allowed no share in the civil administration of Roumania, that the Northern Dobruja is administered by Germany alone, "although the greatest sacrifices for its conquest were made by Bulgaria, and that, in addition, Turkey is to be given a share in the condominium, although Constantinople "has already been largely rewarded in the Caucasus."

The Bulgarian Prime Minister also received a deputation, whose composition is unknown, from the Dobruja on Saturday, which begged him to use his influence and urge his allies so that a solution of the Dobruja question should be brought about by its "annexation to the mother country," Bulgaria. Deputations of this kind are easily enough arranged, as Berlin knows well enough from its experiences in Lithuania and Courland; but the importance of this incident is less in what was said, which was no doubt arranged beforehand, than in the fact that it was officially received by the Prime Minister. But in view of her preoccupation on the Western front, it is perhaps unlikely that Germany will take the protests of her smaller Allies very seriously. She will probably remind Bulgaria that those who pay the piper call the tune, and leave Sofia to the regret, now almost openly expressed, that it joined the wrong side three years ago. Here also we may look for interesting developments in the situation before very long.

The Roumanian Senate has now approved, by 57 votes to 1, with six abstentions, the resolution of the Chamber to prosecute the members of the Bratiano Government, in spite of the dignified reply of the ex-Ministers to the accusation. But the prosecution having been determined on by the Germans in control at Bucharest, the parliamentary vote was clearly a foregone conclusion. It is an act of political persecution in which Roumania has no real option, and it will be recognised as such in the outer world. The decision is not a matter of justice, but of revenge. It is to be noted that Mr. Marghiloman advised that the Ministers should not be brought before the ordinary courts. He may doubt the wisdom of the prosecution—or its result.

Details of the developments in the regions between Kieff and the Caucasus are somewhat scanty, but not altogether unsatisfactory. The Don Cossacks announce that after three months' operations their country has been entirely cleared of the Bolsheviks, and that the Cossack army is now well equipped and numbers many thousands; while the Ukraine Government states that "an exceedingly important conference" took place between its representatives and those of the Don Government, "with the happiest results for both parties." Unfortunately, no details were given either of the agenda or of the actual details which led to the results between these two not very compatible entities, but a subsequent telegram to Cologne makes matters a little clearer, if it be true, as therein stated, that Rostoff, Taganrof, and the surrounding districts fall to the Don Republic. In view of the tottering condition of the Ukraine Government, the report is not improbable in itself.

An important step has been taken by the Persian Government. Several weeks ago it abrogated the agreement of 1907; it has now decided to abrogate all treaties, conventions, and concessions obtained by the former Russian Government and its subjects during the last hundred years, and the abolition has also been announced of Foreign Office tribunals and the Kargiyars Courts, which, says *The Times* Teheran correspondent, is equivalent to an abrogation of the treaty capitulation and the rights of foreigners. The denunciation of treaties for a century past practically covers the whole period during which Russia has been an intimate neighbour of Persia; the step is an indication that in the opinion of the Shah and his advisers the position in the Near East has been fundamentally modified by the collapse of Russia. It is also an indication that in their opinion the modification, if not the collapse, is likely to be permanent.

It is, of course, too much to expect that Mr. Arthur Henderson will be turned from his desire for a conversation with Germans and pro-Germans by the emphatic protest of the Executive of the Central Committee of Greek Hellenes at Athens against his peace policy. It is certainly a curious fact, as the Committee point out, that the Labour Socialist Conference forgot even to mention "the name of the Greek element," but that might have been explained as an inadvertent omission; more significant is the fact that the Conference "seems to have shown a delicate care and attention that the rapacious aspirations of Turkey and Bulgaria on lands which they have injured by sword and fire are not injured." It is possible, of course, that Mr. Henderson and his advisers are not intimately acquainted with the Balkans—they would not be the only people in England ready to advise on matters of which they are ignorant, as the sad case of Mr. H. G. Wells attests—but it is unfortunate that their ignorance should happen to show a bias against the Allies of their country.

If the facts are correctly reported in *The Times*—and no contradiction has yet been published—there will be a feeling of intense indignation at the announcement that British wounded have been turned out of the General Hospital near Cairo (formerly the Hotel Al Hayat) in order to accommodate German women. This appears to be one more exhibition of that official incompetence and idiotic tactlessness which makes Englishmen talk angrily about the Hidden Hand and foreigners talk contemptuously about the "mad English." The place was specially equipped for wounded; the cavalry barracks to which the wounded have been transferred appears not to be so equipped, and in any case a cavalry barracks is less suitable for a hospital than a hotel. It is to be hoped that full inquiry will be made into the origin of this scandalous blunder.

Nine years ago the whole world was electrified by the news that a French aviator had flown the Channel. Now we take it as little more than part of the day's news that two British officers have flown from England to Egypt. It happens that the feat was unprecedented, but it was performed on ordinary machines—the exact type is not mentioned—which had seen considerable service at the front; and the flight of over two thousand miles was "in every respect a piece of routine work," carried out without special designing or organisation. In view of the arrangements that are already being made for long-distance air services after the war, in another ten years it may be more novel to find an aviator who has not flown such a distance than one who has.

It is announced that an independent Armenian republic of Ararat has been proclaimed and recognised by the Turks. The republic consists of the districts of Erivan and Etchmiadzin, containing about 12,000 square kilometres of territory and 400,000 inhabitants. How far the republic will be allowed to enjoy its independence remains to be seen; but in fact its boundaries comprise two only out of the seven districts of Erivan, the other Armenian provinces of Russia and Turkey being entirely excluded. It is believed that the Armenians in those other provinces are to be forced to settle in the exiguous territories of this new republic.

A pleasant picture is given of the progress of British administrative work in Palestine by the Cairo correspondent of the *Times*. Confidence has been restored in Jerusalem, as is evidenced by the fact that the shops, which were all closed at our entry in December, are now nearly all open. It is evidently as true now as ever it was that Britain finds her true mission in constructive work; here, as in Mesopotamia and elsewhere, the successful soldier becomes the successful administrator almost before the details of the campaign are known. It is a matter in which the German is incapable of imitating his enemy, as the condition of Poland, Russia, and Roumania sufficiently attests.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 15.

Economic Crisis.

The Supply Control Board has practically concluded its labours in connection with the measures for coping with the economic crises from which the country has been suffering. Of course, foodstuffs and articles of primary necessity have already been tariffed, and shopkeepers have already been required to display copies of the official lists of maximum prices. Slight modifications have been introduced in the previous prices, the increases representing generally the difference of railway rates, which, for certain articles, have recently been raised. The new tariff becomes operative as from the 16th instant. The article which has received most attention from the Board is wheat. A central syndicate in Cairo, composed of representatives of the cereal merchants, has been formed; and provincial syndicates have been similarly constituted, each Markaz selecting four representatives exclusively from the cereal merchant class, and these re-electing in their turn ten members for each province. To these provincial syndicates, and to the central syndicate in Cairo, a copy of the regulations, drafted by a committee formed *ad hoc*, has already been submitted; and any remarks or criticism that the members may have to make should be received before the 30th instant, when the general assembly, formed of the central and provincial syndicates, will have to decide, with the concurrence of the President of the Supply Control Board, the application of such regulations. Pending the new regulations coming into force the Government has, with commendable solicitude for the welfare of the poor, sold so far 47,533 sacks of Australian flour, loaned from the Army depôts, and distributed chiefly in the populous quarters of old Cairo. On the other hand, the Ministry of Agriculture continues buying large quantities of wheat, chiefly from the National Bank of Egypt, for direct sale to the public at the tariff price. It is understood that similar measures to those taken in the case of wheat are to be applied to bread. Meantime the Governors of Cairo and Alexandria have been actively endeavouring to relieve the situation in regard to bread. The Governor of Alexandria has offered to supervise himself the work of the commission of baker representatives, and has received the thanks of the Supplies Control Board; while the Governor of Cairo has already obtained from twelve of the leading native bakers a written undertaking to sell bread, pure and unadulterated, at the tariff price.

With regard to sugar, further measures are being taken to prevent abuse. The Supplies Control Board has just ordered the prohibition of water transport of sugar in quantities over 100 kilog., except by special permit from the sugar company, or, in case of foreign sugar, from the Supplies Control Board itself. On the other hand, the Société de Sucre has published a notice to the effect that it is prepared to sell direct to retailers, whenever the latter meet with any difficulty in getting their requirements from the wholesale dealers. The Governorates are also getting lists drawn up of the grocers in each quarter, so as to help the Board to form an accurate idea of the requirements of the public. And yet abuse continues in regard both to bread and to sugar; while the public complains and the Press agitates. Of course, no final judgment can be passed before the regulations in regard to wheat are finally approved and enforced; but it is generally suspected that even then the remedy may not prove altogether radical, not because of any fault in the regulations themselves, but rather because of the aversion of the public to lodge any formal protest and get involved in the subsequent administrative formalities. It needs a man of particularly independent character, and more or less independent in his work, to face the trouble and loss of time involved in drawing up a *procès verbal* at a police station, and subsequently appearing before the Court. It has, therefore, been suggested that the same system should be adopted that proved such a success in the petroleum crisis, viz., the appointment of local committees of public-spirited men of good standing and practical experience, who would voluntarily exercise control over the grocers and shopkeepers in their respective quarters, and report eventually to the Supplies Control Board.

The meat crisis can hardly constitute a public grievance in a semi-tropical country like Egypt, where the less meat eaten the better for public health. The root of the complaint, however, lies in abuse in regard to prices and the fraudulent mixing of meats. Anomalous as it may seem, the retailers are bound by the tariff, while the cattle and sheep dealers are left free; wherefore, the butchers have been, naturally, clamouring to have their suppliers put under the same restrictions imposed on themselves. A suggestion has also been made for the institution of three meatless days, which, while reducing the consumption, would have the consequence of reducing prices also. A strict control is further recommended, to put a stop to the present abuse of mixing meats of different qualities and selling them at the price of the inferior quality. A proper system of stamping the different qualities would stop this abuse.

War Trophies from Palestine.

A most interesting exhibition of war trophies relating to the Palestine Campaign was opened last week at the Museum Annexe of the Alexandra Municipality. This exhibition is destined to have a more than transient interest. The exhibits range from the German *minenwerfer* and howitzer, the machine gun and trench mortar, to old swords, pistols, and daggers of antique workmanship; steel helmets are there also, and hand grenades and trench clubs. Some of the relics and souvenirs embody historic events of extraordinary interest, such as the White Flag which surrendered Jerusalem, and the portrait of General Allenby executed by a British officer, also his red and blue lance pennon as carried into the city; the splendid brass *hanukah* lamp used in the Jewish celebration service commemorating the British entry; and copies of General Allenby's famous Proclamation. Among the numerous other relics and souvenirs are specimens of the enemy propaganda and proclamations—and these are legion—distributed by aeroplane, and aimed especially at Egypt; and, contrasting with these is the historic Proclamation of the King of the Hejaz. Other souvenirs of peculiar interest are the photographs taken in Egypt and Palestine by the Royal Air Force. The exhibition, which may be considered still in the embryonic stage, is destined to become a medium of education, and to illustrate vividly a chapter of the History of the Great War, to which many more glorious pages are yet to be added by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The proceeds of the small admission fee will be devoted to the British Red Cross and Order of St. John. When completed the exhibition is to be transported to London, to form a section of the great Imperial War Museum.

Their Majesties' Silver Wedding.

On the occasion of their Majesties' Silver Wedding, their Excellencies the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate entertained to tea in the Residency grounds at Ramleh a thousand sailors and convalescent soldiers. In a brief speech Sir Reginald explained that, feeling sure as he did that his guests would wish to join in a loyal message to their Majesties, he had transmitted by cable their most respectful congratulations, and had just received a gracious reply, which he had the honour to read to them; after which he called for three hearty cheers for their Majesties, and ended by wishing them long life, happiness, and a complete victory over their enemy.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

The High Commissioner has just published in the local papers a statement wherein reference is made to the report received by him about "Our Day" for 1917, and to the list of subscriptions received from all parts of the world. It was a source of gratification to him that Egypt and the Sudan had responded so generously to the appeal, the total subscriptions from the two countries amounting to £152,000 for 1917, while, for 1915 and 1916 the total was £400,000. The high example set by H.H. Sultan Fuad I., who subscribed £500, has no doubt contributed to the success of the appeal; and, while thanking, on behalf of the Committee, his Highness and the members of the Sultanian Family, the Sirdar of the Sudan and the Mudirs in Egypt, as well as all those who helped in swelling the list of subscriptions, the Commissioner expresses the conviction that his further appeal for "Our Day" 1918 will meet with an equally generous response, the Egyptians having given proof of the fact that where the alleviation of human suffering was concerned their munificent spirit was always equal to the growing demands made thereon.

The Bairam Feast.

The sight of the new moon marking the end of the fast, which according to Moslem tradition has to be vouched for by at least two witnesses before the Cadi Sheri, could not this year be declared on the day that had been reckoned for, and the fast was therefore prolonged by one day. The Government, which establishes its calculations for the Bairam on astronomical records, had already declared that day as a holiday, and the officials thus had five instead of the usual four days, which was quite a welcome gain in these hot days. The usual salvoes were fired from the Citadel, and Abbassia, and at Port Said and Alexandria; and his Highness the Sultan held the reception at his Palace of Ras al-Tin. Special trains had to be added to convey the crowd of foreign and native high officials and notables who went from Cairo to Alexandria to tender their congratulations to his Highness on this auspicious occasion.

CONDITIONS IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 1.

A Critic of the New Administration.

Sure evidence of a liberal regime is free criticism of official action. Even under martial law the British administration in Palestine has been allowing this—and in one of its own organs. A Palestinian correspondent calls attention to two grievances: (1) That the majority of officials is still drawn chiefly from men of the old dominant class, who, it is true, wield a certain measure of local influence, but one that was gained under the old regime by corruption and maintained by high-handed and arbitrary action; and (2) that the tithes are being collected without due regard being paid to the ruined condition of the country and the temporary impecuniosity of the majority of the inhabitants. On this the editor comments that, in so far as the first complaint is concerned, the Government of the Occupation has necessarily to select its officials from existing elements, and to give posts of local authority to those persons whom they found in actual possession of such authority. If those officials (he adds) in the past lived by corruption and acted arbitrarily, it was simply because the former regime favoured such methods; but under the vigilant eye of the present honest administration such methods cannot continue, and it may safely be assumed that these very officials will soon be found to exercise their influence and use their local knowledge and experience with integrity, in accordance with the principles of the Government which they are serving. That Government thought before everything else of increasing the salaries of officials precisely with the view of counteracting the influence of the past ignorant regime, which courted corruption. As regards the second complaint, the editor justly argues that a country cannot be administered without its inhabitants contributing at least a portion of the expenses of the administration which is responsible for the maintenance of order, the dispensation of justice, and the development of its economic and commercial life; and that it is a wrong principle of government to attempt economy in this direction. However, it is admitted that there are certain cases which deserve exceptional treatment, and it is said that the Government contemplates the remission of taxes in cases where utter inability to pay is established, and the granting of delays in less serious cases.

In the Lebanon.

News from Syria continues to be meagre, and can only occasionally be gleaned from refugees. Such refugees are beginning to arrive in larger numbers by the more or less safe route of the Hauran, which affords a kind of neutral passage between Damascus and the southern part of Eastern Palestine, now held by the Arabs.

A Lebanese, who is said to have left The Mountain not more than six weeks ago, gives the cheerful information that diseases and epidemics have now practically disappeared from that region, and that all the mulberry plantations have been sown with grain, which promised a good crop. The rearing of the silk worm has, of course, been abandoned for the more immediate necessaries of life. Besides, the silk that had been produced in the past was taken over by German, Austrian, and Swiss agents at prices of their own, and paid for in paper money, which crowned the calamitous nature of the transactions!

Wheat and flour continue to be sold at famine prices, which in the depreciated paper currency are represented by figures unprecedented in history.

This latest informant contradicts the report (which had found some credence even in serious quarters) that an Austrian Archduke had been appointed Prince of the Lebanon, with enlarged boundaries. This seems to be a legend; but it is satisfactory to learn that the present Turkish Governor of the Lebanon is a man of a mild and conciliatory character. Indeed, all reports agree in stating that the Turks have lately changed their tactics, and that Jemal's reign of terror in Syria has been succeeded by a pro-Arab policy.

The Germans in Damascus.

Another refugee from Damascus gives a gloomy report of that town. Epidemic diseases are said to be still raging, and the bodies of people who have died from starvation are still to be seen in the streets. That famine should thus prevail in the city of plenty is accounted for thus by a correspondent: "Even the German in civil or military service was allowed to send to his family in Germany eight kilogrammes of eatables, subject to his presentation to the authorities of a list of the names and addresses of relatives. These lists contained often twenty to thirty names, to each of whom cereals, oil, dried fruits, etc., were sent, while the natives died of starvation by the hundreds."

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The summer season is running its course much as usual, and there have been some hot weeks in the plains. Larger numbers than ever of Greek families have gone to the hills, especially to Platres and a few villages on the Limassol side of the Troödos encampment. Among them now are not a few families from Nicosia, who are beginning wisely to take advantage of the increased facilities for travel and the hill attractions. Fortune has favoured many people in the capital as well as other towns during the last few years, and this migration is one of the results.

The health of the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, who has been at "Government Cottage" since the middle of June, is much improved.

The new Greek Bishop of Kition (in succession to Meletios, now Metropolitan of Athens, who is proceeding to America on a mission) is Nicodemos Mylonas, late Vicar of the Archbishop at Famagusta. He is the youngest bishop in the Greek "Orthodox" Church, being only 32, and is held in high repute in Cyprus.

Of the two new British Judges, Mr. Grimshawe is President of the Limassol District Court, and is also acting at Papho. Mr. Dixon is acting as President at Kyrenia.

Mr. Alan Stuart, after long service at Papho and Limassol, and having acted for some time as Puisne Judge at Nicosia, is now at Larnaca, as President of the District Court.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The *Busreh Times* still contains an extraordinary number of advertisements of lost dogs, whose owners not infrequently offer liberal rewards, and I am surprised to observe what a variety of breeds is represented. The Friend of Man seems to be well represented on the Shatt el-Arab these days, and clearly he is held in high esteem. Occasionally I note an advertisement of "a good dog wanted," and I suppose there must be some kind of local Leadenhall Market by now! But one advertisement struck me as rather pathetic. It ran:—

> Found.—Black and Tan Dachshund, no name on collar. Owner please apply, 40th British General Hospital.

I hope the poor little beast's owner did apply, in spite of the unpopularity of the breed at the present time. Although the strayed one had "no name" (on collar), he may have been a genuine "naturalised." And dachshunds have wonderful eyes, anyhow!

⁂

The *Leipsiger Neueste Nachrichten* recently referred to Mr. Lloyd George as "a howling dervish." Thereby, it seems to me, the Leipzig journal has placed itself neatly on the horns of a dilemma; for the Howling Dervishes are—for practical purposes—Turks, or at least Turkish subjects, and therefore dear friends of Kaiser Hajji Wilhelm and company, who never tire of telling us how they love all that is Moslem —as they never tire of telling any lie that they think will help them. So either our poor Premier has been complimented by the *Leipsiger Neueste Nachrichten*, or, if he is so black as the Germans paint him as a rule, the Howling Dervishes have been insulted.

⁂

I heard the other day a wicked little story, which may, or may not, be true. It concerned a Government Employee and a certain Contractor. The latter was eager—very, very eager—to get certain goods that were required for the construction of a stretch of railway not fifty thousand miles from a particular region of the Near East. Among other things most urgently required were some steel fish-plates; and for these he sought to obtain "priority" from the Powers-that-be. Correspondence failing to produce results, he called at the Ministry of Munitions, where, in due course he was conducted into the presence of a Gilded Youth, to whom he stated his business. The G. Y. knew all about it. He had the application at hand, with the thousand-and-one memoranda concerning it that had been prepared by an industrious and intelligent staff. He waved the suppliant into silence, picked up the papers, and glanced through them. Then he delivered his verdict: "Steel fish-plates? No, really, it can't be done! You must use earthenware ones like other people. Good morning."

⁂

The Hungarian Press is exercised about some 80,000 children who have been sent from Vienna into Hungary in order to give them a better chance of avoiding semi-starvation. Certain papers point out that these poor little refugees are actually receiving hospitality from the Serbo-Croatians, not from the Magyars. But ought we to expect too much in this line from the Hung(a)ry-uns?

⁂

From the *Pioneer* I learn that "in the hills in the Yamethin district, Burma . . . . there exists a curious tribe who support themselves by weaving mats, which they barter with traders for rice and fish paste, but which they will not sell for money. . . . They are said to have had since Burmese times an invincible objection to taking money." If only we could induce these wise people to come to these islands, they would make ideal waiters or hair-dressers' assistants. They might even go to Westminster, where each of them would save the nation £400 a year. They seem to be thrown away, so to say, on mat-making.

⁂

The question of excluding dogs from cinematograph shows—I decline to call such sorry performances "entertainments"—appears to be exercising the minds of quite a number of people in Khartoum. The "cinema" there is situated in the open, and the poor dogs manage to find their way into the show, where, one supposes, they endeavour to introduce a little real fun into the proceedings by an occasional "scrap." Then, in the darkness, ankles and calves are likely to get bitten, and there is "a certain liveliness" among the audience. I am sorry—for the dogs, who, for their own sake, should be kept out of such foolish places as the average "cinema exhibition." And, yes, I am sorry, too, for the unhappy folk who have to suffer because some dog owners are too selfish to keep their animals under proper control.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I have been waiting up till now in the hope of seeing some reply to the letter of your correspondent in your issue of July 19, under the heading of "For the Settlement of the Balkans" and over the nom de plume of "Fiat Justitia."

Your correspondent suggests that Mr. Gennadius (Minister for the Grecian kingdom), when speaking recently at the Mansion House, should have refrained from pressing upon his hearers the claims of Greece in the Balkans. He must know very well that it has not been the custom of British and foreign statesmen, when speaking either at the Guildhall or at the Mansion House, to avoid giving expression to their political views.

When Mr. E. Venizelos (the Premier of Greece) delivered his address at the Mansion House, before a very distinguished audience, the aims and aspirations of Greece were explained and advocated, not only by Mr. E. Venizelos himself, but by Mr. Balfour, Lord Curzon, Mr. Churchill, as well as Mr. Gennadius himself, who were present on the platform.

In my view, too little has been heard of the just claims of Greece, our gallant Ally, and too much has been heard about showing consideration to the uncivilised Bulgarians and Turks, who are associated with our most bitter enemies —the Germans, etc.

Indeed, I think that in view of the courageous way in which the Hellenic people are fighting by the side of the Allies, it is only right that her claims and aspirations in the Balkans should be discussed sympathetically on every reasonable occasion; because in the immensity of the present great struggle the British public are liable to forget the important part that Greece has played, and is now playing, under peculiar difficulties in order to help us against our enemies, and it should be made quite clear that Greece is entitled to very special consideration when the future partition of Balkan territory comes to be considered at the peace conference.

Bearing in mind the treatment of the Greek people in Asia Minor and elsewhere by the ruthless Turks, they must be dealt with in the same manner as the Bulgarians.—I am, etc.,

NICHOLAS PAPANICOLAY.

Primrose Club,
St. James's, S.W.1.
August 10, 1918.

AN ENQUIRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—It was stated in *The Times* several weeks ago that a Greek Metropolitan (I think, Gregory by name) had been taken in chains to Smyrna on a false charge. May I ask whether any of your readers or correspondents know if this bishop is still imprisoned? If so, can they make any suggestion as to the best course to pursue towards obtaining his release?—I am, etc.,

B. R. BALFOUR,
D.L. Co. Louth.

Townley Hall,
Drogheda, Ireland.
August 7, 1918.

ARE THE ROUMANIANS ROMANS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—How your correspondent, M. Ciotori, can imagine that scepticism with regard to the Roumanian claim to descend from Roman colonists is confined to "Magyar and Bulgarian Chauvinists" is more than I am able to explain. He is evidently unaware of the controversies which have long existed among well-known scholars with regard to this subject, as well as on the kindred question of the origin of the modern Greeks. Partisan literature has, of course, no value whatever in regard to an academic question of this kind. I am unacquainted with the Magyar language, but, so far as the Bulgarians are concerned, I think it improbable that any writer belonging to that very practical and self-centred race would care to interest himself in such a topic.

Being far from access for the moment to the principal authorities on the subject, I confine myself to pointing out that Lucius of Trau (1666), Sulzer (1781), and, above all, Roesler (1871) have shown how slender is the foundation for the theory that the Vlach or Rouman populations are to any appreciable extent the descendants of Trajan's legionaries. Every Roumanian naturally loves to believe that the blood of Julius Cæsar runs in his veins, just as every Greek is fain to regard himself as the kinsman of Alexander the Great, but however gratifying these convictions may be to national vanity, they can hardly stand the test of scientific criticism. The conclusions of Roesler as regards the Roumans, and, still more, those of Fallermayer as regards the Greeks are probably too sweeping; in certain districts of the Carpathians, for instance, some more or less *pur sang* descendants of Trajan's legionaries may survive.

But, putting aside the scientific view, few persons possessed of ordinary common sense—enthusiastic lady writers must be left out of account—will be found to believe that a race claiming to number some twelve million souls and extending all over the Balkan Peninsula, possesses a lineal descent from a group of Roman colonists who occupied a comparatively limited district north of the Danube. The name "Roumania" is, of course, of modern origin, and no conclusion can be drawn from the circumstance that the Vlachs of Macedonia called and still call themselves Aroumâni; the Greeks similarly called themselves "Romans" and became the *Roum millet* of the Turkish Empire. If dialects are less marked in the Vlach language than in some of the sister tongues the explanation is to be found in the nomadic habits of the people: dialects grow up among populations which remain continually in the same locality. Welgard, the highest authority on the subject, mastered, if I recollect aright, thirteen Vlach dialects. What M. Ciotori means by "profund Latin traditions" I cannot say: it may be observed that in the establishment of descent tradition is held to be of no account by genealogists.—I am, etc.,

JAMES D. BOURCHIER.

THE GREEKS IN AMERICA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, July 15.

American Independence Day was observed by Americans of Greek origin all over the United States with the highest feelings of patriotism and devotion to their adopted country. Their representative, Mr. D. J. Theophilatos (with thirty other delegates—Americans of foreign origin—the guests of the President at Mount Vernon), laid on the tomb of George Washington a wreath of laurels, with the inscription on a ribbon of red, white, and blue: "To the founder of freedom, George Washington, from the Americans of Hellenic descent."

President and Mrs. Wilson honoured the Greek delegates on board the Mayflower with a prolonged conversation about the Greeks in America and their patriotic activities on behalf of the country of their adoption; also about the political situation of Greece as an ally to the United States. President Wilson spoke of the glorious history of Greece and of her struggle for liberty—a history covering three thousand years of noble defence of civilisation against barbarism. Mr. Theophilatos, in reply, suggested that America has been more fortunate than Greece, since in a space of only 142 years of national life she has not only established the American people free and glorious, but has also successfully defended the rights and liberties of mankind.

In the evening hymns and dances of ancient Greece were given on the steps of Treasury Building by the Greek residents at Washington. The Greek pageant, led by the Evzones, wearing their national kilt, paraded before the President and Mrs. Wilson at the Capitol, and were greeted by the cheers of thousands of spectators.

"IMPUDENT FALSEHOOD."

The following is from *Al Kibla* of April 26:—

"To those who discard the Book of God, nothing is an offence."

We have received from H.H. the Emir Abdullah the following communication under the above title:—

> "A letter has reached me, bearing the signature of the Commander-in-Chief in Syria and Turanian Minister of Marine, to the effect that an individual named Ahmed el Nakib has come to him, stating that he was sent by me, but having no documentary proof of this. This is an impudent falsehood, as far from the truth as East is from West. I protest by God, His Prophet, and His Book that the statement is a sheer audacious lie on the part of the above-named, on whom I fling back the fabrication. As there are men to whom such conduct as this is not repulsive, I make this announcement in *Al Kibla*, so that all readers, East and West, may know the facts; and the curse of God be upon liars.
>
> (Signed) ABDULLAH,
> Comm.-in-Chief of the Eastern Army.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports (August 11):—The aeroplane from London reached here at six o'clock on Thursday evening last. The huge machine, which was piloted by two local planes, landed in perfect style. At the aerodrome the airmen were greeted on their arrival by Major-General Salmond, who gave a banquet in their honour the same evening. In their flight the airmen covered 2,900 miles.

The Egyptians were deeply impressed with this remarkable and most significant feat.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

V.A.D. EXPERIENCES ON THE EASTERN FRONT—IN FACT AND FICTION.[1]

In "With the Scottish Nurses in Roumania" Miss Yvonne Fitzroy gives a terse and brightly written account of nine months' stirring experiences of a V.A.D. orderly in a Scottish hospital unit which was sent, August 31, 1916, to Russia viâ Archangel to the Roumanian front. The book is dedicated to Miss Elsie M. Inglis, M.B., founder of the Scottish Women's Hospital, who appears in it as the inspirer of the whole. "Month after month her courage and her endurance never flagged. Daily and hourly, in the very agony of suffering and death, she gave her life by inches." She died November 26, 1917.

Miss Fitzroy's journal is full of hardships and adventures—not a few serious—but all told in such a simple and humorous way as to make it delightful reading. There is material here for a large volume, but fortunately the author realises that the world has no time just now for minute accounts of individual adventures.

After the long railway journey through the breadth of Russia the unit at last, on October 1, reached Medjidia, in Roumania—close to the fighting line. Here is the picture of things:—

> "Sheets of rain and dust all turned to mud. And *such* mud! Off early to a breakfast of black bread and Tchi (tea) at the Red Cross canteen, and worked at the Hospital all the morning scrubbing. We are trying to fit up boilers, but so far every drop of water has to be carried from the soldiers' pumps in pails. The place filthily dirty and the sanitary (?) arrangements unspeakable."

Two days later the rush of work began:—

> "We have been working like blacks, alternately too busy and too weary to write. . . . Between filth and wounds the men's condition is indescribable. They are coming back in thousands; our transport have been working absolutely heroically. . . . It has been the biggest rush of wounded they have yet had. By shoving the mattresses close to each other and putting others in every available corner we made room for every man we could, and still the cry of the authorities is for more—more—more."

And yet, with wounded men pouring to the rear, the hospital had to be evacuated on October 21, only just in time indeed, for Medjidia fell into the enemy's hands on the afternoon of the same day. Retreat to Galatz and six weeks of hospital work at Braila were followed by three harassed weeks at Galatz, a "nightmare of confusion, alarms, air raids, with all day the horror of gangrene and tetanus before their eyes, and all day and all night long the smell, the confusion, and the dirt."

On January 4 the hospital was moved by boat down the Danube to Reni, where the hospital accommodation was better, but the cold soon proved excessive. Two of the illustrations from photographs taken here show the Danube frozen from shore to shore. In the middle of March came the first rumours of the revolution:

> "There is the wildest enthusiasm and confidence everywhere, and they claim the whole Revolution to be the work of the Army and people united. Splendid—*splendid*. Everyone is beaming, and one cannot even in these early days but rejoice in the change of attitude." Pathetic reading to-day!

A curious sidelight on the revolution is given when Miss Fitzroy was in Petrograd en route for home:

> "There was a curious scene at the Opera one night. During an entr'acte half-a-dozen soldiers walked on the stage and, addressing the audience, their spokesman explained that his regiment, now in Petrograd, had been to the front and had suffered very severely. They were now resting, but if subscriptions were forthcoming they might find it possible to fight again. The hat was passed round by fairies from the chorus! Thus were we reminded of the Revolution, and murdered Generals floating in the canal, workers asking for a six-hour day, strikes and much singing of the Marseillaise all bore witness!"

In contrast to these painful realities, "A V.A.D. in Salonica," "a tale of a girl's work in the Great War," is light and pleasant reading. As a work of fiction for young girls it will be appreciated. Like most such work, it contains many impossible incidents, and the heroine's ability as a motorist quite overshadows her more humdrum duties as a nurse. There is, of course, the inevitable hero and the equally inevitable happy ending, all of which will make the book the more acceptable to those for whom it is intended, who will, we feel sure, agree with the "summary" that "Miss Marchant has made an excellent story."

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[1] "With the Scottish Nurses in Roumania." By Yvonne Fitzroy. (London, John Murray. 5s. net.)

[2] "A V.A.D. in Salonika." By Bessie Marchant. (London; Blackie and Son. 3s. net.)

ENGLAND AND INDIA.[*]

We cannot recommend this book to the student of Indian problems. The writer thinks that neither Indians nor Englishmen are morally fit to govern the country, and he illustrates this thesis partly by extracts from his own writings, partly by quotations from very secondary authorities, with a couple of sermons thrown in as an appendix. He propounds a curious plan for getting out of the difficulty he has discovered, probably the least suitable plan that has yet been published either here or in India, and the rest of the book is largely vituperative. Mr. Milburn is not up-to-date, for apparently he has not yet heard of the announcement made last August in Parliament, and, speaking generally, his effort is sterilised by the consciousness of his superiority over the men with whom he deals.

THE MEGALITHIC CULTURE OF INDONESIA.[†]

Certain distinguished students of ethnology have come to the conclusion that the well-known megalithic monuments—such as menhirs, dolmens and cromlechs—found in various parts of Western Asia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean are largely the work of one race of people of great antiquity, who all show evidence also of sun worship. The book before us is an exhaustive examination of the evidence of a race of similar culture having flourished in the region described as Indonesia—*i.e.*, in Further India, Borneo, the Philippines, the Celebes, and many small groups of islands lying to the south-east of this last. The difficulties of such a task are very great, and in many of the islands the existence of later races of higher civilisations has so far obliterated the earlier remains—especially the folk lore—that they are purposely neglected in this investigation. Indeed, the islands most backward in civilisation proved the more hopeful fields. The author has brought together a vast amount of important data covering all aspects of the question to prove his case. The book is a perfect mine of folk lore, of considerable importance to the student, but full of fascination for the general reader. The author considers that he has proved his case that people have migrated into these parts of Indonesia with which he is concerned "who brought in the use of stone, also terraced irrigation, metal working and rice growing. They founded lines of chiefs in some places, upper classes in others, and in others have caused warriors to be distinguished from the rest of the community. The immigrants appear to have brought with them the belief in a world in the sky. They imagine that their 'soul substance' goes to the sky-world after death. Their religion was a sun cult, and some of their descendants claim to be 'children of the sun.' The ideas of these immigrants appear to be confined to a considerable extent to their descendants, and 'their influence upon the indigenous peoples has apparently not been profound.'"

It will be seen that this investigation, which goes far beyond that of merely megalithic monuments, opens up an attractive new field for further research.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"There Was a King in Egypt." By Norma Lorimer. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 7s. net.)

"The Letters of Thomasina Atkins, Private, W.A.A.C., on Active Service." (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"The Sorcerer." By Gregory Saben. (London: John Richmond. 6s. net.)

◆

The July "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains an illustrated description of "A Sixth Century Greek Mosaic at Um Jerar" by Lieut. F. M. Drake, R.E., a paper on "The Settlement of Manasseh East of Jordan," by the Rev. M. H. Segal; and further instalments of Mr. Baldensperger's "The Immovable East," and Dr. E. W. G. Masterman's "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times." There is a report of the annual general meeting of the Society, and the "Notes and News" deal at some length with the proposed British School of Archæology in Palestine.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons have just published a remarkably fine "Oilette" reproduction of the Queen's Letter from the Women of the Empire to the Navy, Army, and Air Force, enclosed in a highly artistic border designed by Mr. F. O. Salisbury. Probably no better example of this class of work has ever been issued, and we congratulate the publishers on a really notable achievement. The picture is published entirely for the benefit of the British Red Cross Fund, and may be had at the following prices:—Popular edition, 2s. 6d.; plate paper print, 10s. 6d.; publishers' proof (limited to 1,000 copies), £1 1s.; and artist's proof (500 copies), £2 2s.

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[*] "England and India." By R. Gordon Milburn. (London: George Alle and Unwin.)

[†] "The Megalithic Culture of Indonesia." By W. J. Perry, B.A. (Manchester, University Press, London: Longmans, Green and Co. 12s. 6d. net).

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. August	1918. August		1336. Julkada	5678. Elul.
16	3	Friday	9	8
17	4	Saturday........	10	9
18	5	**Sunday**	11	10
19	6	Monday	12	11
20	7	Tuesday	13	12
21	8	Wednesday	14	13
22	9	Thursday	15	14

Prince Bibesco, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation, visited the Foreign Office on Monday.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have left 23, Grosvenor Place, for Clunie Lodge, Inverness.

M. Take Jonescu, who visited Lord R. Cecil last Friday, left London on Monday for Aix-les-Bains.

Lady Methuen and the Hon. Seymour Methuen have arrived in London from Malta, and have proceeded to Corsham, Wilts.

Mme. Yovanovitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister, visited Kettering on Monday in connection with the Serbian Red Cross.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the "Kamal" (for ladies) upon Lady Roushdy, wife of the Prime Minister.

The marriage of Mlle. Nava Pashitch, daughter of the Serbian Prime Minister, to Dr. Stephen Rashitch, a young Serbian, took place quietly at Nice on Monday.

M. J. J. Stavridis, Consul-General for Greece in London, has been promoted a Commander of the Order of the Redeemer by the King of the Hellenes for valuable services rendered.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has accepted the invitation of the Viceroy of India to become a member of the Central Recruiting Board in place of his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

The *Sudan Times* (July 2) reports that Mr. C. P. Browne, Governor of Berber Province, has met with a bad motor accident, dislocating his elbow. It was thought advisable for him to proceed to Cairo.

On June 17, at Mussouri, India, the marriage took place of Colonel Keith H. Jackson, Indian Cavalry, youngest son of late Elphinstone Jackson, Esq., I.C.S., to Constance, widow of late Colonel Shore, and daughter of Colonel Watling, Rajputs.

The Serbian sculptor, M. Gjoka Yovanovic, has made a plaque with a portrait of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis, of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which he has sent to the Serbian Minister in London, requesting him to hand it over to Dr. Inglis's family.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in September, between William Pell Barton, C.I.E., I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner of the N.W.F. Province, and Evelyn Agnes Heriz-Smith, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Heriz-Smith, of Slade, Bideford, North Devon.

A marriage has been arranged, to take place at Alexandria, Egypt, in September, between Captain C. Elliott Davis, A.S.C., youngest son of Mr. Orlando J. H. Davis, Plymouth, and Miss Fay Leathes Prior, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leathes Prior, of Thorpe and Mundesley, Norfolk.

Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Thursby has just been appointed Commander-in-Chief at Plymouth. It was he who was in charge of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces north of Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli, in April, 1915, and both Sir Ian Hamilton and Admiral de Robeck testified to his fine work on this occasion.

Dr. J. J. Findlay, M.A., Professor of Education at Manchester University, has accepted the invitation of the Y.M.C.A. Universities' Committee to become its Director of Education in Salonika, where it is hoped that an extensive system of classes and lectures will be developed during the autumn and winter. Professor Findlay will leave for Salonika in September. Professor Findlay was educated at Kingswood School, Bath, and Wadham College, Oxford, and is Ph.D. of Leipzig. He studied education in Germany and America, and has had practical experience as a teacher at Rugby, Bath College, two Wesleyan proprietary schools, and an intermediate school for boys.

General Sir Reginald Wingate, High Commissioner of Egypt, has sent to the Lord Mayor £3,118, subscribed by Egypt in response to his recent appeal for the "France's Day" Fund. The success of the appeal was largely due to the generous support of the Sultan, who opened the list with £E200 (£205 2s. 6d.).

The King has been pleased to appoint Mr. James Bennett Brunyate, C.S.I., C.I.E., to be an additional Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India in recognition of special services rendered in connection with the war. The appointment is to date from July 17, 1918. Sir James Brunyate, who is a member of the Council of India, has just returned to this country from the United States, where he has been attached to the staff of Lord Reading as adviser on questions connected with Indian currency and Eastern exchange.

Mr. Martin Langford, of Reading, an Indian Mutiny veteran, has died at the age of 82.

Enver Pasha's title of Deputy Commander-in-Chief has been altered to Chief of the General Staff of the Supreme Army Command.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports (August 13):—A Berlin telegram states that Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria visited the Kaiser on Sunday at Main Headquarters.

According to a Constantinople telegram, the former Turkish Ambassador in Paris, Rifaat Pasha, has been appointed Ambassador in Berlin, and the former Minister at Athens, Mukhtar Bey, has been appointed Minister at Kieff.

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the war, General Marshall, commanding in Mesopotamia, sent to Sir Douglas Haig a message of greeting and congratulation. Sir Douglas Haig replied, thanking him in the warmest terms.

General Allenby has telegraphed to Sir Douglas Haig:—"The Army in Palestine is delighted at your great success, and sends congratulations to you all." Sir Douglas Haig has sent his heartiest thanks to General Allenby for his message.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, accompanied by the Crown Prince and the Princess Eudoxia and Nadejda, arrived unexpectedly at Nauheim on August 7. King Ferdinand, who intends to remain there for some time, is staying incognito at one of the large hotels under the name of the Count von Murany.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister to France, who has just returned from the Macedonian front, interviewed by the *Patris*, expressed himself enthusiastically about the Greek and Allied armies, and added that the recent Allied victories on the Western front had filled the Greeks with renewed optimism and confidence.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir Verney Lovett has been appointed a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council, vice Mr. F. J. Pert, resigned.

Indian papers received by the last mail announce that Sir Stanley Reed has joined the Central Publicity Board as Vice-President, and Brigadier-General Skeen, of the General Staff, as a member.

Mr. B. Burnett, Chief Engineer, Sudan Public Works Department, has been appointed Director of Works, Sudan Government, in succession to Lewa M. R. Kennedy Pasha, retired, with effect from March 12.

Kaimakam Northcote Bey, Senior Inspector, Bahr el Ghazal Province, who has been acting as Governor of Mongalla since the retirement of Lewa Owen Pasha in February, has now been appointed Governor of that Province.

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OBITUARY.

The Rev. Thomas Arthur Savage, headmaster of the Cathedral Boys' School, Bombay, died in that city on June 17, aged 64.

Lady Trevor, wife of Sir Arthur Charles Trevor, died on August 7 at Harcourt Terrace, Kensington. She was a daughter of Colonel Cyril Jockson Prescott, Bombay Staff Corps, of Branston, Lincoln, and was married to Sir Arthur Trevor, of the Bombay Civil Service, in 1867.

Captain William Howard Lister, D.S.O., M.C., R.A.M.C., was killed on August 9 in Italy. He served in the Balkan War as a Red Cross dresser, and was awarded the Balkan medal. When the present war broke out he threw up a house appointment at University College Hospital to enlist.

Mr. Herbert Coupland, late Revenue Secretary Bihar and Orissa Government, died on Friday, at Leeds, at the age of fifty-five. Educated at Ripon Grammar School and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, he was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1894. In Bengal he served as Assistant Magistrate and Collector and Assistant Settlement Officer, becoming Magistrate and Collector in August, 1907.

Lieutenant-Colonel Humfrey Hayes Kennedy, Seaforth Highlanders, was killed in action on July 29. He entered the Seaforth Highlanders in 1903. For services in the South African War he had five bars to the Queen's medal, and for service on the North-West Frontier in 1908 (operations in the Zakka Khel country) he received the Indian medal with clasp. From June, 1912, to August, 1914, he was employed with the West African Frontier Force.

Sir Richard George Glyn, Bt., D.L., died on August 9 at his residence, Gaunt's House, Wimborne, at the age of 86. As a captain of the Royal Dragoons he rode in the charge of Scarlett's Heavy Brigade at Balaclava, and was present at the Battle of Inkerman, receiving the Crimean Medal with three clasps. He retired from the Army in 1859, and in 1863 he made an expedition to the interior of Africa, being one of the first Europeans after Livingstone to reach the Victoria Falls of the Zambesi.

Second Lieutenant Charles St. Aubyn Clarke, Indian Infantry, who died on July 30, of endocarditis, at the Station Hospital, Agra, aged 20, was the only surviving son of Captain Robert Clarke (Staff) and Mrs. Robert Clarke, late of Thurcroft Hall, Yorkshire. He was educated at Malvern College, and joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. in August, 1915, obtaining a commission in the Machine Gun Corps in February, 1917. He saw service in France from July to beginning of October of the same year, and then returned to England, having exchanged into the Indian Army. He left for India in November, 1917.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Dr. Ahmed Aziz, an Egyptian, has been appointed Assistant School and Tuberculosis Medical Officer for Wigan.

The *Matin* states that a report is spread in Germany that a Republican movement has made its appearance in Bulgaria, and that King Ferdinand displayed prudence in leaving for Nauheim.

A Kieff telegram, *viâ* Berlin, states that recruiting for the first division of the new Ukrainian Army has been most successful. A division consisting of 5,000 men is to be stationed at Kieff.

A Jassy telegram states that the ex-Chief of the Roumanian police, M. Panaitescu, has been arrested and charged with receiving large bribes before the outbreak of war, especially from Russia.

Kieff newspapers report that the Roumanian Government has agreed with the Ukrainian Government to the appointment of diplomatic representatives in the respective capitals of the two countries.

It is stated by the *Cologne Gazette* that the Roumanian Cabinet Council has decided to expel M. Kartamjcheff, the former Russian Consul at Galatz, and the Russian delegate to the International Danube Commission.

The *Palestine News* reports that a regular motor-lorry service has been instituted between Jerusalem and Hebron for the conveyance of passengers and luggage. A journey is made one way on each day of the week except Saturday.

Approval has been given to the creation, for the period of the war, of additional military administrative appointments in the Indian Medical Service up to eight in number. The appointments will carry the rank of colonel and will be filled as circumstances demand. Service in them will count towards the additional pension of £250 per annum for which colonels of the Indian Medical Service are eligible after five years' active service in that rank.

A Constantinople telegram reports that, as the result of the steps taken by the Armenian deputation, it has been decided gradually to send Armenian refugees back to the Caucasus. At present only those from the districts of Batoum and Alexandropol will be allowed to return.

M. Malinoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, on Saturday received a Dobrujan deputation, which described the "sufferings" of the Dobruja under Roumanian domination, and begged him to use his influence so that Bulgaria might urge its allies to bring about a solution of the Dobruja question in the sense of "annexation to the mother country."

The *Judische Rundschau* of July 26 contains a report received by it from the Jewish colony of Merchavya, in Northern Palestine, according to which the Jewish watchmen of the colony were attacked on the night of June 17 by a band of robbers. One of these was captured and handed over to the Turkish district commandant, but he was released (or escaped) the next day, and again came with a band of robbers, who attacked the Jewish watchmen as they entered the field, and shot one of them dead. No further action was taken by the authorities. In consequence of this and similar incidents, Jewish circles in the Central European countries are reported to be very uneasy, and the *Oesterreichische Wochenschrift* of July 26 refers to "a very disquieting report about atrocities in all parts of Turkey against the Jews and Jewish communities."

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1918.

THE BASIS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION.

The month which has elapsed since the publication of the official scheme of Indian reforms has been marked by a gradual definition of opinion, and it is now possible to review the situation as a whole and estimate the prospects of at least the immediate future. There is no doubt that both in India and in this country the Report came as a surprise. It is true that some form of political and administrative dualism was foreshadowed as an inevitable result of the declaration of policy made a year ago, but the general public had not grasped this fact, and while extremists found no difficulty in expressing their opinions, the ordinary man required time to face the new situation and adjust his ideas to a scheme for which he was not prepared. It is not yet possible to describe fully the result of this process in India, for cabled summaries of such movements are apt to be misleading, but the news which has reached this country justifies the statement that a large volume of responsible opinion has declared its support of the main features of the official scheme, and while there is no prospect of complete unanimity, the measures now proposed would, at any rate, not break down for want of the men to work them. As regards British opinion, it is possible to speak with more certainty. The policy of the gradual introduction of responsible government stands practically unquestioned. Any doubt of its entire acceptance by the War Cabinet was finally dispelled in the recent debates in Parliament. The full report of the proceedings of the Indo-British Association shows—what earlier accounts had left uncertain—that that influential body accepts the policy, though it rejects the scheme; and opposition to the principle is now confined to the few stalwarts who are always to be found in an essentially Conservative nation. As regards the measures to be adopted in pursuit of that policy, opinion is still fluid, and while there is a disposition to accept the main lines laid down by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, useful criticism is being directed to some particular features, notably the burden which would have to be borne by provincial Governors and the complexity of the whole administrative machine.

The outstanding fact in the situation is, however, the clear recognition that everything turns on the system of representation to be adopted, a point on which we have throughout insisted in these columns, and we welcome the announcement that the Committee on this subject is to be set up almost immediately, and that it will not be debarred from considering particular methods by the fact that they have not won the approbation of the authors of the report. It is on this question of representation that the battle between democracy and oligarchy has to be fought out, and the responsibility of the new Committee can scarcely be exaggerated. The immediate and complete enfranchisement of the masses of peasants and artisans is not a practicable measure, but this fact must not be allowed to operate so as to give the privileged classes an indefinite if terminable lease of power. The problem to be placed before the Committee is how to secure adequate expression for the masses of the people who have not yet found their voice during the period in which they are learning to express their opinion for themselves, and no theoretical considerations can be allowed to stand in the way of a practically satisfactory solution. The familiar western paraphernalia of ballot-boxes, voters' lists, platforms, and programmes are, it must be remembered, only so much machinery, means that in certain circumstances are found to work tolerably well, and if the circumstances of India are not suited to their employment, they must be courageously discarded in favour of other means better adapted to the conditions which prevail. The task, like almost everything in India, is one of very great difficulty, but its accomplishment is not impossible provided that it is approached with the single-hearted steadfastness which has marked all the best work done by Englishmen in the country; and from this point of view we particularly welcome Mr. Montagu's explicit statement that the system of communal representation will be an open question before the Committee. We do not question the strength of the arguments against that system advanced in the report, but we do not admit that those arguments are conclusive, and we think it is quite possible that the Committee may eventually find itself forced to put them on one side. Communal representation is already a fact, so far at least as the Moslem community is concerned; it may be, as the Report hints, that Lord Minto granted it without fully realising the consequences of the grant, but the fact stands, and stands as a precedent for every other community in India. It is significant that the system is claimed as essential by the spokesman of the depressed classes in Madras and by the Deccan Ryots' Association in Bombay, the first to be heard of the new voices which are destined to increase in number and in volume until the full chorus tells what India really thinks and wants; and that the claims made by these interests are supported by some of the men in this country who are most familiar with the conditions of the problem. Representation by locality, the alternative and more familiar system, is, after all, little more than an accident, the result of obstacles to transit which no longer exist, and retained because it works tolerably well among fairly homogeneous nations. India is not yet homogeneous, and to press her into this Western mould might merely result in cramping her development without necessarily achieving the object in view. A long step towards the unification of India will have been taken when Brahmins and outcasts meet in the council chamber, and each can for the first time realise the aims and aspirations of the other; and if the idea sounds fantastic, the reason is that India has still a long way to go before Western systems of representation will meet her peculiar needs.

It would be premature, however, to conclude that the problem can be solved only by the adoption of communal representation as a normal feature of the Indian constitution. It is quite possible that among the various schemes which have been suggested, the Committee may find some alternative method of overcoming the difficulty which they have to face, the difficulty, that is, of finding a means for the expression of the collective opinion of the countryside, and we, at least, have no desire to prejudge the results of their inquiry. The main point is that this problem has to be faced, and that some method of ascertaining the opinion of the masses must be devised, to be introduced from the outset as an integral part of constitutional reform. There is a very real danger that the difficulties in the way may lead to an indefinite postponement, and that a measure of responsible government may be entrusted at the outset to what may now be fairly described as the suburban classes, not because they constitute the people of India, but because they constitute the only fraction of the people which fits easily into the scheme. To do this would undoubtedly be to follow the line of least resistance for the moment; but it would be to build the new constitution on inadequate and insecure foundations, and to arouse from the outset the opposition of such of the masses as have already begun to think, an opposition which would assuredly increase rapidly and would shortly prove to be overwhelming. The plain duty of the Committee is to avert the risk of such a catastrophe by ensuring that the opinion of the masses shall from the outset be so expressed as to carry its due weight with the Ministers, and with the Council, on whose support they will depend. The system of representation which India needs is the system which, whatever its theoretical defects may be, will lead most directly to this result.

ENGLAND AND PALESTINE.

BY ESTELLE BLYTH.

"*When God wants a hard thing done in the world, He tells it to His Englishmen.*"—Milton.

This paper is meant for those sons and daughters of Palestine whose country is emerging little by little from thraldom into the liberty that is the keynote of British rule. The change is so great, the relief so exquisite, that for the moment you are breathless with the wonder of it, and can only realise that the miracle of deliverance is actually being wrought in your time and in your sight, and that, under God, you owe it to the nation from whom you have always longed that your freedom should come—England, the little island whose "spirit's meat is freedom," the little country with the great and understanding heart. "Now once again God is decreeing to begin some new and wonderful period; what does He then but reveal Himself to His servants, and as His manner is, first to His Englishmen; I say, as His manner is first to us. though we mark not the method of His counsels, and are unworthy." It is a trust which we as a nation have not sought nor striven after, but it has been enjoined upon us in terms too plain to be misunderstood; it is a heavy charge —yet who would not rejoice to serve Jerusalem at any cost?

England is no stranger to you. The history of your land is joined to ours by many links, forming a chain that stretches far back into the misty past; a chain which, we hope as much as you, shall never be broken while time lasts. If you feel you have a debt to the England of to-day, who is giving of her best for your freedom, do you remember that her giving has not been confined to *this* generation, *this* campaign? She has given you lives and thoughts and much service during many generations; and though it may be England's way to give without desiring repayment or even gratitude, it shall be to your honour to acknowledge the debt.

The connection between Palestine and England begins in very early days, but, closely interwoven though our histories are, we can do no more than glance at some of its most telling points. British prisoners walked in a Roman triumph through the streets of Jerusalem. To Helena, a British princess, came the dream revealing where the True Cross was hid; and her son Constantine the Great, builder of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was born at York in Britain. Alfred the Great sent an embassy of friendship to the Patriarch of Jerusalem. A steady stream of pilgrims flowed from our country eastward to yours. Then came the Crusades, those wonderful Adventures in which France and England first joined hands for love of the Holy Sepulchre. The First Crusade was composed of men drawn from nineteen different countries, but England was doubly represented by a contingent of Normans under Robert, Duke of Normandy, eldest son of William I. of England, and by a smaller Saxon force under Edgar Atheling, the last of the old Saxon Royal House of England from which King William had torn the English crown. Henry II., grandson of William I., gave money to the Patriarch Heraclius of Jerusalem for the defence of the Holy Land, though he refused to accept the keys of Jerusalem, which were offered to him by the Patriarch; he also sent the Knights Templars the sum of thirty thousand marks a year for the same purpose. Two of Henry's knights, who had been concerned in the murder of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, went on a pilgrimage to Palestine out of penitence for their share in that crime; one at least of them is buried in that Church which is now the Mosque El-Aksa. Outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre lies buried Sir Philip d'Aubigny, a worthy knight of England, one of those free, bold spirits who signed the great Charter of English liberty which you now shall share with us; and yet another knight sleeps in the Church of St. Anne.

So we come to Richard of England, the Lion-heart, whose name lives yet in Palestine. How he and his little English army fought and toiled and suffered unwearyingly for three years you know as well as we. Richard's name is written on Palestine in letters that even time cannot efface; he can never be forgotten there because of the love he bore the country. Everything he had he staked for her freedom. "I would sell London itself could I but find a buyer!" he said—not, I think, because he loved London so little as because he loved Jerusalem so much. And yet all his ardour, all his labour, availed nothing; he could not free Jerusalem. Coming once within sight of her dear walls and towers, he hid his eyes and cried: "Ah, Lord God, since I may not free Thy Holy City let not mine eyes behold it!" "Tell your Sultan that I shall return to take Jerusalem from him!" was Richard's farewell to the Saracen Emirs, when he left Palestine; and Saladin returned answer: "If it please God to take Jerusalem out of my hands, there is none more worthy to hold it than the King of England." Prophetic words!

A few years later Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the Lion-heart's nephew, sought to lead a crusade; but he was a Richard in name only; his army fell to pieces in his hands, and in the end he entered Jerusalem, not as a deliverer, but as an unknown pilgrim. Not until 1271 was there another English Crusade—that led by Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I., who, with a very small army, beat a large host of Egyptian Saracens under Bibars at Nazareth, and beat it soundly, too. But troubles at home clamoured for his return, and he left Palestine soon after. Thereafter the chain between Palestine and England becomes a slender one, composed of individuals rather than companies of men; and we pass on to the defence of Acre by Sir Sidney Smith, who, by sheer valour and bulldog tenacity of purpose, held those tottering walls against the furious assault of Napoleon and the French. All through the land we see scattered the graves of English dead who, in this age or in that, have given up their lives for Palestine. Thus the chain endures, unbreakable for all its slenderness, linking the present with the past in one bond of sacrifice.

You have known the British in your land, scattered here and there by ones and twos, or in little groups, working for the good of the land alone, with a faith in her future which even you did not always share. You know how they have lived among you, what their work has been, and to whose profit it was wrought. You know what English schools and English hospitals have done for your country. And you have a saying, "On the word of an Englishman it is true!" I think it must have been centuries of keeping faith that have bred in you the invincible trust in England that finds expression in those words. You will find your faith in England strengthened by the manner in which her soldiers bear themselves amongst you to-day; by their chivalry, their straightness, and their daring you shall know them to be English. We at home are not afraid that they will lower England in your eyes. To them—those young free Britons who have come from the ends of the earth to fight for Palestine, who have suffered and bled for Palestine, whose bodies stand between yourselves and the unnameable horrors of war, many of whom must give their lives that Palestine may live—to them, indeed, you owe great friendship and good faith.

Many of you have said before the war: "We have no country. Why should we fight for the Turks, and why should we work for them?" And in bitterness of heart you went away to other lands, and called yourselves "citizens of the world," holding that you were free of obligation to the country that had given you birth because, under the Turks, there was no room for you at home. But now your most beautiful country is being bought at a great price and given back to you. Now you will have her for your own, to fight for and work for, to serve with every nerve and fibre of your being. Truly, to have a country, and that country Palestine, must spur you to undreamed-of heights! There are no limits set to the future of Palestine; but it is for you to prove to the world by your faithful and unselfish service that you are worthy of the trust. Already you see a difference, though it is only a few weeks since Jerusalem was freed. And what will it be when all the land has peace?

And now, turning from your immediate concerns, think a little of what it means if you are really to be incorporated in that great autonomy of nations which is the British Empire. Freedom involves responsibility, of which, in a state of bondage, you naturally had none. You can no longer say, when things go wrong: "It is the Turks who are to blame!" and shrug aside responsibility as you did before. You will have full responsibilities of personal choice and action, as well as larger and more solemn obligations as members of the British Empire. What that membership is you can hardly realise as yet; for though you have known many English people, the quiet manner of their life and service among you has given you no idea of what England really is. For England is the head and mother of a divinely builded empire, whose walls bear the mark of "many a blow and biting sculpture" from the hand of the Heavenly Architect. With all her failures, her short-

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By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

comings, we believe that she has yet a special work to do in the world, and that sure proof of this is in the purity of purpose with which she entered on the war, the cleansing of her national ideals as evidenced in the chivalry of her fighting men, the willing sacrifices made by those at home, the uplifted tone of her literature; and not least in her being allowed to suffer with and for weaker and smaller nations.

> Glory of warrior, glory of orator, glory of song . . . .
> Glory of virtue, to fight, to struggle, to right the wrong—
> Nay, but she aimed not at glory, no lover of glory she;
> Give her the glory of going on, and still to be.

This is the day when England's voice is sounding right across the continent and in many lands, as not long since it was heard upon the sea. Some, even amongst her own people, have thought her silence over-long—for we do not hesitate to criticise our England whenever we fail to understand her. To such narrow-witted critics she seemed too well content to let others speak, too ready to work silently behind the lines, as it were, strengthening her friends, too willing to forge weapons for the hands of others rather than to flash her own. So these busy critics ran about and talked—perhaps to fill up the space of England's silence. But the children of her blood, who have been brought up in the faith of Crecy and Poictiers, of Balaclava and Rorke's Drift, of Plassey, Quebec, and Trafalgar, of Maiwand and Agincourt and Waterloo, knew that the old spirit was not faint within her, and they could wait for the time when she saw fit to let all men know it too. Now England is speaking, and when she speaks men listen.

Not alone in the terrific thunder of her guns are England's accents heard. Yet clearer sounds the voice of mercy to the fallen; of heartwhole joyous praise for her children and her friends, yes, and when possible for foes as well; of a gay enduring valour that does not minimise the cost of progress, but simply surmounts it. Oh, it is good to be English to-day, to listen to the great mother speaking, to watch the tireless sweep of her arm, as strong now as it has ever been, to see the proud lift of her head as she leads in battle! From far and near her sons flocked to her side, thinking, it maybe, that they were come to fight for her; and so they have, with a valour and a chivalry that stamp them as truly of the old breed, but they are also fighting with her. England's hand has not lost its cunning; she is striking home to-day with the youngest of her sons. Honour and valour and the deep-seated love of the child for the mother drew them on swift feet from East and West to the Old Country. Eager to prove their mettle and to show their love, they sought the mother—and found that she was out in the storm or ever she called them to her aid.

It is good to be English, but it is also terrible; the trust is so great, the inheritance so splendid the responsibility so tremendous in that we have to hand on that trust not only unstained, but, by the grace of God, enhanced. "Consider what nation it is whereof ye are," said Milton, addressing both England and the Greater England beyond the seas, with a solemnity that strikes mere boasting from our lips; "a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious and piercing spirit, acute to invent, subtle and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point the highest that human capacity can soar to. Therefore the studies of learning in her deepest Sciences have been so ancient, and so eminent among us, that Writers of good antiquity and ablest judgment have been persuaded that even the school of Pythagoras, and the Persian wisdom took beginning from the old philosophy of this island. . . . What wants there but wise and faithful labourers to make a knowing people, a nation of prophets, of sages, and of worthies."

To you who now seek to her, England shall be as a quiet harbour, wherein, please God, you shall find only welcome and healing and calm, sunlit waters after storm.

We are raised just now to heights of exaltation by the achievements of our Navy and our Army, both in the East and in the West. May God, who has called the Empire to such high honour and responsibility, keep all her peoples from any pettiness of self-praise and self-delight, such as would make us unworthy of our calling as England's men and women! We are out on a grand Adventure, one in the noblest band of allies that ever joined hands in a crusade against evil, fighting for the very principles of right and honour and truth, which are menaced by all that is foul and loathsome in human nature without law. We are all fighting also for the redemption of Germany, though she knows it not, that her soul may be set free from the power of darkness to which the lust of pride and the casting away of religion have sold her.

"The end is not yet." We strain our eyes to scan the horizon of the future, but it holds its secret still. We can only guess at what lies ahead; and we are almost afraid to guess. For the present, then, let us hold to this exaltation born of the realisation of England's calling; knowing, and rejoicing to know, that, though the generations pass, England lives for ever, the greater for each act of love and sacrifice and service rendered by each individual child of hers; fearless, merciful, and strong, our England, *your* England, the mother of us all.

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SERBIAN CUSTOMS AND FOLK STORIES.

On August 8, at Mortimer Hall, Father Nikolai Velimirovitch delivered an address on "The Spiritual Value of the Serbian People." Speaking of various tests of spirituality, he said that if customs could be taken as standard, the Serbs had some very striking ones. Christmas Day was considered a day of reconciliation. First of all, of course, with neighbours and other human beings, but not with them only. It was a day of reconciliation with animals also, and even with plants and the elements. On Christmas Day the head of the family would go to the forest, embrace and kiss a tree, cut it down, take it home, and ask all the people to come round. Then he would ask the assembly to pray for forests, plants, corn, and all the animals; and the members of his family would kiss the tree. In his own experience, Father Velimirovitch said that as a child he used to be taken by his mother to the stable for reconciliation with the horses and oxen. A cake that she had made, formed like a ring, was hung on the horns of the oxen, and the children embraced the animals in token of reconciliation. If Christmas was a day of reconciliation with plants and animals, of course it was still more a day of reconciliation with human beings. In the morning everyone went to church carrying a little lighted candle, and whenever two people met they would embrace. One would say, "Christ is born," and the other would reply, "Yes, indeed, he is born." At Eastertide there was a similar custom.

Father Nikolai Velimirovitch's address was followed by one by Mr. Edmund Russell on Serbian folklore. Among the stories Mr. Russell told was one relating that God complained to Peter that there were too few people in heaven, and that there were many people in hell who ought not to be there. Peter went accordingly in search of any whom he might bring back to heaven, and in the course of his travels he came across the wickedest woman that had ever lived. For two whole days he tried without success to make her think of some good deed that she had done on earth, until at last she remembered a carrot that she had given to a poor beggar. "That good deed," said Peter, "can save you." In some mysterious way the carrot was there. Peter laid hold of it, the woman took the other end, and Peter began to pull her out of hell. As he pulled her along the sinner next her caught hold of her, the sinner next him caught hold of him, and so on, for all naturally wished to get out of the place. At last, in one long line, all the sinners in hell were being drawn out by means of the carrot. But the woman who had hold of the carrot, while she was glad to be saved herself, did not wish to save the rest. "Let go! let go!" she cried; "the carrot is mine." With this the carrot broke, and the whole lot fell back into hell.

A story almost of our own times was that of the blind poet who called on Kara George and offered to raise a regiment of men afflicted as himself. Kara George at first treated the offer with disdain. "Don't mock me," pleaded the blind man; "let me raise a regiment of the blind, mount us on old worn-out horses, give us your old and broken weapons. In the day of battle drive us in front of you. The Turks will fall upon us, break their sabres on our bones, glut themselves with our blood, and so we shall win the day for you." The offer was accepted and the battle was won.

◆

Turkey has decided "to set up a special administration of general inspection for the Province of East Anatolia, which is now freed of the enemy."

Kieff newspapers report that the Roumanian Government has agreed with the Ukrainian Government to the appointment of diplomatic representatives in the respective capitals of the two countries.

A Convention has been made between the British Government and the Greek Government providing that Greek subjects of military age (eighteen to fifty-one, both inclusive) in this country shall serve in the British Army unless they return to Greece for military service before October 8.

Rainfall has been in excess in Assam, Bengal, and Central Provinces (excluding Berar); normal in Burma, Bihar, United Provinces East, Central India West, Berar, and Hyderabad North; fair in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, Konkan, Bombay Deccan, Hyderabad South, Malabar, Madras, Deccan, and Madras Coast North; and scanty elsewhere. The Bombay monsoon will probably be weak, especially in Northern India.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Four Treaties of Bucharest.

In the current issue of the *Quarterly Review*—a publication of wide interest—the article that most closely concerns the Near East is one on the Four Treaties of Bucharest, of 1812, 1886, 1913, and 1918, which the author sums up in the following words:—

> The first Treaty of Bucharest marked the awakening of the Christian nations of the Balkans; the second the beginning of their fratricidal quarrels; the third the zenith of their madness; the fourth its inevitable consequences. In the interests of civilisation, militarism must disappear not only from Germany but also from the Balkans.

These aspects are elaborated with a fearless precision which displays solicitude for the Balkans as a whole without any unwillingness to admit the faults of the individual States. A special point is made of the war in 1885:

> The real significance of the war of 1885 seems to have escaped the notice of most observers. It was the first instance since the Middle Ages of an attack made by one of the Christian nations of the Balkan Peninsula upon another. It was the beginning of a series of fratricidal conflicts, partly due to unscrupulous foreign intrigue, partly to the crude Chauvinism of young and inexperienced States, whose national programmes were as yet unfulfilled. It was the precursor of the Serbo-Bulgarian wars of 1913 and 1915. The Bulgarians have long memories, and never forget an injury; to those who are familiar with this trait in their character there is nothing surprising in the fact that they fired the first shot in the former year, and in the latter dealt their neighbours "a stab in the back" similar to that which they had received from them thirty years previously. Before 1885 the relations between the two races had been most friendly; Bulgarian *haiduks* in the mountains had helped the Serbians in their struggle for independence; a Bulgarian legion was organised at Belgrade when that city was bombarded by the Turks in 1862; and large numbers of Bulgars fought under the Serbian flag in the campaigns of 1876 and 1877.

Not the least interesting part of the narrative is the section in which the anonymous writer acknowledges authorship of an article in the *Quarterly Review* of October, [illegible], entitled "The Final Settlement of the Balkans"—without doubt the most masterly effort yet made to deal with an intricate problem at once scientifically and sympathetically and replies to the criticisms passed upon that article by Dr. Burrows in the July *Quarterly*. The critic is no match for his opponent, whose rapier thrusts, backed by a profound knowledge of the subject, easily penetrate the one-sided academic arguments which camouflaged personal ignorance of the real problem. Thus against Dr. Burrows' reference to Monastir as "the watchword of Greek Irredentism," the writer of the *Quarterly* article cites acknowledged authorities to the following effect:—

> With the exception of the Archbishop and the Hellenic Consul there is (in 1881) scarcely a family in Monastir that can lay claim to pure Greek blood.
>
> The so-called Greeks of Monastir are Vlachs to a man.

Of Roumania, the author writes:—

> . . . . Her gallant stand for national unity can only excite our admiration, and her misfortunes compel our sympathy, although they must be regarded as the historical consequence of past errors. She has been betrayed by the same Power which encouraged her to invade the territory of a neighbour with whom she was at peace.

And he recalls the pregnant utterance of King Carol, who a few hours after the signature of the 1913 Treaty said, in the midst of the national jubilation, "It is not a treaty; it is only a truce, and it cannot last."

Turk and Briton in Palestine.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* contributes to that journal a heartening article on "British Work in Palestine." From this we take the following passages:—

> Experts are busy investigating the agricultural situation, the fiscal question, the educational requirements, public security, including the prisons, the complicated question of judicial organisation, and pious foundations. Slowly, but surely, an organised administration is being built up, despite the lack of local officers and the difficulty of obtaining competent men from outside. Already there is on every side abundant evidence of the fruits of this activity. Especially is this noticeable in a city like Jerusalem, where the normal life of the people has been entirely resumed, and where, except for the difficulty in obtaining domestic commodities, one would not know that a war is on. When we entered the city in December most of the shops were closed, and it had a deserted appearance. To-day closed shops are more the exception than the rule. David's Street and the Jaffa Gate have resumed their crowded and picturesque appearance, and the shopkeepers are exposing for sale goods which were thought to be unobtainable, and which they have unearthed from the places where they hid them from the Turks. One significant evidence of the British occupation is afforded by the condition of the streets. In the new city they were quite passable, but in the old they were renowned for their filthy and insanitary condition. To-day the old city is cleaner than it has ever been.
>
> . . . . The effect of the era of justice and peace which has been inaugurated by the British is apparent not only on the faces of the people, who appear care-free and as if they had awakened from a terrible nightmare, but also in their general behaviour and their attitude towards the new régime. Complete confidence reigns between the people of every community and the British Administration, as is evident from the manner in which the former look to the latter for support and assistance in their difficulties, and the readiness with which, without any display of force, they do the behest of the authorities. The whole of the population of Palestine is indeed wholeheartedly pro-British. This is equally true of all communities, which have openly welcomed the British occupation as a release from the Turkish bondage under which they had suffered.

It is a little surprising to be told that "the cost of the administration and of the regeneration of the country is at present being financed from Army funds." The Turks had left the country swept clear of money.

> Even as regards the funds devoted to religious or benevolent purposes, the proceedings of the Turkish Government do not appear to have been above reproach. The income of the Palestine Wakfs (religious and benevolent endowments) amounted to some £16,000 to £17,000 a year; and there were few years in which some thousands of pounds of this revenue failed to find their way to Constantinople for uses which can only be guessed at, as the expenditure does not appear in the accounts, but which may safely be presumed to have been other than pious. Moreover, when the occupation took place, and the treasures were emptied by the retreating Turk, the Wakf cash balances were involved in the common lot, with the result that the funds necessary for the upkeep, maintenance, and repair of these institutions have had to be provided, at any rate as a temporary measure, by the British Government.

Another item in the account that all good Moslems have against the "Young Turks"!

Articles to Note.

"Spain and Gibraltar." By José de Armas; in the *Quarterly Review*.

"Turkey and Armenia," by G. Thoumaian, in the *Contemporary Review* (August).

"From Baghdad to the Mediterranean in the Hands of the Turks," by G. N. Gibbs, in the *Nineteenth Century* (August).

"An Arabian Day's Entertainment," by C. Thompson Walker in *Chambers's Journal* (August).

THINK HOW THESE CHILDREN NEED CHILD WELFARE WORK.

"Why do you dress them all in flannelette?" asked an Officer. "Mercifully we had a bale of it, or there would have been no orphanages. I wish you could have seen the state most of them were in," replied the Relief Worker.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The White Paper, which has just been issued, containing "Observations by the Allied Ministers at Jassy with regard to the conditions of peace imposed upon Roumania by the Central Powers" is brief, but very much to the point, and brings into clear relief some of the more monstrous features of the treaty. With regard to the frontier "rectification," in which connection reference is made to a particularly ingenuous German report that "the treaty admits of neither annexation nor indemnity," it is pointed out that strategic reasons have been adduced as the pretext. The best comment on this argument is the fact that "the most fertile forests of the mountain district are included in the territories joined to Hungary," and it is added that "the principal object of these rectifications has been by this means to round off the sporting estates of the Hungarian nobles, and to ensure the prosperity of the forest exploitation companies, in which so many persons of importance in the two Empires are interested, and which will thus be in a position to create a monopoly of building timber."

⁂

Pointed attention is drawn in the White Paper to the war indemnity which Germany is trying to extort under the guise of a monopoly in the export of cereals and in the exploitation of forests and the sale of timber, and with regard to the former the remark may be noted that "from this year onwards the profit which Germany will realise as a result of the difference between the real value of the cereals and the prices imposed will be considerable." The Austro-Germans have taken the right to fix the amount of cereals to be exported, and the figures will depend on their needs and not on the harvest, and "by virtue of this arrangement Roumania, even after the signature of peace, will be forced to submit to a measure of rationing which may well amount to famine." The picture is rounded off by the fact that it is Roumania which has to provide the money for the exported produce, and it is left to the Central Powers to meet this credit at their convenience!

⁂

As it stands, the treaty, of course, spells absolute ruin for Roumania. It has ended the war, but not German dominion, for Germany is continuing to occupy the country. "The navigation of the Danube, the posts and telegraphs, and the railways remain under German control; by request of the Roumanian Government a German delegate has been appointed to each Ministry," and finally, as a fitting sequel, "a German company for agricultural exploitation has been founded with a capital of 80 millions," which "seeks to create a monopoly of Roumanian agricultural produce under the form of long leases, concluded under cover of the occupation, recognised by the treaties, and amounting, in reality, to expropriation in disguise." Painful as the description of Roumania's humiliation is as given in this White Paper it is not, according to M. Take Jonescu, a complete survey of the position, for, to use his own words, "the treaty of Bucharest is much more horrible than the Allied Ministers have described it."

⁂

Judging by an article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, Germany has every hope of being allowed to extend her commercial exploitation to Persia after the war. Referring to the general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company as evidence of the country's mineral oil wealth, the writer says that there is also oil in the Kasvin and Teheran districts of North Persia, and that German capital will be able to find employment there. He goes on to point out that there is abundant coal there, which will suffice for any industrial purposes and still "leave a surplus for export to Turkey!" I like the after thought; it is such a typically German touch. Presumably the idea is that Turkey, being a close neighbour, might entertain quite unreasonable suspicions of Germany's benevolent activities in "developing" Persia, and might even desire to participate in the exploitation. I hope a kindly providence places a copy of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* in Turkish hands!

⁂

The exploitation of Persia's oil and coal resources is, apparently, only a means and not an end in itself, for the writer goes on to explain that with the possession of this fuel supply "it will be possible to exploit the North Persian ore fields. Lead, iron, and antimony are all present in workable quantities, but the most important ore is copper, which occurs not only in the well-known Masanderan mines, but also within 30 or 40 kilometres of Teheran. Asbestos can likewise be mined, and there are said to be promising veins of gold." Electricity required for mines, smelting works, lighting, and railways could be provided, says the writer, by water power, and as regards communications in North Persia he expresses the view that German assistance would be welcomed in railway construction, while water transport could be provided by the canalisation of the Kawal and Shahund rivers. It is a pretty picture, and one calculated to give Persians "furiously to think." The writer is not so naïve as to declare that the "commercial penetration" of Persia will be a simple matter; on the contrary, he admits that "the realisation of projects such as these will meet with difficulties," and "energetic diplomatic action will be necessary." In other words, the work is to be done under the shadow of "the mailed fist." But, personally, I am of the opinion that it is not going to be done at all.

⁂

The recent exploit of two Royal Air Force officers in flying the 2,000 odd miles from England to Egypt in an ordinary service aeroplane, with only one or two stops for petrol, provides a further illustration of the commercial possibilities of flying after the war. If Germany had not decided to plunge the world into turmoil in 1914 one or two generations would probably have passed before flying had reached the stage when its commercial utilisation would have been possible. As it is, the development of the art in the last few years has been rapid in the extreme, and it is certain now that a commercial flying service is a thing of the very near future. Already attempts are being made in the Near East to establish aerial mail services. Thus, according to the Athens correspondent of *The Times*, a service was to be established this week between Athens and Salonika, and a similar service between Athens and Janina, which has been inaugurated, was to be regularised; and the correspondent added that it is hoped that air services will soon be extended to other Greek towns. This innovation, of which Greece may well be proud, is merely a foretaste of the future when the Balkans, like the rest of the world, will find in the air the possibility of better and more comprehensive communications than land or sea routes. And as regards the Balkans, this development will have the added value that a country like Roumania will be able to have direct communications with her friends and Allies irrespective of whether or no her country is only accessible by land through enemy States.

⁂

At the meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt last week, Mr. E. W. P. Foster, the deputy chairman, made some interesting remarks regarding the effect of Egypt's present prosperity on mortgage business. The landowner, he said, had been able to reduce his indebtedness, and there was a smaller demand for new money, in which connection he referred to the fact that the company's capital out on loan had contracted to the extent of £218,614 in the past year In his opinion the only direction in which there was a prospect of doing new business in the near future was in loans for the purchase of land, and for the development of backward land. "As you are no doubt aware," he added, the Egyptian has only one outlet for his surplus funds, and that is in the purchase and development of land. There are several other mortgage concerns in Egypt that are in the same position as your company in respect to decreasing outputs of new loans; consequently a certain amount of competition prevails, tending to lower the rate of interest obtained from borrowers. There is, of course, a limit below which it would be unwise to reduce the rate."

⁂

As the result of the past year's working there is an appreciable improvement in the position of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways. The receipts show a notable increase both as regards passenger and goods traffic. The passengers carried numbered 7,081,100, against 6,046,600 in 1916, and the goods dealt with amounted to 679,600 tons, against 597,300 tons. Coaching receipts increased by £43,600, and freight receipts by £26,200, and the total gross earnings were £292,500, against £232,900. The increased goods traffic was mainly due to cotton, grain, manure, seeds, and fruit and vegetables; while there was a marked decline in coal and building materials. While receipts were growing expenditure was decreasing, owing to the better position with regard to fuel, the ratio of expenses to receipts falling from 77.63 to 58.57. The net revenue for the year was £121,200, against £83,900, and the available balance is £180,000, against £154,600. Last year £57,600 was devoted to writing off the suspense account, and the absence of this liability, combined with the much more satisfactory results, enables a dividend of 3½ per cent. to be paid on the 5½ per cent. preference shares.

COMMENTATOR.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

The Control Commission's Powers

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, June 21.

In March last details were published of the scheme under which the cotton crop of Egypt was to be purchased by the British and Egyptian Governments at a fixed price and the export and manipulation of the raw cotton was to be controlled at every stage. A notice signed by General Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of H.B.M.'s Forces in Egypt, and by Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, President, Council of Ministers, was recently issued confirming the scheme and laying down the constitution and powers of the special commission which is to be entrusted with the purchase of cotton in Egypt and its sale for export.

As from August 1 all raw cotton in an Egyptian port shall be purchased by, and all raw cotton arriving in an Egyptian port from the interior shall be tendered to and purchased by, the commission, excepting such cotton which may at that date have been sold abroad and for which a subsisting licence for export may have been already granted. Should any such licence be subsequently cancelled, the commission will forthwith purchase the cotton to which it relates, and as from the same date raw cotton liable to be purchased by the commission will only be exportable under its permit.

As from July 1 the commission will have power to purchase any raw cotton in an Egyptian port, if the owner agrees to sell the same, and it may by licence exempt from liability to purchase under the scheme any raw cotton destined for use in any local spinning-mills or for any other local purposes. As from the same date the commission will take over all the powers of the Cotton Export Regulation Committee established by the Proclamation of November 16, 1917, and may cancel any export licence already issued if it is satisfied that the export of the cotton in question has become impossible.

The commission has power to avail itself, either by agreement or—subsequent to August 1—compulsorily, of any facilities for pressing or storing cotton existing in any Egyptian port, and, in default of agreement, the compensation to be paid for the use of such facilities and the conditions under which the commission shall be entitled to avail itself thereof will be determined by the Permanent Arbitration Board. The commission will not later than July 15 prepare and make public a schedule of types of cotton with the sale and purchase price for each type, and may make and publish rules for exercising the duties entrusted to it and the powers conferred on it under the scheme, particularly in regard to the procedure to be followed as to the tender of cotton to the commission and its purchase by it, the employment of firms to classify and value such cotton and prepare it for export, appeals by sellers against the valuation of cotton tendered by them for purchase, and the sale and shipment of cotton. Preliminary regulations in this connection have now been prepared and published.

The commission will correspond with the British and Egyptian Governments through the Financial Adviser, who will be responsible for satisfying himself that all regulations intended to be issued by the commission are in accordance with the instructions given by the two Governments or otherwise approved by them. All obligations incurred by the commission towards private persons and firms under the scheme are guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, which undertakes to perform all obligations subsisting at the date of the dissolution of the commission. All regulations and orders issued or made by the commission under the purchase scheme are to be deemed to be issued and made under Martial Law.

At the same time a notice similarly signed has been issued announcing the composition of an Advisory Board which is to assist the commission in the execution of its task. This commission consists of representatives of the leading export houses, cotton-growers, commission agents, and banks, and it is provided that its reasonable expenses should be paid by the commission. The mandate of the Cotton Seed Control Board, created in August, 1917, for the purchase and control of the cotton seed resulting from the 1917 crop, has in the meantime been extended to apply to the seed resulting from the 1918 crop. Thus all arrangements have now been made for the purchase and export under proper control of the balance of the old and the whole of the new cotton crops at prices which in the circumstances must be regarded as distinctly advantageous to the Egyptian cultivator, who should be well satisfied by the composition of the Advisory Board that his interests will throughout be safeguarded.

Cotton Sack Crisis.

The Government is faced with a crisis, which it cannot afford to neglect, inasmuch as it affects the staple product of the country. Taking advantage of the imminence of the cotton crop, holders of cotton sack stocks have lately forced up the prices to most unwarrantable figures. In order not to leave the cultivators, especially the small ones, at the mercy of these profiteers, it has been suggested to the Government, failing the enforcement of a reasonable price, that a large quantity should be ordered from India for sale at cost price. The Government, it is urged, should be in a position to know through the Supplies Control Board more or less accurately the amount of the stocks in the country, and in case of need should requisition them at a reasonable price. Such a procedure would not be inconsistent in view of the fact that the cotton crop itself has been requisitioned by it; and it is justly observed that, when the Government requisitioned the crop at a fixed price, the price of the sacks was only P.T.15. Since then every expense in connection with the cotton harvest has immoderately increased, camel and rail transport, manual labour, and finally that of the sacks, coming as a crowning blow; so that what was a fair price for cotton can no longer be considered so. The Government has not been heedless of these complaints, and already an official assurance has been given in this connection.

EGYPT'S EGG EXPORTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, July 15.

The Supplies Control Board has just published a notice to the effect that the export of eggs for 1918 and 1919 will as heretofore be confined to the United Kingdom. In view of the complaint received from the British authorities regarding the arrival of large quantities in bad condition, and in order to prevent the waste of such an important article of foodstuff—a vital consideration under present circumstances—the Board requires that no export of eggs be allowed except under special licence, and by such firms as can provide a safe guarantee for the proper handling of the goods. Such firms have to send in their applications to the Ministry of Finance with the least possible delay, clearly stating (1) the number of years during which they have been trading in this article, (2) the quantities exported by them in the years between 1912 and 1918, as well as the names of the firms in the United Kingdom to whom the consignments have been made.

INDIAN GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The India Office has issued the following statement, showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on July 31 :—

In India, nil.

In England :—Cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,000,008; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on March 31, 1918), £19,818,604; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £8,918,435.

INDIA'S COAL PRODUCTION.

The output of coal in India in 1917 amounted to 17,326,384 tons. Of this total Bihar and Orissa provided 11,931,141 tons, Bengal 4,631,571 tons, the Central Provinces 371,498 tons, and Assam 301,305 tons. In 1916 the output was 17,254,309 tons, and in 1915,, 17,103,932 tons.

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A Reuter message from Simla states that monsoon prospects have generally improved.

The Indian Industries Commission reassembled in Simla last month to consider its draft report.

CYPRUS CROP PROSPECTS.

Outlook Satisfactory.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Harvest returns are most satisfactory. Government tithe on wheat should amount to about 300,000, and barley to 400,000 bushels. This would mean about three million bushels of wheat and four million of barley; by far the largest actual production since the British occupation. But in view of the fact that the cultivation of cereals has been largely increased, perhaps by 25 per cent., during the last few years, allowance must be made for this in any comparison of totals. The outlook for Cyprus is thus very gratifying, as regards the food supply. If wheaten flour alone were used for bread, there should be a surplus of over 100,000 bushels above the coming year's consumption. But as barley flour is used to a very considerable extent, the figure will be much larger; while barley will be a very profitable crop. The Government continues the sale of both wheat and barley from its tithe grain stores to municipalities, in order to cheapen the price of bread, which has fallen from 3¼ piastres (about 4½d.) the oke of 2 4-5 lb. to 2½ piastres.

As regards tobacco, now so interesting a topic, if report is correct only about a quarter of this year's plantations will be successful. The total amount of land cultivated under present Government restrictions is probably not much over 2,000 English acres. But growers hope to sell the leaf at over 10s. the oke, or over 3s. 6d. per lb., in the island. This is for tobacco which at pre-war prices would fetch less than that sum delivered in England. It is still impossible to know what value will be placed by consumers upon the leaf which is being chiefly grown, but, as far as can be gathered from recent information, it is only likely to be marketable in London for blending purposes in cigarettes. Full precautions have been taken by Government to insure an accurate registration of all plantations. Village headmen are required to assist in pointing out and identifying boundaries, and in giving information as to ownership. Picking must be completed before October 31, and all stalks, waste leaves, and blossoms must be destroyed immediately after that date.

A new official tariff of maximum retail prices has been promulgated, coming into force on July 1. The following list of prices per lb. will give some idea of rates as compared with those in England :—Mutton and lamb 6½d., pork 10½d., pork sausages 1s. 4½d., ground coffee 1s. 4d., sugar 7½d., wheaten flour 2d., barley flour 1½d., best rice 2½d., potatoes 1¼d., lentils 2½d., onions ½d., tomatoes 1½d., and spinach ¾d. Cucumbers are 1d. each, while milk (goat and sheep) costs 5½d. per quart.

RECONSTRUCTION IN GREECE.

The Greek Minister of National Economy has invited a number of leaders of Greek industry to confer with him with a view to the settlement of Greece's future economic policy. Among the subjects to be discussed are : (1) The best way of finding fuel for the factories, including the adaptation of boilers; (2) the encouragement of private initiative by the State; (3) in what way the mechanical industries can best help industry in general, and how best to furnish raw material to the different industries; (4) how to strengthen existing industries and to create new ones; and (5) industrial legislation. It is understood that two manufacturers will be appointed to present a preliminary report on each subject.

UGANDA COTTON FOR INDIA.

At last week's meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association at Manchester, presided over by Mr. Alfred Crewdson, it was stated that owing to the lack of freight and heavy insurance charges, larger quantities of Uganda cotton were being shipped to India than previously. The returns for the quarter ended March 31 showed that 210,000 lb. of cotton, valued at £17,500, was exported to the United Kingdom, and 1,251.633 lb., valued at £104,303, to India and Burma. Under present conditions India was in a much more favourable position than this country as regards shipping facilities and insurance charges from East Africa.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Prospects in Greece.

In view of the approaching visit of the Greek Industrial Mission to this country, at the invitation of the Federation of British Industries, a series of notés in these columns showing the great possibilities for the British engineering trade in that country should be very helpful to British manufacturers and shippers. We may remind the latter that Greece must not be considered only as a market in the light of her present territorial boundaries, but also as one of the most influential commercial and industrial centres of the Near East, since, besides the population in the country, there are between seven and eight million Greeks spread over Turkey in Europe, Asia Minor, Egypt, Southern Russia, and the Ægean Islands, who are engaged in important industries, commerce, and agriculture, and who consider Greece as their national as well as economic and commercial centre, and, as a rule, deal direct with, or through, her for their imports. As various branches of industry, agriculture, railways, roads, rivers, harbours, and other public works and projects in connection with them will be mentioned in these notes, it may be of some advantage to mention that Greece, on the mainland, acquired, after the Balkan war, 16,919 square miles, her present area being 41,933 square miles, while her population, which was 2,733,000 before that war, has increased to 4,363,000.

Existing Railways.

Until 1867 there were no railways in Greece. In 1868 the Athens-Piræus railway (10 kilometres) was constructed (we believe by the South-Eastern Railway Company as contractors), and other larger lines followed. At present these lines are in existence:—The Athens-Piræus-Peloponnesus line (758 kilometres); the Pyrgos-Katacolon line (13 kilometres); the Thessalian railways, Volo-Larissa-Karditza, etc. (233 kilometres); the Piræus-Athens-Larissa, to the old boundaries (441 kilometres); the North-Western Greek Railway (63 kilometres); the Attica Railway (73 kilometres); in all 1,591 kilometres (988 miles) in the old territory. In the new territories, after the Balkan war and the Bucharest Treaty, Greece acquired about 635 kilometres, viz.:—Of the Salonika-Monastir line, 208 kilometres; of the Salonika-Uskub-Nish line, 77 kilometres; and of the Salonika-Dedeagatch line, 340 kilometres. To these may be added some 95 or 100 kilometres which link the Athens-Larissa and old boundary line with the Salonika-Monastir line, constructed, or being constructed, by the Greek Government

Proposed Lines.

With increased territory and greater prospects, the construction of new lines for the purpose of better communications, and especially of the Thessalian and Macedonian lines, became indispensable, and accordingly the necessary plans, etc., for the new lines were prepared, and with the conclusion of peace it is expected that their construction will be put in hand as quickly as possible by the Greek Government. These plans, etc., should be carefully studied by British railway experts on the spot if possible, for there is no doubt that other competitors will come forward for their construction, and for providing the materials, etc. Among the most interesting projects is the line which will connect the Thessalian railway with the Adriatic. It is proposed to prolong the line from Volo to Kalambaka, thence to the north, through the mountains to a point near Grevena, where a junction will be made with a line running from the port of Sahadli on the Adriatic through Janina. There will then be a double line of communications between the Ægean and the Adriatic—the one from Sahadli-Janina, through Grevena to Veria, and so to Salonika; the other from Sahadli, through Janina, Grevena, Kalambaka, to Volo, where a good port already exists. Another line in Western Greece has to be prolonged. Starting from Missolonghi, the line reaches Agrinion, about forty miles from the former town, and the Government intends to prolong the line through Arta to Janina.

Harbour Works.

Another opening in Greece for British enterprise is in harbour construction and improvements, which, but for the present war, would have been in progress. Among the most important schemes are those connected with the harbours of Piræus and Salonika. The number of vessels calling at the former place increased before the war to such an extent that it became a matter of most extreme urgency to improve the port and to give it modern labour-saving appliances, and to enlarge the quay and Customs House accommodation. When the project was decided upon vessels had to discharge in the stream, and passengers had to land in boats with their baggage. It has been proposed, therefore, to build a new Customs House, moles, and jetty heads, and to erect special appliances for discharging cargoes at the quays. British contractors will find the proposals very interesting, and, as the Harbour Board are most particular to choose the best men to carry out works of this kind, it is almost certain that one or other of the leading British firms which have had so much experience in this direction will be employed for the work if they take the necessary steps. Just before the commencement of the war French and German financiers submitted schemes for these Piræus harbour works, which were sympathetically considered by the authorities.

Another scheme is that for the extension of the port of Salonika, which, although enormous sums were spent on it by the Turkish Government, and particularly by the late Sultan Abdul Hamid, requires considerable improvements. The necessary plans are in the hands of the Government, which, soon after the occupation of Salonika by the Greeks, employed expert engineers for this purpose. It is admitted that when the necessary harbour improvements have been carried out, and the greater part of the town which was recently destroyed by fire has been rebuilt, Salonika will be one of the leading ports in the Near East.

Macedonia as a Machinery Market.

Macedonia possesses all the natural elements needed for the promotion of industry, agriculture, and commerce on a large scale, but these are undeveloped yet, as the unfortunate country, from the time of its liberation from the Turks, has been prevented by war from having an opportunity for rest or revival. There are, however, rivers, lakes, lands, and forests which, with the aid of modern scientific and technical methods and appliances, can be turned into sources of immense wealth and prosperity.

Athens Water Supply.

An important enterprise which ought to attract the attention of British engineers and financiers, is the water supply of Athens, which, but for the withdrawal of M. Venizelos from the Government in 1915, would now have been in progress. The scheme is for the supply of Athens and the Piræus with water taken from Lake Stymphalia or the river Melas. The former is about 88 miles from Athens, while the latter is much nearer. An Anglo-Greek Syndicate proposed to undertake the works and supply water from Lake Stymphalia, while others offered to do the same from the river Melas—the former at a cost of £1,250,000 and the latter at about £800,000. An Austrian engineer, called in by the National Bank, was in favour of the Anglo-Greek Syndicate's plans and proposals, while another expert, a German engineer called in by the Municipality of Athens, favoured the river Melas scheme. A Bill authorising the Government to proceed with the scheme of bringing the water from Stymphalia was laid before the Chamber of Deputies in Athens when the war troubles began, and the withdrawal of Mr. Venizelos from the Government brought the matter to a standstill. All the plans, etc., are at the disposal of the Greek Government, and the Minister of the Interior, we believe, may be able to accept new proposals on the same plans. It is a first-class enterprise, and the concession will be for seventy years.

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The Indian gold output for July was 40,230 oz., a decrease of 1,070 oz. on the figures for the preceding month.

The Treasury has made an order, dated August 9, fixing the maximum price for silver bullion sold in the United Kingdom at 48 13-16d. per standard ounce.

INDIAN JUTE PROFITS.

The Department of Statistics in India has made an estimate of jute mills' profits from an analysis of the published accounts of 42 companies, 36 of which were registered under the Indian Companies Act, four in Scotland, and one each in England and France, the latter's factory being situated at Chandernagore. It is stated that the compilation of the data was made uniform as far as practicable, and the 42 mills have been regarded as one mill. In all cases the profits were shown after deduction of Indian income tax and super tax, because the amount of tax paid was not always shown separately in the balance-sheets, but lumped with other items of expenditure under the head of "manufacturing and other expenses." In the case of sterling companies, the British income tax and the British excess profits duty have been deducted as well as the Indian income tax and super tax. The profits are shown before and after deduction of interest on debentures. Some companies have paid off their debentures. others are paying off these, while others again have created debenture redemption funds out of surplus profits. Debenture interest is not shown separately in all the published accounts, but the amounts were ascertained as correctly as possible. No allowance has been made for depreciation, as no uniform practice of writing off depreciation is followed by jute mills in Bengal. The results are summarised in the following table:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£
Total profits ..	982.000	4,820,000	6,309,000	4.831,000
Deb. interest ..	159,000	159,000	154,000	142,000
Net profits (subject to depreciation)	823,000	4,661,000	6,155,000	4,689,000
Ratio of net profits to paid-up capital ..	10	58	75	53

It is pointed out that the position of the mills has been enormously strengthened as a result of the war, and that this development will be enhanced by this year's results, which promise to be a high record. The phenomenal increases in the reserve and depreciation funds of the various companies give further evidence of the prosperity of the trade. The variations in the market prices of the shares of a number of jute mills have also been worked out. If the price at the outbreak of war (and of July, 1914) be taken at 100, the fluctuations are as follows:

	July, 1914.		July, 1917.		March 1918.
32 Jute Mills shares (Ord.)..	100	..	311	..	467
31 ,, Preference shares	100	..	109	..	109

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at April 30, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,047,159
Mixed Tribunals		2,543,461
Egyptian Government		6,451,066
Sudan Government		84,228
Bankers' Accounts		606,200
Cheques and Bills payable		357,825
Sundry other Accounts		699,618
		£E.25,336,253
		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		9,835,301
Sundry Securities		283,394
Advances on Merchandise		1,746,764
Advances on Securities		1,311,755
Advances otherwise Secured		1,961,470
Sundry other Advances		278,027
Bills of Exchange		4,913,214
Local Bills Discounted		105,003
Buildings and Furniture		222,065
Money at call and at short notice		1,101,750
Bankers' Accounts		1,919,471
Sundry other Accounts		208,306
Cash—		
Notes	1,378,046	
Gold	35,034	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	33,653	
		1,446,733
		£E.25,336,253

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes issued	31,900,000
	£E.31,900,000
	£E.
Gold	3,589,304
*British Treasury Bills	12,360,696
Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	551,507
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	15,398,493
	£E.31,900,000

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* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The tenth ordinary general meeting was held on August 8 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., deputy-chairman of the company, presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Robert Henry Eggar) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said :—Gentlemen, you are, no doubt, aware that the chairman, Sir Henry Babington Smith, was early in the year appointed by the British Government to an important post in the United States. This explains why he is unable to preside at this meeting. In his address at the last general meeting, the chairman referred to the satisfactory recovery of and the steady progress made in the economic position of Egypt. I have much pleasure in being able to state that the prosperity of Egypt has not only been maintained, but it has progressed. The country continues to benefit by the high prices now reigning without being subject to the very serious adverse conditions created by the war in other countries. Labour is scarce and consequently expensive, but it is hoped no serious effects will result. This shortage is probably due to the large numbers of the cultivating class who are employed by the military authorities in connection with the prosecution of the war. Although the very high price to which cotton rose this time last year was not long maintained, the lowest to which it fell was still a very profitable one, and, considering that the yield of last year's crop was from 6¼ to 6½ million kantars, as compared with only a little over five millions in the preceding year, it is evident landowners and cultivators have done well. The market prices of all food crops have continued to rise, enabling the landowner to dispose of his surplus produce to great advantage.

The Cotton Crop.

The two Governments of Great Britain and Egypt in concert decided early in the year to purchase, as from August 1, 1918, all cotton remaining undisposed of in Alexandria at that date, as well as all cotton coming to Alexandria from the interior on and after that date. The prices fixed by the Government for the varying qualities of cotton are said to be fair, if not liberal. Government took another very important decision towards the end of last year—to restrict the area put under cotton in the season of 1918, the reason given being the urgent necessity for increasing the acreage of food crops. It is believed the actual decrease in area planted as compared with normal years will be about 300,000 feddans. The loss of area may be compensated for by the excellent price the producer is certain of obtaining, and if the ravages of the insect pests can be minimised. It is not surprising that such prosperity has resulted in the landowner reducing his indebtedness. The natural consequence is a smaller demand for new money. This reflects on your company's business; you will remark that the capital out on loan has contracted to the extent of £218,614 in the year under report.

Future of Mortgage Business.

It is very difficult to form any idea of what the future will bring forth in respect to mortgage business, but the only direction in which I see a prospect of doing new business in the near future is in loans for the purchase of land and for the development of backward land. As you are no doubt aware, the Egyptian has only one outlet for his surplus funds, and that is in the purchase and development of land. There are several other mortgage concerns in Egypt that are in the same position as your company in respect to decreasing output of new loans; consequently a certain amount of competition prevails, tending to lower the rate of interest obtained from borrowers. There is, of course, a limit below which it would be unwise to reduce the rate. Your board is giving this matter its best attention. The past year has been a very prosperous one—so much so that, after making further provision for bad and doubtful debts, increasing the amounts usually employed in writing down the company's buildings, and adding to the general reserve, and after paying the preference dividend, the directors are able to recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

It has been possible to dispose of an even larger extent of property than that acquired during the year at prices which practically covered the original debts, thus reducing the value of properties remaining on hand from £173,496, as at the end of March, 1917, to £132,494 at the same date this year. The local board in Cairo, under the able guidance of Harari Pasha, and assisted by the loyal and capable staff managed by Mr. T. F. Stevens, with Mr. E. Crewe as his assistant, have again borne the burden of the company's business in Egypt. It is with great pleasure I record their untiring exertions.

The Hon. A. H. Mills seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried; and resolutions were then adopted declaring the dividend mentioned and re-electing the retiring directors and auditors.

Union Fonciere D'Egypte.

At the annual general meeting of this company, held in Alexandria, after the reports of the directors and that of the auditors for the year ended March 31, 1918, had been read, the shareholders approved the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account, and decided to carry forward the debit balance of the latter. Messrs. Zarifi, E. Bourre, and G. Foster were re-elected directors. The directors' fees were fixed at £5 per sitting, and Mr. S. Pappo, sub-manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, was re-elected as auditor for the current year with the remuneration of £100 for that period.

The Report.

The report was as follows :—The high prices realised during the course of the past year by all classes of agricultural products have placed Egyptian agriculture on a most satisfactory footing. The peasantry have not only paid off the greater part of their debts, but in the majority of cases have surpluses in hand. Being no longer tempted to hoard their savings, they have naturally put their money into land, thus causing a marked increase in the value of all agricultural property. Those companies whose business is the reclaiming and selling of land, and whose outlook at the beginning of the war was rendered so depressing as a result of innumerable expropriations caused by the bad crops and the low price of cotton, have now picked up again and their transactions have increased beyond expectation. In our case the demand for reclaimed land, thanks to the work put in during the bad years, has been more than we could have foreseen.

Development and Cultivation.

There has been an abundant supply of water this year, thus permiting us to extend our rice plantations over a very large area, especially on our estates of Teda, Kafr-El-Charki, Dokmera, Waziria, Hessas, and even Dar-El-Bakar. We have given particular attention to the extension of cultivation of rice on this last estate, in view of the large demands of buyers in this district. The area now under cotton cultivation is 2,537 feddans, against 2,422 feddans last year, whereas the area covered by rice is 1,738 feddans, against 830 feddans As the greater part of our arable land was rented out and as most of the tenants have paid their rent and taken away their cotton, it is impossible for us to give the yield per feddan. We may say, however, that our revenues from arable lands amounted to £E34,219,963, against £E21,872,756 in 1916-1917.

Balance Sheet.

Rural Estates.—This item represents the net area belonging to the company multiplied by the cost price per feddan, giving £E64,030 per feddan, against £E63,660 last year.

Debtors for Land Sales.—Assets under this heading amount to £E142,113,487, divided as follows : £E80,531,270 vendors' rights, ceded to the Land Bank, as against £E25,239,214 last year. £E12,341,688 vendors' rights ceded to our bankers, and £E49,240,549 vendors' rights not ceded, as against £E49,807,802 last year. On the other hand, the land sale annuities discounted by the Land Bank under our guarantee, originally amounting to £E77,960, have been reduced to £E37,582.241, against £E42,572,899 last year.

Annuities in Arrears.—We began the year with a total sum of £E19,122,116, which has been reduced to £E9,260,217 during the year under review.

1917-1918 Annuities.—Of these annuities, the total of which reached £E19,562,576, we have already encashed £E13,396,725, making our total encashments in respect of annuities £E23,259,921.

Provision for Interests in arrears.—There has been no change in this account.

Provisions for rents in arrears.—The amount of £E7,000 provided for in our last balance sheet has been considered sufficient by your directors.

Profit and Loss Account.

In addition to the usual amortisations a sum of £E10,909,427, being profits accrued but not yet due on land sales by annuities, has been put to reserve. A profit of £E831,033 was made by the sale of 500 of the company's shares which had been deposited with us as director's guarantees by Messrs. G. and A. Zervudachi. Fees for the management of estates amounted to £E1,783,406, against £E1,250,775 last year. The financial year closes with a profit of £E12,078,504, thus reducing the amount standing to the debit of profit and loss account to £E7,822,038.

Directors and Auditor.

We address our sincere good wishes to Mr. Leopold Jullien, now fighting in France, and to Mr. Isaac Aghion, who has voluntarily joined the Italian Army. The retiring directors are Messrs. Zarifi, Bourre, and Foster, who offer themselves for re-election.

The directors propose that Mr. S. Pappo be re-elected as auditor for the present year and that his remuneration be increased to £100.

Auditors' Report.

"In execution of the mandate you have conferred on me, I have the honour to inform you that I have examined the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, which are now submitted for your approval, and I have found that they conform with your company's books. In consequence of the favourable results of the year's work, your profit and loss account shows a profit of £E12,078,504. This amount deducted from the previous losses brings the said profit and loss account to a debit balance of £E7,822,038. The item 'Investments' representing 500 of your company's shares, which have figured for several years in your balance-sheet and which have been the statutory guarantee of your late directors, Messrs. Ambroise and George Zervudachi, has been eliminated by the sale of the said shares."

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that an aggregate of 559.79 miles were open and working at the end of the year. Gross receipts were £292,520, against £232,927, the average per mile per week being £10 0s. 10d., against £7 14s. 5d. The number of passengers carried was 7,081,061, as compared with 6,046,605 the previous year. Coaching traffic gross receipts were £179,675, an increase of £43,559, the average per mile per week being £6 3s. 5d., against £4 10s. 3d. Gross receipts from goods traffic were £105,212, an increase of £26,171, the tonnage lifted being 679,595 tons, an increase of 82,302 tons. Working expenses amounted to £171,331, as compared with £130,821 the previous year, the ratio of actual expenses to gross expenses being 58.57 per cent., against 77.63 per cent. The balance carried to net revenue account is £121,189, which, with interest and dividends earned, amounting to £9,981, and £49,248 brought in, gives £180,419. After providing for interest on debentures, all fixed charges and for proportion of profits due to the Egyptian Government under the terms of the concession, amounting to £9,878, there remains £121,780. The board recommend a dividend of 3½ per cent. on the Preference shares for the year, and to carry forward £85,353. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., 21st instant, noon.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Standard Tea Company of Ceylon have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (at rate of 10 per cent. per annum) for the six months to June 30.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

We have again had a rising market this week, and a large business has been doing both on local and Egyptian account. In Government stocks a fair amount of business has been done in Unifieds without altering the price, but in Egypt 3½ Prefs. there remain large unsatisfied buyers.

In Bank shares Nationals have kept steady, but there has been a rise of 3-16 in Agriculturals to 7, a large business having been done in these shares to-day. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have improved ¼ to 17¼.

In Railways Delta Lights have further improved 3-16 to 7 7-16, but business has been restricted in consequence of the scarcity of sellers.

Amongst Land descriptions Aboukirs have risen 4s. 6d. to 26s. 3d., Allotments ⅛ to 4⅜, and Gharbieh Lands a similar fraction to 2½. Both the latter shares have been enquired for from Egypt. There has been a persistent demand for Béhéras, which have improved a further ⅝ to 15¼, with a very fair amount of business passing. Delta Lands on local demand have jumped up ⅓ to 17s. 6d. after business at an even higher level. Foreign Trusts have again appreciated 6d. at 13s. 3d. In New Egyptians a very large business has been going on, with the result that the shares close a further 6d. up on balance at 23s. Sidi Salems were a strong feature, improving 5-16 to 2 15-16; but they are closing only 3-16 up at 2 13-16 on some profit taking. A rise of a further ⅛ to 3¾ has taken place in Union Foncières, which have been in good demand for Egypt. A large business has been done in United Egyptian Lands up to 3s., a rise of 4½d.

In Miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets improved at one time ⅛ to 27s. 6d., but are closing 1s. higher only at 27s. Salts and Sodas touched 59s. 3d., but at the close are ⅛ up at 2 13-16. A further sensational rise has taken place in Khedivial Mails, which are 7s. higher to-night at 62s., and the preference shares have improved 1-16 to 4.

In Greek securities prices, where altered, show a further appreciation. The 1881, 1884 and 1890 Loans are all 1½ up at 68, Monopolies have risen 2 to 65½, and Rentes are a point up at 54. The 1914 Loan has also risen a point to 79, the 1902 Loan half a point to 66, and "Currant" Bonds are 2 points up at 95. There has been a certain amount of business doing, but sellers continue pretty scarce.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares were a feature of the market on August 14, and reached 5,600 frs., an advance of 180 frs. since the beginning of the month. Other prices were Egyptian Unifieds 100 frs. (against 100.50), Serbian 1895's 56, Turkish Unifieds 64 (unchanged), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 799 (against 800), and Ottoman Banks 446.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) declined 1-32 to 2 21-32. Otherwise there was little change to record.

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1918. (New Style, January 14 to June 13, 1918):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, May, 1918		2,598,712	1,462,000
Do. do. do 1917		3,257,804	500,000
Estimated receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)		12,041,666	4,458,333
Actual do. do. 1918		15,313,057	12,084,000
" " " 1917		12,408,121	4,952,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months	1918	+ 3,271,391	+ 7,625,666
	1917	+ 366,455	+ 493,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Aug. 7	Aug. 14
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	94	94
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79	79
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	66½	68
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	66½	68
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	63½	65½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	53	54
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	66½	68
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	65½	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	78	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93xd	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	74
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74	74
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 13/16	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17	17¼
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7¼	7¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	5⅝	5⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7¼	7¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅛	21⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7½	7 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/9	26/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4¼	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14⅝	15¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	17/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	12/9	13/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2⅜	2½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/6	23/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2⅝	2 13/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3⅝	3¾
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/7½	3/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12 11/16	12 11/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/-xd	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	2 11/16	2 13/16
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	55/-	62/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	3 15/16	4

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended August 2.		1918. Week ended August 1.
Cattle markets	318	..	327
General markets	447	..	453
Receipts (£)	765	..	780
Total for year	38,000	..	30,805

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follow on the undermentioned days:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
August 5, 6	410,000	470,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samoht, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON ST., E.C.2.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Incorporated 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (Outstation, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (Outstations Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (Outstation, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (Outstation, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, Secretary and Treasurer

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Narainganj, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.

Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. Fixed Deposits received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and Remittances made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. Discount Accounts opened and approved. Mercantile Bills discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed.
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 381.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Most of the attention that can be spared from the Western front this week will be given to recent developments in Asia, which can hardly fail to have an important bearing upon the course of the war. The field of operations is so vast and the interplay of forces so intricate that the situation in any other circumstances would monopolize public interest. As things are, however, it is difficult to take in at once all the potentialities of the new orientation now given to the Allies' policy in the East. For the moment all the preparations are represented as being on an essentially small scale; but it will not be the first time that an expedition has outgrown the original design. Most of the hesitation still shown by the Allies may be attributed to the United States, and it adds to the irony of the position that only a big campaign will avail to give effect to the policy that President Wilson has so emphatically declared it to be his intention to carry out.

It will be fortunate indeed if the delay on the part of the Allies to take steps commensurate with the needs of the situation does not jeopardise the success of the enterprise. The very vastness of Russia should have been a decisive argument against an attempt to carry out with mere handfuls of men the Allies' resolve to help the Russians. There could be no guarantee that the restoration of ordered government in Eastern Siberia would react upon European Russia within any given time, unless the influence that had been at work in the Amur Province could be reproduced at Moscow and Petrograd. The purpose of the Allies is to help the Russians to help themselves; but it is certain that, in view of the degree to which the disintegration of the country has been carried, no ordered government can be introduced without the support of a disciplined army, which must bear some relationship numerically to the extent of the territory that has to be recovered from chaos and Bolshevik mob law. If, as is alleged, there is also an Austro-German force of 150,000 ex-prisoners of war to be overcome first in Siberia, the effort required of the Allies, which must devolve mainly upon Japan, will be both substantial and sustained.

While reports from Russia represent the central organisation of Bolshevism as *in extremis*, the forces which carry out its behests up and down the country appear able to render a good account of themselves in the field. In Siberia they have the assistance of the large number of Austro-German prisoners, and in Russia they can probably command some German support in one way or another. In both countries they are temporarily able to press the Czecho-Slovak troops; at Kazan, which the latter only captured last month, and at various points in Siberia. The Allies are lending the Czecho-Slovaks based on Vladivostok some assistance; but what with rival Russian "Governments" in Eastern Siberia, the inadequacy of existing means of transport and the multiplication of authorities concerned in any forward movement, progress has been distressingly slow so far. The immediate objective is to reach Irkutsk, where a Czecho-Slovak force is being hard pressed by the Bolsheviks; but even if the safety of this town is assured before winter sets in, there will still be Czecho-Slovak troops in Russia, who cannot be expected to hold out indefinitely against the forces that the Bolsheviks and Germans may bring against them.

For reasons that are explained elsewhere in this issue the dispatch of British troops to the Caspian Sea will have at first a moral rather than a military effect. To appreciate how it will strike the Germans, it is necessary to know something of the expectations raised by Turco-German successes in the Middle East. Germany has set herself to "think in continents." The saying attributed to Prince Charles of Hohenzollern when he was asked why he had accepted the Roumanian Crown is revived (he is supposed to have placed a ruler on a map so as to connect Berlin and Bombay, and to have replied: "Because Roumania lies on this line"), and it is recorded that Roumania, like Bulgaria and Turkey, is now a pillar of "the bridge which binds the coast of Flanders with the shores of the Caspian Sea." Already the importance of Persia as a source of raw materials for Germany is being canvassed, and the need for the construction of a railway from Trebizond to Tabriz is urged. The appearance of British troops at Baku and Meshed, with General Marshall holding the line from Baghdad to Enzeli on the Caspian Sea, will be a rude awakening from all such dreams.

The Allies' attitude towards the Czecho-Slovak people has been modelled on the principle of two or more bites to a cherry. At last, however, the Czecho-Slovak National Council has secured the formal recognition for which it has so long pleaded. It has received an official intimation to the effect that the British Government regards the Czecho-Slovaks as an Allied nation, and recognises the Council's right, as the supreme organ of the Czecho-Slovak national interests and as the present trustee of the future Czecho-Slovak Government, to exercise supreme authority over the Czecho-Slovak armies now fighting on three different battlefields. This notification will allay all fears that Great Britain was not whole-hearted in her antagonism to Austria-Hungary, but might be prepared to overlook her share of responsibility for the world-war in the major guilt of Germany. From the very first statement of the Allies' war aims it was clear that the only possible solution of the Eastern Question would be the dismemberment of the Dual Monarchy; but the Allied Governments have shown a reluctance to commit themselves to a definite undertaking. The recognition of one of the races comprised in Austria-Hungary as an Allied nation leaves nothing to be desired as an explicit declaration of policy.

The British Government's action in according official recognition to the Czecho-Slovaks has been followed by an animated discussion in the Italian Press on the alleged differences of opinion or policy between Signor Orlando and his Foreign Minister, Baron Sonnino. Apart from the purely Italian aspect of the discussion, it reflects in all probability an incomplete exchange of views on the subject between the Allied Governments. Clearly it would have been better if Great Britain's notification to the Czecho-Slovaks could have been made in the name of and on behalf of all the Allies, and it may be inferred that any hesitation that there may have been was on the part of the Italian Government.

As far as can be gathered the point at issue is not a vital one. When Italy entered the war she made an agreement with the Allies which guaranteed her territorial rectifications not only at the expense of Austria-Hungary, but also at that of the Jugoslavs and other members of the Grand Alliance. Reflection has shown that the pact will no longer stand examination in the light of the principles to which the Allies are pledged, and the Italian Government tacitly accepted this view when it gave its adherence to the Rome Agreement, which recognised the legitimacy of the aspirations of the Jugoslavs. Logic would prompt Italy to cancel the earlier Agreement and to enter upon a new pact with her Allies, and it may be that a section of the Italian Cabinet is prepared to take this step. Apparently another section holds a different view. It regards the London Agreement as the only formal commitment of the Entente to the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, and is loath to annul that covenant. On the other hand, it does not dispute the necessity for a revision of its terms, but it maintains that there is no need for action until the end of the war.

The question is one for Italy to decide, and there would be no need for the Allies to press the matter, provided Italy's hesitation is not allowed to affect the resolve of the Slav subjects of the Dual Monarchy to insist upon complete separation from the Hapsburg Crown. A few individuals among the Czecho-Slovaks in Bohemia may be willing to compromise on this point, but nothing could be more striking in the circumstances than the bold stand that Austria's victims are taking in spite of their being completely in the hands of an autocracy that has shown itself ready to stick at nothing in the attempt to break the spirit of its unwilling subjects. What is clear behind the Italian controversy is that Italy places the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary in the forefront of her policy, and is resolved that nothing shall turn her from that one goal.

The sudden departure of King Ferdinand from Bulgaria has been quickly followed by the report that he is lying in a critical condition at Frankfort. Rumour, as was to be expected, has connected this journey with the political situation in Bulgaria, and it would be in keeping with the precedent that he established after the second Balkan War, if King Ferdinand were to seek refuge abroad in order to avoid possibly crude manifestations of his personal unpopularity. If, however, the state of his health was as serious as would now seem to have been the case, his departure may have had a worthier cause. The next few days will probably bring an explanation of the mystery, as the Bulgarian Government can hardly refrain from making an official statement on the subject.

The obscurity of recent cables regarding the political situation in India is doubtless mainly the result of the obscurity of the situation itself. Opinion is gradually forming, and a regrouping of parties seems to be in progress, but the lines of cleavage are not yet accurately demarcated, and it is still possible that the ranks may once again be closed. At the moment, however, we are shown three parties—the Moderates, who are inclined to accept the official scheme; the Extremists, who would wreck it by impossible amendments; and the "More-Extremists," who will have nothing whatever to do with it. It is rather piquant to read of Mrs. Besant having to fight for a majority against the "More-Extremists" in Madras, but every Cleon must eventually meet a Sausage-seller, and the latter is likely to triumph if he has the necessary gifts of tongue.

It is noteworthy that so far we have been told very little regarding the trend of opinion in the North of India. We should like to think that this silence indicates that the United Provinces and the Punjab are not in a hurry to commit themselves, but the more probable explanation is that the omission is accidental, news coming only from the places where correspondents are to be found. At the moment, however, the North-West has anxieties of its own. The reports of the monsoon are still unfavourable. We are now entering on the three or four critical weeks which determine the success or failure of two harvests representing the country's income for the whole year, and even the great work of nation-building shrinks into the background when men and women are waiting to see whether there will be enough to eat.

Nation-building involves many activities, other than the framing of a constitution, and we are reminded of some of the most important of these by two pamphlets received from the Bureau of Education in India. We confess to relishing this style of publication much more than annual, or even quinquennial, reports; they tell us in the course of twenty pages or so something of what is being attempted in some particular line—instruction in drawing and manual work, or the education of the children who swarm in Indian tea-gardens, factories, and coal mining districts; they do not dilate unduly upon results, but give a clear account of the methods practised and the difficulties encountered; and, best of all, they allow us to see that the spirit of experiment is abroad.

It may seem superfluous to insist on the need for experiment at this stage, but it is well to remember that in the early days of Indian education this need was insufficiently recognised. Methods and processes were too often imported ready-made, and the result is that India is still very inadequately supplied with the types of citizens and peasants required to enable her to take her proper position in the world. Some of the greatest difficulties confronting the constitution-builders spring directly from ignorance, whether it be the naked and unashamed ignorance of the masses or the unconscious and insidious ignorance of the classes commonly described as educated, and, though it is somewhat late in the day, nothing but a policy of wise and bold experiment can ensure that the citizens and peasants of the next generation shall be fit to bear the burden of responsible government.

The pamphlets of which we have spoken refer mainly to the training of children in towns and industrial centres, and we hope the Bureau of Education will shortly give us similar accounts of the experiments practised in the village schools, where the need for new methods is even more insistent. It has been well said that India wants most of all youths content to be peasants but determined to be better peasants than their fathers. The old methods have failed to meet this want, for the peasants they produced are on the average no improvement on the earlier generation. We know that for some time past men have been working hard to remove this defect, and we ask the Bureau to let us know whether any definite progress can be reported.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 22.

Shortage of Small Change.

A sudden scarcity of change, especially of the smaller nickel coins, was felt lately, to the great inconvenience of the public. The newspaper-sellers and other itinerant vendors of small wares have been specially hit. The use of postage stamps helped to a certain limited extent to relieve the situation, which, however, remains sufficiently awkward to justify Government action. Hoarding cannot be the only cause, though it may be one of the causes, of this shortage; and it is more likely that money-changers and other unscrupulous persons are responsible for this most annoying state of things. Changing a 20-piastre piece lately cost as much as 1 piastre. No amount of preaching will prevent the ignorant native classes from hoarding; and, as an intelligent native lawyer once remarked, it is not want of confidence in the paper currency, since the fellah is too ignorant to comprehend the principle of political economy involved therein, but rather the fact that the silver coin represents to his mind and senses a palpable intrinsic value which the paper money does not; and there is, besides, the greater risk of destruction or loss of paper with such a careless and primitive class. The recent issue of 10- and 25-piastre notes was a quite necessary measure, and without this the country would have been faced with a veritable silver coin crisis. The amount of silver coins hoarded may be reckoned by the million.

Controlled Prices.

As reported in my last week's letter, the Supplies Control Board has published in the "Official Journal" the new list of maximum prices of foodstuffs and articles of prime necessity for each Governorate and Mudirieh. It is to be noted that, whereas certain modifications had to be introduced in regard to some foodstuffs of some importance, such as rice, sugar, meat, and cottonseed oil, due to increase of railway rates and other causes, the prices have been maintained for such articles of prime importance as wheat, barley, lentils, flour, butter, etc. In acquainting the public with the controlled prices the Board calls upon it to see that they are duly observed, as it is only with the co-operation of the people that respect of the tariff can be secured. Many people to whom an extra small payment is of little account refrain sometimes from reporting infringements to the police to avoid personal inconvenience, forgetting that by so doing they not only render themselves liable to punishment for disobeying an order under martial law, but fail in their duty to the general public, especially the poorer classes.

The prices quoted for certain leading articles cannot fail to be of interest to the reader for purposes of comparison between his own country's economic condition and that of Egypt. Wheat per ardeb of 150 kilog. from Piastres Tariff, 316 to P.T.341, according to quality; beans per ardeb of 155 kilog., P.T.253-258; lentils per ardeb of 157 kilog., P.T.260; rice per ardeb of 156 okes, P.T.446-494; sugar per cantar of 100 lb., P.T.180½-186; petroleum per 4 gallons, P.T.24¼; spirits 90° per litre, P.T.3. All these prices, save, of course, for petroleum and spirits, are wholesale for Cairo. They are on the whole a little higher for Alexandria.

The Department of Supplies issued lately a comparative list of prices in Cairo and Alexandria for the months of May, 1916, 1917, and 1918. The price of each commodity for July, 1914, has been taken as basis, and noted for convenient calculation at 100. The figures for certain articles for May last are 200 and 250. On the whole, the average rise is put down at about 100 per cent.; but this estimate is based on the tariff, and the cost of living may be said to have more than doubled since the war. Indeed, imported articles of more or less prime necessity have trebled in price, and it was high time for the authorities to intervene. It is unfortunate that in this case the prevailing spirit of greed cannot be similarly checked by official action. It is known, for instance, that there are stocks of cotton goods sufficient to last the country about a couple of years, a state of things brought about by wild speculation and by the discount of sinkings which, fortunately, was not realised, thanks to the efficient system of convoys. And yet, while we see sometimes goods passing from a feebler to a stronger speculator at prices 30 per cent. and even 40 per cent. less than those ruling at Manchester, the retail prices remain unaffected, and indeed continue on the upward grade.

Fortunately, the country is self-supporting as regards foodstuffs, and the public is hoping to see the recent measures taken by the Supplies Control Board soon bearing fruit. In Cairo the leading bakers who had given the undertaking to the Governorate to sell their two qualities of bread at the tariff prices have been faithful to their promise, and have started actually selling at these prices. At Alexandria the Governor has called upon the leading bakers to follow the example of their colleagues in Cairo, failing which he threatened them with the establishment of municipal bakeries.

In regard to sugar, the company has, no doubt under the pressure of the Supplies Control Board, been preparing a statistical list of the groceries in Cairo, who sell sugar direct to the public; and it is now requiring from the wholesale dealers, before delivering to them their contract quantities, a list of their clients to see whether they are provided with a licence as duly authorised grocers. With regard to cotton-seed oil, the Cairo Governorate, at the request of the Supplies Control Board, has been requiring the police to draw up lists of the oil manufacturers and grocers with the latter's addresses, so as to compute correctly their requirements. In this case the matter would seem to lie most in the hands of the Government, who have taken over the cotton-seed crop, and supply the oil presses with what they require. There seems to be little doubt now that the shortage of oil is due in great measure to the short supply of seed to the presses.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A BALKAN CONFERENCE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The leading article in your issue of 9th inst. serves a useful purpose in bringing to a head the present discussion regarding a separate peace with Bulgaria. If criticism there be, it will not question the desirability of a settlement of the Balkan problem, but rather the premises upon which your arguments are based, and the inference that the desired end should be achieved by bribing Bulgaria, our enemy, necessarily at the expense of Greece and Serbia, our friends.

You assert that Bulgaria's action in the present war was occasioned by the Treaty of Bucharest. But this is by no means the deduction to be drawn from the evidence now available. The Austro-Bulgar pact is of old standing. It was inaugurated by Stambouloff, and since the advent of Ferdinand it has been the mainspring of Bulgarian politics. The intermittent flirtations with Russia have been ephemeral, and dictated by purely selfish motives. The treacherous attack on Greece and Serbia was carried out in collusion with Austria-Hungary, who had let it be known that she was prepared to help Bulgaria militarily and diplomatically.

If the Bulgars had reason to be angry against either combination of the Great Powers at Bucharest—and it is difficult to understand what claim they had to be saved from the consequences of their deliberate action—their animosity should surely have been directed against the Triple Alliance. At its worst, the action of the Entente was sympathetic and neutral; that of the Alliance was positive and hostile. Austria had let them down badly, and it was the Kaiser himself who backed the claims of Roumania and Greece to the Dobruja and Kavalla respectively!

You agree that Bulgaria was very properly chastised, but apparently regard the chastisement as unjust. What could Greece have taken less than Kavalla? What could the Serbs have taken less than Central Macedonia? Would it be justice to allow Bulgaria to bluff and brag, and ruthlessly plunge the Balkans into bloodshed, and then receive territorial reward for her infamy? Bulgaria fought for the hegemony of the Peninsula. At Bucharest, Greece, Serbia, and Roumania sought to establish an equilibrium.

The European war precipitated a situation, which was not envisaged at Bucharest any more than in Downing Street. Even so, the treaty provided the Entente Powers with a ready-made barrier against Pan-German aggression, had they chosen to profit by it. Our statesmen followed out the theory of conciliation and compensation right up to the twelfth hour. And what was the result? Bulgaria merely bluffed them into complacency until she was ready to strike the blow that had been decided upon before the war commenced. How different would it all have been had we backed our three Balkan friends and taken measures to protect ourselves against Bulgarian treachery! We should have had more to show for our exploits on Gallipoli than the whited bones of our heroes. We should have been saved the costly expeditions to Salonika, Mesopotamia, and Palestine. And without doubt peace would now reign in the land.

The fault was not with the Treaty of Bucharest, but with ourselves. Bulgaria did not dare to move until assured of Greek neutrality; and Constantine would not have dared to give that guarantee had we not strengthened his hand and weakened that of Venizelos by offering Hellenic territory to Bulgaria without so much as a "by your leave."

We had a League of Nations in the Balkans in 1912. Bulgaria destroyed it. In 1915 Bulgaria was offered greater compensation than can be accorded her to-day. She refused to accept it. It will be advanced that conditions have changed. Assuredly they have. Greece was once prepared to make concessions in order to secure the assistance of Bulgaria in common action on the side of the Entente. She will not be inclined to repeat the offer to-day, when Bulgaria has despoiled her territories, massacred and exiled her people, and played into the hands of her enemies. Serbia also was once prepared to concede all that Bulgaria asked. She will not willingly repeat the offer to-day, when the Bulgars have turned her fair land into a shambles, slaughtered her peaceable citizens, wrecked her monuments of art and culture, pilfered and burned her literary treasures, stolen even the tombstones from her cemeteries, and exported her maidens to the harems of Asia Minor.

We are fighting for justice, and justice demands that such deeds as have been perpetrated by the Germans in Europe and the Bulgars in the Balkans shall not go unpunished.

We are all striving after the ideal of a Balkan Confederation, and most of us regard it as a future possibility. Success or failure will depend upon the methods employed to attain the desired end. European attempts to solve the problem have not been happy in the past, and there is little reason to think that they would be more satisfactory now. It is only three short years since the Entente Powers demonstrated a lamentable inability to understand Balkan politics, and there is grave danger that, the immediate end in view—peace with Bulgaria—being precisely the same as it was in 1913, the same mistakes would be committed. Bulgaria's territorial hunger cannot be assuaged by an *hors d'œuvre*—that will merely whet her appetite; and there is no imaginable division of the Peninsula which will at once satisfy responsible people in Bulgaria and leave responsible people in Greece and Serbia without a grievance.

It will be far better to let our Balkan Allies settle their own business, giving what assistance is desired, and, when they have done so, bid them invite Bulgaria to join their family at the price of reasonable concessions. Bulgaria declined a Serbian proposal in this sense which was made in the early days of the war; perhaps she will be inclined to consider it when the catastrophe of 1919 has followed the catastrophe of 1913. It would be fatal to recognise any Bulgarian "right" to disputed territory. This cannot be recognised by our Allies, who, being our Allies, are at least entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

But all this must be for a later epoch. Bulgaria could not make a separate peace to-day even if she would, and all the declarations of her statesmen go to prove that she would not do so even if she could. Sooner or later Bulgaria, defeated and distressed, will display contrition, blame everybody from Ferdinand to the palace shoeblack, sue for mercy and appeal to the declarations of Grey and Sazonoff. This is all part of the game, and we may as well be ready for it. At that moment we must couple justice to our Allies with a determination that never again shall it be possible for Bulgaria to act as a bridge over which Pan-Germanism shall march to the conquest of the world. That is her chosen rôle in international politics, and it constitutes a danger which Imperial Britain cannot afford to ignore.—I am, etc.,

CRAWFURD PRICE.

[The main contentions of our correspondent were met in the article to which he refers, which did not, however, suggest that "the desired end should be achieved by bribing Bulgaria." Just as the Allies refuse to accept Bolshevism as a permanent impersonation of Russia, so confidence in the purging effects of this world-war must look to a new Bulgaria, with whom it will be possible for our Near Eastern Allies to create a new era of peace and prosperity for the Balkan Peninsula.—ED.]

ARE THE ROUMANIANS ROMANS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I hope Mr. Bourchier will credit me with some knowledge regarding the history of my own nation, and will admit that I was aware of the old controversies on the Latinity of Roumanians, at least as much as he is interested himself in such a topic. Just because I am not evidently unaware of the "scientific writers" honoured so much by Mr. Bourchier, I consider the efforts to revive this controversy as if one would look after dead horses to take their hoofs as very precious things. Although Mr. Bourchier may be for the moment far from the principal authorities on the subject—he would like to suggest that there are many authors far more important who deny our nationality—he fires the Roumanian question with the "Big Bertha" of the Chauvinists, Sulzer. The theory of this historian was too grateful for the political necessities of the Magyars and Austrians, and therefore was largely circulated. (Lucius alludes only incidentally to the subject in his "De Regno Dalmatiæ," and Roesler, though the most noisy and ticklish for the Magyar national vanity, can hardly stand the test of criticism.) But even the theory of Sulzer is, in its essence, concerned to demonstrate that the Roman colonists were withdrawn from Dacia Trajana by Aurelian on the south of the Danube, and that the Roumanians returned again to Roumania and Transylvania of our days after the invasion of the descendants of Arpad (Sulzer, "Geschichte des Transalpinische Daciens," II., pp. 3—63).

It is evident why the Magyar Chauvinists cherish this "scientific writer," and therefore I am not at all terrified when Mr. Bourchier threatens me with such "well-known scholars and principal authorities." The very existence of a people cannot be contested with dead letters taken from dubious writers, because every humble cottage presents its living arguments which are of the greatest account for the modern historian.

Mr. Bourchier credits us with the foolishness of believing ourselves to be of the flesh and blood of Julius Cæsar. What we really believe is that the Roman colonists, as Eutropius says, were brought by Trajanus in "infinitas copias hominum transtulerat ad agros et urbes colendas," that these colonists Latinised the Thraco-Illyrian peoples, the Dacians, the Gets, and by that process was moulded a Neo-Latin people, the Roumanians. It was the same phenomenon by which the English life and civilisation takes new form and expression in the Anglicised British colonies. But, anyhow, will Mr. Bourchier kindly allow me to oppose his "scientific writers" with some humble chroniclers and historians, as: Anonymus Bellæ regis notarius, Eutropius, Gibbon, Ubicini, Thierry, Mommsen. Edgar Quinet, Rambaud? Regarding the Bulgarian Chauvinist, I had better point out a new book of Professor Georgevitch, "Macedonia, pp. 226-227.

Roumania is a modern name, but the name of Vlachs is a very old one (could be found even in Froissart), and is nothing more than a form from Gaulois (Welches) (Rambaud). The Germans called the Northern Italy "Waelchenland."

The force of nationality cannot be produced artificially. It must grow up and blossom as a flower. Therefore, we think. the work of genealogists who condemn the traditions and the past of the nations "is held to be of no account" by modern historians.—I am, etc.,

D. N. CIOTORI.

46, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A case of witch-hunting found its way into the Patna High Court lately, when seven men who were accused of murdering a "witch" appealed against a sentence of transportation for life. They won their case, and were set at liberty, and we may therefore conclude that they were innocent of the crime. But that does not affect the fact that, according to the prosecution, some people were sufficiently sure that the "witch" was responsible for a cholera epidemic to take on themselves the risk involved in punishing her. These persons unknown went to her house, beat her to death, and afterwards burnt her body. It is an unpleasant little story, but it serves to show that in the East, as in the West, when ignorant people get frightened they are usually very cruel; and that they not infrequently take risks that they would never dream of taking in their saner moments.

⁂

Either the "hunger strike" has been found not to pay, in this country, or else the authorities have—very wisely—decided not to give the "hunger-strikers" the advertisement that seems to stand them in stead of more wholesome and more solid support. At any rate, we have, fortunately, heard nothing of such strikes or strikers, though we have heard rather too much of other varieties. But in India the foolish form of protest still survives. A Calcutta message reports that in June thirty-six State prisoners in Hazaribagh Jail resorted to hunger-striking, and that "some of them are prepared to starve themselves to death." As I have observed before, the obvious course to follow is to let them make good their "threats," if they have the grit to do it. The State would be freed from a lot of useless creatures, and very soon "hunger-striking" would die a natural death also. Of the three dozen "strikers" referred to, the majority are graduates of the Calcutta University and one is a college professor. I am not surprised to learn that their list of grievances is a long one, and that most of the said grievances are of a petty nature. If they had real cause for complaint, they would almost certainly adopt some wiser way of drawing attention to it.

⁂

Apropos of strikes, I note that the *Sudan Times* reports a strange rumour "that the bakers in Khartoum have secretly agreed to go on strike at an unexpected time, as they claim that the tariff prices for bread do not allow them any profits in view of the high prices of wheat, fuel and labour." The *Sudan Times* expresses a very natural scepticism regarding this rumour, pointing out that the bakers would probably "make representations in a proper manner to the local authorities" before doing anything so melodramatic as suggested. But to me the fact that one hears of strikes of one kind or another all over the world is symptomatic. We hear and read a great deal about the "unselfishness" of everybody nowadays, and if we accepted the Press view of humanity we should be forced to think that the Millenium had come—except in Central Europe, of course! I fear, however, that some selfish people still survive, and that they are ready—whether in the East or in the West—to turn the Great War to their own personal advantage whenever and however they can do so. The Khartoum bakers and the London "conductorettes" are, after all, only human; and the latter, at least, evidently want to be very well paid for "doing their bit," "keeping the home fires burning," and so forth, and so on.

⁂

A hard case seems to be that of a man arrested by the Hyderabad police as a deserter, who, according to the official account, "was arrested at about 1 a.m., and was then wearing only a shirt in order to pretend that he was mad." Much depends on the length of the shirt, one supposes. In these days—or nights—most of us wear pyjamas, no doubt; but has the night shirt *quite* died out? Suppose the "madman's" p.j.'s had been stolen or mislaid, should he, if he wished to look for them, have gone out "mid nodings on"? Really, I have no wish to interfere with the Hyderabad police or to cast aspersions of any kind on them; but it seems a bit rough to call a man mad merely because he chose to walk abroad in the night clad only in a shirt. Now, if he had worn *no* shirt——!

CORSAIR.

The Tangier correspondent of *The Times* reports the death recently, at Marskesh, of Madani Glaoui, the most important of the great hereditary Kaids of Southern Morocco. He adds:—Madani Glaoui's influence was great, and he held absolute sway over the Atlas and Trans-Atlas tribes almost as far as Tafilet. He was a man of energy, much intelligence, and great courage, and was the stedfast friend of France. He rendered invaluable service in maintaining law and order in those turbulent districts.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Armenia and the Armenians.

Writing on "Turkey and Armenia" in the *Contemporary Review*, Prof. G. Thoumaian discusses proposals put forward by Mr. Brailsford for the reconstruction of Turkey. These Mr. Thoumaian does not approve of. The most interesting part of his article is that in which he discusses the future of Armenia, and institutes a comparison between the Jews and the Armenians. He writes:—

> Armenia is such a well-defined country historically, geographically, and from the point of view of architecture, that even a handful of Armenians would be able to assert their rights and claims to it. A few generations of peaceful lives would be quite enough for the prolific Armenians to fill the country and to bring it to great prosperity. At the date of their emancipation Greece and Bulgaria had only a few hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Bulgars respectively.
>
> Lately, through the generosity of the British Government, justice has been done to the Jewish race in assigning Palestine to be their home. Centuries of deprivation and injustice did not prevent England from finding out the real and original owners of the land. There are no Jews in Palestine, yet none would deny or doubt Palestine to be the Jews' fatherland. Why so? Because history proves it; the geography of the land is Jewish; names of towns, villages, valleys, mountains, rivers, and lakes are connected with Jewish history; the soil is soaked with Jewish blood, the graveyards are filled with Jewish ancestors, and, above all, the heart of every Jew is attached to the land, and their eyes, from all parts of the world, are turned to Mount Zion.
>
> The case of Armenia bears remarkable resemblance to that of Palestine. It has been identified with the Armenians as their historic home for over 3,000 years. The soil is soaked with their blood. The land is covered with Armenian monuments of all ages. The earth is full of the ruins of their ancient monuments or the graves of their ancestors. One cannot travel in any direction through the country without coming across scenes of great importance connected with the history of their struggle for right and liberty.
>
> In one important feature, however, the case of Armenia differs from that of Palestine, and her claim is stronger. While Palestine had for 2,000 years ceased to be inhabited by Jews, Armenia, on the contrary, was all the time inhabited by the Armenians; and it is only since the war that the Turks have, it is said, cleared Armenia of them by massacring and deporting them, in order to be able to say, with Mr. Brailsford, that "one cannot make a State without inhabitants." If, therefore, Palestine, without Jews, can be assigned as the home of the Jews, the more so, surely, can Armenia be assigned to the Armenians, where, until lately, Armenian communities, towns, and villages were thriving, and where the hearths of their ruined homes are still smouldering.

The "Gippo" L.C.

A correspondent in Egypt sends to *The Times* an account of "The Egyptian Labour Corps." From this we take the following passages descriptive of the men:—

> . . . . Cairo is Mecca for most of them nowadays. A large proportion, it is true, are frankly looking forward to a debauch in which *hashish*, gambling, and other seductions figure prominently; but to many others, more provident or less inclined to dissipation, the holiday is merely a change of work, and before long they can purchase with the fruits of their industry a camel or a few *feddans* of land wherewith to lay the foundation of a competency for their old age. The spendthrifts, having exhausted their resources, re-enlist again and again in the E.L.C.; the wise men may return once or twice, but thereafter the corps sees them no more.
>
> In physique the great majority of these men are lithe and well-muscled; not a few can carry a 5-cwt. load for a short distance, and a twelve-hour day does not unduly fatigue them. Some, too, are quite remarkably intelligent; the writer knows of one who mastered the art of traction-engine driving in four or five days. He hailed from the Sudan, and these Sudanese, it is generally conceded, are more able, and decidedly more willing, than the ordinary "Gippo." Their weak point—speaking of them collectively—is their eyesight; it is astonishing how many of them are purblind, or have defective vision of one sort or another. Disease is the cause in some cases, but in many others the pupil of one eye was pierced by the mother shortly after birth in order to render the future man unfit for military service.

Jugoslavia.

The following passages are taken from an article entitled "The Jugoslav State: A Need of To-day," contributed to the *Daily Telegraph* (August 16) by Dr. E. J. Dillon:—

> The Southern Slavs form one race, with three ethnic names—the Serbs, the Croats, and the Slavonians. They are separated from each other by different religious tenets or liturgies, cultural tendencies, historical and political traditions. Thus the Serbs are members of the Orthodox Eastern Church, whereas the Croats and Slavonians are Catholics, and their culture is Western. But all three branches speak one and the same language. So little does the Serbo-Croatian idiom differ in the mouths of these three peoples that even the uneducated peasants of any one of the three understand with ease a conversation carried on by people from the other two. The only divergencies from the normal worth mentioning occur in the Slavonian, and yet they offer no difficulties to the Croatians or the Serbs. This is an important fact which makes for ethnic unity. At a celebrated trial held in Milan a few years ago the Sicilian witnesses who spoke only their own dialect were not understood by the Court, which had to employ sworn interpreters to translate their evidence into Italian. Yet they were all Italians. Among the Jugo-Slavs such a thing would be impossible.
>
> And yet it was not until the nineteenth century, when the principle of nationality was preached by Mazzini, Manin, and other humanitarians, that the idea of uniting these three peoples into one political community was harboured and disseminated. The first form which this idea assumed was that of a proposal to bring together the three peoples under the sceptre of the Habsburgs, but after the battle of Sadowa, when Austria, bereft of her independence, was bound to the chariot of Germany, this project was given up for one which placed the political centre of gravity of all the Southern Slavs in Belgrade. But it was not until the Obrenovitches, in the person of King Alexander, were eliminated, and Austria's ascendency was challenged, that the idea took deep root. Different politicians and publicists, however, favoured different projects, but all agreed that the three ethnic fragments must be fused into one, and as far as feasible their historical traditions harmonised. It was also accepted as axiomatic that Serbia, who belongs to the Orthodox Church, and was brought up on Byzantine lines, stands to gain much if only she will bring herself to look to the West in future, instead of Eastward, as heretofore.
>
> The antagonism which subsisted among these peoples in the past has of late years been to a large extent assuaged. Passion had subsided. But there is still room for progress. The Serbs employ the Cyrillic alphabet, which is almost the same as the Russian, and they use the Julian calendar; whereas the Croats and Slovenes write the Latin alphabet and count their months and years according to the Gregorian system. In these matters conformity offers no serious difficulty. Then a large percentage of the Bosniaks and Herzegovinians are Mohammedans, and their traditions are accordingly very dissimilar to those of their Christian brethren. Still, there is no invincible antagonism between them. The acknowledged leaders of all the Jugo-Slavs are naturally Serbs, largely a pastoral people, whose upper classes were assimilated by the Turks centuries ago, and who are, therefore, profoundly democratic to-day. It has been asserted that the culture of the Croats, whose aristocracy maintained its nationality and its social influence, is superior to that of the Serbs, but so long as the Serbian kingdom subsisted and expanded, Serb leadership was questioned only academically. What arrangements will be made after the war it is at present impossible to forecast, but in all probability all parties would be glad of friendly counsel and help from the Allies.

◆

INDIAN PENSIONS.

The Secretary of State for India has decided to alter the conditions under which Indian Good Service Pensions may be awarded to officers of the Indian Army and Indian Medical Service, to officers of Royal Artillery selected for continuous Indian service, and to officers of Royal Engineers who have elected for continuous Indian service or who have acquired a right to an Indian retiring pension.

In future only general officers and colonels on the retired list and such officers of the Indian Army of those ranks as have, owing to suspension of retirements, elected to draw pay equivalent to pension, and officers of the Indian Medical Service on the retired list, of not less than twenty-five years' service, will be eligible for selection. In the case of officers of the Indian Medical Service the possession of an additional pension for administrative service under paragraphs 728 or 731, A.R.I., Vol I., or of a compensatory extra pension under paragraph 734 of the same, will disqualify for selection for a Good Service Pension.

◆

I.C.S. CANDIDATES.

Notice is given in the *Gazette* that it is proposed by the Secretary of State for India to amend the regulations relating to the admission of candidates to the Indian Civil Service. The effect is to enable the Secretary of State in Council to exempt from certain examination requirements a selected candidate who was successful at the open competition held in August, 1914, and who, after his nomination as a selected candidate, has continuously served and is still serving in His Majesty's Forces. The Civil Service Commissioners, if satisfied as to the eligibility of the candidate in respect of health, character, an dconduct, may certify that he is entitled to be appointed to the Indian Civil Service without further examination.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE COUNTRY OF EXTREMES.*

In those veracious chronicles of childhood which are common to all nations, it is not anywhere recorded, so far as memory serves, that the lamb ever formally asked the wolf to protect it. All the more curious is it, therefore, to read that the Armenians hoped, a few years before the war, to interest the Germans in their country, and actually had the idea of asking Berlin to supply them with a German prince. What is more, Germany was considering the idea favourably, for she is rather overstocked with minor royalties, and they used to make a capital kind of export in the prehistoric days before 1914; but something happened to spare Armenia. Perhaps Turkey objected; and the Armenians—what is left of them—know better now.

It happened that M. Marc Henry, who was in Berlin at the time, came across these Armenians as they were arranging to start a review, printed in German and Armenian, to forward their ideas. The conjunction of wolf and lamb seems to have struck him as odd, and, as a patriotic Frenchman, he asked them why they did not look to France instead of Germany for help. Their answer was significant. They admired the past of France, but they clearly thought she had no future, whereas Germany represented strength and power both in the present and the future. Let us hope they are more accurately informed by this time; they will hardly ask for a young Hohenzollern at Erzeroum in 1918, one imagines.

This is one of the many curious recollections in a very human book. M. Henry knows his Germany well, and he has an admirable faculty for analysing the Teutons as a people. Everybody acknowledges their discipline, their organization, their peculiar combination of arrogance and servility, their pedantry, their unattractive women; these things are the commonplace of travellers. Where M. Henry goes deeper than the ordinary traveller is in his recognition of their faculty for running into extremes. They cannot be strong without being brutal, or well-read without burying themselves under a weight of useless erudition—a German professor once contemplated an exhaustive treatise in two volumes on the unhappy colour of Bardolph's nose, but abandoned the task when he discovered that the British Museum had no information on the subject except the obviously inadequate text of Shakespeare. So he wrote a treatise on England's ignorance of her own literature instead, which no doubt made his reputation.

The author gives several examples of this faculty for running to extremes—in art, drama, even in advertisement; his own book, by the way, furnishes a rather curious example. A voluntary German exile wrote him a letter, which he reproduces in full, in which Germany is criticised with all the fury of the revolted Teuton. This gentleman will have nothing to do with Luther; he will hardly allow any good in German literature, which, although far inferior to that of France and England, has at least produced Goethe and Heine; and he is ready to jeer at German music in the person of Wagner as an "idol who is now himself overthrown." (He has apparently forgotten Strauss.) Now, this is going too far. German art, as personified in that terrible avenue of statues in the Siegesallee in Berlin, where it used to be said they dared not drive the cabs for fear even the cab-horses should get the staggers when they caught sight of the Kaiser's ancestors, is all that is terrible; but Wagner conquered the world, not because he was a German, but because he could make the fiddle say things that no piece of catgut ever said before. Possibly the new music of Strauss will be remembered when Hindenburg is forgotten. It is simply stupid for a German to decry German music because he has a quarrel with German militarism, but that is the way with that nation. Because they disliked England, they refused to admit that Shakespeare was English, and evolved the theory that he had a German soul, although he unaccountably forgot to arrange to be born in Berlin under William II.; in the same way, because a German very reasonably dislikes German politics, he includes German music in his denunciation. This people wants a little more ballast in its boat.

In spite of their proneness to extremes, M. Marc Henry believes, and we agree with him, that Germany will not indulge in a revolution. They have a love of order in their very soul, if they can still be said to have a soul; they only make revolutions on paper and by professors. To others they are very wolves, but to the constituted authorities they are lambs—lambs who are shorn.

H. W. T.

TOSH!*

This is a particularly foolish story about an impossible detective, who, though described as having nerve of rock-like quality, gets into a state dangerously resembling panic upon the least provocation. This egregious person has phenomenal luck in the way of overhearing conversations and in being rescued from situations into which his own incapacity leads him; and the average reader will heartily regret that such an utter idiot should triumph even over the equally fatuous "villains." The authors' use of English is unconventional.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee has issued its first report, which constitutes an interesting record of what has been done, and is being done, by the committee. Incidentally, it shows how urgently some such body as the committee was required, and how much hard work has been necessary to get anything done in regard to the prisoners. The successful method appears to have been to get some member or members "to put a number of questions in the House of Commons."

The committee advocates "negotiations for a wide exchange of valid prisoners"; meanwhile, it considers that "although the only satisfactory solution of the whole question of prisoners in Turkey is an agreement for repatriation on broad lines, the exchange of a largo proportion of the prisoners, even if promptly agreed to by the Turks, will take so long that no effort should be left untried to secure the arrival of adequate food and clothing at the camps with the least possible delay." Many people will share the Executive Committee's hope that the matter of the publication of further information regarding the siege of Kut "will again be taken up after the Parliamentary recess, if not earlier."

The committee has also issued a pamphlet, "Regulations and Notes," for the help of relatives and friends of prisoners in Turkey, which will undoubtedly prove invaluable to those for whom it is designed. A copy may be obtained free by the next-of-kin of prisoners other than officers, or for one shilling each copy by other persons, on application to the Secretary, 25, Chester Square, S.W.1. Further donations are invited, and we hope the committee will meet with the support it so well merits.

AN INSCRIPTION FROM GREECE.

By Joseph Offord.

In the *American Journal of Archæology*, Mr. L. R. Dean is publishing the Latin inscriptions found by United States explorers at Corinth during their several years' excavations there.

The first two texts are of interest to us because they allude to the worship of a deity "Victoria Britannica," some time probably subsequent to the reign of Septimus Severus. That there was such a cult in some places was surmised from an inscription of A.D. 210, found in North Africa. The war lasted from A.D. 208 to 211, the year of Severus's death. It is also referred to in the Panegyrious written about 297.

The inscriptions are in honour of a Tiberius Claudius Dinippus, who was Sacerdoti Victoriæ Britannicæ. It states he was a tribune, at one time of the VI. Spanish legion, of which only three or four inscriptions are known. Two of them in the Near East by the Danube, and two in Italy. It is evident that the victorious campaigns in Britain were the subject of laudation in the Mediterranean provinces.

AUSTRALIA'S SYRIAN RELIEF FUND.

Writing from 1040, Drummond Street, North Carlton, Melbourne, on May 22, Mr. J. M. Fawaz informs us that, after great efforts, a fund for Syrian relief has been started in the State of Victoria. "Our collections up to the present," he adds, "including a third of the proceeds of a 'button day' on behalf of Syria, Serbia, and Armenia, are about £3,400. The Australian people know very little about Syria, and consequently it is rather hard to arouse their sympathies in its favour. The daily Press gives Syrian affairs little or no space, which fact makes it hard work to reach the general public and enlighten them on the suffering and distress of Syria. But we have not given up hope, and the fact that we have collected as much as we have, with all the varied and urgent appeals that are constantly being made to the generosity of the public, speaks well for our efforts."

SUTTEE IN CEYLON.

The following message, dated June 8, from Colombo, is published in the *Pioneer*:—What is believed to be the first case of suttee in Ceylon occurred in the Jaffna district. Following the death of Mr. Kindiah Pillay, well known in the north as the manager of a newspaper, a Hindu organ, his young wife poured kerosene oil on her clothes and ignited it. The fire was quenched by neighbours, but the girl died almost immediately on reaching the hospital. The husband and wife were cremated simultaneously.

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* "Beyond the Rhine: Memories of Art and Life in Germany Before the War." By Marc Henry. (Constable and Co. 6s. 6d. net.)

* "The Riddle of the Purple Emperor." By T. W. and M. E. Hanshaw. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 6s.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. August	1918. August		1336. Julkada	5678. Elul.
23	10	Friday	16	15
24	11	Saturday........	17	16
25	12	**Sunday**	18.	17
26	13	Monday	19	18
27	14	Tuesday	20	19
28	15	Wednesday	21	20
29	16	Thursday	22	21

Lady Evelyn Cobbold and Miss Cobbold have left London for Rannoch Lodge, Perthshire.

M. Nicholas Titulesco, formerly Roumanian Minister of Finance, has left London for Aix-les-Bains.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, has accepted an invitation to become a Vice-President of the Ramsay Memorial Fund.

Mme. Gennadius, wife of the Greek Minister, has been on a short visit at Teversal Manor, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

Mirza Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Counsellor to the Persian Legation, has left London for Eastbourne, where he expects to spend several weeks.

Mr. E. Richmond, formerly architect to the Egyptian Public Works Ministry, is at present in Palestine assisting the authorities in architectural matters.

The engagement is announced between Freeman Newton, of the Indian Police, and Winifred, second daughter of Mr. Ernest Margrave, of Mumbles, South Wales.

At the invitation of the Greek Scout authorities, Mr. Arthur Gaddum, a member of the Headquarters Council of the Boy Scouts Association, has gone to Greece to help with the organisation of the Boy Scout movement there.

The engagement is announced between Major Anthony Bovill, M.C., Lancers, son of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Bovill, of 60, Pont Street, and Eleanor Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monins, of Ringwould House, near Dover.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (of July 27) announces that a marriage has been arranged between Lieut. Devonshire, Hussars, attached R.A.F., only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Devonshire, of Cairo, and Stella, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Muir Masson, of Caversham, Lahore.

The King has been pleased to grant unrestricted permission to Miss Mary Elizabeth Phillips, M.B., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred upon her by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia.

The engagement is announced between Ernest Llewellyn Davies, lieutenant, Indian Army (late Royal Welsh Fusiliers), son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Davies, Tanyfron Villa, Aberayron, Cardiganshire, and Joan Marjorie, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Ensor, Clandon, Dorchester.

Lady Maclean is organising a fête and tombola, for September 25, among the English colony in Tangier, on behalf of the British Red Cross Fund. Pictures, glass, jewellery, and any art objects which friends in England may care to contribute may be sent to Lady Maclean at Drimmin House, Tangier.

An engagement is announced between Major Christopher Alexander, M.C., Indian Infantry, second son of the late Colonel George Alexander, of the Burma Commission, and Mrs. Alexander, 2, Vyvyan Terrace, Clifton, and Diana Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Widnell, Royston, Wimborne.

An engagement is announced between Lieutenant Alastair S. Cumming, Royal Navy, second son of J. A. Cumming, I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Cumming, of Queenwood, Parkstone, Dorset, and Sylvia, only daughter of Colonel D. Paul, C.M.G., C.B.E., Army Ordnance Department, and Mrs. Paul, 41, Shaftesbury Road, Southsea.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Cairo, between Captain Glynn Keith Murray Mason, D.S.O., Hussars, acting lieutenant-colonel, Dorset Yeomanry, only son of Sir William Peake Mason, Bt., and Lady Mason, of Compton Castle, Somerset, and Grace Elinor Keen, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Keen.

An engagement is announced between Russell Wellesley Turner, lieutenant, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Turner, of Inveralmond, Mid Lothian (late Straits Settlements), and Marjory, younger daughter of Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, retired, of 2, Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Cairo, between Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. M. Russell, D.S.O., Royal Engineers, attached Royal Air Force, second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Russell, of Milford House, Limerick, Ireland, and Dorothy Barrington, twin daughter of the late Major E. B. Crake, Rifle Brigade.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Commander M. Maxwell Scott, D.S.O., R.N., third son of the Hon. J. C. and Mrs. Maxwell Scott, of Abbotsford, Melrose, Scotland, and Fearga, eldest daughter of the late Sir Nicholas O'Conor and Lady O'Conor, of Dundermott, Ballymoe, Co. Roscommon, and 29, Chester Square, S.W.

On July 10, at the Residency, Kashmir, India, the marriage took place of Captain Maurice H. Bickford, Indian Army, younger son of Admiral A. K. Bickford, C.M.G., J.P., and the late Mrs. Bickford, of the Grange, Uckfield, to Elizabeth (Elsie) Sutherland Campbell, elder daughter of Brig.-General Johnstone, Indian Army, and Mrs. Johnstone.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Thomas Horatio Westmacott, General List, second son of the late E. V. Westmacott, I.C.S., and of Mrs. E. V. Westmacott, of Stafford Mansions, Buckingham Gate, and Laura Evelyn Winnington Ingram, youngest daughter of the Archdeacon of Hereford, Bridstow Vicarage, Ross.

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An American Medical Mission has arrived at Cairo, and is leaving immediately for Palestine.

Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador in Constantinople, presented his credentials to the Sultan on August 20.

The Commander-in-Chief in India has warmly congratulated Sir Douglas Haig on his "most brilliant success in France."

M. Lefevre Pontalis, the new French Diplomatic Agent in Egypt, arrived at Cairo on July 22. M. Defrance, the departing Agent, left Cairo on July 24.

According to a Constantinople telegram to the Dutch Press, the Turkish *Official Gazette* announces the appointment of Rifaat Pasha as Ambassador at Berlin.

General Grammont, head of the French Mission and General Inspector of the Greek Army, has returned to Athens from a tour throughout the Peloponnesus. He expresses himself as highly satisfied with everything that he has seen. The good news from the West, he says, is everywhere having an excellent effect on the *moral* of the people.

◆

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Bombay *Gazette* announces that the Hon. Sir Stanley L. Batchelor, I.C.S., has been permitted to retire from the Civil Service. Dated June 1.

The Bihar and Orissa *Gazette* announces:—The Hon. Mr. E. Lister, C.I.E., officiating Secretary to Government in the Revenue and Judicial Departments, is confirmed in his present appointment, with effect from May 16, 1918. Mr. W. H. Lewis, officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on special duty under the Revenue Department, is appointed to be Under-Secretary to Government in the Revenue and Judicial Departments.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has appointed Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, C.B., K.C., to be Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office, in succession to Sir Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.C., who has retired from the public service. Mr. Hurst has been Assistant Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office since 1902. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1893.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for Feeding Prisoners interned in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

OBITUARY.

Colonel Robert Watson Sparks, J.P., who has died at Richmond, Surrey, served in the Crimea and during the Indian Mutiny. He had been chairman of the Richmond Board of Guardians and of the Management Committee of the Richmond Royal Hospital.

Lieutenant-Colonel Humfrey H. Kennedy, Seaforth Highlanders, who was killed on July 29, aged 36, saw service on the N.-W. frontier of India in 1908, from which he received the medal with clasp. He had previously served in the South African war, and in the present war he had seen service in Egypt and in France.

Indian papers received by the latest mail report the death at Simla, in June, of Colonel W. H. W. Mercer, the cause of death being pneumonia. Colonel Mercer belonged to the 86th Regiment, and was wounded in the Burmese campaign of 1885. He was due to retire from the service about the time of the outbreak of war, but stayed on, and was acting as Station Staff Officer at Simla at the time of his death.

Mr. Henry Luttrell Moysey, I.S.O., who died at Cresswell House, Bexhill-on-Sea, on August 15, was one of the older generation of Civil servants in Ceylon. He was born in 1849, and entered the Ceylon Civil Service in 1870, during the Governorship of Sir Hercules Robinson, and on his retirement in 1906 he was Postmaster-General and Director of Telegraphs. He identified himself with the welfare of the native races in many ways, such as the development of native agriculture and the increase of the island food supplies. He married a daughter of Mr. William O'Grady, J.P., of Batticaloa, Ceylon, and leaves two sons and a daughter.

Captain Eric Archibald McNair, V.C., Royal Sussex Regiment. attached General Staff, died abroad in a base hospital on August 12. He was the younger son of George B. McNair, of Calcutta, senior partner in the firm of Morgan and Co., the Calcutta solicitors. He was 24 years of age, and was educated at Branksome Hall, Godalming, and at Charterhouse, where he was a member of the O.T.C., and head of the school when he left at Midsummer, 1913, with a Demyship at Magdalen College, Oxford. He went into residence at Oxford in October, 1913, and was working for the Indian Civil Service, but on the outbreak of war he applied for and obtained a commission, being gazetted to the 10th Royal Sussex Regiment, transferring to another battalion in August, 1915, and going to the front the following month. In February, 1916, he won the V.C. In August, 1916, he was severely wounded, and it was not until early in 1917 that he was passed fit for service again, and then he was put on probation for Staff work, subsequently going through a special Staff course. After serving at home for some months he went to another front in the early part of this year, attached to the Staff, but was invalided back about six weeks ago to a base hospital, where he died.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Municipality of Athens has unanimously adopted a proposal to name one of the city's streets after the Marne.

All Greeks belonging to the classes 1905 to 1918 who are liable to military service, and who are resident in the British Empire. have been called up by Royal Decree.

A conference has taken place at Budapest on the Supplementary Treaty to the Bucharest Peace Treaty which has been drafted by Count Burian and has been approved by the Cabinet.

The Tokyo correspondent of *The Times* reports: Owing to the steady increase of Greek interests in Japan, it is understood that a Legation will be established here shortly. It is believed that the first Minister will be M. Verenikis.

Indian papers just received announce the conferment of a permanent nawabi upon the Nawab of Dir and his successors for the Nawab's services during the war, and also the title of Khan Bahadur upon the Nawab's heir, Shah Jehan Khan.

A "dahir" of June 12, 1918, prohibits lotteries in the French zone of Morocco. Lotteries, the exclusive object of which is to assist works of charity or encourage art, are exempted from the prohibition, if they have been authorised by arrêté of the Grand Vizier.

A telegram from Constantinople states that a deputation from Kars, Batoum and Ardahan has conveyed to the Grand Vizier the result of the recent plebiscite held there which decided, by 85,124 votes out of a total of 87,048 votes, in favour of the union of these three districts with Turkey.

It has been decided by the Government of India to grant a reward of Rs. 5 per head to any person who apprehends, or who gives information which leads to the apprehension of, a prisoner of war who has escaped from a prisoners of war camp, or authorised place of employment, segregation or detention. in India or Burma, or who has effected his escape while travelling in India or Burma or to and from such places.

The new gold mohur now being struck in India bears upon the obverse the crowned head of George V., King-Emperor (similar in design to that upon other current Indian coins), and the inscription, "15 rupees, India, 1918" upon the reverse. In weight and fineness it is identical with the sovereign, from which it differs in that the value is shown on the coin. The sovereign is the only coin of importance in the world that lacks this qualification.

Indian papers received by the latest mail report that the death has occurred at Pegu of Mr. Joseph Shadrach, better known as Brother Joseph, who was for thirty years missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Mission. Brother Joseph was the son of a Church of England Indian preacher, and had just passed his eighty-eighth year. He served Government as a soldier during the Indian Mutiny, and for some time after that was in Government employ.

The Joint Distribution Committee of the American Fund for Jewish War Sufferers announced last month that its branch at Damascus had identified 151 American citizens who were compelled to evacuate Jerusalem with Turkish forces at the time of the occupation by the British. This information was transmitted through the Swedish Ambassador at Constantinople. The group included merchants, clerks, professors, artisans, and students of Rabbinical schools.

Speaking at the first conference of Jews of the liberated area of Palestine held at Jaffa, Major the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, political officer attached to the Zionist Commission in Palestine, said that if England and her Allies won this war the future Government of Palestine would not be Turkish, because in this war England and her Allies were fighting not for the extension of any empire, nor for the acquisition of future power, of future territory; they were fighting that countries should be governed in the interests and according to the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants of those countries. He commended the splendid response of Jewish young men in Palestine who had joined their brethren from other countries in fighting for the liberation of Palestine, and urged Jews to make sure that their foundation stones were truly laid in their agricultural, cultural and educational work in free Palestine.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

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Open all the year round.
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Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

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Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

SOMERSET ST

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Magnificent Georgian Dining Hall (100 tables,)
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Double room 16/- to 21/- daily; 5 to 7 guineas weekly.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1918.

THE SHORTEST WAY HOME.

There is a touch of imagination, which has been for the most part absent hitherto from the Allies' conduct of the war, in the despatch of a British force to the Caspian Sea. A visionless adherence to a maxim based on military conditions applicable to Waterloo or Marathon has been responsible for a reluctance to force the enemy to break up his concentration of strength on the Western front by using the Allied command of the sea to threaten him from as many points of the compass as possible. Late in the day it is being realised that for every brigade that the Allies may detach for service on a new front the Germans will ultimately have to weaken their armies in France and Flanders by one or more divisions. Even now it is to be feared that the great preponderance in numbers created by the arrival of American troops rather than conviction on the soundness of the policy is responsible for the tentative steps being taken in this direction. The delay is the penalty that the Allies have had to pay for the lack of unity of control, political as well as military. As soon as the revolution under M. Kerensky destroyed the discipline of the Russian Army, Russia's capitulation to Germany became inevitable, and it could only be a matter of time before Roumania was overrun and the great bulk of the German and Austro-Hungarian troops in the East would be liberated for employment in the West. Single-minded direction of the Allied forces must have prompted a series of operations, whether as feints or in strength, in various Eastern theatres, in order to delay the transfer of the enemy armies. But the Allies elected to attack on the Western front, and so accelerated the process that was to give to Germany numerical superiority over the Franco-British forces. The three German offensives of this year followed. Now that the last of these has failed, the Allies are given a second opportunity, and a vigorous following-up of their advantage must rapidly change the character of the war. Both military strategy and political obligations call for the employment of Allied forces in the East; but the period for feints has passed. The Allies need to exert every effort, and to strike with all the strength at their disposal. The image of German power in the East is tottering to its fall, just as the reality is being slowly but surely undermined in the West; but unless the *coup de grâce* is administered before winter sets in, the enemy's hold on the regions concerned may receive a fresh lease of life.

Although the presence of British forces on the Caspian sea is perhaps the most striking development of this world-war, their practical value in the rehabilitation of Russia is small. Their immediate purpose is to enable the races of the Caucasus to save themselves from the Turks and the Germans, and at the same time to check the spread of German propaganda in the Middle East. Attention has frequently been called in these columns to the Pan-Turanian movement, and to Germany's aims for extending her power in Asia by bringing under Turkish authority a broad belt of Moslem peoples on both sides of the Caspian Sea. The movement, with German support, had made sufficient headway to render it, in all probability, independent of the actual verdict of the war as far as the European battlefield was concerned; that is to say, Germany, if left to her own devices, might well contrive so to represent the course of events in Europe as to carry conviction in her invincibility among the ignorant tribesmen of Central Asia and to be in a position at the end of the war to stir up trouble along the marches of India. The only effective way to meet this danger was to afford the inhabitants of these regions evidence of British power that would be proof against German misrepresentations. With this end in view a force has been dispatched from India, across Baluchistan, and has worked its way along the Perso-Afghan frontier to Meshed. With the capital of Khorasan as its base, it is reported to have reached the Trans-Caspian Railway, the terminus of which, Krasnovodsk, on the Caspian Sea, has been occupied by another detachment of British troops sent by the force which has reached Enzeli from Baghdad. From Enzeli a further detachment has reached Baku, and is helping the Armenian and other inhabitants to hold the town against the Turks. Thus on both sides of the Caspian Sea British troops are established in such a way as to challenge the glib assurances of Turco-German agents that the Central Alliance is carrying all before it in Europe. The effect of this support on the attitude of the peoples of the Caucasus and Trans-Caucasia will be watched with interest. In common with the Ukrainians and other Russian races they were led to believe that the Germans would sympathise with their anxiety to liberate themselves from Tsarism, and were simple-minded enough to suppose that they had only to suggest a treaty of friendship with Turkey in order to be allowed to work out their own material and political salvation at peace with everybody. The action of the Turkish army quickly undeceived them on this latter point, and the next stage was an appeal to Berlin for protection against the Turks. The subsequent course of events is obscure, but it is safe to infer that, apart from those whose personal interests are linked up with the Turks or Germans, the population of South-Eastern Russia will welcome a solution that leaves it independent of foreign control.

While, then, the effect of the British expeditions to Baku and the Trans-Caspian Railway will be to compel Germany to use more troops if she still aims at consolidating her power in the Caucasus and Mid-Asia, a more direct influence on the course of the war is being exercised by the presence of Allied expeditions in North Russia and Siberia. There can only be one issue to a successful rehabilitation of Russia, and that is, that war will once more blaze out along Germany's Eastern front. To avoid this, the Germans must bolster up Bolshevism by helping it to keep the anti-Bolshevik forces as far from Western Russia as possible. Unfortunately for the Berlin Government the Bolsheviks are not only losing the power to help themselves, but are also showing unwillingness to extend their indebtedness to Germany on Germany's terms. In these circumstances any German action to be effective must be immediate and on a large scale, unless the great achievements of the German sword in the East are to be abandoned. For the moment, in spite of the British landings on the Murman coast and at Archangel, the advantage is with the Central Powers, thanks to the fighting capacity of the German and Austrian prisoners in Siberia, who are better equipped than the Czecho-Slovak forces opposed to them. The delay of the Allies to make up their minds to go to the help of the Russians in Siberia has gravely imperilled the position of the Czecho-Slovaks, and unless Japan is given an entirely free hand and is prepared to make a supreme effort, those gallant troops will be sacrificed. After what has happened to Serbia and Roumania, such a fate for the Czecho-Slovak troops in Siberia must not be contemplated. To save them Japan, in agreement with China, should advance in force by the South Manchuria Railway, as well as from Vladivostok. It is a long cry from Dairen to Moscow; but if the distance be covered by a substantial force this Eastern route to the end of the war may well prove quicker and less costly than the Western.

CONSTITUTIONS IN THE MAKING.

By COLES PASHA.

Last autumn the Editor of THE NEAR EAST was kind enough to allow me the hospitality of his columns to offer certain suggestions as to the form of Home Rule that the Government of India might adopt without endangering the safety of the Empire. Since that date Mr. L. Curtis has given the world the benefit of his advice in his "Letters to the People of India"; the Indian Congress and the Moslem League have also formulated their policy; finally H.B.M.'s Secretary of State and the Viceroy of India have presented a joint report containing their proposals relative to the revision of the constitution. With all this data to guide public opinion, any further effort on my part may be considered not only superfluous but presumptuous. Nevertheless, with the Editor's permission, I desire to offer a few observations on the proposals contained in the official Report, which has now been presented to both Houses of Parliament.

Franchise.

The political importance of education in the matter of franchise is dwelt on in the "Preliminary" (paras. 181-187) of the proposal. After admitting that after sixty years of educational effort only six per cent. of the population is literate, the Report refers to "the practical difficulties which make a very general extension of the franchise impossible" (para. 187), yet "a broad franchise" is considered essential and "the system of indirect elections should be swept away" in order that the representative may feel that he stands in "a genuine relation to the original voter" (para. 226). At the same time it is recognised that agencies, official and non-official, may play an important part, but "we have no intention that our reforms shall result merely in the transfer of powers from a Bureaucracy to an Oligarchy" (para. 262).

I fear that notwithstanding pious resolutions to the contrary, government by an Oligarchy is the only form of Home Rule that we shall be likely to get in India for years to come. How can it be otherwise under existing conditions? But I see no reason why this Oligarchy should not be as benevolent as our Bureaucracy has been; and it is our business to introduce the necessary safeguards to ensure that it is. Let us, therefore, endeavour to control this Oligarchy from above, not destroy it from below, as we certainly shall if we allow an ignorant peasantry to get an inordinate idea of their own powers.

The Indian ryot knows nothing and cares less about the State. All that he troubles about is fixity of tenure without taxation and with a free water supply! Cash down would probably induce him to sell his vote to the highest bidder. As soon, too, as we have taught him that the English official has ceased to count, and have successfully undermined the influence of his village Elder, any agitator with a programme of no taxation and a free water supply will be sure of his suffrage. The present state of Russia is an object-lesson of what India would become. In the West having created our Frankenstein monster we must put up with it, but let us pause and consider before allowing radical theorists a free hand in the East. For generations the Indian ryot has looked to his "Elders" for instruction and guidance. Let him continue to do so. Don't worry about "direct votes" or preparing electoral rolls, leave it to the village Elders to vote for District Councillors, who in turn will elect Provincial Legislators.

The authors of the Report, when discussing (para. 273) the manner of electing representatives to the Indian Council, point out how desirable it is "to deal on uniform lines with the electoral arrangements both in the Indian and Provincial Councils"; again, "they may find it wholly impracticable to arrange for direct election". . . . "we incline to think that the election by non-official (elected?) members of Provincial Councils is likely to prove far more acceptable to Indian opinion." If it is far more acceptable to allow your elected Provincial Councillors to select members for the Indian Council, surely it will be equally acceptable if the elected District Councillors select representatives for the Provincial Councils? In this way, too, "uniform lines" with the electoral arrangements for both councils are assured!

It is difficult to reconcile the sound advice given in paragraph 273 with the sweeping proposals of paragraph 226. It makes one wonder if the same author wrote both paragraphs? Anyhow, the instructions of paragraph 273 are not far removed from the suggestion I ventured to make in my article last autumn, and in my humble opinion should be adopted as a policy and not merely an expedient.

Provincial Government.

By far the most important of the series of proposals are those relating to the changes to be introduced in the Provincial Government (paras. 218 to 241). It is proposed that the future Executive in the Province or Presidency shall consist of two committees, the Governor presiding over each, or both when the committees combine. The subjects to be dealt with by each committee are shown in a schedule, and are called "reserved" and "transferred" subjects respectively. The "reserved" subjects are to be dealt with apparently on council lines (the Governor with one civilian and one native), while a Minister will administer each department of "transferred" subjects. It is contemplated that in some Provinces the transferred subjects will be more than in others (para. 222). It would thus appear that not only are we to have two committees but also two forms of Government, viz., a Governor in Council and a Minister, with certain delegated powers. There are also, of course, the questions which under Ministerial Government go to the Council of Ministers. These questions ("transferred") are apparently to be discussed by both committees; but if it comes to a vote, the member of the Civil Service and the Native of the Council of Reserved Subjects will not record their vote (para. 221). In the past, when studying Acts of the Indian Governments, I have always found that a considerable effort of memory was necessary to distinguish the powers of the several members of the Trinity (I have no wish to be profane)—viz., the Governor, the Governor in Council, and the Governor in Legislative Council. Under the proposed constitution a further concentration of thought will be required as to whether it is the Governor in Committee A or B of the Council one is dealing with!

Again, it seems rather strange that provision should be made (para. 220) for a Governor "unfamiliar with Indian conditions" to avail himself for "reserved affairs" of the services of members (of the Civil Service?) without portfolio; whereas in transferred subjects the Governor and his elected Minister or Ministers are apparently debarred from such assistance beyond discussion in General Council. The Minister, too, will deal with such important matters as local government and sanitation. Further, whereas with reserved subjects the Governor is still to give decisions in Council, for transferred subjects it is open to the Governor personally to refuse to accept the decision of the majority, though the authors of the report hope that he will not refuse his assent without strong reasons (para. 219).

In discussing another form of "Executive" (para. 216) the proposal is disposed of as likely to lead to "hopeless friction . . . . one Government being regarded as official and one as Indian." With the greatest deference to the authors of the report, I cannot see how the official proposal can escape similar criticism. Finally, the scramble for credits for the reserved and transferred services respectively (para. 256), whenever the annual Budget is under discussion, must assuredly cause a lot of heart-burning when, after providing for the requirements of the Government of India and "reserved" subjects, the *residue* is allocated to "transferred" departments.

It is not quite clear, either, by whom the Budget is to be framed. Is the Finance Minister to be an Indian in charge of a transferred portfolio, or will the work be done by the secretariat working under the Governor in Council A? I suppose someone will represent the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or whatever name he goes by? Then there is the Accountant-General's Department, formerly reserved for the Government of India. This Department will presumably be detached and be a part of the new financial section under the Governor in Council. Yet a good deal of its work will most certainly be in connection with transferred subjects such as Local Government.

Relations of Governor with Legislative Council.

The authors of the Report propose that the Governor shall continue to be President of the Legislative Council, and, although he may appoint a Vice-President, the Governor is presumably expected to take part in the debates of the Council, as there are no instructions to the contrary (para. 236).

I think that it is greatly to be regretted that the Secretary of State and the Viceroy did not see their way to recommend that in an enlarged and newly-constituted assembly consisting almost exclusively of elected members, an official other than the Governor should be appointed as Speaker; the Governor representing the Crown rather than the active head of the Executive. I am quite convinced that if the Governor's powers of veto, etc., are to be exercised—as the Report clearly contemplates they will be—then the less he interferes in actual debate in the Council the better. If a representative of the Government is necessary to shape legislation, then let some Minister or other nominated member do what is required, supposing that all elected members are in opposition, which they will not be. This view of the case appears to have been taken as regards the Viceroy and the Legislative Council of the Government of India (para. 275); yet the maintenance of order in the Provincial Council will be far more difficult, and probably the debates will be of a more acrimonious description. It may be argued that more respect will be shown for the

Chair with the Governor presiding. I doubt it, after the object lesson the Home Rulers lately gave in Bombay. In Egypt, too, if I rightly recollect, the late Sultan, then Prince Hussein, had to cease from being President of the Legislative Council because he found that his exalted rank was of little or no avail to maintain order. It will rest with the Governor also to rule out certain legislation in connection with the Government of India and reserved subjects (para. 254), and it will be as well that his decision should not be given on the spur of the moment without the assistance of his legal advisers.

My Own Solution.

In the article which appeared in The Near East, whilst suggesting an Executive composed entirely of members of the Elected Council, I reserved for the Governor in Privy Council (you may call it State Council, if you like) ample powers for controlling legislation. In one respect this was more radical than the proposals under consideration, and in another respect less so; that is to say, nothing was left for the Governor personally; his decision was always in a council of four, with a standing British majority. It is true that I made no provision for the Governor to initiate legislation outside the Executive Council or to obtain supplies which the Elected Council refused to vote. I never contemplated that this would be necessary, unless the country was on the verge of rebellion. I provided, however, for the Governor constitutionally to carry on the Government with nominated Ministers in the event of the Council being dissolved and no other convoked, which, I take it, is much the same as certifying legislation and carrying it through—the provision made in the Report.

Apart from open rebellion and a recalcitrant Executive, who could be dismissed, I looked to the Departments and the Civil Service to initiate legislation, as my experience taught me that if Lord Cromer, backed by the Foreign Office, could obtain practically all the legislation he asked by *unofficial* pressure, the Governor-General or a Governor could do the same *officially* and *constitutionally* backed by the India Office. I also consider that the Privy Council that I suggested, consisting only of some half-a-dozen members, would have fulfilled the purpose of a Second Chamber for the time being without any of the disadvantages enumerated (para. 258) in the Report. I venture, too, to think that all the complicated and elaborate procedure which a dual Executive involves would have been avoided. Lastly, Indian Home Rulers could not have complained of invidious distinction between Indian and Colonial Home Rule, as the two would have been practically the same, provided the Indian Home Ruler was not out to wreck the Empire, when the difference would be very quickly apparent.

Of course, I write as an obscure individual whose opinions carry no weight one way or another, and my conclusions will probably be thought not worthy of powder and shot, as those of Mr. L. Curtis and other constitution-makers of repute. Possibly, if Mr. Montagu had occupied Lord Cromer's position for a number of years, he would have been less enthusiastic about ignorant peasants shaping the policy of their representative and less nervous about entrusting powers to a native Executive. If reservations had to be made to satisfy the conservative element, it should be reservation of posts for the permanent English Under-Secretaries rather than subjects which are of minor importance.

As regards the Government of India, the scheme I proposed in The Near East last year does not differ largely from the official proposal, except that the Privy Council I proposed took the place of the State Council and was much smaller, having no elected members. But perhaps the editor will allow me to summarise my proposals both for the Government of India and Presidency. The readers of The Near East can then compare the same with the summary of recommendations (Appendix I.) contained in the official report.

The Government of India.

(i.) A nominated Executive consisting of both British and native Ministers, who will be *ex-officio* members of the Legislative Assembly, and will take part in its debates.

(ii.) The Legislative Assembly to be elected for six years by the Provincial Legislatures. One-third to retire every two years after the manner of the American Senate, which never dies.

(iii.) Both the Executive and Legislative Assembly to have power to initiate legislation.

(iv.) The Governor-General no longer to take part in the debates of the Legislative Assembly, or to be a member of the Executive.

(v.) The Governor-General to be assisted by a Privy Council consisting of six members, three British and three natives, to be nominated by the Secretary of State.

(vi.) The Governor-General in Privy Council to have the power to veto all legislation emanating from the Executive or Legislative Assembly.

(vii.) Privy Council conflicts with the Legislative Assembly to be referred to the Secretary of State, whose decision will be final.

(viii.) Conflicts between the Executive and Legislative Assembly, failing free conference or other methods of reaching an agreement, to be referred to the Governor-General in Privy Council, whose decision will be final.

(ix.) Nine Ministers to be created, viz., Finance, Foreign Affairs, Postmaster-General, Railways, War, Interior, Public Works, Education, Justice. The first five to be held by British Ministers. The Ministers to form the Executive.

Provincial Government.

(i.) The Executive to be selected from the Legislative Council, and to consist of seven Ministers, viz., Interior, Justice, Public Works, Education, Foreign Affairs (Native States), Finance, Public Health, and Local Government.

(ii.) The Legislative Council to be an entirely elected body, to be elected by district and urban councils. Life of Council three years.

(iii.) The Governor to cease to be a member of the Executive or to take part in the debates of the Legislative Council.

(iv.) The Governor to be assisted by a Privy Council, two British and two natives, to be nominated by the Governor-General.

(v.) The Privy Council to have power to veto all legislation emanating from the Legislative Council.

(vi.) Conflicts with the Executive Council to be referred to the Governor-General for final decision, failing free conference and other methods of reaching an agreement.

(vii.) A member of the Civil Service to be appointed as a Speaker or President of the Legislative Council, with drastic powers to keep order and rule out motions and legislation reserved for the Government of India.

(viii.) The Governor in Privy Council to convene, adjourn, and dissolve the Legislative Council; also to have the power to dismiss Ministers and appoint others subject to confirmation by the Governor-General.

(ix.) In the event of a dissolution and non-appointment of Ministers from the Legislative Council, the Governor in Privy Council, with the approval of the Governor-General, to appoint Executive Ministers other than from the Legislative Council.

RELIEF WORK IN PALESTINE.

One of the workers in connection with the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, who has just reached Jaffa, writes:—"The great problem has been to gather together our workers and set them going again. The state in which most of them are is heartbreaking. Nearly all were driven out of the town at the 'Emigration' in April, 1917, and wandered about from place to place, suffering great hardships and cruelties, of which some died. They lost all their possessions. Some eventually found their way back here, others went to towns which are now beyond the fighting line, and very many are dead of typhus, cholera, and starvation. The British occupation, of course, brought instant relief, and the Army first fed them and then started work for them, opening a laundry and a clothes' repairing shop, which give employment and rations to some. This employment will still continue, and may even be extended; still it is nothing like sufficient, and we are busy planning with S.P.R.F. and the military authorities how work may be found for all the women, as most of them have lost all their grown-up male relations. To-morrow we are to have a great gathering of our lace-workers, who have been eagerly looking out for our coming, and have been flocking to the house every day since they knew we had arrived. . . .

"Our first object is to try to restore the *moral* of the women and girls. Fear, exposure, starvation, dirt, and want of decent clothing have reduced most of them to unrecognisable ghosts of their former selves, and I think if we can provide them with a few garments and some soap (very scarce and dear), and get them to work, they will soon begin to improve.

"The S.P.R.F. is working hard and well. G.H.Q. has turned over to it the out-door relief, and, of course, you knew what the Hospital and the Orphanage were already doing. There is a local committee, of which I have been made a member. Mr. Owen, from the American College in Assiut, is the secretary, but I am sorry to say he is about to leave. He offered for three months only, and has to return to his duties even before that time, and it is a great pity, as he seems so energetic, business-like and sensible. Someone will come in his place, no doubt. He and I in the meantime are a sub-committee on out-door relief and are discussing how far distribution of food free can be restricted. He has a small number of people coming twice a week for doles of rice, maize, etc., and had hoped that before leaving he might be able to close it entirely. That will not be quite possible I think, as when all is said and done about employment, there is a multitude of folk utterly unable to work: the aged the blind and cripples, and delicate women or those with many young children.

"I do trust the supply of money and materials will be continued. The materials which were sent up from Egypt are of very good quality, better than those we were working with in London. I have no idea what prices they were. Material is coming into the market here more freely; they say especially the last fortnight there has been a great improvement, and prices are beginning to go down. Everything is *very* dear, however, still, and food is very expensive. The poor are very badly off for bedding, many having stripped off the covers of their mattresses to sell them, and we are planning to help them to make new ones, either for sale or gift as may be possible."

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

One of the most important features of the arrival at Baku of a British force is its possible effect on what may be called the economic side of the war. Baku is the principal centre of the Caucasian oilfields, and success in that region would deprive the enemy of an invaluable source of petroleum. But Baku is not only important on account of the oilfields; it is one of the principal distributing centres for raw cotton, timber, silk, and other exports from Persia, and it serves as a connecting link for trade between European and Asiatic countries. For this reason the fact that Baku is in the hands of the Allies is of infinite value. Its use to the enemy will be gathered from the statement in a recent issue of the *Konfektionär* that arrangements have been made to import 390,000 poods of cotton from Tiflis, which was to be sent to Budapest viâ Baku early this month for division between Germany and her Ally.

⁂

Reference was made in these columns recently to a forthcoming attempt to establish the manufacture of matches in Ceylon. I now learn that a site has been selected for the factory at Bambalapitiya, where a suitable building has been acquired for the purpose. The necessary alterations are already in hand, and as the requisite material for the new industry, in the shape of labels, wrappers, chemicals, etc., has arrived from Japan, it is believed that the manufacture of matches will be in progress before the year ends. But, while Ceylon is to be congratulated on this development, it is difficult to regard with complete satisfaction an industrial undertaking so much dependent on external sources for supplies. Possibly after the war this may be rectified to some extent, and it may, at any rate, be hoped that Ceylon will then depend as much as possible on the rest of the Empire for materials which are not to be obtained in the Island.

⁂

I understand that Ceylon is to have another new industry shortly, as it has been decided to start rice-milling in the Island, and an extensive plant is to be installed for that purpose at Mattakuliya. It is intended to deal with imported as well as local rice, and those responsible for this enterprise will also be prepared to undertake the installing of rice mills in other parts of the island. I may add that the machinery for this new enterprise is being imported from India by special permission.

⁂

An interesting sidelight on Germany's difficulties in exploiting the East is provided by an official announcement in the German newspapers to the effect that no private business transactions can be made in Russia, Roumania, and the Ukraine without permits, which will only be granted for a maximum of 3,000 marks a month. This check on imports of merchandise is due, of course, to the fact that Germany cannot pay for her imports in kind, and must export money in return, and this cannot be permitted except to a limited extent, in order to prevent an undue fall of the mark in these coutnries. That Germany should have to resort to this method to support her credit in the East is extremely significant.

⁂

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., is reported to have made new proposals to the Australian Government for the erection of a refinery in that country. The previous intention was to treat Australian mineral oil, but the present object is, it is understood, to deal with crude oil from the Persian oilfields. Countries with import tariffs have nearly always taken the view that while the finished product should be heavily taxed crude petroleum should be admitted free, or at a merely nominal rate, so that the question of primary cost should be no obstacle, and it is to be hoped that the Australian Government will agree to the proposals which would mean another and a substantial addition to the country's industries.

⁂

Visions of a Turkish industrial reformation seem to be very widespread at the present time, though how the Turks, in view of their past history, can have the slightest faith in their capacity for developing their resources must remain a mystery. True the war has produced many curious and unexpected results in other countries, and it is possible that it has also effected the miracle of making the Turks equal to achieving industrial progress, but it is on the face of it extremely unlikely, and those who expect to find the Sublime Porte unchanged after the war will scarcely be disappointed. In the meantime the efforts of the Turkish Press to give a really convincing picture of the country's future should delight the cynical, as Turkish journalists have evidently little to learn from the "superior person" responsible for the production of the official bulletins which have done so much to give a lighter touch to the war operations.

⁂

The attitude of the Turkish Press on this question may be judged from the statement of an Adana correspondent of the *Tanin* that the war "has produced bright prospects for Turkey in the domains of agriculture, industry and commerce." The writer proceeds to refer to the country's rich resources (in regard to which there is, of course, no question), and states that they are to be developed "on scientific lines" after the war, adding with reference to the "millions of acres of uncultivated and virgin soil" that ample provision has been made in the Budget for opening them up. That last remark is unquestionably the most illuminating in the article, for if the Turkish public can swallow the statement that the country whose revenue is insufficient to meet the normal demands upon it, to say nothing of war expenditure, is in a position to allocate large sums for internal development their credulity must be unbounded.

⁂

It is conceivable that the reason why the idea of industrial progress is being so sedulously encouraged is because Turkey depends on foreign assistance after the war, and at the moment is looking to Germany to supply the required motive power in the shape of money, enterprise, and, above all, skilled labour. That, needless to say, would mean exploitation on the most approved German lines, which would give our chief enemy all the profit, and Turkey the rich reward of making a humble contribution to Germany's strength and affording that country a safe and most satisfactory way to the East. Fortunately for the Allies and for Turkey, Germany will not be in a position to render financial or other assistance after the war, and as Turkey will be dependent on foreign help, it naturally follows that it will be the Allies, and principally this country, that will have to supply it. In this connection Turkey might well reflect now on the immense debt she owes to British enterprise for her development before the war, and compare the benefits she received from this assistance with her prospects under a system of German exploitation.

⁂

Germany and her Ally may be able to do more or less as they like in Turkey at present, but it is clear that the position with regard to Bulgaria is very different. Thus, a few months ago Bulgaria adopted a number of economic measures, one of which prohibited the importation of fancy articles from Germany and Austria. Naturally, the Central Powers were greatly concerned at the effect of this action on their trade, and they have made the strongest representations at Sofia, with a view to the removal of this prohibition, without, I believe, having the slightest effect on Bulgaria's decision. This incident, though small in itself, throws an interesting light on the relations now existing between the enemy Powers.

⁂

With the issue of the March statistics of cotton spinning and weaving in Indian mills the returns are to hand for the first year in which the Customs tariff on imported cotton goods of 7½ per cent. has been in operation. India's production and export of piece goods for the year ended March 31, 1917, reached a record level, but these figures have been passed. The production of grey and bleached piece goods rose from 1,136 million yards to 1,141 million yards, while the output of coloured piece goods increased from 442 million yards to 473 million yards. On the other hand, imports of grey and bleached piece goods decreased from 1,437 million yards to 1,128 million yards, and of coloured piece goods from 455 million yards to 395 million yards. In appraising these figures the effect of war conditions on the Lancashire cotton industry has to be borne in mind, scarcity of freight and curtailment of output having had an appreciable influence on the position.

⁂

The Champdany Jute Company has just presented an excellent report. On this occasion the accounts cover a year instead of eleven months, and, allowing for this increased period, it will be seen that the profits have been well maintained at £134,200, against £122,600. As last year, £30,000 is written off block account, and the dividend is kept at 45 per cent., but the balance carried forward shows a substantial increase at £50,100, against £28,800. The prospects for the current year seem to be very promising, so that shareholders have every reason to be satisfied with themselves.

Commentator

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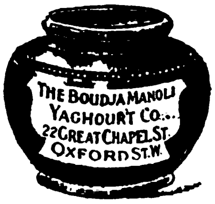
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THE COTTON PURCHASE.

Closing of Cotton Bourse Agencies.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
CAIRO, July 22.

The taking over of the cotton and cotton-seed crop by his Majesty's Government has naturally led to the closing down of the cotton Bourse agencies, and thrown out of employment a large number of clerks, brokers and jobbers. The Bourse Broker's Commission therefore lately sent a delegation to Cairo to wait upon the Financial Adviser and try to enlist his and the authorities' interest in their case. The delegation was successful in obtaining a sympathetic hearing, and the Ministry of Finance appointed a Committee of experts to confer with the Bourse Commission on the question of the grant of an indemnity and its distribution among the agents, their clerks, and the brokers and jobbers. The Commission decided at its last sitting at the Bourse to appoint six members, with two representatives for each of the three categories, to confer with the Government's Committee. The expected meeting has not taken place yet, but it is reported that the President of the Government's Committee has written to the Bourse Committee expressing the opinion that allowances should be granted only to those of the brokers and clerks who, by their situation and age, cannot well earn a new living. The Bourse Committee demur to this suggestion on the ground that the Financial Adviser's first letter to the Government delegate at the Bourse made no such distinction, but meant this question of indemnities to apply to all those who have been affected by the Government measure. It is said that the Bourse Committee contemplates addressing a protest to the Financial Adviser, and the hope is expressed that the Government will deal equitably with this case.

Cotton Exports.

A notice issued under the signature of the Commander-in-Chief requires that until further order the export of extra fine Sakkelarides cotton, otherwise than to the United Kingdom, and the export of all other grades of cotton above Fully Good Fair Sakkelarides, otherwise than to the United Kingdom or some other Allied destination, are prohibited. According to the list issued by the Cotton Control Commission of types with the buying and selling prices f.o.b. of same, Upper Egypt has 23 types, Sakkelarides 28, Brown 22, and Afrita 7. The Commission has published a statement setting forth the conditions under which the sale of cotton may be conducted.

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FERTILIZERS IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
CAIRO, July 22.

The Ministry of Agriculture had not been unmindful in the past of the harm done by the adulteration of chemical fertilizers, since this affected the country in its most vital interest; but the Capitulations were a stumbling block in its path, and all it could do was to publish periodical notices to warn and enlighten the public regarding the fraudulent practices of some dealers. Now, however, that the existence of martial law does away with this obstacle, the Ministry has set to work upon the draft of a law which, when passed, will apply to natives and foreigners alike. The utmost care is said to have been taken in this connection, laws and regulations governing the sale of artificial manures in Europe and America having been minutely consulted with due regard to local conditions. The draft law is to be submitted to agricultural experts for the benefit of their advice before passing. The law provides first that the sale of chemical fertilizers can only be allowed under licence, granted under special conditions, enabling the experts of the Ministry of Agriculture to inspect the stuff wherever it may be found, and to take samples for the purpose of analysis, and determining whether the actual ingredients answer the particulars given on the guarantee which every merchant has to give, in the form of a paper stuck on each bag of manure, setting forth the composition of the fertilizer. Each bag will have to be sealed with lead. The Ministry of Agriculture will publish, with the proposed law, a list of the principal and well known fertilizers, stating the maximum proportion of fertilizing elements that each should contain. If the inspector should find any difference between the formula shown on the guarantee on the bag and that of the list published by the Ministry of Agriculture, the merchant would be considered as an offender without any need for inspection or analysis; otherwise the fertilizer would be analysed, and if the result of the analysis should not tally with the formula declared on the bag the merchant would be liable to prosecution for contravention. The penalty in this case would be seizure of the goods, and withdrawal of licence, and imprisonment not to exceed one week or the payment of a fine not exceeding £E1; or if necessary both.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Prices Higher.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Prices in the market have again advanced, and there seems to be no end to the upward movement. Most of the developments in the situation have strengthened the bullish sentiment which has been prominent for some time back. Although the operative spinners threaten to strike against the abolition of the rotation system of unemployment, nobody expects a stoppage of machinery. The census of raw cotton stocks published by the Control Board is considered unfavourable. There does not seem to be any set-back to the satisfactory outlook for the Egyptian cotton crop, but it is officially reported that the area under cultivation will again be restricted next season. Some difficulties continue to show themselves with regard to the buying and selling of Egyptian cotton under Government auspices, and spinners are feeling the loss of not being able to get the private marks of merchants. Egyptian yarns have been very strongly held, and prices have tended to go against buyers. An encouraging turnover has transpired in 60's and 80's twist. Extraordinary prices have occasionally been paid for super qualities. An increased demand has developed in piece-goods for Egypt. More sales have been about in grey shirtings. Printed and dyed goods have also moved off more freely. Cairo is now undoubtedly a very important distributing centre for the Near East. There has been a rather smaller turnover in dhooties and mulls for India, but finishing and printing cloths and also grey shirtings have been sold in fair quantities. Our total shipments of cloth are falling off, the exports for July being only 288,647,700 yards, against 363,246,500 yards in June, and 469,087,600 yards in July, 1917. Prices in American yarns have again been put up. An encouraging business has been done in coarse counts for home use and for France.

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COTTON CENSUS REPORT.

The Cotton Control Board at Manchester have issued their report on the stocks of cotton at sea or in this country on July 27, which shows that, including 50,000 bales at sea, the stock of American cotton, 384,000 bales, will last about ten weeks at the present weekly rate of consumption. The Egyptian cotton stocks are distinctly better than the American, the total available supply of Egyptian being reported as 205,116 bales, and 5,000 bales are stated to be at sea, while the weekly consumption is given as 10,500 bales.

STRUMA VALLEY SCHEME.

Mr. Wheatley, the representative of a British syndicate which has obtained a concession to drain the Struma Valley, after calling at Athens and conferring with M. Venizelos and Lord Granville, the British Minister, arrived at Salonika on August 14, with a staff of civil engineers. It is understood that preliminary surveys will commence immediately.

A Reuter message states that the Egyptian Government has decided that the limitation of cotton cultivation is to remain in force for 1919—namely, to one-third of the normal area.

BURMA'S RESOURCES.

Handicaps to Development.

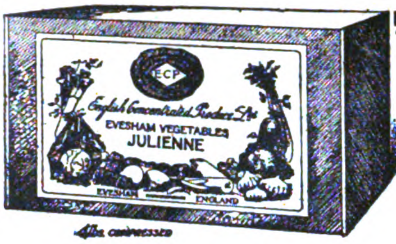
An important article on "The Material Resources of Burma," by Sir Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Burma from 1910 to 1915, appears in the current issue of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute.* Sir Harvey's knowledge of Burmese conditions is second to none, for he has had well over thirty years' service in the province, and he writes, therefore, with authority which merits the closest attention for what he has to say. He commences by pointing out that while the province, with its fertile soil, a rainfall that has never failed, magnificent forests, and almost unexplored mineral wealth, might be expected to offer a promising field for commercial enterprise, the fact remains that except rice, teak, and mineral oil, its products have not attracted British capital to any great extent. Sir Harvey gives the reasons for this as the dearness of labour and the deficiency of means of transport. The labour difficulty is explained by the fact that while Burma has an area three times that of Bengal its population is only about a quarter of the people of that province. As to transport, Sir Harvey remarks that nature has given the province a fair complement of waterways, but outside tidal influence and the chief rivers there is little water transport. Then as regards railways Burma is very badly served, having only 1,598 miles of line. The writer continues :—

Railways, Roads & Money Needed

"There is ample room for railway expansion in Burma. The most pressing immediate needs are the extension of the Southern Shan States Railway to Yawnghwe on the Inle Lake, the construction of a railway bridge to span the Irrawaddy at Sagaing, a line from Moulmein through the Tenasserim peninsula to Tavoy and Mergai, hwere of late wolfram and rubber industries have assumed prominence, and a line from Pyinmana to Magwe, which would open out larger pyinkado forests. These projects have been surveyed and are ready for construction when funds are available. They are by no means exhaustive, for in both Upper and Lower Burma there are many practicable projects of remunerative railway enterprise. There is no railway connection between Burma and India. Three routes have been surveyed, of which the Pyinmana-Akyab-Chittagong project at present holds the field. But as the existing communication by sea between Calcutta and Rangoon is excellent, there can be little doubt that if financial conditions render it necessary to make a choice between Burma provincial railways and a railway connecting the capitals of Burma and Bengal it would be to the advantage of Burma that the former should obtain priority.

"Burma's deficiency in railways is totally eclipsed by its deficiency in roads. The length of metalled roads in the whole province is put down on paper as 2,100 miles. But most of these roads are not worthy of the name. Outside towns and their environs there are few roads that are fit for other than bullock-cart traffic, and very few miles where motor traffic is possible. Railways and rivers have no adequate system of feeder roads, and though in most places country carts can be bumped across paddy fields in the dry season, there are huge tracts that are closed to all traffic for the rest of the year. . . . In the Tenasserim division, which is suitable to rubber cultivation, the boom in rubber attracted few settlers owing to the absence of roads, and the inability of the Local Government to find money to construct them. Wolfram was discovered in Tavoy district, but for the same reason was extracted with great difficulty.

"The financial history of Burma since 1907 is a record of persistent applications by the Local Government for an enhanced share of the revenue for development purposes, and as persistent refusals by the Imperial Government. As the revenue of Burma is large, it might be imagined that the capital for development could be obtained by borrowing on the security of the revenue, but such loans



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are contrary to the financial policy of the Government of India."

Agriculture.

Land cultivation in Burma is carried on, Sir Harvey points out, almost entirely under native ownership or direct lease by the State to the cultivator. The policy of peasant proprietorship means that there are few large estates, and a holding of over a thousand acres is very rare. Unfortunately, cultivators are faced with the handicaps of lack of money and cattle disease, which causes a heavy mortality. The cultivator obtains assistance from money lenders at rates of from 20 to 50 per cent., and attempts have been made to relieve the position by establishing co-operative societies, a movement which is making rapid progress. Space prevents us from giving Sir Harvey's remarks on the varied agricultural products of the country, but an exception must be made in the case of rice, which is cultivated on more than two-thirds of the cropped area. In his view, increased production may be achievable by more intensive cultivation, and he quotes the example of Spain, where the average yield of rice is said to be three times as high as in India. *En passant*, he remarks that the rice which is best for food is rice which has been milled and not polished. "The rice used as an article of food in England," he adds, "is white rice highly polished by machinery and coated or faced by powdered talc, colouring matter and oil, so as to impart a lustrous surface and translucent appearance. These processes rob the rice of its proteins and fat and leave it a less nutritious and more insipid food than the unpolished rice."

Minerals.

Of special interest are the writer's references to the mineral wealth of the province. So far, he remarks, efforts to extract gold have not been successful, and gold has nowhere been found near the surface in remunerative quantities. "It may some day," he says, "be mined profitably from lodes, but capital has not yet been applied to such a venture." In many parts broad tracts of ferruginous laterite exist, but imported iron is cheap, and iron ores have never had any economic importance in the province. Coal exists in Thayetmyo, Schwebo, and Mergui districts, the Shan States, and Upper Chindwin, but the Burmese use wood for fuel and have never utilised coal. Dr. Noetling twenty-five years ago estimated the Chindwin field at 105,000,000 tons; this field is, however, inaccessible. The petroleum riches of Burma need little comment, but Sir Harvey's reference to the prospecting which has been carried on to discover new fields, the most important found being the Singu field, may be noted. Tin, he remarks, exists in large quantities in Tavoy and Mergui districts, and when better means of communication have been established it may be worked as a commercial success.

The only important source of lead and silver in Burma is, he points out, the Burma Corporation's mine at Baudwin in the Northern Shan States. "The Geological Department of the Government of India considers," he says, "that the question of the ultimate treatment of the Baudwin concentrates is an important one for India, since if it were found possible to erect zinc smelteries in Burma, the resultant production of large quantities of cheap sulphuric acid should have a far-reaching effect on industrial development. . . . Development work has been carried on for some years on systematic lines, and lodes containing an immense quantity of lead, zinc, silver, and some copper have been proved. This is one of the big mining propositions of the world, and in all probability has before it a great future."

GREEK OLIVE CROP.

Reports indicate that throughout the olive-producing districts the trees have flowered heavily and that the young fruit has set well, says the United States Consul at Patras in a recent message. It is too early to make any definite estimate of the coming crop; but if the weather is even fairly favourable through the summer it is estimated that the olive crop will be considerably heavier than in 1917. There is a great scarcity of olive oil in the domestic market, despite the fair olive crop of 1917, with consequent high prices. The ordinary grade of olive oil is now 31 cents per lb. wholesale.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Greek Industrial Mission.

In a few weeks the Greek Industrial Mission will be in this country. We understand that all the members of the mission are business men, some of whom have been in this country before, while the others, who have not, have heard so much of Great Britain and her industries and commerce that they will feel as if they were going to visit the house of an old friend. Most of them are interested in modern machinery, both for industrial and agricultural purposes, and will be anxious to see all the latest improvements. Any new invention or mechanical contrivance, whether for big factories or household use, for great estates or small holdings, will be of much interest to them. They come to see new things, and how and where they are done; to make friends, and, in some cases, make business arrangements. Manufacturers, therefore, must be prepared for these visitors, and not expect that they will see men who come only to look at great factories and shops; but active business men interested in engineering and other industries, representatives of trade societies, chambers of commerce, and firms which do large business in machinery and metals throughout the Near East. It is an opportunity for the manufacturers which may save them from the great inconvenience and difficulty of finding and sending efficient travellers when the war is over to Greece to work up business. The representatives of the trades and industries who are coming will not be satisfied with official receptions and official visits, which, of course, will be limited; they will look round for themselves and take notes for future use. Their chief guide will undoubtedly be advertisements, and manufacturers would do well to attract their attention by that means.

Provincial Industries.

In last week's notes engineers and other manufacturers were reminded that Greece must not be considered only as a market in the light of her present territorial boundaries, but also as one of the most influential commercial and industrial centres of the Near East, considering that there are over seven million Greeks in that region besides those in Greece. We may add that Greece's industry should not be considered as of little importance. It seems that all the reports that reach the British manufacturer make him form the idea that all the industry of Greece is in the large towns of Athens, Piræus, Patras, Syra, Salonika, and two or three other secondary towns. Little is known of the interior; of the variety of existing factories in provincial towns and villages, and the great variety of agricultural and industrial machinery that is being used even in remote districts. As an example we would mention a few places about which, but for their being mentioned in travellers' or tourists' guides, very little would be known. Yet, there are spots near the sea where there is scope for engineering maufactures and British enterprise. Needless to say, these places are looked after by the Americans, and were cultivated before the war by the Germans and Austrians.

Veria.

Veria, for instance, is a small industrial town in Macedonia not far from Salonika. The town, which has 14,000 inhabitants, is near the river Bistritza, or Haliaemon, and has two or three spinning mills, twenty-six flour mills, two rice mills, three weaving factories, eleven wine and cognac factories, nine sesame-oil mills and other small power industries. Fine trees and pleasant gardens surround the town, and the district, generally speaking, is agricultural; but we are informed that there is an excellent opening there for machinery.

Openings in Vodena.

Vodena is a district which offers a very wide field for engineering as well as commercial enterprise. The town, Vodena (meaning in Slavonic "place of water"), was the original centre of the Macedonians and the residence and burial-place of the royal house. It was then called by the Greeks Edessa, and this name has been restored to it since the Greeks have taken it from the Turks at the Balkan war. The town has over 13,000 inhabitants, and possesses two spinning mills and one tannery, and produces wine, cocoons (silk), red cayenne, apples, plums, etc. Its future development as an industrial centre depends on the use of its splendid waterfalls, which at present produce the motive power for the factories. There are already several schemes and proposals for utilising the falls with modern methods and appliances, with a view to producing greater power, thus enabling the establishment of more factories and a large electric station. Foreign engineers, contractors, and enterprising financiers were, before this war, taking great interest in Vodena, where there is a great opening for agricultural machinery, motors, implements, etc.

INDIA'S NEED FOR SILVER.

Sir James Meston, Finance Member-Designate of the Viceroy's Council, speaking on Indian economics at the Overseas Press Centre, Norfolk Street, on August 22, said that India had done a great deal to provide Europe with food and leather for military requirements, but India wanted something more for its war work than mere I.O.U.s, and the actual demand for money as currency was much greater than it used to be. The banking system was in its infancy, and the credit system was poorly developed, and the people were dependent on actual metal and to some small extent on currency notes. There was practically no gold in circulation, and the value of silver was rising because of its scarcity, and attempts to reduce the pressure on India's metallic currency by increasing the note circulation were seriously checked by the fact that the people at one time imagined liabilities were being postponed and that there would be no coin for the notes when presented. The pressure became very great, and serious unrest might have ensued, but at the height of the crisis the United States saved the Indian economic situation by the Pittman Act, which was an arrangement by which the United States withdrew an enormous amount of silver dollars kept in reserve as security for a vast amount of paper issues. In response to the skilful manner in which Lord Reading placed India's necessities before them, the United States undertook to release 200 million dollars from their reserve and withdraw paper to that extent. The effect of this had been to fix the price of silver for a considerable period, and it also explained the fact that the Indian exchange was steady and not fluctuating. It had relieved the immediate anxiety about inconvertibility in India. They owed a great debt of gratitude to the United States Government for their action at one of the most critical periods in India.

MOROCCO RAILWAY SCHEMES.

The proposed railway system for Morocco at present before the French National Assembly comprises five standard gauge railways—besides the Tangiers-Fez line, already fixed—which will practically follow the track of the present narrow-gauge (60 cm.) lines. Four of these railways, making a total of 600 kilometres permanent way, are in West Morocco, and are calculated to furnish excellent connections between Rabat and Casablanca on the one hand, and between the interior and the more important towns, such as Fez and Tangiers, on the other.

The fifth line, 300 kilometres long, starts from Fez, cuts across East Morocco to the Algerian frontier, and is intended to establish a through connection between Casablanca and Tunis.

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At a special meeting of Ruston Proctor and Co., Ltd., on August 8, the resolution for amalgamation with Richard Hornsby and Sons was confirmed. It was decided to adopt the title of Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., and Messrs. H. Simpson Gee, D. Roberts and A. R. Bellamy, previously on the directorate of Hornsby and Sons, were added to the Board of the new company.

INDIAN FOOD PROBLEMS.

A Reuter's message states that an important conference of the Provincial Directors of Civil Supplies with a number of high officials, under the presidency of Sir Claude Hill, was to meet at Nagpur on August 19 to consider measures for the distribution of fodder and food and the question of the shortage of rolling stock.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

Improved Results.

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on August 21, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir William Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E. (chairman of the company) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: When I addressed you a year ago I did not feel able to hold out great hopes of material improvement in the prospects of our railways for the year under discussion, and I warned you not to expect too much. I am profoundly glad to say that my forebodings have not been justified and that the results of last year's working have been far more satisfactory than I anticipated or than I dared a year ago to hope. We are able not only to propose the payment of a dividend, but to add a substantial sum to our carry-over. Before proceeding to a review of our operations during the past year, I will refer to a change of apparent, though not of real, importance, which has been effected in the compilation of our accounts for last year. I allude to the suspense account. When describing to you—in July, 1914—the modifications in our contract which had been granted to us by the Government of Egypt, I explained our object in instituting a suspense account, for the adjustment annually of the difference between our actual operating expenses for the year and the 64 per cent. of our gross earnings which, by our modified agreement, we were and are required to take into account as the average chargeable for each year up to 1938. The institution of such an account was undoubtedly necessary, as it was a matter of the utmost importance that the principle involved should be clearly established. This having now been effected, our methods can, we feel, be safely changed, and can be continued in a less cumbrous manner. The suspense account referred to had, during the last few years, assumed, in consequence of war conditions and the attendant reduction of our earnings, greatly increased proportions. This fact has intensified the objection to it, from an accounts point of view. This objection we had always recognised. In our last balance-sheet this account appeared as an asset for no less than £57,558, and although without any present value it increased the apparent balance carried forward by a large amount, which was not immediately available for any purpose whatever. We have therefore decided upon the elimination of this account from our balance-sheet and upon the consequent reduction of the previous year's "carry forward"—as shown in last year's report—to its true dimensions. This last point is the one to which I refer as conveying an impression of importance. I hope, however, that from the explanation I have given it will be clear to you that in reality the change is merely a book transaction. The record of the necessary adjustments will, of course, continue to be made annually outside of our regular accounts, and you will have followed the method adopted from the footnote to our revenue account. I am pleased to draw your attention to the fact that the adjustment for the past year is a credit of £15,883, which, indeed, is the natural response to our increased earnings, and reduces the balance of this suspense account to £41,675.

The Year's Working.

I wish to impress upon you that we must guard against attaching exaggerated importance to the satisfactory result attained this year. It is true that our receipts of all kinds for last year established a record in the history of this company, but this fact is due entirely to abnormal conditions, and, consequently, is not comparable in its nature to the steady progress we were making before the war, nor to what we may hope for when the blessings of peace are restored to us. I do not wish in any way to detract from the satisfaction that I know you must share with us in studying last year's returns. I have every hope that those for the current year will be equally favourable. But I do ask you to recognise, as we do, that the uncertain duration of the war still renders us liable to very great dangers. So strongly do we recognise this that we feel it our duty to guard against these dangers by making the maximum provision possible to meet them consistent with the consideration that we owe to our shareholders, whose patience and whose courage have been during the last four years so severely tried. Our earnings proper for the year under discussion exceeded those of that immediately preceding by £59,594, although the previous period included a sum of over £12,500 for the hire of rolling stock, etc., by the military authorities. There is no such corresponding item in the accounts we are now considering. Our report will have shown you that, as compared with the year preceding, the numbers of passengers and tons of goods conveyed by us last year increased by 1,034,456 and 82,302 respectively. I wish, however, to point out to you that a very considerable portion of our improved financial position is due to the special increases we have been permitted by the Government of Egypt to make in our rates and fares. Compared to the preceding year, our working expenses have been decreased by £9,490. Both years have been affected by special debits in connection with the renewal of our rolling stock—a procedure from which future years will reap the benefit. I am sure that you will approve of our policy in making such provisions, whenever circumstances permit and whenever the need presents itself. I would, however, warn you against attaching undue importance to the above-mentioned reduction in our expenses. Had conditions been less opposed to it, we should most certainly have incurred increased outlay on renewals and improvements. This, however, the conditions imposed by the war have rendered impossible. Even were it possible for us to obtain the necessary material, the prices ruling are prohibitive. Making due allowance for this fact, however, the knowledge that our coaching traffic has increased by 17 per cent. in quantity and our goods traffic by 13 per cent. is a very satisfactory feature in our accounts. The present high level of our expenses is, of course, mainly due to the price of coal and other necessary supplies. It is also affected to some extent by the grant of a war bonus to our staff in Egypt to meet the greatly enhanced cost of living in that country owing to the war. These causes, although transitory, are likely, I think, to continue for some time after the termination of the war. We can, however, assert that the economies that we have effected in our train working will be lasting and important. I have already referred to the fact that, although we have duly maintained our property, we have had to postpone many works of improvement which we must make good so soon as times are propitious. The expenditure that we shall one day have to incur in this direction is a matter that we felt bound to bear in mind when considering the sum to be added to our "carry forward."

The Preference Dividend.

The result of the year's working—that is, eliminating the balance brought in from the previous year's accounts—leaves us with an amount of £72,532 for disposal, after providing for our fixed charges, for income-tax and for the participation in our profits to which the Government of Egypt is entitled. We propose for your approval the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent. on our Preference shares, leaving £36,105 as an addition to our "carry forward." It is possible—in fact, I may say it is probable—that you may feel some natural disappointment that the dividend proposed is not a higher one. I can only tell you that we, your directors, considered this question very carefully. We came to the conclusion that, taking into account the uncertainty of the duration of the war, the anxiety regarding our fuel supply, and the certainty that heavy expenditure must be incurred upon improvements as soon as conditions become normal, we should not, acting in your own interest, be justified in reducing the sum carried forward below the figure shown in the accounts. The policy of your Board has, as you know, always been a conservative one. I venture to hope that the confidence that you have so consistently placed in us, and that we so gratefully acknowledge, has in large measure been due to your appreciation of this fact, and that you feel that in not yielding to the temptation to increase the dividend and to reduce the carry-forward we have been actuated by the desire to maintain your undertaking upon a sound basis.

Your Board has been fortunate enough to secure the valuable assistance of Mr. E. W. Foster, C.M.G., and you will be asked to confirm his appointment as a director. I might really call it his reappointment, as Mr. Foster was an original member of this company's Board and served for some years on its Egyptian section. He resigned in 1905, owing to pressure of other work, which made it impossible for him to attend the meetings held in Cairo. I with to mention that the Board has sanctioned an increase of the pay of our managing director to £800 per annum so long as the appointment is held by Major le Breton. Regarding Major le Breton's services I need say nothing. They are well known to you all. They have been invaluable, and without his continuous labour in the interests of the railway our situation would not have been nearly as favourable as it at present is.

Before concluding my remarks, you may expect me to say a few words regarding the future prospects of our railways. If prosperity reigns in the country, then, unless we deliberately throw away our chances, our railways should prosper and bring in good receipts. If, on the other hand, prosperity should be absent from Egypt, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for our enterprise to be successful. You know, gentlemen, that I have, in each year that I have addressed you, expressed my profound belief in the future of Egypt. Even during the first years of the war, when things looked blackest, I never wavered in my faith. It has been amply justified. I do not know of any country in the world where prospects appear so bright as they do at present in Egypt. Anyone who has studied, as I have done, the very interesting note presented by the Acting Financial Adviser on the Egyptian Budget for 1918, must be struck by the remarkable evidences that it gives of the prosperity of the country. Returns up to date regarding the cotton crop are highly satisfactory, the latest news being to the effect that in Lower Egypt the estimated yield is some 98 per cent. of the normal, while in Upper Egypt the percentage is 101. Other crops such as rice and sugar cane promise equally good results. Everything would seem to point to an even more prosperous year than was the last. This must affect the working of our railways. The traffic returns up to the present show satisfactory increases. The latest figures show an improvement of £25,169 over those of the corresponding period of the year under review. I think, gentlemen, we can then look forward to the future with some confidence. We cannot yet, of course, undertake the extensions of our system which have been authorised by the Government, and from which we anticipate good returns, until the war is over. The impossibility of obtaining labour and the price of all materials preclude this. We can, however, continue, as we have done, to keep down our working expenses to the lowest figure possible—consistent with efficient working—and we can also continue, as we have done, to add steadily to the sum that we are putting by for future improvements, and as a security against the unforeseen.

The adoption of the report, together with the statement of accounts and the balance-sheet, was seconded by Mr. Montagu Sharp and was carried unanimously, and after the dividend had been unanimously agreed to, and the retiring directors and auditors re-elected, the meeting concluded with a unanimous vote of thanks to the directors, the London staff office, and the operative staff in Egypt.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS.

Champdany Jute.

The report of the Champdany Jute Company for the year ended March 31 states that, inclusive of £28,775 carried forward, balance at credit of profit and loss is £168,736. An interim dividend of 15 per cent. was paid on December 22 and £30,000 has been applied in writing down the block account. The directors now propose to pay on 28th instant a final dividend of 30 per cent., which will leave £50,086 to be carried forward. The stock of jute has, as usual, been taken at cost price and the cloth and bags have been entered at contract rates. The short time working agreement entered into by all the Calcutta mills continued in operation until the middle of January, when conditions rendered its suspension desirable and full time working was resumed.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt states that, after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first charge debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £29,000 in the aggregate in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the property acquired by foreclosure and the instalments in arrear, the accounts show a profit for the year of £107,390 7s. 2d.; deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the 5 per cent. preferred shares to March 31, 1918, viz. £50,000, there remains a balance of £57,390 7s. 2d.; adding the amount brought forward from last year's account, £17,382 9s. 6d., there is available for distribution a total sum of £74,772 16s. 8d., which the directors propose to allocate as follows:—(1) to payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., being 2s. per share on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares, £20,000; (2) to general reserve, £17,500; (3) towards writing off the discount and expenses of the debenture issues, £2,800—£40,300, leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £34,742 16s. 8d. The economic situation in Egypt has continued to improve, and the increased payments by the company's clients mentioned in last year's report have been maintained during the year 1917-18. The board have, however, made further provision for loss on arrears and properties acquired by foreclosure. They have applied a sum of £25,000 to writing off a portion of the instalments in arrear, and in writing down the cost price of the property acquired by foreclosure. They further propose to increase the general reserve to £170,000 by adding thereto a sum of £17,500.

Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway.

The report of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway Co., Ltd., for the half year ended March 31 states that the total expenditure on capital account was Rs.43,83,446 0s. 5d. The expenditure incurred during the half year on capital account, for additions to station office, etc., amounted to Rs.14,320 10s 7d. The earnings of the railway for the half year were, coaching Rs.1,85,035 5s. 3d., goods Rs.2,15,199 1s. 0d., sundries Rs.1,211 0s. 5d., making a total of Rs.4,01,445 6s. 8d., as compared with coaching Rs.1,91,226 9s. 6d., goods Rs.2,09,049 12s. 0d., sundries Rs. 1,443 6s. 6d., a total of Rs.4,01,719 12s. 0d. in the corresponding period of 1916-17. The working expenses of the line were Rs.2,09,777 5s. 3d., or 52.26 per cent. of the gross earnings. The net revenue for the half year was Rs.1,98,059 7s. 2d. which includes Rs.6,391 5s. 9d. interest accrued on the surplus funds of the company. The interest on debentures at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum amounting to Rs.63,646 6s. 6d. and the London Agency charges Rs.2,121 8s. 9d. and income tax Rs.4,064 14s. 0d. having been provided for, the balance remaining is Rs.2,01,611 6s. 3d. The directors recommend payment of a dividend (free of income-tax) of Rs3 8s. 0d. per share, equal to 7 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Rs52,500 0s. 0d.; and that the net balance of Rs.1,49,111 6s. 3d. be carried forward, provision having been made for the Government's moiety of surplus profits and the managing agents' commission. Mr. C. W. Foley retires by rotation from the directorate but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The Hon. Sir Hugh Bray, Kt., having resigned his office of director due to his retirement from Calcutta, Mr. W. O. Grazebrook has been appointed in his place.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, will be held on September 4, for the purpose of voting to the chairman the sum of £1,000, the same to be paid to him by way of recognition for extra services and attention to the company's business which he has rendered and is rendering.

The Kacharigaon Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £6,805; balance available, £8,316. Final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year; to reserve, £1,000; forward, £747, subject to excess profits duty.

The Tara Tea Company made a profit in 1917 of £12,316, against £12,954. Further dividend of 14 per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 5 per cent., the same as for 1916: to permanent building fund, £1,500; forward, £19,769, against £17,289, subject to excess profits duty.

The profit of the Romai Tea Company in 1917 was £6,457, against £5,421. Final dividend of 17½ per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, against 20 per cent.; to reserve, £500; forward, £5,618, against £4,048, subject to liability for excess profits duty on adjustment of 1916 crop account and also on profits of 1917.

The Dhendai Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £5,353, against £4,071. Final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax (making 10 per cent. for the year), against the same for 1916; forward, £4,019, against £1,969, subject to excess profits duty on adjustment of 1916 crop account and crop account 1917.

The accounts of the Gingia Tea Company for 1917 show a profit of £5,125; final dividend at 5 per cent., less tax (making 10 per cent. for the year), leaving to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for the year 1917, £3,327, against £3,329.

The Attaree Khat Tea Company's profits for 1917 were £23,968. Transferred to general reserve, £4,000; transferred to reserve for coolie recruiting, £3,000; final dividend of 12½ per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. for the year; carry forward, £15,021, subject to excess profits duty, against £6,792.

The profits of the British Assam Tea Company for 1917 were £4,879, making, with £7,663 brought in, and £5,007 of excess profits duty recoverable for seasons 1914-16, a total of £17,548. The directors have placed £1,000 to reserve; final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax (making 20 per cent. for the year), on the ordinary shares, leaving to be carried forward £5,977.

The Ghoir Allie Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £3,977. Final dividend of 60 per cent., making 100 per cent. for the year; £1,380 forward, subject to excess profits duty.

The Rupajuli Tea Company in 1917 made a profit of £5,491, against £3,453. Final dividend of 12½ per cent., making 20 per cent., the same as for 1916; forward, £2,533, against £1,116, subject to excess profits duty.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the East Indian Coal Company have declared a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent., less tax, for the half-year ended April 30, making 17 per cent. for the year, against 16 per cent.

The directors of the Igalkande Rubber and Tea Estates have declared a final dividend of 6 per cent., less income tax at 5s. in the £, payable 28th instant.

The directors of the Bogawantalawa District Tea Company recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year ended March 31, less tax at 5s., payable September 13.

The dividend on Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan, due on September 1, will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on the following Monday.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company will be held at Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on September 24, at 12 noon.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Dividend No. 30, bearer warrant coupon No. 27, for a dividend of 3½ per cent., for the year ended March 31, 1918, on the preference shares, less income-tax at 5s. in the £, will be payable on and after August 26 at the National Bank of Egypt, London, Cairo, and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange. Dividend warrants will be posted August 26.

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An important agricultural conference will take place at Casablanca during the first week in October, which will be attended by representatives from all parts of Morocco. There will be a special building containing samples of Morocco wool, and also a stall for the sale of carpets.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

According to the *Vossische Zeitung*, a complete agreement has been reached between Germany and Austria-Hungary regarding the disposal of agricultural products from Eastern Europe, and especially from the Ukraine.

A conference of coffee planters was held at Mysore last month to consider among other matters the developments of the coffee market in India.

Excellent reports have been received of the prospects of tin dredging in the Katun area of the Thaton district of Burma.

The planting of coconut trees has increased considerably in Ceylon in recent years, and the trees in the Island now number well over a million. Most of the plantations are carefully cultivated and manned, planters finding that good results are obtained by systematic ploughing and disc harrowing. Crops in 1916 were well above the average owing to good rains in the previous year.

India's exports in April, including re-exports, amounted to Rs. 17,05,78,425, while the imports totalled Rs.13,71,99,834.

The production of the Sudan Gold Field in July amounted to 1,116 ozs. valued at £3,950.

Summer time was adopted in French Morocco in May, but experience showed that the alteration was unsuitable to Moroccan conditions, and an official announcement was made on July 15 terminating the innovation.

A Budapest telegram states that continuously unfavourable weather and heavy rains are greatly endangering the harvest, and that the damage already sustained where the grain is still in the fields is very considerable.

The maximum price for silver bullion in the United Kingdom has now been fixed at 49½d. per standard ounce.

An entire petroleum train exploded on August 15 at the station of Erlau, in Hungary, causing great damage to property.

The death occurred at Tarvy recently of Mr. Howard Adye, the well-known geologist and mining authority. Mr. Adye, who had been for several years Director of the Geological Survey of the State of Portsandar, was acting as consulting geologist to Tarvy Wolfram, Ltd.

A site of about 20 acres near Colombo has been selected by Messrs. Tata Bros. for the erection of oil mills.

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INDIAN RAILWAY DEBENTURE TRANSFERS.

The agreements for the composition of stamp duty entered into between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company and the Bombay Baroda Railway Company being no longer in force, transfers of the companies' 3½ per cent. debenture stocks executed on or after 1st inst. will be chargeable with stamp duty. This duty will be paid by the companies, so transfers of the stock, as far as purchasers are concerned, will, as heretofore, be free of stamp duty, in accordance with the terms of the issue,

BENGAL IRON AND STEEL FOUNDERS' SHARES.

At the meetings of the ordinary and founders' shareholders of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, on May 28, it will be remembered that committees were appointed on behalf of each class of shareholder to consider the valuation to be placed on the founders' shares which is recommended for acceptance by the shareholders. The number of ordinary shares to be issued in exchange for each of the 150 founders' shares is increased from 199 to 249. This will involve the creation of 37,350 new ordinary shares, instead of 29,850, and will result in the ordinary capital being increased from £375,000 to £412,350, instead of to £404,850.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

After the prolonged rise and great activity there has been a lull during the past week, and a certain amount of profit-taking has been going on, and the general result is that prices are rather irregular, so that whilst here and there we still find some appreciation, most changes have been towards a slightly lower level. But in view of the excellent military news and of the satisfactory Egyptian reports, it will probably not be long before we again witness a renewal of activity and a further appreciation of prices. In Government stocks, whilst Egyptian Unifieds have relapsed ¾ to 93¼, the 3½ per cent. Preferences are ¾ higher at 79¾.

In Bank shares Nationals are 3-16 easier at 20 15-16, but Agriculturals have been in persistent demand, and close 5-32 up at 7 5-32. There has also been a renewal of demand for Anglo-Egyptian Banks, which are ¼ up at 17½. In Railways, Delta Lights are ⅛ higher at 7 9-16, buying having been induced by the recent excellent report.

In Land descriptions Aboukirs have relapsed 9d. to 25s. 6d. and Delta Lands 6d. to 17s. Béhéras have been quietly supported all the week round the current quotation and Foreign Trusts and Gharbiehs have remained firm markets. New Egyptians are also 9d. easier at 22s. 3d. on profit-taking, whilst Sidi Salems and Union Foncières are 1-16 lower at respectively 2¾ and 3 11-16. In United Egyptian Lands the late rise has been followed by profit-taking, with the result that the shares are 6d. down at 2s. 6d.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters are 1-16 quieter at 12⅝, a fair business has been done in Markets round 27s., while Salts and Sodas, on profit-taking, have receded 1-16 to 2¾. In Khedivial Mails, whilst the preferences are ⅛ up at 4⅛, the ordinaries have gone back 2s. to 60s.

In Greek securities quotations, where altered, have again improved in value. The 1881, 1884, and 1890 Loans are all a point up at 69, and Rentes have gained a slight fraction at 55. Monopolies have changed hands to a fair extent round 66, an advance of ½. Some business has again been done in Currant Bonds round the unchanged price of 95. A feature has been the rise in Bank of Athens shares, which are 5-16 up at 4 1-16.

Paris Bourse.

A feature of the market on August 21 was the demand for Serbian 1895's, which rose two points to 58. Other prices were:—Egyptian Unifieds 100 (against 100.50), Turkish Unifieds 64.05 (against 64.50), Bank of Athens 106 (against 100), Banque d'Orients 140 (unchanged), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 800 (against 799), and Land Banks of Egypt 215 (against 206.25). Suez Canal shares remained at 5,600 frs.

Oil Shares.

The prevailing tendency in oil shares was one of buoyancy. Anglo-Egyptians "B" improved 1-32 to 2 23-32, and Anglo-Persian Prefs. were 3d. better at 24s. Suez were 3d. weaker at 7s. 9d. Burmahs and the rest were unchanged.

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The provisional forecast of this year's Tunisian cereal crop is 9,406,293 bushels for wheat against 7,106,300 bushels in 1917; 10,427,213 bushels for barley, against 7,578,400 bushels, and 3,813,713 bushels for oats, against 3,403,400 bushels.

The final revised estimate of the area under wheat in India is 35,497,000 acres, against the earlier estimate of 35,342,000 acres, and the yield at 47,478,000qr., against 47,425,000qr. in 1917, and 39,699,000qr. in 1916. The record yield was in 1915, when it amounted to 47,922,000qr.

GRANT & CHINN,
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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Aug. 14	Aug. 21
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	82
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	94	93¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	68	69
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	68	69
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	65½	66
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	54	55
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	68	69
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74	74
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7	7 5/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17¼	17½
Bank of Athens	£2	3¾	4 1/16
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7½	7⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	5⅝	5⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅛	20 15/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7 7/16	7 9/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	26/3	25/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15¼	15¼
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/6	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/3	13/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2½	2½
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	23/-	22/3
Sidi Salem Co.	3/16	2 13/16	2¾
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3¾	3 11/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/-	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12 11/16	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	2 13/16	e2¾
Khedivial Mail Ord.	[illegible]	62/-	60/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4	4⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON JULY 26.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20¾
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	115
" " Div.	Frs.	161
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅞xd
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	14½
" priv.	L.E.	4 21/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	183
Bons de Panama	Frs.	165
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	99
" Priv.	Frs.	107
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	110
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 5/16
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1 17/32
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 13/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 1/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 9/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	9⅜
Unifiée	L.E.	97
Privilégiée		82
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7½
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 7/32
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 15/32
" Fondateur	£	500
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅞
" Ord		49/3
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	30
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5 5/16
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	112
" Jouissance	Frs.	182
Egyptian Markets		24/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	505
" Div.	Frs.	450
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	365
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 13/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		50/4½
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	760
" Fondateur	Frs.	820
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	387
" 1903 "	Frs.	289xd
" 1911 "	Frs.	280½
United Lands	P.T.	10
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		31/32

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EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended July 10.

	1917. £E.	1918. £E.
July 1—July 10	4,982	6,655
April 1—July 10	53,910	72,939

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.
Incorporated 1839.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000
HEAD OFFICE—
BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2
BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fashen, and Minieh, in Egypt.
Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA
(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).
CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000
London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.
Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS
Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - Rs.50,00,000
Head Office: MADRAS.
Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode); Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.
Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.
Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.
Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.
Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.
Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.
By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.
Capital, Fully paid up Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,54,00,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000
Head Office: CALCUTTA.
Branches:—Clive Street, Park Street, and Burra Bazaar, Calcutta, Agra, Akyab, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Dacca, Delhi, Hyderabad (Deccan), Jalpaiguri, Lahore, Lucknow, Moulmein, Nagpore, Naraingunge, Patna, Rangoon, Secunderabad (Deccan), Serajgunge, Simla.
Agency in Bombay: Elphinstone Circle.
Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed
Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.
By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 382.—Vol. XIV.   FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As winning the war and making a sound peace are practically one and the same thing, for the war will not have been won by the Allies unless, after the defeat of the German military machine, the terms of peace are wisely drafted, no apology is needed for dealing with the question of peace conditions in these columns. The crux of the settlement is in the East. It is axiomatic that Belgium must be restored to complete independence and must be indemnified; further, that Alsace and Lorraine shall no longer remain German territory. But from this point very few people, however highly placed in the government of their country, would trust themselves to draft single-handed the terms that in relation to the complex details of the situation in the Near East and Asia could be relied upon to give effect to the Allied war aims without the least possibility of a loophole by which Germany may be able to trouble the world again. For this reason it is essential that there should be the widest discussion of all questions bearing on the settlement at the end of the war, in order that no point of vital concern to the future peace of the world may be overlooked.

Less prominent people than Senator Lodge, of the United States, and Lord Hugh Cecil, have urged from an early stage in this war that there must be no peace by negotiation; that the only conceivable end to the struggle is an admission of defeat by Germany, and her acceptance of the terms dictated by the Allies. But the more often the view is propounded and the more influential the spokesman the better; and as the discussion proceeds, certain facts impress themselves on a wider audience, and more terms gain currency as axiomatic. Thus, Mr. Lodge has shown that the Republican Party in the United States has evolved a peace programme which is in many respects more detailed than President Wilson's of last January. In addition to the independence of Serbia and Roumania this programme stipulates for the "safety" of Greece; the independence of Poland, and of the Slav races of Austria-Hungary; the creation out of these States of a barrier between Germany and the Near East; Constantinople to be taken from Turkey and made a free port in the hands of the Allies; Palestine to remain free and "Christian"; and Asia Minor to be "made safe."

A dictated peace, however, implies that its terms shall have been drawn up beforehand,, and it is on this point that enlightened public opinion needs official assurance. As far as can be judged from the position in regard to the Balkans, even the general outlines of a settlement have not yet been agreed upon among the Allies. It may be that it is considered sufficient to insist upon the emancipation of the Slav races from Austria-Hungary, inasmuch as the details will have to be filled in for the most part by the peoples themselves, and can be postponed until after the war. The doctrine, we believe, to be a dangerous one, in view of the intricate nature of the problem to be solved. While the war lasts there is a strong incentive to avoid unduly long deliberations, and all parties will be anxious to arrive at an understanding. When the war is over, a number of unforeseen factors may come into play, which will tend to protract the negotiations. The interests of all the countries concerned will call for the earliest possible agreement, in order that they may settle down to the arduous task of reconstruction, political, social, and economic. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Allied Governments will not take refuge in the line of least resistance, but will boldly tackle betimes the problem of the settlement after the War. References are still to be found to a Peace Conference, as if the terms of peace were going to be settled by a round-table discussion with the enemy Powers. If peace is dictated, there will be no need for a conference. On the other hand, if the Allies will draw up among themselves, while the war is on, the terms of a lasting settlement, only a brief Congress will be required to accord formal ratification of those terms, and Europe need lose no time in setting to work on the formidable problem of reconstruction.

As signs of a growing weariness of the war and of Germany in Bulgaria multiply, the subject as to how the Allies should deal with the Bulgarians is being more eagerly discussed. It is, perhaps, inevitable that the popular view should be summed up in the simple plan, that they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can. Whether this "good old rule" will make for lasting peace in the Balkans is another matter. No one will take exception to the contention that the Allied Governments cannot betray their friends in order to pay their enemies. But what is required is an understanding of the Balkan problem, and the submission to Serbia and Greece, and, as far as possible, to Roumania as well, of the question, What solution of the problem do you propose that promises lasting peace in the Balkans and is in keeping with the Allied pledges of the principle of nationality? The answer that satisfies the Governments of Great Britain, France, the United States, and Italy, should be embodied in concrete terms, which the Allies must be prepared to enforce as their settlement of the Balkan problem. If, on the other hand, the answer of Greece, Serbia, and Roumania does not satisfy the other Powers no time should be lost by the two groups in coming to an agreement among themselves.

In discussing the Bulgarian question, *The Times* writes: "If the Bulgarians wish to escape from the wrath to come, they must begin bv making a clean sweep of the men and the methods they have hitherto followed, and they must give such positive proof of contrition as to place their sincerity beyond doubt. They have to atone for a very black record. Until they have purged it, they will find no hearing in any Allied camp." All this is very obvious, and much sounder sense than treating Bulgaria as the equal of Germany, who cannot be brought to book with less than the mobilisation of the whole world. When the Central Powers have been disposed of, Roumania, Serbia, and Greece, as was shown by the second Balkan War, will prove effective guardians of the peace of the Peninsula. But the Allies want to strike a higher note than the Bucharest Treaty, and to point the warring Balkan peoples to an era of friendship and mutual co-operation. In the opinion of some observers the only solution of the Balkan question that the Allies will be able to accept will be found to afford, if publicly enunciated, a very strong incentive to those elements in Bulgaria which have to be relied upon to make "a clean sweep of the men and the methods" which Bulgaria has hitherto followed.

Until some definite pronouncement has been made on the Balkan settlement, it is clear that Bulgarians with the best intentions can have no programme with which to work upon public feeling in their country. What inducement is it to Bulgaria to yield to her war-weariness and her disgust of Germany, if she believes the statement for which the Athens correspondent of *The Times* made himself responsible, that "President Wilson has declared that he would be unwilling to approve of discussion for a separate peace with Bulgaria or Turkey"? It is not very many months since President Wilson refused to declare war on Bulgaria on the ground that the United States might be useful to the Allies as an intermediary in the event of Bulgaria, as then seemed likely, wishing to free herself from the German alliance. To suggest that in no circumstances can Bulgaria and Turkey be allowed to make peace without the Central Alliance is to represent the Allies as prepared, in the event of one or both of these countries surrendering, to impose a German occupation upon them until such time as the war with Germany came to an end. Such statements as that attributed to President Wilson argue a failure to understand not only Balkan affairs, but also the real interests of the Allies. The detachment of Bulgaria and Turkey, with the judicious employment of the Allies' numerical superiority over the Central Powers would enable the war to be carried against the latter on a new, and their most vulnerable, front.

The successes of the Italian and French troops in Albania have received a definite check. Not only have the Austrians succeeded in sending a new Commander-in-Chief by aeroplane to the Albanian front, but they have given him sufficient reinforcements to enable him to turn the tables on the Allies. Their advance was at first held, and now they have been forced back along a considerable portion of the front. Berat and Fieri are again in the hands of the enemy. Not the least cause for satisfaction in the Allied advance was the evident relief that it brought to the Albanian inhabitants at being freed from Austrian domination. These unfortunate people, it is to be feared, will now be made to suffer for the demonstrations of their feelings; and it may be hoped that, if only for their sake, an attempt will be made to retrieve without delay the Allies' fortunes in Albania. One reason for the Italian and French activities in this sector of the Balkan front was that, if successful, they would enable more extensive operations to be undertaken in Macedonia itself.

A definite improvement can be reported in the position in Siberia, which is not so far removed in respect of its reaction on the Near East as mere distance would imply. With the military situation in the Amur Province is linked up the fortunes of the Czecho-Slovak troops along the whole length of the Trans-Siberian Railway and at Kazan, which a section of them has now reoccupied. It is evident not only that, as Japan realised, measures that are to be adequate to the rehabilitation of Russia must be on an extensive scale, but that the United States Government also has come into line on this point. A Japanese landing has taken place at Nikolaievsk, at the mouth of the Amur, and the line of advance will doubtless be up the river to the Amur Railway at Khabarovsk, with a view to relieving enemy pressure on Vladivostok by the Usuri Railway. Use has also been made of the South Manchuria Railway, and Manchuria (or Manchouli) station, on the Russo-Chinese frontier, has been reached. The Japanese at this point have brought timely relief to General Semenoff's troops. With an Allied force operating from Vladivostok with the intention of clearing the Chinese Eastern Railway, between Harbin and that port, of the enemy, the Japanese lines of communications will be secure, and a fairly rapid advance to Chita and Irkutsk ought to be possible. The first aim of the Allies, it will be remembered, is to bring relief to a Czecho-Slovak force at the latter town. Unfortunately, the Bolsheviks appear to have damaged the railway, with its series of tunnels, running round the southern shore of Lake Baikal, and if the Japanese are entirely dependent on this line their progress may be delayed; but shipping may still be available on the lake.

The British force at Baku was in time to defend the town against a Turkish attack on August 5, and the Turks are said to have withdrawn some distance. The position in Trans-Caucasia, however, is far from being liquidated by the successful defence of this important centre. As is recorded by a correspondent on another page, the component parts of the Transcaucasian Republic have nominally concluded peace with Germany and Turkey. Representatives of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan (Aderbejan), and the Southern Caucasus met in Constantinople. The proceedings of the conference, which was attended by Turks and Germans, were private, but an announcement has been made regarding the conclusion of an agreement among the different parties. Some idea of the status of the delegates may be gathered from the fact that in the course of interviews with the Turkish press the Armenian "representative" spoke of the Armenians being anxious to hold out the hand of friendship to Turkey, and stated that they made no claim to intervene in the affairs of Turkish Armenia, which were entirely the concern of the Turkish Government.

News from Persia is tantalisingly meagre, nor has it been stated what attitude the Persians are adopting towards the help that the Allies have brought them against the overrunning of their country by Turks and Austro-German agents. Much will depend on the capacity of Great Britain's representation in Teheran. If, as report has it, this has been abundantly strengthened of late by the addition of the best political intellects from the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia, we may hope that the success of the military expeditions will not be lost on the situation in Persia as a whole.

Whatever be the form finally assumed by the Indian Constitution, there can be no doubt that the publication of the official proposals has met with immediate success, for the Government asked for discussion, and they are getting it to an extent which, considering the circumstances of the time, must be regarded as remarkable. It would be premature to attempt any summary of the results, for the situation in India is not yet entirely clear, while in this country, though much ammunition has been expended, the heavy artillery of the "quarterlies" has still to be brought into action, but up to the present time the most striking feature is the difference in emphasis observable between English and Indian critics, a difference so great that the ordinary reader is almost tempted to think that two sets of proposals are being discussed instead of one.

To the Indian writer everything turns on those aspects of the reforms which may be described as political in the narrowest sense of the word, and his attention is concentrated on questions of *personnel* or of the distribution of powers between various portions of the proposed organisation. Last week, for instance, a well-known Indian publicist devoted an article which purported to deal with "fundamentals" largely to the question of reforming the procedure of the India Office, and omitted to allude to the franchise or the system of representation, and this attitude is not in any way exceptional. English critics, on the other hand, pass lightly over the questions which are of most interest to Indians, and either concentrate their attention on the question of the franchise, or looking further afield, attempt to estimate the reactions of the contemplated political changes on the social and economic life of India.

As regards the franchise, we need add nothing to what we have already said, that it is the essence of the whole matter, and that the official reforms cannot be judged as a whole until we know who the voters are, and how they are to vote. As to the reactions likely to result in the social life of the country, we think those critics are right who foresee troublous times, but we cannot agree with them in attributing the trouble either to reformers or to agitators. Long as it has lasted, the Indian social system is essentially unstable; a great nation cannot be built up out of arrogance and subservience, and now that the British influence on India has given the necessary impetus, things can never again be as they have been for so long. The struggle may be waged on the political or any other field, but the battlefield is an accident and it is the battle itself which matters.

The essential fact is that already in some parts of India the lower classes are putting forward claims on their own behalf. In Mysore, for example, they have recently petitioned their Maharaja, and though they did not get what they asked for, the fact remains that they have protested openly against the system under which nearly all the good things are monopolised by a class comprising about 5 per cent. of the population of the State. Such protests are bound to be repeated with increasing force, and unless the privileged classes make a graceful surrender, it is as certain as anything can be that social strife will become steadily fiercer until the masses eventually secure equality of treatment. A liberal constitution based on a wide franchise ought to make the transition easier on the whole, but no political arrangements can prevent the struggle from being fought to a conclusion.

The importance of suitable political institutions is probably much greater in the economic sphere. Before India can become rich, Indians in the mass must learn the lesson of self-help, and for that purpose a genuine, if limited, democracy may be an excellent school, while a benevolent oligarchy could only perpetuate the existing tendency to look for assistance from above, the tendency which more than any other single cause accounts for India's poverty. Parliaments cannot indeed make poor nations rich, but habits developed in the course of working political institutions may nevertheless lead to a definite advance in purely economic matters, and it is by no means a paradox to argue that a wide democratic franchise would eventually contribute to a marked increase in the wealth of the community.

The Baroda State has established a Publicity Committee, with Mr. A. B. Clarke, Minister of Education, as chairman. The committee will carry on an educative campaign, disseminating among the people the necessary information about the military situation, rise in prices, and so forth. The Dewan has requested the British Resident to make all necessary arrangements to place the Baroda Publicity Committee *en rapport* with the Central Publicity Board of Delhi.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 29.

Cairo's Population.

Statistics are not always mere dry figures, especially when presented and classified as are those just published by the Survey Department for the census of 1917. Thus the population of the capital is divided according to creed, social status, education, and nationality. Of a total of 790,939, there are 405,484 men, and the remainder women. The cosmopolitan character of Cairo is shown by the following figures for each nationality:—372,450 males and 349,522 females, local subjects; 7,524 British, 8,252 French, 15,655 Italians, 12,081 Ottomans, 15,254 Greeks, 1,004 Austrians, 266 Belgians, 31 Germans, 538 Roumanians, 1,242 Russians, 627 Spanish, 280 Swiss, 173 Americans, 3,094 of other nationalities, and 2,985 of unknown nationalities. Thus the British, who are the protecting nation, are in the minority, and this is the highest testimony to the disinterested character of their rule. One wonders in what numbers the Germans would have been had such a rich and easily exploitable country been in their grasp.

In the division according to creeds, after the large majority of Moslems, set down at 631,163, the Orthodox head the list of Christians with 86,468, then the Catholics 36,133, Protestants 5,589, and, finally, 801 Christians of other Churches. The importance of the Jewish element is illustrated by the substantial number of 29,207. But perhaps the most suggestive of all the figures given in these statistics are those under the heading Education. There are 214,019 males who cannot read or write, and 274,287 females. Of those who can read, 4,429 are males and 2,417 females, while 94 males and 478 females can write only. There are 124,747 males and 42,872 females who can read and write. It is scarcely necessary to observe that among those who can read and write a large proportion consist of foreigners, and if in the capital of Egypt the number of illiterates is so large, that in the provinces must be very much larger still.

Proportion of Foreign Matter in Wheat.

An interesting point was raised recently by the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce in a letter addressed by the President of the Chamber to the President of the Supplies Control Board, asking whether it is permissible to exceed the tariff price when the proportion of foreign matter in wheat offered for sale is less than that fixed by the Board, as basis for the tariff—viz., 22½ kirat, the standard of absolute purity being 24 kirats. Several letters have been addressed to the Chamber by well-known firms, asking whether the charging of a higher price for wheat which is cleaner than that of the tariff may be considered as a contravention. They added that they are averse from initiating their employees into the habit of mixing dirt with their wheat, and yet without that they would be the losers by so much of the difference. Mr. Ross Taylor replied that the sale of any wheat, whatever its degree of purity, at a price above the tariff is considered as an offence; and that the Board cannot allow anybody to sell above the price officially fixed, in view of the abuse that such exceptions might lead to in evading the Board's orders.

New French Diplomatic Agent.

Monsieur Albert Defrance, the late French Diplomatic Agent, left Cairo on Wednesday last for Alexandria, to embark there for France, where he is to succeed M. Klobukowski at Havre as Minister at the Belgian Court. The new diplomatic agent, who arrived here on Monday last, is Monsieur Pierre Antonin Lefevre Pontalis, who had known Egypt before, having been appointed Secretary of the Agency at Cairo in 1896, and remained in that post until 1899. His experience extends to other parts of the Near East also. He has been First Secretary at Athens, and before that, Third Secretary at the Embassy at Constantinople in 1885. He started his diplomatic career in 1889 at the age of twenty-five, having been born in 1864.

THE PALESTINE FRONT.

Until the news this week it is very long since any considerable movements have been reported from the centre of the British line in Palestine. The area involved in the recent operations will be familiar to all those readers of THE NEAR EAST who have travelled through Palestine. They centre round Sinjil, a place so called after the Crusading Castle of St. Giles—named after Count Raymond of St. Giles—which once stood here. This prosperous little village also marks the northern limit of the Sanjak of el Kuds (Jerusalem), and for a long time the carriage road from Jerusalem northwards ended there. I remember on two or three occasions being met by carriage there when arriving on horseback from the north. The carriage road to-day, after passing the famous Ain el Haramiyeh (which has now been in our hands many months) runs up the picturesque valley between terraced slopes covered with beautiful olive trees. At the head of the valley it crosses a small open plain, and then commences another valley descending northwards; to the left of this lies Khurbet Amurieh, crowning a conical hilltop, where we captured fifty men and two machine-guns. Where the valley opens out lies a small olive grove to the left (west), behind which, on a high ridge, is Sinjil; while to the right there is a wide and open vale running east with—some half a mile from the road—the picturesque little village of Turmus Aya. Near this on a small hill to the south-east, called Abu el Auf, some Indian troops killed or captured twenty-six Turks.

Many tourists pass close to, if not through Turmus Aya, in order to visit Seilun—the generally-accepted site of Shiloh—one of the earliest sanctuaries of Israel in Palestine. It must now lie very near our front line. Along the main road, which runs from near Sinjil until it reaches the important zig-zag descent just above Khan Lubban, a slow and severely-contested advance has been made, as it is a very vital point for the Turks to offer resistance. To the western side of the road lies the hill-ridge of El Burj, and north of that the hill Amurieh (distinct from the Khurbet of Amurieh, further south). The description given by Mr. Massey is not quite clear, but El Burj seems to have been captured, and also a hill to the north between it and Amurieh, and our troops must be approaching the very important ridge overlooking the "Plain of Lebonah," which, once passed, should open the way to a rapid advance at least as far as Wady Yetma. It will be seen by the map that our line is advanced about two-thirds of the way from Jerusalem to Nablus and, though there are still some very difficult points, on the whole the country lying before us is better than the district already taken. It is hardly possible to imagine a more difficult country over which to advance than that all around Bethel and the Ain el Haramiyeh.

E. W. G. M.

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RECRUITING IN JERUSALEM.

As a means of stimulating recruiting among the Jews of Jerusalem for service with the British Expeditionary Force, various posters were exhibited in the streets with suitable appeals. The following is a literal translation of one of these, as reproduced in the Hebrew issue of the *Palestine News*:—

"Hear, Israel! Listen! What does your heart say to you? Is not this the hour for recovering our land and for assuring our possession of it in the eyes of all the world?

"Listen! What does your reason say to you? Are the British to fight for us here before our eyes while we remain at home until they restore to us the land which they have redeemed with *their* blood?

"And listen! What does the voice of honour say to you? Can we receive from the hands of our deliverers, our true deliverers, a gift of blood, a free gift like this, if we do not also sacrifice our lives with them for it? Hear, Israel! The blood of our heroic ancestors of two thousand years ago, and the blood of the British who are fighting here for us to-day—the blood of martyrs is calling to us from this soil. Enlist! Enlist!

"Let us march to battle shoulder to shoulder with our deliverers. In God is salvation! Be strong!"

The recruiting has been successful beyond expectation. Permission to recruit was not given to the Provisional Recruiting Committee till the end of May, and before the end of July over a thousand enlistments had been secured. The greatest enthusiasm was shown not only in the colonies, but also in Jerusalem.

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A Constantinople telegram says that a member of the Armenian delegation which is at present in Constantinople has learned from Erivan that the Armenian Parliament was opened on August 1 in the presence of the representatives of Turkey, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Persia, and the Ukraine.

MOROCCO NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER, August 15.

Morocco and the Western Front.

General Foch's brilliant success, in which Generals Gouraud, Mangin, and Moroccan troops took a distinguished part, has special associations for Moroccans. General Gouraud, who had already done great work in Morocco, returned, after holding with marked success various important commands in the war, to take the post of Resident-General while General Lyautey was absent in France, and left again in May, 1917. His work as Resident-General is understood to have been most successful, and he assuredly gained great popularity. He has left behind him, quite apart from the admiration due to his military and administrative ability, a deep impression as a man of exceptionally sincere, unassuming, and, in the best sense of the word, soldierly nature, who lost no opportunity of making it clear that he was only carrying on for a time work that was already far advanced, and was chiefly anxious that it should suffer no prejudice in his hands. It was in Morocco that the value which General Mangin had always attached to native troops, which here at first included a large number of Senegalese, was thoroughly tested and proved. In this war, as everyone knows, Moroccan troops gained their reputation very early; and every opportunity—and they have had many—of adding to it, often in the most critical and desperate fighting, has invariably been used to the full. A considerable portion of these troops are Berbers, with very little or no mixture of Arab blood; many of them come from country where inter-tribal or even inter-village fighting, in absence of anything better, is, or was, the normal condition, with quite sportingly observed truces for harvest and other unwelcome but unavoidable interruption.

The Fez Fire.

The Fez fire has proved to have had much less serious consequences than were at first expected. The area burned out, including some 700 shops, was, indeed, considerable, but the loss of property is now put down at something not very much exceeding a quarter of a million pounds. The looters seem to have made much hay while the fire burned, for, although they were given very little time before their industry was summarily stopped, they appear to have got away with a very considerable amount of property. An announcement of domiciliary visits in search of stolen goods is said to have had an excellent effect, and a certain amount of property has reappeared, in some cases in streets and open places, thrown away in the possessor's fear of being incriminated. The rabbit-hutch-like arrangement of a native bazaar has certainly some advantages over the European store. The owner can keep an eye on—he can almost put a hand on—everything in his shop without stirring from his seat, and if the shop is burnt the loss is not as a rule crushing; it can be rebuilt in a few days and its contents replaced from the warehouses elsewhere, which in this case have been untouched.

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LONDON MOSLEMS.

Speaking on Sunday, August 25, at the Muslim Prayer House, 111, Campden Hill Road, W., Mr. Ehsan el Bakry said that there was a natural development upwards by which men, at first caring only for themselves, developed a regard for the family, then for the tribe, then for the nation, and, finally, for all mankind. At the time of the advent of the Prophet the Arabs had hardly reached the national stage, they could combine as a nation against non-Arabs, but at other times they were not combined. Mahomet had called upon them to go at a leap from this frame of mind to that of the cosmic spirit, and they had done so. The Moslem was called to every good cause; if he could avert a wrong by good counsel or by giving of his wealth he was bound to do so, and, if no other course was open, he must draw the sword. This was not only in defence of his own country, but in defence of any who were unjustly attacked, and he was bound to champion a just cause even against his own friends and relations. The doctrine of the Jehad was much misunderstood by non-Moslems. It was not enough for a Moslem to die for Islam; he must serve Allah while living.

At the same place, on Sunday, September 1, Kwaja Kamal ud Din will speak on the "Superiority of the teachings of the Qur-an: Ethical and Social Laws," and, on the following Saturday, there will be an "At Home," when he will give a short speech on "Unity from Diversity in Religion." The festival of Eid-udha (Qurban Bairam) will be celebrated at the Mosque, Woking, on Sunday, September 15.

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The *Times* Athens correspondent states that thirty-six officers of the renegade Fourth Greek Army Corps in Germany have disavowed their allegiance to ex-King Constantine, declared their adherence to the lawful *régime* now in Greece, and, at their own request, have been interned in Westphalia.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* propounds the theory that the British force which turned up recently in Baku from Baghdad was actually transported on donkeys. I do not know whether he puts the suggestion forward seriously, or merely as a joke; but he makes out quite a good case for his idea in some respects. He refers to "the prodigious number of donkeys in Baghdad and its neighbourhood"; and though the adjective is a very strong one, we need not fall out over it. But when he writes that "there are certainly more donkeys in Baghdad than there are modern vehicles of transport in all Manchester," I reserve the right to my own opinion. As to the animal's remarkable capacity for carrying loads of all kinds, and for keeping alive on the scantiest allowance of food, there can be no two opinions. The donkeys would get from Baghdad to Baku all right, but—what about the men? My own belief is that most of them would prefer to cover the distance on "Shanks's pony" rather than on the humble and shockingly uncomfortable "moke." I write with knowledge; for I once rode right across the Mesopotamian plain on a donkey, and I would rather pay a lot of money than go through such an experience again. A big, white donkey, of the Bahrein breed, used for regular riding and trained properly, is a comfortable, even sometimes a sporting, mount; but his humble brother of the usual "caravan" type is—an infliction.

⁂

I understand that *El Kowkab* published some little while ago some extracts from what is often spoken and written of as the oldest code of laws in the world. This is, of course, the Hammurabi Code, discovered at Susa in 1907 by (I think) M. de Morgan. The most interesting point about *El Kowkab's* publication of these very early Babylonian laws is that Hammurabi is claimed by the journal as an Arab. Personally, I should be quite prepared to accept the statement as being in all probability correct; and though I do not know whether it is capable of proof, I believe that a learned professor (Hommell) claimed to have proved the point some years ago. Hammurabi, it may be worth mentioning, is usually "dated" about 2200—2100 B.C. He was a wise, capable, and energetic ruler, as far as we can judge, and if the Arabs can make good their claim to him, so to say, they will have got hold of a good thing. It is certain that one can trace many points of strong resemblance between the ancient inhabitants of Babylonia and their modern successors.

⁂

In connection with the 1918 Pilgrimage the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior is taking the strictest precautions to avoid the spread of disease, and the *hajjis* will be allowed to bring back water from the holy well, Zemzem, only if the pilgrimage is declared "clean" and subject to rigid regulations. The water must be placed in a receptacle that will allow of its sterilisation, and must actually be sterilised by the quarantine authorities. Nobody who knows how easily many kinds of fatal illnesses may be, and often are, spread through contaminated water could dispute the wisdom of these regulations.

⁂

I have been looking up Burton's opinion of the waters of Zemzem. He says, in his matter-of-fact way: "It is apt to cause diarrhœa and boils, and I never saw a stranger drink it without a wry face. Sale is decidedly correct in his assertion: the flavour is a salt-bitter, much resembling an infusion of a teaspoonful of Epsom salts in a large tumbler of tepid water." He also says that it was a favourite amusement with him to watch Turks and other strangers whilst they drank the holy water, and to taunt their scant and irreverent potations. That is hardly calculated to make us eager to sample the fluid; but, taste or no taste, it is held in the highest esteem by the pious Moslem. To quote Burton again: "Religious men break their Lenten fast with it, apply it to their eyes to brighten vision, and imbibe a few drops at the hour of death." It would, therefore, be a very real grief to the pious *hajj* to be deprived of his supply of the wonderful water.

⁂

The harassed English housekeeper who grumbles at the high prices of everything to-day, and who is—very justly—indignant with the profiteers, big and little, may yet thank her lucky stars that she does not live at Damanhour. There, I learn from Egyptian papers, the water-carriers have increased the price of a *kirba* (water-skin) from five *milliemes* to ten. It is always rather galling to have to pay for water, even when it is brought to your house in pipes; but to have a hundred per cent. increase—"owing to the war," of course—in the price of skin-flavoured water would surely be a legitimate reason for "lengwidge."

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ALBANIA AND THE ALLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The recent advance of Franco-Italian troops in South Albania has put an end to the legend of the so-called attachment of the Albanians to Austria. The newspaper correspondents are unanimous in recognising both the hostile attitude of the liberated Albanian population towards Austria, and the help that they give to the Allied troops. The legend that they were pro-Austrian cost the Albanians very dear at the Conference of London in 1913, when their fate was decided. After having reduced Albania to about half its natural size the Great Powers brutally threw the Albanians of the new state into the arms of Austria.

It is a fact that in 1916 the Albanian population protested vigorously at Vienna against the Austrian occupation of their lands, and that this protest had as its only result the forcible enlistment of a large number of Albanians, who were sent to the various battlefields. Those Albanians, on the contrary, who happened to be abroad at the time of the Austrian occupation have taken the part of the Allies since the beginning of the war, and have never ceased to do their utmost to contribute to the triumph of the cause of the Entente, a cause which they hope and believe to be that of justice and the rights of peoples, and from which they expect their independence. At the present time several thousand Albanians are fighting along with the Franco-Italian troops. The Pan-Albanian Federation of America, "Vatra," has lately offered H.M. Government an Albanian Regiment, with the certain promise that it will rapidly become a division. The news was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the Albanians of America, and they await impatiently the acceptance and organisation of their regiment. These are the true sentiments of the Albanian people.

Had the Allies utilised Albania and the Albanians from the beginning of the war, as was then suggested, the costly and, up to the present, unfruitful expedition to Salonika would have been avoided, and the situation in the Balkans would have been very different. The presence of a small English contingent would have sufficed to guarantee their independence to the Albanians, who would then have offered whole-heartedly to the Allies an army of 100,000 to 150,000 men. For it must not be forgotten that the Albanian population numbers two and a-half millions. In such case the Serbian army would not have suffered disaster, and if the Allies had not had time to send reinforcements, it would have been able to entrench itself and reorganise rapidly upon an allied territory—Albania. Albania would not then have been invaded by Austrian troops and the battlefield would have remained upon the Serbian frontier and not have involved Salonika and Macedonia. Unfortunately, political reasons (the plans of Tsarist Russia) were allowed to prevail over military strategy. That which could have been done four years ago without effort is now being attempted at the cost of great sacrifice.

Notwithstanding the great difficulties which the formation of the land presents to the Allied troops, as they advance northward, I trust that they will succeed in surmounting all obstacles. The Albanians will give them their entire help and will make any sacrifice to achieve national unity and their independence.

When one considers unfortunate Albania, invaded on all sides—worse even than Belgium—upon the morrow of that independence which had been her dream for generations, it is melancholy to find well-known papers, as a consequence of the Allied advance, at once proposing to give the Serbs "compensations" upon the Albanian coast as recompense for the Macedonian lands which it is suggested should be given to Bulgaria.

As the Allied forces advance towards the north other legends equally disadvantageous to Albania will disappear. One of these is that of the tribes. It is generally believed that the North is entirely inhabited by clans and tribes who are in the same state as were the Scotch clansmen of the seventeenth century. Nothing can be more untrue. The clans form only a small proportion of the population. They have formed in the past a bulwark against the enemy, and if their mountains and their love of liberty have prevented their coming into contact with the world and acquiring polish, we must remember that they are not numerous enough to influence the rest of the population, which has for centuries dropped the clan system. But though, under Turkish domination, Albania was not permitted to have national schools, yet the Albanians have not failed to obtain education when possible from foreign schools. And the mountain men, too, have provided Albania with some of her most cultivated leaders. Two North Albanians have for many years honourably filled the post of British Vice-Consul.

The Albanian race, both north and south, is full of vigour and intelligence, and in artistic capability is superior to most of its neighbours, as various specimens of filagree, of carved wood and silver, fine silks and beautiful embroideries bear witness.

The majority of the plans proposed with a view to establishing a balance of power in the Balkans consist of enlarging certain lands to the detriment of others. Is it necessary to point out the weakness of such projects? Balkan policy should aim at dispelling the quarrels between the different peoples and drawing them together in such a way as to enable them to become the guardians of the peace and to bar the road to conquest in the Orient.

The disappearance of these quarrels can only be effected by fulfilling the just (not the unjust) national claims of all the Balkan people as far as possible, based always upon the rights of the majority. Only by obedience to this sacred principle can equilibrium and tranquillity and peace be obtained. Only by the strict application of the rights of nationalities can respect for the doctrine, "The Balkans for the Balkan people," become possible, and with it the prevention of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Balkans, which forms one of the objects of the Serbs (Jugoslavs), as shown by the meeting held at the Mansion House on July 25. Unfortunately, the plans which are being feverishly worked at in secret prove that the Balkan States are far from assimilating the principles of the rights of nations and accepting whole-heartedly a just solution of the Balkan question.

I am, etc.,
Mehmed Konitza,
Representative of the Pan-Albanian Federation
of America, "Vatra."
5a, Maddox Street, London, W.1., August 22, 1918.

FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BALKANS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My reply to your correspondent, M. Nicholas Papanicolay, will be brief.

What I criticised in the speech of M. Gennadius at the Mansion House was the misuse of the Lord Mayor's hospitality for the purpose of ventilating Balkan animosities; the summons of "hands off" addressed to an ally of the country; the charge of perversion of the truth brought against a section of the British Press; the employment of language hitherto unheard at the Mansion House and the suppression of essential facts in connection with the excesses at Anchialos and Stenimachos, and with the German loan to Bulgaria. I never even hinted that M. Gennadius "should have refrained from pressing on his hearers the claims of Greece." To state that I have done so is unfair. There can, of course, be no objection to a foreign representative pleading the cause of his country on such an occasion with truth, tact, decorum, and the restraint imposed by precedent and the dignity of his position. I can only repeat—in this instance to M. Papanicolay—that in the opinion of most Englishmen nothing is lost by fairness to an adversary.

Fiat Justitia.

◆

In reply to a communication from the Chief Secretary to the Burma Government asking for the names and designations of members of the Rangoon town police who could be spared for commissions in the I.A.R.O., the Commissioner of Police has submitted a list of seventeen, which includes the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. D. J. Ross, inspectors, deputy inspectors and sergeants.

Throughout the war, as before the war, our King has borne himself royally. He has worked for the common cause as hard as any of his subjects—and with an insight and tact, an instinct for the right word and the right act that have not always been conspicuous in other quarters. It was a happy thought to gather together a number of pictures showing his Majesty in many varieties of "war work." This has been done by the *Illustrated London News* and *Sketch*, chiefly for our fellow-subjects in India. "The King-Emperor's Activities in War-Time" contains a well-chosen selection of such pictures, printed in photogravure, with titles and descriptions in the various scripts employed in the Indian Empire. The price of the volume is a rupee, and it is no exaggeration to say that it would be marvellous value for the money even in peace-time. We hope and believe that it will prove extremely popular, as it deserves.

◆

A Messageries Maritimes liner Polynésien en route from Bizerta to Salonika, with Serbian troops, struck a mine and sank on August 10. Six Serbian passengers, eleven Indian firemen, and two sailors of the crew are missing.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

In the handy booklet "Syria and the Holy Land" (1) the recognised greatest living authority on the subject gives a sketch of the geography and political position of Palestine and Syria unrivalled in interest and in cheapness. The volume is furnished with two maps—each coloured to show the altitudes—either of which is in itself worth at least as much as the cost of the whole publication. For those who wish to obtain in small compass a thoroughly sound view of Palestine—its past history and present-day political problems—no better guide exists.

> Syria, chiefly because she includes Phœnicea and Palestine, has been of greater significance to mankind, spiritually and materially, than any other single country in the world. . . . Nowhere else has so much history run into and through so narrow a space. The storm centre of the ancient East, the debatable ground between its rival empires in Mesopotamia and on the Nile, and between their Greek successors, the Seleucids and Ptolemies, Syria was for three thousand years the field upon which their civilisation clashed, mingled, and found a common deflection to the west by the islands of the Mediterranean.
>
> The military history of Syria may be pictured as the procession of all the world conquerors—Thothmes, Tiglath-Pileser, Sargon, Sennacharib, and Nebuchadnezzar; Cambyses and Alexander; Pompey, Cæsar, Augustus, Titus, and Hadrian; Omar and Saladin; Tamerlane; Napoleon. And now again she is one of the points on which two ideals of civilisation and empire oppose their arms, but with issues more momentous for humanity than were ever fought out on these same fields between Semite and Greek, Rome and the East, or Frank and Saracen.

Between the sea on the west and the desert on the east four well defined areas run from north to south—the Maritime Plain (with its coast), the Western Range, the Orontes-Jordan-Arabah Valley, and the Eastern Range. Transversely, Syria is divided into three—(1) Northern Syria, between the Taurus Mountains and the Nahr el Kebir (the Eleutherus of the Greek), (2) the Lebanon with Damascus between the Nahr el Kebir and the Nahr el Kasimiyeh, or Litani, and, lastly (3) Palestine proper, between the Nahr el Kasimiyeh and Wady el Arish. All these regions are here briefly described.

Of the Turkish blight over the whole land the author speaks weighty words:—

> The Turk is an alien in Syria, with no native claim to the soil, and few or no family ties to the people. In Syria Turkish colonies do not exist; the men of that race are either officials or soldiers. In short, the Turk has neither inherited nor earned any rights to Syria. . . . Save for some sporadic efforts, he has been wanting in all for which a government exists—justice and security, the development of the natural resources, the organisation of public utilities, the encouragement of industry and trade, not to speak of education.

The contrast between the direct rule of the Turk and the condition of the Lebanon is "a proof of what all Palestine may become when emancipated from Turkish rule."

On two disputed points the author gives his positive opinion:—(1) "The afforestation of Syria was probably never much more than we find it to-day," and (2) that any change of climate that may have occurred in historical times "has been so slight as to be negligible." On both these points we may remark that good authorities on physical geography hold very different views. As regards the forests, considerable tracts have been destroyed within the memory of residents in the land.

With regard to the outlook, most will agree that—

> Of all the factors which demand the care of a just government none—not even the Jews—have a stronger claim than the native peasants who all through history, but most cruelly under the Turk, have borne the sorest service and suffering.

The comparative freedom and security enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Lebanon for two generations have developed a race of whom there are—according to Mr. Hogarth—"none more enterprising or of keener intellect in the Nearer East."

> Their superiority is the pledge of a general rise in the moral and mental level of the Syrian peasantry as a whole, when these blessings shall have been extended to all the land by a strong and just government.

On Zionism Sir Geo. Adam Smith has many sympathetic words to say. The general idea has his ungrudging support, but he also has many needed words of warning to the over-enthusiastic, pointing out the undoubted rights of others besides Jews in the Holy Land—the Syrian Moslems and Christians, as well as the "Christian" nations of Europe.

> Obviously a very great deal of difficult detail has still to be thought out by the Powers of Europe—and the democracies of Europe educated in the thinking thereof—before the future of Syria can be settled on lines of justice and security for all nations and creeds alike

After sketching the exceedingly difficult question of the future of the new State—if such there is to be—he says:—

> All this is enough to make clear that the Power or Powers to whom the political future of the country falls will have problems before them far more serious than any that Britain has had to solve in Egypt, and quite as heavy as those which gather along the northern and north-western frontiers of the Indian Empire.

RECENT EVENTS IN GEORGIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

On May 26 Georgia declared herself independent as a consequence of the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Republic, from which the Tartars separated themselves, and the southern provinces, including Batum and Kars, were occupied by Turkey. The causes which led to the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Republic had been at work since the beginning of the Revolution of March, 1917, when Turkey, through her agents, penetrated into Eastern Transcaucasia and North Caucasus, using Mohammedan priests as propagandists. Turkey was afraid that the formation of the Transcaucasian Republic, including the Georgians, Tartars and Armenians, would separate from her the Mohammedan Tartars and close the doors for her penetration into Turkestan, and that in years to come the Transcaucasian Republic, with its resources and population, would become a formidable unit which could not be treated as a subservient vassal.

After capturing the Batum and Kars fortresses, Turkey occupied the strategic positions of Transcaucasia, from which she was able to proceed to the complete occupation of this region. At this stage Germany interfered, as she also had aspirations in regard to Transcaucasia, principally for railway routes to Turkestan and Persia.

Georgia, after having been deprived of her fairest provinces in the south of the Batum district and her chief port of Batum, was recognised by Germany as "independent" (comprising the provinces of Tiflis, Koutais and Soukhoum). The Armenians, who have been deprived of all their territory in Turkey, have a small strip of territory in the Province of Erivan, also as an "independent" republic, and the Tartars have the Provinces of Baku, Elizavetpol, and part of Erivan Province, which is called the Aderbejan (Azerbaijan) republic.

These three republics were invited to go to Constantinople, and after two months of blackmailing, threats, and requisitions, were forced to sign the "Peace Treaty" with Turkey, by which Georgia becomes a German Protectorate and the Armenians are placed under Turkish "protection." But before signing these "peace treaties," on June 24, the day upon which Baron von Kuhlmann made his declaration in the Reichstag about Georgia, 3,000 German troops were landed at the Georgian port of Poti, on the Black Sea, and advanced along the railway to Tiflis, the capital of Georgia. By this means Germany succeeded in obtaining control of Tiflis, which is the centre of the railway lines radiating into the principal directions towards Persia and Turkestan. From that moment competition between Germany and Turkey began in regard to the rearrangement of the territories in Transcaucasia. Turkey claimed special protection over the eastern part of Transcaucasia, populated by Mohammedan Tartars, including the classical oilfields of Baku. This gave rise to great dissension between Turkey and Germany, the more so as the oil wealth of the Caucasus represents several thousand million pounds, and it would be most advantageous for Germany to secure its control. Turkey began to mobilise the Tartar population in Transcaucasia for the purpose of capturing Baku, and the Germans began to advance from Tiflis; and, as was reported, the Armenians residing in the town, having no choice, preferred that the town should be occupied by the Germans rather than the Turks. But whilst the Turks and Germans quarrelled about the position of Baku, British troops advanced from Baghdad and entered the town of Baku, in this way cutting off Germany and Turkey from their connections in Turkestan.

The strategical importance of Baku is enormous, both for the control of the Caspian Sea and the routes leading towards Turkestan, Afghanistan, and Northern Persia. If this action had taken place in January last, both the German and Turkish penetration of the Caucasus would have been either entirely prevented by the help of the Georgians and Armenians, or very substantially diminished in its dimensions.

At a Slav congress recently held at Laibach the chairman, Count Skarbek, said that if the Pan-German programme extended to Baghdad the Slavs were within their rights in drawing up their programme from Danzig to Trieste. The Slavs, he added, were strongly opposed to the policy of "Divide and rule."

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[1] "Syria and the Holy Land." By the Very Rev. Sir Geo. Adam Smith London: Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. net.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. August	1918. August		1336. Julkada	5678. Elul.
30	17	Friday	23	22
31	18	Saturday........	24	23
September 1	19	**Sunday**	25	24
2	20	Monday	26	25
3	21	Tuesday	27	26
4	22	Wednesday	28	27
5	23	Thursday	29	28

The Greek Minister left town on Saturday for the country.

Lord Ronaldshay left Calcutta on July 6 for a ten days' tour in Eastern Bengal.

Prince Serban Cantacuzene of Roumania arrived in London from Paris on Sunday.

The Earl of Mayo has joined the Countess of Mayo at Palmerstown, Co. Kildare, from London.

Mr. T. Earle Welby has taken up the position of Secretary to the European Association, Calcutta.

Mme. Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, has left London for Eastbourne for the summer.

Mr. C. L. S. Russell, I.C.S., Resident in Baroda, has been confirmed as a Resident of the second class.

The Hon. William Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore will leave 5, Mansfield Street shortly for Scotland.

Colonel A. Phrantzès, Chief of the Hellenic Military Mission, and Military Attaché to the Greek Legation, arrived in London last week.

Sir George Buchanan, member of the Indian Munitions Board, has been appointed a member of the Central Employment and Labour Board.

On the name day of King Alexander of Greece, September 12, a Te Deum will be sung at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater.

Mr. H. S. Fremantle has been appointed a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council, vice Mr. J. M. Holms, who has resigned.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Wyville Thomson, I.M.S., of Bonyside, Linlithgow, only son of the late Sir Wyville Thomson, left personal estate to the value of £20,376.

M. Mihailovitch, the Serbian Minister in the United States, has resigned on account of ill-health. M. Georgevitch, Secretary to the Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Bishop of Colombo met with an accident early in July while inspecting the bells of the cathedral. A platform on which he was standing gave way, and he fell fifteen feet.

The *Lokalanzeiger* says it learns from well-informed quarters that the health of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria gives no cause whatever for anxiety, states a Reuter message from Amsterdam.

The Hon. Lady Cunningham, of Eaton Place, S.W., second daughter of the first Lord Lawrence, and wife of Sir Henry Cunningham, K.C.I.E., left unsettled property valued at £3,749.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, who recently arrived in the Riviera, to be presnt at his daughter's marriage, will shortly proceed to Paris and London, and will then return to Corfu.

The Bombay *Gazette* announces the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel E. O'Brien to do duty as Political Agent in Kathiawar in addition to his own duties as Administrator of the Porbandar State (June 28).

Mr. J. H. Stone, Director of Public Instruction in Madras, is due to vacate his appointment this month. The senior Indian Educational Service officer in the presidency, Mr. J. H. Allen, Principal of the Presidency College, will succeed him.

In response to the Premier's appeal to India, his Highness the Maharajah of Nabha has generously offered to contribute Rs.25,000 a year towards the successful prosecution of the war during its continuance. His Highness the Maharajah Rana of Dholpur has also offered Rs.25,000 for war purposes. The offers have been gratefully accepted.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has telegraphed from Bad Nauheim to the Breslau City Council, expressing his gratification at the reception accorded to the Bulgarian delegates at the Breslau fair.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Frank J. L. Atterbury, of the Sudan Government Service, and Miss Barbara L. V. Streatfeild, third daughter of Canon and Mrs. Streatfeild, of the Vicarage, Eastbourne.

The marriage between Acting Staff Paymaster R. A. Hawkesworth, Royal Navy, British Naval Mission to Greece, and Miss Winifred C. Bartlett will take place at St. Paul's Church, Athens, on Saturday, September 14.

A telegram to the *Cologne Gazette* states that the Sheikh of the Senussi has arrived in Vienna with a suite of 11 tribesmen *en route* for Constantinople. It is stated that he crossed from Tripola to Pola in a German submarine.

A marriage has been arranged between Walter Stuart James Willson, of Calcutta, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Willson, 64, Waldegrave Park, and Ethel Winifred, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Morris, Twickenham.

The *Sudan Times* of July 24 publishes an Army Order, issued July 21, as follows:—The Sirdar regrets to announce to the Army the death of El Kaimakam W. McConaghy Bey, M.B., Special Service, which occurred in the Red Sea on July 4, 1918.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports (August 22):—"The High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, appeals for contributions to 'Our Day,' and hopes that last year's record of £150,000 will be surpassed. The Sultan heads the list with £1,000."

Mr. H. N. Hutchinson, I.C.S., formerly Deputy Director-General of Post Offices, Simla, has on return from leave been posted as Postmaster-General of Bombay, relieving Mr. H. Pilkington, who becomes Postmaster-General, Central Circle, Nagpur.

The *Pioneer* (July 12) states:—"When Sir William Meyer vacates the Finance Membership at the end of August he will proceed on a pleasure trip to America *viâ* Japan and San Francisco. It is his intention, we believe, to spend the winter in California."

The King has granted to Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Napoleon Tucker, Royal Engineers, authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of his valuable services.

The Viceroy of India has selected Lieut.-Colonel J. C. S. Vaughan, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Ranchi, for the officiating appointment of Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bihar and Orissa, vice Colonel G. J. H. Bell, C.I.E., I.M.S., granted combined leave for six months.

The King has been pleased to grant unrestricted permission to Miss Mary Elizabeth Phillips, M.B., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred upon her by the King of Serbia in recognition of her services with the Scot-the Women's Hospitals in Serbia.

Mr. A. B. Geary will shortly proceed to the Piræus to take up his post as H.B.M. Consul there, and will afterwards go on to Alexandria to take charge of the Consulate-General. Mr. Geary, many readers will be interested to learn, was married on July 2 to Mrs. Grace Summerhayes (*née* Alport).

Sir Charles Eliot, who was recently appointed British High Commissioner in Siberia, is the author of "Turkey in Europe," one of the best books on the Turk and his country that have ever been written. His diplomatic activities in the Near East included service at Tangier, Constantinople, Sofia, and Belgrade, and he has been granted special allowances for knowledge of Arabic and Turkish. He is said to speak twenty-three languages fluently, and to know twenty-seven.

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A marriage has been arranged between Brevet-Colonel H. H. Norman, R.A.M.C., only son of Thomas Norman. Indian Civil Service (retired), and Mrs. Norman, of Oakfield, Weston, Bath, and Muriel Frances, third daughter of Cyril H. Dunderdale, of Westquarter, Falkirk.

Admiral Sir Alfred Wyndham Paget, R.N., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., of Hans Road, Chelsea, S.W., at one time A.D.C. to King Edward VII., son of the late Lieutenant-General Lord Alfred Paget, and grandson of the first Marquess of Anglesey, left unsettled estate to the value of £24,474.

The engagement is announced of Captain Eric J. Shearer, M.C., Lancers, Indian Army, and General Staff, younger son of the late Brevet Colonel Johnston Shearer, C.B., D.S.O., I.M.S., and Mrs. Johnston Shearer, to Phyllis Muriel, elder daughter of Mr. H. C. Mules, C.S.I., M.V.O., and Mrs. Mules, of Karachi, Sind.

The marriage arranged between H. A. F. Metcalfe, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, Peshawar, youngest son of Captain and Mrs. Metcalfe, The Knowle, Maidenhead, and Elinor Joyce, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Potter, 219, Ashley Gardens, S.W., will take place in Kashmir about the middle of September.

The engagement is announced between Captain Donald G. Romanis, Royal Artillery, youngest son of the late Rev. W. F. J. Romanis, Preacher of the Charterhouse, E.C., and Mrs. Romanis, Polperro, and Wanda Mary, second daughter of the late Mr. J. D. Hilpern, Egyptian State Railways, Beni-Suef, Upper Egypt, and Mrs. Hilpern, Windsor.

On Saturday, the anniversary of the birthday of the King of Roumania, by command of King George, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires at the Legation to offer his Majesty's congratulations. Cards were left on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Blockade, the Lord Chamberlain, and Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson, Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Department.

OBITUARY.

The *Pioneer* announces (July 5) that the death is reported of Nawab Arbab Mohammad Hussain, Khan Bahadur, Chief of Mohmand in the North-West Frontier Province. He was noted for his loyalty to the Crown, and had rendered long and distinguished services to Government in various capacities. His services during the Afghan War and the Chitral and Tirah expeditions received recognition in the form of the titles of Bahadur and Nawab Sahib and the Kaisar-i- Hind Medal.

Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Henry Gouger Thomson, Indian Army, died on August 2 at Naini Tal, India, of pneumonia. He was born in 1869, entered the Norfolk Regiment in 1890, transferred to the Indian Staff Corps in 1893, and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in November, 1916. He saw service in Chitral, 1895 (medal with clasp), on the North-West Frontier, 1877-8 (three clasps), and in the Tirah in 1897-8 (clasp). In the present war he was mentioned in despatches and made a Companion of the D.S.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Apperley has died at Rajghat, Bettiah, Chumparun, India, aged sixty-seven. He received his first commission in 1863, and retired after forty years' service with the Bihar Light Horse. Colonel Apperley served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, and was present with the Bazar Valley Expedition as a volunteer, and took part in the affair at Jagi Thana, near Shutargardan Pass, the Battle of Charasiab, the action at Kabul, and the march from Kabul to Kandahar. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the medal and clasps, as well as the bronze star and the brevet of major.

Surgeon-General Charles Planck, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., J.P., who died on August 23, was born in 1831, a son of George Planck, Secretary of H.M. Customs Department, London. He served for thirty-two years in the Bengal Medical Service, including the Mutiny year, and marched to the relief of Cawnpore and Lucknow with General Outram's force, being attached to the 90th Foot. He was Field Surgeon at Cawnpore, and was present at the attack by the Gwalior rebels. For his services he received the Mutiny medal. Among other important posts which he occupied after the Mutiny were those of Superintendent of the Agra Central Prison, Inspector-General of Prisons in Burma, and Sanitary Commissioner and Superintendent-General in the North-Western Provinces of Oudh. He retired in 1886 with the rank of Surgeon-General.

Lieutenant Cyril W. Pugh was killed on August 21. The second son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Pugh, of Clapham Common, he was educated at the City of London School; and from there he entered the firm of D. Sassoon and Co. When in India, for the firm, he joined the Bombay Light Horse. On the outbreak of war he returned to England and received a commission in the R.F.A. (S.R.), and after serving in France was drafted to Mesopotamia, where he took part in the relief of Kut and the capture of Baghdad. He applied for a transfer to the M.G.C., was sent to England for his training, and returned to France in June this year. In December, 1917, he married Marguerite, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hurd. He was killed by bombs from enemy aircraft while on his way to the trenches with his men.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The civil departments of the Government of India will reassemble at Delhi on November 2.

Over one thousand people were injured in street accidents in Calcutta last year and fifty-four were killed.

The death is announced of General Nikotie Stevanovitch, Commander of the Serbian troops at Corfu.

A British force from Enzeli recently arrived in Baku, where all parties have coalesced under a Nationalist Administration.

Kieff newspapers say that that Ukrainian political parties and professional organisations have been linked up in a Ukrainian National League.

Greek Reserve officers and men belonging to the classes from 1905 to 1918 who are resident in the United States have been called to the Colours.

The exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty between Turkey and the Ukraine took place in Vienna on August 22.

A meeting of party leaders and ex-Deputies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was to have been held recently at Serajevo to discuss the future constitutional position of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been prohibited.

A number of Serbian youths are to be trained as engineers at the Newport (Mon.) Technical Institute. Afterwards they will be given facilities to continue their training at the workshops of various firms in the district.

At a meeting in Athens of the delegates of the Labour Bureau of the Piræus, Athens, and Salonika, it was decided to convene a national congress of workers' and professional organisations at the beginning of October, with the aim of founding a general confederation of labour in Greece.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1918.

A HOUSE DIVIDED.

It has long been known that all was not well in the Serbian political world, in spite of the fact that the tragedy which has befallen the people might have been expected to hold them together at least until such time as their country is restored to them. But it was hoped that there would be a friendly adjustment of the difficulties, and consideration for an Ally prompted the avoidance of any discussion of the subject in the British Press. The controversy, however, has now reached a stage at which one of the parties has felt constrained to make a public appeal for the intervention of Serbia's Allies. Under the heading, "Serbia's Choice," a powerful indictment of M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, is published in last week's issue of *The New Europe*, which, in its resolve to tell the story of the political crisis, must have experienced a keen struggle between loyalty to Jugoslavia and its championship of Bolshevism, to which anything in the nature of "old Oriental tendencies" is naturally anathema. So long as Serbia was confronted with the Austrian menace party antagonism was silent; but when the worst had happened, and the Government and the politicians were exiles in Corfu or elsewhere, the old curse of politics in the Balkan countries reasserted itself. The charges brought against M. Pashitch are numerous, but a few extracts will explain their character:—"In his passion for power and his intolerance of first-rate ability in his immediate neighbourhood, unless it be entirely subservient to his will, he would fain persuade both his own people and his Allies that he is indispensable." The conspiracy trial of January, 1917, in which the tribunal "was partly composed of notorious personal enemies of the accused," and which ended in the condemnation to death of nine officers, of whom three were executed, is represented as being in the main a political move. "A severe censorship prevented the news from reaching Allied countries, and it was sought to weaken the effect of such faint rumours as none the less arrived by representing the condemned officers as Austrophiles engaged in intrigues for a separate peace"—a contention in which the writer implies that there was no foundation of truth. "Particular resentment has been caused by the partisan methods of police control adopted by the Corfu authorities towards the large Serbian colonies of Paris, Nice, and Geneva, and by the crying inequalities and favouritism in assigning pensions and salaries. There has been a series of scandals connected with contraband and with speculation in Serbian banknotes. Two of these affairs, involving nearly a million of our money, are still *sub judice*, and it would be unpardonable to express any opinion as to the justice of the charges. But in the inflamed state of public opinion the repeated delays and appointment of new commissions of inquiry to supersede the old have opened the door to spiteful comment, in view of the fact that several of M. Pashitch's special *protégés*, and at least one member of his own family circle, are implicated."

A reference at the close of the article indicates what is in the opinion of *The New Europe* the head and front of M. Pashitch's offending. "There must be an end to the foolish policy of pinpricks which Corfu has latterly adopted towards the Jugoslavs, and which has taken the form of confiscation of Jugoslav pamphlets, special censorship methods and dismissal of high officials noted for their wholehearted advocacy of Jugoslav principles. . . . Any attempt of the old guard in Serbia to revert to a more narrowly Serbian, as opposed to the widest possible Jugoslav basis, must be firmly resisted by the Allies." It is well that the veil should be torn from the doings of the Jugoslav world; for the Allies are too closely associated with the affairs of these people to be able to countenance a perpetuation of the suicidal intrigues that so often characterised the political history of the Balkan countries. The writer of the article states the case of the Serbian Opposition, and approaches the situation with a natural anxiety for the fate of the Southern Slav State that is to be. The Allies have recently taken the step of according the fullest recognition to the Czecho-Slovak people and their National Council. They have not yet adopted the same course in regard to the Jugoslav question, and the indication of what is taking place behind the scenes in Jugoslav circles may explain the omission. The Czecho-Slovaks have won recognition by their acts and with a minimum of propaganda. The Jugoslavs, on the other hand, have spared no pains to ensure that the Allies should have a clear understanding of all that they are and want. In this they have responded to a natural instinct, but they will themselves be the first to admit that unity and single-mindedness of purpose are better qualifications than capacity for propaganda. Unlike the Czecho-Slovaks, who are united and have had no other aim than the defeat of Austria, the Jugoslavs have tried to improve their position by showing aggressiveness all round. A large amount of their propaganda has been directed against Italy; a small part has intervened in the internal affairs of Montenegro. *The New Europe* itself illustrates this failing. It is concerned with Jugoslav unity and is afraid of assisting the efforts of its enemies. "For there are many secret enemies lurking in the background. . . In the tiny clique which surrounds the exiled King of Montenegro they find an instrument ready for use in all the tortuous processes of sapping and mining." And the writer proceeds to attribute to this clique "a poisonous campaign directed almost equally against the Serbian Government, the Jugoslav Committee, and the whole idea of Jugoslav unity," while a named "individual" is held responsible for "a scurrilous campaign against the Serbian Government and dynasty."

Into such pitfalls does aggressive propaganda lead, for the truth is that the enemies of Jugoslavia, if they exist at all, are apart from the Central Powers. Those who are anxious to do all they can for the Balkan races as a whole, confident that in the promotion of the unity and material welfare of the Peninsula, the interests of the different States will best be furthered, and British interests in the Near East advanced, do not feel compelled to accept responsibility for the acts of any of the Balkan peoples. We hold no brief, for instance, for M. Pashitch or for King Nicholas's "clique," but we are inclined to think that excess of zeal has caused the writer in *The New Europe* to overstate his case in regard to the latter. In so far as the "clique" and the "individual" attack the Serbian Government, they can now claim to do so in good company. If they have attacked the Jugoslav Committee, it is presumably under the impression, no doubt quite wrongly, that the Committee is at the back of and is subsidising, that other "clique," which is trying to compel the Montenegrin dynasty to abdicate and to declare the union of Serbia and Montenegro before the Montenegrins—or for that matter the Serbians—can express any authoritative opinion on the subject. That King Nicholas or his clique is against "the whole idea of Jugoslav unity" is, we venture to believe, most unlikely, as such a statement runs counter to their words and their acts. It is true that political controversy is raging among the exiled Montenegrins in the same way as it is among the Serbians; but whereas in Serbia it has hitherto been allowed to proceed on recognised Balkan lines, in the case of the Montenegrins the scales have been weighted against the powers that be by, presumably, the Serbians, supposedly the Jugoslavs, and certainly *The New Europe*. Is it to be wondered at that the Italians, who, perhaps, know more about Balkan affairs than the other Governments of the Alliance, are anxious to postpone the details of the Balkan settlement until the end of the war? They may well argue that it is best to wait until it is seen what finally emerges from the cross-currents, the political intrigue, and the aggressive propaganda that are proving the bane of the Jugoslavs. The remedy propounded by the writer of the article is that the Entente Powers should exercise pressure at Corfu—a somewhat drastic step—in regard to the quarrel between M. Pashitch and his Opposition. May we not rather hope, now that the searchlight of publicity is being turned on to these dark spots, that all the parties to the Jugoslav movement will see the necessity of closing up their ranks of their own accord, as they hardly fail to realise, in contrast with the case of the Czecho-Slovaks, how their quarrels, intrigues, and propaganda are damaging their cause, and delaying the settlement of the Balkans which all the Allies have at heart.

CYPRUS UNDER BRITISH RULE.[*]

In a volume of modest size, Captain C. W. J. Orr, who spent some strenuous years in Cyprus as Chief Secretary to Government, offers a useful and concise review of British rule during our occupation. That comparatively few persons take an interest in the island is not surprising, when one considers how profound is the ignorance regarding India and our great dominions, to which Lord Curzon and other statesmen have referred. Moreover, this indifference is not confined to the masses. "Eminent persons," says Captain Orr, "who should be well informed, have asked me questions about Cyprus which reveal quite plainly that they confuse it with Crete; others have shown complete ignorance of the most elementary facts connected with the island." The author's object is to give a connected account of our administration. Those who desire to read of the romantic charms of the island of Venus must look elsewhere. His book is no apologia for inaction or for our failure to develop island resources, for it cannot be denied that Cyprus is generally regarded as a "neglected island." He subjects the system of government to candid criticism, and herein lies the chief value of his work, which should be consulted by all who desire to examine how far England has fulfilled the expectations raised in 1878.

The value of Cyprus to the Empire has, of course, often been questioned. It was occupied under the Anglo-Turkish Convention, owing to its geographical position, in order to safeguard British interests in the Near East. It was a suitable base for naval and military operations in resisting Russian aggression. It was also to be a model for reforms in Asia Minor. When, however, we occupied Egypt in 1882 (not, as stated, in 1881), "had England cynically consulted her own interests alone," we might well have restored Cyprus to Turkey; but in the interests of the Cypriots such a proceeding would not have been justifiable.

After a brief sketch of island history to the occupation, the author passes in review the various branches of administration. The burning question of the "Tribute" is of course dealt with. Under the Convention England agreed to pay to the Porte £92,800 a year, which was supposed to represent the surplus of revenue over expenditure. This sum was computed, as Lord Eversley has said, "hastily and without due consideration, and by leaving out of account any expenditure on public works or other needs of a civilised country; the Turks having spent practically nothing on roads, harbours, agriculture, forests or education. Consequently, under British administration there was an annual deficit (on an average £30,000 for many years), which had to be met by the Imperial Government. This has been the principal cause that has retarded progress. But the Greeks, who now form four-fifths of the population, have always regarded the burden as absolutely unjust, and consider that, as the island was occupied entirely in the interests of Great Britain, the charge should have been borne by the Imperial Government. British officials have been at one with Greeks as to the unfairness of the arrangement. Captain Orr may well express his surprise that for twenty-nine years a policy so glaringly at variance with the principles of British rule in our own possessions (where revenue is used for the benefit of taxpayers) should have remained unaltered. It was not till 1907 that Parliament voted a grant-in-aid of £50,000 a year, which reduced the "Tribute" to £42,800. Had such a sum been spent annually in the island, Cyprus might have been, as the Greeks argue, in a position of which England might be proud.

In 1882 a nominated legislative body of seven members was replaced by a council of eighteen members, twelve elected by the people and six nominated; nine of the elected being Greeks, and three Turks. The Moslems expressed great dissatisfaction regarding this as "a prelude to the independence at which the Greeks aim." The non-elected members are out numbered by two to one, and the author rightly suggests that when the constitution was framed consideration was given to the fact that the three Turkish members were not likely to combine with the Greeks, but would practically add three members to the Government side; and this has proved to be the case. The High Commissioner has a casting vote. Although a good deal of useful work has been done under no little difficulty by the Council in which the Greek element is "actively and permanently hostile to the Government," its annals show that there is much to be said for Captain Orr's opinion that it would have been far better that Cyprus should have a constitution similar to that of most Crown Colonies, when the Government is in a majority and the Chamber advisory only.

The judicial system, always regarded by the inhabitants as the best feature of our administration, is not without its defects. It costs £18,000 per annum. Besides the Supreme Court of two members, there are eighteen district judges practically tied to six district towns, and this arrangement "does not bring justice within easy reach of the inhabitants," villagers being constantly obliged to travel forty or fifty miles over trivial cases. The highest posts to which natives can aspire are judgeships of £275 a year, "a salary hardly sufficient to enable them to live and bring up their families in a manner suitable to their position." That the system requires overhauling is a conclusion in which those who know Cyprus will probably agree.

The vital subject of agriculture is dealt with very briefly. For twenty-five years practically nothing was done to encourage it. In 1903 a Director of Agriculture was appointed, and in 1912 a small agricultural college was established at Nicosia, where thirty lads are trained. "Some leeway has been made up." Captain Orr repeats the acknowledged fact that little can be done till capital can be brought within reach of the impoverished small farmers, now a prey to unscrupulous usurers. A new law of 1913 for the establishment of agricultural co-operative societies may eventually help to rescue them.

As regards the very important subject of forests, a substantial sum is now granted annually for reafforestation. The revenue has increased from £17,600 in 1916 to £47,000 in 1917-18; and this year should be £60,000. The author considers that the Goat Law, which allows villagers to get rid of flocks by local option, is working satisfactorily, and may be adopted by other countries, *e.g.*, Greece.

As to the "Hellenic idea," Captain Orr touches the never-ending question whether the clamour for "union with Greece" expresses the wishes of the mass of Cypriots, or only that of a vociferous class. The peasants are little stirred by political considerations, but educated Greeks gradually influence and find support among villagers, so that the idea widens. He considers that the "real driving force" lies in the resentment that government is in the hands of Englishmen and not Cypriots. They desire an administration conducted in their own language; they also resent the aloofness of the majority of British officials. But the population is not homogeneous, a quarter (or fifth) being Turkish and Moslem. The Turks have been unflinchingly loyal, and, as Mr. Winston Churchill replied to a memorial, his Majesty's Government, while regarding with respect Greek aspirations, is equally bound to respect those of the (60,000) Moslems.

In respect of education, much remains to be done. Elementary education is in an unsatisfactory state. A report by Mr. T. Talbot and Mr. F. Capo in 1913 has prepared the way for reforms, which appear to be hung up pending the result of the war. The Greeks make progress difficult; they desire large grants from revenue, but would rather have no State aid than any control of teachers by Government. This is due, not to religious, but political, motives. School teachers are useful for Greek propaganda. The political aim is dominant in all Greek demands and movements.

Captain Orr is clearly among those who hold that we have been guilty of shortcomings, and that no time should be lost in setting the house in order. Tardiness of progress is fully admitted; grave defects and blunders, often due to

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[*] "Cyprus Under British Rule." By Captain C. W. J. Orr. (Robert Scott. 6s. net.)

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

false economy, are recognised. The situation is now very different from what it was in 1878, and arrangements made soon after the occupation are not suitable after forty years. While the evolution of order out of chaos has brought many benefits to the people, the bureaucracy of the Colonial Office has tended to an ultra-cautious conservatism in matters where common sense should have been preferred to precedent, that fetish of office. "A Cyprus official on leave," we are told, "calling at the Colonial Office said to the official in charge of the Cyprus Department, 'I am afraid that Cyprus affairs have been giving you a good deal of trouble lately.' 'Not at all, not at all,' he replied, airily. 'All these things have happened before, and we have nothing to do but to look up our files of fifteen or twenty years ago, and reply accordingly.'" Those, again, who know Cyprus will fully agree that nearly the whole time of responsible officials is taken up with "trivial and petty details of routine."

Cypriots themselves must, it is rightly added, bear a large part of the blame for want of improvement; they have failed to exhibit the qualities that make for progress. There is no co-operation in trade, no Chamber of Commerce, no corporate body to which the Government can turn for advice. If the Government has failed financially in the railway, harbour, and irrigation schemes, private enterprises have shown no better results. Most of these have failed to produce dividends and ended in liquidation. This inertia may have justified the Government, to some extent, in proceeding cautiously with innovations.

Finally, the author considers that "the most pressing necessity is to bring the educated Cypriot into closer touch with the Government." Now that the island is part of the British Empire the Cypriots should be given a more direct share in the administration. They should probably not yet be appointed Commissioners, but departments such as the Post Office and Land Registry Office might be entrusted to those who have been adequately trained; and the principle could be gradually extended. This is quite in the spirit of our present imperial policy. There are many other sound suggestions, in anticipation of the period of reconstruction which should follow the war, when the Cypriot factor in the Eastern question will no doubt be carefully considered.

◆

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the war, church collections throughout Egypt in aid of the British War Prisoners Fund amounted to £582.

THINK HOW THESE CHILDREN NEED CHILD WELFARE WORK.

"Why do you dress them all in flannelette?" asked an Officer. "Mercifully we had a bale of it, or there would have been no orphanages. I wish you could have seen the state most of them were in," replied the Relief Worker.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Allotments" in Mesopotamia.

The following note is from the *Basrah Times* (July 9), and deals with a subject not unknown to readers of THE NEAR EAST. The pamphlet to which it refers is one entitled "Summary of Notes on Vegetable Growing in Mesopotamia in 1917," and issued by the Agricultural Department, Basrah vilayet. It looks as if Lower Mesopotamia may soon have the allotment craze quite badly.

In this country of the hidden talent, during the earlier months of the British Occupation one of the greatest wants experienced by our troops was that of fresh vegetables. This they could not understand, and instead of laying the blame at the doors of the apathetic Turkish Government, whose sins of omission were great, they were wont to execrate one of the most fertile countries, under a proper scheme of irrigation, in the world. Now that we have settled down, our agricultural authorities with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force have amongst other branches of pioneer work instituted kitchen gardens in various parts of the country and the pamphlet issued by the Basrah Vilayet should be of the greatest interest to amateur kitchen-gardeners throughout Mesopotamia. When the British first arrived in the country a certain type of bean and that ubiquitous vegetable-fruit the tomato, were the only procurable food of the sort which Mesopotamia apparently produced. The first garden was laid out at Sheikh Saad and Lieut. Fraser with a detachment of the Madras Gardeners Corps took the work over, the supply gradually increasing from 80 lb. per day in March, 1917, until November, when over two tons a day were being produced wherewith to supply the hospitals. Reports on the progress of the crops of white cabbage, knol khole, cauliflowers, lettuce, peas, beans, spinach, potatoes, melons of many varieties, brinjals, ladies' fingers, tomatoes, pumpkins, and vegetable marrows will be instructive and interesting to all amateur gardeners, and this useful pamphlet not only is a record of good pioneer work, but a guide to any who in their spare time feel inclined to cultivate allotments.

India and German East Africa.

Sir Theodore Morison contributes to *The Times* (August 24) an article with the above title, in which he deals with the vexed question of Indian migration within the Empire. The present position is, he says, quite unsatisfactory:—

> Indians, though British subjects, are not allowed to enter Australia, Canada, or the Union of South Africa; until recently Germans, Bulgars, and Polish Jews were admitted freely; but Indians, even if they had shed their blood for the Empire, were classed as prohibited aliens. If the Indian could not find in the Statute-book the grounds upon which he was classed as a prohibited alien he learned without difficulty, and with no ambiguity, from the local newspapers that the people of the Dominions looked upon him as a member of an inferior race. This is an insult to a whole people which stings the pride of every Indian to the quick; it is a humiliation which no self-respecting people can be expected to tolerate; all classes in India unite in resenting it; the feudatory Princes, the great landowners, the gallant native officers of our Indian Army feel the insult as keenly as do the educated politicians. Indeed, few Englishmen, either in this country or overseas, can be satisfied with the situation. Common decency forbids our saying to Indians, "You are welcome allies on the battlefield, but when once the war is over we cannot admit you to an equality with ourselves."

What is to be done? "Indiscriminate migration within the Empire is fundamentally wrong in principle, because the logical development of it would be a fusion of the races, which is a goal nobody wishes to reach."

> We wish to avoid fusion and preserve each our own characteristics without doing injustice to India. This goal we can attain by assigning to each race certain areas in the Empire. Upon this principle each member of the Empire would have, in addition to its homeland, certain spheres of influence assigned to it in the undeveloped tracts of the Empire. It is obvious that the Southern Pacific would be allotted to Australia and New Zealand, and that South Africa up to the Zambesi would come under the hegemony of the Union.
>
> If India is to receive equitable treatment she also must be assigned a sphere of influence of her own, and that sphere must not be unworthy of her contribution to the Empire. It is idle to suggest that India can be satisfied by the cession to her of a couple of petty islands at the other side of the world. If we are to make a settlement which India can accept with complete satisfaction we must assign to her a land not far from her own shores, of a size and of natural resources comparable to the areas assigned to other constituent parts of the Empire. The fortune of war has given us the opportunity of making such a settlement without prejudice to any existing interests which we need consider. That vast territory, which must be known as German East Africa until it is formally incorporated in the British Empire, is the country which should be assigned to India. This should be the sphere of her exclusive influence; in it her right to direct policy and control immigration should be formally recognised. I contemplate a settlement of this vexed question which whould be in fact, if not in name, a treaty between India and the Dominions. India on her part would renounce all interest in the immigration policy of the Dominions, and they on their part would recognise her privileged position and special interests in (German) East Africa.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

While it has been known that the profits of the Greek shipowners during the war have been very great, there has been hitherto no means of estimating their approximate extent. Light has now been thrown on the subject by an American Consular report, which gives an estimate of these profits for the first three years of the war of £28,916,000, this sum including £7,720,000 received as the purchase price of vessels sold and as indemnities for vessels lost by various sea accidents. For 1915 the profits are estimated at £5,404.000, for 1916 at £8,492,000, and for 1917, when the Greek steamers employed by the Allies were indemnified at 30s. per month per burden ton (*i.e.*, on steamers of a capacity of about 500,000 tons monthly collections of £700,000 were made, and an annual collection of £9,000.000), the net balance is estimated at £7,540,000 after allowing for premiums on war insurance and crew expenses amounting to about £1.460,000. These figures are regarded as conservative, and local estimates place the profits for the three years at £38,600.000.

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Whichever estimate is accepted the figures are illuminating, and prove beyond a shadow of doubt that as far as Greece is concerned purchases after the war will not be curtailed by the financial question. The position with regard to Greece is that the country has remarkable possibilities, especially from the agricultural point of view, but it is so far undeveloped, and vast schemes of railway and road communications, and the construction and improvement of ports, are necessary, while there is a widespread need for up-to-date machinery and implements of all kinds. Without taking into consideration the financial aid that will certainly be placed at Greece's disposal by Great Britain and the other Allied countries, it will be evident that the country now has large financial resources awaiting investment, a fact which will have a very considerable influence on post-war developments in that country.

⁂

Among the latest activities of the Deutsche Bank must be noted the founding, in conjunction with the Bavarian Lloyd Company, of the Bulgarische Lloyd A.G., with a capital of ten million leva. The new company, which is connected with the oil-importing firm Naptha, and has taken over all the Bulgarian branches of the Transport A. G. Schenker and Co., will include trade, transport, and insurance in its operations, besides shipping. It will, in other words, serve as a most useful medium for enabling the Deutsche Bank to extend its operations throughout Bulgaria, and I can only hope the Bulgarians realise exactly what it means to permit the Deutsche Bank to establish its subsidiary undertakings in their country.

⁂

Some little criticism has been aroused by the fact that the increased earnings of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways have not resulted in a larger distribution than 3½ per cent. on the 5½ per cent. Preference shares. The policy of the directors in this connection was dealt with at the recent general meeting by Sir William Garstin, who pointed out that the policy of the board had always been a conservative one, and that the decision had been come to that "taking into consideration the uncertainty of the duration of the war, the anxiety regarding our fuel supply, and the certainty that heavy expenditure must be incurred upon improvements as soon as conditions become normal," a reduction of the sum carried forward below that shown in the accounts would not be justified. These reasons provide ample grounds for the decision, and those shareholders who may have experienced disappointment will have the encouraging reflection that the improvement in the company's position is continuing, so that, provided Egypt's prosperity suffers no check, their position will be one to envy when normal conditions return, seeing that the Preference shares are 31¾ per cent. in arrears. The shares, nominally £10, stand at £7½, at which figure they are not the least desirable purchase among Egyptian securities.

⁂

Before leaving the subject I must turn for a moment to the results of the year's working. The profit of the railway was £72,532, of which only half is absorbed by the dividend, and with the £49,248 brought forward, the carry forward is £85,353, which would suffice for a dividend of over 8 per cent. on the Preference shares. The increased receipts were accompanied by decreased expenditure, the ratio of expenses to receipts being 58.57 per cent., against 77.63, and according to the terms of the company's agreement 64 per cent. of the gross receipts must be utilised in working expenses, maintenance, etc., the difference being adjusted in a "suspense account." In the present case £15,884 is credited to this account, which considerably reduces the surplus, and it must also be borne in mind that the nominal 64 per cent. would represent, in view of the rise in values, an amount considerably in excess of the ratio if the customary amount had been expended on repairs, etc. Consideration of these facts is necessary if the present position is to be properly appreciated.

⁂

News will be to hand shortly of the Greek currant crop. Judging from early reports there seems every probability of a heavy crop this year, as conditions were extremely favourable in the early summer, and little peronospora or odium had appeared. It is worth noting that quotations, which were as high as £15 12s. per 1,000 lb. in December and January, had declined by June to £9 12s. per 1,000 lb., this being due to the lack of tonnage for export.

⁂

A correspondent in an Egyptian contemporary compares the way in which the War Loan propaganda has been carried out in Egypt and India to the disadvantage of the former country. Whether there is anything in his complaint must remain an open question, but it is certain that the methods adopted in India in connection with the new War Loan leave nothing to be desired. Everything the authorities can do to make it a success is being done, and the thoroughness of their methods is simply beyond praise.

⁂

The net revenue of the Telephone Company of Egypt decreased during the past year from £74,636 to £54,934. The Preference and Deferred shares receive a further dividend of 6 per cent., making the usual dividend of 10 per cent. free of income-tax for the twelve months, and the carry forward is £111,577, as against £87,876.

⁂

Apropos of the references in these columns to Turkey's imports of agricultural machinery from Germany, it may be noted that according to the *Wirtschaftszeitung der Zentralmächte* a credit of £T400,000 was opened at Aidin for the purchase of agricultural machinery from the Central Powers, and a similar amount was placed at the disposal of the Agricultural Committee in Smyrna by the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture for the purchase of 200 threshing machines. The journal further stated that the Ministry has ordered from German and Austrian factories 3,400 ploughs, 500 seed drills, and other agricultural implements.

⁂

I have pointed out that the establishment of new firms during the war is one of the many ways in which the curious outburst of enthusiasm in Turkey for industrial development has shown itself. On this subject the *Wirtschaftszeintung der Zentralmächte* also gives some interesting information. It refers to the "demand in Constantinople for the development of the Turkish mercantile marine," and says that "the fact that after the war there will be a great demand for cargo space has caused the flotation of many new companies about whose activities nothing has been heard of yet." Of the new firms it mentions the Ship Construction Company for the construction of yards, ships, and docks for repairs to shipping; and the Inshaati Bahiyi Anonyme Sherketi, both of which have a capital of £T100.000, and it adds that the Machousse Company, re-named the Sejr-i-Sefain, has been affiliated to the War Ministry, and will have its fleet renewed by the purchase of steamships to the value of £T380,000. Where these steamships are to come from is not stated, but I think we may assume that they are the steamers annexed by Germany from Russia in the Black Sea.

⁂

An interesting light is thrown on the present state of the Russian oil industry by the report of the International Russian Oilfields, Ltd. It is stated that work has been carried on under the greatest difficulty, especially during the last few months, and that no advices have been received since March, when the Workmen's Council had taken possession of the whole of the company's plots, and were working them for their own benefit. Presiding at the meeting, the chairman, Mr. Albert Mitchell, said that "the latest news received was that chaos existed, but no one could say when order would emerge, or whether, when it did, their property would be handed back to them and recompense obtained. A decree had been passed nationalising the whole oil industry and declaring it a Government monopoly." His subsequent statement that the whole of the Kuban Province, in which the company's properties are situated, had been wrested from the Bolsheviks by the Czecho-Slovaks, gives a shade of relief to a deplorable position from the point of view of those interested in the oil industry.

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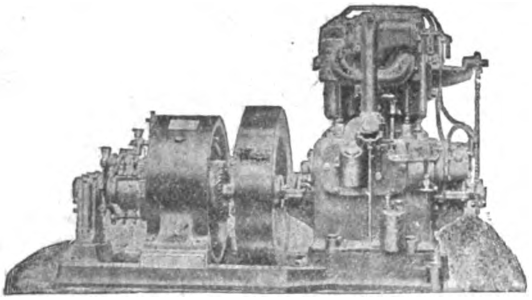

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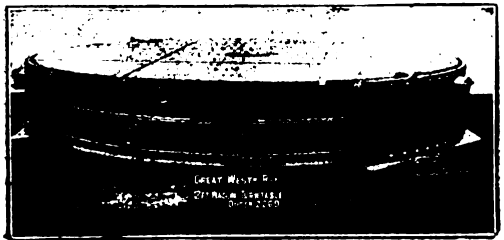

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EGYPTIAN CURRENCY PROBLEMS.

Silver Hoarding.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 29.

The question of change continues to preoccupy and irritate the public. Fortunately the recent issue by the Government of 5 piastre notes has tended to ease the situation considerably, so far, at least, as the disappearing silver coins of equal value are concerned. A bitter disillusionment awaits hoarders, who one day will discover probably less than 3s. 4d. worth of silver in their hoarded silver coins. The present abnormal rise in the price of silver, due to the unusual demand by both belligerent and neutral governments for increased minting requirements, especially in such countries as India and Egypt, cannot profit them because they cannot export the metal. That hoarding has been going on on a very large scale is undisputed, and statistical investigation may reveal sums running into several millions, for it would seem that hoarding is not confined to the ignorant and poorer classes.

It is the question of the smaller nickel coins that calls for solution now, and it is none the less deserving of prompt attention because it mostly affects the poorer sections of the population. Apart from the undesirability of using postage stamps, even as a temporary makeshift, for hygienic reasons, it is said that the ignorance of the poor has been shamefully exploited by some conscienceless persons, who palmed off on them used stamps. There would seem to be two possible ways to put an end to this crisis, either to bring martial law to bear with all its rigour on those who are mainly responsible for this state of things—and they are said to be the money-changers, for but lately small coins were plentiful—or to issue notes for the lower values in the currency scale. There is the objection to the latter course that the poorer classes will be the chief sufferers from such a measure, as with them there is more than the usual risk of loss and wear and tear of such small paper currency. It is interesting to speculate upon which course the Government will ultimately decide. In any case, official action cannot be long delayed, as the changing of a pound note has been costing lately as much as 5 piastres, and this is tantamount to a proportional depreciation of the Government notes.

COTTON BAG SUPPLIES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 29.

A heated controversy has lately been raging in the local Press between cotton bag merchants and some agriculturists. The case seems to be resolving itself in favour of the merchants, who have undertaken to prove that the cost price of the bag delivered in Egypt is now piastres 24.23, and have stated that they will be content with the moderate profit of 10 per cent. on the actual stocks, and will order any further quantities on the same basis of profit. These merchants allege with some reason that it is idle to suggest the taking over by the Government of the stocks in the country at the prices of 15 piastres, as was suggested by those who have been voicing the demands of agriculturists, because the Government might just as well in that case apply the same measure to other imported articles, such as Manchester goods, where the rise in price, due to similar causes, has been even greater than that of cotton bags. Of course, the fact that the cotton crop has been taken over by H.M.'s Government at a fixed price imparts some plausibility to the main contention of these agriculturists—namely, that whereas belligerent and neutral Governments have been taxing war profits, merchants, banks, and other societies in Egypt who have been earning huge profits have been left untouched, and agriculturists have alone been made to contribute their share by the taking over of the cotton crop at a fixed price, and the subjecting of the other principal products of the soil to fixed prices. It is admittedly hard lines on the agriculturists to see their hands tied, and feel unable to increase the price of cotton in proportion to the rise in the price of cotton bags. It remains to be seen now what solution the Government will devise.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

Outlook Promising.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in July :—

Cotton.—The weather has been favourable, with hot days and damp nights. The heat experienced during the major part of the month has quickened the growth of the plants and made up for the loss they had previously suffered. Water supply is abundant, and some cultivators in several provinces have availed themselves of this abundance to overwater their cotton. The cotton-worm attack continues to be light and the hatching of eggs has been on a very small scale. Egg-masses have become difficult to find, and where the eggs have hatched, practically no damage has been caused by the worms. The common and pink boll worms have appeared in most provinces, and the latter is slightly less abundant than at the same period of last year. A slight attack of aphis is reported from almost every province, and an outbreak of wilt disease is apparent in Ityâi el Bârûd. The crop, however, has considerably improved during the month and growth has made remarkably rapid progress, especially during the second and third weeks. The number of flowers is also very encouraging. Indications of a good crop are noticeable everywhere.

Rice (*Sêfi*).—The hot weather was favourable and has accelerated the growth of the plants. The high winds mentioned in last month's report have almost ceased. Water has been plentiful everywhere, except at the tails of a few canals. Besides watering, weeding and transplanting are the chief operations in progress. The rice-worm is still reported in Beheira and Gharbîya, but damage is insignificant. Sowing is already finished, and the bulk of the latest sown portion of the crop has already sprouted. It is looking exceptionally well everywhere and doing better than at the corresponding period last year. The area under crop seems also to be greater.

Rice (*Nili*).—Sowing is taking place and is about ten days earlier than usual in El Faiyûm. The small areas planted so far are coming up regularly.

Maize.—Weather seasonable and water supply ample. Cultivators, in some cases, having either ploughed their land dry, or watered their fields, immediately after the *Shitwi* crop was gathered, have not availed themselves of the opportunity of early watering. Ploughing, harrowing, and sowing are in progress. No enemies have been recorded, with the exception of the hooded crow, which appears to have developed germinivorous propensities and preys on some of the young plants in their tender stage. Manuring with *Baladi* and *Kufri* manures is being carried on very actively. The area allotted for maize seems to be above normal. The crop is going in a little earlier than last year, but not so early as was expected in view of the greater facilities for early watering. Large areas have already been sown and germination appears very satisfactory.

Millet (*Sêfi*).—Weather hot and favourable and water supply ample. Stalk borer is reported in El Minya and Asyût, but elsewhere the crop is free from pests. Flowering is now general, and the early millet is approaching maturity. The crop is generally looking well and a good average yield is expected.

Sugar Cane.—Weather quite favourable and water supply sufficient. Weeding, watering and manuring are in progress. The borer attack is very slight and the growth of cane is luxuriant. The area under crop appears to be larger than last year.

Ground Nuts.—Weather satisfactory and water supply adequate. No pests are reported. The crop is in excellent condition, and the damp heat has been of much benefit to growth.

MOROCCO TRADE NOTES.

The Tonnage Shortage.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, August 15.

Now that the agricultural results of the year are secure anxiety finds fresh food in the question of transport. Morocco's grain for export is all bought by the military authorities for export to France, where it is especially valuable, as it is available before crops from most other countries. In previous years, not only was it late in arriving owing to transport difficulties, but a very appreciable amount was damaged while waiting for shipment. This year special efforts are being made to secure vessels to carry it in good time, and all other claims on transport for French ports are secondary. As nearly all produce available for export is reserved for Government requirements the difficulty of tonnage for export chiefly affects the administration, though in some cases it is serious enough for merchants. The new industry of palmetto leaves, shredded and used for mattresses, packing, etc., etc., which was booming in a small way, with prices about £20 a ton at Moroccan ports, is especially affected, as exporters fear to accumulate stocks, which are apt to lose weight, on a rather problematical chance of shipment. Efforts are, however, being made which, it is hoped, will prevent a serious check to a promising innovation.

Customs Valuations.

A question of Customs, which has long been a source of difficulty, is now being debated with much vigour in the French zone. For years there has been uncertainty, often converted at the last moment into very unwelcome knowledge, as to the basis on which the value of imported goods should be estimated for Customs purposes. The proper basis should apparently be the value at the Customs warehouse at the port of landing, and before duty is paid. The difficulty arises in ascertaining that value, and it is often claimed that the Customs are apt to solve it by adopting any method which will give the highest value, even at times the price in town, which is a very different thing. An effort is now being made to assist the Customs by drawing up, from as reliable sources as possible, lists of values, which it is hoped will introduce some element of certainty into an importer's calculations, pending a possible re-examination of the whole question.

The authorities in the French zone are now taking steps to apply a law directed against usury in cases in which natives are concerned. It was a very old custom at ploughing time to advance money or money's value to native farmers for their expenses of cultivation, to be repaid, often in grain, when the crops were ripe. In the hands of straightforward merchants it was very often a most useful form of assistance, from which the profit even in a good year was by no means excessive, and one that was most popular even among quite well-to-do farmers. The lending of money to natives in this and other ways has, however, undoubtedly been abused, especially by newcomers in a hurry to make money, and natives, whether rich or poor, have been lent or induced to take money at exorbitant interest, apparently with the idea of either making a big profit or securing a hold on the borrower that might be equally useful. It is no doubt to check that sort of enterprise that action is being taken.

TRANSHIPMENT IN ITALY OF GOODS.

For some time past, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, goods the property of British firms destined for Greece, have been held up in Italy awaiting the consent of the Italian authorities to be sent forward. It is now notified that the Italian Government are prepared to give permission *for goods already in Italy* to be forwarded to Greece, and interested parties should take up the matter with their forwarding agents in Italy with a view to securing licences for this purpose from the Italian Ministry of Finance at Rome.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Corinth Canal.

The Corinth Canal was opened some twenty-five years ago. Nero began it, and soon left it, and a French company took it up, after eighteen centuries, and at last it was finished by a Greek company. Generally speaking, it disappointed the hopes formed of it. Though it has been traversed by large vessels, it is now only used by small steamers, and larger ships prefer the enormous détour round Capes Matapan and Malea. The canal is too narrow for safety, and there is a strong current through it. An American firm sent to Greece before the outbreak of war a representative who was received by M. Venizelos, and submitted proposals to the Greek Government to effect certain alterations, including the application of steam engines on land for towing the ships through the canal without increasing its present width. The idea was to lay on the one bank of the canal a railway line on which very powerful and heavy engines of special construction would run. The vessel on entering the canal would be attached to one of these engines, which would tow it steadily through the canal quickly, and without touching any of its banks. According to the plans submitted, ships of up to 14,000 tons would be able to pass quite safely through the whole length of the canal. M. Venizelos assured the representative of the American firm that the proposals and plans would be submitted to an expert committee, and that, if their report was satisfactory, he would gladly ask the Chamber of Deputies to pass the necessary Bill, since the scheme would solve a problem of great importance to navigation. But soon after the war broke out, and naturally nothing has been heard since of the scheme. According to reports, the American representative is going to Greece again. In view of the importance of the Corinth Canal, British firms should act at once and ask for the necessary particulars, since, as we have often pointed out, inactivity, and the "wait till the war is over" policy can effect no useful result, and if carried too far will be a positive hindrance to British business enterprise in the future.

Hydraulic Works in Greece.

Apart from the waterworks of Athens, to which reference has been made already, there are several other very important hydraulic works of public interest to be undertaken as soon as the war is over, and to which we should like to draw the special attention of British hydraulic engineers, manufacturers, and contractors. M. Venizelos was particularly interested in these works, for they concern the health of the people, and but for the war they would have been in progress now. They refer to the drainage of numerous swamps in various parts of Greece. For these works many million francs have been voted; and, at the time, French and Italian contractors visited Athens to submit tenders, and went over various parts of the country.

There are about 35 swamps and swampy lakes to be drained in different districts of Greece, and some in the Ægean and Ionian islands and in Crete. The expenditure is estimated for each swamp at from £350 to £40,000. The latter figure is for the drainage of some large swamps, such as those near Vonizza; other drainages are in Halkis, the island of Negroponte, in Eretria, in Thessaly, Attica, Laconia, Phokis, Arcadia, and Argolis, all these within the old territories of Greece. There are, however, many others in Macedonia and Epirus, the newer Greek territories, most of which are of much greater importance, and the latter are worth the attention of prominent British contractors and financiers. One scheme of particular interest, which is now receiving attention, is the drainage of Lake Yenidjeh, in connection with the regulation of the lower portion of the River Vardar.

Lake Yenidjeh.

The River Vardar, especially during the spring months, brings down so large a volume of water from the uplands that its channel, through the lower portions of the valley, is ally insufficient to carry off these waters, h the result that a very extensive area of ntry is constantly submerged, causing at damage and heavy loss to the proprietors and cultivators of the surrounding lands. In addition, a very large tract of country has from this cause been converted into marshland, and no crops are any longer grown on it. Another large tract of historic fame was completely submerged centuries ago, and has since developed into a lake, approximately triangular in form, with a length of about 11½ miles and a breadth of about 12 miles, known as the Lake of Yenidjeh. The story goes that in the time of Alexander the Great an immense hoard of trophies of war was buried under the land now submerged. When Macedonia was under the rule of Turkey the islets and foliage of the lake were the lairs of Romitajis and brigands, and many "battles" have taken place between them and Turkish soldiers from specially constructed boats on the lake without, of course, any result. A scheme has been proposed to prevent further floodings by the Vardar and to reclaim the marsh-lands and the land covered by the Lake Yenidjeh, on which cotton, rice, and grain could be grown on a very large scale. This could be effected by making a cutting about nine miles in length in the lower portion of the Vardar and embanking both sides of that river for about twenty-four miles. The river stream would be utilised for cutting this channel, in addition to which an outlet would be dredged for the draining of Lake Yenidjeh.

Charcoal Fuel for Motors.

The experiment has been tried in Morocco of running a motor-car on gas provided by the burning of charcoal. It was found that the car was not able to develop more than 85 per cent. of the power that it could produce with petrol, but it is claimed that this drawback is compensated for by the fact that this fuel enables cars to be used in the absence of imported fuel, while there is also the cost to be considered, the use of charcoal fuel representing a great saving at the present price of petrol.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN ALGERIA.

According to a French contemporary, the cultivation of tobacco in Algeria is greatly on the increase. The production in 1917 was about 16,400 tons, against 11,420 tons in 1916, and 7,730 tons in 1915. The 1917 crop supplied 15,640 tons of smoking tobacco and 460 tons of snuff. The area under cultivation has undergone a corresponding increase, namely, from 7,641 hectares in 1915 to 9,196 hectares in 1916, and to 16,973 hectares in 1917. On the other hand, the number of planters has risen to 13,863. It is interesting to note that, in ten years, from 1907 to 1917, the production of Algerian tobacco has risen from 5,056 to 16,400 tons.

The greater part of the tobacco for smoking purposes comes from the province of Algiers, which supplied, in 1917, 9,457 tons; the province of Constantine yielded the balance, or 6,484 tons. As regards the snuff, it chiefly comes from the province of Constantine. The average sale price, per 100 kilogrammes, reached about 210 francs in the province of Algiers and 190 francs in that of Constantine. These prices are more than double those obtained in 1916, which were already much above the normal. At these prices the cultivator obtained a yield per hectare of 2,200 francs in the case of smoking tobacco in the province of Algiers, and 2,100 francs in the province of Constantine. These figures show how profitable the cultivation of tobacco has become.

TURKISH SHIPPING ENTERPRISE.

The Turkish Government, which is showing considerable interest just now in maritime matters, has decided (says a French contemporary) to reserve its coasting trade for vessels flying the Turkish flag. Even before the war Turkey possessed a respectable fleet of wooden coasters, the building of wooden ships having always been very active in Turkey. To develop this industry the Government has placed at the disposal of the builders a quantity of timber from the forests of Asia Minor sufficient to turn out 130 vessels, each of 500 tons.

Egypt's sugar exports from January 1 to July 25 amounted to 43,146 sacks, compared with about 102,865 sacks in the same period last year.

INDIAN WAR LOAN.

It is officially notified by the Government of India that, after the closure of the main section of the Second Indian War Loan on September 14, they will be prepared to accept as further subscription to the loan, at a rate of exchange of 1s. 6d. per rupee, British Treasury bills tendered in England, under a discount of 3½ per cent., to an amount not exceeding the previous cash subscription of the tenderer in India, provided that the Treasury bills are accompanied by a certificate that they were the property of the actual subscriber prior to May 10, 1913. Applications for the tender of British Treasury bills in England as aforesaid will be received by the Controller of Currency at Calcutta, the Accountant-General at Bombay, and the Accountant-General at Madras, between September 16, 1918, and October 12, 1918, inclusive. The applicant should state the amount and series of War bonds purchased, the name of the Government office or bank from which they were purchased, and the numbers of the promissory notes or stock certificates issued to him in lieu. After the facts stated in the application have been verified, the Controller of Currency will inform the Secretary of State for India that Treasury bills may be received on behalf of the applicant up to a named amount, and intimation will be simultaneously sent to the applicant. The applicant should then arrange with his representative in England for the tender of the Treasury bills to the Secretary of State, along with a certificate of ownership of the bills prior to May 10, 1918. The bills should be tendered before October 31, 1918. On receipt of telegraphic intimation from the Secretary of State regarding the tender of the Treasury bills, the Controller of Currency will communicate with the applicant, informing him of the discounted value of his Treasury bills at 1s. 6d. the rupee, and of the further amount in cash payable by him to make up the exact multiple of Rs.100. On payment of this amount, which should be supported by a receipt from a Presidency bank or Government Treasury, the Controller of Currency will arrange for the issue of scrip bearing interest from March 15, 1919, advance interest from the date of tender of Treasury bills in England up to March 14, 1919, being paid at the time of issue of scrip.

COLOMBO PORT ADMINISTRATION.

It is stated in the report on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1917 that during the year the work connected with the administration of the port of Colombo has very greatly increased. The policy of retrenchment which was begun soon after the outbreak of war has been continued, and for this reason, and owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials, works of improvement at the port have necessarily been curtailed. In July the second warehouse between the canal and the Patent Slip was completed. The total warehouse area of the port is now 559,106 square feet, and the total quayage 5,828 lineal feet, an increase of 267,506 square feet and 1,183 lineal feet respectively since 1913. Further improvement in the sanitation of the port has been made. The Chalmers Granaries at the Racquet Court have now been completed; the blocks of buildings, ten in number, have been divided into 100 stores, giving accommodation for the storage of 600,000 bags of rice. The site for the oil installations depot at Kolonnawa has been definitely decided on, and a sum of Rs.850,000 for the acquisition of land, excavating and filling, and for providing railway connection has been voted by the Legislative Council. The land having been acquired, work was commenced at the site in December. A scheme for the berthing of oil steamers is now being prepared. The survey has been completed, and the detailed plans of all the bridges, etc., are nearly finished.

The Egyptian Delta Light Railways Company, Ltd., have raised the present surtax of 25 per cent. on local goods rates to one of 50 per cent. on all charges. The alteration took effect on August 1.

The court of directors of the Ionian Bank, Limited, have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, for the half year ended July 13, payable on and after September 10. Transfer books are closed from August 28 to September 10.

"THE INDIAN COTTON SEED CROP."

An Official Statement.

A summary of the article with the above title which appeared in THE NEAR EAST on May 24 was telegraphed out to India, and has been the subject of the following Press *communiqué* issued by the Government of India :—

"Some days ago Reuter's telegrams contained an extract from the journal NEAR EAST, in which it was stated that two million tons of cotton seed were produced in India annually, of which two hundred thousand tons were used for planting and four hundred thousand tons were exported. It was added that doubtless a large proportion of the remainder was fed to cattle, which was an absurdly wasteful proceeding, whilst a considerable residue must be absolutely wasted. The journal regarded it as a standing reproach to commercial and industrial enterprise in India that a natural source of enormous wealth should be practically neglected.

"This extract is calculated to give a wrong impression of the real position in regard to cotton seed, and contains numerous inaccuracies, which it is desirable to correct. Exact figures in regard to the production of cotton seed in India are not available, but an examination of the figures of outturn of cleaned cotton and of the percentage it bears to seed shows that there is reason to believe that an average annual production of 1,800,000 tons of seed is a liberal estimate. The average exports of seed during the last five years have been 151,595 tons only, the highest figure being 284,327 tons in 1913-14. Cotton seed is regarded as a valuable feeding stuff in this country, and the inquiries of the Cotton Committee have shown that none of it is wasted, but that, on the contrary, it fetches a price of at least Rs.2 to Rs.3 per maund for feeding purposes. The Punjab alone imports cotton seed to the value of nearly 50 lakhs per annum. Whilst it is possibly correct to say that it is wasteful to feed seed direct to cattle instead of in the form of cake, experience has tended to prove that the establishment of a large cotton seed oil industry in this country would not benefit the Indian agriculturist, who could not afford to pay for hydraulic pressed feeding cake the price that can be obtained by exporting it. The result of the establishment of such an industry might then be that the oil would be sold in this country and the cake exported, and that the agriculturist would be deprived of a valuable feeding stuff which, over large tracts of country, can be obtained cheaply from his own land or that of his neighbours."

The article to which reference is made was contributed by a valued correspondent, and it is regretted that it should have inadvertently contained an inaccuracy. What the brief summary of the article telegraphed by Reuter's Agency to India did not bring out was that the article was not couched in terms of destructive criticism, but was intended as a helpful illustration of one way in which it was believed that India's material development could be furthered. From the *communiqué* it appears that the writer was misinformed in regard to large quantities of cotton seed being wasted, and it is satisfactory that an occasion has been afforded for removing what might otherwise have become a general misapprehension. With regard to the other points raised, the writer of the article put the amount of cotton seed produced in India at *about* 2,000,000 tons, a qualification which may not improperly be held to cover the difference between the writer's estimate and the official figures. Then, as regards exports, the extract on which the *communiqué* is based quotes the writer as saying that 400,000 tons were exported. There were, as a matter of fact, three references to the subject, but in no case was any such definite statement made. It was stated that "it has . . . reached *about* 350,000 tons per annum," that, "according to Sir A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P., 'the quantity of Indian cotton seed exported, chiefly to the United Kingdom, varies from 100,000 to 400,000 tons per annum, a slight increase of price being sufficient to bring forward largely increased quantities,'" and, finally, that "the quantity exported—as we have seen—*has not yet exceeded* 400,000 *tons*." The figures were in excess, but not to the extent imagined. There follows the question of waste in regard to which, as we have already pointed out, the writer's estimate was not in accordance with the facts.

Finally, with reference to the writer's argument that it is wasteful to feed seed direct to cattle, it is stated in the *communiqué* that "experience has tended to prove that the establishment of a large cotton seed oil industry in this country would not benefit the Indian agriculturist, who could not afford to pay for hydraulic pressed feeding cake the price that can be obtained by exporting it." Unfortunately it is not stated where this experience was gained; much depends on whether it was obtained on the coast or at mills in centres of cotton seed production. Suppose the milling to have been done on the coast, then the Punjab, for example, might well be unable to pay for hydraulic pressed feeding cake the price that can be obtained by exporting it, in view of the fact that it would have to bear, in addition, the cost of freight on a long railway journey.

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PROSPECTING IN MOROCCO.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, to the effect that, in virtue of a recent Dahir, the register, established under the Moroccan Mining Regulations of January, 1914, for applications for permits to prospect for minerals in the French Zone, which was closed in November, 1914, as a consequence of the situation created by the war, will be reopened as from September 3, except for applications relating to the districts in which the Mining Regulations were suspended by the Viziriel Decrees of May 16 and June 15, 1914. The Decrees referred to suspended the grant of prospecting permits in the territories of Western and Eastern Morocco, respectively, situated outside certain zones defined in the Decrees. Copies of these two Decrees may be consulted by persons interested on application at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2.

COMMERCE AND RECONSTRUCTION.

Position in Foreign Countries.

All firms who desire to know what their rivals are doing and planning—notably those in enemy States—and what are the economic conditions and trading prospects in foreign countries can now obtain two valuable War Office publications issued fortnightly, the Economic and the Reconstruction Supplements to the "Daily Review of the Foreign Press." The price of the Supplements will be 6d. The Economic Supplement deals with trade and commerce, railways and shipping, banking and finance, labour conditions, social and economic policy and legislation, etc.

The Reconstruction Supplement describes the measures being taken or suggested in Germany and elsewhere in connection with the return to peace conditions. Half-yearly indexes to the above, price 6d., can also be obtained. These publications will be issued by His Majesty's Stationery Office, and can be purchased through any bookseller or directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37, Peter Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or from E. Ponsonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

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ROUMANIA'S WAR COSTS.

A telegram received here from Bucharest viâ Berlin, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, reports that the Roumanian Finance Minister, on August 23, introduced a Bill in the Chamber of Deputies raising the war credits of 1,700,000,000 francs by 300,000,000 francs. As the Legislative bodies are not sitting, the credit will be increased by the Cabinet, and will be sanctioned by Parliament later. All damages and expenses caused by the war will be paid from the new credit, which will be covered by Treasury bonds, internal Loan, or some other means.

According to Bucharest newspapers, the Government will appropriate 600,000,000 francs for damages caused by the war. Indemnities of from 25 to 75 per cent. will be paid for damage suffered. For damages of over 100,000 francs only 25 per cent. will be granted. District Commissions will be appointed to fix and distribute indemnities.

INDIAN CEMENTS.

The Government of India has issued a report of tests of cements carried out by Mr. Musgrave, Alipore, stating that he finds that Indian Bundi and Katni cements, as at present manufactured, are equal to the best English brands, also that the same is true of Porbandar cement, except as regards its tensile strength, which is somewhat low. All these cements are sound, reliable, and suitable for every class of work. Imported cements are not infrequently found to have deteriorated during a voyage, and Indian cements offer advantages in this respect also. When the article has to be conveyed long distances by rail from the factory to the consumer the freight charges add greatly to the cost, and for this reason it is desirable that cement factories should be distributed over the country as widely as possible.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The report of the Indian Industries Commission was in the hands of the printer last month.

It is reported that the recent census of paper supplies in Egypt shows that there are about six months' supplies in the country.

The latest news of the Algerian harvest is very favourable. It is estimated that the grain output will amount to 23,000,000 quintals.

For the two months ended May 31 India's exports, including re-exports, amounted to Rs.36,71,72,868, while the imports amounted to Rs.23,75,05,234.

It is stated that M. Saropoulos, of the Ministry of Communications, will officially represent Greece at the forthcoming tour of the Great Industrial Mission.

Dr. Butler, of the Indian Agricultural Department, is proceeding on foreign service to the Malay States to advise the Federated States on agricultural questions.

During the absence on leave of Sir Robert Highet, C.B.E., Agent of the East Indian Railway, Mr. J. A. Marshall, Chief Auditor of the Railway, will act as Agent.

A return of the net income and expenditure of British India under certain specified heads has been issued as a Parliamentary paper. The return covers the three years 1914-17.

The yield of the cotton crop at Kassala was 24,000 kantars this year, and it is stated that this amount would have been doubled but for the damage done by the different cotton pests.

The retirement is announced of Mr. F. J. Clark, Secretary to the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway. Mr. Clark, who joined the railway in 1885, will work for the Home Board during the war.

At a general meeting of the members of the Liverpool Cotton Association a bye-law was adopted giving effect to their previous resolution not to trade with the present enemies of Great Britain for a period of ten years after the conclusion of peace.

It is reported that the wolfram output of the Tavoy district of Burma was 3,652 tons in 1917. The output of Tavoy district, which produces 80 to 90 per cent. of the wolfram produced in Burma, was 3,036 tons in 1916, and 2,115 tons in 1915.

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, M.A. Cantab., M.I.C.E., who has been appointed to the new position of Deputy Agent in Calcutta of the East Indian Railway, joined the engineering department of that railway in 1897, and has been Secretary to the Agent for the last three and a-half years.

A notice is published in the *Journal Officiel* (Paris) to the effect that the authorities of the Spanish Zone in Morocco have decided that the exportation of any kind of merchandise from the Zone may not be effected except in virtue of a special authorisation issued by the competent authority.

The Telephone Department of Egypt has decided to raise the telephone subscriptions of cafés and other public places from £E10 to £E30 per annum. It is reported that many Alexandria cafés have decided in consequence to discontinue the telephones, while others intend to charge P.T. 1 for each call.

The Government of Bengal has appointed a committee of engineers, with Mr. F. A. A. Cowley, Chief Engineer to the Government, as president, to consider whether the Bidyadhari river is now a suitable outfall for Calcutta drainage or is likely to be so in the near future, and what works should be constructed to enable the river to scour its bed and thereby lower the existing low water level in the river.

MOROCCAN CUSTOMS DUES.

A notice, signed by the "Chef de Service des Douanes," published in the Casablanca Press, states that everything sent by post must be submitted to examination by the Customs authorities. Objects enclosed in postal packages will be charged duty if they possess a commercial value and will be retained if they are found to be in the prohibited list. The opening and charging on open parcels will be carried out by postal officials in the presence of a Customs officer who will examine them; neither consignee nor his representative need be present. In the case of everything of this kind destined for persons who have a right to exemption the addressees must not take delivery, in case Customs dues are claimed, until their position, so far as concerns the Customs, has been proved by production of the recognised "cartes de franchise" or other proof of identity. In the same way, in case of wrongful exaction of dues, the application for return of the money paid cannot be entertained unless the goods have not yet been delivered and the Customs officials can therefore make a second examination. No reduction of duty can be made after delivery of the goods, and when these are therefore no longer under the control of the Customs. In the case of letters, closed packages, ordinary or registered, containing dutiable or prohibited goods, the examination will not be made except in the presence of the consignee or of his representative, duly notified by the postal authorities of the day, hour, and place of the examination.

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The Anglo-Hellenic Banking and Commercial Company, Limited, has been formed as a private company, with a capital of £10,000, in £1 shares, to carry on the business of bankers, commission agents, brokers, export and import merchants, etc. The registered office is at Effingham House, Arundel Street, W.C.

INDIAN RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS.

Sanction has been given by the Indian Railway Board for a detailed survey by the agency of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for a line from Pandu to Shillong, a distance of 70 miles, on the 2 feet 6 inches gauge.

The Railway Board has also sanctioned the survey by the agency of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for a line on the 5 feet 6 inches gauge from Sini Station, on the Bengal Railway, to Jamda, with a branch to Jaintgarh, in all a distance of roughly 80 miles, and for an alternative line between Halndpukur, on the Kalimati-Gaurmahisani branch of the railway and Chaibassa, a distance of 24 miles. There will also be a survey to determine whether an extension to Keonghur shall be made from Jaintgarh, Badampahar, or Sulapat.

BURMAH OIL BONUS.

The following particulars are published by the Burmah Oil Company with regard to the issue of bonus shares:—(1) Allotment letters bearing distinctive numbers of the shares will be despatched to ordinary shareholders on the register at July 31 early in September; (2) letters of renunciation will not be issued, as the law agents of the company advise that same are not appropriate to this issue; (3) transfers of bonus shares will not be certified and registered prior to the issue of allotment letters; and (4) it will not be possible to transfer the original shares and "rights" to the bonus shares on the same deed. Where shares were sold "cum rights" and it was impossible to get the transfers lodged for registration by July 31, the procedure should be as follows:—(a) transfers of the original shares should be completed and sent in for registration as soon as possible; (b) immediately the seller is allotted the relative bonus shares a further transfer of same in favour of the buyer should be prepared. The consideration should be the same as was stated in the original deed, with the following words added, "Previously paid as per transfer dated………… on which the ad valorem duty was affixed."; (c) transfers should be stamped with general deed duty of 10s. Where very small numbers of shares fall to be transferred, the deeds may be stamped with the ad valorem duty.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The profit of the Bordubi Tea Company for 1917 was £17,043. Final dividend of 12½ per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year; to reserves, £4,000; forward, £9,138, against £5,312, subject to excess profits duty.

In 1917 the Rungajaun Tea Company made a profit of £3,902, against £16,763. After paying excess profits duty for 1916, amounting to £7,500, the balance brought forward was £9,606. Dividend of 10 per cent., against 20 per cent.; forward, £9,586, subject to excess profits duty.

The report of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company for 1917 states that profit amounted to £117,142, which with interest on investments, etc., £1,139, and £27,490 brought forward gives £145,771. Deducting income-tax, depreciation on shares, etc., £9,045, there is left £136,726. The directors recommend a final dividend of 12 per cent. (less tax at 5s.) on the ordinary shares, making 17 per cent. for the year, to transfer to staff provident fund £1,000, to reserve £ 12,500, and to carry forward £74,726, subject to excess profits duty estimated at £46,500.

The report of the Isa Bheel Tea Company for 1917 states that profit after payment of manager's commission and providing for depreciation of machinery, buildings and tramways, was £4,079. After payment of excess profits tax (£4,711), £3,545 was brought in, and deducting income tax (£2,198), the balance at credit of profit and loss is £5,521. Directors recommend a dividend of 15 per cent. on ordinary shares, less tax, payable at once, and to carry forward £2,709.

The report of the Derby Tea Company for 1917 states that gross profit (after payment of manager's commission) is £11,981, from which has to be deducted income-tax £3,807, and loss on realisation of investments, leaving £8,159. £12,557 was brought in, which, with interest on investments, gives £21,119. The directors recommend a final dividend of 25 per cent. less tax, payable at once, making 30 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £15,942.

The profits of the Doloo Tea Company for 1917 were £11,717, against £17,740. Final dividend of 7½ per cent. less tax, making 10 per cent., against 12½ per cent.; forward (subject to excess profits duty), £5,187, against £7,650.

The Borelli Tea Company, in 1917, made a profit of £9,270, against £11,055. The final dividend is 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, against 7½ per cent., and the carry forward is £2,369, against £2,809, subject to excess profits duty.

The Bargang Tea Company, in 1917, made a profit of £9,740, against £12,643. The final dividend is 10 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, the same as for 1916, and the carry forward is £3,589, against £4,467, subject to excess profits duty.

The report of the Dhamai Tea Company for 1917 states that the gross profit was £9,553, which with interest and transfer fees makes £10,409. Deducting managers' and agents' commission, income-tax, and depreciation of machinery, £2,796, net profit was £7,613; £2,274 was brought in, giving £9,886. After placing to development fund £1,023, directors recommend a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the deferred shares for the year and to carry forward £5,601, subject to directors' fees and excess profits duty, if any.

The report of the Igalkande Rubber and Tea Estates for 1917 states that the profit amounted to £4,915, and £1,226 was brought in, making £6,141. After placing to reserve for renewals and contingencies £400, the directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year) and to carry forward (subject to excess profits duty) £1,115.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Southern Punjab Railway Company have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary stock in respect of the year ending September 30, 1918, of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent., to be paid on September 11. A year ago no bonus was paid.

The directors of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company have declared a final dividend of 1s per share and a bonus of 8d. per share, less tax, to be paid on August 31.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

Although in the early part of the week the inactivity and dullness noted in our last week's report still continued, there has been a revival of business during the last few days on a renewal of buying orders from Egypt; where, no doubt, the very satisfactory military news is beginning again to influence the market favourably.

In Government stocks there is no change to report, except that City of Alexandria bonds are nominally one point higher at 83, but without sellers.

In Bank shares some business has been going on in Nationals round the current level, and also in Agriculturals; but the latter are 1-32 easier at 7⅛. In Railways Delta Lights are about unchanged at 7⅜ xd.

In Land Shares Aboukirs, after receding to 25s., are unchanged at 25s. 6d., on some Egyptian demand. Delta Lands have become a firmer spot round 17s., and New Egyptians have been in demand for Egypt and are closing 4½d. higher at 22s. 7½d. In Sidi Salems several hundred shares have changed hands round the current price of 2¾, and Union Foncières are 1-32 higher at 3 3-32. United Egyptian Lands have been enquired for and the price is 1d. firmer at 2s. 7d.

In Miscellaneous shares the feature has been the revival in Salts and Sodas, on buying for Egypt, and at 58s. 6d. the shares are 3s. 6d. higher than last week. Khedivial Mails have also appreciated 1s. 6d. to 61s. 6d.

Amongst Greek securities buyers continue plentiful, but sellers are very scarce; with the result that there is very little business passing. Some "Currant" bonds have changed hands round the price of 95, and in Bank shares the feature has been the rise of 7-16 in Bank of Athens to 4½.

Oil Shares.

Prices were more or less unchanged, the only feature of interest being a slight weakness in Anglo-Egyptians (B), which declined 1-16 to 2⅞.

◆

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Dearer.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has again been dearer, and almost from day to day spinners and manufacturers have required more money. Most traders hold bullish views and there are certainly no signs of lower values in the near future. The American Government Bureau report on the conditions of the crop will be published next Tuesday, and a low figure is already discounted. Many people believe that the yield will not be more than 12,000,000 bales. Most advices relating to the Egyptian growth are favourable. Merchants and users are making the best of Government regulations, but the conditions in many instances are disturbing. Prices in Egyptian yarns have hardened. Certain counts and qualities in the finer numbers are distinctly dearer. The requirements for aeroplane cloths are increasing and smaller supplies are available for private orders. In cloth for Egypt a fair amount of inquiry has been met with, but operations have been somewhat irregular. Dealers in Cairo are said to be clearing supplies at very profitable rates. A considerable business has been done in bleaching cloths for India. Offers in grey shirtings still lag behind. American yarns have advanced in price, and a very fair trade has been done. Some business continues to be reported in dyed yarns for India.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Aug. 21	Aug. 28
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	82	83
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93¼	93¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	69	69
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	69	69
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	66	66
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	55
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	69	69
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	63½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79	79
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	74½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74	74
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7 5/32	7⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17⅛	17⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	4 1/16	4½
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7⅝	7⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	5⅛	5⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7¼	7¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20 1/16	20 1/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7 7/16	7⅜xd
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/6	25/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15¼	15¼
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/3	13/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅛	2⅛
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/3	22/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2¾	2¾
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 1/16	3 3/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/7
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅝	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	55/-	58/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	60/-	61/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4⅛	4⅛

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended August 9.		1918. Week ended August 8.
Cattle markets	321	..	342
General markets	415	..	455
Receipts (£)	736	..	797
Total for year	38,736	..	31,602

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic returns for ten days ended July 20.

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
July 11—July 20	5,118	..	7,862
April 1—July 20	59,028	..	80,801

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follow on the undermentioned days:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
August 20	30,000	100,000
August 21, 22	330,000	490,000

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It is understood that the Government of India will be in possession of the report of the Cotton Committee in October.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—Alleppey, Bangalore, Bimlipatam (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), Calicut, Cocanada (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), Cochin, Coimbatore (*Outstation*, Erode), Colombo, Guntur (*Outstation*, Bezwada), Madura, Mangalore, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Ootacamund, Salem, Tellicherry, Trichinopoly, Trivandrum, Tuticorin, and Bellary.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

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By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

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Capital, Fully paid up Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,53,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

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Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
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Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 383.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Although military operations in the Eastern theatres have not loomed large during the summer months, the different armies can have experienced little relaxation. In Mesopotamia there has been an almost complete absence of collisions with the Turks; but from the fact that General Marshall has despatched a force to the Caspian Sea, strong enough to be able to send detachments to Baku and Krasnovodsk, it may be inferred that the army as a whole has been kept fairly busy. Even if the necessity of holding the line from Baghdad by way of Kermanshah and Hamadan to Enzeli did not impose much strain on the Expeditionary Force, it is evident, from General Marshall's despatch, that he finds in the administration and development of the country enough work to occupy all ranks. His record during the last period of cool weather suggests that the Army will again be on the move as soon as climatic conditions are favourable. It remains to be seen whether the further commitments in the north-east entail an entirely new orientation of the campaign. The success attending the settlement of Mesopotamia is a strong argument for a vigorous effort to bring the war in this particular theatre to an end.

Some idea of conditions in Palestine during the summer is conveyed by a message from the official war correspondent with the Australian Force. It has been, he says, for the Australians in the Jordan valley the severest experience that they have had since they crossed the Canal. The shade temperature for months has not been below 100° F., and frequently it has been 120°. The enemy has always been aggressive, and fights frequent and sharp; but our line has been resolutely maintained, with heavy Turkish and German losses. Not the least satisfactory feature of this summer has been the highly successful campaign for the prevention of malaria, which alone made the valley habitable; and it is good news to hear that with the return of cooler weather both men and horses are in fine fighting trim. Of late military activity has been for the most part confined to the air forces, and here, as in other theatres, our airmen have established a marked superiority over the enemy.

The official explanation given of the military situation in Albania is that the Austrian reinforcements arrived before the Italians had time to reconstruct the communications and defences of the zone round Berat and Fieri. It must always be a moot point for an army whether it is better to sit down and do nothing or to attempt something in the hope of being rewarded by luck. In this instance the Italians made a successful advance, but apparently shot their bolt before they could reach any satisfactory line. In the face of the enemy's reinforcements they had to fall back immediately, with the result that they returned to the place from which they had started; and it seems to be much more favourable to them than the country that they proposed to hold, if General Pflanzer-Baltin had not appeared on the scene. The chief sufferers, it is to be feared, will be the Albanians, who may have thrown in their lot with the Allies, but have been unable to withdraw their families from the zone now again in Austrian occupation.

It is evident that King Ferdinand's health gives no cause for anxiety to his subjects or to his allies. At Bad Nauheim on August 29 he was able to meet the Emperor William at the station. A private *tête-à-tête* conversation followed, and was continued after luncheon until the two monarchs went by motor-car to Homberg-vor-der-Hoehe. The official report states that "the several hours' conversation of the two High Allies dealt with the whole of the military and political situation. The conversation was carried on with a firm decision to hold out mutually in the defensive battle of the Alliance, and in the spirit of the faithful maintenance of the tried system of the Alliance." From the fact that on his return from the drive the German Emperor presented King Ferdinand with a statuette of himself and awarded the Order of Luise to two of the King's daughters it has to be inferred that he was satisfied with the results of his visit.

In the meantime the subject of peace is being discussed with some animation in the Bulgarian Press. There is the inevitable divergence of opinion; but it is evident that even in quarters favourably disposed towards "peace by agreement" there is the fear lest any move on Bulgaria's part may expose her to the designs of "those who wish to crucify Bulgaria." It is probable that the following statement of the *Preporetz* represents the official view: "The policy and the aims of Bulgaria are clear. They fully conform to the principle of national self-determination, which has been solemnly proclaimed by our opponents. Bulgaria has accomplished her unification, and she sees in the strength of her arms, in the justice of her cause, and in allied loyalty the only security for this unification obtaining an international sanction at the general peace conference."

Expressed in other words, this may be taken to mean: "Our heart is no longer in the war; but we are set upon national unification, which the present alliance has gained for us. We note that the Entente have proclaimed the principle of self-determination, which should mean the same thing; but we do not see any means of placing our national unification on a permanent basis apart from an international guarantee to be enforced by Germany at the general peace conference at the end of the war." If this be the Bulgarian attitude, the Allies will be able to decide whether it is worth while to attempt to enlighten these half-hearted partners of the Central Powers. In the light of recent events on the Western Front Bulgarian belief in the capacity of Germany to carry through a settlement on her own lines will have weakened, if it has not disappeared altogether. The question to be answered is whether it is likely to be of any advantage to the Allies to have the Bulgarians detached from the Central Block. If it is, then it will be worth the exercise of some diplomatic effort in this direction. After all, even Germany will be granted peace when she accepts the Allies' terms. It is well known to all but the wilfully blind that at present there is no thought on her part of accepting those terms, and for this reason overtures are useless and actual negotiations would only be used for the undoing of the Allies. Bulgarian militarism has not attained the same Machiavellian heights, and in all probability can be far more easily exorcised. In any case, the Allies need not allow the Bulgarian people to hug to themselves the illusion that Germany is the only reliable sponsor of the doctrine of national self-determination.

The Turkish Government has certainly scored a point in being able to parade the Sheikh-es-Senussi before the population of Constantinople, provided the visitor is the real holder of that title. He is said to have crossed the Mediterranean in a submarine, and it says much for the spirit of the Sheikh if he faced such an experience for the *beaux yeux* of the German Emperor or of the Committee of Union and Progress. He may have had other reasons for leaving his own country after the inglorious campaign against Egypt at an earlier period of the war. It is evident that in Turkey he is meant to be a set-off against the defection of the rest of the Arab world; and in particular of the Grand Shereef of Mecca. That he is thoroughly sound from the point of view of the Central Alliance is shown by a letter which is said to have been recently sent by him to a member of the Turkish Parliament. The opening sentence: "Owing to the lack of necessary means, I have not been able before to answer your letter," suggests that the Sheikh's existence has been of a mobile character, or that the submarine service across the Mediterranean is irregular. But he quickly warms to his subject, and asks concerning the Arabs: "What can have become of the intelligence and the wit of this race, that it acts so foolishly?" The trouble must, of course, be laid at England's door, and he exclaims piously: "May God wipe out these accursed ones," which is, no doubt, the version in vogue among the Senussi of a wish at one time expressed with equal fervour in Germany.

Words are, no doubt, used to conceal the thoughts of the speaker, and the most flagrant offenders in this respect are official utterances. On the other hand, the latter have some value when they constitute a definition of policy which can be regarded as binding on the speaker. Last week in these pages it was pointed out that the statement that King Nicholas of Montenegro was against the whole idea of Jugoslav unity ran counter to his words and his acts—a remark occasioned by certain propagandist writings in a contemporary, which has all the facts within its knowledge. It was probably in view of such attacks on his good faith that King Nicholas felt called upon to enunciate his policy afresh in a letter addressed to his Prime Minister on July 14 in connection with the honours conferred upon the latter by King George and the King of Italy. The King wrote: "May the high honour of which you and your colleagues have been the recipients at the hands of our Allies and protectors be an encouragement to continue your action in the same way as you have begun for the welfare of our martyred Montenegro and for the realisation of our ideals—deliverance and union of all the Jugoslavs—ideals which I declared to be our goal in my proclamation when, in July, 1914, I declared war on Austria-Hungary. These ideals have been for five centuries the basis of the political and national programme of Montenegro. . . . Only a union so constituted of the Jugoslavs can be a worthy member of the ideal society of free peoples." These words surely are sufficient refutation of the contention that King Nicholas is opposed to the idea of Jugoslav union.

Another landmark in the East is doomed. Steps are to be taken to eliminate beggars from Greek streets, where they have long been a pathetic and too familiar sight. Thanks to the generosity of an American philanthropist, a home has been provided for deserving cases, in which they will be looked after and encouraged to contribute towards their own livelihood by learning a trade, if physically capable. The migratory beggar is to be sent back to his place of origin. The Greek beggar had some claim to distinction in his own line of business, for he is probably the only member of the world-wide brotherhood who asks for only a halfpenny, and volunteers change in the event of a penny donation proving beyond the contemplated philanthropy of the would-be donor.

India is to have its own "Flag Day" at last. The East is proverbially slow in adopting new ideas, and in this matter India—and its well-wishers in this country—may safely claim that they have not been over-hasty or shown any spirit of greediness. That should surely prove a recommendation to consideration, and in a fortnight's time, when London will have an opportunity of marking its sense of obligation to the Indian Army and to the loyal people of India, too, we may reasonably expect that the spirit displayed will be worthy of the capital of the Empire. The appeal is for £50,000, and though that sum is a large one compared with the amounts obtained by certain other "flag days," it would certainly not be surprising if it were exceeded. The administration of the funds could not be entrusted to better hands, and the names of those who make the appeal are sufficient guarantee that all will be done as it should. It is to be hoped, therefore, that on Friday, September 20, London will mark its recognition of all that India has done, of the generosity with which she has given both men and money for the common cause, of her loyalty to the King-Emperor.

With the extension of British responsibilities in the Middle East the question of relief for the suffering populations with whom we are being brought into direct contact becomes urgent. Readers of THE NEAR EAST are already aware of the work done by the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. But the situation now threatens to go beyond the capacity of voluntary relief funds, and official help will be necessary if funds are to be adequate to cope with the distress. In addition to the state of affairs in the Caucasus, there is now the problem of the large number of Jelus, or Assyrian Christians, retreating before the Turks in Azerbaijan. It is expected that the total number of refugees at Hamadan will amount to eighty thousand. The British Government has allocated a sum of money for the purpose of relieving their distress, but in turn they appeal to the voluntary Relief Funds to help to the utmost of their power.

The statement made in these columns last week that the political position in India was not yet entirely clear remains substantially true so far as the actual results of the existing ferment are concerned. The cables continue to give us tantalising glimpses of the struggle in progress in the minds of leaders and followers, but it would require a very bold man to predict the actual position even at the end of this month, and we have no intention of treading on such dangerous ground. The case is different regarding the processes now at work. Whatever the immediate result may be, the processes are as old as politics, and we are watching the development of a drama which may fairly be called tragic in the classic sense of the term, for in essence it is the struggle of well-meaning men in the grip of inexorable destiny.

Indian politicians still cling to the ideal of unanimity, which has dominated their activities since the foundation of the National Congress. The ideal is by no means ignoble, and it appeals with peculiar force to the leaders of a rising nationality; its defect is that it is inconsistent with the facts of human nature, and hence arises the need for the strenuous efforts which have marked the last twenty years to secure outward unanimity, even at the sacrifice of realities. "Whatever we may think, let us in public all say the same thing," has been the unwritten law of Indian politics, and its enforcement has been made possible of late mainly through the defects of the existing constitution, which consolidated the "Indian Opposition," and enabled all schools of thought to unite in the facile task of destructive and irresponsible criticism.

The whole situation was changed by the call to pass from such criticism to constructive thought and work. A gallant attempt was indeed made to preserve the semblance of unanimity in the constitutional scheme prepared by the National Congress and the Moslem League, a scheme in which every real difficulty was evaded or glossed over while agreed features were elaborated in minute detail, but which ceased to count as soon as its defects had been brought clearly into the light. Now that the country has the benefit of the ruthless analysis of the position contained in the Chelmsford-Montagu Report, as well as in a mass of unofficial criticism, even the most ardent politicians are being forced to recognise that the ideal of unanimity is in accordance neither with political fact nor with psychological experience, and that a change in orientation is overdue.

If political science has one important lesson for the world, it is that which is embodied in the maxim that some people will want to go faster than others, and that people who go the same pace will ordinarily keep together. The result may be, as was until recently the case in England, the formation of two parties, Conservative and Liberal, the slow and the fast; or, as is more usual in Europe, the people may be differentiated into a larger number of groups, from the Extreme Right, which scarcely cares to move at all, to the Extreme Left which, like a familiar type of motorist, subordinates all other considerations to the exhilaration of speed. The grouping will vary with the conditions of each separate case, but some sort of grouping there must be as soon as people begin to take politics in earnest.

It is this process of differentiation which is now at work among Indian politicians, and which can be traced in the curt announcements of the cable that this Pundit adheres to the Congress, or that that Rajah is likely to break with the League. From the nature of the case it is an unpleasant process for the individuals concerned, and we can rightly sympathise with them in the dethronement of a cherished ideal, the failure of carefully constructed machinery, and—too probably—the rupture of long-standing personal associations. The change is, however, necessary, and we can only advise our friends to seek the consolations of philosophy, that nineteenth-century philosophy which still holds sway in India, and which teaches that differentiation is the essence of all progress: India is in fact growing up.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 5.

Secondary Schools.

The unprecedented number of failures among the candidates this year for the *Kufa's* (competence) certificate has given rise not only to complaints on the part of the unsuccessful students, their parents, the teachers, and the schools inspectors, but also to much adverse criticism on the part of the native Press; 82 per cent. of the students who sat at the third-year examination of the Secondary Schools having failed to pass. It is interesting to note the different explanations advanced to account for this extraordinary and disquieting result. According to some, the failures are attributable to mercenary motives—a sort of commercial competition between the different schools, which, in order to secure and retain the largest number of students, are said to facilitate their transfer from the primary to the secondary section without much regard for merit; others ascribe the trouble to the incompetence or inexperience of the teachers; while yet others declare the principal causes to be the large number of students in the classes and the consequent inability of the teachers to devote sufficient time and attention to each. Whatever truth there may be in any or all of these statements, one cannot help asking why these causes should have been operative to such a disastrous degree this year only. All who have the educational interest of Egypt at heart will wish that such an unusual and unsatisfactory state of things may be looked into, and the necessary remedy applied.

Egypt's Paper Supply.

Statistics collected by the Supplies Control Board show that the stock of paper, including paper for journals, is sufficient for six months of the country's requirements; and the Customs returns show that arrivals are more or less regular and double those at the same period last year. At one time unrestrained speculation, coupled with diminished imports, led to the forcing up of the price to 240 piastres per ream, when the pre-war price was only 16 piastres. Thanks in part to the vigilant attitude that the Government lately assumed, the price has fallen to 180 piastres; and so long as it is seen that dealing in this article is confined to the regular paper merchants, there should be little fear of a return to the preposterous prices of a few months ago.

Proof of the partial easing of the situation is the recent appearance of three Army magazines. The first has the suggestive title of "Kia Ora Coo-ee," while the others are "The Cacolet," journal of the Australian Camel Field Ambulance, and the "14th Company Magazine."

Royal Exchange
ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.

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Of course, these magazines are unpretentious in the matter of size; though they contain excellent matter.

H.H. the Sultan.

On Tuesday evening the Sultan gave a grand entertainment at Ras el Tin, to which 600 persons were invited. Among the guests were the Premier, the Ministers, the President of the Legislative Assembly, the members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, the Advisers, the Under-Secretaries of State, and other high officials, as well as foreign notables with their wives. The entertainment ended at midnight.

On Thursday His Highness visited the Alexandria Municipality. He was received at the entrance by the Governor, the President of the Municipal Council, the President of the Quarantine and Health Board, the Commandant of Police, and other high officials, including those of the Sultanian Court, and a guard of the fire brigade rendered military honours. The principal officials were presented to his Highness, who, replying to a speech of welcome by the Governor, expressed his congratulations on the Council's labours. He afterwards signed his name in the municipal register; and had tea with the members of the Council.

The Sultan recently placed £500 at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief for distribution among the military hospitals for promoting the comforts of the soldiers. The latter had already received many tokens of his Highness's goodwill towards them, and they show a lively appreciation thereof.

The Pilgrimage to Mecca.

According to the lists received by the Ministry of the Interior from the different provinces, save that of Assiut, and containing the names of intending pilgrims to the Hejaz, the total number is 360. As the total of the belated list from Assiut is estimated at twenty, and as twenty additional applications have been received from different provinces, and will in all probability be accepted by the Ministry, the total of pilgrims this year is expected to be 400.

The presence of large bodies of troops in the country and the state of war have compelled the authorities this year to make a departure from the traditional custom of non-interference with religious habits and observances, by issuing a circular from the Ministry of the Interior to the Governors and Mudirs to the effect that the water of the Zem-Zem well, which is usually brought by pilgrims as a holy relic, must be placed in vessels which can withstand heat, and which should be produced at the quarantine station on the return of the pilgrim, to be boiled and sterilised. Vessels not accompanied by certificates will be destroyed. If such wise measures had been adopted before, the country would doubtless have been saved from many an epidemic. The light of science is dissipating the clouds of ignorance even among the masses; and what might have been deeply resented fifty years ago may now be viewed as a wise measure of self-protection.

◆

Instruments of every kind, especially orchestral instruments (wind and string), and music also, are urgently needed by the Y.M.C.A. for soldiers at the front. Among the latest applications is one from Baghdad.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Gentle Prussian.

Prussian Junkerdom is doing its best to put its ideas regarding "world domination" into practice in unfortunate Roumania, whose people are deprived of all liberty and are plundered under an amazing variety of pretexts. The *Gazeta Bucurestilor*, a daily paper published under German auspices, and now known as the "Roumanian official organ," often contains news that shows quite clearly how the Germans are bent upon destroying the national life of the Roumanian people. More than a quarter of a million Germans, Austrians, and Magyars are to be declared Roumanian citizens in the shortest time possible, by a Parliament elected at the point of Prussian bayonets. The members of this Parliament, it may be noted, are so utterly in the hands of their taskmasters that even the right of travelling in the country is denied to them unless they receive *Ausweis* from the *Kommandatur*.

All the spies and traitors of the country—the Bolos of Roumania—are rewarded with high. official posts; and with the help of these *Staatslosen*—as the Treaty of Bucharest calls them—the Junkers wish to rule the Roumanian helots and to stifle any democratic movement. Any manifestation of Roumanian intellectual life is suppressed, while legions of German propagandists exercise their utmost ingenuity in the agreeable task of defaming and belittling the Allies—hoping thus to create pro-German sentiment! The country is flooded with pamphlets, books, reviews, in which the Germans are represented as demigods and the Allies as the vilest creatures that ever defaced the earth. As an example of this propaganda we may refer to a series of books appearing under the title "Scriitorii Celebrii" (Famous Authors), which has already reached its twenty-sixth volume, the latest being "Aventurile Lady-ei Glane" (The Adventures of Lady Glane), by Otto Pietsch, published by Braunstein (Bucharest). The "famous writer," Pietsch, devotes himself to demonstrating that English life is nothing but "mud."

The Germans are also making great efforts to destroy even the religious life of the country, and the propaganda that nearly wrecked the Roumanian Church some years ago is now greatly intensified. Four bishops have been forced to resign, and are to be replaced by others more favourable to the propagandists. The German and Austro-Magyar religious communities now have unlimited rights, and a very active literary propaganda is carried on all over the country.

Fleecing the Farmer.

Latest events in the Ukraine, the Balkans, and more especially on the Western Front, have made the Germans nervous, and they are taking elaborate precautions against any movement on the part of the Roumanians. Von Mackensen gave orders, through General Alevras, Chief of the Roumanian General Staff, to mobilize the Roumanian soldiers, who were but just released from service or returned from captivity. The men are to be sent—so runs the order—to various parts of the country where their services are needed for land cultivation. In the meantime they are to be under strict military discipline and subject to the power of courts-martial. By this means Mackensen hopes to keep absolute control over the Roumanians who might revolt, and at the same time to turn their services to account for his "Fatherland".!

Agricultural products are already under strictest control. In every district there is a commission of "experts" which controls the distribution of cereals, fruit, wines and so forth. Every farmer has to declare the gross produce of his land, and the "experts" then decide what proportion is to go to Germany, what may be left for the natives. Prices are fixed by the same commission, and payments are made only after long delays and endless formalities. If a German subject raises any claim against the farmers, the money owed to the latter is held at the disposal of the German economical administration, to satisfy the claim. The farmer is bound to transport the grain and to load it into the railway trucks at his own expense. Truly the German spider is making the most of his entangled fly.

Yet, bullied by the vilest soldiery that ever disgraced civilization and chivalry, with their country dismembered, starved, decimated by spotted typhus and other diseases, subjected to terrible moral humiliations, and plundered remorselessly, the Roumanians still have unbroken faith in their Allies.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Spotted typhus has broken out in Galicia and Bukovina.

Salonika has been suffering from great heat during the past week.

Saxony and Bavaria are to have their own diplomatic representatives at Sofia henceforth

A sergeant and five men belonging to the Greek troops interned in Germany have escaped to Holland.

All men belonging to the classes of 1902, 1901, and 1900, who are natives of Macedonia, have been called to the Greek Colours.

A big fire broke out on the morning of August 27 in the Stambul quarter of Constantinople. The fire spread and destroyed more than 1,000 houses.

Seventy-five non-commissioned officers of the active Greek Army and 430 of the reserve have been promoted officer-cadets for bravery on the battlefield.

The Chief Court at Rangoon has upheld the conviction of Anton F. Mathoe, a Dutch subject, manager of a local Dutch firm, for the concealment of enemy assets.

A meeting, attended by more than 600 Thracian refugees, which was held in Athens, decided to convene a Pan-Thracian Congress to consider the question of the future of Thrace.

The Greek authorities at Salonika have seized the baggage belonging to M. Carro, ex-director of the German School of Archæology at Athens, a well-known institution for propaganda purposes.

Survivors of the Messageries Maritimes steamship Polynesien, some 500 Serbian soldiers besides the crew, have been brought to Malta, where they are being taken care of by the military authorities.

The Simla correspondent of *The Times* telegraphed, under date of August 20 :—The anxiety which prevailed owing to the cessation of the monsoon over North-West India and parts of the peninsula has been allayed by the general rain which has now fallen.

The King has awarded the silver medal for saving the lives of British subjects to the Emir of Merderdra and to three Arabs, named Lebou Waled Abdoulha, Mohamed Waled M'Barek, and Ahmed Bin Damkea, for their services to two survivors of a shipwrecked British crew last May.

The Inspector-General of Police writes in the Ceylon administration report for 1917 that an interesting result of the issue of the new two rupee notes was the way in which persons who had previously been concerned in the forgery of Rs.100, Rs.50 and Rs.10 notes quickly took up counterfeiting the new note.

Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, is expected in Berlin this week to confer with German statesmen concerning the supplementary agreement to the Brest Treaty which affects Turkish interests on the Black Sea and the Caspian. The German Ambassador to Constantinople, Count Bernstorff, is also expected.

The *Egyptian Gazette* learns that the Quarantine Board has decided to send out a delegate to the Hejaz this year to watch the sanitary condition of the Egyptian pilgrims, as was the custom prior to the war. Only two men of Alexandria have asked for permission to go on pilgrimage this year with the Holy Carpet.

The report of the Inspector-General of the Ceylon Police states that at present 31 per cent. of the force can read and write English, 43 per cent. can speak English, and 56 per cent. can read and write the vernacular language only. Only 12 per cent. of the strength is illiterate, and the greatest care is apparently taken in the recruiting.

At the Viceroy of India's Legislative Council, which met on September 4 and will sit until September 26, it is expected that the reform scheme will be discussed. A resolution will be moved asking the Imperial authorities to consider the appointment of two Indians as Agents-General in London, and to readjust the machinery of the India Office.

Commenting upon the laying of the foundation-stones of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the *Zionist Review*, the official organ of the English Zionist Federation, acknowledges with gratitude that this important achievement was made possible by the success of the British arms and by British understanding of political conditions.

A communication from Buenos Ayres reports a great movement among the Jews of the Argentina to join the British Army for service in Palestine. The report states that practically all the young men in the Moiseville colony have organised themselves into a Jewish unit, and are awaiting an opportunity to leave for the Palestine front as volunteers for a Jewish unit.

The Duke of Connaught, chairman of the General Council of King George's Fund for Sailors, has received £2,485 from Lord Pentland, Governor of Madras, for the fund. Lord Pentland has informed the Duke that the total is made up as follows :—From the chairman and members of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, Rs.8,750 (£583), which with a grant of Rs.9,000 (£600) from the residue of a shipwrecked mariners' fund, founded by them in 1872, made a total contribution of Rs.17,750 (£1,183). The Madras War Fund contributed Rs.15,000 (£1,000), as a mark of its special interest in the work of the mercantile marine, and in grateful recognition of its loyal and faithful services. The rest of the total was made up of private contributions received by Lord Pentland.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ARE THE ROUMANIANS ROMANS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I am happy to find that, after all, M. Ciotori's view of the origin of the Roman peoples is practically identical with mine. He admits that the Roumanians, as they are now called, are in fact Thraco-Illyrians, Dacians, and Gets who have been Latinized. That is precisely my opinion, and the only difference between us is that while he assigns the Latinizing process to Trajan's legionaries, I attribute it to the manifold influences which affected the native races during the period of Roman sway. M. Ciotori unconsciously supports this latter view by instancing the Anglicized British colonies, where the native races have undergone a civilizing process in which blood relationship plays a comparatively minor part. It probably played a more considerable part, but only locally, in the districts where Trajan's colonists settled and intermarried with the natives.

The admission now made by M. Ciotori relieves me of the necessity of further discussion with him. I must, however, before parting with him, deprecate the tone and language which he has employed in discussing this purely academic question. "I consider," he writes, "the efforts to revive this controversy as if one would look after dead horses to take their hoofs as very precious things." Who has revived this controversy? M. Ciotori has availed himself of a passing remark in my review of Sir E. Holdich's book—a remark with which, it now appears, he agrees—to write a letter to THE NEAR EAST accusing me of deriving my opinions from "Magyar and Bulgarian Chauvinists," and plainly hinting that my historical knowledge is limited to acquaintance with these sources. When he finds that this is not the case he excuses himself for making this wholly gratuitous accusation by explaining that the Chauvinists invoke certain historians whom I mentioned—a very different thing. Safe in the knowledge derived from my previous letter that I am for the moment far from access to books (I am, in fact, on a tour in Ireland), he scoffs at my allusion to other scientific authorities, whom he carefully refrains from mentioning himself, but who exist notwithstanding his silence, and triumphantly appeals to the testimony of "humble cottages" and "humble chroniclers," declaring that "the very existence of a people cannot be contested with dead letters taken from dubious writers."

It is difficult to treat rhodomontade of this kind seriously, or even to feel anything but amusement at M. Ciotori's effort to associate me with the German enemy by declaring that I "fire the Roumanian Question with the Big Bertha of the Chauvinists." What he means to *prove* by all this rhetoric is not very clear. He has practically given up the genealogical claim by admitting the descent of the Roumanians from Latinized provincials. The traditions and usages of the peasantry, many of which are common to the neighbouring races, prove nothing in regard to descent, but certainly attest the process of Latinization. The facial type, in some parts of the Carpathians, is a better test. Genealogists, who reject tradition, know their own business. How would the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords treat a peerage claim based on family tradition? The name "Vlach," a Slavonic adaptation of a Teutonic word meaning "stranger," also proves nothing as regards descent; it was applied to the Latinized provincials; the "Welsh," whom the Anglo-Saxons drove into the western mountains of Britain, as the Vlachs were driven into the mountains of Macedonia, were not Romans.

M. Ciotori's insinuation that I deny the existence of Roumanian nationality is, of course, totally unfounded. The Roumanians, though a mixed race, have a right to be regarded as one of the "Neo-Latin" peoples, though scarcely in the same sense as the Spaniards, whose ancestors underwent Roman influence in a greater degree than any of the provincials outside the limits of Italy. The land now called "Roumania" and the whole Balkan Peninsula suffered much in the days of the migrations of peoples. In the case of the Roumanians the great infusion of Slavonic blood is attested, among other indications, by the very large Slavonic ingredient in the language.

I quite agree with M. Ciotori that the force of nationality cannot be produced artificially. It certainly cannot be created by an artificial pedigree beginning with Romulus and Remus. I have lived for many years in contact with the Roumanians, both north and south of the Danube, and of course recognise their distinctive racial type. I have been a personal witness to their calamities, have deeply sympathised with them in their misfortune, and look forward with hope to their national revival.—I am, etc.,

JAMES D. BOURCHIER.

Castlecomer, Ireland, Sept. 1.

A REAL INJUSTICE TO INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I was interested in reading to-day in your issue of July 5, a reference to *The Times* article on the above question.

If the Allied nations really mean to carry out the noble ideals, so well put forth in some of President Wilson's recent pronouncements, they cannot, and must not, ignore the just claims of the "coloured" races when the after-war settlement comes to be made. I have recently come to the American continent via the Far East, and the contrast of populations to the square mile, with the resultant contrast between wages in different countries, could not but impress one.

India has a population of 320 millions; Australia has between four and five. I have not a map before me, but I fancy the acreage of Australia is larger than that of India. Canada has a population of 1.9 to the square mile, the U.S. 34, South America 6.4, Japan about 360, China rather more than this. Mr. Putnam Weale tells us that India has always about 60 millions on the verge of starvation, and her people have been, therefore, willing to migrate as indentured labourers to distant parts for 1s. a day, without the right to settle after the indenture is over in the country. When I passed recently through Ceylon and the Malay Straits, I found the average wage of labourers was 15 cents a day. In North America it is at the lowest 300!

Can we justify the perpetuation of such a state of things, while Great Britain controls 12 out of the 52 million square miles of land on this earth? If Germany is not to have back her colonies, can none of them be put aside for the development of the coloured man? Whether it is wise or not to exclude him from vast spaces of unoccupied land in America and Australia I do not desire to say. But I do say that if he is thus excluded (in Canada a Chinaman must pay £100 before entering the country), it is the plain duty of the white races to provide some places where such squeezed nations can find their natural development, all the more so as the white races take care to preserve rights of entry and trading for themselves in the lands of these over-populated coloured people!

We rightly speak of Germany's sin in promulgating the doctrine that "might is right," but are we to commit this sin while we condemn her for it?

You rightly say that "it is depressing that almost the first move towards new conditions connoted by the Imperial Conference "should be made in the direction of restricting rather than fostering Imperial intercourse." It is plainly the duty of the Allied nations to encourage and not restrict emigration from over-populated countries, especially ones where their Imperial rule brings corresponding Imperial obligations.—I am, etc.,

BERESFORD POTTER (Archdeacon in Cyprus).

Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, August 4, 1918.

THE USELESS TURK.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—One consequence of the German madness for war, plunder, and conquest is the encouragement of the Turks to believe in a future homogeneous Turkish Empire, independent of other elements in the East, and of Islam itself, in ignorance of the past help of Greek mercenaries and Arabian support, which enabled it to establish a claim for any government whatever.

These Turks, however, brought nothing with them but their swords when they trekked into Asia Minor; and we find them now, after four hundred years of absolute domination, as bare of material resource as of intellectual progress, notwithstanding their intercourse with the highest civilisations of old, Greek and Arabian, for all these years, and the rare opportunity they had in a tolerant and benevolent Europe to develop their faculties. The fact is, this race is as stupid as that other branch of Huns which made Prussia its home, and is beyond redemption. Moreover, they are as much strangers in Asia Minor as they are in the old capital of Constantine, and I claim on behalf of Arabs—and of the Greeks, too—that the Turks must forfeit rule in the East.

European diplomacy may not concede so much, or see as far as it might as regards the East; but I am of opinion that Persians, Arabs, and Greeks must come again into their own, and arrange their affairs jointly. Persians are the Parisians of the East, as Arabs are its British, and Greeks its Italians. Japan, China, and India will have to see to the rest of Eastern regeneration.—I am, etc., ANGLO-SYRIAN.

August 24, 1918.

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SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Referring to the private letter (which has until now been ignored) from the Earl of Plymouth to Mr. Devine, published in THE NEAR EAST on the 9th inst., in which his lordship expresses his ignorance of any political intrigues and attacks by Serbians in this country against Montenegro (as they are accused of by Mr. Devine), I must say that there is nothing surprising in his lordship's ignorance of such contemptible accusations, because such do not exist. They are fiction, invented by some unscrupulous individuals, and Mr. Devine is the victim selected to circulate them.

Serbians and Montenegrins are of one origin, children of the same parents. They love and respect one another, and whoever dares to try to make bad blood between them is considered their mutual enemy. Austria-Hungary has for many years past endeavoured by political intrigues and bribery to alienate them, but without success; so what chance can Mr. Devine have of succeeding where Austria-Hungary, with skill and money, has failed?

Mr. Devine poses as the friend of Montenegro, yet he opposes the wish of Montenegrins for the unity of all Southern Slavs, especially Montenegrins, as the members of one family. Are Montenegrins, who for five hundred years have fought and bled for this ideal, and with their old King were always, and are to-day, *the* champions for this unity, not to see it realised when the long-looked-for opportunity arrives? Their exclusion would break these heroes' hearts.

No, Mr. Devine, the man is not yet born, even with crowned head, who shall prevent the Montenegrins from seeing their wish fulfilled—a wish nearly as old as Winchester; and if you really wish to be the friend of Montenegrins, you must conform to their wishes, otherwise love's labour will be lost.

A Serbian proverb says:—

> Spaci me Roze od ludog prijatelja,
> Od neprijalelja cu se sam Spasti!
> (God guard me from a foolish friend,
> From an enemy I can protect myself!)

—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

Polperro, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W., August 26, 1918.

[Our correspondent appears to confuse the desire on the part of Montenegro, in common with Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slavonia, etc., for the unity of the Southern Slavs—a desire the existence of which has never been challenged—and a controversy turning on the attempt of a section of Montenegrin politicians to bring about the fusion of Montenegro with Serbia under the present Serbian dynasty, before a plebiscite of Montenegrins can be taken on the subject. As we understand the position, the Montenegrin Government insists that no decision can be reached until the independence of the country is restored and the people of Montenegro can determine their own political future.]

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PALESTINE AND JERUSALEM.

(Recent Booklets.)

"Palestine and Jerusalem: A Soldier's Handbook" (1) compresses into a small and strongly bound pocket volume of 64 pages the "salient points of geography, history, and prestn-day life in Palestine," and is furnished with two useful little maps. The greatest difficulty to a writer who knows the country so intimately as the author—who has lived and travelled as a missionary of the C.M.S. for over a quarter of a century in all parts of the land—must be in the matter of compression. This booklet is a marvel of compactness. It gives very many details necessarily omitted from the more philosophical volume by Sir George Adam Smith, and therefore is a most useful supplement to it. For the soldier who wants to find out in a few words the historical associations of the place he passes, it is just what is needed, and it includes an excellent account of Jerusalem itself. The chapters on "The Crusades," upon "Ancient and Modern Sites," and upon the "Modern Inhabitants" are admirable in their brevity and clearness.

All who know the Orient will appreciate the wise and weighty advice given in the "General Remarks." It is impossible to quote more than a paragraph, but all might well be written with letters of gold:—

> Respect the native as a man with a long pedigree of history behind him. Avoid the mistake of putting him in the same category as the negro or the bushman. Never outrage his laws of life, social and religious. Forbear to ridicule his way of doing things, remembering he has not had your advantages. In some things you may find he can give you points; so wait, watch, learn. Be kind but not familiar. Be scrupulously just. Never make a promise except you mean literally to fulfil it.

The two little pamphlets on the "Historical Sites of (1) Southern Palestine" and (2) "Central Palestine" (2), by L. Trumper, of Port Said, printed in Cairo, contain a mass of useful facts regarding ancient sites in Palestine. They are, perhaps, rather too much concerned only with Biblical associations to the neglect of general history, but in the earlier volume there is an interesting summary of Napoleon's expedition to Syria in 1798.

Another booklet hailing from Egypt is "Jerusalem, the City of Many Sieges" (3) by an architect residing in Alexandria. He speaks from personal knowledge, and has illustrated his work by some excellent illustrations. The historical sketch is slight, but it is supplemented by a useful appendix of dates. The Crusades receive special attention, and, above all, the horrible "Children's Crusade"—which however, had in the outcome no influence on Jerusalem itself. As an architect Mr. Williams is critical of Russian and German buildings in the Holy City, and contrasts them unfavourably with the "quiet, one might say, homespun simplicity" of St. George's Collegiate Church.

> The contrast cannot be greater between the quiet restfulness of this position, attractive to meditative minds, and the flamboyancy of the buildings and sites of the Germans and Russians, the high towers and domes of whose churches proclaim themselves afar from the highest sites obtainable.

"The return of the Jews" is referred to in a sympathetic spirit. The immediate need, in the author's opinion, is of "a besom not of destruction but of cleanliness," and he would see "finally the whole compact mass of foolish superstitions gently but completely swept away." We fear thero would be little indeed of old Jerusalem by the time the "sweeps," "the architects and town planners," and the inconoclasts have had their innings! We cannot but regret the sketchiness of a work like this written by one who might have given us so much more of his professional knowledge and personal observation.

The essay on "The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem" (4) is a bewildering collection of undigested facts, like a series of notes of points of interest made in the course of reading, and published as extracted, with no attempt at chronological or any other order. The author seems to have no topographical knowledge of the land: names occur spelt in many un-English and un-Arabic ways, and the same names are spelt quite differently in different places; and there are, too, a number of typographical errors. As supplementary notes to a condensed English history of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem some readers may find it useful.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Future Government of India." By K. Vyasa Rao, B.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 12s. net.)

"The Quaint Companions." By Leonard Meyrick, with an Introduction by H. G. Wells. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"Constantine: King and Traitor." By Demetra Vaka. (London: The Bodley Head. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Homeland: A Year of Country Days." By Percy W. D. Izzard. 7s. 6d. net.

"At Antwerp and the Dardanelles." By Rev. H. C. Foster, M.A. (London: Mills and Boon, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"The Call of the World." By Ardaser Sorabjee N. Wadia, M.A. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The Iron Ration." By George Abel Schreiner. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Some Recollections." By Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, G.C.B. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

A MONTENEGRIN "COMMITTEE."

The *Glas Czernogortza* (or *La Voix de Montenegro*) the official journal of the Montenegrin Government, published on August 25 an important *arrête* regarding the "Comité Monténégrin pour l'Union Nationale." This states that André Radovitch and Yanko Spassoyevitch, former Ministers, and Danilo Gatalo, Yovan M. Djourachkovitch, and Milosh Ivanovitch, former officials, published on July 29, 1917, in the *Ouyédiniénié*, a "declaration" touching the sovereign rights of Montenegro; that they aimed at incorporating Montenegrin territory, or the Montenegrin State, in another State, and imposing another dynasty upon it; and that, with these aims, they formed the committee already mentioned. They have also, it is added, inserted articles in other papers in furtherance of their aims, and in these and other ways, have offended against certain articles of the penal code. Therefore they will be prosecuted before the tribunal competent to deal with the matter for infraction of these clauses, the necessary steps being taken after the restoration of Montenegro. Meanwhile they are deprived of all the privileges conferred on them as civil officials. The *arrête* is signed by M. N. Haidoucovitch, Minister for the Interior and (pro tem.) for War.

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[1] "Palestine and Jerusalem" (A Soldier's Handbook). By Rev. H. Sykes, M.A. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 10d. net.)

[2] "Historical Sites in Southern and Central Palestine." By Lieut.-Com. Victor L. Trumper, R.N.R. (Ret.) (Cairo. 3d. each.)

[3] "Jerusalem, the City of Many Sieges." By Robert Williams, F.R I.B.A. Alexandria. P.T.6.)

[4] "The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem." By Donald Ward, B.A. (London; Ouseley and Son.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. September 6	1918. August 24	Friday	1336. Julkada 30	5678. Elul. 29
7	25	Saturday........	Julheggia. 1	Tishri. 1
8	26	Sunday	2	2
9	27	Monday	3	3
10	28	Tuesday	4	4
11	29	Wednesday	5	5
12	30	Thursday	6	6

M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has left London for Chenies.

Sir Roper and Lady Parkington have returned to Claridge's Hotel from Harrogate.

King Nicholas of Montenegro arrived in Paris last Friday evening from Bordeaux.

Mr. Alex Devine, who is known for his interest in Montenegro and its affairs, has left London for Paris and Rome.

M. Voislav Petrovitch, formerly Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has joined the Serbian Army at Salonika.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, had an interview with Viscount Hardinge at the Foreign Office on Saturday.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on the Maharajah of Patiala and the Maharajah of Bikanir.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Arthur Philip Coote and Miss Margaretta Wright took place on September 5 at All Saints' Church, Ripley, Derbyshire.

As a result of the appeal made by Lady Wingate, wife of the High Commissioner, a very large number of valuable pearls have been received from Egypt for the Red Cross necklace.

Much sympathy will be felt with Sir Charles and Lady Marling, who have lost their little daughter, Romaine, aged three. She died at the British Legation, Teheran, on August 26, of peritonitis.

Sir Ronald Graham arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday as the guest of the King and Queen. The Hon. Lady Graham had the honour of being invited, but was unavoidably prevented from obeying their Majesties' commands. Sir Ronald left on Monday.

The engagement is announced between Captain C. A. Langley, M.C., Royal Engineers, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Langley, of Cairo, Egypt, and Violet, eldest daughter of the Ven. A. F. Sharp, vicar of St. Stephen's, Hampstead, and Mrs. Sharp.

Sir Prabhashankar D. Pattani (Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India) and Colonel Ambroise Phrantzis (upon his appointment as Greek Military Attaché) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Arthur Nigel Cahusac, M.C., 24th Regiment, youngest son of Colonel W. F. Cahusac, C.M.G., and Mrs. Cahusac, and Christian, widow of Lieut.-Colonel Eustace Maxwell, Indian Cavalry.

The marriage arranged between Captain J. H. Crace, Indian Army Reserve, and Miss E. Farrar Roberts, of Plas Lodwig, Bournemouth West, will take place at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, London, on Thursday, September 26, at 2.30. All friends will be welcomed at the church.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Miss Jessie Anne Scott, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by his Majesty the King of Serbia, in recognition of her services as surgeon at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Ostrovo.

Colonel Sir Henry Courtauld Thomson, Chief British Red Cross Commissioner for Egypt and the Near East, arrived at Windsor Castle on August 29. He had the honour of being received by the King before dinner, when his Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The Countess of Minto will leave 95, Lancaster Gate, on Tuesday next for Scotland.

The Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius arrived at the Legation on Monday from the country.

We understand that M. Beza, the Chancellor of the Roumanian Legation, has written a Roumanian grammar, which will be published very shortly.

On Wednesday the King invested Sir Archdale Earle with the insignia of a K.C.S.I., and Lieut.-Colonel James Swan with the insignia of a C.I.E.

The following Indian officers had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday:—Subadar Ransa Rang, Jemadar Suba Singh, Jemadar Mahabir Thappa, and Jemadar Sawai Singh.

The Hon. Patrick W. M. Ramsay, who has just been gazetted a First Secretary in the diplomatic service, was from 1905 to 1908 attached to the Embassy at Constantinople, and was granted the special allowance for knowledge of Turkish.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Harold B. Richards, Lieutenant R.E., son of the late Captain John Cumins Richards, R.N., and Dorothea Temple, only child of the late Colonel Henry M. Temple, Bengal Staff Corps.

The engagement is announced of Lieut. Gilbert Traill, M.C., Royal Field Artillery, of Colombo, Ceylon, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert F. Traill. of Broadlands, Tunbridge Wells, to Gwendoline, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Howden, of Tunbridge Wells.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fergusson, K.C.B., who was specially mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch on Tuesday morning, served for some time with the Egyptian Army. He was present with the 10th Sudanese throughout the campaigns of '96, '97, and '98, was severely wounded at Roseires, was mentioned five times in dispatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. He later commanded the 15th Sudanese and the Omdurman District. From 1901 to 1903 he was Adjutant-General of the Egyptian Army. Afterwards he commanded the 3rd Grenadier Guards, and in 1909 he was appointed Inspector of Infantry. For his services in the present war he has been awarded the K.C.B., having been twice mentioned in dispatches. He married in 1901 Lady Alice Mary Boyle, second daughter of the seventh Earl of Glasgow.

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The *Lokalanzeiger* states that the ex-Khedive of Egypt has arrived in Berlin from Munich with a large suite.

Dr. Barnardo's Homes have received a further instalment of £18 16s. 3d.—making £358 1s. 8d. in all—collected by British officers and men in Mesopotamia.

According to a Constantinople telegram to the *Fremdenblatt*, the Sultan of Turkey intends to visit the Rulers of the Central Powers after the return of the Special Mission sent to announce his accession to the Throne.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Robert Cecil, Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, have promised to speak at the annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission, which will be held on October 30.

General Allenby telegraphed to Sir D. Haig:—"The British Army in Palestine sends heartiest congratulations to the British Army in France on its continued and ever-increasing successes." Sir Douglas Haig has warmly thanked General Allenby.

Colonel Haig, British Consul-General at Ispahan, reports that, owing to Turkish oppression, the surviving Armenians have fled from Turkey after making a brave resistance, and he adds: "We appeal for help to England and America in order to rescue the surviving heroes. Funds are urgently solicited."

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
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M. Venizelos, who is touring the Macedonian front, is everywhere being acclaimed with enthusiasm both by the troops and the local population.

Mr. Harris Bigg Wither, of Gathurst, near Wigan, Lancs., for twenty-seven years a member of the International Commission of the Danube, left property valued at £6,503.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has arrived at Coburg, but he will, presumably, shortly return to Sofia, as it is reported that the King of Bavaria will go there next week to visit him.

The King on Wednesday inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps, under the command of Capt. M. H. Beattie and Second-Lieut. M. Fakhruddin Khan (Indian Army Reserve of Officers), who are on short leave from the Western front.

Telegrams in connection with the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war replying to greetings by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Charles Munro, include messages from King George, Marshal Foch, General Pershing, General Diaz, and Sir Douglas Haig.

The King has granted to the following officers of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture authority to wear decorations conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services:—Second Class of the Order of the Nile, Mr. John Langley; Third Class, Mr. Ernest Shearer; Fourth Class, Mr. Frank Hughes.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports (September 2):—A telegram from Constantinople states that the Sheikh of the Senussi, who crossed from Tripoli to Pola in a German submarine, and who was accompanied from Benghazi by the Deputy Yussuf Shetvan Bey, arrived in Constantinople on August 30. They were received at the station with elaborate ceremony by the Minister for War, Enver Pasha, and representatives of the Sultan and the Grand Vizier, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and a large and enthusiastic crowd The visitors are staying at the Old Seraglio.

The Postmaster-General announces that parcels for officer prisoners of war in Turkey will not for the present be accepted at post offices for transmission through the intermediary of the Commissioner, British Red Cross Society, Alexandria, Egypt. Until further notice, all parcels intended for transmission by post to officer prisoners of war in Turkey should be addressed care of Ottoman Red Crescent Society, Constantinople, in the manner indicated in paragraph 18 of the Post Office leaflet entitled "Communication with Prisoners of War Interned Abroad."

OBITUARY.

Judge Templer, who died suddenly last week at Stockton-on-Tees, was for some time a District Judge in Cyprus.

Major-General W. G. Birrell, A.M.S., late Southern Command, whose death was recently announced, served in Burma in 1884, and was awarded the medal and clasp, and mentioned in dispatches. In 1887-9 he received a second clasp to the Burma medal for service in the last Burmese War. In the meanwhile he had seen service with the Suakin Expedition of 1885, for which he received the Suakin Medal and clasp and the Khedive's Star. Later he went up the Nile with the Khartoum Expedition of 1898, and was present at the fall of Omdurman, for which he received the Queen's Sudan and Egyptian Service Medals. He also served many years in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. In May of this year he retired owing to ill-health.

News has just been received in this country that Mr. Reginald Herbert Scudamore died at Broussa, Constantinople, on August 6. Mr. Scudamore was one of the oldest British consular officials in Constantinople. He was appointed clerk in the Consulate-General in 1885; ten years later he became clerk in the Consular Court; and in March, 1900, was appointed Registrar. When war broke out between Great Britain and Turkey, Mr. Scudamore remained at his post, and though he was soon afterwards interned in Stamboul he was quickly released, as nothing against him could be found. He was, however, again arrested, and was interned in Broussa, where his wife and family were also sent. His death will be much regretted, for he was highly respected by all who knew him. and had a very large circle of friends. He was born in November, 1871.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jerome Boileau Allsopp, D.S.O., South Lancashire Regiment, was killed on May 27. He served through the South African War, and afterwards went to India, where he remained till November, 1916 (as adjutant, 1912-15). For a time in 1911 he was A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Sir A. Martin, K.C.B., and he was given his company in March, 1914, promoted major, and proceeded to the front in January, 1917, and in April, 1917, obtained command of a South Lancashire battalion, which he commanded at the battle of Messines on June 7, 1917, and the third battle of Ypres on August 1, 1917, where the battalion fought with much distinction and where he was wounded. Returning to the front again in November, he resumed command, but last February he was transferred to the command of another battalion, which he had since led with much success, and in April he was awarded the D.S.O., having previously been twice mentioned in dispatches.

Lieutenant Indra Lal Roy, R.A.F., second son of Mr. P. L. Roy, Director of Public Prosecutions, Calcutta, and of Mrs. Roy, of 67, FitzGeorge Avenue, W., was reported missing after an action on July 22, and is now known to have been killed. His elder brother had enlisted in the H.A.C. as a private within a few weeks of the outbreak of war, and as soon as he himself reached military age, in April, 1917, he left St. Paul's School and the prospect of successful competition three or four years later for the Indian Civil Service, and within a few months qualified for a commission and a pilot's certificate in the Flying Corps. He went to the front last October, and did fine work until March, when his machine was brought down, but he was rescued from capture in an injured and unconscious state. In May the doctors permitted his return to do work as equipment officer, but within a few weeks he was medically passed for flying.

Brevet Colonel and Temporary Brigadier-General John Arthur Hannyngton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army, died on August 21 in hospital in the East of empyema following pneumonia. He was son of the late J. C. Hannyngton, and was born in 1868. In 1892 he transferred from the Worcestershire Regiment to the Indian Staff Corps. He had his brevet as colonel in January, 1917, and for a little time afterwards was temporary major-general, while originally he had a brigade command in March, 1916. Colonel Hannyngton had a record of very distinguished service. He was in East Africa in 1895-6, serving against the Mazru rebels; in 1897-8 he was severely wounded in Uganda; and, later, in the campaign in Somaliland, he was in command for two long periods, and afterwards in command of the lines of communication. In addition to mention in despatches and the award of the medal with clasp, he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He had received various decorations for his other services. The present war brought to him many additional honours.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1918.

THE MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN.

The Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force has not yet concluded its task, and at a time when the intense heat of summer interrupts the progress of the campaign the publication of a despatch from the Commander-in-Chief is opportune as a reminder of what his army has already accomplished and of what is still ahead of it. General Marshall's narrative can be conveniently grouped under three headings—the military operations, the consolidation of the British position, and the measures taken for the development of the country. In regard to the first, we have the story of the six months from October 1, 1917, to March 31, 1918. During this period a series of operations was carried out with the object of relieving the country immediately to the north of Baghdad of any pressure from the enemy. The British advance had stopped in the centre at the railhead at Samarrah, on the right flank before the Jebel Hamrin range, and on the left practically at a point on the Euphrates nearest to Baghdad. In September, just before the opening date of General Marshall's despatch, the latter position had been improved by the capture and occupation of Ramadieh, and for the time being there was nothing to be feared from the direction of the Euphrates. It was accordingly decided to deal with the Turks on the Jebel Hamrin, and with this end in view a preliminary attack was made on their positions on the Upper Diala River. While these operations were in progress the enemy launched a counter-attack down the Tigris, and proceeded to entrench themselves a few miles north of Samarrah. Before they could consolidate their position, however, they were attacked, routed, and pursued as far north as Tekrit, which was captured on November 5. A fortnight later occurred the tragic death of Sir Stanley Maude, and the reference affords General Marshall an opportunity to pay a splendid and touching tribute to his memory. Called upon to take up the post of Commander-in-Chief, General Marshall lost no time in launching the attack on the Jebel Hamrin, and by the end of the first week of December the southern portion of the range had been occupied by our forces. Kifri was reached, but the moment was not considered to have come for any general movement northwards, and the troops were immediately withdrawn from the forward areas. The Turks, although defeated, were by no means at the end of their tether. They were outgeneralled in the field, but under German direction their strategy was likely to be sound. Reinforcements, it was discovered shortly afterwards, were being sent down the Euphrates, and General Marshall's attention was, therefore, directed to his left flank. A very brilliant operation followed. The enemy had anticipated our attack by withdrawing his advanced posts, but a mobile force in motor-cars, together with cavalry, was sent in pursuit. The Turkish retreat by road and river was cut off, and over five thousand officers and men were taken prisoners. The despatch explains the nature of the operation, which was not made clear in the official reports at the time. It was directed against a particular Turkish force, which was to be driven as far as possible from Hit and to have all possible damage inflicted upon it. The composition of the attacking columns enabled the pursuit to be continued for seventy-three miles along the Aleppo road, until nearly the whole of the Turkish force had been accounted for. With this episode General Marshall concludes his account of the military operations, for the next forward movement, on the road to Mosul, was not begun until the latter part of last April.

The work of consolidating the British position in Mesopotamia has necessarily been of a varied character. In the first place must be enumerated the dealings with the inhabitants, especially on the borders of the country occupied. The main advance had been up the Tigris, and the Western area had only been dealt with in so far as was required to protect our flank. The occupation of Ramadieh, on the Euphrates, had brought our troops into touch with a number of tribes that could not easily adapt themselves to the new order. Raids had to be undertaken against hostile Sheikhs, and the smuggling of food to the Turks prevented. It was significant that at this time no effort had been made to establish British control along the Euphrates, and General Marshall's remarks on this subject are of special interest. He writes: "In the time of my predecessor the Civil Commissioner, Sir Percy Cox, had strongly urged that the whole of the Euphrates line from Felujah to Nasiriyeh should be brought under military and civil control, but at that time circumstances did not permit of any extension of our military responsibilities. By the middle of December, 1917, however, the military position had completely changed owing to the magnificent successes gained by General Allenby in Palestine." The whole of the lower Euphrates valley was now brought under military control by the establishment of a chain of posts from Busreh to Felujah. Special care was taken not to place troops in either of the religious centres, Kerbela and Nejef; but these precautions were, unfortunately, not proof against one or two isolated exhibitions of fanaticism. A further task imposed on the Expeditionary Force was to keep a watchful eye on conditions in Persia. In the south the River Karun had to be guarded, in order to protect the oilfields near Tembi, and to maintain order in Ahwaz, Shuster, and Dizful. A different object primarily took British troops into Persia further north. General Marshall writes: "Towards the end of the month (January) the state of famine to which the Turks had reduced Northern Persia made it incumbent on me to endeavour to open the main trade route viâ Kermanshah in order to get supplies to the poor inhabitants of the towns and villages, and to provide them with an outlet for their home manufactures. With this object in view, I increased the garrison of Kasr-i-Shirin [on the border], and pushed small posts towards Kermanshah."

No part of General Marshall's duties, it is to be inferred from the despatch, have appealed to him more than the task of redeeming Mesopotamia from the impoverishment to which Turkish misrule had reduced it. When the Expeditionary Force made its way to Baghdad the population in many parts was in sore straits, and to the work of supplying the Army was added the distribution of food to the inhabitants. To remedy such a state of affairs in a country that was at one time one of the largest granaries of the then known world was an obvious obligation imposed upon the new regime. The aim was not only to make the civil population self-supporting, but to lessen as much as possible the Army's dependence upon sea transport. Irrigation was among the first problems to call for attention, and it is noticeable that one of the objectives of the military operations on the Upper Diala was to protect the headworks of the canal system in this area. The water channels here and further south were cleared, with the result that between two and three hundred thousand additional acres were quickly brought under cultivation. Many hundred tons of seed grain have been planted, General Marshall reports, and to assist in bringing the harvest into Baghdad a branch line down to Hillah was constructed. The period under review he describes as one of constant construction work for the protection of the ever-increasing lines of communication, for irrigation purposes, and for opening up the country with railways, roads, and telegraphs. In a word, what the British force found a wilderness as a result of Turkish rule has already begun to show the aspects of a peaceful and settled country under enlightened government. In whichever direction the military operations extend the same advantages follow hard upon them. For this reason the campaign is the most satisfactory of the whole war, and the Army can only be eager to see its task completed by the final ejection of the Turks from the whole of Upper Mesopotamia.

EGRETS AND OSPREYS.

By L. J.

Everyone knows the beautiful filmy plumes, commonly called "osprey," used by milliners for the adornment of ladies' hats. But possibly everyone does not know that they come from various species of egrets, or white herons, and that they are not obtained from the osprey, which is a fish-eating hawk, quite innocent of any feathers of the kind.

It is believed that the delicate shadowy plume was originally, and not inappropriately, called *esprit* by the French, and it seems more likely that *esprit* should have been corrupted into osprey than egret. But whatever the origin may have been, the word came to be pronounced osprey, and from the fact that the osprey was the better known bird in the West, people were led to imagine that the hawk was the source of the commodity.

In the East the osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, is also known. In India it is called in the vernacular *machlimár*, or fish-killer, and, being a bird of aquatic habits, it is to be seen widely distributed all over the country wherever there is water containing fish. But the egret, especially the cattle-egret, *Bubulous coromandus*, is a still more familiar sight. For one thing, it is a permanent resident, and not a migratory bird, a mere winter visitant, like the osprey. It is with us always and in great numbers, and a bird of the open plains, its pure white colour makes it conspicuous as it traverses the country in company with the cattle and the buffaloes for the sake of the grasshoppers and other insects dislodged by the herds from the grasses.

The sort of country is readily recalled to the mind's eye. It looks flat enough, flatness is the feature of it, and yet parts are lower in level than others, and the lower levels are indicated by the natural drainage line, by pools and shallows glittering in the strong sunlight, or by mud, or rushes and reeds and tall *sarkanda* grasses nodding their silvery top-knots to the breeze. There, in the cold weather, are the migratory ducks quack-quacking in the swamps, coots skittering over the surface, snipe lurking in many a slushy corner, and on the muddy foreshores, or wading in the puddles, are the marsh birds, the godwits, plovers, and shanks, while flocks of terns scream overhead, a welcome medley of sights and sounds to the sportsman. Overhead, too, are the pied kingfishers and the ospreys on the same errand intent. Only the neat and almost noiseless dip of the kingfishers is wholly unlike the prodigious splash of the ospreys, great birds like white-headed kites, which soar and hover over the water, and drop now and again with an amazing smack to rise again with the prey in their talons. And round and about, white specks on the landscape, are the gregarious cattle-egrets, stalking the grasses with the buffaloes, riding on their backs maybe, or reposing in fantastic attitudes, heads tucked well within their wings, looking like white Easter eggs supported by thin black legs.

But the egrets wear no dainty aigrettes at that time of year. It is when the spring begins to stir the blood to warmth, and the birds, by change of plumage or by antics or the "sweet wild twist of song," indulge in mad-cap masquerade, the little white herons commence to sport their love display. Birds have many strange ways of making themselves attractive in their courtship appeals, and they are fortunate if their amatory moods take the form of the ridiculous dances of the cranes or the hiccups of the water-hens. The ill-fated egrets depend on the so-called "osprey," the temporary feathering on back of head and neck, which lures them to their doom. The plumes begin to appear in May, and from June onwards is the nesting season. In May and June the drainage line wears a different aspect; the migratory aquatic birds have left for their summer homes, and the grey and silent plain is a bare expanse of sparse vegetation and sun-baked mud. But there will be pools of water in the deeper hollows here and there; always near the villages there are tanks, and wherever there are trees and water the egrets will congregate with the paddy-birds, the spoonbills, and the cormorants. They are sociable fellows, rejoicing in colonies, and in colonies they roost and nest in the trees, where at night they can easily be shot or captured, and —for the sake of their *trousseaux*—they have been slaughtered in countless numbers.

The wanton destruction of so many insectivorous birds in the breeding season is bound to have its evil effects on the balance of nature, and in course of time the egret may even be extinct. Yet—if ladies must have aigrettes—there is another way of supplying them which is not without its cruelty, but is free from the objection of wholesale massacre. Egrets are not shy and wary birds; even in the winter, when the sportsman is at work at the *jhils*, the report of the gun merely sends them flapping leisurely away to other pastures. They seem to know that they are not the object of sport, and the world is all before them where to choose. In the breeding season the sportsman's gun is silent, and the proximity of villages has no terror for them. Their trees and pool may be quite near the homestead, the cluster of flat-roofed mud huts, and there the pigs nuzzling in the middens, the pariah dogs dozing in the hot dust, the twittering squirrels, the naked urchins, and the well and the women cause them no alarm. The boys with long sticks who herd the cattle are not English boys with catapults, and they are almost as familiar with them as with the cattle. The dirty tank in the deluge of sunshine, where their friends the buffaloes wallow, and the trees supply their daily wants and form their world. In the nesting season, in the height of the hot weather, when earth and air and every living thing is panting for the relief of the monsoon, the trees see a great deal of them. There they nest and indulge in a siesta in the daytime; and all that is what the native fowlers very well know.

The method of capture is very crude and simple, but very effective. The stock-in-trade consists of a pair of nets in frames and a few decoys. The nets are placed flat in the shallows, where they are nearly or altogether submerged and hidden from sight, and they can be released, so that they spring together and enclose a captured bird. The decoys are living egrets, with their eyes sewn up in the barbarous native fashion, and in their blind helplessness they do not seek to move from wherever they may be placed. A decoy is laid on the snare, and a roosting egret, seeing a fellow bird apparently enjoying itself in the cool of the water and green weeds, flutters down for company. Instantly the nets are pulled together by means of a cord in the hands of the fowler, hidden in the grasses at a distance, and the egret is a prisoner. The newly caught bird is then divested of its marital plumes, and released to return to its spouse, and the nets are set again. It is impossible to say what conjugal trouble there may be when an egret rejoins its mate devoid of its wedding garments, and there is the cruelty to the decoys, but there is no carnage.

So, when we see the aigrettes on the fashionable hats of the day—

> "Where beauty's veil doth cover every blot,
> And all things turn to fair that eyes can see,"

they bring back the atmosphere of Indian plains, and reveal the blot in the background—the blot of harmless, useful birds, murdered, mutilated, and tortured in order that our women may be beautiful. And, at the thought, the sight of the plumes becomes bitter to the eye, as if their beauty had been wiped away.

SUFFERING ARMENIANS.

A telegram received in London recently by Reuter's Agency states that several thousand destitute Armenians from Van and Urumia have arrived at Hamadan, proceeding south. They are in acute distress and urgently need help. Great distress prevails in Turkish and Russian Armenia. The exertions made by the Armenians in organising the defence of the Caucasus have almost exhausted their resources, and the scarcity of food in Russia and Turkey has left the Armenian population in a hopeless condition.

Considerable progress has been made in the development of the educational system in Palestine since the Zionist Commission took the matter in hand with the concurrence of the British authorities, and the need for teachers is becoming acute. Applications are being invited by the Zionist Organisation in London from certified and experienced male teachers, possessing a thorough knowledge of English and able to teach elementary school subjects in Hebrew for service in Palestine.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Evidently Talaat Pasha is quite incorrigible. He has been "assuring" representatives of Central European Jewish organizations of his "sympathy" for the creation of a Jewish religious centre in Palestine, "by means of well-organized immigration and colonization." And he added that it was his desire to place this work under the "protection" of the Turkish Government. No doubt, in the intervals of talking this kind of twaddle the Grand Vizier amuses himself by endeavouring to catch sparrows by putting salt on their tails. The Jews, whether of Central Europe or elsewhere, are not likely to be caught with chaff, as I have remarked before; but Talaat keeps smiling (to himself, no doubt) and spinning the same old story. Occasionally, however, he seems to forget what he has said in regard to this matter. Thus, in a moment of aberration, he was foolish enough to tell the representative of a German paper that "the Turkish Government did not contemplate granting privileges to Jews in Palestine." He added that "Jews in Palestine would have the same rights as the rest of Ottoman citizens." As the Armenians, for instance?

⁂

As a small boy I used to regard the leopard as a very inferior kind of beast. The lion, the tiger, the rhinoceros, and even the wolf, were more or less terrible, but the leopard was "just a big cat" to me, and failed entirely to earn my respect. My natural history may have been not so bad, but I have to some extent revised my estimate of the leopard's "terribleness" since those youthful days. He can, and very often does, make himself an infernal nuisance, if not worse, and if you show any sign of fear he will become very bold indeed. If you put up a fight, however, he usually shows his catty nature very quickly. And a catty nature—even in a cat—is not a thing to admire.

⁂

These profound reflections are the result of reading a couple of panther paragraphs in papers recently received, one from Egypt and the other from India. The first is reproduced from an official diary of the Blue Nile Province (Sudan), and is as follows:—"A leopard was reported in Wad Magdubborest, and the Inspector and Captain Mee went out to try to shoot it; but owing to the density of the forest and to the leopard continually moving from place to place, were unable to get a shot. Shortly after they had given up the attempt and returned to Medani, the leopard sprang out and mauled a boy, but was driven away by the natives before it could do him much harm. Its tracks and the statement of the natives show it to have been a large one." There you have the true "catty" character, cautious, cruel and contemptible. But the other paragraph shows these characteristics still more clearly. I came across it in the *Pioneer*, and it relates how, at a village named Thapan, in Burma, a full-grown leopard attacked an old Burman who—fortunately for himself—carried a heavy stick. The old man put up a fight: he "struck the beast across the mouth, causing it to stagger and spin round," and afterwards belaboured it so energetically that he killed it outright. For this he received the usual Government reward of twenty rupees, which he certainly deserved. But what strikes me as the strange feature of the story is that the panther should have plucked up courage for the attack. Probably it did not notice that "heavy stick."

⁂

If any of my readers seriously doubt that the East has a more graceful way of doing most things—even business—than the West, I would invite them to consider carefully the following notice from the *Busreh Times* of May 30:—

> We the undersigned Abdullah and Mustaffa, the sons of Haji Taha El-Salman beg to inform the public that notwithstanding the death of our beloved eldest brother Yassin whose honoured name figured in the title of our business which has hitherto been carried under the title of Yassin and Brothers, sons of Haji Taha El-Salman, the said business will continue to run its former title without any change but the persons now interested in the business are Abdullah, Mustaffa as afore mentioned and the heirs of the deceased.
>
> A. T. Salman. M. T. Salman.

If that is not better than "We, the undersigned, hereby give notice," etc., of the usual Western notice, I am no judge.

⁂

I hope you are not missing the series of articles ("The Kaiser and the War") which Mr. Arthur N. Davis is contributing to *The Times*. They show up the weaknesses, the vanity, and the intense egotism of the All-Highest so vividly; and, as we should expect, they contain many references to the Near East and German ambitions in that direction. One remark that Hajji Wilhelm made to Mr. Davis was very typical of his self-centred character. "The way they have treated my poor sister, the Queen of Greece, is a shame and a disgrace," he exclaimed. There you have the man! To oppose, or thwart, *his* sister was "a disgrace"—even when she and her precious spouse were doing their best to sacrifice Greece and all the Greeks on the altar of Hohenzollern ambition. And imagine an Emperor saying to anyone: "If you see my cousin the King in England, kick him on the shins for me." No amount of "fire in his eye" could make such a remark anything but utterly childish. And yet this object is a "War Lord"!

⁂

I am afraid I have referred more than once to the diminutive size of the average Egyptian egg—and, for that matter, of the Near Eastern egg generally; but I hope I shall be forgiven if I touch on it, very briefly, once more. My excuse for doing so is the proposal, recently put forward in this country, that eggs should be sold by weight; and in view of my old grudge against the Oriental hen, I hasten to give my blessing to whoever made this excellent suggestion. As a matter of fact, I am told by a friend, eggs *have* been sold by weight for some little time in certain parts of Hampshire; and the system is so obviously a fair one that I have hopes that it will speedily become universal. Then the Gippy and Balkanic hens may be shamed into doing better! Seriously, the egg (and poultry) industry in this country would pay for organization.

⁂

In the third official list of internments of enemy aliens I came across the following:—"Domreicher, Andre, Farnham, Surrey, 52; spent most of the last eight years in England, but not been continuously resident; British-born wife; two British-born children; was in the Egyptian Civil Service." This reminded me that a fortnight ago a letter appeared in the *Field* from Mr. R. Drummond Hay, who eighteen or nineteen years ago was serving in the Egyptian Coast Guard Service. The writer mentions that "the staff officer for the Upper Egypt was (Bimbashi) André von Dumreicher, a reserve officer of the 21st Uhlans," and adds: "He later married the daughter, I believe, of the French Consul in Cairo. . . Not more than ten years ago, and perhaps less, they were living at Farnham, Surrey. Incidentally Mr. Drummond Hay states that "when Brockdorff took over Upper Egypt the three European coastguard officers were Germans." It was a curious state of affairs, and well illustrates our foolishly trusting way of treating potential enemies. Personally, I admit that the fact that Domreicher chose England as his residence would have led me to think that he was probably "English" at heart.

Corsair.

SYRIA & PALESTINE RELIEF FUND

(*Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916*).

Jaffa, July 11, 1918.

"Our first object is to try to restore the moral of the women and girls. The state in which most of them are is heart-breaking. They are reduced to

UNRECOGNISABLE GHOSTS

of their former selves, through fear, starvation, exposure and want of decent clothing. The state of most of them is heart-breaking. Nearly all . . . driven out of the town . . . wandered about from place to place suffering

GREAT HARDSHIPS AND CRUELTIES.

They lost all their possessions. Most of them have lost all their grown-up male relations. We are busy planning with the military authorities how work may be found for all the women."

(Letter from Relief Worker.)

SYRIA & PALESTINE RELIEF FUND

110, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report.

The first of the quarterlies to deal with the Montagu-Chelmsford Report is *The Round Table*, which can be relied upon to approach the subject sympathetically, but critically. Starting from the point of view that the announcement of August 20, 1917, constitutes a sacred pledge by the British nation, it holds that that pledge must be fulfilled by a definite and generous advance along the road which demonstrably leads to the declared goal. Risks, it states, there unquestionably are; "but we must not be frightened by such anticipations into making the one mistake which cannot be remedied—the postponement of any advance at all until confidence in our intentions and in our ability to fulfil them is destroyed."

After a brief analysis of the report, the article proceeds:—

> There are, however, four conditions which the scheme must obviously fulfil if it can hope for success, and by these it is reasonable that the main details of the project should be tested. *First*, the plan must contain in itself the germs of orderly and continuous development; the path must not lead to a precipice from which we shall have to recoil and start afresh. *Second*, there must be clarity of responsibility and no confusion of duties; so that the acts of Ministers may be readily judged both by the electorate and by the periodical commissions of inquiry. *Third*, there must be the most cordial co-operation possible between the old governmental agencies and the new; and to this end every point of friction must be eliminated or averted so far as ordinary prudence can foresee *Fourth*, there must be strong, prompt and effective control in the hands of those ultimately responsible for peace and order; so that mistakes may be quickly rectified, and the experiment may run its course under favourable conditions of internal quiet and contentment.
>
> Now, with these elementary criteria, there are certain proposals in the report which can in no way be made to square. The chief offender is, unfortunately, that part of the scheme which will be most canvassed in England—the future constitution of the Government of India. The rôle of that central body is to be materially altered. Its controlling functions are to be restricted to what are frequently called the imperial interests of the country —defence, railways, Customs, the public debt, Native States, etc. —and its intervention in provincial interests will be narrowed down to a general oversight of the acts of the different Governors in their reserved duties. But the central Government cannot be divested of a wide responsibility for moulding and directing the political advance, for advising and supporting the Governors, and for upholding the probity and efficiency of the public services. It must, in words which the report treats as axiomatic, "remain wholly responsible to Parliament, and, saving such responsibility, its authority in essential matters must remain indisputable." To secure this authority and to equip the Government of India for this responsibility, what does the report propose? It enlarges the Viceroy's Executive Council; it refuses to reserve any seats (three being so reserved at present) for civil servants, and it erects a complicated bicameral system of legislature, in which the Government can never be sure of carrying a Bill except in the Upper House. Taken as a whole, these measures would make neither for strength nor for smoothness of work. The enlargement of the Executive Council, big enough already for its diminished volume of work in the future, may indeed be justified by the need for appointing more Indians to it, and must be understood as justifiable on that ground alone. The probable exclusion from the Council, however, of Englishmen with any knowledge of India, cannot be vindicated at a time when the Viceroy will require the best available experience in handling the many thorny problems of transition. Incidentally, it would be regrettable if the Public Services read this proposal as a slur upon their capacity at the instance of the Home Rulers, with whom it originated. But far more dangerous will be the weakness of the Executive in presence of its legislature. The Government will be in a permanent minority in the Legislative Assembly, and will thus be always liable to a vote of censure for any unpopular action which it may have to take or to defend in any province. It will also be unable to pass a measure which the Assembly dislikes, except by the device of a special certificate from the Governor-General, invoking the aid of the Upper House and shutting out the jurisdiction of the Lower. A sensitive horse is not to be ridden on the curb; and this exceptional procedure obviously cannot be employed with any freedom without engendering acute friction between the Popular Assembly on the one side and both the Viceroy and the Upper House on the other. The whole of this part of the scheme calls for reconsideration. The Viceroy, as the King's representative, must be kept more out of the arena of conflict. A simpler and more secure method should be devised for attaining that "indisputable authority in essentials" and that freedom from harassment which the Government of India has a right to claim so long as it remains "wholly responsible to Parliament" for the proper administration of the country.

Other details that come in for criticism are:—The Provincial Executive, consisting of two parts, the Governor and his executive councillors on the one side and the Governor with one or more visitors on the other.

> Dualism, with all its want of symmetry, is inherent in these new arragements. . . . The Executive Council and the Ministers will be two separate and self-contained agencies for the conduct of their respective businesses, and not one joint agency.

The writer continues:—

> When our tests are applied to its (the provincial scheme's) legislative and financial aspects, graver defects emerge.

There is the possibility of the Governor being voted down by his Grand Committee, when

> Very serious mischief may be done. . . . The position is impossible, and there is no justification for it. Responsibility and power must go together. The Legislative Assembly is given wide powers in the subjects transferred to its control. The Governor-in-Council must have an equally unambiguous authority over his reserved duties.

The procedure for supply, it adds, is open to similar objections.

> Let Ministers have their own sources of revenue, determined for a period of years, and so adjusted as to grow with their normal needs. Let their supply votes and those of the Governor-in-Council be kept entirely separate, and let the latter, if necessary, be dealt with by the Grand Committee.

Finally, exception is taken to the levy which the Central Government will make upon the provinces. To calculate the annual subsidies at a uniform ratio of the surplus revenues in each province, the article holds, constitutes a manifest injustice. "Madras, though its own needs are as great as Bombay's, is to pay a subsidy nearly five times as great as that province."

The writer proposes that "when the Bill and all the subsidiary regulations to be framed under it are presented, Parliament should be moved to appoint a special commission or committee, preferably of both Houses, to scrutinize the complete project, to call for any evidence it requires, to make any amendments, and to report in full to the House of Commons."

A Day in Loheia.

In *Chambers's Journal* Mr. C. Thompson Walker describes a visit to Loheia, a town on the coast of the Red Sea, about 170 miles north-west of Mocha. Shortly before his visit it had been captured from the Turks by the Idrissi, with the help of British ships of war. Of the people he writes:—

> As we stepped ashore the numerous vultures, sea-eagles, and redshanks that crowd the beach flapped lazily away, and we were greeted by a heterogeneous crowd of Arabs of every shade of brown, dressed in every conceivable kind of clothing. We had brought with us a Persian interpreter who spoke eight languages fluently, and whose services proved invaluable throughout the day. The wildest figures amongst the Arab crowd were the fighting-men, whose long silky black hair, bound with one band across the head, otherwise devoid of covering, distinguished them from those occupied in peaceable trades. Men of splendid physique but of little courage, they were literally armed to the teeth. All had rifles of various makes, Turkish, German, English, and French, some of them dating back to 1860. Bandoliers of soft-nosed cartridges were hung from their shoulders, and like-furnished belts were buckled around their waists. Through the belts were thrust evil-looking daggers with highly ornate hilts of gold or silver, and at their sides hung sharp double-edged swords. Altogether they were, to outward appearance, a very formidable crowd. The civilians wear a single loose garment, not unlike a night-dress, taken in and fastened with a belt or a shawl around the waist. This is generally of some light-coloured material with a striped border. The headgear consists of either a little plant-pot-shaped or conical wicker-work cap, or a gaudy turban. I did not observe a single tarboosh or fez, although these are almost invariably worn by the Egyptians. During the whole day I saw only two or three women, and they were peasants. The better-class women hardly stir from the harem, taking their exercise on the flat-topped roof. The faces of these women, unlike those of the Egyptians, are uncovered, but on any Christian approaching they hide the lower part with a corner of their garment. In addition to the various Arab tribesmen, there are a great number of Sudanese, Somalis, and Libyan negroes in the town.

The visitors could not see the Governor, who "was away inland speechifying, in the hope of raising his men to the frenzied pitch necessary before they can be persuaded to attack." They saw the Deputy-Governor, however, who proved anxious to facilitate their sight-seeing. In leaving the house they passed through a room devoted to the wounded.

> Several of the inmates were rather badly hurt, but their wounds had been dressed by the ship's doctor, and with the assistance of their splendid physique they were getting along splendidly, in spite of the crowd of flies and the general filth of their "hospital." In a room on the ground floor we saw four or five captured Turks, men of fine appearance in spite of their ragged khaki uniforms. We were highly amused at the way these prisoners are treated. They are allowed to retain both rifles and ammunition "so that they will keep in a good mood," said our guide. They walk about at perfect liberty in the streets, and I even found one of them doing sentry duty in a deserted harem.

This prisoner-sentry proved loyal enough to threaten the visitors with his rifle if they persisted in their endeavours to break open a safe that was giving trouble to its captors—and his! The article is very interesting.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I am glad to learn from an Athens telegram that it has been decided that M. Michalakopoulos, Minister of Agriculture, will accompany the party of Greek merchants and others who are to pay a visit to this country under the auspices of the Federation of British Industries. The tour should prove of practical advantage to the business communities of both countries. It will not be enough, however, merely to show our Greek visitors what we can make; we must convince them that we are interested in the potentialities of their market and are really prepared to cater for it, not only because we are on the look-out for fresh outlets for our goods, but also because we recognise that Great Britain has an obligation to the peoples of the Balkans, and that is to assist them in their work of reconstruction in such a way that they will not be driven into the arms of Germany and Austria-Hungary in order to supply their needs.

⁂

It is worth noting that Greek securities have been rising during the past few weeks. In that fact may be found an apt reflection of the growing prosperity of the country. The presence of the Allied troops in Macedonia has had much the same effect on the economic life of Greece as the presence of the British troops has had on conditions in Egypt. In addition, the shipping industry, as I have previously pointed out, has proved a great source of wealth to the country, and with general commercial conditions favourable, it is not surprising that Greek shares should show an upward trend. Needless to say, banking shares have participated in the revival, notably those of the Bank of Athens, which have been in considerable demand. No dividend has been paid on the shares of this bank for some years. From 1907 to 1910 9 per cent. was paid, while the distribution in 1911 was 7½ per cent., and for 1912 3½ per cent. In the following year a capital reduction scheme was carried out. It is worth mentioning that at the last meeting the chairman expressed the opinion that the "bank has entered a period of prosperity in which shareholders will reap considerable profit."

⁂

A recent ordinance issued by the Indian Government under the Defence of India Act has fixed the value of the sovereign at fifteen rupees. It is further enacted that speculative transactions will be illegal. An effort is now to be made apparently to check the traffic in sovereigns, which have been dealt in for the past few years at a premium ranging up to four rupees above the ordinary value of the coin, and legislation in this direction has been long overdue. The Government no doubt had this matter in mind when they caused the new gold mohur piece to be stamped with its value of fifteen rupees. The scarcity of gold has been acutely felt in India since the outbreak of the war. An immense number of sovereigns have disappeared entirely, having been used chiefly for ornaments. One authority, whose reliability has not been questioned, estimates the value melted down for this purpose at nothing less than thirty million pounds.

⁂

Shortly after sovereigns were introduced into India they were readily accepted all over the country, but found most favour in the North-West. During the past twelve months Government have been disbursing a fairly large amount of their holdings in the Punjab in payment of wheat, and it was hoped that they would pass into circulation, but the increasing premium obtainable neutralised the Government's intentions. In the outlying districts, where their higher value was less appreciated, money changers eagerly collected all the available sovereigns—some from private hoards—and railed them to the big centres, where the highest premium was being offered. But now that transmission of gold by rail has been prohibited—as well as of silver coin—the Government are evidently determined to penalise gambling and to put a stop to this form of profiteering.

⁂

The hand which the India Government have taken in the control of exports and imports has not by any means been "hidden." They have been very much alive to the necessity for financing exports of national importance and in return for pecuniary assistance in the shape of Council Bills which they distribute weekly to the exchange banks they demand a return indicating how the money has been utilised. The banks have loyally upheld this arrangement, but the import houses in India have not been burdened with any such restrictions. Hence the note which has recently been circulated to Chambers of Commerce and Trader Associations at the principal ports directing attention to the paramount necessity of effecting homeward remittances through the exchange banks, as such cover has been used much too frequently of late to finance non-essential exports.

⁂

I am informed that the Morocco Publishing Company, Limited, has just been formed, under the auspices of the Merchants' Morocco Association, for the purpose of issuing a journal dealing solely with the affairs of Morocco. I understand that the directors of the new company are Mr. S. H. Cotton, of Culverwell, Brooks, and Co., Limited, and Mr. W. E. Calver, of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, and that the secretary is Mr. P. B. Robinson.

⁂

It is evident from the report on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1917, which is dealt with elsewhere in this issue, that the island has been feeling the pressure of war conditions at least as keenly as any part of the Empire. As in other cases, however, the position would not have been nearly so difficult had the island been independent as regards food supplies. It is very satisfactory to learn that steps have been taken with a view to promoting the growing of foodstuffs in Ceylon, and in view of the statement that much of the food and curry stuffs imported can be grown locally, it is to be hoped that no efforts will be spared to further the process.

⁂

Of the many good things that come out of the East it always seems to me that the rugs and carpets are the best. I refer, of course, to the genuine Oriental specimens, and to old ones at that. For the modern rug—or carpet—frequently suffers from the introduction of Western "improvements." For the past twenty years, at any rate, certain British firms have been sending out patterns according to which carpets have been made. The product is, no doubt, excellent as regards quality, and will wear as well as many a fine old specimen; for the design, however truly European (or American!) it may be, cannot seriously affect the quality of the material used, or of the workmanship put into the making; and design is purely a matter of taste—or the lack of it. But a second innovation has seriously depreciated the value of the Eastern rug. I refer to the introduction of aniline dyes, which seem to be gradually supplanting the old pure vegetable dyes. This is, I believe, due to German chemists and German salesmen, and it means another notch in the world's account against the apostles of *Kultur*. For, while the aniline dye may or may not be beautiful, it is commonly not "fast," and the result is that a carpet or rug in which it has been used will not stand getting wet, whereas an older rug, with nothing but vegetable dyes in it, may even be scrubbed with soap and hot water without ill results. In fact, the process usually improves such rugs.

⁂

What has turned my thoughts to this subject is the "run" on Oriental rugs and carpets that has been, and is, in progress in London. Here is a paragraph on the subject taken from the *Daily Graphic* of Monday:—"There is a syndicate of Armenians in London buying up Oriental rugs and carpets at extravagant prices," said the chairman of a large furnishing company in Tottenham Court Road yesterday to a *Daily Graphic* representative. "I am quite unable to account for this form of speculation. Rugs fetch £40 and upwards for which I would not have paid a tenth of that sum before the war. One might almost suppose that the 'Magic' Carpet of the Arabian Nights had been disposed of in error, and that these dusky buyers who come here daily were trying to recover it."

⁂

The moral of this story would seem to be: Sell your rugs now if you are out for a profit. But I expect that some of us care for our specimens too much to part with them even at "war prices." Whether the "dusky buyers" are after the "Magic Carpet," or whether they are actually buying up the rugs for export to Baghdad—as I am told—I do not pretend to say. But I may say that if I were going to buy an Oriental rug or carpet in this country I should not go to any of the "dusky" gentlemen. I should go to one of the big London firms with a reputation to keep up, and I should then feel tolerably sure that though I might pay quite as much as I should to a "dusky" dealer, I should be getting something that was what it purposed to be.

⁂

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, gave a most interesting address on "Industrial Development in India During the War" this week in connection with the British Products Exhibition at King's College. As space could be found for a short summary only this week, the report of the lecture is being held over until next week.

COMMENTATOR.

Ceylon in 1917.

Fair Prosperity under Difficulties.

The report on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1917, which has just been issued, covers a period which saw the increasing incidence of war effects in the Island. During the year the Colony was faced by a general rise in prices, trade depression, considerable financial stringency, exchange difficulties, and the shortage of freight. In the circumstances it can only be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory that despite the effect of these things the year was on the whole one of fair prosperity. As a matter of fact the volume of trade was larger than in any year except 1916. The problem before Ceylon, we are told, was largely one of adjustment to meet altered circumstances, and "the community as a whole has faced it with determination, and with a very fair measure of success."

The exchange question had naturally a most marked effect on conditions in the Island, and it is pointed out that while the arrangement arrived at for the relief of the exchange banks allowed the export trade to be carried on, it did not provide means for bringing to the Island money for the upkeep of estates, etc. Thus the banks permitted plumbago exporters to draw for the full value of their exports owing to the national importance of this product, but tea, rubber and coconut estates, etc., were only able to draw sufficient for their bare upkeep. It was not only in regard to exports that the exchange question caused difficulties. Ceylon imports rice and other foodstuffs on a large scale from India, and has to pay something like Rs.10 lahks weekly for their purchase. As the exchange banks had only limited funds to bring over from India to Ceylon they found themselves unable to issue drafts on their Indian branches to meet the demand for remittances on account of the payment for rice and other foodstuffs. The Government met this difficulty by the establishment of a credit in India as a temporary measure, and ultimately the problem was solved by an agreement by which the India Government arranged to place the required funds to the credit of the Ceylon Government weekly for six months for utilisation under certain conditions. By September conditions had undergone a vital alteration, considerable funds having been deposited to the credit of the Ceylon Government in India on account of the purchase of teas, and it was decided that until these credits had been exhausted the weekly credit should remain in abeyance.

Naturally this difficulty in regard to the imports of foodstuffs had the effect of drawing attention to Ceylon's dependence on India for rice and curry stuffs, the staple food of the indigenous population and of the immigrant estate labourers. It was felt that the steps taken to cope with the exchange position should be supplemented by efforts to make Ceylon as self-supporting as possible. A campaign was, therefore, launched with this end in view, and leaflets in the vernacular were circulated, and at the beginning of the North East monsoon seeds were distributed. Cultivators have been urged to cultivate as large areas of paddy as possible, and in every way encouragement has been given to steps calculated to increase the Island's food resources. The measures taken have, it is stated, led to increased interest in the cultivation of food products, while evidence has been obtained that much of the food and curry stuffs imported could be grown in the Island.

Finance and Trade.

The Island's revenue for the year ended September, 1917, amounted to Rs66,981,877, an increase of Rs968,867 over the revenue of the previous year, and of Rs4,146,177 over the estimate. Customs and railways receipts were the principal sources of the increase. The expenditure amounted to Rs64,335,670, an increase of Rs8,231,155 on the figures for 1915-16 and of Rs762,619 on the estimate. The increase is accounted for by expenditure for war purposes. Ceylon's assets, mainly consisting of advances to local bodies, amounted, on September 30, to Rs58,115,851, and the liabilities to Rs19,984,358.

Ceylon's trade, excluding specie and coal supplied to steamers, amounted to Rs488,284,443. How this compares with the figures for the previous year and for the year before the war will be seen in the following table :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1913	186,073,086	232,986,954	419,060,040
1916	211,500,753	297,505,905	509,006,658
1917	184,123,986	304,160,457	488,284,443

Of the total exports in 1917 Rs292,625,008 represent the value of Ceylon's produce and manufactures, an increase of Rs7,787,032 on the figures for the previous year. The chief exports were rubber (1,310 lakhs against 1,035 lakhs), tea (957 lakhs against 1,053 lakhs), and plumbago (218 lakhs against 225 lakhs). It may be noted that rubber takes the chief place in the exports for the first time. The list of imports shows decreases under nearly every important head. Imports of cement amounted to 244,336 cwt., against 315,598 cwt. in 1916, the decrease being due to the decline in imports from Japan from 136,623 cwt. to 67,281 cwt. On the other hand imports of manufactured and raw cotton rose to Rs15,062,024 from Rs12,958,380.

It is satisfactory to note that Ceylon's trade continues to be mainly within the Empire. Thus, Ceylon took 73.94 per cent. of her imports from India, Burma, and the United Kingdom, against 71.83 in 1916, and 69.73 in 1915. In the export list the United Kingdom is still first with 41.07 per cent., against 45.89 in 1916, and 55.05 in 1915. The United States is now, however, a close rival with 33.32 per cent., against 26.87 in 1916, and 18.39 in 1915, and owing to the increased American exports in 1917 in that year, for the first time, foreign countries have taken more exports than the United Kingdom.

Agriculture.

The report states that the year was favourable for the tea industry. There was, however some restriction of output, and many estates had to modify their manuring programme, but on the whole cultivation was maintained at a high level. Rubber continues to thrive, and in parts of the Western Province is gradually displacing cinnamon. The tendency to convert paddy lands in Kalutara District into rubber estates is also noted ; while in Matara District large areas, formerly under citronella, are being planted with rubber. There has been practically no extension of cacao cultivation. Coconut and coconut products suffered severely during the year owing to the absence of freight. Expenditure on coconut estates was reduced to the minimum, and many small owners stopped all cultivation and manuring. The land under citronella continued to be reduced. On the other hand, some interest has been taken in the cultivation of vanilla, and experiments have been carried on on a small scale with growing Natal Java indigo for seed. Tobacco crops were good, and it is stated that the product is now being widely grown, and that samples of the leaf sent to England from the Government experimental station at Jaffna show a great improvement in the quality, and seem to indicate that it may be possible to grow tobacco in Ceylon for the European market.

The Plumbago Industry.

1916 was a record year for the plumbago mining industry, both as regards the value and the quantity of the plumbago obtained, the total quantity exported being 33,410 tons, valued at Rs22,494,999. The year under review started in the same way, says the report, and there was every prospect of another good year. Development did not altogether fulfil expectations, however, for while there was a great demand for plumbago at the commencement of the year, and high prices were realised, the demand almost ceased towards the end of the year. As a result several of the smaller mines ceased to work. It is pointed out that the output of plumbago entirely depends on demand and prices, and, given an improvement in these respects, it is stated that there is every possibility that Ceylon can supply 30,000 tons a year for some years. The quantity of machinery used in the mines has been steadily increasing, enabling work to be done at a greater depth, and also allowing mines formerly abandoned to be reopened.

EGYPT'S OIL TROUBLE.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 5.

The Supplies Control Board has been devoting special attention to the question of the oil supply for Egypt, as in all Eastern countries oil is one of the necessaries of life, and the prices have lately gone up beyond the means of even the lower middle classes. A recent order issued by Mr. Ross Taylor, on behalf of the Supplies Control Board, required every person having in his possession any stock exceeding in the aggregate about 60 kilos. of cottonseed oil, or of an edible oil, or of a mixture of such oils within the limits of the Cairo Governorate and the Zimam of Giza town to send in, to the nearest police station before 5 p.m. on August 2, written returns giving the quantity of oil in okes, place of storage, name of persons from whom acquired, and price paid. In the case of mixed oils, the percentage of cottonseed oil contained in the mixture must be stated. Such returns are required to be made on special forms, which can be obtained at the police station, where certain further details have to be filled in. Between July 29 and August 2 no person shall, without a permit from the Commandant of Police, sell or dispose of the whole or part of a stock of oil in respect of which a declaration is called for under the provisions of this order. Any stock in respect of which a return is not made, or in respect of which a false return is made, or in respect of which any other breach of this order is committed, is liable to be confiscated.

Furthermore, orders have been passed by the Governorate to the Police Stations requiring the police on patrol duty to keep a sharp lookout upon all vehicles carrying oil from one locality to another. Again, a public notice has just been published offering a reward to any person who, verbally or by writing, informs the authorities of hidden stocks of oil, such reward to amount to 5 per cent. of the value of the oil seized.

Cottonseed, sesame seed, and lettuce, from which oil is extracted, are abundantly cultivated in Egypt, and there is no reason why the country should not have an adequate supply, provided proper measures are taken to prevent "cornering" and profiteering. Fairly large arrivals of olive oil from Crete and Greece are now reported; and this should prove an additional factor in relieving the present dearth, which is more artificial than real.

EGYPT'S SHORTAGE OF COINS

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo. August 5.

The nickel coin crisis continues unabated, and the public is still looking for a remedy for what constitutes a state of serious inconvenience. The dearth of nickel coins is being felt especially keenly by the tramcar passengers, and the public is wondering why the Cairo Tramway Co. has not yet adopted the very sensible suggestion, so often repeated by the Press, of issuing, as does the Alexandria Tramway Co., books of tickets. As regards the solution of the problem generally one out of the numerous suggestions put forward seems to commend itself most to attention. It is that the Government shall declare all coins minted prior to the reign of the late Sultan to be illegal tender. This, it is thought, would have for immediate effect the release of all the hoarded coins of that period. Should the hoarders continue to keep the coins of the later periods out of circulation another step in the same direction should be taken by the Government. A series of such moves would probably end in the release of practically the whole of the hidden coins. It seems to be generally admitted that the exclusive use of paper, especially for the lower values in the currency scale, would prove positively detrimental to the ignorant masses, who, from one cause and another, run the risk of unusual loss and wastage of such paper currency. Their illiteracy exposes them further to serious mistakes, of which many have already been the victims, a twenty-five piastre note being sometimes taken for a fifty piastre note. It is these considerations which have probably accounted so far for the apparent apathy of the Government.

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

Government Accounts for 1917-1918.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 2.

The State accounts for the financial year, 1917-18, have just been closed, and the figures are published in the last *Official Journal*. The final position is: Revenue, £E23,166,074; expenditure, £E22,496,948; leaving a surplus of £E669,126. The following table shows how the year compares with previous financial years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
1913-4.	17,703,898	17,659,961	+ 43,937
1914-5.	15,389,124	16,857,783	− 1,468,659
1915-6.	17,759,418	15,324,259	+ 2,435,159
1916-7.	19,927,274	17,240,606	+ 2,686,668
1917-8.	23,166,074	22,496,948	+ 669,126
Budget			
1917-8.	19,525,000	19,525,000	—
1918-9.	22,900,000	23,250,000	− 350,000

From this we see that, compared with pre-war results, revenue has increased by £E5,462,176, or about 30 per cent., whilst it exceeds the estimates for the year by £E3,641,074, or about 20 per cent. On the other hand, expenditure has increased by £E4,836,987 on that of 1913-14, and by £E2,971,948 on the year's estimates. Actually on the preceding year there is an increase in revenue of £E3,238,800, and in expenditure of £E5,256,342. Incidentally it may be pointed out that the final figures for 1917-18 constitute a record in Egyptian finances, the previous highest realised revenue being that for 1916-17.

During the year Customs increased by £E444,654, Mixed Courts fees by £E193,256, railways receipts by £E542,765, domains receipts by £E167,260, exemption from military service by £E68,700, interest on investments by £E521,088, sale of land by £E83,186, Post Office by £E46,077, telegraphs by £E38,573, Native Courts fees by £E31,681, assay fees by £E12,014, whilst excise appears for the first time with £E361,675, and Ghaffir Cess with £E685,375. The only important decreases are recorded under tobacco dues and ports and lights, which fell off by £E314,590 and £E46,694 respectively. Tobacco dues are still, however, above what they stood at in 1913-14.

It is clear from these figures that the improvement applies to every head of revenue excepting tobacco dues and ports lights. The following table, giving the actual results under the various heads in the last normal pre-war year, the first year of the war, and the one just closed, will illustrate the remarkable improvement which the revenues of the country have undergone since the war :—

—	1913-14.	1914-15.	1917-18.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Direct taxes	5,517,854	5,254,096	5,608,712
Customs	2,134.439	1,362,181	3.159,508
Tobacco	1,720,446	1,742,995	1,810,719
Port dues	450,819	324,707	68,383
Assay	3,622	2,085	29,664
Mixed courts	985,318	727,248	1.074,260
Native courts	490,510	405,938	444,741
Mehkemehs	81,586	61,917	98,715
Railways	3,864,035	3,176,220	5.003.662
Telegraphs	130,412	123,071	188,928
Post Office	334,759	287,686	359,758
Rent of Land	169.538	155,530	201,783
Domains	256,505	205,465	832,062
Military exemption	139,557	107,380	173,480
Investment of funds	341,470	301,027	1,170,306
Sale of land	123,017	118,943	210,449
Other heads	960,011	1,032,635	*2,730,944
Total	17,703,898	15,389,124	23,166,074

* This item includes £E361,675 for Excise Duty and £E685,375 for Ghaffir Cess, neither of which figured in previous years' revenues.

The table shows that since the war direct taxes have improved by £E90,858, Customs by £E1,025,069, tobacco dues by £E90,273, railways by £E1,139,627, domains by £E575,557, investments of funds £E728,836, telegraphs by £E58,516, post office by £E24,999, Mixed Courts £E88,942, military exemption fees by £E33,923, sale of land £E87,432, rent of land by £E32,245, and other heads, in which are included the new items of Ghaffir Cess and Excise, by £E1,770,933. The only decreases have been in receipts from the Native Courts, which have fallen off by £E45,769, and ports and lights dues, which have diminished by £E382,436. The increases in railways, telegraphs, post office and tobacco, are due to the higher tariffs introduced since the war; those in the Customs receipts to the rise in the value of all commodities and in freights, those in domains to the enhanced value of agricultural products, those in investment of funds to the expansion of the note issue, and those in other items, such as assay, military exemption fees, sale of land, etc., to the increased prosperity of the people. On the whole the revenue may be regarded as revealing a satisfactory state of affairs in the country.

Expenditure during the financial year just closed increased by £E5,256,342, as already mentioned. In reality it was less than the figure given in the final account, as that included the contribution made by the Egyptian Government to the British war expenses. The actual amount written off in this respect is £E2,967,956, by which sum the 1917-18 expenditure should be reduced and the surplus increased if it is desired to make a comparison with preceding years. The most important items of expenditure were the Sultan's civil list £E380,499, Customs £E148,391, post office £E323,672, public health £E415.085, prisons £E253,644, Mixed Courts £E277,821, Native Courts £E407,692, irrigation £E1,368,121, Cairo tanzim £E175,739, main drainage department £E133,454, agriculture £E155,830, railways £E3,209,687, telegraphs £E121,847, telephones £E559,650, ghaffirs £E739,955—the two latter shown for the first time—police £E490,841, War Office £E1,216,444, H.B.M.'s forces in Egypt £E146,250, civil pensions and indemnities £E546,934, military pensions and indemnities £E175,875, public debt £E4,596,523, and war gratuities £E327,676.

The principal items showing increase over the previous year were irrigation £E185,756, War Office £E283,004, Central Finance Administration £E76,288, and coastguards £E89,743; if one takes into account the new Frontiers Districts Administration. Railways, it is interesting to note, took £E410,899 less than in 1916-17, and the post office has again started to pay its way.

Of the surplus of £E669,126 a sum of £E389,257, representing the Government Seigniorage on the coinage is issued during the year has been taken and passed to the silver reserve fund created the previous year, and now amounting to £E1,385,257. This reserve fund is intended to meet the loss which will certainly be incurred when the extra silver put into circulation comes to be withdrawn after the war. The balance of the surplus, viz., £E279,869, is carried to the general reserve, which thereby was brought up to £E6,770,179 on the 1st of April this year, as compared with the total of £E5,103,549 at the outbreak of the war. During the year an amount of £E175,200 of public debt was redeemed by the Egyptian Government. The conclusion one may safely draw from these figures is that Egypt, as a State, is in an admirable financial position, which will enable it to meet with a certain amount of equanimity the emergencies which undoubtedly await her in the near future.

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EGYPTIAN TOBACCO RETURNS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 5.

The total imports of tobacco during the month of May were 552,300 kilos, valued at £E236,462. The imports of tombac during the same month were 18,778 kilos, value £E2,253, while those of cigarettes were 3,695 kilog., value £E2,333. The price of Greek tobacco is estimated at 58 to 63 piastres the kilo; that of the Chinese at 30 to 45 piastres; while the imports of Japanese tobacco were nil. The total stocks in the customs warehouses up to the end of May amount to 116,357 bales.

ALEXANDRIA'S WAREHOUSES.

Insurance Against Fire Risks.

On May 17 a letter was addressed to the president of the Board of Trade (says *The Manchester Chamber of Commerce Monthly Journal*), with regard to the difficulties met with in effecting incurances of goods in bonded warehouses at Alexandria, members having complained that the Insurance Companies were full up to the extent of their limits. Consequently, traders could not insure, and they were prevented from procuring a negotiable bill of lading. The difficulty appears to have been removed temporarily, but the Chamber have suggested that the Government War Risks Insurance Committee should stand behind the Insurance companies to prevent a recurrence of the trouble. A letter was also addressed to the Fire Offices Committee, London, regarding the insurance of goods in general warehouses in Alexandria. The insurance companies have lately been insisting on onerous conditions as to assurances from the person desiring to effect an insurance that no dangerous business was carried on—or articles of a dangerous nature stored—in the adjoining premises. The Fire Offices Committee are considering the matter.

◆

MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICALS IN INDIA.

An important project has been launched by a French expert who is in Bombay, to manufacture on a large scale chemicals from raw materials obtained in India (says *The Board of Trade Journal*), and especially to develop in India the industry of distillation of wood and the recovery of its by-products, which in recent years has become a great industry in North America, France and Germany.

The report published by the Indian Institute of Science on the possibilities of the wood distillation industry in India strongly supports the view that the vast jungles and plantations in India present great advantages for the development of this industry.

The new company, states an Indian authority, has been permitted by the Government of India to issue its share capital up to ten lakhs during the currency of the Indian Companies Act, as the undertakings of the company are considered to be of great national importance. The company has obtained valuable concessions from the Government of Portuguese India, and has secured in the districts of Goa and Satara the exclusive rights of using fifty thousand acres of forest land for the purpose of manufacturing wood alcohol and other by-products.

The company also proposes to start factories at Vascodagama, Sanvordem, and Collem for manufacturing oil and its by-products and other chemicals. The company has already established a factory at Parel, Bombay, for the manufacture of tannin extracts and vegetable colours, for which there is a great demand in India and abroad.

INDIAN BEESWAX.

In 1915 the Imperial Institute called the attention of the Government of India to the fact that the extensive adulteration of Indian beeswax was seriously interfering with the use of the wax in Russia for the manufacture of candles. After the outbreak of war the Russian Church authorities gave permission to their English agents to supply East Indian wax, which had previously been ruled out of their contracts. Commercial samples of the wax which were examined by the agents were considered, however, to be very unsatisfactory, only four samples out of forty being passed as free from adulteration. To judge from the examination of several samples which have been supplied to the Imperial Institute from India, there would appear to be considerable uncertainty as to what really is the precise composition of genuine Indian beeswax, and the Institute is going into the whole question with the object of establishing recognised standards for the Indian product.

◆

The general rainfall in India has been good, but on the whole is still defective in the Peninsula, though in Bombay, where there has been a marked shortage, the fall last week was fair.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Industrial Progress in Greece.

The absence of adequate official statistics, and a peculiar aversion which, as a rule, the native Greek manufacturers and merchants have from advertising themselves and their business, are responsible, to a certain extent, for the meagre information that reaches British manufacturers regarding the marked progress that Greece has been making in industry, agriculture and commerce during the last three decades. On the basis of such inadequate information, which refers principally to trade and commerce in large towns, an erroneous opinion is apt to be formed as to the real value of Greek markets and as to the importance of the country's resources. In previous Engineering Notes we remarked that little is known of the existing industries in the interior of Greece, yet with the exception of a few mountainous or pastoral districts almost every town and rural district can boast of some kind of industry in which modern machinery and implements are being employed. And these industries, together with agricultural pursuits, are continually increasing. But these provincial industries do not figure in the information which guides the British manufacturer in his search for markets in Greece.

A report was shown to the present writer referring to the industries of the Piræus, in which only five or six factories were mentioned as representing the industry of that important Mediterranean port! Yet the Piræus, the port of Athens, is undoubtedly the industrial centre of the Near East. It is Greece's chief manufacturing town. From a little swampy village, at the time of the declaration of Greek Independence, it has attained the proportions of a large modern town, with an excellent port, dry docks, shipbuilding yards, land and marine engineering works, with large shipping accommodation in the port. There are, at the Piræus, fifteen large modern flour mills, thirteen iron works, three shipyards, one sack factory, one silkwear factory, one glass factory, one fertiliser factory, twenty-six distilleries (their products of cognac and liqueurs are exported to all parts of the Near East, to Russia, and to some extent to Western Europe), eight cotton spinning mills, seven weaving factories, ten soap and sulphur oil factories, five mosaic flag factories, five confectionery factories, four French-nail factories, five tanneries, eight macaroni factories, one brewery, three ice-factories, five wood-working factories, two paint factories, one printing-ink factory, five ammonia and naphtha factories, one potash factory, two gunpowder factories, one paper-mill, two brush factories, a shot factory, a match factory, a flannel factory, a resin-oil factory, a tile factory, large gasworks and electric works, a worsted goods factory, a pottery, three rope factories, a syrup factory, an oxygen factory, two wine factories, and a number of other small factories. All these factories, in which the five or six referred to in the report mentioned above are, we presume, included, are large concerns supplying with their products the Balkan States, South Russia, Asia Minor, Egypt, and all the Ægean Archipelago.

This category of industries in one town of Greece gives a fair idea of the potentialities of the country, and it must be borne in mind that these factories, as well as those in other towns, all require renewals of machinery, accessories, etc. The enormous amount of belting required to drive this machinery together with shafting, pulleys, machine tools, hand tools, spindles, looms, boilers, presses, distilling apparatus and accessories, lubricating oils, chemicals—in short, all the machinery and appliances required for the above factories have to be imported. And all can be supplied from the United Kingdom. The above-named factories represent the successfully developed industries in Greece generally.

Windmill Pumps.

British windmill pump manufacturers will find a good market for their mills, combined with a simple design of pump, in Greece, as well as in other parts of the Near East. There is always a good demand for such plant, for owing to climatic conditions, especially during the long dry season, cattle and sheep suffer very much. In recent years the sinking of wells has become a pronounced necessity, and boring machines have been called into use to supply cattle with the necessary quantity of water to sustain life. Before the outbreak of war, American and German firms were doing a brisk trade by offering a simple design of pumping mills to meet local requirements. Two kinds of such mills are saleable in the Near East: a light one for pumping water for cattle, and a heavy one for irrigation purposes. The main points considered in purchasing such motors are lightness, combined with great capacity, facility of removing from one place to another, and ability to be set in motion by the lightest breeze. Such mills are made in many parts of Great Britain, and manufacturers have at present an excellent opportunity to introduce their pumping windmills.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Fresh high records have again been established in prices in the market. There seems to be no end to the upward movement, and in view of the facts before us at the moment there appears to be every probability of higher values. It is now recognised that the American crop for this season will be very small. The Government report published on Tuesday was much worse than expected, and only indicates a yield of about 11,000,000 bales. Bullish sentiment has been pronounced in all quarters. Not much change can be recorded in the outlook for the Egyptian growth. Manchester merchants are considerably harassed by the Government rules and regulations, and extreme difficulty is being experienced in purchasing in Alexandria. It is said that nothing is being done by the Control Board there for another fortnight. In the meantime, in spite of fixed prices, there are some irregularities. Egyptian yarns have again been advanced in quotation. Many producers have recently strengthened their position, and in certain counts and qualities prohibitive rates are now being put out so as to check buying. Spinners are undoubtedly making enormous profits. A large inquiry has been met with in piece goods for Egypt. In addition to printed and dyed materials moving off freely some very fair lines have been booked in sized goods. An encouraging turnover has been reported in finishing and bleaching cloths for India. The independent attitude of manufacturers is more pronounced than ever, and some firms are refusing to sell further ahead. The higher prices in American yarns have been firmly held by spinners. In view of the small output a healthy business has been done.

The American Crop.

Distinctly worse reports have come to hand this week relating to the American cotton crop for the current season. Last Tuesday the Government reported that the condition on August 25 was 55.7 per cent., against 73.6 per cent. in July and 67.8 per cent. in August last year. The statement was less favourable than anticipated, and prices since then have advanced sharply in both New York and Liverpool. According to the statistics issued, the yield is estimated at a little more than 11,000,000 bales. At the end of June there seemed to be a possibility of an output of over 15,000,000 bales. The recent deterioration has been due to lack of rains, especially in the south-west portion of the Belt. Good middling American cotton at the begining of August was quoted at 20.80d. per lb., whereas on Wednesday last the figure was 26.51d. per lb.

CYPRUS CAROBS.

(From Our Correspondent.)

As regards the strong protests raised by growers against the prices fixed by the authorities for carobs of this summer, a large Pan-Cypriot meeting has been held, under the chairmanship of the Provost-Marshal, Major Botton, at Platres, and the conclusions reached pointed to a proposal that half this year's crop should be taken by the military authorities; the price being fixed at 19s. 6d. the kantar (180 okes), or £4 6s. 6d. the ton, for beans of the lower areas, which produce the best pods, and slightly less for those of other parts. The beans are gathered towards the end of August.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The net profit of the Benares Bank, Ltd., for the half year ended June 30, amounts to Rs.57,302. Adding to it Rs.13,861 brought forward from the previous half-year's accounts the divisible balance amounts to Rs. 71,163. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of eight per cent. per annum to the shareholders, which will absorb Rs.40,000, and the sum of Rs.12,500 to be transferred to reserve fund, increasing it to Rs.3,75,000. After providing Rs.4,732 for the contingency funds the rest will be carried forward.

The gross profits of the Indian Bank, Ltd., for the half year ended June 30, amounted to Rs.1,96,262. After allowing for expenses on account of interest allowed to depositors, establishment and other charges amounting to Rs.1,24,884 the net profit for the half-year amounts to Rs.71,378. Adding to this a balance of Rs. 14,252 from last year's balance sheet, the amount of Rs.85,630 is available for disposal.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The transfer books of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China have been closed from September 4 to September 11, both days inclusive.

The directors of the National Bank of Greece announce that the dividend on the ordinary shares for the first half of 1918, amounting to 140 drachmae per share, is now payable at the London office of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Mr. Frederick Schooling has been appointed a director of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., has been opened at Alexandria, Egypt.

Owing to the rise in the price of coal, it has been necessary to increase both rates and fares on the Sudan Government railways and steamers.

British India trade returns for July show increases in imports to the extent of £4,989,000, and of exports to the extent of £2,466,000, compared with those of last year.

A telegraphic report from India states that the September delivery of fine broach is quoted at 914 rupees the candy. Raw jute remains firm. Europe fours are quoted at 12 rupees.

A *Reuter* message states that the first series of Greek Treasury bonds having been entirely covered the Government have decided to issue a second series of 50,000,000 drachmae.

The *Sudan Times* (July 31) reports: The export of cattle and sheep from the Red Sea Province has been prohibited, as there are hardly enough cattle to meet the needs of the population of the Province.

The appointment of controllers of cotton cloth in India has been announced. The scheme comprises the manufacture and sale of standard varieties at controlled prices. Imported cloths are not affected.

The Government of Bombay is undertaking the exploitation of the bitterns from salt manufacture in the Runn of Cutch for the manufacture of magnesium chloride and bromine. The existing contract at Kharagoda (a salt factory on the Little Runn) has been cancelled.

The prospects of cotton in the United Provinces and of food crops throughout the Madras Deccan—both tracts which suffered earlier in the monsoon through lack of rain—have greatly improved. The early sowings of cotton in Bombay are, however, 20 per cent. below normal.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea through enemy action of mails for Cyprus containing all classes of correspondence except parcels, which were posted in London or received in London from the Provinces for despatch from the evening of June 13 to the evening of July 2. Letters and parcels from Cyprus posted from August 2 to August 10 are also believed to have been lost.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, Wednesday.

Business has not been very active this week, but the undertone has remained very firm, and here and there some special demand has been made, which has had its effect upon the prices of the securities concerned. On the other hand there has been some weakness in one or two cases, due, no doubt, to profit taking and shifting of investments.

In Government stocks, whilst Egyptian Unified have receded 1¾ to 91½, the 3½ per cent. pref. have remained a firm spot at 79¾, and City of Alexandria Bonds have advanced two points to 85. There has also been an appreciation of one point in Turkish 3½ per cent. Egyptian Tribute bonds to 75.

In Bank shares both Nationals and Agriculturals have been rather dull, the former closing 1-16 lower at 20⅝ and the latter being ⅛ down at 7. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are also a trifle quieter at 17 7-16. On the other hand there has been a further jump of ½ in Bank of Athens to 5, on some fair demand, due no doubt to the big rise in Athens; where the latest advices report the shares to be quoted somewhere about 5¾.

In Railways, Delta Light, after being 3-16 up, close ⅛ higher at 7½.

In Land shares a fair amount of business has been done in Aboukirs round 25s. 6d., and Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments have been enquired for round the current level without leading to business, as sellers are at the moment non-existent. In Beheras there have been no transactions in the ordinary shares, but some preference has been done round the current price. Delta Lands have changed hands in a small way down to as low as 16s., but the shares are again back to their last week's level at 17s. Gharbieh Land close ⅛ up at 2⅝, some small business having been done at the price. New Egyptians are 4½d. lower at 22s. 3d. on some profit taking. Sidi Salem, on the other hand, are 2s. higher at 57s., there being some local demand, and sellers being rather scarce. Union Foncière are unchanged at 3 23-32, but United Egyptian Lands are 1d. higher at 2s. 8d. There are a good many buyers about for the latter shares, but very little is offering under 3s.

In Miscellaneous shares some small business has been going on in Markets round 27s., and a fair number of transactions have taken place in Khedivial Mail shares, which have been enquired for from Egypt, and which close 1s. up at 62s. 6d. A feature has been the demand for Salt and Sodas, which are closing 6s 6d. higher at 65s.

In Greek securities a further practically all round advance has to be recorded. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are 3 points up at 72, the 1890 Loan has risen 2 points to 71 and Rentes a similar fraction to 57s. Monopoly has improved one point to 67, and Funding is 2½ points higher at 66. There is also a rise of 2 points in the 1902 Loan to 68, and of one point in the 1910 Loan to 64. The 1914 issue has recovered the whole of the dividend at 79 x.d.

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SUDAN TRADE RETURNS.

The total value of merchandise imported into the Sudan during the first six months of the present year—i.e., from January 1 to June 30—amounted to £E1,916,710, which is £E561,439 above those of the corresponding period in 1917. The value of exports during the same period amounted to £E2,011,347, which also show an increase over those of the corresponding period in 1917, the increase, however, being only £E97,732.

Madras Electric Trams.—The directors of the Madras Electric Tramways (1904), Ltd., have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending December 31 next of 8 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on the ordinary shares, payable 30th instant.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Aug. 28	Sept. 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	83	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	93¼	91½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	69	72
Do. 5 %, 1884..................	56	69	72
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.........	49	66	67
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	55	57
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	69	71
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	63½	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.......	77	66	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	63	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	79	79xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	74½	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	7⅛	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank..............	12	17½	17 7/16
Bank of Athens..................	£2	4½	5
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7⅝	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅜	5⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7¼	7¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20 11/16	20⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅜xd	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/6	25/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15¼	15¼
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh....................	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	13/3	13/3
Gharbieh Land Co................	1¾	2½	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/7½	22/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	55/-	57/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	3 23/32	3 23/32
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/8
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅝	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord..........	1 1/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	11/16	58/6	65/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	61/6	62/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 9.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt........................	L.E.	21 3/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	115½
,, ,, Div.	Frs.	170
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd....................	L.E.	13 1/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15 5/16
,, priv............................	L.E.	5
Lots Turcs, oblig..............................	Frs.	183
Bons de Panama	Frs.	187
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)....	Frs.	100
,, Priv................	Frs.	108
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	117
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3⅜
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	3
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1 27/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 23/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 9/16
Bonded Stores................................	L.E.	10 1/16
Unifiée	L.E.	—
Privilégiée....................................		—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 13/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt..................	£	6⅞
,, Fondateur	£	510
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3⅞
,, Ord		64/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	35½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5 9/16
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	112
,, Jouissance..............	Frs.	184
Egyptian Markets		24/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	485
,, Div.	Frs.	430
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	395
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 31/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		56/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	755
,, Fondateur	Frs.	950
,, 1886 Oblig....................	Frs.	394
,, 1903 ,, ...	Frs.	293½
,, 1911 ,, ...	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	16
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		1 1/32-3/64

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended August 30. £		1918. Week ended August 29. £
Cattle markets	271	..	478
General markets	406	..	468
Receipts	677	..	946
Total for year..........	40,879	..	34,243

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fashen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - -	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up..	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. Fixed Deposits received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and Remittances made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. Discount Accounts opened and approved. Mercantile Bills discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 384.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

For military news from the East this week, apart from Macedonia, we have to go as far afield as Eastern Siberia, where the cause of Russia and the reconstitution of the Eastern front is being fought out between the Allies on the one hand, and Bolsheviks and Austro-German prisoners on the other. The immediate object of the Allies' intervention—the relief of the Czecho-Slovak troops between Irkutsk and Vladivostok—would seem to have been achieved. The different sections of the Allied forces are in touch the whole way between these two towns; Khabarovsk has been occupied, and the Bolsheviks have withdrawn to Blagoveshtckensk, on the left bank of the Amur, where counsels as to their future course of action are said to be divided.

The situation in Siberia, however, is far from being on a satisfactory footing, so long as rival Governments claim to be the sole depositories of legitimate power. As far as can be gathered, circumstances are against General Horvath, whose devotion to the Allied cause may be above suspicion; but it is clear that he does not command the support of the bulk of Russian opinion in Eastern Siberia, and for this reason it is to be hoped that he will not retard the progress of the Allied arms by continuing to divide the anti-Bolshevik forces. Only when this question of a single Provisional Government for Siberia has been settled can the Allies undertake their next move. It is unthinkable that they should regard their work in Siberia at an end with the rescue of the Czecho-Slovaks. The position in Russia is too critical to be left to find a solution for itself.

The attempt of German propaganda to despair of King Ferdinand's life was overdone. His mission to Germany, however, must have evoked strong misgivings to cause the German authorities to call in such aid. Whatever the object of his visit, he has cut short his stay at Bad Nauheim in order to return to Sofia to welcome the King of Bavaria. Almost as much mystery or speculation surrounds this meeting as greeted King Ferdinand's sudden departure from Bulgaria a few weeks ago. It has followed the announcement that the Bavarian and Saxon Governments had decided to establish their own Legations at Sofia. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* at once pointed out, somewhat acridly, that "The German Empire, according to the Constitution, is only represented abroad through the Kaiser, and consequently to have representatives of the Federal States in addition to those of the Empire is nonsense." However that may be, the King of Bavaria has arrived in Sofia, and was more fortunate that the Emperor Karl of Austria-Hungary in that he found King Ferdinand well enough to meet him at the station. These comings and goings among the rulers of the Central Powers and their vassals form an interesting background to the frantic appeals that are being addressed to the German people not to allow themselves to be turned from their will to victory.

On the Macedonian front there has been sufficient activity to call for almost daily reports during the past week. British troops had made a successful advance west of the Vardar on September 1. The following day the Bulgarians delivered a counter-attack, "under cover of an intense bombardment," but were repulsed. At the same time they were making two unsuccessful raids in the Cerna Bend and in the region of Monastir, again with considerable artillery activity. Two days later it was reported that the artillery struggle had been brisk and reconnaissances had been active over the whole front, particularly to the west of the Vardar, where a *coup de main* was repulsed. On September 9 the new advance line occupied by the Greeks in the Struma Valley was heavily bombarded, and the enemy made several strong attacks, which were all repulsed. This recrudescence of activity on the part of the Bulgarians may have been prompted by a desire to forestall possible movements on the part of the Allies, or it may be connected with the position in Bulgaria. Less attention would probably be paid to the royal Bavarian visitor if public expectation could momentarily be aroused by military operations. There can have been no desire for a repetition of the strone-throwing at the royal train when the Emperor Karl was visiting Bulgaria.

German and Austrian references to Roumania suggest that the Central Powers still have some rod in pickle for that unhappy country. It is reported from Vienna that the tension between Roumania and her conquerors is increasing. Count Burian has stated that it was necessary for Austria to follow with the closest attention certain events in the Roumanian districts not occupied by the Central Powers, and that, if required, energetic measures would be taken to put down conspiracies. The allusions are ominous. If ever the time comes for the Russian battle line to be re-formed against Germany, the latter's hold on Roumania must become precarious. On the analogy of the Western front, we may expect the

Germans to devastate ruthlessly all the ground they are forced to evacuate. The position in Roumania may present certain differences from that of the French territory occupied, and it may be considered necessary to have excuses ready beforehand. Allegations of "conspiracy" would be all that, in German opinion, would be required to justify the laying waste of the whole of Roumania. The Germans have been allowed to work their own will in France; but the time has come when an effort should be made to check their lust for destruction. In the case of Roumania, which so far has not been exposed to excessive devastation, the Germans might be informed that for any wilful damage done from now onwards a similar fate will be imposed in due course on German towns and German property.

It is probable that enemy anxiety regarding the situation in Roumania centres in the peculiar position of General Averescu. Conceiving that he could serve his country better in the political sphere than by remaining a soldier in an army that had been rendered powerless, General Averescu resigned his commission and entered Parliament. He enjoys extraordinary popularity, and as his sole qualifications appear to be a rugged honesty of purpose and an unswerving determination to champion the interests of the people in the face of the German occupation and of the Roumanian Government's subserviency, the position will be watched with interest. Whether from choice or because it cannot help itself, the present Government is acting as the agent of German policy. It is bound, therefore, to be unpopular, and the attitude of General Averescu is hailed as offering the country its one chance of salvation.

Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, has been adding his quota to the enemy peace offensive. He was on his way to Berlin, and during his stay in Vienna he informed the *Neue Freie Presse* that peace would come before the winter. This statement by itself might have aroused misgivings in German official quarters, and Talaat Pasha hastened to explain his meaning. He was satisfied that the Entente would soon be convinced that the continuation of the struggle could not bring a substantial change in their position. Everything that could be got out of the war had been got out of it, and a continuance was manifestly useless. This view will certainly commend itself to the German Military Command, which is now quite prepared to accept the principle of the drawn game. Unaccompanied by any reference to Mesopotamia and Palestine, the Grand Vizier's remarks suggest that the Turks are beginning to realise that, if they cannot cut their losses now, they are in a fair way to being still worse off as the war continues—an eventuality by no means unlikely. Turkey is showing no desire to imitate Germany in an indifference towards the number of her enemies. In reply to the United States demand for an explanation of what has taken place in Tabriz, the Porte has disclaimed any intention of affronting the United States, and orders have been sent to the Turkish Commander-in-Chief in Persia to remove the troops from the American hospital at Tabriz and to respect American interests there.

It is gratifying to learn that the efforts of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee are about to result in a consignment of clothing and blankets being sent overland to Switzerland. Thus the goods will be on the spot for further transport to Constantinople as soon as the Austro-Hungarian Government gives the necessary facilities. An official statement published elsewhere in this issue explains the delay in the sailing of the repatriation ship, and it is clear that only insistent pressure will produce any results in Turkey. Conditions for all British subjects in that country are bad, and must become worse as another winter approaches. In this connection we may call attention to the appeal now issued by Lady Lowther's Committee. The list of those who are dependent upon doles from its funds is a particularly pathetic one, as it includes names connected with every grade of British pre-war activity in Turkey, from the Embassy downwards.

Archdeacon Potter's letter in our last issue pleading for room for the expansion and development of the crowded Asiatic nations, harmonises with the more definite claims recently advanced by such authorities as the Aga Khan and Sir Theodore Morison, that the great territory known till lately as German East Africa should be handed over as a dependency to the Indian Empire. The idea is, of course, not new, for a certain school of Indians have for years past been seeking for something of the kind. At one time they were wont to cast envious eyes on the waste places of Mesopotamia, but that dream, we take it, has finally vanished, and seeing that the north of Australia is not available, the East Coast of Africa is obviously the direction in which the Indian aspiration for colonies could most conveniently be satisfied.

Whether India really needs an outlet of the kind is, of course, a question on which opinion is very far from being unanimous. Some competent authorities hold that India can, and should, find honourable and profitable employment for all her sons, and that what is wanted is not the opportunity for emigration, but rather such an increase of energy as shall lead to the redistribution of the population within the country itself. Others again insist that, if emigration is to be regarded as the remedy for all ills, the surplus population of India is so enormous that no available place of refuge could afford more than temporary relief. Ireland has made use of the Continent of America in this way for something like a century, but Ireland counts for little more than a single district of Behar, and if all the congested districts were to take example by Ireland, even East Africa might soon become inconveniently crowded.

The truth lies probably midway between the two doctrines. India needs an outlet, but an outlet for the exceptions rather than the rank and file. In all nations there are some adventurous spirits who are much the better for a complete change in environment, while one has only to glance at the statistics of the appalling wastage in every University examination in India to realise the need for a refuge where young men who have made an unlucky start could have a further chance, freed by distance from the penalties and disabilities which an initial failure inevitably brings. Change of climate in such cases is not a panacea, as Canada and Australia bear abundant testimony, but enough English failures have "made good" in other continents to justify the provision of similar opportunities for India.

An outlet is not less necessary at the other end of the social scale. As we have recently pointed out, the problem of the "depressed" classes is bound to become more and more acute, and a difficult situation would at any rate be eased if men who find their position at home intolerable could cast their eyes hopefully across the sea. At the same time a few outbursts of emigration would help towards a solution of the problem on the only possible lines, if their effect should be to open the eyes of the upper classes, and convince them that their position is no longer tenable. A community deserted suddenly by its sweepers and its washermen would find itself well on the road to the inevitable social revolution.

For such purposes as these, the large and thinly populated area of "German" East Africa should certainly be sufficient, but we are by no means convinced that it should therefore be organised as a dependency of India. People who want to change their environment are not likely to choose a country where that environment is reproduced, and neither haughty Brahmins nor scarlet-coated Chuprassies would attract the classes whose welfare we have in view. The ideal is rather a country open to, and welcoming, all men and women of Indian blood, but enjoying a social and administrative system so different from that of India as to be congenial to those whom the Indian system has cast out. The "entrance-failed" does not seek a society dominated by graduates, nor does the outcast desire to experience in his new home the prejudices and disabilities from which he has fled.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 12.

Mr. Ross-Taylor and the Cereal Merchants.

Since Egypt was placed effectively beyond the danger of invasion the chief concern of the population has been the question of food supplies and the high cost of living. The man of the moment, therefore, is Mr. Ross-Taylor, President of the Supplies Control Board that has been given powers to deal, under martial law, with economic abuses, and to supervise the provisioning of the country. Mr. Ross-Taylor seems to possess not only the required ability, but also that sympathy and tact that create confidence and promote good understanding between otherwise jarring elements. His experience at the Law School has given him a real understanding of the Egyptian mind, and fitted him particularly for the work he is now called to do, in which native collaboration is often necessary. This was evidenced last Friday when a reception in his honour was given by the Association of Cereal Merchants at the Continental Hotel and by his election to the presidency of the Central Syndicate of Cairo Merchants at the first meeting of the association. The public may, therefore, feel justified in being sanguine about the successful fulfilment of Mr. Taylor's task.

At the meeting referred to the draft of regulations of the Central Syndicate, drawn up by a committee *ad hoc*, was submitted for discussion, and was approved with some modifications. The membership of the Central Syndicate is to be composed of the Presidents of the Provincial Syndicates and of the President and one member of each of the Cairo and Alexandria Syndicates, so that each province and governorate will have a representative, while Cairo and Alexandria will have two; the permits (which form the underlying principle of the system) are to be of two categories, viz., general permits to be granted to big merchants, and special permits to be issued to the smaller merchants, who are to be allowed to work only within the limits of their respective districts (Markazes). The age limit for merchants was lowered from 20 to 18; merchants engaged in other trades are to be allowed to trade in cereals, and receive permits accordingly; the Provincial Syndicates are to be composed of ten members each, and sit at the capital of the province. The question of granting permits to millers was left for the Central Syndicate to decide.

The speech made by Mr. Ross-Taylor at the reception given in his honour at the Continental Hotel was reassuring. After explaining how State control of trade has become universal, although the necessity for its exercise in Egypt has come much later than in other countries, he appealed to the Association for loyal co-operation with the Board, adding that the preliminary work already done augured well for the future. From time to time, he said, a partial panic is caused by the rumour that this or that commodity is short, and this is seized on as a reason for running up the price. Speaking of wheat, he said that, although last year's crop was below the average, it was sufficient for the country's requirements, and as this year's crop is much more satisfactory, there was no room whatever for anxiety. Besides, the British Government had given its formal promise to make good any eventual deficiency. In the case of millet, the area sown is far in excess of that of any previous year. Maize also has been extensively sown; and as to rice, although the survey of the area is not yet complete, the reports already received show that a far larger area than usual has been put under this crop, thanks to exceptional irrigation facilities. The crop of beans and lentils was stated to be also satisfactory.

Apart from the above reassuring statements, account should further be taken of the fact that Palestine, thanks to the foresight and organised activity displayed by the authorities, even under the stress of war, is now in a position to supply such needs of the troops as had formerly to be supplied by Egypt. As an indication of the vastly improved situation, may be cited the recent invitation by the Supplies Control Board of tenders for about 14,500 sacks of Australian flour to be put up for public sale this month.

Dearness of Living.

The necessity of the existence of the Supplies Control Board may be demonstrated by the comparative list of prices in Cairo and Alexandria issued by the Department of Supplies for the months of June in 1916, 1917, and 1918, with the price for each commodity in July, 1914, put at 100, and taken as basis for convenience of calculation. According to this list, the prices of foodstuffs have doubled; but when it is borne in mind that the figures in the list represent the maximum tariff prices, and that in almost every case these so-called fixed prices have not been respected, because no adequate means was used for their enforcement, it is found that the actual rise is more than 100 per cent. This applies, of course, to native products. In regard to imported articles, whether of foodstuffs, clothing, furniture, or domestic utensils, the rise in general has been three to four-fold, and in certain articles, such as wood and window-glass, very much more.

The lower category of employees in the different Government departments have lately been making collective appeals for increase of pay to the authorities, who, being well aware of the altered conditions, could not ignore these appeals. Accordingly, the Ministries and all Government departments have been required to send in before the middle of this month lists of all their officials, both permanent and temporary, with the salaries now being drawn by the categories of employees mentioned in the Government list. It will be remembered that over a year ago the Government granted increases ranging up to 20 per cent. to employees drawing salaries up to £200 a year, and it may be conjectured that the further increase contemplated may embrace some higher categories of officials.

The Nile in July.

According to the report of the Physical Department, temperatures during the first, third, and fourth weeks of the month were above average. The mean temperature for July was also above the average. The mean humidity at Giza was normal, although in the early mornings it was above the average, and heavy mists prevailed for several days even in the usually dry town of Heliopolis and the surrounding desert strip. The Bahr el Jebel and the White Nile were much above the average, although the first has fallen 24 cms. during the month, and the latter has risen 16 cms. only. The Blue Nile was above the average until the 22nd at Roseires and the 28th at Khartoum. The fluctuations of the River Atbara were on the whole below the average, except on the 19th and the 25th. The main Nile at Halfa was steady during the first decade and rising afterwards.

Anniversary of the War.

In deference to the wish expressed by the King, intercession services were held at Cairo and Alexandria in the churches and the camps. At All Saints' Church in Cairo, which, in spite of many absentees on summer holidays, was full, the Rev. C. T. Horan delivered a brief address in which he set forth England's aims in the war, the justice of which, he said, was confirmed to the world by the entry of the great Western Republic on the Allies' side. At Alexandria the French Consul-General, with delicate thoughtfulness, visited the British cemetery, accompanied by many leading members of the community, laid wreaths on the graves of the British soldiers, and delivered a speech full of patriotism and fervour. Col. Payne made a fitting reply, thanking the Consul-General for his generous tribute to the gallant dead, and referring to this ceremony as a symbol of the brotherhood of the two great nations.

The Sultan and the Ouvroir Des Jeunes Filles.

The Sultan, accompanied by the Premier and the Ministers, visited on Sunday, the 4th instant, the Ouvroir des Jeunes Filles at Alexandria, which his Highness had inaugurated in November, 1916, before his accession to the throne of Egypt. He was received by the Governor of Alexandria, the lady members of the Board of Administration, a few prominent lawyers and bankers, and Monsieur Bakri, the well-known cotton merchant and owner of the property where the Ouvroir lies. To an address of welcome presented by Mme. Sinadine, the leading patroness of the work, his Highness replied by a few words of thanks. He then visited the school, which employs at present 140 girls, of whom 100 are Egyptians, and which had turned out so far 378 girls, who have since been earning an honourable livelihood by the handiwork learned at the Ouvroir. As a token of his appreciation of the work done by the school, his Highness made a donation of £500. Monsieur Bakri, to commemorate the event, subscribed £300 in aid of the work, receiving for this generous gift the special thanks of his Highness.

The Sultan last week made another generous gift of £1,000 to the British Red Cross on the occasion of this year's appeal made by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

MAJOR ORMSBY-GORE ON PALESTINE.

Last Thursday Major the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., was the guest of honour of the London Zionists at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel. Speaking of the present condition of Palestine, he said it was sad to see the plains of Sharon and Philistia—which should grow corn and wine and oil, and produce all the fairest fruits of the earth—lying idle and uncultivated, covered with marshes and sand dunes. This was because for four hundred years the country had been ruled by an alien race who had no interest in its development, nor in the development of free institutions and free national ideas. Palestine to-day was an under-populated country, full of enormous possibilities, and there was work for thousands of labourers and millions of capital in order to restore it. For example, around the village of Jericho he had found a small patch of cultivation, but elsewhere the plain of Jericho was dusty and barren, and supported no settled population. Water was springing up, but ran to waste into the Dead Sea. Yet everywhere there were the remains of Roman aqueducts, and the country only needed the work of man to turn it into a miniature Delta of the Nile. To achieve such results, however, there was needed a people determined to achieve them; it was among the Zionists in Palestine that he had found that spirit. The colony of Rechoboth illustrated this point. Twenty-five years ago its site was barren sand, producing nothing; to-day it was one of the prettiest places in Palestine. There was a well-built village, surrounded by vineyards, and groves of orange, lemon, and almond trees. In Rechoboth and the other Jewish colonies the people lived a free, communal life, full of hope for the future and full of national ideals. Their children were among the happiest in the world. You saw in those colonies the rejuvenation of a people. On the other hand, in the Holy City of Jerusalem you found a pauperised population, living under intolerable physical conditions, and with very little of the new life such as he had described in the colonies.

THE INDIAN REFORM SCHEME.

Dr. Nair has received the following telegrams from India on the question of communal representation under the reform scheme:—

"Nepani, September 3.—Nepani non-Brahmins support you as All-India leader to press communal representation to success.—President, Public Meeting."

"Madras, September 3.—South Indian Liberal Federation, Madras Zemindars, landholders' associations, South Indian League, Madras Dravidian Association, Madras Adidravida Jana Sabha urge that Indian experience is absolutely essential in the chairman of the Reform Committee. Approve appointing Sir John Hewett."

KWAJA KAMAL UD DIN ON UNITY FROM DIVERSITY OF RELIGIONS.

Last Saturday Kwaja Kamal ud Din was "at home" at the Moslem Prayer House, Campden Hill Road, and a considerable number of London Moslems attended to pay their respects. In the course of a brief address which he delivered he said that the law of progress in the universe was that homogeneity gave birth to heterogeneity, and then this heterogeneity was brought into harmony and unity. Thus, in society, the simple family economy, where every man was his own hunter, agriculturist, weaver, tailor, etc., had given rise to a highly diversified community, where not only did different people follow different trades, but separate parts of the world were devoted to special industrial processes. This heterogeneity would be a blessing if all the various parts could be brought to work harmoniously together. The same principle applied in moral and spiritual affairs. Religion, coming from one God, had ramified into many branches; the problem was how to bring unity out of this diversity. The universal religion could not be tied to any one locality; it must be based on principles applicable to all. Islam was such a religion, for its followers accepted what had been revealed by God to His prophets, no matter at what time they had arisen or in what part of the world.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

BRITISH AND TURKISH PRISONERS OF WAR.

The following statement was issued by the Foreign Office last Saturday:—

An assurance has been received from the Austro-Hungarian Government that the vessel used for the repatriation of British and Turkish prisoners of war under the Berne Agreement will not be attacked by their naval forces; no such assurance has, however, been forthcoming from the German Government, in spite of the repeated representations which have been made both at Berlin and Constantinople.

There appears to be no doubt that the Turkish Government would be willing to execute the agreement as speedily as possible, but that the influence of the German Government is being used to obstruct it, partly from a desire to perpetuate all causes of ill-feeling between this country and Turkey, and partly out of apprehension of the effect on Turkish opinion of the reports which would be brought by repatriated Turkish prisoners of war.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ARE THE ROUMANIANS ROMANS?

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Perhaps my tone and language in the discussion with Mr. Bourchier were too expressive, but his final letter seems to call for an answer. Now, though he declares himself to be "parting with me," leaving me alone on the historical ground, I feel obliged, however, to try to refute some of his affirmations:

(1) It is not possible that a small number of Roman colonists—as Mr. Bourchier believes—could Latinise the whole kingdom of Dacia—the Roumanians (except the Aroumâni) inhabit just the area of the old State—in such a degree that they could survive, as a national individuality, all barbarian invasions during a period of nearly a thousand years. Lucretius affirms, as I have already quoted, that they were brought into Dacia "in infinitas copias hominum." Had they been few in number the process of Latinisation could not have been so powerful in a period relatively short (270 years between the colonisation of Dacia by Trajan and the withdrawal of the legionaries by Aurelian), and the waves of barbarians could have annihilated them completely, or, later on, the ocean of the Slavonic world could have turned them into Slavs, as was the case of the Turanian Bulgars. It is to be remembered, too, that the geographical situation of the Roman colonists in Dacia was extremely precarious owing to the great distance from the source of Roman life and civilisation, and being in the way of the Barbarians.

(2) In Europe unmixed races exist only in the very small national states of Andorra, Lichtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Denmark, Portugal, and Holland. But there are also many powerful national states, or national individualities, though their population is mixed. The Roumanians, too, feel themselves to possess a very distinct national individuality: they feel themselves not to be Slavs nor Magyars —and we think that moral and spiritual forces of such a national individuality, intensified by an adequate culture based on traditions, are realities which count, as well as the cranial dimensions or the facial types.

(3) I never affirmed such nonsense as that the traditions could be taken as pure historical documents—as Mr. Bourchier would seem to suggest. I hold that the traditions largely determine the character of the self-assertion of a nation.

(4) The word Vlach is given by the Byzantine chroniclers, as well as by the Slavons, the Teutons, etc., only to the peoples of Latin origin, not to all who were "strangers" to their own nation. Certainly, they could not make any difference between pure Roman colonists and Latinised provincials.

(5) In the English language there is a very large French ingredient, nearly the half of its vocabulary being French, though no one would be inclined to think that the infusion of French blood into the English could be in the same proportion. The Germans, too, have in their language a great number of Latin words, but that fact cannot be a test that they have Latin blood too. Therefore, we think, this theory of Mr. Bourchier cannot be accepted. The Roumanian language, though containing a great number of Slavonic words, is still a Neo-Latin language, as the English is an Anglo-Saxon.

Vico's theory of circulation adapted by Hasden to the languages, offers in that case valuable explanations. The words which have the largest circulation maintain the character of the language. They are like a pennypiece, employed continuously, and by the great masses of the people; while, the others (the French words in the case of the English language), representing ideas not so much interwoven into the common daily life, are like gold pieces, with limited circulation.

In ending this academic discussion I feel very happy to learn that Mr. Bourchier holds no more to the theories of Sulzer and Roesler regarding the Latinity of the Roumanians. And his deep sympathies for us, and his hopes in our national revival, as expressed by one who knows our people as few Englishmen do, have great weight.—I am, etc.,

D. N. CIOTORI.

46, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.
September 8, 1918.

The arrangements for the despatch of Christmas parcels over the postal limits of weight to the Expeditionary Forces (other than France and Italy) through the Military Forwarding Officer are now announced. The latest dates on which such parcels should be despatched in order to secure delivery by Christmas are: India, September 20; Mesopotamia, October 1; Salonika, November 1; Egypt, November 1; Malta, November 1; Gibraltar, November 1. Parcels, which must not be under 11 lb. or over 56 lb. in weight, should be sent to the Military Forwarding Officer, Avonmouth Docks.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

If the Turkish Grand Vizier keeps on talking, I may have to introduce a new feature: "Talaat, Week by Week." He gets more and more daring in his humour; and I sometimes wonder which will be worn out first—his tongue or his cheek. Now, I see, he has been interviewed by a *Neue Freie Presse* man, to whom he candidly observed that "everything that could be got out of the war had been got out of it," and that therefore "a continuance of the war was manifestly useless." Having got those points clear to his own satisfaction, he ventured to prophesy that "peace would come before the winter." That is as may be; and we may even hope that if the Germans—and other things—go as they are now doing, Talaat may, for once, prove a true prophet. But in other respects his talk to the *N.F.P.* representative is of value chiefly as shedding light on his own tricky character.

⁂

Consider for a moment the sublime impudence of one of the "Young Turk" gang actually talking about everything that could be got out of the war having been got out of it! Of course, we know, as all the world knows by now, that Enver, Talaat and their particular pals have got all *they* can get out of it—and a tolerably good "all" it is, if half one hears be true—but think what effrontery Talaat must possess to dare to use such an expression at all. I do not suggest for one moment that he used the words in the sense that I have just used them, but I do suspect that odd thoughts must have passed through his mind as he spoke; and it seems to me that he must be a cool customer to use any such form of words. As for Turkey, I suppose she may be said to have got something out of the war, though she is unlikely to keep it after the final adjustment of accounts. But it is quite certain that her losses, in Mesopotamia and in Palestine, far outweigh her temporary gains to the North, and for the rest her losses in men, money and prestige are simply enormous. Perhaps Talaat thought of these things when he made his statement in Sofia; for there he was evidently in more subdued mood, since he talked of Turkey and Bulgaria supporting one another, because therein lay the salvation of both countries. So, we gather, even if Talaat and Co. have got all they can out of the war, Turkey still needs "salvation."

⁂

There is ample justification for all that "Commentator" had to say last week, in his Notes and News, in praise of Oriental rugs and carpets. As I write I have under my feet a Persian rug that is probably very nearly a hundred years old; yet its colours are as beautiful as ever; they will stand washing with hot water and soap; and only on the edges of the rug are there signs of wear. And I have others that have stood the roughest wear—on uneven mud floors in the East—and are still good for twenty or thirty years more. Few European rugs, I fancy, would stand any chance in competition under such conditions. But—and this is really what I set out to say—if you are going to buy Eastern rugs in England it certainly will pay you to go to a firm with a reputation, as "Commentator" suggested. Not very long ago I happened to see into a certain "dusky" carpet merchant's shop, and noted a small boy busily "touching up" a rather good-looking carpet with a concoction in an old jam-jar. Somehow, however excellent the preparation in question may have been, and however great the skill of the youthful apprentice, I should not care to have that carpet. The Orient is fascinating; but the Orient with East End additions is less attractive.

⁂

After my attempt to make the Near Eastern Hen realise her shortcomings, it is a little trying to learn that our Government is said to be making arrangements for the importation of eggs from Egypt—among other countries. The wretched Gippy hen will be getting "swelled head" in spite of my straight talking! But let me inform her that never, willingly, will I pay 5d. or 5½d for one of her wretched little models of sparrow's eggs. It seems to me that Mr. Clynes—for whom I have a very real respect, since he has tackled an appallingly difficult job, and is doing well at it—would be much better advised to encourage the English hen, which lays EGGS, rather than import eggs from Egypt. The only thing in favour of the latter plan is that the eggs take up very little room—you could put dozens of them in a half-pint pot!—and that argument cuts both ways. England is capable of producing all the eggs we require, if only the real poultry farmer can be helped a bit, and the amateur can be induced to keep his fads to himself. I hold that many good things *do* come out of Egypt, but, most emphatically, eggs are *not* among the number.

Here are some extracts from a letter written by an officer in Palestine, and recently received by a friend:—

> "This country is slowly being improved, and it is noticeably cleaner than when we came. The system of a daily burnt offering has been revived in Jerusalem, but it is offered in incinerators by sanitary specialists and not on altars—the smoke, however, is there all right. . . . There are also quite a lot of roads in Judæa in the most unexpected places, and the whistle of the railway locomotive shatters a stillness which has already been somewhat disturbed by distant gunfire. . . .

The writer goes on to give some encouraging information about little surprises that are being prepared for the Turk. But I suppose I had better act the part of censor in regard to them. Otherwise, I myself might meet the fate of the guinea pigs in "Wonderland" and be "suppressed."

CORSAIR.

SERBIAN WORKERS IN TUNISIA.

Colonel Michel, commander of the Serbian troops in Tunisia, has, according to a French contemporary, just completed a tour amongst the principal colonists who are employing Serbian labour. His journey comprised visits to Tébourba, Pont-du-Fahs, Zaghouan and Sainte-Marie-du-Zit. The colonel was very satisfied from all points of view, both with the soldiers and the employers. The latter were loud in their praise of the discipline observed by the Serbian workers, the production and the great regularity in their work; in fact, it is recognised that they have laboured as if they were doing the tasks on their own account. The Serbians, too, are very content with their new occupations, and are eager to have their agreements renewed with the Tunisian colonists. Two hundred and fifty colonists now employ these workers, to the number of about three thousand.

LOYALTY OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS.

At an enthusiastic meeting of Indian Christians recently held in Madras, the following resolution was carried amidst cheers:—"The Indian Christian Association, Madras, begs to convey to his Excellency the Viceroy an expression of its deep devotion and loyalty to the British Throne, and its gratefulness for all that is being done by the Government to win the present war." A leading Indian Christian voiced the sense of the meeting when he expressed his confidence that "the Indian Christian community will rise to the full height of the occasion, and freely, unconditionally, and joyfully place at the disposal of our King-Emperor our money, our men, our entire resources."

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND

We have received the following moving appeal from Lady Lowther, Chairman of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund; and we trust that it will evoke a generous response, as was the case in the former appeals. Donations may be sent either to Lady Lowther, or to the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, at Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square, S.W.1:—

"After three and a half years of work the Committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund fear their activities may have to cease for want of money, in spite of the urgent calls for assistance they receive from British subjects, former residents in Turkey, from many parts of the world, chiefly in Great Britain. These families are now faced with ruin, the breadwinner interned, the mother and children left to fight Fate alone in strange lands. Must it be said that England's children are not England's first care? Or may our faith in England's generosity not be disappointed and help come when it is almost despaired of? We only need a few thousand pounds to keep hope alive in these sad hearts, and the smallest sum is gratefully received."

We learn also that the fund is in receipt of a sum of £746 contributed by British subjects in Cuba as an expression of their sympathy with the unfortunate people on whose behalf it was opened. Apart from the relief needed in this country, our readers will be sorry to learn that in Constantinople alone there are many whose names are well known in receipt of monthly doles from the fund. Miss Whitaker, who administers the fund in Constantinople, writing in July, says: "I am helping the old people, and more especially lonely governesses and those who have seen better days, and who are now hard hit. Prices are fabulous, and I often wonder how all these poor people manage."

◆

The British military authorities have again presented the Egyptian Government with a camel for the purpose of carrying the Holy Carpet to Mecca.

Returned Australian soldiers are strongly desirous that British regiments which shared in the landing and fighting at Gallipoli should be included in the issue of the Gallipoli Star.

The Turkish Chamber (according to German Press information) has voted £5,000,000 (Turkish) for the reconstruction of the districts which were in Russian occupation. Fugitives will be assisted to return, and inhabitants will receive support by means of grants of plant and cattle. A committee of members of the Chamber has been nominated to carry out this work.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GREEK RIDDLE.[*]

We have not the least hesitation in placing "Constantine, King and Traitor," in the forefront of books on the war. The title, though arresting, may not be very happy; but there can be no doubt that Mrs. Kenneth Brown (née Demetra Vaka) has produced a volume of absorbing interest and no little historical importance. Her life has been spent in the United States, and she tells us that she considered herself more American even than those who were born there. Her interest in the attitude of Greece was not different from that manifested by her American friends until the fall of M. Venizelos, in February, 1915. That incident stirred the Greek within her, and from that date all that happened in Greece seemed to concern her personally. Loyalty to the country and its sovereign convinced her that there must be some satisfactory explanation of the strange course adopted by Greece; but presently the situation defied even her capacity for finding explanations, and she resolved to go to Greece, "and there on the spot to discover the truth."

The book is the outcome of that decision. It is only fair to state that Mrs. Kenneth Brown was already a writer, and was well able to make the most of her remarkable experiences. But it is the Greek patriot who tells her story, and carries her reader along with her too absorbed in the narrative to stop to wonder how she managed to keep a record of the conversations of which the *ipsissima verba* are given in every case.

Everyone interested in Near Eastern politics, and for that matter in the politics of Europe as a whole, should make a point of reading this book, for it is by no means a record of the Greek parish pump. On the contrary, we are taken into *la haute politique*, and the author has contrived to throw light on many points that were obscure before. Mrs. Kenneth Brown, with Mr. Kenneth Brown, landed in Greece, a staunch Royalist. It was a few months after the fatal events of December 1 and 2, 1916. Her purpose or desire was to prove King Constantine in the right and to bring about a union between him and M. Venizelos. With this object in view she plunged into the Royalist *milieu* in Athens, and for a month or more spent hours with everybody who was anybody, from the King downwards, seeking elucidation of the various points in Greece's actions that were obscure. Her obvious sincerity caused the Royalists to welcome her as one who had only to be told their point of view to become a most useful champion and a complete vindicator of their policy. They spared no pains to justify their actions; they spent hours explaining everything; they answered her questions; they showed her official documents; they even forged some, *ad hoc;* and all the time Mrs. Kenneth Brown was becoming more and more a Venizelist and less and less a Royalist. The conversion was complete when she went to Salonika and saw (for the first time) M. Venizelos. Hence the title of the book.

The psychology of King Constantine is depicted in a most telling manner; and it was worth studying, for it was not without its connection with events in a wider sphere. This is what the notorious Dr. Streit told our author: "In March, 1914, the Kaiser came to Corfu. . . . He turned to me and asked: 'In case of a big European war, what would be the attitude of Greece?' I told him that Greece being a small maritime nation could not range herself against a big maritime nation like England. 'Oh,' responded the Kaiser, 'England will not take part in this war . . . she will let Germany and Russia have it out, my friend.'"

The final chapter is entitled "The Amazing Revelation," and with that title there will be no quarrel. It was only a few weeks before King Constantine was dethroned. The "Occult Government" evidently had their presentiments, and General Dousmanis decided to tell the truth to Mrs. Kenneth Brown. King Constantine and his party were firmly convinced that Germany must be victorious in the war, and that she would come out of it as the Colossus of the world, with a number of petty states existing by her suffrance and ruled for the most part by her nominees. Thus the German Empire would extend to the Greek frontier, and Greece, having earned her special gratitude, would receive her special favours and rise to greatness, territorial and material, under her ægis. Although King Constantine may have been thinking only of his own skin or his own position, some at least of his entourage had visions of the future glory of their country.

But the narrative must be read in its entirety. There are some home truths in it told for the benefit of the Entente Powers, and Italy. Very rightly, the author makes no attempt to palliate the Allies' terrible blunders. She need offer no apology for a dissertation on America's diplomatic representatives, but may be grateful for the foils to them provided by the Allies in their diplomatic services.

We trust that the book will be translated, at least into Greek and French, for it should be read certainly by every educated Greek. It will help that country by rendering it quite impossible for anyone to support the return of ex-King Constantine. In any other editions we shall hope to see the few Greek words that are interpolated into the text printed correctly. It ought to have been possible even in England to print five consecutive Greek words without having three of them hopelessly wrong, and the mistakes repeated when the sentence occurs again (pp. 118 and 124). The number also nods occasionally, with some excuse, perhaps when she speaks of General "Milner"; with none when she tells us that she spoke with the members of the Salonika Provisional Government in "the language of Jupiter and Athena." It was well for her, as she was in full view of Olympus at the time, that Zeus was on the other side of the mountain, probably with Minerva.

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[*] "Constantine: King and Traitor." By Demetra Vaka. (London: John Lane. Price 12s. 6d.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Tales of Secret Egypt." By Sax Rohmer. (London: Methuen and Co. 6s. net.)

"Où allons-nous?" By Victor Cambion. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 4 fr. 50.)

"L'Erreur Français." By "Lysis." (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 4 fr. 50.)

"The Diary of Ananda Ranga Pillai: Volume VI., October, 1748—March, 1750." Edited by H. Dodwell, M.A. (Madras: Government Press. 5s. 6d. net.)

"The Sorrows of Epirus." By René Puaux. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Limited. 3s. 6d. net.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

On September 4 the seventh hospital in Athens, installed in the former Royal Palace, was opened by King Alexander. The hospital can accommodate 300 patients.

All the Greeks in Palestine, whether mobilised or not, have demanded to be enrolled in the Greek Army at Salonika. The first volunteers have already left for the Macedonian capital.

In a message sent off on September 9, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—News received here from Teheran confirms the massacre of Christians at Urumiah by bands of Kurds, who had become emboldened by the announcement of the imminent arrival of Turkish troops. Among the victims are Monsignor Sontag, a French Lazarist and Vicar Apostolic, and three priests.

A further church collection at Cairo in aid of the War Prisoners' Fund has realised £433, making a total of £1,015.

For the three months ended July the Y.M.C.A. has distributed £5,435 15s. 10d. from men in Salonika to their friends at home in sums amounting from 10s. to £40.

The climate allowance is to be paid to officers and men of the Royal Navy serving in ships on the River Nile from April 1 to September 30 of each year, and in the following localities the allowance is to be extended by commencing on April 1, instead of June 1, to September 30:—The Persian Gulf, Mesopotamian rivers, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden (including Aden Wireless Station).

The Jews of Southern Palestine have taken advantage of the liberty accorded to them under the new regime to revive their "Mishpat Hashalom," or the courts of arbitration conducted on the principles of Jewish law. The central courts will be in Jaffa, with local courts in each town and settlement.

The Serbian *Official Gazette* publishes a decree conferring on the poet Gabriele d'Annunzio the Order of the Star of Kara-Georgevitch with swords.

According to the *Vossische Zeitung*, M. Bratiano's castle near Predeal was set on fire and entirely burnt down on August 27, the anniversary of Roumania's declaration of war.

According to a Kieff telegram, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, M. Lysogub, states that the object of his visit to Berlin was to ask for Germany's mediation for a speedier development of the Russo-Ukrainian peace negotiations.

At a general meeting of the Roumanian colony in Paris it was decided to request Father Lucacin, representative of Transylvania, and Dr. Jean Cantacuzene, President of the Roumanian Unionist Federation, to form a National Council to represent the national aspirations of Roumania and to enter into relations with the Allies.

The hospital authorities in Salonika have sent urgent requests to V.A.D. Headquarters in this country for a considerable number of trained laboratory assistants, and also for several dispensers holding either the Pharmaceutical certificate or the Apothecaries' Hall certificate. The rates of pay are 39s. 6d. per week and 49s. 6d. for head dispensers, with a deduction in all cases of 14s. for board and lodging. Application may be made to the V.A.D., Department 18, Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

A Turkish Mission, headed by the Sultan Abdul Hamid's son, Prince Abdul Rahim Effendi, arrived in Berlin on Tuesday, en route for Main Headquarters to notify the accession of the new Sultan to the Throne.

The King inspected a detachment of the Indian Labour Corps on Wednesday. The men were under the command of Captain J. E. Gilmore (Indian Army Reserve of Officers) and Lieutenant H. P. Lansdale-Ruthven (Indian Army), who are on short leave from the Western Front.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. September	1918. August		1336. Julheggia.	5679. Tishri.
13	31	Friday	7	7
14	September 1	Saturday........	8	8
15	2	Sunday	9	9
16	3	Monday	10	10
17	4	Tuesday	11	11
18	5	Wednesday	12	12
19	6	Thursday	13	13

The Greek Minister visited the Foreign Office last Friday.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left 12, Cavendish Place, for Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Paris on leave.

Sir John Hewett had the honour of being invited to lunch with the King and Queen at Windsor Castle on Monday.

On September 3, at Hill Head, Hants, a son was born to Major F. W. A. Wells (Indian Army) and Mrs. Wells.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, head of the Roumanian Government Commission, left London yesterday for France on leave.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London, has been awarded the Military Cross.

Fathullah Khan Noury Monazam-es-Saltaneh, Secretary to the Persian Legation, left town last week for Eastbourne, and will be absent several weeks.

The Serbian Minister of Education, who is now in England, is visiting all the colonies of Serbian schoolboys who are under the care of the Serbian Relief Fund.

M. Milan Rakitch, Counsellor of the Serbian Legation, has returned to London from Evian-les-Bains, where he has been visiting the Serbian Prime Minister.

The marriage arranged between Lieut.-Colonel C. Fraser, M.C. (Prince of Wales's) N. Stafford Regt. (attached R.A.F.), and Mrs. Hamilton will take place in Cairo shortly.

The engagement is announced between Captain W. A. S. Grey, I.A., Burma Commission, and Kathleen Mary, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Paulson, The Wilderness, Dartmouth.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Richard Branford, of Hissar, Punjab, India, and Joyce Evelyn, second daughter of the Rev. R. R. Cobbold and Mrs. Cobbold, Hitcham Rectory, Ipswich.

The marriage of Major J. S. Oldham, Indian Cavalry, and Irene Beaumont Thomas, of 23, Parkside, Knightsbridge, S.W., will take place on Saturday, October 5, at 2.15, at St. Margaret's, Westminster. There will be no reception, but all friends will be very welcome at the church.

On September 5, at All Saints' Church, Ripley, Derby, the marriage was solemnised of Mr. Arthur Philip Coote, Sudan Civil Service, fifth son of Sir Algernon Coote, Bart., of Ballyfin, Ireland, to Miss Margaretta Wright, second daughter of Mr. C. Leslie Wright, of Butterley Hall, Derby.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Commander G. E. Harden, D.S.O., R.N., second son of Lieutenant-Colonel G. Harden, Camberley, and Eanswythe, younger daughter of Sir Alexander Wood Renton, late Chief Justice of Ceylon, and Lady Wood Renton, Radlett, Herts.

The marriage between Major Herbert Fulford Bush, D.S.O., A.S.C., and Margaret Isabel Mary, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. Padwick, of Garrow, Pusellawn, Ceylon, will take place quietly, at 2.30 on September 18, at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, W.2. All friends will be welcome at the church.

The engagement is announced between Colonel Cuthbert Ward Ritson, Rifle Brigade, attached Egyptian Army, fifth son of Mr. U. A. Ritson, and Mrs. Ritson, of Muggleswick, Consett, Co. Durham, and Jesmond Gardens, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Ethel Gertrude, second daughter of the Rev. William Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, Wath Rectory, Ripon, Yorks.

Lieutenant James Crawfurd, who came home from Constantinople in 1914 to join the Army, has been awarded the Gelvei Cross of the Greek Order of the Redeemer and appointed Chevalier of the Order.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Capsambis has been appointed Greek Minister to The Hague.

Bimbashi G. O. Crosfield, 12th Sudanese, has been transferred to the 13th Sudanese.

Mr. William F. Dix has been appointed Consul-General for Montenegro at New York.

Bimbashi G. G. S. Brander, 11th Sudanese, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Bimbashi Sir F. C. R. Price, Bart., Camel Corps, has been transferred to the 13th Sudanese.

M. Doroschenko, who has hitherto been Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Ukraine, has been formally appointed Foreign Minister.

Captain William Brewster, the new Military Aide to Mr. Gary, American Diplomatic Agent to Egypt, has arrived from New York and taken up his duties in Cairo.

General Anto Gvozdenovitch, accompanied by the members of his suite, has arrived in America, accredited as the first Montenegrin Minister to the United States at Washington.

Captain J. Going, Army Veterinary Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the Veterinary Department for duty.

MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Major Rawdon James Macnabb, Indian Cavalry and Indian Political Service, third son of the late Mr. James W. Macnabb, of Arthurstone, Bracknell, Berks, and Miss Winifred Gladys Mary Railston, only daughter of Colonel H. E. Railston, late Cameronians, and Mrs. Railston, of 23, Queen's Gate, S.W., took place at Brompton Parish Church on September 7. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. F. Macnabb, brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. R. A. C. Bevan, Rector of Binfield, and the Rev. C. Senhouse Ryder. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids—Miss Elsie Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Nancy Stewart Cox, Miss Leslie Wiggett, and Miss Mary MacNeile. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Norman Leslie, Indian Cavalry, was best man. Those present at the ceremony included :—Mrs. Railston, Mrs. Macnabb and the Misses Macnabb, Mr. James Macnabb, Mr. Donald Macnabb, Miss D. Macnabb, the Countess of Kimberley, Captain and Mrs. Douglas-Hamilton, Mrs. Wiggett, Colonel Heathcote, Colonel and Mrs. Ussher, the Hon. Mrs. Lyell, Colonel and Mrs. E. D. Kennedy and Miss Kennedy, Lady Vavasour, Mrs. Cave-Browne-Cave, Mrs. Grimston, Mrs. Salisbury Jones, Mrs. Burgess-Watson, Major and Mrs. Cole, Colonel Reid, Mrs. Angel Scott, Commander and Mrs. Robinson, Major Cameron Douglas, Captain and Mrs. Seton Christopher, Captain French, Major Chivers, Colonel Nason, and Colonel Cole.

The Kaiser has conferred the Order of the Red Eagle First Class on Herr von Kuhlmann.

General Skoropadski, Hetman of the Ukraine, and his suite have gone to German Main Headquarters.

The Serbian Relief Committee appeals for knitted socks, to be sent to Serbian soldiers. The need (says the Committee) is overwhelming.

On the occasion of Korban Bairam (the great Moslem festival, celebrated in memory of the intended sacrifice of his son by Abraham) there will be prayers at the Mosque, Woking, at noon. Trains leave Waterloo at 9.35 and 11.10.

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MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
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needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
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OBITUARY.

Mr. John Isidore Maurice Ornstein, C.M.G., late Under-Secretary of State and Assistant Financial Adviser, Egypt, died in Paris last week.

A telegram received last week announced the death on September 4 of Mr. William Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Acting Governor of British Honduras. Mr. Hart Bennett, who entered the Colonial Service in 1871, was for sixteen years (1884-1900) Chief Clerk in the Chief Secretary's Office, Cyprus.

Captain Ralph Dominic Gamble, Coldstream Guards, who was killed in action on August 22, was the only son of Sir Reginald Arthur Gamble, of the Indian Civil Service, and Lady Gamble, Peking, China. He received his lieutenancy in the Coldstream Guards from the Special Reserve in July, 1917, and was promoted captain May last.

Lieutenant Edgar Brandon, R.A.F., who is reported killed on August 11, was the youngest son of the late Edgar Brandon and Mrs. Brandon, of Newlands, Clapham Road, Bedford. After an education at Bedford School he went to Tasmania, and remained there until 1913. He then went to Ceylon, where he was for some years with the Ceylon and Indian Planters' Company. On returning to England he joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. on September 27, 1917, afterwards obtaining a commission in the R.A.F. He was 29 years old.

We regret to announce the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Stanislaus Tighe, late of the 20th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Punjabis. Colonel Tighe first saw active service in Burma in 1890-1, and was then awarded the medal with clasp. Six years later he fought on the North-West Frontier of India. He was at the engagements near Shabkadr, Mohmand (for which he received a "mention"), and Buner, taking part also in the capture of the Tanga Pass, and for these services he received the medal with clasp. In 1900 he was engaged in the operations in China, and had the medal for that campaign. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Ashford, Kent.

Lieutenant Maurice Richard Wheatley Johnson, I.A.R.O. attached R.G.A., was the only son of Brigadier-General R. F. Johnson, C.B., C.M.G., late Royal Artillery, and Mrs. Johnson. He was born in 1889, and entered the Indian Civil Service in 1912; and in November, 1913, was appointed Assistant Collector at Ahmedabad, in the Bombay Presidency. On the outbreak of war he applied to be allowed to join the I.A.R.O., but was not permitted to do so until August, 1916, by which time he had been Assistant Political Agent at Palanpur for nine months. He joined the R.G.A. at Lahore, and served with a mountain battery at Bannu, on the North-West frontier. In March, 1918, he was sent to Mesopotamia, and was attached to the battery with which he was serving at the time of his death. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay writes:—"Your son was a most promising member of the Civil Service, and most readily embraced the opportunity of serving his country on the battlefield."

Major George Edmund Borlase Watson, D.S.O., M.C., R.H.A., whose death is announced this week, was the third son of the late Colonel J. W. Watson, Political Agent, Kathiawar, Bombay, and Mrs. Watson, The Cottage, Swainswick, near Bath. He was educated at Wellington College and the R.M.A., Woolwich, and received his commission in the Royal Field Artillery in 1906. He joined the 64th Battery in India, and, being selected for the Royal Horse Artillery in 1914, went with his battery to France with the First Expeditionary Force, and was present at the retreat from Mons. He then trained a battery of the R.F.A. in England and returned with it to France. Subsequently he was given command of a battery of R.H.A., and fell while leading it into action. He was mentioned in despatches and was twice wounded. His elder brother, Major F. S. Watson, D.S.O., R.G.A., died of wounds in France last May, and his younger brother, Captain C. R. Watson, Punjabis, was killed in action in Mesopotamia in April, 1916.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Ratan Tata, which occurred on the evening of September 5 at St. Ives, Cornwall, whither he had gone for his health's sake. He was the second son of the late Mr. Jamsetjee Tata, of Bombay, and he received his education at St. Xavier's College in that city. Mr. Jamsetjee Tata, who was one of the leading members of the Parsee community, was also one of the leaders of industry, and his two sons—Sir Dorab Tata and Sir Ratan Tata—followed in his footsteps. They have been responsible for several undertakings of the first importance, such as the Tata Hydro-Electric Works, which supply power to Bombay, and great steel works at Sakchi. They also put into execution a project upon which their father had been at work at the time of his death (1904): the foundation of the Institute of Research at Mysore. In all these activities Sir Ratan took a keen interest, though he had for many years spent much, if not most, of his time in England, his home in this country being York House, Twickenham. He was extremely generous, and gave liberally to charities both in India and in England; while his interest in social and political problems was demonstrated by his founding the Ratan Tata Department of Social Science and Administration in the London School of Economics, and the Ratan Tata Fund in connection with the University of London, which is for promoting the study of means of preventing and relieving poverty. Sir Ratan, who was knighted in 1916, married Miss Naja Sett, a daughter of Ardesir Merwanji Sett, hereditary head of the priestly caste of the Parsees.

We regret to learn that Captain Edward Allen Roe, M.C., Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, has been killed in action. The youngest son of Mr. Frederick Edward Roe, of West Norwood, he was born in 1896, and was educated at Merchant Taylor's School and London University. He enlisted on the outbreak of the war, and was given a commission in the East Surrey Regiment in September, 1914. In 1915 he was sent abroad and was posted to the West Surreys, with which regiment he took part in the fighting on the Suez Canal. He was present also at both battles of Gaza, and was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross. He shared in the advance on and capture of Jerusalem, and was again mentioned in despatches, and was awarded a bar to his Military Cross. He was badly wounded, and after rejoining his unit was sent to another front, where he fell in action. Much sympathy will be felt with Mr. F. E. Roe (who is a member of THE NEAR EAST staff) and Mrs. Roe.

Major Norman MacLeod Adam, R.F.A., who was killed on August 28, was the only son of Major-General F. A. Adam, C.B., and Mrs. Adam, and grandson of the late Major-General T. J. Watson, Indian Cavalry. He was born in July, 1890, and was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and at Woolwich. Passing out at Christmas, 1910, he was immediately gazetted to a battery in India. In 1915 he was A.D.C. to the Inspector-General of Artillery, and in September of the same year got his "jacket" in the Horse Artillery, and served with "W" Battery at Meerut, and at Delhi as guard to the Viceroy. In Mesopotamia, from September, 1916, he acted as staff captain, and later as D.A.A.G. Having obtained command of a battery, he was wounded on November 6, 1917. On the way to another front his ship was torpedoed, and he then, it is stated, acted very gallantly in securing the safety of his men, and was the last to leave the ship. He was three times mentioned in despatches, and was twice recommended for the D.S.O. and once for the M.C

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This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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GREECE AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Fifteen months ago Greece was figuring largely on the Allies' horizon. There could be no doubt at that time as to the general attitude of the British public towards the country. King Constantine was on the throne, and at his instigation, or with his full approval, the Greek Government had but one policy, to make itself as unpleasant as possible to the Allies so long as the opportunity failed it to take the field openly against them in company with German troops. In those days the capacity of Greece to put a spoke in the wheel of the Entente was resented. Apart from the actual menace of overt hostility in the rear of the Army in Macedonia, it was felt that Greece was occupying at a most critical period a position on the world's stage out of all proportion to her size and importance. Allied diplomacy was blamed for mishandling what was in its essence a simple problem, and there was a general desire to be rid of the Greek business in order that attention might not be distracted from intrinsically larger questions. King Constantine's compulsory abdication followed, and not a small portion of the gratification at the return to power of M. Venizelos might have been found due, if it could have been analysed, to a sense of relief experienced in the reflection that, all now being well with Greece, her affairs no longer called for unusual attention. This phase, it need hardly be said, in so far as it existed at all, was a passing one. The war has kindled in Great Britain a genuine interest in Near Eastern affairs. For the present this interest takes its place alongside a lively concern in many other parts of the world; but it is gradually becoming characterised by more knowledge. In the first place, something of the importance of the Near East to the future security and development of the British Empire has now been grasped by the man in the street. It is understood that under happier conditions than those under which the lot of this part of Europe has been cast hitherto it is capable of playing, politically and economically, a greater rôle. For this reason attention, which before might have been accorded grudgingly under a feeling of resentment towards Greece's official attitude of veiled hostility, or during the reaction that followed her formal adhesion to the Grand Alliance, is now paid readily to Greek affairs.

There could be no more striking illustration of the changed outlook upon the Near East than is provided by the arrival in England this week of a Greek Commercial Delegation. Some months ago, at the instance of the Department of Overseas Trade of the Board of Trade, a party of Serbian business men made a tour of British manufacturing centres. This time our Greek visitors come at the instance of the Federation of British Industries—a clear indication of a new spirit actuating, if not the whole of our business world, at least a section which has charged itself with the blazing of a trail—the organised quest of fresh markets—that the rest can hardly fail to follow sooner or later. The fact that the British Government is co-operating in the scheme is symptomatic of the new order, and to its inspiration and practical support will be due in no small measure the success of the visit. From the programme of the tour which the Delegates are to make in England, Scotland, and Wales it will be seen that no narrow view is taken of the extent to which Greece can be interested in British manufactures. More than twenty towns will be visited, and the industries to be inspected include munitions, steel and iron, electrical machinery, motor-cars, aeroplanes, agricultural machinery, chemicals, rubber, railway material, textiles, shipbuilding, marine engineering, spinning and weaving, boots, soap, and lace-making. This list in itself is a measure of the potentialities of the Greek market. It implies a complete repudiation of the old belief that the markets of the Balkans were hardly worth the attention of British manufacturers. There was a time, no doubt, when our manufacturing standard was apt to be beyond the bulk of the requirements of the Near East; but the progress of this market has been overlooked. Largely exploited by the Central Powers, it is no longer a negligible quantity. Moreover, this consideration must now be reinforced by the sense of obligation which, it is to be hoped, will prompt the British manufacturer to cater for the needs of the Balkan peoples, in order that they may not be left again to the mercy of German exploitation.

There may be little sentiment in business, but in the circumstances of this war it is inevitable that some manufacturers and merchants, no less than non-business men, should be influenced by their political feelings in their search for foreign markets. If Greece had preserved towards the Allies the attitude of the Constantine regime of two years ago, no invitation for a commercial mission to visit this country would have been sent. Even now there may be a feeling among some people that Greece has still a skeleton in her cupboard, which militates against a complete restoration of confidence. To those who think that they have not yet found a satisfactory explanation of the part played by Greece in this war, we would commend a book entitled "Constantine: King and Traitor." It is the work of a Greek-American profoundly stirred by events in Greece, and fired with a desire to prove both King Constantine and M. Venizelos right at heart and to promote union between them while the former was still on the throne. The writer went to Greece to learn the Royalist case, prepared to win for it the acceptance of the world at large. After listening to the Royalists alone, among them King Constantine himself and those who prompted his policy, she came to the decision which is expressed so vigorously in the title of the book. But "Demetra Vaka" is not concerned merely to denounce King Constantine. Her investigations enabled her to throw a kinder light on the actions of a large number of her Greek compatriots. The obsession of the King and of his entourage in the invincibility of Germany and the belief that the end of the war would find that Power in an unchallengeable position in Europe, able to make or mar the future of any State, are well brought out. So strong was this conviction, which was supported by the fear that France and Britain were ready to sacrifice Greece to Russia and Italy, that some Greeks, who seemed to be animated by pure patriotism, had no difficulty in satisfying themselves that the country's only hope of salvation consisted in leaving Germany no room to find fault with Greece's whole-heartedness in the German cause. In this frame of mind it was held to be justifiable to mobilise the Greek army merely for the object of political propaganda, to keep the troops aloof from "Venizelism," and to make discipline a medium for inculcating pro-German feelings among the manhood of the nation. In all the circumstances we may wonder that the majority of the Greek nation remained true to their instinctive trust in the Entente Powers, in spite of the ill-advised way in which their case was handled by the Allies.

IRRIGATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Irrigation engineers of northern India have often cast longing eyes on the plains of Mesopotamia, and the prospects of restoring the sandy deserts and alkali swamps to the fertility and prosperity that the country at one time enjoyed. For, as engineers, they are specialists, and trained in India to work of a certain kind, they find few opportunities for exploiting their special knowledge elsewhere. It is true that the irrigation potentialities of India are by no means exhausted, but the occasions when, on the completion of great construction works, the gallery applauds and honours are perchance distributed will doubtless in the near future be increasingly few and far between. Egypt, once a valuable outlet, is now practically closed to them. They have advised in Australia and South Africa, but the conditions of these countries are not favourable for the great schemes of enterprise to which they have been accustomed. Drainage lines running like mill-streams after heavy rain and dry as a bone in times of drought present other problems than those of the perennial rivers of the alluvial plains of India.

But the conditions of Mesopotamia are what they thoroughly understand. The Tigris and Euphrates with their sources in snow-clad hills, resemble in many respects the glacier-fed streams they know. They would approach the harnessing of rivers of that kind with the confidence born of experience. There, too, though the seasons are different, the demand for water would be constant, a condition the canal officer always loves. The months from May to October are almost rainless; at other times the rainfall is low, say, nine inches, often much less, and the demand would certainly be steady. The climate holds no terrors for them, it is better than that of India. A minimum temperature of about 40° F. and a maximum of about 108° F. means a climate more resembling that of Egypt than of Punjab and Sind deserts, which in the hot weather are furnaces unspeakable. And Sir William Willcocks's enthusiastic descriptions have always been enticing. They liked to read of the old Nahrwan, the very name of which had a familiar sound. It was, apparently, a sort of main canal to feed numerous branches, a channel of 400 ft. bed width, carrying a depth of water of anything up to 30 ft., with possibly a discharging capacity twelve times that of the Thames, and larger than any irrigation canal now in existence. The very idea of such works to restore opulency to Opis and Baghdad, Ctesiphon, Seleucia, and Babylon—names to conjure with—made them anxious to share in their reconstruction in a land where the eyes of the world would be upon them, and not as in India, where the greatest successes of modern irrigation works have attracted little attention.

All that is still, however, a vision of the future: a vision which will no doubt attain reality some day, though for the present only a dream. But in the meanwhile there is work to be done, work of a humbler and less spectacular kind, but nevertheless of great importance. The catastrophe of old, when the Tigris outflanked its fetters, abandoned its old bed, and followed and swept away the line of the main canal, destroying towns and villages, cultivation, men and animals in wild disorder, does not mean that, amid the desolation, no attempt was made to cultivate to some extent, and in suitable places after that time. Sparsely populated as the tract became, the people had to live, and by crude methods, from the rivers or from the ruins of the old canals, water was lifted, and cultivation practised here and there. It was not extensive, but prior to the war it probably sufficed for the needs. The war changed the conditions, it led to a decrease in the cultivated area, and a great increase in the demand. It is this form of cultivation that it is now so important to foster and encourage, in order to meet the requirements of the Army in the field and the inhabitants, and to reduce the cost of transport.

The available establishment is comparatively small, but is steadily becoming more efficient. The local political and irrigation officers are closely in touch with the Arabs, ascertaining their wants and catering for them. It is, among other things, necessary to restore to them some form of civil administration to replace the former anarchy, to organise the labour for the clearances of old canals and to excavate a certain number of new channels, to arrange for systematic advances of cash and seed, and generally to help them to make the best use of such skill and industry as they possess. In work of that description Indian officials excel, as has been evidenced by the remarkable success which has attended the various colonisation schemes in the early days of the settlers, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Arabs and their officers have now settled down to the business, and are making excellent progress.

At the time of the occupation of Baghdad, the people in large areas around were in a state of semi-starvation, and up to the spring of this year food had to be imported for them; but with the threshing of the harvest, it is believed, the country began to be self-supporting in all respects except in the matter of wheat flour for the Forces. The Arab prefers barley to wheat, and nine-tenths of the cold-weather crop was usually under the former. One of the problems of the future is to arrange for the more extensive cultivation of wheat. It is said that, as far as could be judged in the absence of exact statistics, the last harvest was the yield of close upon one million acres, and that by the next harvest it is hoped that this area will be doubled. In addition to the cereals, water and other melons, plums, apricots, grapes, and a not unpleasant kind of crab apple have been plentiful, and tomatoes, onions, gourds of various kinds, cucumbers, spinach, and vegetables generally have been in abundance. The occupation of the Kifri district has brought more crop raising into requisition, and has added to the work of the civil officer. The people of Kurdistan were dying of famine, and relief kitchens had to be organised at the front. They were so famished that it meant weeks of feeding before they were fit to work, and the prisoners taken at Hit and Kifri were mere bags of bones. The people everywhere welcome the British, and at Sheikhs' villages the hospitality is so lavish that only the young and hefty can do justice to the Gargantuan meals provided.

This is not exactly the kind of work for which ambitious engineers have pined at a distance, but it must be admitted that it is work of a high economic and humane value. It is all a question at present of rendering the occupied tracts self-supporting in supplies, and in that aim the results achieved are not without their moral significance. The fostering of the indigenous Arab cultivator to habits of industrious husbandry by friendly encouragement and the lure of high market prices for his produce cannot fail to have its good effects in the years to come. His prejudice against settled employment is proverbial, and he must outgrow it, if he would rival the thrifty, hard-working agriculturist of the better classes of Indian cultivators. But he is on the spot; he cannot be neglected, and at the present time he is indispensable. The fact that he has been so nursed and succoured in these pioneer undertakings will tend to make of him a firm friend instead of a jealous enemy, if at any time the need arises to introduce colonists from beyond his borders to develop the vast areas commanded by a comprehensive irrigation project. The organisation of the valuable foundation work is so excellent, and the relationship between the officials and the people is so thoroughly cordial, that it augurs well for all future operations.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Talaat Pasha and Zionism."

Under the above title, an article in *Palestine*, the organ of the British Palestine Committee, criticises the Turkish Grand Vizier's statement regarding the future of Palestine and of the Jews in that country—as he would have them. "There is," says the article, "no pretence that these proceedings have aroused any enthusiasm among the Zionists of the Central Powers, and that is not surprising when the proposals of Talaat Pasha are subjected to analysis." The substitution of strict, and effective, regulations for nominal prohibitions against Jews settling in the country "is a very grave reversing of conditions from the Jewish point of view." The writer continues:—

> Zionists have from time to time considered the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine after the war, and it has been suggested that some form of regulation might be advisable in order to prevent too swift a flood before the economic conditions of the country were sufficiently developed. But in all Zionist discussions of the question it has been assumed that any control that should take place should be entirely in the hands of the Jewish authorities. Talaat Pasha proposes that such control should be in the hands of the Turkish authorities—a very different proposition indeed.
>
> The Turkish Prime Minister speaks of Palestine becoming a religious centre for Jews. A religious centre Palestine has always been, to some extent, to Jews as to Christians and Moslems, so that Talaat Pasha's promise is significant not for what it asserts, but for what it denies by implication. It denies by implication that Palestine is to become, in the wider sense, a spiritual centre for Jewry; it denies still more emphatically that Palestine is to become a national centre for Jewry. Talaat Pasha does not recognise Zionism as a national movement, or the existence of the Jewish nation or any Jewish national claim to Palestine. It is the Young Turks' policy to make war on all national movements within the Turkish Empire, although they do, from time to time, of course, propose to use them for their own purposes. It need hardly be emphasised that Zionism insists upon the Jewish national claim in Palestine, and that any scheme or project which denies the Jewish national claim or denies Jewish nationalism is directly antagonistic to Zionism. Many things are possible in this world, but it is utterly impossible that the Commission which the Turkish Government has appointed can bridge the gulf between Zionism and a Turkish policy which is fundamentally anti-Zionist. Talaat Pasha's manœuvres are significant as the tribute which vice pays to virtue. He knows the vast political influence which Jewry is bringing to bear on behalf of the Allies as a result of the British Government's Declaration, and he hopes, quite vainly, that a few empty words and hypocritical phrases can sterilise this powerful movement. Perhaps he does not even hope so much as that, for there must be limits even to the unreality of the world in which Turkish statesmen move. Certainly the Jews of the Central Powers can be under no illusions as to what the Young Turks' intentions are.

Our Salonika Force.

In an article headed "The Macedonian Front: A Call for Fair Play," a correspondent of the *Morning Post* gives some astonishing facts regarding our Salonika force. "It is," he says, "a matter of considerable disgust and annoyance to officers and men returning from the Salonika front to find that the majority of people, both official and lay, believe that the years they have been absent fighting the Bulgarians have been years of rest, peace, and quietness—that the war in Macedonia is a glorified picnic. The Salonika Expedition may be a side-show, but it is a side-show on a very large scale, which might have been the largest and most successful side-show in the whole war. Very few people in England have any conception of the magnitude of the Allied forces in Macedonia." And he proceeds to show how hard is the lot of the British soldier on this front. The following extracts speak eloquently on the subject:—

> The front held by the British is forty miles long. It is this front that people in England think a "cushy" front. But let us look at it in a proper light. The Macedonian front has all the disadvantages of the Flanders battlefield, plus a few extra—trench mud, rain, continuous bombardment, and added thereto fever, dysentery, extreme heat, etc. The opposing lines run close together, and the Bulgars, with their excellent artillery, keep things fairly lively year in and year out. In Flanders, after their turn in the trenches, the men hand over and march to comfortable billets in the rear. In Macedonia billets are unknown until men get sent down to the base.
>
> Many men on the Dorian front have not seen a civilian, except for a stray Greek or Macedonian shepherd, for two and a-half years. . . . I know the case of one man who has a child three years old that he has never seen. And for everyone is the fear of the dreaded malaria. The Y scheme is working, and is to a certain extent responsible for the delay in leave, as Y men must return first, and transport is scarce. But surely something could be done to develop the overland route from Salonika to Vallona, which is only four hours from Brindisi.
>
> The leave question is also apt to cause international jealousies. No Frenchman is kept in Macedonia for more than a year without leave, and on the expiration of his leave has the option of returning or being drafted to another sphere of action. Letters and newspapers take at least two weeks to arrive, more often six, and nothing for certain under two months.

Serbians in England.

The *Educational Supplement* of the *Times* contains a note by a correspondent on "Serbians at Cambridge." This gives some particulars of the Serbian boys in this country as a result of the war. The writer says:—

> Before the invasion there were some 60,000 boys and students upon the books of Serbian schools and colleges. Of these some 33,000 fell into the hands of the enemy.
>
> Of the 27,000 who escaped from the country, over 20,000 perished, largely as the result of their sufferings, the majority at Corfu, some also at Corsica. Three thousand are undertaken by the French nation; about 316 are in England.

As to Cambridge's share in the helping and educating of these guests, we read:—

> Sixty boys and older students are received at Cambridge, the headquarters of the administration. Westminster College is given up to them, some residing at Cheshunt and Downing Colleges. England spends some £25,000 on her guests, expenses being defrayed partly by the efforts of local committees, helped by the generous reduction or remission of fees, partly by the Serbian Relief Fund. Education costs are naturally a heavy charge upon the resources of this voluntary fund, which gives so much assistance in many ways to the stricken country. But the work done by its Education Committee, under the management of Mrs. Carrington Wilde and of Mr. J. E. Bellows as administrator, can hardly be over-estimated, seeing that it is upon the abilities developed and characters formed by this remnant of the nation that the reconstruction of Serbia must largely depend. Our main concern in England is necessarily with the education of boys. Unfortunately, the escaping of women and girls was almost impossible. Of 1,600 on one boat 160 were women and children, and this was probably an unusually large proportion. . . . At Cambridge, Professor Popovic, of Belgrade University, delegated by the Serbian Ministry of Education, and a staff of Serbian masters, have assisted in the teaching at Westminster College. Ten are undergraduates of the university, and owe much to its generosity. The boys were already able to speak French, and quickly learnt enough English to work in that language. They have also taken kindly to games. During the present summer Westminster College has sent out its boys into two successive National Service camps in Wiltshire of fifty each. . . . One student has passed through an O.T.C., and has lately gone as commissioned officer to Salonika. Engineering in all branches has, perhaps, proved the most popular study of the young Serbians in university courses; forestry, medicine, and commerce also appeal to them strongly. At present, however, one-third of the boys are under 16, and about 175 are at secondary schools, the Perse School at Cambridge receiving seventeen. It must be long before these young guests can return to their own country, and it is to be hoped that their friends in England will be able to carry on the good work as long as shall be necessary.

Germany's Latest Barbarity.

The case of the British prisoners in Turkey cannot be too often brought before the notice of the public; we therefore welcome a note in Monday's *Daily Graphic* dealing with the subject, especially with Germany's responsibility as indicated in the Foreign Office *communiqué*. We quote a few sentences from the *Graphic* note:—

> The latest barbarity of the German Government is a refusal to permit the interchange of Turkish prisoners in England against British prisoners in Turkey. The Turks have agreed to this interchange, and both the Austrians and the Turks have undertaken that the ships conveying the prisoners shall not be attacked. The Germans refuse to give this undertaking. . . . The tale of the sufferings of British prisoners in Turkey almost surpasses in horror anything that has been recorded since the war began. According to a statement made in the House of Commons in July last, no fewer than 530 British prisoners and 733 Indian prisoners had died in Turkey since January 1, 1917. These figures alone are sufficient to indicate the horrible ill-treatment and under-feeding from which the men who were captured by the Turks, mainly after the heroic defence of Kut, have been and still are suffering. Parcels, either of food or clothing, rarely reach them; only the scantiest news filters through. As far back as December last the Turks signed an agreement at Berne which would have liberated 1,000 British and Indian prisoners in exchange for 1,500 Turks. Germany still blocks the way to the execution of that agreement. Her action is a part of the deliberate policy of ruthlessness taught by her State-paid professors and practised by her rulers.

Articles to Note.

"The Old Baghdad-Kermanshah Road," by Edmund Candler, in *Blackwood's Magazine* (September).

"An Indian's View of the Indian Problem," by Dr. Nair; and "A Colony for India," by Sir Theodore Morison in the *Nineteenth Century* (September).

"Indian Reforms," by Chas. Roberts, M.P.; and "The Austrian as a Foe," by G. Ward-Price, in the *Contemporary Review* (September).

According to a message from Zurich, a very lively Note has been sent by Turkey to Berlin protesting against the conclusion of additional Brest-Litovsk treaties, which are injurious to the interests of Turkey in the Caucasus.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

**Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.**

The subject of the Greek Commercial Mission to this country is being dealt with elsewhere in this issue, and I need hardly do more than express the profound satisfaction with which THE NEAR EAST welcomes the delegates. Their presence here is a practical application of a policy that has been consistently urged in these pages. The members will learn that British manufacturers are not only able to supply all the goods that Greece needs, but that they are now anxious to do so. Great credit is due to the Federation of British Industries for its enterprise in making itself responsible for the tour, and for the thoroughgoing way in which it has mapped out the programme.

⁂

The delegates are well known throughout the Near East, as keen and up-to-date business men, with wide experience in various branches of industry and commerce, and as such they are in a position to exercise considerable influence in the direction of closer commercial relations between the United Kingdom and Greece, as well as the neighbouring countries. It is satisfactory that the Mission is accompanied by Mr. Waugh, the British Commercial Attaché at Athens. Mr. Waugh has been for many years in the British Consular Service in the Near East, but particularly in Constantinople, where as Vice-Consul, Acting-Consul, and Consul, with indefatigable energy, he has done a great deal to promote British trade in the Ottoman Empire. He is thoroughly conversant with the pros and cons regarding trade in the East, and British manufacturers would do well to be guided by his advice.

⁂

A message to *The Times* mentions the impending establishment of great shipbuilding yards in Greece, which are likely to be the biggest enterprise yet undertaken in the country. The yards and the necessary buildings are to occupy the whole of the seashore between Megara and Eleusis —a stretch of nearly ten miles—and their construction is expected to take nearly five years. Here is an indication of what the new order may stand for in Greece, and the scheme is typical of what will take place throughout the Near East. Large profits have been made by Greek shipping during the war, but the merchant fleet has suffered considerably, and it is natural that Greece should wish to have a hand in building it up again, in case foreign yards prove too occupied with national orders to attend to others.

⁂

While on the subject of shipping I may mention that efforts are being made to interest the French in the Persian Gulf trade. The truth is that a number of countries are becoming alive to the potentialities of this region, and are anxious that it should not become an exclusively British preserve. A little more is known now of the efforts made by Germany to establish herself in the Gulf. Her hold on the trade has been eliminated, and America and Japan, to name no other countries, do not see why they should not have a "look in." France is not likely to be far behind. The moral is that, as the British manufacturer and merchant start with an enormous advantage, they only need intelligence and enterprise to keep their lead. Mesopotamia has a great future before it.

I would call attention to the interesting lecture delivered by Mr. D. T. Chadwick on "Industrial Development in India during the War," a report of which appears on another page. The stimulus given to Indian industries during the last few years can hardly fail to bear fruit after the war, and the findings of the Industrial Commission, which is expected to draw attention to enterprises that can well be undertaken in the country, are being awaited with interest. The possibilities of industrial development have an important bearing on the general situation, both political and economic, in India. Industries under existing conditions have an educational value. Further, any considerable expansion will show to what extent India possesses a population that it is beyond her capacity to provide for. The problem of Indian emigration is only in abeyance during the war, and will crop up again afterwards. With a view to meeting it, the proposal has been made that (German) East Africa should be assigned to India as a colony for her excess population. But if the administrative responsibilities of Indians are to be increased at home, it may well be doubted whether their supply of capable officials will be equal to the task of meeting their own needs as well as those of a large colony such as East Africa. In any case, it is certain that the question of Indian emigration will be approached in a more conciliatory spirit all round after the war than was possible before 1914.

⁂

According to information received from Berlin by a Swiss newspaper, both the Anatolian Railway and the Baghdad Railway Companies have applied to the Turkish Government for permission to postpone the issue of their balance-sheets, in view of the shortage of their staffs. In this announcement the *Revue de Turquie* finds confirmation of the belief, based on hints in the report recently issued by the Deutsche Bank, that the two companies are destined for reconstruction on a fresh basis. The new terms to be obtained from the Porte, it need hardly be said, will not lose sight of German interests.

⁂

What the position of these railways may have been as a result of the war can only be surmised. There can, however, be no doubt as to the expectations formed in Germany in regard to their potentialities after the war. The tightening of the bonds between Turkey and the Central Powers is intended to place the raw materials of the Ottoman Empire at the disposal of the latter, and it is anticipated that the railways will benefit by the increased traffic. To cope with the new situation the long-discussed subject of avoiding the break in railway communication between the Balkans and Asia Minor has been revived. Opinion has been divided between the merits of a tunnel and of a bridge, but now seems to incline towards a bridge. It is pointed out that a tunnel, to be safe, from a military point of view as well as practical from an engineering point of view, must have its openings at a considerable distance from the Bosphorus. Its length (nearly five miles) would militate against its utility for the inhabitants of Constantinople, quite apart from the possible prejudice of the Oriental mind against a long journey underground.

According to a recent report the project now favoured is to throw a bridge across the Bosphorus from the Palace of Justice, close to St. Sophia, to a point immediately opposite on the Skutari side. It is unnecessary to examine the proposal more exactly at this stage. The whole of Turkey teems with elaborate schemes of German origin for its development or exploitation. It is part of the German programme to impress the all-powerfulness of Germany upon the Turks. But there are some questions to be settled first in Western Europe, and in all probability the bridging of the Bosphorus will have to wait.

⁂

A question that is exercising British business communities overseas at this time concerns the agencies of British manufacturers held by local firms or individuals. Because the war has interfered with the standard output of manufacturers or with the shipment of their goods, there is said to be a tendency to adopt the attitude that agencies in the meantime can be allowed to lapse and can be resumed with a simple "as you were" when the war is over. It is difficult to believe that this can be the case; in other words, that, while manufacturers are doing remarkably well out of war work, they propose to shift the burden of war dislocation entirely on the shoulders of the overseas agents. A moment's consideration will show that the average agent cannot accept this position without making an effort to find other business. This may mean the loss to manufacturers of valuable men, and an after-war dislocation of trade.

⁂

A longer view of the situation must convince a firm of the wisdom of coming to some arrangement with its agents abroad, in order that its interests may be duly protected. The question is really linked up with the general attitude towards after-the-war problems. It is conceivable that a firm may say: "We have enough orders in hand to keep us going for two years, so we shall be independent of agents for some time to come." If it does, that firm's contribution to reconstruction after the war is going to be the minimum, and not its maximum. The needs of the country require that where a firm was doing x business before the war, it shall contrive to do from 3 to "umpteen" x business after the war. If its plans are not already formulated on these lines, it will have little chance of pulling its weight in the national boat.

⁂

The political and military importance of the dispatch of a British force to Baku has been rightly insisted upon, but there is another side—the economic—which should not be overlooked. In Russia crude oil does duty to a very large extent as a substitute for coal, which is by no means plentiful. Thus, the railways use it, even at a distance from the oilfields, and a number of industries depend upon it. Before the war the bulk of the output of the Baku Oilfields was used as fuel in Russia. As things are now, with the chief coal area in German occupation, Russia will be more than ever dependent on oil fuel, and if there is to be any early return to settled conditions, it is absolutely necessary that the output of the Baku fields should be at Russia's disposal. This end, it is to be hoped, has been entirely attained with the arrival of the British force at the Caspian port.

COMMENTATOR.

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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

Industrial Development in India During the War.[*]

By D. T. CHADWICK.

It is a well-known truism to say that India is primarily an agricultural country. Except for the large cotton, jute and coal interests, industries in India in the early years of this century were either confined to a few factories or were still continuing on a village scale. Thus in the year before the war in the sixteen principal articles of export, of a total value of 150 millions, only two classes of manufactured goods figure, viz., cotton and jute. On the other side, except for sugar, the principal imports consisted solely of metals and manufactured goods, among which cotton and iron or steel goods took leading places. It was thus not surprising that on the outbreak of war the first economic anxiety centred round the difficulties of getting agricultural produce sold, for though most of the crops were sown, it seemed that by the time they came to harvest, markets would be either non-existent or very restricted. For some articles these forecasts proved true. Difficulties have continued and in some cases become more intensified; yet on the whole this stage soon passed as it became clear that many of India's raw products were essential for the prosecution of the war, as for instance jute, wheat, wolfram, lac, mica, castor seed, hides, etc. The first phase of the second stage supervened, viz., the need for a greater and more varied industrial output from India. The causes which called for this effort are still acting, some with increased force. They are briefly the need of supplying from India, as far as possible, many of the requirements of the armies operating in the East, and the necessity of meeting local wants for which the ordinary sources of supply were cut off either through lack of shipping or through being otherwise engaged. The industrial effort thus called for has taken three forms: (1) the establishment of new factories or the expansion of existing ones; (2) the organisation of such industrial resources as India possessed, and (3) the closer examination of local resources in the search for substitutes and new commodities, etc.

Pre-War Enterprises.

Even before the call for widespread organised industrial effort was made the larger factories in India had contributed most helpfully to Army supplies. The jute mills of Calcutta supplied necessary sandbags and yards of sacking by the million, whilst almost from the outset of war Indian cotton mills met the needs of khaki cloth, etc., for the ever-increasing armies in the East, which for khaki cloth alone now runs to over 20 million yards a year. In the first half of 1915 the railway workshops, as well as those of the principal engineering firms in Calcutta and Rangoon, undertook to supply shell cases to supplement the output in the United Kingdom. And this continued until the Ministry of Munitions in England had so developed its own organisation as to be independent of any supplies from India. It was fortunate at that time of anxiety that India could to some extent help. But it was only just possible. The steel used, which had to be according to United Kingdom specification, was all supplied by the Tata Iron and Steel Company, and was of such quality that not a single shell was rejected at gun proof for defective steel. Yet these steel works were only just erected in time. The first steel ingot at these mills was only rolled in February, 1912, and the first rails a month later—i.e., a little over two years before the outbreak of war. And some time is always needed for a steel factory to settle down to work, especially when it is the first of its kind in a country, and all labour has either to be imported or trained, and still more when, in addition, the whole site of the works, mines, etc., was tropical, and practically uninhabited jungle only four years previously. The utility of these steel works did not cease with the provision of steel for shell cases. They have been the chief source of supply of rails for Mesopotamia and Africa. Extensions of the works have been undertaken, and a rolling mill is being erected which will give steel plates of any length and up to 90 ins. in width. A supply of such plates obviously opens a large vista of future possible developments. In addition, the Bengal Iron Company has helped largely, and now another iron and steel company has been formed under strong auspices to develop other large iron deposits. Without these steel works India's contribution of finished material to the armies in many parts must have been very much less than it has been, and the burden would then have been thrown on this country.

Work of the Munitions Board.

The cases so far quoted relate to large firms in existence when war started. But as time went on more widely co-ordinated efforts were needed to supply as far as possible those essential articles required by the armies and civil population, the import of which was cut off either through inability of supply or through lack of tonnage. For this purpose the Indian Munitions Board, under the able control of Sir Thomas Holland, was started in April, 1917. It was clearly a great undertaking to attempt to organise industry in war-time in a country of a population of 315 millions, of which over 70 per cent. were normally engaged in agriculture, and in which there are at least twenty-three different languages, each of which is spoken by more than a million people. It was impossible to make India self-supporting in manufactured goods in the time, and no such visionary ideals were entertained. But very much more has been achieved alike in quantity, quality and variety than three years ago seemed possible. This result has been largely due to the whole-hearted and ready co-operation and help which the business community in India of all classes and grades has given to the Munitions Board. As one instance of the speeding up which has resulted from such co-operation, it may be said that the Karachi Committee took about six weeks to convert a vacant tract of foreshore into a village with workshops, workmen's houses, etc., complete for the re-erection of sectional barges. And whilst at first nineteen days were required for the re-erection and launching of one barge, some few months later they were rarely turned out at a rate of less than four a week, and at times a speed of six a week was obtained.

Tanning and Medical Stores.

For tanning materials efforts have proceeded on three main lines:—(1) Encouraging the cultivation by special concessions of cassia auriculata, the favourite tanning reagent in Madras. (2) The preparation of tanning extracts, especially of myrabolams, for hitherto the raw fruit has been exported and not the extract. (3) The systematic inquiry and testing at the factory at Maihar of numerous other tanning reagents and combinations thereof. These form a very important line of inquiry, as India has a very large output of hides. The undue weighting of hides and damage by faulty flaying have often proved a heavy handicap to Indian kips. It cannot be pretended that these difficulties have been entirely or effectively surmounted, but all reports tend to show that a considerable improvement has occurred owing to control and the need of working to high Army specifications. Concurrently there has been a large increase in the output of leather goods of all kinds, many of which had not hitherto been made in any quantity in India, from the many articles of military equipment to leather belting and pickers for cotton mills. The Cawnpore leather factories are among the best known in India, but others are being erected with modern equipment, especially round Calcutta.

In an entirely different category come a large variety of medical stores and surgical requirements. The glass works of the North have been able to make satisfactory Petri dishes, glass tubings, and flasks, whilst attached to the medical store depot at Bombay is a private concern employing some hundred of workmen in the manufacture of artificial limbs of the approved modern type. Very similar progress has been made with drugs.

Forestry.

The realm of forestry is one which has come in for searching examination during this period. In spite of a forest area of over 250,000 square miles, imports of timber into India exceeded exports by some twenty to thirty thousand tons a year before the war, excluding firewood, railway sleepers and ornamental woods. These imports consisted largely of teak, hard woods and pine. In one instance even wood was imported from Siam, when exactly the same was available locally and at a lower price This extensive employment of imported timber has been ascribed to a general want of sufficiently precise information regarding the timber resources of India. This defect could not be remedied in a day; but the present vital need of developing local resources has drawn great attention to it. Timbers have been found locally which even meet the high specification required for aircraft, though for this use the specific gravity requirements are defined within such narrow limits as to restrict the range of choice. These have now to undergo searching practical test. Two timbers are also being tested practically, as they are expected to prove suitable for rifle manufacture, whilst in the lower categories much of the imported pine and fir could be replaced in ordinary scantling sizes by the pine and fir of the Himalayas. A substitute even for Oregon pine is available, if improved engineering facilities are afforded. Meanwhile, stocks of timber cut to sizes have been accumulated in various ports, and the Indian Munitions Board, since its inception, have sent overseas for Army purposes more than twice as much Indian timber as was ever exported in time of peace. (The Forest branch, Mr. Chadwick went on to say, also concerned itself with the preservation of bamboos and woods, and the resin, turpentine, and sandal wood industries.)

Raw Materials.

In the range of metals the importance of the Indian deposits of mica, wolfram and chrome are well known, and the workings of these have all been extended. The opening of the large Bawdwin deposits by the Burma Corporation should supply large quantities of lead, silver, zinc concentrates and copper. The output of this Burma pig lead, which is of high quality, already equals approximately India's pre-war needs. Tin deposits have very recently been reported from the Thaton district near Amherst, in Burma. With the iron and coal resources of India now being actively opened out, and with non-ferrous minerals also being commercially worked, there are better prospects than have hitherto existed of India having available those metallurgical resources which are vital to all industrial development and which hitherto she has lacked The manufacture of the alloys of iron has begun with that of ferro-manganese. A set of electric furnaces are also being erected at Sakchi, primarily for refined steel for springs, tools and other purposes, but should occasion demand these also will be devoted to making other ferro alloys—*e.g.*, ferro-chrome, ferro-tungsten, etc.

Furnaces, works and factories cannot, however, be built cheaply without local supplies of structural and refractory materials. Structural steel is now available in considerable quantity, and will be forthcoming in the future still more largely; the local production of cement of British standard quality was before the war only some 5,000 tons; the capacity of the present works is nearer 70,000 tons a year, and further developments are certain. Among refractory materials a beginning has been made with silica bricks, claimed to be equal in quality with those of England or Japan, and large quantities of these will be needed. The magnesite deposits in the Madras Presidency are of high purity. The manufacture of magnesite bricks is sure to follow. Though Indian asbestos appears totally unfit for textile purposes where flexibility is of great account, it may yet prove suitable for boiler lagging and fireproof compositions. Thus some of the first steps for developing locally the metallic resources of the country have been taken.

The Aid of Chemistry.

But this is an age not of iron alone, but of iron and chemistry. And perhaps it is in regard to the supply of some of the primary chemicals and in the solving of chemical problems connected with Indian industry that some of the greatest difficulties for advancement lie. One of the first difficulties is to ensure an adequate supply of cheap sulphuric acid of which at present the local production is small, though this should become possible, if the Burma zinc concentrates are smelted in Bengal.

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[*] This paper was read by Mr. D. T. Chadwick, Indian Trade Commissioner, at the British Scientific Products Exhibition, King's College, London, on September 4. A few passages have been omitted owing to pressure upon our space.—ED.

Another basal chemical which is not yet produced satisfactorily locally is caustic soda. Among ammonium salts sulphate of ammonia is obtained at present chiefly as a by-product from the coke ovens. When one turns to the large number of derivatives from coal tar one is met by the unfortunate fact that the yield of tar and acid constituents from Indian coal is as a rule low, only being 2.1 per cent., as compared with 4 per cent. in Great Britain. The possibility of developing local resources for aluminium and calcium carbide, cyanide, etc., turns on the supply of cheap electric power from the waterfalls of India. Electric power has already been supplied successfully to industry in India on a limited scale. The two best known cases are those of the Cauvery Falls in Mysore, chiefly to supply power to the Kolar goldfields, and the more recent Tata hydro-electric scheme for supplying Bombay. In the first of these the capacity of the power-house at present is 22,650 electric horse power, and in the second 100,000. Both are being extended. But for these basal chemical and metallurgical industries still cheaper sources of power are required, and the Tata interests have investigated a proposal for throwing a dam across the Koyna river in the Western Ghats, whence 300,000 horse power per hour will be obtainable throughout the year.

Apart, however, from these chemical industries, the inception of which depends on the existence of cheap power, there is a large number of chemical problems associated with industry in India waiting solution. One of the activities of the Munitions Board has been to " mobilise " the chemists at present in India and allocate to them specific problems for solution. After enumerating some of the items of research allotted to different chemists, Mr. Chadwick continued: The war caused a great and sudden revival of interest in indigo. This opportunity has not been treated as a mere chance for recovering some earlier losses; it has also been utilised for serious organisation and definite research work, in which the Behar planters, the Government of India, and a strong scientific and business committee in England, in which Professor Armstrong takes an active part, are all co-operating with the double object of increasing the out-turn of indigo per acre and also of putting the final product on the market in the form of standardised paste.

It may seem strange, when speaking of a land of rice and wheat, to allude to new foodstuffs. But the exigencies of war have turned attention in India, as elsewhere, to food. Samples of malted foods from Indian cereals have been prepared, and from Bombay comes the report of a purified groundnut flour of considerable nutritive value, and not dissimilar from the cotton-seed flour, which, in this country, has been recommended as a suitable diluent for wheat. Indications seem to point to the likelihood of testing thoroughly the possibility of jam-making in certain parts of India.

In this brief summary an effort has been made to sketch some of the main outlines of the new industrial developments in India during the later years of the war. The largest contributions in material goods have naturally been made by the large and varied textile industries extending over a wide range of articles, from khaki cloth and pugarees to blankets and coir screening. And to supplement the efforts of the mills many of the hand loom weavers have been employed on tasks within their capacity. The feasibility of employing the old indigenous craftsmen of India has thus not been neglected, though obviously it is more difficult to ensure working to specification by them than by the large mills. The mere enumeration of the articles made in these various branches of textiles would exhaust all the time allotted for this lecture. So it has been deemed preferable to concentrate attention on what are, perhaps, the less widely known industrial efforts in India, and to mention some of the difficulties they have had to meet. Frequently work has had to be done with makeshift apparatus and machinery, and it must not be supposed that every effort mentioned in this lecture will ultimately blossom into a large successful industry. Some wreckage there is bound to be when the period of transition comes. In endeavouring to summarise in thirty minutes a wide field of endeavour and activity it is difficult to avoid causing perhaps a too roseate impression of progress. Anyone who knows India realises that there are difficulties ahead when full competition again becomes operative, but some solid progress has been made; and I hope that this brief sketch does show that there is a wakening spirit abroad to industrial possibilities in India, and also that there is a strong hope of effectively widening the basis of industrial employment in India.

This is not a full account of India's economic effort during the war. That obviously cannot be given yet. We do not yet know how far we may be led. In fact, cables received last week show that another phase is opening, with the orders to make standard cotton cloths at controlled prices—the counterpart to the standard suits of England. The repercussions of this war are world-wide, and the problems to which it gives rise present in most countries certain broad lines of similarity, though the conditions in which solutions for such problems have to be sought are widely different. Finally, I wish to repeat and emphasize that this lecture is merely a *summary of some of the main lines* of Indian industry during the war; it is in no sense an economic survey of India in war time. As in every other country, some have made great profits; other large classes have suffered loss. There is such widespread talk nowadays of raw materials that the impression easily grows that there must be unlimited markets for all India's raw produce. Such is not the case. Difficulties of transport and finance weigh as heavily on India as on other countries. For instance, the area under cultivation of such a war commodity as jute has decreased since peace time, whilst the markets for some other crops have greatly shrunk. As elsewhere, some in India have lost, some have gained, by the economic dislocation caused by war. How the balance will come out in the end remains for future study to disclose.

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THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Below will be found the arrangements for the tour of the Greek Commercial Delegates, who are visiting England under the auspices of the British Federation of Industries, with the sanction of his Majesty's Government and the Greek Government. As already announced, M. Michalokopoulos, Minister of Agriculture, is at the head of the Mission. The other members are:—MM. Leonidas Empiricos, ex-Minister of Supplies and Director of the National Greek Steam Navigation Co.; A. Skintzopolos, Industrial Inspector of the Greek Ministry of National Economy; B. Zamanos, Deputy of the Greek Chamber, and Founder of the Vodena Cement Works; L. Oeconomides, Chemical Manufacturer; J. Damala, representing Finance and Banking; A. Tsitis, Cotton Spinner; C. Malikopoulos, Importer of Textiles; E. Karalopoulos, interested in Iron, Steel, Machinery and Development Schemes; M. Kazazes, Importer of Agricultural Machinery.

The following are attached to the Mission:—Mr. A. T. Waugh, H.M.'s. Commercial Attaché at Athens; Mr. Guy Locock, C.M.G., and Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins (lately H.M.'s Consul in Crete), Department of Overseas Trade; and Lieut. Lambros, R.N.V.R., attached to the Department of Overseas Trade.

The officials of the Federation of British Industries attached to the Tour are:—Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Dundas, of Dundas, K.C.M.G., Edmund L. Hill, Esq., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.E.E., and H. W. Babington-Browne, Esq.

The tour is under the patronage of His Excellency Monsieur Gennadius, the Greek Minister, and M. Caclamanos, Minister Plenipotentiary on Special Mission.

Programme.

September 13. Arrive London. Ritz Hotel.

September 16. Government Dinner, Carlton Hotel.

September 17. Lord Mayor's Luncheon at the Mansion House. Federation Dinner and Reception, Ritz Hotel.

September 18.—London. Visit to Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., Erith.

September 19.—London. To Birmingham. Dinner and Reception, Queen's Hotel.

September 20. Reception by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Visits to Small Arms Co., Ltd., and Austin Motor Co., Ltd. Dinner given by the Lord Mayor.

September 21.—Birmingham. Visit to Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., and to Kenilworth.

September 23.—Birmingham. Visit to Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd. To Nottingham, Victoria Hotel.

September 24.—Nottingham. Visit to Thos. Adams, Ltd. Dinner, Victoria Hotel.

September 25.—To Lincoln. Visit to Ruston, Proctor, and Co., Ltd. Return to Nottingham.

September 26.—Nottingham to Derby. Visit to Boden and Co., Ltd., Derby. To Liverpool, Adelphi Hotel.

September 27.—Liverpool. Visit to United Alkali Co., Ltd., Widnes. Luncheon given by the Lord Mayor at the Adelphi Hotel.

September 28.—Liverpool. Visit to Lever Bros., Ltd., Port Sunlight, and Luncheon.

September 29.—Liverpool. Trip on the Mersey. Luncheon given by the Greek Colony in Liverpool. To Manchester, Midland Hotel.

September 30.—Manchester. Visit to British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Luncheon given by Sir A. Herbert Dixon, Bart. Visit to Crossley Motors, Ltd., Gorton.

October 1.—Manchester. Visit to Ashton Bros. and Co., Ltd., Hyde. Midland Hotel, luncheon given by the Lord Mayor. To Sheffield, Grand Hotel.

October 2.—Sheffield. Visits to Thos. Firth and Sons, Ltd., and John Brown and Co., Ltd.

October 3.—Sheffield. Visits to Vickers, Ltd., and Hadfields, Ltd. To Bradford, Midland Hotel.

October 4.—Bradford. Visit to Sir Titus Salt, Bart., and Sons and Co., Ltd., Saltaire. To Harrogate Hotel Majestic.

October 5 and 6.—Harrogate.

October 7.—Harrogate. To Leeds. Visits to Joshua Wilson and Sons, Ltd., and John Barran and Sons, Ltd. Luncheon given by the Lord Mayor. Visits to John Fowler and Co. (Leeds), Ltd.

October 8.—Leeds. Reception, Queen's Hall. To Glasgow, North British Hotel.

October 9.—Glasgow. Visit to North British Locomotive Co., Ltd.

October 10.—Glasgow. Trip on river Clyde all day.

October 11.—Glasgow. Visit to Wm. Beardmore and Sons, Ltd., Parkhead Works, and luncheon. Visit to Stewarts and Lloyd. To Edinburgh; North British Hotel.

October 12.—Edinburgh.

October 13 and 14.—Edinburgh. Visit to Holyrood, St. Giles, Castle. To Newcastle. Reception by the Lord Mayor, and dinner given by the Lord Mayor, Station Hotel.

October 15.—Newcastle. Visit to Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., Naval Yard, and Luncheon. Visit to R. and W. Hawthorne, Leslie and Co., Marine Engineering Works.

October 16.—Newcastle to Middlesbrough. Visits to Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., Cochrane and Co., Ltd., Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd. To Saltburn-on-Sea, Zetland Hotel.

October 17.—Saltburn-on-Sea. To London, Ritz Hotel.

October 18.—London. To Swansea, Metropole Hotel. Dinner (Met. Hotel) 7.30 p.m.

October 19.—To Bristol, Royal Hotel.

October 20 and 21.—Bristol. Reception by the Lord Mayor at Council House. Visits to Derham Bros., Ltd., and R. A. Lister and Co., Ltd. Luncheon, Royal Hotel. Visit to British and Colonial Aeroplane Co., Ltd. Dinner given by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House.

October 22.—Bristol. To Bath. Visit to Stothert and Pitt, Ltd., and Luncheon. To London.

October 23.—London.—Federation Lunch, Ritz Hotel.

EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES DURING APRIL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 10

The prosperous condition of the State finances revealed in the final accounts for the financial year 1917-18, recently reviewed in these columns, is continuing in the new year, if one may judge from the statement of receipts and expenditure just published for the month of April. Revenue during that month amounted to £E2,062,976, and expenditure to £E1,669,781, as compared with £E1,408,287 and £E1,585,418 a year ago. There is, therefore, an improvement of £E654,689, against an increase of only £E84,363 in expenditure; and as a result there is a surplus of revenue at the end of the month of £E393,195, compared with a deficit of £E177,131 on April 31, 1917. Hitherto the first three or four months of the financial year always have shown an excess of expenditure over revenue, owing to the fact that the heaviest collections take place in the autumn and winter, and this is the first time on record that the balance has come out the other way from the start of the financial year.

The heaviest collections were under Direct Taxes (£E359,720), which increased by £E31,788; Customs (£E465,208), which increased by £E248,906, or over 100 per cent.; Mixed Courts (£E110,068); railways (£E475,124), which increased by £E103,368; while Excise and Telephones, being new items, accounted respectively for £E56,780 and £E11,696 of the additional revenue.

Under expenditure the principal items were railways £E194,126, public debt £E562,328 (the interest on the Ottoman 3½ per Cent. Loan of 1894, amounting to E£111,997, not appearing), war gratuities £E46,306, extraordinary war expenditure £E87,094, and irrigation £E54,752. The various items remained fairly constant, the only notable increases being £E19,385 in Central Finance administration, £E32,053 in Frontiers Districts administration, £E25,365 in irrigation and of course in war gratuities and extraordinary war expenditure, which did not appear in the early part of last year, whilst the most noteworthy decrease was £E53,218 in railways.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

Under date of September 8, *Reuter's* Cairo correspondent reports :—The condition of the cotton crop in Lower Egypt is 99 per cent. and in Upper Egypt 102 per cent. of the normal. Damage from the cotton worm is practically nil, and the pink and common boll worm attack has only been a moderate one. The cotton crop is promising well, and other crops are excellent.

IMPORTATION OF DATES.

The Controller of the Department of Import Restrictions gives notice that, at the request of the Ministry of Food, the general licence for the importation of dates from France, Tunis and Algiers will be revoked as from October 1, and that after that date importations will be allowed only under special licences issued on the recommendation of the Ministry of Food.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 12,

The monthly bulletin, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, for July contains on the whole a satisfactory account of the condition of the crops up to the end of that month. Water supply has been sufficient for all requirements except at the end of the month, when the period of stringency usually occurs, and the main canals are insufficient to carry the volume of water demanded. The non-enforcement of the Sharaki Decree this year has, however, reduced the acuteness of the demand for water. For cotton the prevalence of hot weather has accelerated the growth of the plants, and the cotton worm attack continued to be light; the position in regard to the common and pink bell worm was more satisfactory than last year. There are indications of a good crop everywhere.

As to rice, the hot weather and absence of high winds, on the one hand, and the plentiful supply of water on the other, have contributed to good results. Damage from rice worm in the two principal provinces in the Delta was insignificant, and the outlook was better than at the corresponding period last year. The report on maize was equally satisfactory, the weather having been seasonable. Large areas have been sown.

A good average yield is expected for millet. The area under sugar cane is larger than last year, and weather was favourable, and water supply abundant. Ground nuts are excellently reported upon.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market continues to present a strong appearance. Spinners and manufacturers are in a position to dictate terms of fresh contracts to their customers. Prices have rather tended to harden. It is suggested in some quarters that bullish sentiment with regard to American cotton has recently been overdone, and the large ginning figures have been rather disturbing. Steady progress continues to be made by the Egyptian growth. The weather during August has been generally favourable. Full prices have had to be paid for anything wanted in Egyptian yarns. Demand still exceeds supply. Certain counts and qualities are very scarce indeed. A considerable inquiry has again been met with in piece goods for Egypt. In view of the high prices which prevail, the way in which business continues to be done is rather astonishing. Merchants in Cairo are said to be doing very well. Miscellaneous fabrics have been in encouraging request for India, but increased difficulty has been experienced in arranging terms of fresh contracts. A few more offers have been about for China. The British and French Governments have been in the market for heavy materials. American yarns have been very stiffly held, with a steady demand. Some buying has been reported in dyed yarns for India. The threatened strike of operative spinners has had practically no effect upon the market. It is believed that the dispute will be settled by arbitration. A stoppage of machinery at the moment is quite out of the question.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Machinery in Thessaly.

Thessaly, from the time of her liberation from the Turks in the early eighties, has been attracting attention as an interesting wheat-field; and a number of Governments have sent special commissioners to the province to report on its possibilities as a market for machinery. France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, and the United States have acted in this way, and the reports of their agents are of considerable interest. The French Commissioner, for instance, states that the use of machinery for agricultural pursuits is increasing throughout Thessaly, and this he considers is of special interest, inasmuch as 60 per cent. (or about 2,500,000 hectolitres) of the cereals produced in the kingdom of Greece, the old territory, are grown in that district. He considers that this production will be doubled owing to the adoption of new scientific agricultural methods and the bringing under cultivation of large areas which have hitherto remained uncultivated. He regards it as a great opportunity for French manufacturers to obtain a footing in the Greek market, and he believes that when once the French machines are successfully introduced, there is no doubt that they will become popular, and be used as well in other districts of Greece. Among the machinery that he mentions as being in demand are threshing machines, of which 150 have been imported into Thessaly by English firms. They are 4 ft. 6 ins. wide, with engines of 30 to 35 h.p. He calculates that 300 more of such threshing sets are wanted in Thessaly, and 400 in the other districts of Greece, to meet future requirements. The machines in question, he says, are excellent, but he suggests that for the wooden parts of the machines metal should be substituted in view of the climate of Greece.

With reference to harvesting machines, the French Commissioner says that 250 reaping and binding machines were sold in Thessaly by one American firm, and that owing to the easy terms offered there was a demand for 4,000 more.

Electrical Appliances for Greece.

Electrical appliances and apparatus are finding an increased sale in Greece, as, besides the installations that are in existence, many others are projected. Numerous firms have been established in recent years for the sale of the smaller type of installation, and the material came for the most part before the war from Germany. As this source of supply is now closed, some at least of the firms, whose financial standing is of a satisfactory character, would prove good customers for British manufacturers. Large installations in the Department of Telegraphs and Telephones were projected before the war, and particulars of these should be obtained by manufacturers and contractors, as the carrying out of such projects may be decided at any time. France is among the suppliers of Greece for dynamos, motors, transformers, electrical instruments, and electrolytic copper. Switzerland is also a contributor, but more particularly of high-pressure wire and electrolytic copper. Trans-

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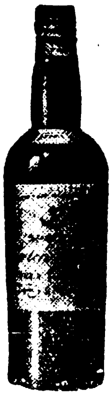

TUCKEY'S

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YEARS 10 OLD.

SCOTCH WHISKY

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YEARS 12 OLD.

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"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 54, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

mission lines were supplied from Belgium, electrical instruments from England, and low-pressure wire from Sweden. The market is worth special attention, as, besides Athens, several provincial towns contemplate the introduction of electric lighting, etc.

Water-Power in Macedonia.

Shortly before the outbreak of the war an American firm submitted proposals to the Balkan Governments for the erection of central electric-power stations near the Macedonian rivers and in other localities. Owing to the political uneasiness at the time little attention was given to the project. Now, however, it appears that the firm is preparing to revive its scheme, and representatives are to be sent to Macedonia to formulate new proposals. This indication of the interest that is likely to attach to the Balkans as an after-war market will not be overlooked.

A Greek National "Cement."

The use of cement for making blocks in Greece and the neighbouring territories is generally found somewhat expensive, for cement is imported in barrels or bags from France or England; but the volcanic island of Santorini, in the Ægean Sea, produces a natural cement called "Portselana," which, mixed in certain proportions with lime and sand is an excellent substitute for the best cement. Portselana has been used for many centuries, and is still being used throughout the Near East in the construction of bridges, harbour works, breakwaters, forts, lighthouses, etc., in the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, and the Adriatic. With it the Venetians constructed the great fort of Monemvasia and Nauplia, the then Gibraltar of the Eastern Mediterranean, the foundations of which are in the sea, intact and immovable up to now after many centuries. The forts of Crete and those of the Dardanelles are also built with Portselana. The improvement of this natural cement, and its utility for various other purposes, besides harbour works, quays, etc., is worth the attention of British enterprise. Small sailing ships are doing a continuous trade with loads of Portselana to all the Mediterranean and Black Sea coast.

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THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

A notice recently appeared to the effect that the administration of the Ottoman Public Debt made it known that all the bonds of the series B. C. D. of the Convention Loan will be annulled if they are not presented before September 18, to be exchanged against 4 per Cent. Bonds of the Unified Debt. Exception will be made, however, in the case of bills of which the presentation cannot be effected owing to the state of war, especially owing to the impossibility of sending them by post. Here is the explanation of this Note, according to Paris advices:—Before 1882 the Ottoman Debt was composed of loans of various types, which, in view of their conversion, had been grouped at that date in four series, A, B, C, D, of which the conditions of redemption were different. In 1903 the "Converted" Debt was "unified," and the bonds of the seies B, C, and D were exchanged against bonds of the Unified Debt. The above notice is, therefore, only intended for capitalists who may not have yet made this exchange, if any of them still exist.

◆

EGYPTIAN P.O. BANK.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that during the month of June 1,042 new Post Office Savings Bank accounts were opened, making with the 9,307 of the half-year a total of 10,349 new accounts for 1918; 107 accounts were closed during June and 1,505 during the preceding months, making 1,612 for the half-year; the total number of accounts open at the end of June was 211,997. The number of deposits during the month was 9.903, of a value of £E54,195, making with those of the preceding months of the year a total of 81,710, representing £E376,704. The withdrawals during June were 9,499, amounting to £E43,533, representing a surplus of £E10,662 of deposits over withdrawals; the withdrawals for the half-year were 35,985, representing £E258,093, a surplus of £E118,611 over the withdrawals. The cash balance at the end of June to the credit of the depositors was £E815,255.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bogawantalawa District Tea.

The profit for the year amounted to £22,388, to which has to be added interest, £1,433; and the balance from last year, £15,379; less excess profits duty, 1916-17, £8,852. Against this there has been charged: Interest on the mortgage debentures, less tax, to March 31, £315; dividends on the preference shares, less tax, to March 31, £4,185; income tax, £5,029; interim dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, season 1917-18, £2,250. The directors recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, which will require £3,750; carrying forward, subject to excess profits duty, 1917-18, the balance of £14,819.

Pelmadulla Rubber.

The profit for the year amounted to £51,300, and £6,750 was brought forward, after making the appropriations and adjustments applicable to that year. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid on July 31, 1917, and a further dividend of 10 per cent. on June 26, the total distribution amounting to £17,360, and it is not proposed to pay anything further. After payment of these dividends there remains a balance of £40,691, and the directors propose to write off out of this sum for depreciation £851, to place to reserve for coast advances £1,000, to development reserve £4,000, to taxation reserve £28,000, and to carry forward £6,840.

East Indian Coal.

The report of the East Indian Coal Company for the half-year ended April 30 last states that, after making the usual allowance for the depreciation of buildings, plant and machinery, and writing £4,000 off development account, profit was £10,395; £1,145 was brought forward, giving £11,540. The directors recommend a dividend of 9 per cent. for the half-year, less tax at 3s. 9d. in the £, making 17 per cent. for the year, and carry £740 forward. Output was 385,055 tons, making 698,118 tons for the year. This is the largest output. The three motors for the South Bulliari pits are now at the colliery, and the development can now go forward without interruption. Prospects for the next two half-years are satisfactory. Block account shows total expenditure £421.223, written off £221,661, book value £199,562.

Mundakayam Valley.

The report of the Mundakayam Valley Rubber Company for 1917 states that profits amount to £4,480; £8,848 was brought forward, making £13,328; less final dividend of 15 per cent. for 1916 and depreciation of plant (£1,000), leaving £7,939. Deducting interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid December 20. 1917, placing to reserve for redemption of debentures £1,898 and to income-tax account £513, there remains £4,065 which the directors propose to carry forward. Although present conditions prevent the payment of a further dividend, the future prospects of the company are quite unimpaired. Rubber harvested on Kutikul Estate amounted to 244,323 lbs., against estimate of 293,200 lbs. Yield per acre was 214 lbs., against 207.41, and yield per tree 1.86 lbs., against 1.88. Average net price realised for Kutikul rubber after deduction of freight and all selling charges, was 1s. 9.47d. per lb., against 2s. 5.81d. On Vailamullay Estate 41.422 lbs. rubber was harvested, against 42,700 lbs. estimated and a yield of 31,541 the previous year. Yield per acre was 112.25, against 101 lbs., and yield per tree 1.25 lb. Average net price secured for Vailamullay rubber (including 15,097 lbs. unsold and value estimated), after deduction of freight and all selling charges, was 1s. 7.24d. per lb., against 2s. 5.34d. Average f.o.b. cost per lb. on both estates, including debenture interest, and London expenses, was 1s. 2.17d., against 1s. 1.98d., and "all in" 1s. 5.60d., against 1s. 4.35d.

North Anantapur Gold.

The directors of the North Anantapur Gold Mines, Limited, subject to audit, recommend a preferential dividend (less income tax at 5s. 6d. in the £) on the 25,000 preference shares for the six months to June 30 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and also a dividend for 12 months to June 30 (less income tax at 5s. 3d. in the £), of 6d. per share and bonus (less income tax at 5s. 3d. in the £) of 1s. per share, on both preference and ordinary shares, payable on October 1 to the holders of such shares registered in the books on September 5.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

At a meeting of the Court of Directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, held on September 11, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, payable on and after September 18.

The directors of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., less income tax, making 15 per cent. for the year.

The ordinary share register of Raphael Tuck and Sons will be closed from September 11 to 24 inclusive.

An interim dividend on the ordinary stock of the Southern Punjab Railway of £5 per cent., and a bonus of 1 per cent.

The report of the Majuli Tea Company for 1917 shows a profit of £23,097; £10,403 was brought in, less excess profits duty 1916, £8,052, and after adjustment of 1916 account total is £33,680. Income-tax absorbs £3,837, reserve to building and machinery £3,000, reserve for coolie recruiting £2,000. Directors recommend a final dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, making 15 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward £9,247, subject to excess profits duty.

The directors of the Assam Frontier Tea Company, Limited, have declared a dividend of 4 per cent. (8s. per share) on the preferred shares, making 10 per cent. for the year; 9 per cent. (18s. per share), free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent. for the year; £1,033 to provident fund; £51,284 forward, subject to excess profits duty.

The profits of the Dooloogram Tea Company for 1917 were £5,537, making, with the balance brought from season 1916, £12,680: adjustment season, 1916, £598; and excess profits duty recoverable for seasons 1914-16. £6,752—a total of £25,568; final dividend of 10 per cent. (less tax), making 12½ per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £10,691.

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TANNERIES IN MACEDONIA.

A report from the American Consul-General at Salonika gives the following information regarding tanneries in Macedonia: Before the war the tanneries of Salonika consumed annually about 75,000 hides and skins, of which about 45,000 were cowhides and 15,000 sheepskins. Two firms import most of their tanning extracts from France, to the amount of 300 tons yearly. The other tanneries utilise barks, mostly pine and valona from Greece and walnut from France. There is also a group of tanneries, for the most part small, at the village of Kozani, in the south-western part of Macedonia, and about 60 miles distant from the nearest railway station. The number of tanneries at this busy village is about 25, and they consume between 50,000 and 60,000 skins annually.

◆

A telegram from Constantinople *via* Berlin states that, according to an authoritative report in the *Vakit*, the Turkish War Minister has concluded an agreement with Berlin for a loan of £T32,000,000.

A Calcutta telegram reports that the Indian Government has sanctioned the survey of a railway to Kasta Colliery, a length of 18 miles. (In the Santal Parganas, in the neighbourhood of Hazaribagh.)

According to a German publication, experiments in cotton cultivation in Albania have been successful, and large districts are now planted with cotton. The only difficulty is in the supply of sufficient seed.

The Italian Ministry of Public Works, according to the *Matin*, has approved the scheme for a trans-Balkan railway from Valona to Monastir, where it will join the existing lines to Salonika and Dedeagatch. The new railway will be 260 km. in length. There will be a service of ferry boats from Otranto to Valona, which will take four hours to cross the Channel, and it is estimated that the journey from Valona to Monastir will take five hours.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, Wednesday.

Our market has been exceedingly quiet this week, and business has been on the smallest possible scale. Telegraphic communication with Egypt has been very dilatory, and this, no doubt, has also contributed to the inactivity. In a general way prices have remained steady, and all the news from Egypt continues to be of a most satisfactory character, so that a reawakening of market interest is to be expected at any moment.

In Government stocks the reaction in Egyptian Unified has been arrested, and fresh buyers have come into the market, with the result that there is a slight improvement of ½ to 92. Egypt 3½ per cent. preference have remained firm, with buyers still about, but no sellers.

In Bank shares the reaction in Agriculturals, which carried them down to 6⅞, has ceased. All the shares offering under 7 have been taken, and the price is firm and unchanged. National Banks have continued a very quiet market, with small transactions round the current level. Land Banks have improved ¼ to 7½, but there are only buyers about.

In Railways there is no change to report in Delta Light Railway preference, where some transactions have been carried through round the current price.

Amongst Land shares, Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 25s. on some small sales. On the other hand, Behéras are ⅛ firmer at 15⅜, and Foreign Trusts have improved 4½d. to 13s. 7½d. Delta Lands are 3d. easier at 16s. 9d., and Sidi Salems 9d. lower at 56s. 3d., at which price some few hundred shares have changed hands. In New Egyptians some fair business has been going on round the current level, whilst Union Foncière, on some insignificant transactions, are 1-32 easier at 3 11-16. United Egyptian Lands keep a firm spot, with buyers about for any shares offering.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, Alexandria Water are ⅛ lower at 12½, and Salt and Sodas, after their recent smart rise, are 1-16 lower at 3 3-16. Some business has been going on in Khedivial Mail ordinary round the current level.

In Greek securities, the only changes to record are a rise of one point in Rentes to 58, and of a similar fraction in the 1914 Loan to 80. Some business has been done in "Currant" bonds round 95. There are still large buyers about of most Greek securities, and a great scarcity of sellers. Bank of Athens shares, after their recent rise, have reacted ⅛ to 4⅞.

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The Indian Government is minting sovereigns at Bombay.

The sales of War Bonds in India exceed 33 crores of rupees—say, £25 million at exchange 1s. 6d.

The Simla municipality have decided to open a sugar godown with a view to controlling the price

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank (Limited) have made a donation of 100 gs. to the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway.

The harvests this year in Turkey in Asia, it is announced, show a distinct improvement upon those of 1917. At Eski Shekir, for instance, it is estimated that they are 25 per cent. better. The inadequacy of the transport arrangements, however, remains, and measures are being taken to cope with the difficulty.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Sept. 4	Sept 11
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91½	92
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72	72
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72	72
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	67	67
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57	58
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	71	71
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	79xd	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	75	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17 7/16	17 7/16
Bank of Athens	£2	5	4⅞
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	7½	7¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅝	5⅝
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7¼	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅞	20⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7½	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/6	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15¼	15⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/3	13/7½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2⅝	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/3	22/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	57/-	56/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	3 23/32	3 11/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/8	2/8
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅝	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	65/-	63/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	62/6	62/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1918. (New Style January 14 to July 13, 1918):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, June, 1918	2,632,293	2,160,000
Do. do. do 1917	2,594,547	800,000
Estimated receipts for 6 months (Law of Control)	14,450,000	5,350,000
Actual do. do. 1918	17,945,350	14,244,000
" " " 1917	15,002,668	5,752,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1918	+ 3,495,350	+ 8,894,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months 1917	+ 552,668	+ 402,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Last week it was suggested in these columns that the unwonted activity of the Bulgarians along the whole Macedonian front was either prompted by a desire to forestall possible movements on the part of the Allies or was connected with the position in Bulgaria. The event has proved that the first explanation holds good, for on September 15 French and Serbian troops launched an offensive against the enemy positions east of the Cerna bend. After the initial success the breach in the Bulgarian line was widened on the second day to the extent of sixteen miles, and the Allied advance had attained a depth of over four miles. Some four thousand prisoners were taken, in addition to thirty guns.

The scene of this attack is the northerly extension of the ridge of which Kaimakchalan—the height taken two years ago with such *élan* by the Serbians—is the highest point. The occupation of Monastir followed the capture of Kaimakchalan, but the Allies were unable to continue their advance either from the town or along the mountain range. In the interval it may be supposed the deficiencies in their equipment have been made good. It would have been of considerable advantage if the western extension of the Macedonian front could have been carried farther forward in Albania. But the Italian dash, which, with French troops on the right, placed Berat and Fieri in the Allies' hands, had not the necessary staying power, and the Italians, on the appearance of Austrian reinforcements, were compelled to fall back again. The French Commander-in-Chief, however, was evidently strong enough to dispense with further assistance from this wing, and we shall hope to find that he is in a position to imitate Marshal Foch's series of alternating blows, which have been so strikingly successful in France and Flanders.

Before the Franco-Serbian attack was made, we have to infer that on another part of the line the Greeks made a successful feint. This, at least, would seem to be the explanation of a somewhat vague message from Athens dated September 16, which quotes a message from Salonika as reporting that Greek troops, on an unspecified date, effected an advance, in an unspecified locality, of from two to three miles on a front of nineteen miles. The Bulgarian line is differently constituted from the enemy front in the Western theatre. There can be no question of hurrying troops from one sector to another to meet a threatened blow. Each part will have to rely almost entirely on its own capacity for defence, with the help of such reserves as may be allotted to it in the general disposition of the armies. Thanks to the natural strength of their present positions the Bulgarians are favourably situated to repel attack, and the line might be penetrated at more than one point before a general break-through was rendered easy for the Allies. On the other hand, the enemy strength is very largely confined to this front line, and if it should be turned, there is little likelihood of the Bulgarians having many "Hindenburg Lines" or prepared positions to fall back upon. The configuration of the land lends itself to defence, but only provided the *moral* of the defending troops has not suffered.

In spite, therefore, of the galaxy of disappointment that surrounds the Macedonian campaign we may follow the present development with fresh interest; for it is certain that the Bulgarian *moral* has been weakened, and the capture of four thousand prisoners in a day and a half in this particular theatre is significant. But there can be no doubt that the task before the Allied Army is a formidable one. Bulgaria can only be attacked at present from one side. In the second Balkan War the Serbians and Greeks relied upon a simultaneous attack from the west and south. To attain this advantage even to the smallest extent the Allies must first reach Uskub. The past history of the Salonika force does not justify extravagant hopes; but to-day there are certain new features to be taken into consideration. First, we have the Serbians and Greeks with us, fighting in their own element; secondly, they have the enormous advantage of the Allies' resources in the matter of equipment, ordnance, transport, and commissariat; thirdly, they have opposed to them, by all accounts, a war-wearied, disillusioned and ill-provisioned army.

The first party of repatriated British prisoners from Bulgaria has reached Berne. According to the testimony of *The Times* correspondent, "their clothing was in a very bad condition, but as regards that and the food their impression was that the Bulgarians were no better off than themselves, and had shared things pretty justly. . . . Our men were not bullied and tortured, as in Germany, but have had a hard time, because the whole country is suffering hardships." This description, it is to be feared, will be read with mixed feelings by our Serbian Allies, who entertain no hopes of being able to pass the same verdict on the fate of any of their own prisoners in Bulgarian hands. It is more than probable that the Bulgarians will have been prompted to treat British and French prisoners with more consideration than they would their Balkan neighbours. The temptation to settle what, rightly or wrongly, will have been regarded as old scores will have been great. We may hope, however, in the interest of the Peninsula as a whole, that the reports of Bulgarian excesses will prove to have been exaggerated, or, at least, that the latter period of the war will have shown a marked improvement in the conduct of the Bulgarians.

The Greek mission which is now on a visit to England is a commercial one, and is intended to serve a definite and practical purpose. But we may value its presence on wider grounds, inasmuch as everything that tends to promote knowledge of one another among the two peoples must be to the general interest of both countries. In the welcome that he accorded the delegates on behalf of his Majesty's Government, Mr. Balfour rightly insisted upon the fact that Britons have for Greece a friendly feeling at any time and every time. Never was this feeling displayed more markedly than at the moment when, in December, 1916, Allied bluejackets were the victims of a treacherous attack in Athens on the part of a section of the Greek Army. Public opinion in Great Britain refused to associate the Greek people as a whole with the criminality of a few. The reward is reaped to-day in the knowledge that the Greek people are heart and soul with the Allies, and the Greek Army, disciplined and reinvigorated, is fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Allied troops.

While the Greek Mission is forming some idea of the manufacturing energies of Great Britain, it will also be helping to convey to British manufacturers and merchants something of the importance, political and economic, of Greece in the general world-scheme after the war, especially as it affects the British Empire. The course of this struggle has shown that the smallest countries can play a great part. Have not a handful of Czecho-Slovak troops supplied just the momentum for the salvation of Russia that was entirely lacking in all the Allied countries combined? The part that Greece will be called upon to play in the future as a commercial unit will not be a negligible one; her political rôle as a member of a Balkan Federation holding the south-east of Europe in the cause of national freedom and progress will be one of extreme importance. She has, however, to be equipped materially first in order to fill the part, and it is hoped that Great Britain will be a prominent, if not the chief, factor in this process.

If the casual observer finds the present situation in Roumania difficult to understand, he cannot do better than fall back on the explanation given by M. Take Jonescu that Roumania is just as much a country occupied and governed by Germany as is Belgium or Serbia; but with this difference: that in the latter countries the Germans act directly; in Roumania they act through the medium of a Roumanian Government and a Roumanian Parliament. The point was well brought out by the speech of the Prime Minister before the Chamber in the debate on the Message from the Throne. M. Marghiloman showed that he recognised nothing in this war beyond an antagonism between Germany and Russia, with a desire on the part of the latter to obtain possession of Constantinople. For Roumania to take sides with Russia was merely to help the Russians to establish themselves on the Bosphorus, with the certainty that sooner or later they would demand a strip of Roumanian territory as a corridor to their new possession. In the German victory over Russia he seemed to see a manifestation of fundamental right and justice, and he could not bring himself to contemplate the Treaty of Bucharest as anything but a permanent factor in the final adjustment of European affairs. It is obvious that such a person must become more and more a pliant tool in German hands. Hence the characteristically German plan to "down and out" all political opponents by the persecution of M. Bratiano and his Cabinet, and the bitterness shown against General Avarescu, whose devotion to Roumania's interests is above challenge.

The report of Mr. Justice Rowlatt's Committee, appointed to investigate and report on the criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India has been issued in India, but the document has not yet arrived in this country. Summaries of the report appear in the Indian Press, and from these an idea can be formed of the somewhat sensational nature of the disclosures. Until the Report in full is available we prefer to withhold detailed comment; but attention may be drawn to the importance of the Committee's findings to a proper understanding of the issues at stake in all action taken in connection with the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. Indian extremists are making a determined effort to represent their views as the voice of India, and it may be that the revelations of the Rowlatt Report may open the eyes of some of those who are inclined to take them at their own estimation, and are not careful to consider whither their views are leading them.

To-day is "India Day," and an organised effort is being made to raise the sum of £50,000 to provide additional huts and clubs for Indian soldiers and labour battalions on all fronts. The need, it would be thought, has only to be expressed in order to assure the supply. But what is everybody's business is apt to become nobody's business, and so a "Day" is necessary. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will require no prompting in their resolve to make the day a success, as far as in them lies. Here we may say that the indicated sum of £50,000 has not to be regarded as exhausting all the possibilities of helping a body of men for whose loyalty and splendid fighting qualities the Empire has reason to be proud and grateful. Nor need the act of giving be confined to the streets of London. The Committee, it is understood, prefers cheques; is interested in receiving them from the widest possible area, and will not take it ill if they should arrive a few days after September 20.

A *communiqué* issued by the Hejaz Government Agency in Cairo on the progress of the Arab campaign against the Turks carries one back to the closing stages of the Boer War, when it was only possible to group together over a certain period a number of isolated operations. It fits in strangely with the great events in other theatres, but the usefulness and the importance of the work of our Arab Allies are not to be gauged by the number of the enemy killed or the extent of their captures. Arab forces, wherever they are fighting or assisting the British, in the Hejaz, in Palestine, or in Mesopotamia, constitute the insuperable obstacle against which all efforts of the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress to pose of the leaders of Islam have been broken. At the same time, the steady toll that the army of the King of the Hejaz is taking of the Turkish forces in Arabia must be telling on the enemy's powers of resistance in this region. General Allenby's task in Palestine would be lightened if a strong Arab force were free to protect his flank east of the Jordan.

A correspondent in this issue calls attention to a subject to which reference has frequently been made in our columns—the regrettable partisan attitude of so many of our Balkan "experts"—and it will come as no surprise that the point has not been lost on "an earnest student of Balkan questions" who, "in default of personal acquaintance with these countries, has to rely largely on the views and opinions of those who know them well." It is part of the mission that THE NEAR EAST has set itself, to preach the unity of interest of the Balkan Peninsula, and to controvert the doctrine that it is impossible to be the true friend of Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, or Roumania without disliking the others and encouraging the one country of your affection to hate its neighbours. How necessary this stand is may be seen from week to week in our correspondence columns, this week not excepted.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 19.

The Nile Flood.

Never, perhaps, were the forecasts of the Public Works Ministry about the Nile Flood so wide of the actual results as this year. A high Nile was anticipated, and thousands of labourers were employed to strengthen the river embankments, while guards were stationed at danger points. But the high flood anticipated has turned out so far to be a low one, and some authorities apprehend that it may be an unusually low one. The gauge records of the Blue Nile at Roseires for August have not been published yet, but the reading at the end of July was lower than that of the same date last year by over a metre and a half, and one metre lower than that of 1916. Indeed, throughout the whole of July the level was lower than in the previous two years. Unless, therefore, the Blue Nile should rise higher than it usually does this month, a high flood may not be expected this year. What makes it still less likely that the Blue Nile flood will equal that of last year is the fact that the tributary stream Kheshm of Qerba registered no increase last month on the corresponding period of previous years. Moreover, the White Nile levels do not come up to what they did last year. At Mongalla the waters are still falling, whereas at the same period during the last two years they used to be rising steadily, and were about a metre higher than now. On the other hand, the lowest fall at Malakal occurred this year about the middle of May, and since then the river has been steadily rising until it was twelve metres at the end of July, which is about 40 per cent. above its mean gauge. If only the waters at Mongalla were more abundant, we might hope for a plentiful supply from the White Nile during the droughty period, as was the case this current year. So far the country is receiving its requirements of water, except at the tail ends of canals in certain parts, where mechanical power has to be resorted to for irrigating the land.

The Nickel Coin Shortage.

Nickel coins continue to be as scarce as ever, and innumerable are the cases in which shopkeepers have had to lose business owing to a lack of small change. It is, therefore, with real relief that the public now learns that the Ministry of Finance has ordered a large quantity of nickel coins of the value of half a piastre at the Bombay mint, and that the consignment is expected to arrive shortly. It is further learned from an authoritative source that the Treasury intends minting all worn-out silver coins received by it into two-piastre coins. This should further relieve the small change crisis.

Epidemic Fevers in Egypt.

A well-known doctor made the interesting observation that fever attacks in Egypt are at their worst in the spring, then gradually lose their strength towards the beginning of summer, when they again assume serious proportions, subsiding again by August. Actual experience, at least this year, has proved this both in Cairo and Alexandria, where typhus and typhoid spread to an alarming degree, and precisely at the periods stated by the doctor quoted. It is now reported from Alexandria that the number of typhus cases in that city and suburbs has fallen to five per day, and in Cairo cases of typhus are becoming quite rare. This observation seems to apply to other less virulent forms of fever also. At one time, a so-called "Indian fever," with misleading initial symptoms, suggesting typhoid or paratyphoid, spread with furious rapidity in Cairo, then disappeared with the end of summer. At Alexandria a less virulent kind, called "Spanish fever," akin to the influenza variety known as *dengue*, visited almost every house, but is now subsiding. It might be worth the while of the Public Health Department to review the statistics of the last three years to see how far our doctor's observation is correct. The causes of these periodical outbreaks, once traced to a scientific origin, might be better combated by preventive or curative means.

The Price of Necessities.

The Supplies Control Board has caused to be published, in the shape of a supplement to the *Official Journal*, the final list of prices for articles of prime necessity. These are the same as those published on July 16, except that a slight reduction has been effected in the prices of the various classes of rice, and a rather considerable increase in those of sugar. The Sugar Company has never been more prosperous than during these years of war, and, being practically without competitors, has been selling its sugar both in Egypt and abroad at very handsome prices. The standard of living has so risen that practically all classes of the urban population use sugar in varying quantities as an article of every-day necessity, and it can therefore hardly be considered as an article of luxury.

There are still occasional localised sugar troubles. Alexandria, which is breaking the record for impossible prices of all edibles, is bewailing a sugar shortage, while Ismailia is complaining of an actual famine not only of sugar, but also of oil and melted butter. The oil crisis is, indeed, universal, and it is said that the recent order of the Supplies Control Board, calling upon holders of a certain minimum stock to declare same, had the effect of making the soapmakers hurry to convert their supplies of oil into soap, so as to elude the authorities; which led to a further shrinkage of the meagre stocks. It is announced, however, that a liberal supply of new oil may be expected in October. Meantime, the Supplies Control Board is causing distribution of limited quantities among the oil merchants in certain native quarters, and will be extending this to other quarters so as to relieve the poor population.

The recent appointment of Mr. Dykes of the Egyptian State Railways as Assistant to the Mamur Zapt secret service, Cairo Police, on behalf of the Supplies Control Board, is expected to help in combating the evil of illicit trading, and in enforcing the traiff.

ALEXANDRIA'S POPULATION IN 1917.

(From a Correspondent.)

According to the last census, the total population of Alexandria in 1917 was 444,617, including the population of the suburban district of Ramleh, which amounted to 31,436. Of this aggregate, 226,596 are males and 218,021 are females. Divided by creeds, after deducting the overwhelming majority of 322,437 Moslems, the Greek Orthodox head the list with 54,887, followed by 34,099 Catholics, 3,004 Protestants, and 24,858 Jews. Classified by nationality, there are 304,389 Moslem Egyptians and 16,979 non-Moslem Egyptians, 4,759 Jews, 7,592 Greeks, 4,596 Turks, and 14,476 of other nationalities. Of foreign subjects there are 10,658 British, 8,556 French, 17,860 Italian, 11,383 Ottoman, 25.393 Greek, 1,254 Austrian, 2,373 Russian, and less than 2,000 subjects of other Powers.

A correspondent protested against the insertion in the official statistics of the Cairo census of the following items regarding married men, viz:—"7 having more than 4 wives." "For," said the protestant, "according to no known religious law in Egypt may a man marry more than four wives, although, according to Moslem law, he may have as many concubines as he can afford to keep." The error, it appears, arose from the fact of the census officials inserting in their returns the number of concubines in the column of wives. The distinction has more of a judicial than of a moral significance.

BRITISH ADMINISTRATION IN PALESTINE

We are indebted to "A Regular Reader" for permission to roproduce the following extracts from a letter written by a native of Jerusalem and recently received:—

"We are now under a Government whose sole aim is to provide for the population and mitigate their hard lot.

"Never was the state of public health better. Since the time of the Romans, never have there been so many roads in every direction through the country, and at no time in history have they been kept in such repair.

"As to rapid communications, more is accomplished on these lines nowadays than the changes produced formerly in a century."

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 11.

Wanted a Chaplain.

St. Paul's Church was last Sunday filled to overflowing with a congregation practically all British, for the Intercession Service. The Rev. C. Pilley, C.F., who officiated on Christmas Day and at Easter, again came down from Salonika to conduct this service, which was very impressive. The British Minister and the Countess Granville were present, as were all the members of the Legation Staff, and many naval and military officers stationed here, and officers and men from the warships in port.

Commenting in a local paper on the proposed union of the Orthodox and Anglican Churches, the Archimandrite Serge, the Russian Chaplain, expresses his regret that the Anglican Church is not represented here by one of its clergy. This regret is widely shared by the British colony, as the church has now been over eighteen months without a chaplain. The Sunday morning services have been kept up by several gentlemen of the colony; but except at Christmas and Easter, the community has been without a clergyman since Mr. Gardner left in December, 1916. Burial services have to be conducted by the Consul or anybody else; christenings have to await the fortuitous arrival of a parson; and the sick and dying in hospital are without any spiritual comfort or ministrations. Owing to the small stipend, it has apparently been impossible to find anyone to replace Mr. Gardner, but the colony now provides a large congregation, composed of permanent residents and numerous military and naval men stationed here or passing through Athens. Although it may be difficult at the present time to secure a permanent chaplain, it is only reasonable to suppose that it would not be difficult to spare a naval or military man to take up the chaplaincy until the end of the war, in view of the necessity for such an appointment.

The British Club.

The British Club, the inauguration of which was announced a short time ago, has proved a great success thus far. It is well patronised by naval and military men on leave or passing through Athens, as well as by residents here. It really has "supplied a long felt want," and it affords a place of meeting, and for obtaining information and news which did not exist before.

Anglo-Greek Agreements.

An agreement has just been concluded between His Majesty's Government and the Greek Government providing for reciprocal military service, the effect of which is that all British subjects in Greece between the ages of eighteen and fifty-one must either leave Greece for service in the British Army within sixty days or become liable to serve in the Greek Army.

Another agreement has been arrived at between the two Governments affecting the commerce of both countries. For nearly a year it has been practically impossible to obtain any goods from England owing to the want of tonnage. This has militated against British trade; and traders here, having had to find other markets, went to Spain. Spanish steamers were found willing to come to Greece, and a regular trade has resulted; and during the past six months Greece has drawn large supplies of various commodities from that country. By the agreement just concluded, England will provide tonnage to an eastern port to the extent of about 3,000 tons monthly, and the Greek Government will provide steamers to bring the goods from that port to Greece. This arrangement should enable merchants to reopen their connections with England and to provide Greece with many articles which are unobtainable elsewhere.

The Cost of Living.

The arrivals from Spain have contributed largely to the improvement of the economic situation here, and shopkeepers have been able to replenish their stocks, which were so depleted a year ago. Living in Athens is very expensive, but, with the exception of meat, practically all the necessaries of life can be obtained. The favourable crops and the supplies of grain rationed to Greece by the Allies provide a sufficiency of good bread. Meat is very scarce and is only obtainable by the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Fuel is also expensive, wood and charcoal being the only two combustibles available, and at great cost; though it is announced that the Government hope to produce gas in a short time. This would largely alleviate the fuel difficulty and the troubles of housekeepers, who are often dependent on alcohol for cooking and lighting purposes. Punctually at midnight the electric current is turned off, and all places of amusement have to close before that time; and often in the process of retiring for the night one suddenly finds oneself in darkness.

In all other respects Athens leads almost a normal life. There seems to be plenty of money in the place, and speculation on the Stock Exchange is extensively carried on.

The Aerial Mail.

Postal communication has been established by aeroplane between Salonika and Athens. At present the aerial mail is limited to official correspondence. It is proposed to establish similar communications with other towns in Greece.

THE CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH OF GEORGIA: KYRION II.

(From a Correspondent.)

On September 10 his Holiness, Kyrion II., was murdered during the night by agents of Russian Bolsheviks and the "Black Hundred" reactionary organisation, in a monastery near Tiflis. The murderers have been arrested.

In 1811 the head of the Georgian Church, Catholicos-Patriarch, Antonius II., was invited to Petrograd and was not allowed to return to his country. The independence of the Georgian Church was abolished by the Russian Government, contrary to the treaty of 1783 between the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Georgia, and contrary to the universal Church Councils' decision, according to which the Georgian Church had been independent since 542. The Russian Holy Synod appointed a Russian Archbishop as Exarchos of Georgia and, in this way, the Georgian Church was administered until 1917, when, on September 17, the Georgian National Congress, in Tiflis, composed of 620 delegates from all parts of Georgia, elected Archbishop Kyrion II. as Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia. On October 19 his consecration took place at the ancient Cathedral of Msketha, near Tiflis, where about a hundred thousand Georgians of all classes assembled; there were also military and Consular representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, America, and Belgium.

His Holiness Kyrion II. was born November 10, 1855. After completing his education at the Ecclesiastical College in Tiflis, he studied at the Theological Academy in Kieff in 1880, and was appointed Inspector of the Ecclesiastical Seminary in Odessa. In 1883 he returned to Georgia and acted as director of various Georgian ecclesiastic schools. After the death of his wife, he became a monk, and was appointed Prior of the Georgian monastery in Kvathakhevi. In 1898 he was consecrated as Bishop of the Georgian Bishopric in Alaverdi. His Holiness devoted all his time to historical studies concerning the Georgian Church, and was one of the foremost defenders of the rights of that Church. In 1901 the Russian Holy Synod inaugurated a crusade against him. He was sent to the town of Kamanets-Podolsk (Ukraine). In 1903 he was removed to the town of Kherson; in 1904 to Oriol (Central Russia). In 1906 he returned to the bishopric in Soukhoum (Georgia), but in 1907 he was removed again to Russia, to Kovno. In 1908 the Holy Synod entirely deprived him of the bishopric, and sent him to a monastery near the town of Kharkoff, where he stayed ten months, and was removed to the Sanaxar Monastery, in Tamboff. He became very ill as a result of the brutal treatment meted out to him, and, in a semi-prostrate condition, lived in the monastery up to the revolution of this year, when he was able to return to his country. In 1909 the Belgian Society for the Defence of Human Rights petitioned the President of the Russian Duma, M. Chomiakoff, and asked him to defend Bishop Kyrion, but the Holy Synod would not agree. At the same time, the greatest enemy of Georgia, Priest Vostorgoff, a great friend of Rasputin, openly declared that his intention was to destroy Kyrion and to plunge Georgia in blood.

During long years of cruel persecution his Holiness never abandoned his studies, and he published many important volumes concerning the Georgian Church.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The German Administration.

The head of the German Administration in Roumania, Field-Marshal von Mackensen, at first tried to make himself popular—if not by acts, at least by words. In cases of too flagrant injustice, when things were brought to his knowledge—a difficult matter—he generally tried to smooth troubles over, and always put the blame on the orders received from Berlin, saying that he did not approve such orders, but "unfortunately" was compelled to execute them.

The country was divided into two zones. One of these was immediately behind the fighting line, where the orders of the commander of the Ninth Army were executed; the rest of the country was organized into a military government under General Tülf von Tscheppe. The latter had under him two staffs: the administrative and the economic. The first was composed of members of the German aristocracy, not over-intelligent but not too hostile to the Roumanians. At first the Germans tried not to be too hard, and they were specially lenient towards the peasants. They wanted to create a movement in their favour, as well as to create an anti-dynastic feeling. Their complete failure in this direction and the gains they secured by the brutal Treaty of Bucharest made them change their attitude completely, and they have since devoted all their energy to reducing the entire population to a veritable serfdom. The results are that even the most obstinate pro-Germans among the rich Roumanians now hate the Germans.

Besides their stupid measures, the Germans are responsible for the destruction of the Roumanian population in the most criminal way. They took no sanitary measures to prevent the spread of diseases. In the winter of 1917 the German troops in Roumania suffered from spotted typhus and typhoid fever, and these terrible diseases were spread among the Roumanian population, where they are still working havoc. The German Administration took measures concerning the German Army, but left the civil population to die. All the hospitals in the country were taken by the military authorities. The situation was so terrible that in April, 1918, the Germans admitted officially that there were 2,000 fresh cases of spotted typhus weekly in Wallachia, and asked for Roumanian doctors to be sent to the occupied territory. They have taken a large part of the equipment of the hospitals, part to be sent into Bulgaria and Turkey and part into Galicia. The equipment of laboratories was also sent away from the country. Now the conquerors are trying to impose some very inferior German doctors upon the Roumanian universities as professors. Their general mismanagement and their taste for bribes as a general rule have forced even M. P. Carp to declare that "he does not recognise his Germans any more."

The Demoralisation of the Country.

The Germans appointed as adminstrative officials a legion of titled persons and generally rich men. But these officials exploited the Roumanians in every possible way, and bribery is quite the order of the day. In some cases the conduct of these gentry has become such a public scandal that the High Command has been forced to take severe measures. In one case they were compelled to send back to Germany the *Landwirth* of Elfer, a multi-millionaire baron, who tried to extort a bribe of 30,000 francs from a woman. When such cases became public, the German Command says that the Roumanians are to blame because they have corrupted the German supermen!

One more example. A German doctor, a professor at the University of Berlin, was lodged in the house of Professor Slatineanu, with whom he was personally acquainted. He stole a choice collection of Chinese and Dresden pottery, and when caught said that he required the specimens to send butter home in. *Kultur!*

◆

NEW PALESTINE STAMPS.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (August 19):—"Philatelists will be interested to learn that the International Postal Convention of Berne has sanctioned the use of the new Palestine stamps for correspondence with all parts of the world. Heretofore the use of these new stamps was confined to correspondence in the occupied territory of Palestine, and between that region and Egypt. These stamps were made at the Survey Department, and are of five kinds—viz., one millième stamp, dark brown; two millième, greenish blue; four millième, crimson; twenty millième, olive coloured; and a fifty-millième stamp, which is purple-coloured."

&

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of
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&

CORRESPONDENCE.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My friend Mr. Janitsch, who writes in your last issue, protests an innocence with regard to the intrigues of a certain section of Serbians against their sister country Montenegro, that is nothing less than an amazement to me! It does not suit the common policy that the fullest details of this conspiracy should be made public at this moment in all its remarkable details, but it is sufficient to say that whilst Mr. Janitsch, like myself, believes strongly in the natural fraternity that should exist between the sister nations of Montenegro and Serbia, yet there is and has been a certain section of Serbians who have taken advantage of the miserable conditions of Montenegro to prosecute their own nefarious designs for the absorption of that country, *without the slightest reference to the wishes of its King, Government, or people.* The amount of actual money that has been used for this purpose constitutes nothing less than a grave scandal.

I would point out to Mr. Janitsch, however, that he does me a grave wrong by his suggestion that either I—or, for the matter of that, any Montenegrin—oppose the unity of the Southern Slavs. It is, on the contrary, the dream we hope to see realised, and one that every earnest English student of Balkan questions must see is the great solution of more than half of all the Balkan troubles; and, further, it is a project to which King Nicolas always has been and is to-day devoted, heart and soul.

But a Jugoslav Federation does not satisfy a certain section of the Serbian intriguers. They now talk of a Jugoslav (Serbian) kingdom!—in plain English, the extinction of Montenegro and its dynasty—and a huge Serbia that it is proposed should extend from Dalmatia to Salonika, and practically dominate all the Balkans. This is a very different proposition from a Jugoslav Federation.

I would point out furthermore that Montenegro has been nobly silent under the continued and unscrupulous attacks of a certain clique. They have been perfectly aware, for example, of the scandals that even the pro-Serbian journal, the *New Europe*, has recently disclosed. They never for one moment have attempted to make political capital out of this. On the other hand, what do we find? Unsupported assertions and unproved charges of the most scandalous character, questioning the *bona-fides* and loyalty of King Nicolas and his people; and whereas the rancour of political controversy has almost been shamed into silence in our own country, these people have attempted to utilise the upheavals of the Great War by the spread of what can only be described as malicious falsehoods.

No true friend of the Balkans can do any better service than to work heart and soul for Jugoslav federation and unity, and Montenegro and its King are absolutely pledged to this.

I am an Englishman. Mr. Janitsch is a Serb. It is not for any Englishman to attempt to interfere with the domestic internal concerns of a foreign nation; but it is for all Englishmen to whom methods such as I have described are repugnant to see that the little defenceless country, in the hands of a merciless enemy, has fair play and free expression.

As for King Nicolas, the splendid promptitude of his decisive rejection of the proffered bribes of Austria, his heroic action and practical efforts in support of Serbia, and the consequent ruin of his country, nobly maintain the lofty traditions of his gallant nation, and deserve the sympathy and admiration of the whole of the civilised world.

I am, etc.,

ALEX. DEVINE.

Northwood Park, Winchester.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I, after many years' intimate association with Montenegro, confirm Mr. Janitsch's statement that the idea of the Montenegrins has always been union with the other South Slav nations and the creation of a South Slav Empire? King Nikolas's hymn, "Onward, onward, let me see Prisren," was sung throughout the land; and hundreds of times have I been assured that the creation of an Empire with Prisren as capital was the King's ambition. I shall not forget easily the enthusiasm with which a Montenegrin announced to me the assassination of King Alexander, and added in the same breath: "Now our Mirko will be King of Serbia!" The excitement in Cettinje was intense, and all appeared to believe that the first step towards the creation of Great Serbia had been accomplished. Their hopes were, however, disappointed. A second time I witnessed similar enthusiasm when in 1912 the Montenegrin army started Prisren-wards and General Yanko Vukotitch's wife begged me to follow after, in order to photograph the General's triumphant entry into Prisren, which was believed to be sure to ensue shortly. And a second time was there disappointment. That the people as a whole wish union I think is not to be doubted. The whole difficulty is a dynastic one. I once heard the subject discussed at the dinner table at the inn at Podgoritza when it was suggested by a schoolmaster that the only solution of the problem was the elimination of both dynasties; that it was not right that the development of the South Slavs as a nation should be perpetually hampered by the rival ambitions of a few families; Serbia herself had been ruined for years by the Obrenovitch-Karageorgevitch quarrel, and such a thing should not be allowed to occur a second time.

I am, etc.,

M. EDITH DURHAM.

FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It appears to me that the settlement of the Balkans depends almost entirely on the objects for which the Allies are waging this war.

If we really mean that our main and unchangeable determination is to substitute justice and right for force in the New Europe, to recognise the right of free existence of small nationalities, as well as large, to adjust territorial boundaries on racial lines, according to the will of the inhabitants, instead of on the old lines of the balance of military power, then we have much to guide us in imposing a fair settlement on the Balkans. As regards Bulgaria and Serbia, we have the secret Treaty of 1912, willingly entered into by both parties with the consent of Russia. As regards Bulgaria and Roumania, we have the boundaries that existed from 1878 up to 1913, during which period the relations between these two States were most cordial and friendly. No man can fairly adjust boundaries on racial lines, with due regard to the wishes of the inhabitants, if the question of Allies or enemies is to be taken into consideration. If a nation has erred there are other ways of forcing her to make reparation than by placing a portion of her population under a foreign yoke.—I am, etc.,

O'MAHONY.

Grange Con, Co. Wicklow, September 16, 1918.

"ARE THE ROUMANIANS ROMANS?"

Our attention has been called to a printer's error which occurred in our issue of September 6, in the letter from Mr. J. D. Bourchier. In the second line of that letter the word "Roman" ("Roman peoples") should have been "Ruman." Probably most readers detected the error at once, but to those who failed to do so it must have been entirely misleading, and we much regret its occurrence.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Better quit and cut your losses, leave your men and guns and horses,
Croaked the Pacifistic Preacherhood of lies.
But the men in spine-pad armour (what a setting for a drama!)
Went on chewing bully beef and swatting flies.
Oh, its Sun, Sun, Sun,
Though the Turk is on the run,
There's the devil's furnace roaring in between.
Men who've left the ice of Flanders
Are no ruddy Salamanders—
Are you—Smith and Brown and Robinson and Green?

Gad! the 'squitoes and the sandflies—you can see the way the land lies
As soon as e'er you cross the bar at Fao.
It's the devil's psalm they sing us. *Strafe* the way they're born to sting us.
God alone knows why or when they're born or how.
Oh, it's Flies, Flies, Flies,
When the sun begins to rise.
You may sympathise with Egypt the accursed,
But it's idle to compare, O,
The breed that tickled Pharaoh
With the Nasiriyeh artist at his worst.

When your P-boat's anchored, waiting off the fringe you've started hating
The interminable river-fringe of palms,
You'll be lucky if you've shelter when the sun begins to swelter.
And the prickly heat has got you in the arms.
Oh, its Sand, Sand, Sand,
Sand and Thirst go hand-in-hand,
It's "A little drop of limejuice, if you please."
From the base to Azizieh
Not a drop of British beer,
Only bally imitation Japanese.

Oh, the place is full of stenches, of Yehoodis on the benches,
As your bellum goes a-gliding up the creek.
And in all this wretched story not a pennyworth of glory,
But a paltry extra bob or two a week.
Oh, its Hell, Hell, Hell;
'Twas the devil rang the bell
When the curtain rose upon the grisly scene.
But the men have got their ticket,
And they'll stick it, stick it, stick it—
Won't you—Smith and Brown and Robinson and Green?

A. W. B.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A PACIFIST IN THE MIDDLE EAST.*

In November, 1914, Mr. M. Philips Price arrived at Petrograd as special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*. For reasons which readers of his recent book will clearly comprehend, he shook the dust of imperial Russia from his feet and hurried to the Caucasus. There he spent the latter half of 1915 and the whole of the succeeding year, making excursions from time to time into Armenia and North-Western Persia. He has now republished the dispatches sent to his newspaper under the rather misleading title "War and Revolution in Asiatic Russia," which was not included in his peregrinations. A Kinglake is born once in a century; and we must not expect the brilliance and charm of "Eothen" in a Pressman's diary. Mr. Price is destitute of the precious gift of humour; and his description of the little-known countries through which he passed is the merest journalese. Dr. Johnson opined that one can learn something from any book; and Mr. Price casts new sidelights on the tangled politics of the Middle East. Thus we learn that our Dardanelles expedition had far-reaching effects on the Eastern front. By holding up large Turkish forces, it enabled Russia to win victories in Armenia, kept the Caucasus at heel, and countered the intrigues of German agents in Persia. We hear, again, that a powerful movement to supersede Nicolas II. by the Grand Duke Nicolas Nicolaievich was defeated by the machinations of the Tsaritsa. What horrors would Russia have been spared if the helm had been grasped two years ago by his able and experienced hands!

But the chief interest of Mr. Price's lucubrations lies in his "Political" section, which proves him to have been an active propagandist of subversive ideas. At p. 203 he writes:—

> On June 26 I set out to return to Kars in a transport wagon of Russian soldiers. On the way I talked with them about the war. They were very anxious to know when it would end, and I told them, of course, that it was very uncertain what would happen. There was certainly none of that keenness to be giving their lives for Holy Russia which sentimental travellers and correspondents from England have been trying to persuade their readers is felt by the Russian soldier. There was none of that mystic patriotism which one sees in the German and French soldier, or of the jolly sporting spirit of the British Tommy.

Such was the effect on untutored minds of Mr. Price's consistent pessimism! Two days later he was allowed to visit some Baptist sectarians imprisoned at Kars for refusing military service on conscientious grounds.

> One of them came forward. He was a pale, fair youth, dressed in the grey prison dress. In his eyes was an indescribable look of mental suffering and resignation. All around him were criminals of the worst type. Many of them had been sent there for murder, and he had been sent there precisely because he refused to murder. A curious commentary on our so-called civilisation! I asked him how he felt. He replied, "All right, thank you. I am at rest in my spirit, and that is the chief thing." I told him who I was, and he asked at once what they did with those who renounced military service in England. "They treat them better than they do here, I expect," he added. I then told him of the conscientious objectors who had been sent to France and condemned to death, and a look of surprise and pain came over his face. "I thought that England was a free country," he said. "So did I," I answered, "once upon a time."

As a conscientious objector with strong leanings towards International Socialism, Mr. Price hailed the outbreak of revolution in Petrograd with delirious joy. The repercussion on Russia's Asiatic provinces plunged them in anarchy, but, after all, "it assumed the character of a movement for the liquidation of the war by appealing to the international solidarity of the workers" (p. 284). When the Bolshevik leaven infected the Caucasus and Transcaspia, it superseded civil government by that of mixed committees ignorant of the A B C of administration. Nevertheless, "it was a remarkable example of how mankind, when left alone to themselves with none in authority over them, do not break out into anarchy, and commit unsocial acts" (p. 298). So Mr. Price follows the will-o'-the wisp lit up by J. J. Rousseau's astounding dictum: "Man is born good, but civilisation has corrupted him"—a falsehood which has inspired the doctrines of *laissez-faire* of Marxian socialism and "philosophic" anarchism. It is only fair to add that this curious passage was written during the earliest stage of the revolution which has plunged Russia into chaos. Have recent phases in that catastrophe administered a cold douche to Mr. Price's optimism, or does he still look upon the Bolshevik regime as "a star that has risen in the East" which will lead the benighted peoples of Europe, India and Persia "along the path of regeneration to a new life" (p. 296)?

F. H. S.

VERSES FROM THE FRONT.*

Unlike the author's "Half-hours at Helles," these poems have no association with the East, Near or Far; but they make a delightful little volume, and we are indebted to them for many smiles. Several of them are old friends from *Punch*, but they bear re-reading; and we look forward to dipping into the book a good many times in the future. It is hard to say which is best among so many good things, but the one that clings most persistently in our memory is "A Lost Leader." We quote the last two verses:—

The soldiers sing about their beer,
  The wretched road goes on and on;
There ought to be a turning here,
  But if there was the thing has gone;
  Like some depressed automaton
I ask at each *estaminet;*
  They say "*Tout droit*," and I say "*Bon*,"
But I believe I've lost the way.

I dare not tell the trustful men;
  They think me wonderful and wise;
But where will be the legend when
  They get a shock of such a size?
  And what about our brave Allies?
They wanted us to fight to-day;
  We were to be a big surprise—
And I believe I've lost the way.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Web of Indian Life." By The Sister Nivedita (Margaret E. Noble). (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 5s. net.)

"The Anzac Pilgrim's Progress." By Lance-Corporal Cobber. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

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ILL-TREATMENT OF SERBIAN PRISONERS.

The Serbian Press Bureau has forwarded the following statement for publication:—

The news of the deportations of the Serbian population to Asia Minor from the Morava and Macedonian districts reached us in 1917, after the insurrection of the Serbian population in these districts, when several thousands of people were massacred by the Bulgars.

The first public confession relating to these deportations was made in the Vienna Parliament on June 28, 1917, by Dr. Otokar Ribar, who said: "The unhappy Serbian nation is banished: from some districts the very children, women, and old men have been driven off into slavery, as in the olden times the Romans and Greeks used to carry off the population of the lands they conquered. From the neighbourhood of Nish alone the Bulgars have deported 30,000 of our people to the deserts of Asia Minor."

According to the latest information, the condition of these unhappy people is intolerable. The Bulgarians refuse to furnish any account relating to the number or the treatment of the Serbian war prisoners and the civil population interned by them. The number of Serbian war prisoners, irrespective of the interned civilian population, amounts to 140,000 in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria. Moreover, the number of those who died from starvation, epidemics, and cold surpasses one-third of the total number of prisoners.

The Serbian paper *La Serbie*, edited in Geneva by Dr. Lazare Markovitch, Professor at the University of Belgrade, publishes the following appeal on behalf of the Serbian war prisoners:—

"One of the most odious acts undertaken by our enemies to annihilate the vital Serbian forces is the handing over of the Serbian war prisoners to the Turks to be employed as labourers in Asia Minor. Our enemies have revived, in the midst of the twentieth century, the ancient law of slavery, treating human beings as mere objects of trade. There is no doubt that these facts, as published in the Amsterdam paper *Telegraaf* by Dr. Reiss, Professor at the University of Lausanne, were appallingly true, but to-day the Serbian Government is in possession of real proofs that not only Bulgaria, but also Austria-Hungary and Germany, have adopted the abominable practice of selling the Serbian war prisoners to the Turks."

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Prince Demidoff has informed the Greek Foreign Minister that the four anti-Bolshevist Governments existing in Russia have been incorporated into one at Omsk, Siberia. He added that the new Russian Government, representing the Russian people's genuine will, had accredited him anew to Athens.

The White Nile Province steamer Sultan was caught in a violent haboob on its way to Kawa on August 15. The roof of the steamer was torn away by the force of the wind, and the steamer capsized and sank. Mr. J. E. Baskett, foreman of works, Public Works Department, Sudan Government, who was a passenger, was drowned, as were his servant and three of the crew.

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* "War and Revolution in Asiatic Russia." By M. Philips Price. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. Price 8s. 6d. net.

* "The Bomber Gipsy and Other Poems." By A. P. Herbert. (Methuen and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. September	1918. September		1336. Julheggia.	5679. Tishri.
20	7	Friday	14	14
21	8	Saturday........	15	15
22	9	**Sunday**	16	16
23	10	Monday	17	17
24	11	Tuesday	18	18
25	12	Wednesday	19	19
26	13	Thursday	20	20

Prince Cantacuzene has arrived at Bath from London.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister visited the Foreign Office on Monday.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, arrived in London from Paris on Sunday.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, arrived in Paris on Sunday on a week's visit.

Sir H. Manning, the new Governor of Ceylon, arrived at Colombo on September 11.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, who have been staying at Harrogate, hope to return to Egypt very shortly.

After an absence of nearly a month, M. Venizelos has returned to Athens from the Macedonian front.

M. Stephen Miclesco, of the Roumanian Government Commission, has arrived in London from Paris.

Mr. Louis C. Crampton, a member of the United States House of Representatives, who has been on a special mission to study the situation in the Balkans, has returned from the Macedonian front.

The King of Italy has bestowed the Order of the Crown of Italy upon Heddaya Bey, Governor of the Suez Canal, with the grade of Commander in the Order.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Thomas Farr, Chittlehamholt Manor, North Devon, and of North Cove, Ceylon, and Alice Marjorie, daughter of Albert Butter, Duntanlich, Perth.

On Wednesday, at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Brigadier-General d'Arcy Brownlow and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Hamilton, I.A., with the Order of the Indian Empire. the former as a Commander, the latter as a Companion.

The marriage of Major J. S. Oldham, Indian Cavalry, and Irene Beaumont Thomas, of 23, Parkside, Knightsbridge, S.W., will take place on Saturday, October 5, at 2.15, at St. Margaret's, Westminster. There will be no reception, but all friends will be very welcome at the church.

On Sunday the Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius entertained at luncheon at the Legation M. A. Michalacopoulos, MM. L. Embiricos (Deputy), A. Skintzopoulos, L. Economides, A. Tsitsis, B. Zamanos, G. Damalas, E. Karasopoulos, C. Malicopoulos, M. Kazazis, members of the Greek Commercial Delegation, the British officials attached to the Delegation, Greek deputies in London, and members of the Greek Legation.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to the following officers to wear the decorations, as stated before their names, conferred on them by the King of the Hellenes:—Order of the Redeemer.—Commander: Maj. (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) R. Gordon, D.S.O., R.M.L.I. (now temp. colonel R.A.F.). (The appointment as Officer of this Order gazetted on June 26 has been cancelled); Officer: Capt. C. N. Tindal-Carill-Worsley, R.N.; Staff-Surgeon J. C. Bringan, R.N.

At the Greek Church in Moscow Road a special service was held on Sunday morning in celebration of the name day of the King of the Hellenes. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, officiated, being assisted by the Archimandrite, the Rev. Agathangelos Moschovakis. Among those present were the Greek Minister, the personnel of the Legation, the Greek Commercial Delegates, the Greek Navy and Army Missions, and many members of the Greek colony.

The King and Crown Prince of Saxony arrived at Sofia on Saturday.

General Jekoff, the Bulgarian Commander-in-Chief, after undergoing an operation in Vienna for ear trouble, intends to spend a long leave in Switzerland.

In a message to General Paraskevopulos, commanding the Greek forces in the Struma sector of the Balkans, the British Commander warmly congratulates them on their successful advance.

Brigadier-General Robert Alexander Gilchrist, late Indian Army, of Bowood, Folkestone, who saw service in the Abyssinian Expedition in 1868, and died in July, aged seventy-two, left estate valued at £1,982 gross, with net personalty £1,912.

The King has been pleased to award the Edward Medal in silver to Mr. Cecil Herbert Whiffen and Sirdar Bideshi Kol, also the Edward Medal to the miners, Rupai Kol and Suku Kol, and to the timber carpenters, Jadu Kol and Bhudu Kol, for their gallantry in rescuing on March 3, 1917, two men imprisoned through an accident in the Gorangdih Colliery in India, belonging to the Burrakar Coal Company.

The Rev. Dr. Moses Gaster has resigned the position of Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Jews. For over thirty years he has taken an active part in literary work, as well as in Jewish communal life. When he was exiled from Roumania in 1885, for agitating on behalf of persecuted Jews, he came to England. In 1886, and again in 1891, he was appointed Ilchester Lecturer at Oxford on Slavonic and Byzantine Literature, and in 1887, although not a member of that community, he was appointed Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Jews.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Kaimakam C. S. Northcote Bey, Governor of Mongalla Province, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi H. G. Ruddock, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Second Inspector, Mongalla Province.

Bimbashi H. E. V. Huggett, transferred to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Second Inspector, Nuba Mountain Province.

Mr. A. D. Home, Second Inspector, Kassala Province, has been appointed Assistant Director of Intelligence, Intelligence Department, Sudan Government.

El Bimbashi E. T. N. Grove has been appointed Second Inspector, Mongalla Province, and a Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. George C. Rankin, barrister-at-law, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Calcutta.

Mr. Edward Millard Pratt, Indian Civil Service, has been appointed a Puisne Judge to the High Court of Judicature, Bombay, in succession to Sir F. C. O. Beaman, who will retire in November.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of General Sir Charles Carmichael Monro, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, as Aide-de-Camp-General to the King.

The London *Gazette* announces that Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Worgan, D.S.O., Indian Cavalry, relinquishes the temporary rank of brigadier-general on ceasing to command a brigade. Dated September 3, 1918.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Mr. George Wilfred Bennett to be Acting Custodian of Enemy Property under the Trading with the Enemy Ordinances, 1916 and 1917, temporarily, during the absence of Mr. H. P. Hewins on leave.

The *Sudan Times* of August 17 announces:—Mr. N. G. Davidson, Advocate-General, has been appointed as Acting Judge of the High Court during the summer vacation of the Court. Mr. F. P. Osborne, Province Judge, has been appointed Judge of the High Court.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Harden, late Royal Sussex Regiment, died at Camberley on September 14, aged sixty-seven. He served with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5, taking part in the action of Abu Klea. Later he was with the Hazara Expedition.

Second Lieutenant A. Harcourt Nelson Wright, Somerset L.I., who was killed on September 2, aged nineteen, was the eldest son of Mr. H. Nelson Wright, of the Indian Civil Service. He was educated at Heddon Court, Cockfosters, and Eton. After passing through Sandhurst, he went to the front on August 15, and was killed barely a fortnight later.

The death occurred at Weston-super-Mare on Monday of Rear-Admiral Albert H. W. Battiscombe, who, as a naval cadet, served during the operations against Bruni, Burma, in 1846. In 1858 he served as first lieutenant of the naval brigade on the Burmese frontier, and he saw service in many other parts of the world. He was eighty-seven years old at his death.

Captain Charles W. Eastgate Smith, Manchester Regiment, who was killed while leading his men in an attack on August 27, was the only son of the late William Eastgate Smith, of Bournemouth, and Mrs. C. Eastgate Smith, 11, Porchester Terrace, W. At the outbreak of the war he was on an estate in Ceylon, and immediately joined the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps, and went with them to Egypt, where he got his commission in the Manchester Regiment. He was in the fighting near the Suez Canal and in Gallipoli, and was sent to another front in August, 1917.

We regret to learn that Mr. Avalon Shipley, H.M. Consul at Casablanca, lately attached for special duty at H.M. Consulate-General, Salonika, died in Paris on September 11. Mr. Shipley became a Student Interpreter in the Levant in 1897. He was promoted assistant two years later, and was Pro-Consul at Salonika from 1899 to 1903. Afterwards he served in many parts of the Near East—Uskub, Diarbekr, Erzeroum, the Dardanelles, Philipoppolis, and Adana. In 1912 he was promoted to be Consul for the eastern coast of the Red Sea, with residence at Jeddah, and was transferred to Casablanca in March, 1914. He was attached to Salonika in 1916. Mr. Shipley was born in August, 1873.

Major Aylmer Louis Elliot Fleet, R.F.A., who has died in his country's service, was the only child of Vice-Admiral Henry Louis Fleet, C.B.E., and Mrs. Fleet, of Coley Avenue, Reading. He was born in 1888, and was educated at Clifton College. He passed out of the R.M.A., Woolwich, in July 1909, and joined the 131st Battery, R.F.A., at Ewshot. He went to India in 1912, and joined the 90th Battery at Nowshera. Thence he proceeded to M Battery, R.H.A., at Risalpur, and after the war broke out took part in the operations against the Mahmunds on the North-West Frontier. He then proceeded to Mesopotamia and joined S Battery, R.H.A., as captain. He took part in the capture of Baghdad and Tekrit, being mentioned in dispatches. He was promoted major (acting) in command of a battery, which he accompanied to another front early in 1918.

We regret to announce that Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson died last Friday at 51, Pont Street, in his seventy-fourth year. He was the son of William Nicholson, of Roundhay Park, Yorks, and he joined the Royal Engineers at the age of twenty. Soon afterwards he went out to India, where so much of the best work of his life was to be done. He first saw active service in the Afghan War, 1878-80, taking part in the historic march from Kabul to Kandahar. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and his services were rewarded with the war medal with three clasps and a brevet majority. His next fighting was in Egypt, where he took part in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir and won further honours—the medal, the bronze star, and the Order of the Osmanieh. Returning to India, he worked much on plans for the defence of the country. In 1886-87 he was A.A.G. at headquarters in the Burma operations. Thereafter he was employed, first as Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, then at the Military Works Department, and next as Deputy Assistant-General in the Punjab. In the Tirah campaign he was Chief of Staff to Sir William Lockhart, and for his work then was made a K.C.B. and received the medal with two clasps. After a year as Adjutant-General in India, he was summoned to South Africa by Lord Roberts, with whom, after much service, he returned to England in 1900. After this he became, first, Director-General of Military Mobilisation and Military Intelligence; next, Quartermaster-General to the Forces; and, finally, Chief of the General Staff. He was for a time Military Attaché with the Japanese Army in Manchuria, and in 1912 he went to India as Chairman on Indian Army Expenditure. He had been raised to the rank of Field Marshal in 1911; had been made G.C.B. in 1908; had become A.D.C. to the King, 1910-11; was a member of the Committee of Imperial Defence; chairman of the Territorial Force Association for London since 1913; and Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Engineers since 1916. He married, in 1871, Victorie, daughter of Mr. D. Dillon. He leaves no heir.

We much regret to announce the death of Captain Leopold Victor Royle, M.C., Flight Commander, R.A.F., who was killed on August 17 while flying on a scout patrol. The elder son of Mr. Arnold Royle, C.B., and Mrs. Royle, Albany Lodge, Esher, he was educated at Wellington College, and joined the Egyptian Government service in 1900, and served continuously in the Coastguard Administration until war broke out, when he was lent to the R.F.C. He saw much service on the Canal and Sinai Peninsula as an observer with the R.F.C., and when the Turks induced the Senussi to take up arms in 1915, he was transferred to the Western Desert and served as intelligence officer to the British force operating in that area. His special knowledge of the language and character of the Western Bedouin, and especially of the Senussi—he was one of the few Englishmen who had actually met Said Ahmed, the Grand Senussi, and was on terms of friendship with Said Idris, the present head of the Senussi—rendered his services particularly valuable. He guided the Duke of Westminster's armoured cars which rescued the crew of the "Tara," and for his services on this and other occasions he was awarded the Military Cross. At the beginning of 1917 he took part as intelligence officer in the operations around the Siwa Oasis, where the Senussi were finally routed, and it was in a large measure due to his intimate knowledge of the Western Desert that these operations were successfully carried out. He was again mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Italian Medalle ad Valore and the Egyptian Order of the Nile. At the conclusion of these operations the Egyptian Government claimed Captain Royle's services, and he was appointed Governor of the Western Province, which embraced the coastal sector west of Alexandria and also the Siwa Oasis. He was also given the local rank of major. After repeated applications to the Egyptian Government for his release, he was permitted to re-join the R.F.C. at the end of 1917, and, after passing with honours all examinations, obtained his "wings," and was appointed to the command of a scout flight at the front, to which he proceeded in March, 1918, and where he served continuously until his death.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1918.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLES OF INDIAN POVERTY.

So large a share of public attention has been devoted of late to the problems presented by the Indian constitution that it may seem to savour of hardihood if we venture at this juncture to put in a claim for consideration of those less sensational questions which concern the daily life of the masses of the people. It must, however, be admitted that poverty is the greatest of all the many and complex problems to be met with in the India of to-day. We do not for a moment suggest that the country is getting poorer; on the contrary, we hold it to be absolutely certain that the last century has seen a marked recovery from the appalling poverty which characterised the period immediately antecedent to the introduction of British rule. But that recovery, though marked, is not sufficient. The people are still pitiably and dangerously poor, and considerations of statesmanship not less than of humanity require that the problem should be tackled more vigorously than has yet been done. It has not indeed been neglected, and, if wealth came by Blue-books alone, India would by this time be one of the richest countries in the world. Report, however, follows on Report, Commission succeeds to Commission, and the visible result of all this activity is as yet so small that the spectator may almost be pardoned if he condemns it summarily as so much labour thrown away. At the same time a careful study of these unfruitful records is by no means without value. The wide field of Indian economics has been explored in every corner, innumerable promising schemes have been brought forward and subjected to the closest examination, and if the results have been disappointingly small, the reason must be sought in the number and the strength of those vicious circles in which the productive energy of the country is so rigorously confined. Let us glance for a moment at some of these obstacles to progress which block the path of everyone, from the humble peasant or artisan to the Supreme Government itself.

There is, for instance, the problem of improving the quality of raw products such as cotton. Peasants cannot spend money in growing better cotton unless they are assured of a remunerative price. Spinners, on the other hand, cannot offer a remunerative price unless the quantity available is sufficient to justify the necessary changes in their manufacturing processes. The vicious circle is complete: peasants wait for the spinners, spinners wait for the peasants, the cotton is not grown, and the country is by so much the worse off. Take, again, the question of hydro-electric installations. Over large areas in India the cost of power prohibits the establishment of industries which would otherwise be full of promise. Cheap power can be furnished by suitable engineering works, provided the demand for it is sufficiently large, but again the vicious circle is complete. The installation awaits the demand: the demand cannot arise until the generators are installed; so the water runs to waste, and again the country is left unnecessarily poor. Or take the case of technical education, where the pile of Blue-books reaches perhaps its greatest height. There are no schools because there are no pupils; there are no pupils because there are no schools, and industry continues to be crippled for want of an adequate supply of skilled workers.

These examples will suffice to illustrate our proposition that the slowness of India's material progress is the result in great measure of conditions in which everybody is waiting for someone else to take the first step. Fortunately for the future of the country, the question whether these vicious circles can be broken may be answered with an unhesitating yes. No other conclusion can be drawn from the history of industrial development throughout the world, and the position in India is differentiated from that of other countries only by the fact that these vicious circles are more numerous and more persistent. The business of the pioneer is to break these circles, and the work of pioneering can be accomplished in India as elsewhere, though its accomplishment is undoubtedly hindered by exceptional difficulties. The extension of railways is a case in point. Less than eight years ago the first promoters of railway construction were held up by considerations very similar to those which now bar the way to other measures of industrial development; there was a time when it seemed as if railways must wait till passengers should come forward, and passengers must wait till railways had been made, but fortunately for India the necessary energy was forthcoming, the pioneer railways were built, and as the result India now owns what is probably the most magnificent investment in the world. Nor can this instance be set aside as exceptional. The truth is that every vicious circle can be broken, if adequate energy and adequate capital are applied, and if the point of attack is chosen with sufficient skill. India has no lack of skilled advisers, and of late years the difficulty of finding capital has become of less and less importance; it is now energy and driving power which the country most urgently needs. It would be easy to apportion the blame for this want of energy, but the immediate need is rather to recognise that it is one of the main factors in the problem, and while it is certainly true that this factor is declining in importance, the poverty of the country is such as to forbid a postponement until such time as conditions shall have improved. If the increase of India's wealth is to be accentuated, then the initial energy must be supplied from outside, or, in other words, it must be furnished largely by the State. Let the State devote energy, and, if necessary, pledge some portion of its resources towards overcoming the initial obstacles, just as Lord Dalhousie's Administration brought railways into being, and let it trust the people to do the rest; that, as it seems to us, is the main lesson to be drawn from a survey of the industrial field. We are not suggesting any indiscriminate prosecution of wild-cat schemes; we ask for more energy on the legitimate assumption that skill and judgment are available. To return to one of the examples we have already used, no sane man would urge that the State should create a volume of petty industries sufficient to justify the construction of a hydro-electric scheme. What the State can do is to supply the power on which the petty industries must depend, and wait for a few years till the rising demand makes the scheme remunerative. The period of waiting will depend on the judgment with which the scheme is selected and designed; we assume that the judgment will be sound, and we ask that the administration shall back its judgment more energetically than it has hitherto been wont to do. Nor do we suggest that the State should act so as to drive private enterprise from the field; its true function is to supplement existing sources of energy, not to compete with them and still less to strangle them. That the State can act in this way is proved by the existence of the Tata Ironworks. All India is to-day justly proud of that great enterprise, which is contributing so much to the wealth of the country and to the armed strength of the Empire, but while we recognise the energy, the courage, and the ability of its promoters, we should not forget that these qualities depended for their fruition on the timely aid afforded by the Government of India; and, if success has been attained, some part of the credit is due to the strong man who piloted the scheme through the dangerous waters of the Imperial Secretariat. The India Government is accused, not altogether unjustly, of excessive reliance on precedent; in the establishment of the Tata Ironworks it has a precedent of the utmost importance for the industrial future of the country.

PEACE FOR THE BALKANS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Why is it that so many of our Balkan "experts" are partisans? Why are the learned magazines and the newspapers, especially their correspondence columns, so full of contributions, not from men who take a wide view of Balkan necessities, but from men—and women—who would glory in being called Philhellenes, Serbophils, or, in fortunately rare instances, even Bulgarophils, and are fully equipped with a full stock of "phobias" to match? All of them are eager to press what they conceive to be the interests of their own particular favourite, and few seem to care to remember that each of the Balkan communities is merely a unit in a bigger whole, and that no member can be healthy, if the whole body is sick. In fact, it often appears as if their panacea for the cure of one of the members is the topsy-turvy method of killing off the body itself. All this is very puzzling to one who, like the present writer, is an earnest student of Balkan questions, but has, in default of personal acquaintance with these countries, to rely largely on the views and opinions of those who know them well.

The fact is, of course, that most of our experts are persons who have resided in one or other of the Balkan countries, and have imbibed the intensely nationalistic spirit so natural among young vigorous nations only just emerging from long centuries of servitude under a justly hated foreign domination, and finding plenty of material at hand, in the shape of equally vigorous young neighbours, on whom to try their newly found strength. The Turk, the Austrian, and the Russian have all known how to fan the flames of this exaggerated nationalism to their own ends, and have well known how to prevent a spirit so useful to them from dying down. The disease is a catching one, and it looks as if very few sympathetic visitors were able to escape infection, the particular infection depending on the accident of intimate acquaintance with this or that country. The result is that broad views are discouraged, and no proposal is weighed except for its immediate effect on a selected country. If it appears to be likely to benefit that country, the proposal is good. If not, it is bad. It is bad even if it does no harm to the writer's special friends, but seems likely to be of benefit to a country against which he has prejudices. The plain, simple fact that what is wanted is not the aggrandisement of one Balkan country at the expense of others, but the improvement of the Balkan situation and the consequent benefit of all the constituent States is a proposition which is not only lost sight of, but is vehemently denied.

Quite recently our good friends the Greeks sent us (*viâ The Times*) a somewhat petulant demi-semi-official intimation that it was not considered friendly that anyone in this country should venture even to hint that the final settlement in the Balkans might possibly involve some re-arrangement of Macedonian territory, to the benefit of the hated Bulgarians. Our Greek friends, no doubt, refer to territory which has become Greek in the course of recent developments. We doubt whether they would be inclined to take such severe views about the transfer of some of the newer Serbian territory. Similarly, our brave Serbian Allies would, no doubt, bitterly resent any re-adjustment at their expense, while willing to take a perfectly sane view as between Greece and Bulgaria. Each nation is, in fact, firmly determined not only to hold fast to what she has, but to try to extend her existing possessions at the expense of the traitor Bulgaria; and anyone who ventures to invite a broad review of the whole matter from the point of view of the greatest good of all the Balkan communities is looked on as a declared enemy.

Such an attitude is deplorable, and it is sad to find so many of our publicists supporting it. We do not forget that Serbia, gallant little Serbia, has felt this war as perhaps no other nation has, nor that she has never once wavered in perfect loyalty to her Allies. We do not forget the supreme qualities which she has shown, which entitle her to very special consideration when peace comes to be made. We are trying to forget how Greece deserted Serbia in her time of greatest need, and how she so long played the part of snake in the grass to the Allies. There were excuses for those dark days, and we prefer to dwell on the loyal and enthusiastic support which she is now giving us in the field. We do not forget the despicable part played by Bulgaria, though some of us are inclined to find for her to some extent the same kind of excuse which is now accepted for the earlier conduct of Greece. We desire to see Bulgaria beaten to her knees, and we rejoice to learn that she is already not too happy about her position.

But only a fool talks of a "knock-out blow," in the sense of wishing—were such a thing possible—to wipe Bulgaria off the map. The bald fact is that Serbia, Greece, and a rudely-wakened Bulgaria have to live together in future, and that it is eminently desirable that they should live together in peace—desirable for their own sakes, but absolutely necessary for Europe as a whole, which has by now learned by tragic experience what a conflagration can be raised all over the Continent by a spark in the Balkans.

No foundations of lasting peace in the Balkans can be laid without a review of the hurried territorial distribution made of recent years between the Balkan States, in such a way that each State may be as free as possible of any justifiable feeling of soreness against the others. This will be difficult, specially in Macedonia, but it cannot be believed that it is impossible. It is quite certain that, unless this is done, peace in the Balkans and consequently in Europe will hang on the slenderest of threads. Whether such necessary rectifications would or would not involve concessions to Bulgaria at the expense of one or the other of our Allies I do not pretend to be able to guess. But surely, even if this should turn out to be the case, our Allies will be best consulting their own interests and the interests of the world in general, by gladly submitting to the operation, no matter how painful it may be for the moment. And surely such a suggestion should not be branded as coming from the "hidden hand," which seeks to exalt the traitor at the expense of the loyal friend?

"DESTROYER OF TURKISH LIVES."

An interesting trophy from Mesopotamia is now to be seen on the Horse Guards Parade. This is a bronze Persian gun, weighing about five tons, which was captured from the Turks by the British forces on their entry into Baghdad under Sir Stanley Maude on March 11, 1917. The King accepted the gun from Sir Stanley and the British Force in Mesopotamia, and desired that on arrival in this country it should be placed temporarily on the Horse Guards Parade in order that it might be easily accessible and seen by all. The carriage on which it is mounted is only a makeshift, and was not captured with the gun.

The inscription on the gun is as follows:—

Succour is from God and Victory is at hand.

The Commander of Victory and Help, Shah Safi
Desiring to blot out all trace of the Turks,
Ordered Giev to make this Gun.
Wherever it goes, it burns up lives,
It spits forth flame like a Dragon,
It sets the World of the Turks on fire.

The date of its making is shown by its name:—"Rajim-I-Jan-Rumiyya" (Destroyer of Turkish lives). This is a chronogram for the year of the Hegira 954 (A.D. 1547). In that year (which was the date of the death of King Henry VIII.) the brother of the Shah Ismail II. raised a rebellion, and was assisted by Sultan Sulieman. The Shah accordingly declared war on the Sultan, and the gun was apparently made for that campaign.

The Salonika paper *Pro-Israel* reports that, through the initiative and under the presidency of Chief Rabbi Jacob Meir, a committee, comprising some of the most influential Jews of Salonika, has been formed to obtain subscriptions for the new issue of the Jewish Colonial Trust. Nearly 5,000 shares had been taken up early in August, and it was hoped that the total would be raised to 10,000.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I have been mildly puzzled by a paragraph that has appeared in several London papers, to the effect that "the Emir of Mecca has been received by the Sultan" at Constantinople. Can any reader tell me what this means? Is there now any "Emir" of Mecca? I doubt it! The Grand Shereef has, we know, become King of the Hejaz; and worthily does he sustain his new title and new honours. But he is unlikely to be much beloved at Stamboul, and equally unlikely to tolerate an "Emir of Mecca" who pays homage to the German-governed Padishah there. There was, of course, a German puppet put up as rival to Sultan Hussein; but he has been in Constantinople all along, unless my memory fails me, and I can hardly imagine any English paper thinking it worth while to report his movements. No; the puzzle remains unsolved!

⁂

The change in the cheque tax is said to have caused very little trouble so far, but I suspect that in the long run it will mean a diminution in the number of cheques drawn for small amounts. A curious thing about cheques, it seems to me, is the comparative ease with which one can get them cashed, sometimes by entire strangers. The police court records show how frequently this is done, and I dare say that most of us have been "had" once in our lives, if not more often, by a "dud." Yet in this way the cheque seems to have a fascination that is extraordinary. I read quite recently of an Oriental who declined to look at a letter of credit that ought to have been good enough for the most suspicious mortal, yet cashed a cheque drawn by the perplexed traveller—and for a substantial amount—without turning a hair. Even the "unsophisticated" Bedouin very often seems to understand the beauties of a cheque. At any rate, Dr. Peters, in his entertaining book "Nippur," tells of a small sheikh who evinced a touching desire to know whether he (Dr. Peters) had the power to "write those little bits of paper." If so, the sheikh wished to make him his guest—permanently, one supposes!

⁂

Mr. Eric R. J. Hussey, of Sobat-Pibor, has had an experience that I envy him; he has seen with his own eyes something very nearly approaching a miracle—or so it seems to me. Fortunately, he gives an account of the experience in "Sudan Notes and Records," and I have read it with keen interest, for it refers to a subject that I had heard strange stories about before, and it confirms those stories most completely. Briefly, it deals with crocodile-charming by men of the Kabbi, a Hausa-speaking tribe from West Africa, whose headquarters are at Argungo, a day's journey from Sokoto. They are a race of fishermen, and they have what Mr. Hussey well describes as "a curious power over crocodiles." For they actually pull the loathsome reptile out of the water alive, it being "apparently . . subject to their influence." Mr. Hussey saw one crocodile taken out of the Dinder and he vouches that "it was very much alive, but quite under the spell of its captors." That it was no willing accomplice of its Kabbi captors is clear from the fact that it "was afterwards cut up and eaten."

⁂

Mr. Hussey reports a second crocodile, "16 feet long, which happened to be caught one day when a sub-mamur was staying at the village." The method of capture *seems* to be simple enough. The fishermen stretch their fishing line across a stream and walk up and down beside it. Then, "if an inquisitive crocodile comes up to the line, one man seizes it by the jaws and another by the tail, and they drag it alive to the shore." As simple as a conjuring trick, isn't it? Yet how *is* it done? Large crocodiles, by the way, have ropes tied to their tails, and are hauled ashore by several men, but they appear to be under the "spell" of the Kabbis in the same way as the smaller fry. The "charm" is said to lie in a certain paste, which is smeared on the body and also eaten by the fishermen. It is prepared by the old men of the tribe, and the secret of its composition is jealously guarded. Mr. Hussey found it impossible to obtain a sample. I suspect that the virtue of the charm lies in the faith of the fishermen. But, however they do it, it is clear that these Kabbis can and do catch the crocodiles as reported. Mr. Hussey mentions that three or four of them in 1914 cleared the pools in a large stretch of the Dinder river.

⁂

Apropos of the Sudan, I noticed in last week's NEAR EAST a reference to the marriage of Mr. A. P. Coote, of the Sudan Civil Service. A few days earlier I had read a paragraph in the *Sudan Times* to the effect that Mr. Coote had been successful in ridding a town—Port Sudan, I think—of all objectionable characters. It struck me as a pleasing tribute to offer to a man on his wedding day, and I hope someone called the bridegroom's attention to it on (or before) September 5.

CORSAIR.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Contributions to the Second Indian War Loan amount to more than £20,000,000.

The Holy Carpet, accompanied by the Egyptian pilgrims, arrived at Jedda on September 8.

Two crores of rupees (about £1,333,333) was raised on the Bombay Women's War Loan Day.

The Greek Press comments with gratification on the fact that a British Police Mission is going to Athens to organise a police force.

A despath from Vienna states that a Congress of the Slav nationalities of Austria will be held at the end of September at Cracow.

The Greek Government has decided to postpone the calling-up of all students taking the Foreign Literature course, as well as of school teachers in Macedonia.

Dr. Solf, the German Colonial Secretary, left for Sofia last week to hand over personally to the Bulgarian Red Cross several million marks collected in Germany.

According to the *Rheinische-Westfälische Zeitung*, the Crimean Cabinet, with the exception of the Prime Minister and Count Tatistcheff, who is still abroad, has resigned.

As a result of the first prosecution on the charge of failing to enlist in the Ceylon Defence Force for compulsory training, an engineer has been fined 100 rupees (£6 13s. 4d.).

The Postmaster-General announces that letters and parcels intended for delivery to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force by Christmas should be posted so as to reach London not later than October 5.

Italian and British naval air forces have been very active on the Adriatic and Albanian front. The following places were bombed:—Caorle (Lower Livenza), Cattaro, San Giovanni di Medua, Alessio, Durazzo, the Monastero di Kolcoldin, Ragosina.

Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to Constantinople, who is at present in Berlin, says that the Caucasus negotiations with Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, were taking a favourable course, and that a mutually satisfactory solution would be reached.

Greeks residing in Egypt who are natives of the new Greek provinces, as well as those who have served in the National Defence Army, and those who are liable to serve in the Greek Army, will be treated as Hellenic subjects for the purposes of army recruiting.

Referring to the recent removal of the Orthodox Archbishop in Bukovina for his Russophil attitude, the Magyar Socialist organ *Nepsava* compares this light punishment with another much more severe inflicted on a Roumanian peasant woman for singing a patriotic song:—" His Grace the Archbishop goes free, while the peasant woman goes to prison."

SYRIA & PALESTINE RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916).

JAFFA, JULY 11, 1918.

"Our first object is to try to restore the moral of the women and girls. The state in which most of them are is heart-breaking. They are reduced to

UNRECOGNISABLE GHOSTS

of their former selves, through fear, starvation, exposure and want of decent clothing. The state of most of them is heart-breaking. Nearly all . . . driven out of the town . . . wandered about from place to place suffering

GREAT HARDSHIPS AND CRUELTIES.

They lost all their possessions. Most of them have lost all their grown-up male relations. We are busy planning with the military authorities how work may be found for all the women."

(Letter from Relief Worker.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The outstanding event of the week has been the arrival of the Greek Commercial Mission, whose coming has been eagerly looked forward to in business circles in this country. The tour of the delegates, which, as my readers are aware, has been arranged by the Federation of British Industries, has opened most auspiciously by a series of functions which can have left the visitors in no doubt as to the nature of the sentiments that inspire the average Englishman for Greece. We are regarded abroad as a cold race, but if the visitors came with that impression the warmth of their reception must have shown them that this view is one for which there is no real justification. There is, as a matter of fact, no nation for which this country has kindlier feelings than Greece, and it may be hoped that one of the results of this visit will be to bring even closer the relations between the two countries.

⁂

It is not many months since the visit of the Serbian Industrial Mission to this country—a visit which was marked by even greater success than was expected—and I shall probably not be going too far when I say that it will be a considerable advantage to the present mission that such successful efforts should have already been made to arouse an abiding interest in Balkan trade. Not that this advantage is necessary, for the delegates have the satisfaction of knowing that while British trade relations with other Balkan countries have hitherto been comparatively insignificant, Greco-British commerce, despite the inevitable commercial aggression of the Central Powers, has always been of considerable importance. That, naturally, makes the development of trade relations much easier than in the case of countries who have hitherto had comparatively little to do with one another.

⁂

A point which, I feel, is certain to be raised by some British manufacturers in regard to trade with Greece is that Greek imports and exports have hitherto been on a very small scale. That, of course, is true, but in this case the past is no criterion of the future. Greek development has hitherto been hampered in a variety of ways, notably by the absence of adequate capital. This will not be so after the war, when it is beyond question that very rapid progress will be made by the country. Agriculture will be further improved and organised, industrial enterprise, hitherto strictly limited, will be considerably developed, and her requirements, both for foreign manufactures and for larger markets for her produce will, consequently, increase. For development work alone the Greek demand for construction material of all kinds will be enormous. And in addition to all this, it must once more be emphasised that it is a short-sighted view which considers Greece solely from the standpoint of the Greek market. Greece has been in the past, and will be still more in the future, one of the great distributing centres of the Mediterranean, and on that account alone her importance cannot easily be overestimated.

It is obvious that a country without coal deposits cannot hope to attain more than a certain level of industrial development, and this has been one of Greece's principal handicaps in the past, since the country has been in the position of having to import fuel for other than domestic purposes. Possibly the position may be changed in this respect in the future as a result of the recent discovery of large deposits of lignite of a superior quality in Greek Macedonia. According to an American Consular report so far engineers have traced a mass of approximately 700,000 tons, and the investigations have covered only a small area. It is reported that the whole region bears promise of further large deposits. Three veins, each varying from 12 to 18 inches in thickness, have been uncovered, and mining operations have so far resulted in the production of from 20 to 25 tons per day, a rate which it is estimated can be raised to 200 tons per day given adequate transportation facilities.

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It would only be in accord with the fitness of things if the Serbian and Greek missions were to be followed in due course by one from Roumania. No doubt that will happen when circumstances permit; and while at the present time we are not in a position directly to alleviate the unhappy fate of that country, it is very desirable that British merchants and manufacturers should devote some time to obtaining an accurate knowledge of market conditions there, so that when peace comes they will be ready to occupy the places filled by the apostles of "peaceful penetration." This country has a great rôle to play in Roumania as in other Balkan countries, and whether we rise to our opportunity or not will mainly depend on the exercise of individual enterprise. The position of Roumania is dealt with in the first of a series of articles which appears on page 771, to which I should like to call my readers' attention.

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While on the subject of Roumania I may point out that in the Anglo-Roumanian Society—which was established here not many months ago under the most influential auspices—we have an institution which is likely to play an invaluable part in the development of Anglo-Roumanian relations, economic and otherwise. The society, whose work is deserving of every encouragement, has its offices at 5, Old Burlington Street, W.1, and the hon. sec. is Mr. A. W. A. Leeper.

⁂

Sir Edward Holden's speech at the meeting of the London City and Midland Bank called to approve the absorption of the London Joint Stock Bank should prove a final reply to those who proffer objections to bank amalgamations. He pointed out that the first reason for the recent fusions was that a very large sum would be required after the war for the purchase of raw materials, etc., and the second reason he gave was that amalgamation was necessary in order that London may retain its position as the financial centre of the world. In regard to the first point he mentioned that other countries had created separate institutions which would be able to create credit for their own merchants and manufacturers after the war. He mentioned the War Finance Corporation in the United States, and the Darlehnskassen in Germany, and added that Germany was organising great amalgamations of banking houses to supplement the power of this institution. I am glad that Sir Edward laid so much insistence on the importance of our being able to meet the competition of foreign banks on an equal basis. This is the point which I have constantly emphasised in my references to the subject, and so far as I can see the various objections raised against amalgamations carry no weight against it.

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The friction between Bulgaria and her Allies is economic, as well as political. The greater part of the Bulgarian tobacco crop, which is awaiting export, is held up because Germany cannot come to terms with the exporters. Normally, the Germans are supposed to be able to consume 25,000,000 kilograms of Bulgarian tobacco, while there is a market for 10,000,000 more in the countries bordering the Central Powers. Germany is prepared to take 4,000,000 kilograms at a price at which the Bulgarians refuse to sell, and until the latter prove more amenable, no transport is to be placed at their disposal for tobacco for any destination. An interesting quarrel.

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The Bank of Bombay, which has a long record of steady progress behind it, has made a most marked advance since 1914, thus reflecting the prosperity enjoyed by India as a whole during the war. The half-year report for the period ended June 30 shows this tendency to have continued, so that it has been possible for the bank to commemorate its jubilee by a special bonus distribution of 1 per cent. per annum in addition to the 15 per cent. dividend and the ordinary bonus of 2 per cent. This gives 18 per cent., free of income-tax for the year, against 16 per cent. to June, 1917, 15 per cent. to June, 1916, and 1915, and 14 per cent. for the two previous years.

⁂

The Department of Statistics in India has issued a further report on prices and wages in that country, containing figures up to the end of July, 1917, from which it appears that the average rise in the wholesale price of 74 principal articles of consumption was 12 per cent. at the end of the first year of war, 25 per cent. at the end of the second year, and 42 per cent. at the end of the third year. As regards retail prices, it is stated that the general level in Calcutta in July of last year was 16 per cent. higher than immediately before the war. Sugar and salt had risen by 81 and 50 per cent. respectively, and dairy produce by 35 per cent. The rise in tea, wheat flour, fruits, and vegetables ranged between 19 and 12 per cent., while food grains, excluding pulses, increased 10 per cent. There was a rise of 8 per cent. in the price of fish and 2 per cent. in that of fowls; but, on the other hand, there was a decrease of 11 per cent. in eggs and 4 per cent. in meat. Naturally, conditions in Calcutta cannot be taken as representative of those throughout the country, but with that reservation it is clear from the report that in many respects India has escaped fairly lightly during the first three years of the war.

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ROUMANIAN COMMERCE.

Retrospect and Prospect.—I.

By A. Loveday.

Roumania has been betrayed twice, once by the Tzarist government under the guidance of M. Stuermer, once by the Bolsheviks; and Roumania has made peace. Of all the small states who have lent their support to the Allies she has perhaps suffered the most. The possibility of alleviating her distress has been almost wholly lacking. Tricked, betrayed and ultimately openly oppressed by the Russians, she has been divided into two rival camps of misery; and the plight of those who flocked to Jassy has been, perhaps, even more bitter than of those who remained behind at Bucharest. She has made peace; she has had certain conditions of sacrifice and further misery forced upon her, of which not even the Bulgarians can anticipate the permanence. When the war ends Roumania, together with Belgium, Serbia, and perhaps a new Slav state on Serbia's north and west will look to this country, to France, to the United States of America to help her in the rebuilding of her kingdom, and the reorganisation of her economic life.

If we are to be in a position to assist, if the Allies are to co-operate in peace as they have in war, and present friendships are to be more than the passing effects of temporary circumstances, it is desirable that we should study closely the economic conditions in each country and consider how far the relations which existed before the war may be strengthened or amplified.

The economic position of Roumania is of importance, moreover, partly on account of the value which that country may prove to Germany during the continuance of the war, partly because Roumania was one of the markets from which England was being steadily driven back by Germany and to a lesser extent by Austria-Hungary, and partly because Roumania is one of the stepping-stones in Germany's progress from Berlin to Baghdad.

I propose here to consider particularly the character and extent of Roumanian trade before the war, and to attempt in passing to illustrate the value which the wealth of Roumania produces may be to the Central Powers at the present day.

The wealth of Roumania is dependent primarily and essentially upon agriculture. With a total area of about 13,000,000 hectares, 9,970,000 or over 75 per cent. were productive, and on an average about 6,000,000 cultivated or lying fallow. With a population of about 7¼ millions, well over 60 per cent. were directly engaged in agricultural pursuits before the war, and some 1,200,000 families farmed their own holdings. In 1913 the land was broken up into 1,144,000 holdings of which 3,500, or a little over 3 per cent. were cultivated by large farmers of more than 100, and 1,140,500 by small farmers with less than 10 hectares. There was thus a very wide gap between the small peasant proprietor on the one hand, whose holdings did not in fact average more than 4 hectares and the large farmer on the other, often a Jew, with farms which in 1913 averaged 484 hectares. Since the revolution of 1907 there has been, moreover, a steady increase in the number of peasants' holdings, an increase largely accounted for by direct acquisition of the land farmed.

The extent to which Roumania is dependent on agriculture for her economic prosperity may perhaps best be gauged by the following table showing the quinquennial value of her total exports and her exports of cereals.

(In millions of francs).

	Total exports.	Export of cereals.	Percentage of total.
1894-8	280	230	82
1899-03	303	217	72
1904-8	428	340	79·5
1909-13	617	468	76
Average	407	314	77

The relatively low percentage which cereals constituted of the total exports during the five years 1899-03 was mainly due to the disastrous harvest in the first of those years. The drop in the last quinquennium was due to the extraordinary increase in the output of petrol. With practically no coal or metals it would seem inevitable that Roumania should continue indefinitely to rely on agriculture and the petroleum industry as her main sources of wealth. But it is possible, that with the popularisation of Diesel engines and the large domestic supplies of petrol the manufacture of goods not requiring bulky raw materials may be developed. Up to the outbreak of war, however, in spite of the vigorous protectionist policy which culminated in the almost prohibitive tariff of 1906 Roumania remained practically dependent on foreign countries for manufactured articles. With the exception of the soap, wood and paper industries, a few cotton mills and hosiery factories, a few boot and shoe factories and the hand work of the peasants and the village smiths, Roumanian industry was negligible.

This fact is of importance for two reasons. It means in the first place that the international economic position of Roumania, her power to purchase and her power to borrow, must depend wholly on the extent and value of her agricultural produce and her petroleum, and that in consequence the policy which is adopted by the great grain importing countries of Europe is of the utmost importance to her. It means in the second place that both the weight and the cubic capacity of her exports must greatly exceed those of her imports.

If England, France and the other grain importing countries of the world determine after the cessation of hostilities to adopt the policy of the agrarian party in Germany, and endeavour to safeguard themselves against the possibility of starvation in the event of another war by producing behind secure tariff walls their requisite supply of wheat, then Roumania will be one of the first countries to suffer. The effect of such a policy will no doubt not be felt during the first year or two of peace while tonnage is still scarce and the world's food supply inadequate. But ultimately it would necessitate a further extension of the acreage under maize and more severe competition with the Argentine, the United States of America and other maize growing countries.

The total weight of Roumania's exports in 1913 exceeded 4½ million metric tons; her imports did not amount to 1½ million. As the exports increase year by year, since the average weight of any given value of exports always exceeds the average weight of the same value of imports the difference between the export and import total weights tends to increase. The result of this difference is to give an advantage so far as the heavier articles purchased by Roumania are concerned to those countries lying along, the main shipping routes. Thus during the five years 1904-8 the United Kingdom accounted for 28.76 per cent. of the weight and only 15.35 per cent. of the value of Roumania's imports, whereas Germany, whose trade was largely over the land routes, accounted for 14.87 per cent. of the weight and 31.71 per cent. of the value. The natural advantage which this country thus possessed has, however, been more than counter-balanced by Germany's energy and determination in her struggle to capture the Roumanian market, with the result that in the last two years of peace the weight percentages were 26.64 and 19.41 for England as against Germany's 27.34 and 26.71. Germany's success is further well illustrated by the statistics showing the growth of the more important inland custom centres. About 73 per cent. of the total weight and 57 per cent. of the total value of her imports in the year 1913 reached Roumania through six towns. Of these six three were situate on her western and northern frontiers—namely, Burdejeni, lying on the main line from Lemberg to Galati; Predeal, lying on the main line from Buda-Pest to Bucharest, and Varciorova, at the mouth of the Iron Gates. Together these three accounted for 31 per cent. of the weight and 29 per cent. of the value of the total imports, an increase of nearly one hundred per cent. since 1909. Of the imports entering through these three towns by far the most important were manufactures of metal, which amounted to 68 million francs out of a total of 171 million francs. It is, perhaps, regrettable that there is no representative of the British consular service at any one of these three towns, for while the overland trade has been thus developing 51 steam vessels with a total tonnage of 137,575 tons entered the three main ports of Roumania, Braila, Constanza and Sulina, from the United Kingdom in ballast in the year 1913 against 58 with a tonnage of only 111,887 tons with cargo.

EGYPTIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 19.

Imports of Seed Potatoes.

A large consignment of 2,000 tons of potatoes arrived recently at Alexandria, and is being distributed for seed purposes by the delegate of the military authorities and Ministry of Agriculture to agriculturists on the condition that the latter will deliver from their crop to the military authorities four cantars to each cantar of seed. Of these four cantars, three only will be paid for at the rate of 44 piastres per cantar. While protecting their interests the military authorities are at the same time serving those of the country.

Limitation of Cotton Acreage.

The Government has decided that not more than one-third of the cultivable area shall be put this year under cotton, as last year, and a Sultanian decree will shortly be promulgated to this effect. The public is warned that the Government is firmly determined this year to see that the dispositions of the new decree shall be rigidly enforced, and that any infraction shall be dealt with with the utmost severity allowed by the decree. Cultivators will be grievously disappointed if they expect the leniency shown to them last year.

It is announced that the fellah has full liberty to sell his cotton where he pleases as heretofore, and that both large and small cotton merchants will continue the same system as had been followed by them before the taking over of the cotton crop by his Majesty's Government. Of course, the small cultivators will be well-advised to sell their cotton at the halakas, where Government supervision protects them against fraudulent dealings in regard to weight, quality, etc. At the large halakas samples of the cotton to be bought by the Government will be exhibited, with the price of each quality; and every facility will be afforded the fellah for the inspection of these samples.

The Principal Cereal Merchants Association.

This association met last week under the presidency of Mr. Ross-Taylor, and after discussing and approving the various amendments in the regulations embodied in the constitution framed for the Principal and Provincial Associations (formerly called Syndicates), sanctioned the amended draft, which, after going into print, will receive the final sanction of the Supply Control Board. Having ended their labours, the members of the Principal Association, who are the presidents of the Provincial Associations, have returned to assume their duties in their respective Mudiriehs or Governorates. The principal amendments related to the following matters. The applicant for a general permit has to pay a permit fee of £E2, and another entrance fee of the same amount; while for the special permit the fee is half an Egyptian pound and the entrance fee as much. The merchant elected to the Provincial Association has to pay a subscription fee of £E3. Only holders of general permits may be candidates or electors. Holders of special permits are debarred from the right of election. The term of office of the Presidents of the Provincial Associations expires after two years; while the term for one half of the members is one year, after which, however, they are liable to re-election. Then the turn of the other half comes. Millers may be granted general permits against the payment of the prescribed fee of £E2 and £E2 entrance fee. The Provincial Associations have to contribute 20 per cent. of their revenue to the Principal Association to cover expenses incurred on their behalf. In case of dissolution the Principal Association's decision will be final as to the disposal of the assets of these provincial bodies. The Principal Association will meet once in the last week of each month, and the travelling expenses of the members will be met by their respective associations.

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A Royal decree authorises an expenditure of £720,000 for beginning the construction of a railway in Italian Somaliland about 250 miles long from Port Mogadiscin, running north and west to Lugh, on the Jub river, on the confines of British East Africa.

THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Inauguration of Tour.

The Greek Commercial Mission, which reached this country on September 13, has spent the first few days of its tour in London, where the delegates have been entertained at a number of important functions, notably the dinner given in their honour on September 16 by the Government at the Carlton Hotel, which may be said to have marked the official opening of their tour. On the morning of that day the delegates began their inspection of British manufactures with a visit to the Osram Robertson Lamp Works carried on at Hammersmith by the General Electric Company. Luncheon at Claridge's Hotel followed, presided over by Mr. Hirst, the chairman of the company. at which M. Michalocopoulos, speaking on behalf of the visitors, said the political relations of Britain and Greece would be perceptibly strengthened by the measure and force of our commercial friendship. The following day the delegates were the guests at luncheon of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, and in the evening were entertained at dinner at the Ritz Hotel by the Federation of British Industries. On September 18 a visit was paid to Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Ltd., Erith, and yesterday the delegates left London for Birmingham on a tour of inspection of the leading provincial centres of manufactures, which will last until October 17, when the delegates will be in London for a few hours prior to visiting Bristol. Their final visit to London will take place about a week later.

Mr. Balfour's Welcome to Delegates.

At the dinner at the Carlton Hotel on September 16 the chair was taken by Mr. Balfour, and among the company were M. Michalocopoulos, M. Gennadius, M. Caclamanos, M. Empiricos, M. Skintzopoulos, M. Zamanos, M. Oeconomides, M. Damala, M. Tsitis, M. Malikopoulos, M. Kazazes, Colonel Phranzis, M. K. Collas, M. K. Venizelos, Sir Richard Vassar-Smith, Sir Robert Hadfield, Sir A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P., Sir William Clark, Sir Algernon Firth, Sir Francis Barker, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Dundas, Sir Francis Elliot, Sir A. H. Dixon, Sir William Peat, Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir E Wyldbore Smith, Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., Mr. A. T. Waugh, Mr. Guy Locock, Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Mr. E. H. Mulock, Mr. C. Tennyson, Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Mr. Edmund Hill, Mr. H. W. Babington-Browne, Mr. R. S. Rowell, Mr. H. T. Montague Bell, Mr. Philip Lockhart, Mr. E. Fitzjohn Oldham, Mr. F. W. Gilbertson, Mr. W. Hill, and Mr. C. W. Coop.

Mr. Balfour, proposing the toast of "Our Guests," said:—I feel it a peculiar privilege to have been given the opportunity of welcoming, not merely on behalf of the Foreign Office, but on behalf of the Government, on behalf of the country, this most important deputation—this most important mission—a mission, I believe, exceeded in importance by none that has ever left the shores of Greece. Great Britain—I think I may say it will be admitted by our friends from Greece—Great Britain from the very earliest days of Greek independence has been one of the most ardent, one of the most faithful, and one of the most disinterested of Greece's friends. We have seen and rejoiced in the liberation of Greece from her Turkish oppressors. We have watched with pride the way in which Greece has worked out, and is working out, her own destiny, and taking her fitting place among the free and civilised nations of the world. We all feel a friendly feeling towards Greece at any time and every time. We feel a peculiar satisfaction at the moment when our soldiers are fighting shoulder to shoulder with your soldiers against a common foe. I have just received information that the offensive on the Greco-Bulgarian front has apparently begun, that French and Serbian troops have advanced on a front of 15 kilometres between the Vardar and the Cerna, taking the first and second line trenches, taking various hills of tactical importance, and up to date 800 prisoners and ten guns have already been captured. You have come here on a special business. You have come here to draw closer the commercial relations between Greece and Great Britain. I welcome you on this, the beginning of your tour throughout the country, in which I hope you will have an opportunity of seeing what we can manufacture. Our manufacturing skill and inventive enterprise are at this moment directed mainly, if not entirely, to the labour of producing instruments of destruction—an occupation odious, but made absolutely necessary in the interests of human liberty and human progress. Nevertheless, I hope and believe that what you see will give you some idea of the manufacturing energies of the country, even though the direction in which these energies are at this moment devoted is chiefly ships of war, and no doubt ships of commerce, aeroplanes, destructive chemicals, guns, shells, and all the other paraphernalia of modern slaughter. I sincerely believe that when the time comes you will leave this country feeling that you have left friends behind you, and not only left friends, sympathisers with Greece, lovers of your country, and admirers of her past, but those with whom it will be useful and profitable in the business sense, and as much or more in the moral and sentimental sense, to have business dealings in the future. After all, between nations like ourselves, the bonds of union are not to be merely the bonds of personal friendship, not merely the bonds of sympathy, but the day-to-day bonds of common work, common enterprise, and common energy. I am convinced that this visit will produce admirable fruit in these directions.

M. Michalocopoulos, in replying, said German intrigue and despotism had attempted, by all means possible, to prevent Greece from taking part in this war of liberation. But the efforts of Greece had been successful because of the protection given her by Great Britain and France. Barbarism was already beaten, and would be beaten still more thoroughly. He was full of confidence that commercial relations between Great Britain and Greece would be promoted, and he had the firmest faith in final victory.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, in a characteristically happy speech, declared that there was no agency better suited to promote British trade in the Balkans and in Asia Minor than his own people, not only because they were good traders, but because they were wise traders, and they had never adopted the pernicious, insidious, and dishonest methods of the Germans. Without entering into the question of Free Trade or Protection, they intended to establish in Greece what he might call unfettered trade—a trade based upon the principle of live and let live.

At the Guildhall.

The Lord Mayor entertained the Greek commercial delegates at luncheon at the Mansion House on September 17, when in addition to the members of the mission those present included Sir A. Steel Maitland, M.P., and the Hon. W. Pember Reeves. Proposing the health of the delegates the Lord Mayor said they had already received a national welcome from Mr. Balfour, but the City also desired to offer a welcome on its own account. They were welcomed not only for industrial reasons but as Allies bound by the ties of a common determination to accomplish the same lofty purposes in the prosecution of the present tragic conflict. He felicitated Greece on its rescue from the degradation into which it was being led by an apostate and degenerate Monarch, and said that the two countries, hand in hand, would prosecute the struggle, not listening to overtures for a dishonourable and ignominious peace.

M. Gennadius, who replied, said this was the first commercial delegation from Greece to England in modern times. Long before the Christian era a body of Greeks, oppressed by the Persians, founded the colony of Massilia, the modern Marseilles, much in the same way as the Pilgrim Fathers went to New England. In that new home there were vague rumours about the existence of islands in the north, and Greek navigators, under the leadership of Pytheus, set out to discover them. The result was that trade was opened up with the British Isles. That, indeed, was the first, as this was the second, delegation sent by the Greeks to Britain, and he hoped the result of the latter would be no less important than that of the former.

M. Michalocopoulos, who also acknowledged the toast, spoke of the resolve of Greece to resist the insidious and pernicious penetration of Germany.

The Federation's Dinner.

The Federation of British Industries, at whose invitation the delegates have come to this country, entertained the mission at dinner at the Ritz Hotel on September 17, the chair being occupied by Sir Richard Vassar-Smith. The Chairman, in proposing the health of the delegates, said that Great Britain as a nation might pride herself upon the fact that, in extending her trade with a foreign country, she had never been guilty of ulterior motives, and had never wished to impose her domination upon any other country. In Greece this was recognised, and their guests knew that in Great Britain they would obtain co-operation on absolutely equal terms. Their guests would visit some of the largest industrial works in the world, and would see that Great Britain, even in the midst of this world war, had not lost her place amongst the industrial nations of the world. It was to Britain's interest to maintain the closest touch with Greece, because Greece, commercially speaking, was one of the strategic points of the Balkans. It was also to the advantage of Greece to maintain close relations with Britain, because the two countries could be of mutual assistance to each other. But, quite apart from the question of interest, the people of these islands had a peculiar affection for Greece. He proposed to send to M. Venizelos a telegram from the Federation welcoming the delegates, expressing thanks for the support the Greek Prime Minister had given to the tour, and promising to do its utmost to render the tour of common benefit to the two countries.

M. Caclamanos, who first replied, said Britain and Greece, though separated by a continent, were joined by a close affinity of character. Nowhere was the spirit of ancient Greece better understood than in England. Shakespeare was the complement of the great Greek tragedians, and our logicians were the complements of Aristotle. The ties of affinity had been strengthened in many ways during the last hundred years. When in Greece anybody wished to praise a given article he always said: "Oh, it must have been made in England." That opened the way to the extension of British trade in Greece.

M. Caclamanos, who first replied, said they had been called upon to make so many speeches lately that really he and his colleagues ought to strike. He therefore gave notice that this was their last appearance—in London.

M. Michalocopoulos, who also responded to the toast, said that but for the war that gathering would not have happened. Germany provoked the war. She had all the liberty for commerce, banking, export, even for the export of German Princes, that any country could desire. She ought to have been content but was not. She was jealous of British financial superiority. She wanted to dominate the world politically and enslave it. Would the free nations allow Germany to enter after the war as before? The commercial policy of the Allied nations depended entirely on that of Great Britain and America.

EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES DURING MAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 20.

According to the State accounts just published revenue during May amounted to £E2,113,281, compared with £E1,866,151 in the same month last year, whilst expenditure came to £E2,589,359, as against £E2,131,129. At the end of the two months there was therefore a deficit of £E82,883, as compared with one of £E442,109 on May 31, 1917.

The chief heads of revenue during the month were direct taxes £E462,434, customs £E371,705, tobacco dues £E175,364, railways £E473,951, ghaffir cess £E139,579, mixed courts £E91,260, State domains £E62.308. On the other hand the main items of expenditure were public debt £E1,314.827, railways £E369.149, irrigation £E94.598, ghaffirs £E65,018, War Office £E64,289, war gratuities £E46.425, civil pensions, etc., £E42,356, police £E41,232, public health £E41,571.

EGYPT'S TRADE DURING FIRST HALF OF 1918.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 14.

The Egyptian Customs returns for the first half of the current year reveal an enormous expansion in the foreign trade of this country. Imports came to £E24,390,907, and exports to £E26,933,575, compared with £E14,427,173 and £E20,963,806 at the same date a year ago. Thus there is an increase of £E9,963,734, or about 70 per cent. in imports, and one of £E5,969,769, or about 30 per cent. in exports during the six months, with, incidentally, a reduction in the balance of trade in favour of the country of about four million pounds.

The principal imports during the half-year have been :—Preserved meat, £E480,366 (a reduction of £E153,372); hides, skins, and leather goods, £E211,681 (an increase of about 50 per cent.); flour, £E306,245; dried fruits, £E185,626; rice, £E30,899 (a reduction of £E214,401); sugar, £E356,900; coffee, £E364,024; tea, £E200,291 (increases of £E200,481, £E91,745, and £E29,435 respectively); wines, £E145,822 (an increase of £E56,004); spirits, £E193,416 (an increase of £E96,205); vegetable oils, £E305,989 (an increase of £E235,480); petroleum, £E25,447 (a decrease of £E288,697); paper and printed matter, £E814,218 (an increase of £E550,053); coal, £E2,900,620 (an increase of £E1,384,702 in value, and of 15,179 tons in quantity); glass and crystalware, £E175,858 (an increase of £E120,305); matches, £E282,592 (an increase of £E227,193); chemical products, £E330,198 (an increase of £E201,264); manures, £E5,183 (a decrease of £E369,468); soap, £E173,315 (an increase of £E115,517; iron and steel, £E999,701 (an increase of £E504,743); machinery, £E365,059 (an increase of £E154,800); and tobacco, £E1,401,464 (a decrease of £E188,592).

Textile Imports Doubled.

Textile imports improved from £E5,016,322 to £E11,616,834. The chief item under this category was cotton piece goods, which rose from £E3,281,090 to £E7,241,117; other important items were: Cotton thread, £E636,131 (an increase of £E342,532); woollen textiles, £E487,610 (an increase of £E229,648); raw silk and silk thread, £E266,335 (an increase of £E184,979); sacks, £E792,257 (an increase of £E554,026 in value and of 5,912 tons in quantity; ready made clothing, £E174,814 (an increase of £E135,821); ready made underclothing, £E639,485 (an increase of £E453,328); silks and ribbons, £E381,598 (an increase of £E252,714); and textiles of mixed yarns, £E261,145 (an increase of £E130,554).

Under exports, cotton constituted the largest item, and, indeed, accounted for the whole of the increase in the total. Cotton exports came to £E22,901,145, as against £E16,700,421 at the end of June, 1917, and the increase in quantity amounted to over 1,000,000 cantars. The other important items were :—Eggs, £E254,717 (a decrease of £E49,682, but the quantity fell off by 50 per cent.); hides and skins, £E288,053; rice, £E102 231; sugar, £E378,868 (a decrease of £E156,062); gum, £E223,249 (an increase of £E75,428); cotton seed, £E1,832,329 (an increase of £E609,784). No cotton cake was exported Maize exports fell off by £E104,241 to £E13,684; onions by £E187,354 to £E84,396; cotton seed oil by £E45,613 to £E23,264; wool by £E42,483 to £E50,241. Cigarette exports increased from £E202,623 to £E260,596.

Trade within the Empire.

Turning to the share falling to each of the foreign countries trading with Egypt, we find that the British Empire accounted for 75 per cent. of the imports, and took a little under that proportion of the exports. The chief items under imports were boots and shoes, candles, rice, wheat flour, coffee, tea, beer, spirits, and soap, cotton yarn, cotton thread in spools, cotton piece goods, woollen textiles, sacks, manufactured iron and steel, and iron and steel hoops; in the latter eight categories the Empire was practically supreme. Under exports, all the eggs, cotton seed, wool, nearly 90 per cent. of the onions, 40 per cent. of the gum, and about 70 per cent. of the cotton went to the United Kingdom.

Of the other importing countries, France practically doubled her share to £E819,716, Italy increased hers to £E1,066,392, Japan hers to £E1,051,807 (from £E167,977, mainly textiles and tobacco); and Sweden and Switzerland showed moderate expansion. The United States fell off by two-thirds to £E176,726; Greece by a similar amount to £E930,385; and China doubled her sales to £E506,843. Under exports, Greece was the only other country showing any appreciable increase, her share rising from £E199,176 to £E428,457 (mostly hides and skin and cotton). The United States, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, and Switzerland all had marked decreases.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan flourished during the half-year, the imports from the latter rising from £E150,195 to £E254,210, and the exports in the opposite direction from £E131,172 to £E207,110. Imports of live stock into Egypt increased from £E189,449 to £E433,418 (50 per cent. per head); hides and skins rose from £E29,618 to £E68,739; gum from £E46,241 to £E226,283; but maize fell off by about 50 per cent. to £E155,803 (about two-thirds less in quantity), and cotton decreased from £E210,099 to £E50,424 (the quantity was about 25 per cent. of that of the previous year). The chief exports from Egypt into the Sudan were :—Sugar, £E289,240 (against £E160,865): cotton piece goods, £E241,658 (against £E157,302); tobacco, £E89,028; and sacks, £E77,037.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Motor-Boats for Greece.

It has frequently been stated, even by firms which specialise in motor-boats and launches, that there is little if any opening for these goods in Greece and the Levant coast generally. As a matter of fact nothing is more erroneous, for Greece in recent years has been an importer of motor-boats on an important scale. Greece, with her numerous isles so closely spread all over the Ægean Sea on the east and the Ionian Sea on the west, is considered a veritable paradise for the motor-boat sailor. As soon as the war is over there will be a great demand for motor-boats and launches not only in Greece but all along the Levant. The British firms which are first to make a bid for this trade will acquire an enviable position, owing to the unquestionable superiority of the British article, which is fully recognised in those regions. Egypt and the Sudan also offer exceptional opportunities for the sale of motor-boats and launches. There are the Nile in Egypt, the numerous irrigation canals in the Delta, and the tributaries of the Nile in the Sudan. According to a commercially interested tourist, who has spent days in the Delta on the various canals, and has been towed in a barge from one country seat to another in a mule or donkey hauled barge, the rich fellah would take to the motor-launch as the Venetian nobleman took to the gondola, but he suggests that in order to obtain this result the market needs working. As for the Nile in Egypt it already teems with motor-boats, and their number will rapidly increase after the war. It must be mentioned that French, Italian, and American firms were very energetic before the war in this line of business throughout the Near East, and have, apparently, been satisfied with the results, for they seem already to be prepared to renew their activities after the war.

Boilers and Engines.

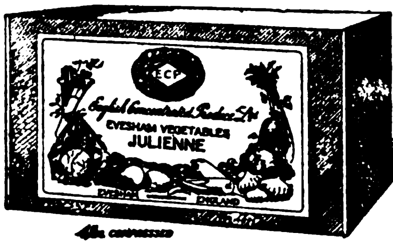
In a foreign consular report "the importance of the Greek market for boilers and all kinds of engine accessories" was pointed out to manufacturers and others, with the assertion that the demand for machinery will be brisk owing to the important works contemplated, and to the eventual development of certain local industries. It is natural that, in the present circumstances, and in view of the forthcoming trade-struggle, every manufacturing country should look out for markets with the best possibilities for business, and Greece as well as other Balkan States will, of course, attract the attention of these countries, allied or friendly, as good markets. With reference to boilers and engines, there is no doubt that there will be a great demand for them, but manufacturers should be reminded that a considerable part of it will be from inland or hilly districts, and firms which can supply boilers and engines that can be easily transported into these districts will have better opportunities in such cases. The want of suitable roads for vehicular traffic, and the conveyance of heavy machinery is often responsible for the backward condition of many rich and fertile agricultural districts in the Near East, and it is known that the difficulty of transport more than the want of means has been impeding the introduction of mechanical means for the development of the industrial and agricultural resources of inland or hilly districts. A machine whose heaviest part is over three or four hundredweight is beyond the available local means of transport through narrow, hilly paths, and, of course, the handling of a solid steam boiler of, say, even three or four horse-power, is out of the question. In recent years some French, Swiss, and American firms introduced certain designs of sectional boilers which facilitated the erection of such boilers of large power in districts where but a few years ago it would have been thought an impossibility. In this country, however, although machines and even engines can be procured with light detachable parts for such transport, there are only one or two types of detachable boilers which are known and have been tried in some of the hilly Near Eastern districts, but the results, it is said, have not been quite satisfactory. Since then other designs have come out, and the old have been improved, and manufacturers of these sectional boilers should give special attention to the markets in the Near East, and bring their productions to the notice of the people there, giving full particulars of the advantages offered by their goods. The results will undoubtedly be satisfactory, for any machine or mechanical appliance of British construction has always a preference there. It would be an advantage if the weight of the heaviest part of such sectional boilers were mentioned in advertisements or correspondence.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The strike in the spinning section of the industry has overshadowed all other matters in the market this week. Negotiations for a settlement have taken place in the Manchester Town Hall, and continued at the Board of Trade and Ministry of Labour in London, and it is expected that before the end of the week the dispute wil be over. Naturally trade has been thoroughly disorganised. Neither buyers nor sellers have been prepared to enter into transactions of importance. A slump has occurred in American cotton rates as a result of the United States Government deciding to investigate the question of fixing prices. There is no setback to the healthy outlook for the Egyptian growth. Most producers of Egyptian yarns have refused to quote. In view of the output not being equal to the requirements of users, the stoppage of the mills for a few days is a very serious matter. The execution of Government contracts is being delayed. Business in piece goods for Egypt has been somewhat interfered with by the Jewish holidays. A considerable inquiry has again been met with, and it seems almost impossible to satisfy the wants of dealers in Cairo. Only occasional bids have been mentioned in cloth for India. Trade in American yarns has been almost at a standstill. Spinners when they have sold have demanded very full prices. There has been no activity whatever in export yarns. On Wednesday the operatives on strike decided to recommend the branches to accept the Prime Minister's proposal to return to work and submit the matters in dispute to an independent tribunal. It was agreed to meet again on Friday. There is every probability of work being resumed on Monday.



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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 states that the Ottoman Government still remains in possession of the railway and its revenues. In accordance with the scheme approved by share and debenture holders in June, 1915, debenture interest has been since met by the issue of deferred certificates. That scheme covered a priod of three years only, and it became necessary to make other arrangements to take its place in consequence of the continuance of the war. A new scheme was accordingly submitted, and was unanimously adopted. It was framed in the main on the lines of that of 1915, but its term was fixed at eighteen calendar months from the half-yearly day of payment of interest on the first and second debenture stocks which shall first occur after the termination of the present war, and it further provided that while deferred certificates shall not be issued to debenture holders during the continuance of the scheme, their claims for interest shall be satisfied on its conclusion by payment in cash or by conversion into stock with simple interest at 5 per cent. The scheme also enables the council to make use of the small remaining balance of the reserve fund for meeting the necessary expenses of the London office and the allowances to the leading members of the Smyrna staff now in this country. The council have decided to convert the deferred debenture interest certificates already issued under the 1915 scheme into 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. debenture stock, and this will be carried into effect as soon as the rate of income-tax and its method of payment have been arranged with the Inland Revenue. Meeting, Winchester, House, E.C., 24th instant, noon.

Bank of Bombay.

The net profit for the past half-year amounted to Rs16,19,841, to which has to be added the balance brought forward, Rs3,27,470. A dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, is recommended, and a bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, free from income tax; also a special jubilee bonus at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, free from income tax; transferred to reserve fund, Rs5,00,000; to pension fund, Rs.50,000; carry-forward, Rs4,97,312.

Bengal Iron and Steel.

At separate general meetings of the holders of the founders' and ordinary shares of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, and also at an extraordinary meeting on September 18 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. William Turner MacLellan, C.B.E. (the chairman and managing director), presiding, the resolutions passed at meetings held on August 29 last approving (subject to the sanction of the Court) the scheme for the reorganisation of the share capital by the consolidation of the ordinary and founders' shares into one class of ordinary shares were unanimously confirmed.

Bengal United Tea.

The report of the Bengal United Tea Company states that a dividend is recommended of 10 per cent. (20s. per share), less tax, on ordinary shares for year; £4,048 forward. Last year, 20 per cent., making 25 per cent. for year; £5,000 written off Chundowa Garden; £2,000 to hail reserve fund; £11,980 forward, subject to war tax.

Barsi Light Railway.

The directors of the Barsi Light Railway Company, after transferring £1,035 to reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, etc., recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent. (6s. per share), making a total distribution of 6 per cent. for the year to March 31 last.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.—On 30th inst. dividend at 5½ per cent. per annum on Preference shares, less tax at 5s. 6d. in the £, for six months to June 30 last, will be paid at Glyn Mills Currie and Co., London, against coupon No. 40. Transfer books will be closed from 23rd to 30th instant, inclusive.

The directors of the National Bank of India have declared an ad interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

The directors of the General Ceylon Rubber and Tea Estates have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on account of 1918, payable October 15, free of tax.

The numbers are announced of Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway Four and a-Half per Cent. bonds drawn for repayment at par on October 15, at Messrs. R. Rapnael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.2.

The directors of the Mysore Gold Mining Company have declared an interim dividend of 2s. 6d. per share (less tax at 5s. 9d. in £) on account of the year ending December 31 next, payable on October 12 to holders registered 18th instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah.—Production for the week, 21 tons (against 21 tons). Hurghada.—Production for the week, 20,270 tons (against 2,717 tons).

British Burmah Petroleum.—Production by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 80,589 barrels for August.

CYPRUS OIL TRUST.

The following circular has been issued to shareholders of the Cyprus Oil Trust, Ltd. :—

I am pleased to inform you that arrangements have just been concluded for providing further working capital and proceeding at the earliest possible date with the work on the company's properties. Pending the acquisition of proper drilling plant, instructions have been given to our representative in Cyprus, Mr. Samuel Perkes, F.R.G.S., to recommence the sinking of the hand-dug wells, in order to prove the existence of oil in the new areas. You are probably aware that eighteen hand-dug wells have already been sunk on the properties, and limestone impregnated with petroleum of high quality has been met with. As can be seen from the following extract from the report of Dr. Arthur Wade, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.C.S., the existence of oil is practically certain. He describes the formation as—"A gigantic anticline, evidently parallel with the main line of structure in the neighbouring districts of Asia Minor (the mainland, distance 40 miles). The structure of the central limestone axis here is that of a huge fan-shape fold. The chief evidences of petroleum products are in the great limestone series. It is frequently a dense black crystalline limestone which smells strongly of bituminous matter when broken. Its black colour is due to the presence of hydro-carbons, which are volatilised when the limestone fragments are submitted to heat." A portion of the impregnated limestone taken from one of the hand-dug wells has been analysed by Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., who states in his certificate that it contains petroleum of high quality. We would remind shareholders that the five properties over which the company hold licenses from the Cyprus Government to prospect for oil extend to an area of 1,260 acres.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Foreign Trade Department has just issued a new consolidating list containing the names of over 3,500 persons and firms with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade under the Trading with the Enemy (Statutory List) Proclamation. Although the statutory list has now been in existence for nearly two years, cases still come to the notice of the Foreign Trade Department in which firms are corresponding with persons on the statutory list, and they not infrequently give as an excuse that they have never heard of the list. It is important that everyone engaged in foreign trade should realise that he is under an obligation to make himself familiar with the statutory list and to observe it in his dealings. Failure in this respect renders him liable to the heavy penalties provided by the Trading with the Enemy Acts, and these apply to holding any communication whatever with anybody on the statutory list and not merely to entering into an agreement or continuing to carry on business with such persons. The statutory list is published at intervals in a consolidated form and additions are made approximately at intervals of a fortnight. Copies may be obtained at a small cost from the Superintendent of Publications, His Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

Advices from Paris state that negotiations are taking place for the issue of a Roumanian loan of two milliards of lei.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Contributions to the Second Indian War Loan amount to more than 30 crores of rupees.

According to information from Bâle, the new Turkish loan concluded at Berlin amounts to £T45,000,000.

A recent forecast puts the Greek currant crop at 140,000 tons. In addition 40,000 tons of last year's crop are available for export.

The charter of the Bank of Algeria will expire at the end of 1920, and a Bill has been introduced into the French Chamber for a renewal for 25 years.

The Turkish member of Parliament Nuri has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for illegal speculations in sugar. This is the first time, it is stated, that a Turkish deputy has so been punished.

The Punjab Government have under consideration proposals for providing additional bridges on the Kangra Valley cart road and improvements to the Pathankot-Dalhousie Road in the Gurdaspur district.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Burma has rejected an appeal for clemency on behalf of A. F. Mathol, a Dutch subject, who was sentenced to three months' simple imprisonment for concealment of enemy assets.

A notification has appeared in the Ceylon *Government Gazette*, stating that the export duties on copra and coconut oil, previously suspended to June 1, have been suspended from that date for a further period of six months under the same terms and conditions.

According to the Vienna *Zeit*, the Hungarian wheat crop is very poor, probably half a million tons less than in 1917. The maize prospects are said to be very good, and the potato crop is estimated at four million tons. Peas, beans and other vegetable crops, and the fruit crops, are all extremely good.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 11:—

Rainfall is general. Floods are continuing in Bengal.

Fine broach September delivery quoted 922 Rs. a candy. Piece goods market steady, though certain staple styles have experienced a fall. The resolution on cloth control caused a fall in local and Japanese goods.

A bill to take powers to provide for cheap supply of cotton cloth for poorer classes was introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council on September 4. A full copy is following by post. A Bill to regulate trade in non-ferrous metals has been introduced into the Legislative Council.

The Indian Tea Association is pressing for the prohibition of import into India of Java tea.

RAILWAYS IN MOROCCO.

There is some talk, says a Paris contemporary, of establishing five principal lines in Morocco, one of which will start from Tangiers to Fez. Four other lines, forming a total of 600 kilometres, in Western Morocco, will permit of rapid connection between Rabat and Casablanca on the one hand and the important towns of the interior, such as Fez and Tangiers, on the other. The fifth line—300 kilometres long—will start from Fez, at the entrance of Eastern Morocco, as far as the Algerian frontier, where it will connect with the Algerian system, which will allow of expeditious relations beween Casablanca and Tunis.

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:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
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(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Business again this week in Egyptian shares has been exceedingly restricted. The Egyptian buyers have practically not been in evidence at all, and here there have only been a few scattered local transactions. In Government stocks there is absolutely no change to record.

Amongst Bank shares, Nationals are ⅛ down at 20¾, while Agriculturals have improved 1-16 to 7 1-16 on some local inquiry. The other bank shares have remained stationary. In Railways, Egyptian Delta Light Prefs. are 1-16 quieter at 7 7-16.

Amongst Land descriptions there have been small transactions in Aboukirs round the current level, and Delta Lands have changed hands in a small way at a decline of 3d. to 16s. 6d. For Egyptian and Foreign Trusts there has been some demand and a fair amount of business round the current price. In New Egyptians there is a fractional decline of 3d. to 22s., with a certain amount of business passing. Union Foncières are 6d. quieter at 73s. 3d., but orders to buy these shares for Egyptian account at slightly under the present price are in the market. United Egyptian Lands are slightly easier at 2s. 6¾d.

In Miscellaneous descriptions, apart from a reaction of 1s. 6d. in Khedivial Mails to 61s., there is no change to report.

In Greek securities the market has continued a buoyant one, and a fair amount of business has been transacted in the 1884, 1890, Monopoly and Rente loans, the higher prices having brought in some sellers. The 1881 and 1884 Loans close 3 points up at 75. The 1890 Loan has risen 4 points and also stands at 75. As regards Monopolies, an advance of 1½ to 68½ has to be recorded, and Rentes have risen one point to 59. A similar advance of one point has taken place in the 1902 Loans to 69. In Greek banks, Ionians are ⅛ up at 5½.

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EAST INDIAN COTTON.

The following are the new regulations respecting the purchase and sale of East Indian cotton :—

Official Values and Maximum Prices.—The official values of East Indian cotton on and after August 30 will be based on the f.o.b. prices ruling in Bombay for fine M.G. Broach, fine M.G. Oomra (staple), fine M.G. Bengal, and not as heretofore on the official price of middling American. The official values of other growths and grades of East Indian cotton will be fixed on the basis of the official values quoted for the three descriptions named above, and at the differences between growths and grades, as quoted from time to time by the East Indian Quotation Committee.

The official value of fine M.G. Broach will regulate the quotations, and for valuations for Surtee, Cambodia, Tinnivelly, S.G. Dharwar, Comptah, Western, Coconada, and China. The official value of fine M.G. Bengal will regulate the quotations, and for valuations for Bengal and Scinde descriptions.

The deductions to be made to obtain the official value of c.i.f. cotton will be 25 points.

Anyone requiring official values of growths and grades of East Indian descriptions not quoted by the East Indian Quotation Committee should submit samples to the East Indian Appeal Committee of the Liverpool Cotton Association for valuation. The maximum prices allowed are 5 per cent. over the official values.

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EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for ten days ended August 10.

	1917. £E.		1918. £E.
August 1—August 10	6,775	..	9,816
April 1—August 10	72,621	..	100,300

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended September 6. £		1918. Week ended September 5. £
Cattle markets	288	..	530
General markets	414	..	507
Total	702	..	1,037
Total for year	41,581	..	35,280

AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT 3½ per CENT. GUARANTEED BONDS.

The COUPONS falling due on the 1st October, 1918, on these Bonds should be presented for PAYMENT, between the hours of 10 and 2.30 (Saturdays 10 and 12), at the Dividend Pay Office, Bank of England, 3, Princes Street, E.C.2, where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Sept. 11	Sept 18
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	92
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	72	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	72	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	67	68½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	58	59
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	71	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	69
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	75	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7	7 1/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17 7/16	17 7/16
Bank of Athens	£2	4⅞	4⅞
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	5⅜	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅞	20¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7½	7 7/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/-	25/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15⅜	15⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	16/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/7½	13/7½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅝	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/3	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	56/3	56/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	73/9	73/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/8	2/6¾
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	63/9	63/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	62/6	61/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON AUGUST 23.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	20 15/16
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	114½
" " Div.	Frs.	170
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	13
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	15 7/16
" priv.	L.E.	4 31/32
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	187
Bons de Panama	Frs.	182
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	99
" Priv.	Frs.	108
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	113½
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 13/32
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1⅜
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 23/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 9/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	10⅜
Unifiée	L.E.	95
Privilégiée		83
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7 7/16
Nungovich Hotels	£	7 9/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6 15/16
" Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	3 13/32
" Ord		63/10½
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	36
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5¾
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	7½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
" Jouissance	Frs.	185
Egyptian Markets		26/6
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	485xd
" Div.	Frs.	430xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	386
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	6 3/32-1/64
Egyptian Salt and Soda		59/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	755
" Fondateur	Frs.	950
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	390
" 1903 "	Frs.	291
" 1911 "	Frs.	281
United Lands	P.T.	15
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		13/32-1/64

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SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follow on the undermentioned days :—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
September 12, 13, 14	380,000	630,000
September 15	110,000	330,000

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—
BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,
W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,
N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 386.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

If Palestine calls for first mention this week, it is because General Allenby's success marks a stage virtually completed, while in Macedonia the Allies can only be said to be on the threshold of, it is hoped, important developments. The mission of liberation that has taken the British to Syria will not be finished until Aleppo has been reached, for the Lebanon, whose full tale of suffering at the hands of the Turks has yet to be learned, is situated north-west of Damascus. But if, as seems probable, practically the whole of the Turkish army in Syria has been, or is being, accounted for, there can be no very serious difficulties ahead for the Expeditionary force. Aleppo has been the German-Turkish headquarters for the operations in Palestine and Mesopotamia. A certain number of troops will have been retained in the neighbourhood, and it would be unwise to count upon the surrender of the town at the mere appearance of a British force. There is, however, no need for the experiment. The British now have the situation in Syria and Mesopotamia well in hand, and General Allenby and General Marshall have only to co-ordinate their future operations in such a way that the enemy will be unable to make a serious stand at any point south of Asia Minor.

The course of the operations that led to the capture of the bulk of the Turkish Seventh and Eighth Armies is set out elsewhere in this issue. West of the Jordan the process of rounding up enemy companies that have taken refuge in the hills is being carried out, and the tally of the prisoners already reported as having reached 40,000 is still being taken. The pursuit has been transferred to the other side of the Jordan, where the Turkish Fourth Army must be in an unenviable position. Retreat by the Hejaz Railway has been rendered impossible by the cutting of the line at Deraa Junction. The Turks may try to make good their escape in small parties across the desert, working their way northwards to the east of Deraa; but with British and Indian cavalry on their heels and Arab forces hanging on to their flanks the numbers that succeed in getting away ought to be comparatively small. Not the least noticeable feature of General Allenby's brilliant strategy was this accurately timed cutting of the Hejaz Railway at Deraa. From a French contemporary it is now learned that the Arab force to which this task was allotted, comprising Bedouin and Druses, was under the command of Colonel T. E. Lawrence, an officer whose peculiar qualifications for his present work were earlier in the war in danger of being lost sight of in Whitehall routine.

Nothing in connection with the Palestine victory is calculated to give greater satisfaction in India than the tribute paid to the splendid qualities of the Indian troops. The veteran soldiers of India, as Mr. W. T. Massey states, were expected to do well, and have lived up to their high reputation; but the new troops have also "come through the ordeal magnificently and fought like seasoned warriors." The latter are the product of India's special recruiting efforts, and when the new battalions had to be hurried to the Palestine front to take the place of British troops required in France, considerable interest naturally attached to the first test of their fighting value. Divisional commanders state that they are delighted at the Indians' valour under all conditions; they behaved superbly, it is stated, "their only fault being too great eagerness to push on."

Next Sunday is to be marked in the churches throughout the country by a thanksgiving for the deliverance of the Holy Land from the dominion of Turks. The Archbishop of Canterbury has done well to recommend that in this connection it should also be a subject of prayer "that this great victory may prove to be the inauguration of happier days for the land so sacred to us all." It is a prayer in which our Moslem fellow-subjects and our Arab Allies, both of whom have assisted in the liberation of Palestine, can join. The future government of the country will not prove an easy task, unless it can count upon the goodwill and tolerance of the various religious sects. The Turk was incapable of enlightened and progressive administration; but, to give him his due, it has to be admitted that he coped not unsuccessfully with the problem presented by the intermingling of religions at a spot where a vast powder magazine of fanaticism could be fired by the smallest spark. When disturbances have taken place in Jerusalem the fault has not always been on the side of the Moslem. It will be the duty of those responsible for the future administration of Palestine to see that no cause of offence is given to any of the religions to which it is a holy land.

In Macedonia the offensive launched on September 15 has gone forward with terrific momentum. The whole front from west of Monastir to the Struma is now in motion. In the centre the Serbians are astride the Vardar at Gradsko, and have thus driven a wedge into the Bulgarian line. On the west, the Bulgarian forces based on Prilep, which is now in the hands of the French, have the option of trying to outstrip the Serbians in a dash for Uskub, or of seeking refuge in northern Albania. East of the Vardar, where it is probable that the bulk of the enemy's troops were stationed, the Bulgarians offered resistance to the British and Greek forces as long as they dared, and possibly longer than was wise. Their sole line of retreat passes through Strumnitza, and thence on to Ishtip, both of which are threatened by the Serbians from their Vardar bridgeheads. They now run the risk of being caught between converging Allied forces, and if the bulk of them succeed in escaping, it will only be at the expense of much war material, of which the first instalment has already been captured.

The retreat of the Bulgarians in the neighbourhood of Doiran places their forces on the Struma front in an awkward position. To remain where they are will have the effect of immobilising them when the need for reinforcements in Serbia may become acute; to withdraw them up the Struma Valley opens another avenue of advance for the Allies. If disaster should overtake the Bulgarian armies on the Vardar, there can be little doubt that all the troops in occupation of the eastern portion of Greek Macedonia would find themselves urgently needed nearer Sofia. One of the chief preoccupations of the Bulgarian military command at the present moment must be to fix upon a rallying point for their shattered forces, which will at least lend colour to the claims that the withdrawal conforms to some plan. Last week it was suggested that the enemy's main strength was in their front line, and no doubt they had satisfied themselves that it was impregnable. They reckoned without the Serbians. The initial success of the Allies has been such as to justify the greatest possible effort to derive from it the fullest advantages as long as the campaigning season lasts.

The practical value of attempts to gauge the internal situation in enemy countries may be problematical, but we shall not be wrong in ranking the staying power of the Bulgarians some way below that of the Germans. In the first place, they lack the sublime confidence of the Germans in their cause. The latter required no justification for fighting; they were prepared for war and had always intended to declare war as soon as the psychological moment arrived. Only when things began to look ugly was it necessary to discover justifications. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, had to justify their action at the outset. It called for some explanation that they were allied to Turkey and were opposed to the Entente Powers. To some extent their military successes supplied the required justification; but at best these were a poor substitute for a clear-cut issue, and could by no means be guaranteed to remain proof against the assailing doubts engendered by a prolonged war.

Towards the end of August a Bulgarian newspaper urged the necessity of "safeguarding the defensive power of the armed nation." The explanation of the phrase followed: "The soldiers often turn backwards and ask: 'Will the war last long, until when, and why?'" Accordingly it was recommended that prominent public men should proceed to the front to enlighten the troops "on all questions." The system was inaugurated immediately afterwards, and for the sake of the prominent public men it is to be hoped that they were not engaged in their educational task at the moment of the Allied offensive, when the troops turned backwards once more, this time not to ask questions, but to run. The supply of food had become a serious problem, and the Bulgarian lacked the moral incentive to face it as a national duty. The country is normally self-supporting in regard to food supplies; but on August 6 a paper stated: "Many families in Sofia eat only once in twenty-four hours, for the price of foodstuffs does not permit them to make more than one meal." A week later another organ wrote: "For God's sake let eggs be sold at more reasonable prices, as the population has neither meat, nor milk, nor even abundant and cheap vegetables." It is not difficult to understand that, with troops thoroughly war-wearied—for they have been at war virtually since 1912—and with the civilian population suffering from a shortage of food, the *moral* of the country should have been undermined. For this reason the Allied offensive may yet have far-reaching results.

While the success of Allied arms in Macedonia and in Palestine, where a French detachment has co-operated with the British Expeditionary Force, has exceeded expectations, a disappointing check has been experienced in the withdrawal of the British force sent by General Marshall to Baku. Fuller information is required before all the details of the picture can be filled in. The force under General Dunsterville despatched from Enzeli to Baku was not a large one—three units are mentioned, the North Staffords, the Worcestershire Regiment, and the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. In Baku they relied upon the support of about 7,500 Armenians and 3,000 Russians. The former soon proved untrustworthy; on August 17 they refused to fight, and caused the failure of a local attack organised against a Turkish enveloping movement north of Baku. By the end of August the position had become untenable, and on September 1 definite orders were issued for the evacuation of the British troops. The promise of Russian reinforcements from the north and the refusal of the Russian fleet to countenance the British withdrawal prevented this order from being carried out, and it was not until September 15 that, after a fight lasting sixteen hours, "the brunt of which was borne by the British," our troops evacuated Baku.

The official narrative, it has to be admitted, does not afford pleasant reading. General Marshall could not expect to be perfectly informed regarding the situation in Baku. He had to take much on trust, and the principle of sending what help he could was sound. The event has shown that once more a boy was despatched on a man's errand, with the inevitable result. It would have been one of the finest episodes in the war if a British General, with a handful of British troops, had succeeded in organising the mixed population of Baku into a homogeneous army, and had gradually regained Trans-Caucasia for the inhabitants. In the place of this picture we must imagine a town all sixes and sevens, with little cohesion between the elements, whose ostensible purpose was to combine in order to defeat the common enemy. The blame is laid at the door of the Armenians. We may withhold judgment until the full story is known. If treachery there were, it will have profited the authors but little. Baku has been occupied by the Turks, and if it is not actually in flames, we may at least credit the report that represents the town as being handed over to organised pillage and outrage.

The failure at Baku means that there remains yet another portion of mighty Russia waiting to be cleaned up after the Bolshevik orgy. The position in the Caucasus has long been obscure, and the tragedy of Baku has not helped to clarify it. It is known that Trans-Caucasia tried to combine to form a Republic or Federation, and almost immediately dissolved into its component parts. Then followed feverish overtures to Germany and Turkey, with a conference in Constantinople, at which representatives claiming to be duly constituted delegates of their respective peoples foregathered from the Caucasus. The Conference does not seem to have been able to arrive at any understanding, and stood adjourned to enable individual delegates to obtain inspiration or instructions in Berlin. As there were Armenian representatives at the Conference, who made no secret of their readiness to draw up a *modus vivendi* for their own people which should be agreeable to the Turks, it will not appear so strange that Armenians in Baku were led to believe that they might with advantage come to terms with the Turks. They will by now have been undeceived.

Although we can afford to treat the Baku reverse lightly, there must be no repetition of failure further south. As the position is now understood, General Marshall's army holds a line from Baghdad to Enzeli, by way of Kermanshah and Hamadan. The object of that line was not to forward supplies to a handful of men in Baku. It was meant as an impassable barrier to Turco-German designs on Persia and beyond, and for this reason it must be maintained until the barrier has been moved forward or all danger of enemy intrigue in this region has been eliminated. Fortunately, any encouragement that the Turks will have derived from their success on the Caspian Sea must have been damped by the course of events in Palestine and the uncertainty of the position in Macedonia. But it would be a grave misfortune if General Marshall were to feel constrained to remain on the defensive on account of this formidable increase to his lines of communication. There is no indication, as far as is known, of his adopting this attitude, but the Baku incident is a warning against the failure to see that these expeditions are supported to the extent that their commitments render necessary.

Evidently German *Kultur*, which has shown its normal attitude towards women by such actions as the sinking of the Lusitania and its treatment of Edith Cavell and others in Belgium, finds it difficult to reconcile itself to the continued presence of Queen Marie in Roumania. The intrigue against her is taking the usual form. An inspired Berlin telegram reports that an agitation is on foot in the non-occupied parts of Roumania for a renewal of the association of Roumania with the Entente and for a fresh declaration of war against the Central Powers. The soul of the movement, it is stated, is the Queen, who does not conceal her pro-Entente sympathies and feelings. Queen Marie has met this tentative offensive in characteristic fashion. To a Hungarian newspaper representative she has declared: " The accusations that I have been working against the Central Powers do not trouble me at all. I have simply done my duty in encouraging my soldiers, in cheering up a defeated army, and in distributing food and clothes to a starving people. My conscience is clear, and I defy all calumnies. No one can rob me of the love of my people. Our common sufferings have but brought us more closely together."

The formal recognition by Italy of the Jugoslav free State that is to be marks a definite stage towards the final settlement of the Near Eastern Question. It is not necessary to recapitulate the history of the controversy that lies behind the announcement now made by the Rome Government. Italy has informed her Allies that she " regards the movement of the Jugoslav peoples for the acquisition of their independence and for their constitution into a free State as being in harmony with the principles for which the Allies are fighting, as well as with the aims of a just and durable peace." This declaration would not have been made unless the certainty existed that Italy and the new Jugoslav State will be able to arrive at an amicable agreement regarding the delimitation of their joint frontier on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. It is to be hoped that it means more, namely, that a detailed agreement on this point is in course of preparation, if it has not already been drafted. Not only will such an agreement give the death-blow to Austro-Hungarian hopes of a breach in the Allies' political front, but it will also enable the Allied Governments to give their serious attention to the remainder of the Balkan settlement. With the Jugoslavs assured of their western frontiers, the question of Macedonia has now to be decided on the principle of nationality, and in such a way as to give reasonable security for the future peace of the Balkan Peninsula. Nothing is to be gained by postponing this problem.

Such news as has reached this country since we last reviewed the political situation in India indicates that the process of differentiation has made substantial progress, and the division on the motion to increase military expenditure, when eighteen " Moderates " were opposed by five " Extremists " may probably be taken as giving a just idea of the relative strength of parties among responsible people outside as well as inside the Legislative Council. Unfortunately, the irresponsible element has also to be reckoned with, for under the existing constitution noise is the most important thing, and in India, as elsewhere, noise and responsibility do not often go together. We look to the new committee—the composition of which has not yet been announced—to redress the constitutional balance in this respect, and meanwhile we must accept the fact that irresponsible opinion exists, whatever value we may choose to assign to its existence.

We are glad to see, by the way, that the " Moderates " are looking for a more suitable name. Moderation in politics is an excellent thing, but, considered as an oriflamme, the word is certainly uninspiring, and something better is wanted if the party is to take its proper place. In Bengal, at least, the Moderates are now " National Liberals," a tolerably good choice, for Liberalism is at once attractive and respectable, while a reference to nationality was inevitable in the circumstances. What to call the other party is still doubtful. They modestly disclaim all pretensions to the name of Extremists, while " Nationalist " is too remote from the facts to secure general acceptance. " Besantine " has the great merit of coming near the truth, and if the word was first used in derision it may fairly take rank with Whig and Tory, which have changed their significance more than once.

It has now become clear that woman suffrage is put forward as a definite plank in the Besantine platform, though some time must elapse before we can be sure whether business is meant, or merely window-dressing, with, perhaps, a compliment to the founder of the party. The subject has received little attention in the political writings of the past year, and we can find no reference to it in the Montagu-Chelmsford report, but it is quite certain that if the women of India ever really want votes they will give the men no peace till they get them. The United Kingdom has set a precedent which is likely to be used as a lever in more countries than India.

On the personal side, the line of cleavage between the parties appears to be very much what might have been expected. We have heard some expressions of surprise that Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya should have been found in the Extremist lobby, but it must be remembered that the division in question related to the increase of India's contribution to the war, and the Pundit has always been known for the eccentricity of his views on economics and finance. He was almost alone in his opposition to the hundred-million contribution voted last year, and his hostility to the new proposals is not by itself sufficient to show that he has passed definitely to the Extreme Left. Apart from him. we gather that the strength of this party will be in the South and East, rather than in the North and West of the country.

We have heard no criticism in this country of the proposal which the Pundit so vigorously assailed. Were India condemned for all time to the status of a Dependency, it might be argued with some force that the extraction from her of any contribution to the expenditure of the Empire would be an unjustifiable exercise of authority, but when she can look forward to attaining the rank of a self-governing and self-respecting nation the position is entirely different, and we fancy that the great majority of the unofficial legislators who cheerfully accepted the burden will be found to have acted with true political insight. Self-respect is worth a good deal of money, and the India of the future will be grateful to the men who authorised this investment.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 26.

"Our Day."

Sir Reginald Wingate has addressed a letter to the local Press in regard to the fourth "Our Day" appeal on behalf of the funds of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, which is to be held in Egypt and the Sudan on October 23. Sir Reginald refers to the generous response made last year, when over £E150,000 were subscribed, and expresses the hope that an even greater effort will be made by these two countries this year, in view of the continued prosperity which they are both enjoying. That the Egyptians themselves will respond liberally to this appeal there is little doubt; for in each of the three past years they have figured very prominently in the subscription lists; but what one would like to see is a more liberal and general response on the part of the local non-Egyptian element, which has made small fortunes out of war contracts, but which has in the past not shone by any extensive contributions to war charities. It certainly does not speak much for the finer feelings of its members that this element, which has been enabled to make its money solely through the protection afforded it by the British Navy and Army, should so deliberately have held off from sending contributions to such charities as the Red Cross and similar organisations, contributions which might be regarded as an expression of gratitude for the peace and prosperity that the men whom the money is intended to assist have granted it. Could this element only be brought to a sense of its obligations in this respect and give proper expression thereto, then Egypt's contribution to "Our Day" might well rank with the largest from any dependency within the Empire. But it is to be feared that it is hopeless to expect this element to have any other ideal than that of its own pocket.

His Highness the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan has once again given a lead to his subjects by heading the list of "Our Day" with the handsome subscription of £E1,000. Taken in conjunction with his more recent monetary presents to the hospitals, this is clearly an indication that he is actuated by the same charitable and generous instincts as his illustrious brother, the late Sultan Hussein. This last week his Highness attended a display organised by the Alexandria Fire Brigade, which was given at the Kom el Dik Station, and proved most successful. He also visited the docks, where he inspected the hydroplanes of the Royal Air Force, and eventually took a flight in one of the balloons. The Sultan, who was accompanied by his Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha, and a British officer, went up to the height of 500 feet, and greatly enjoyed the novel sensation.

Apropos of the Royal Air Force, the Handley-Page machine which recently flew over from England is attracting much attention. It is to be seen almost every day flying over and round Cairo, and the Prime Minister shortly after its arrival paid a visit to the aerodrome in order to inspect it and meet its crew.

The Holy Carpet.

The first of the ceremonies connected with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca took place last Saturday, which, as usual, was kept as a Government holiday. The Prime Minister, Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, presided on behalf of the Sultan over the ceremony, which consisted in the removal of the "Kiswa," as it is called, from the Koronfish quarter, where it is made, to the Husseini Mosque, where it will remain until the time comes for the caravan to leave from Suez *en route* for Jedda and Mecca. Once again the British Army has presented the camel which is to carry the "Mahmal," a graceful attention which has made an excellent impression on the Faithful. The number of pilgrims who will accompany the caravan this year has now attained 450, and the Egyptian Government has chartered two steamers to convey them as well as the Carpet and its escort to and from Jedda.

War Gratuities to Government Officials.

The Committee appointed to investigate the question of the war gratuities to be accorded to Government officials has not yet come to any definite decision, and all rumours in this connection are consequently unfounded. It is generally conceded that something on a more extended scale than the bonuses accorded last August will have to be done, if proper relief is to be given to all the elements requiring such assistance. On that occasion war gratuities of £E1 per month were accorded to all employees drawing up to £E200 per annum, and £E327,000 was spent in the last financial year, whilst £E564,000 has been set aside in the current Budget for this purpose. The increase in the cost of living has, however, gone on by leaps and bounds, until to-day only the most highly paid are able to make both ends meet, and live in a reasonably respectable manner. Especially is the present state of affairs hard on those with families, or who, through war regulations, are being compelled to keep up two establishments, whilst the stress and the strain imposed on all and sundry through the extra work entailed by the war render it more than ever necessary that they should be able to secure proper nourishment and extra distractions, both of which are daily becoming more and more expensive and difficult to obtain. It must be granted that the Government is faced by a very difficult financial problem; but there seems little doubt that it will have to follow the example of other Governments and of all the local commercial establishments, and give its employees the relief which the situation calls for; and that it would be fully justified if it provided the wherewithal by imposing extra taxation on the agricultural element, which has derived such enormous benefits from the war.

The Y.M.C.A. in Egypt.

A further illustration of the activity of the Y.M.C.A. in this country has just been afforded by a ceremony which took place last week in the Ezbekia Gardens. Part of these gardens has since the early days of the war been turned into a club and recreation centre for the local garrisons. Considering the quarter in which it is situated, this centre has been a veritable godsend for the troops, who have fully appreciated all the trouble which has been taken by the Y.M.C.A. and Cairo residents to provide them with good food at reasonable prices and healthful distraction. The ceremony to which I refer was the inauguration of a swimming bath, which has been erected in the gardens for the use of the troops, and which will prove a positive boon to them during the summer months that still remain. The opening ceremony was performed by General H. D. Watson, the G.O.C. the Forces in Egypt, and an aquatic gymkhana, which followed, fittingly inaugurated the bath.

In connection with the Y.M.C.A. and the question of providing distraction for the troops, an interesting event took place on Saturday evening at the Gezira Sporting Club, where the various concert parties working in the Cairo district were entertained on the golf links to dinner followed by a concert. The work of providing concerts, etc., for the hospitals and depots in Cairo has been organised during the past four years by the Soldiers Entertainments Committee, a branch of the War Committee of the Y.M.C.A. so ably presided over by Mr. R. E. Monteith Smith, of the Ministry of the Interior. This committee has financed and equipped scores of parties, who have done no end of good work by providing most welcome entertainment for the men stationed in Cairo. It was a very graceful act on the part of the Entertainments Committee to bring all these parties together in this manner; and the attention, which, as Mr. Monteith Smith said, in a short speech at the close of the dinner, was intended as the committee's recognition of the efforts of the parties, was greatly appreciated by the members, of whom over seventy were present.

Bathing Fatality.

A very sad accident is reported from Brulos Beach, the new seaside resort on the Mediterranean, midway between Alexandria and Port Said, where Mrs. Blunt, the wife of Col. E. G. Blunt, Director of Supplies, Egyptian Army, and Mr. A. H. Sharmann, Director of the Saidia Training College, Cairo, were drowned while bathing on Saturday morning. There were no eye-witnesses of the accident, which only became known when Mrs. Blunt's parasol was found on the beach, and no trace of her was forthcoming. Search was made, and at about 2.30 in the afternoon her body was found washed up on the coast further away. Mr. Sharmann's body was found next morning; and both were conveyed to Baltim, where they were buried in a little cemetery created for the burial of some sailors whose bodies were washed up at Brulos a little while back, the service being conducted by the Rev. R. Armstrong, assisted by Canon Gardner. There are always very treacherous currents along the north coast, and it is surmised that one of these must have caught and carried away the two victims, whose untimely death has cast a gloom on the Anglo-Egyptian community, of which they were well known and popular members.

GREECE AND GREAT BRITAIN.

A Parallel.

Speaking at the dinner given by the Federation of British Industries to the Greek Commercial Mission, M. Caclamanos drew a very happy comparison between the Greeks and the British. He said:—

The bonds of mutual sympathy and appreciation between Great Britain and Greece date far back into the past. As I retrace the course of history, I see our two nations divided by a whole continent, yet closely linked together by an essential affinity of character. We are both maritime peoples, rejoicing in the blue sea and full of the spirit of joyous adventure into unknown worlds. From the pure, free sea breezes we have both absorbed into our life-blood that passion for freedom which dominates our whole history, and which to-day impels us to fight side by side against the enemy of freedom masquerading in a mantle of *Kultur* The genius of the two races has developed on parallel lines in the highest spheres of intellectual and artistic endeavour. Nowhere is the spirit of ancient Greece better understood, nowhere has it been more successfully given a modern framework and development than in England. Yesterday I was reading again the account in Thucydides of the great Funeral Speech of Pericles over the Athenians who fell in the first year of the Peloponnesian war, those Athenian young men who remind us in such a striking manner of the heroes who fell on the battlefields of Flanders, Macedonia, and Asia Minor. Again and again I came across sentences which, written over two thousand years ago, seemed to sum up with supreme felicity the spirit of your England of to-day. Here is one striking passage:—

> We differ also in the conduct of war from our enemies in this: we throw our city open to all men, nor do we ever deny to the strangers, by banishing them, the learning or seeing of any of those things which, if not hidden, the enemy might reap the advantage by; not relying on secret preparations and deceit, but on our own courage in action. And as to our methods of education, our enemies aim at attaining manliness directly from their youth up with laborious military exercises, and yet *we*, that live remissly, advance no less boldly than they, against equal dangers.

Or again, what could be more true of the British Empire than this?

> No enemy hath yet met our whole force at once, both because we apply ourselves much to navigation, and by land also we send many of our men to foreign countries. But if, when fighting with a part of our forces, our enemies chance to get the better, they boast they have beaten the whole. And yet, though we live in ease and leisure, and though our valour arises from a natural disposition rather than from laws, yet we are willing to undertake any danger; we faint not beforehand at the coming troubles, and in action we are not less confident than they that are ever toiling.

Or this again in a lighter key:—

> We have also found out many ways to give our mind recreation from labour by the institution of games and by the handsome entertainments of private men by the daily delight whereof we expel sadness.

Ties of centuries founded on striking affinities, on equal devotion to freedom and justice, have been strengthened within the last hundred years. I shall not insist on this. It is only necessary for me to pronounce the names of Byron and Shelley. It is right and fitting that they should be supplemented by links of a more material nature. Nature herself has provided for close economic relations between your country and mine. Both are essentially maritime countries. The sea-routes on which Greece lies are of vital importance to British interests. On the other hand Greece, in political and industrial development alike, looks up to England as a leader, as a master in whose footsteps she follows. Incidentally, I should like to mention to you this simple fact: that when in Greece someone, the man in the street, wishes to praise a given article, the hall-mark of his approval is to say: "Oh, it must have been made in England." It would, I think, be impossible to find a higher compliment for British industry or a more significant indication of the future which lies before it in Greece.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Forced Labour.

The German Administration has taken strong measures to ensure that the cultivable land should be sown, and that nearly all the production should go to Germany. A system of forced labour has been introduced, and the Roumanian Government has been compelled to endorse this Draconian measure. In order to secure the production of the Roumanian soil for a long period, the Germans have arranged that the lands can be leased to German associations, German subjects, or people favourable to them. The contracts are made for a long period of years, and bind the landowners to pay heavy sums if they desire to cancel the agreement. The forced labour reminds one of the feudal system, but is far worse. All the peasants, men and women, are put at the disposal of the Labour Controller, and they may be sent any distance from their homes and villages at the will of the administration. Men between fourteen and sixty years of age and women from fourteen to fifty years are subject to compulsory labour. The peasants are given a certain number of days to work their fields, and afterwards they must work for the landowners or any person who can produce a written order issued by the Chief Administrator of the district. Most severe punishment awaits those who refuse to obey the orders, or are considered not to work diligently. The difference between this Prussian system of forced labour and the feudal system is that the Prussians of Roumania can send the land-workers as far away from home as they like, family ties not being respected; the husband can be separated from his wife, the daughter is taken to work miles away from her parents. One can easily imagine the abuses committed by an enemy who seems to glory in his immorality.

When the army was demobilised a great number of soldiers residing in Wallachia preferred to remain in Moldavia and Bessarabia rather than return to the occupied part of the country and be humiliated by the Germans. The discontent of the peasantry is so great that on many occasions the windows of trains in which members of the Government, or M. Marghiloman, the Premier, have been travelling have been smashed when the train was passing through the villages. By taking the peasants from their fields and forcing them to work for the owners of property, the Germans have succeeded in firing the hate of the great masses of the Roumanian population. The situation becomes more and more dangerous, because famine faces the peasants, their fields being badly cultivated and the production very poor; and meanwhile they have been forced to cultivate the land of the rich to secure food for the Germans. Great landowners sympathising with the Entente were not able to get a sufficient number of workers for their fields. Under the same law all agricultural implements, from a hoe to a threshing machine, are declared to be "requisitioned," and the owner is compelled to hand them over to other people wanting them.

The peasants are forced not only to work in the fields, but they are sent into the mountains to cut wood needed by the Germans. A forestry specialist has been nominated Chief of Forests. His first care during the occupation is to ask for peasants and to force them to cut down the forests and transport the wood to Germany and Austria.

A Prussian Pooh-Bah.

By a special law the Germans have a very strict control over all the imports and exports of the country, as well as over the food production. The Director-General (M. Antipa, a very strong pro-German) has been nominated to hold the office for a period of ten years. He is responsible only to the Prime Minister—which means to the German taskmasters—and can be judged only by the High Court of Justice and Cassation. He decides—without any appeal against his decisions—what is to be taken from the producers in the way of cattle, crops, manufactured goods; he fixes the prices and the conditions according to which the products are to be transported, and when they can be exported to Germany. He is, for the time being, at any rate, Food Controller also, and can impose fines and order imprisonment. Practically he is the most powerful dictator in the country, and his power constitutes a very great danger when one thinks of the unscrupulous methods of the Germans, who look to this law not only as a means to get the maximum amount of grain, oil, cattle, wines, and wood out of Roumania, and German manufactured goods into it, but also as an instrument to coerce the Roumanians who will not acquiesce in their rule.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

In an Indian paper to hand by a recent mail I came across the following paragraph:—"At a football match the other day a Bengali spectator raised his umbrella aloft and began to raise a breeze by rapidly opening and shutting his 'brolly,' somewhat in the manner of a bellows. This example was imitated till the crowd presented the queer spectacle of a row of fluttering umbrellas. Who says that the Bengali is not original?" Not I! The spectacle must indeed have been a "moving" one; but I have not yet grasped the motive of the ingenious gentleman. Can he have been an umbrella dealer?

⁂

Not very long ago Alexandria instituted a dog tax of its own, accompanying the innovation with certain regulations designed to keep the bow-wows—and their owners—on the narrow path of virtue. Now, I observe, the city is triumphantly reaping the profit of the scheme, and twenty-five persons who had contravened the regulations have had to pay double tax. As I may have mentioned before, I am a dog-lover myself; but I am in favour of a moderate tax on dogs, and I can unreservedly congratulate Alexandria on its dog tax. For though dogs of sorts are common enough there, as elsewhere in the East, *good* dogs are rare. Weird specimens faintly resembling real dogs are all too numerous everywhere; but the Levant seems to be wonderful ground for the mixing of breeds; and if Alexandria succeeds in getting rid of some of the queerest specimens it will have done a good thing for itself.

⁂

A month ago I referred to two stories about leopards, and indulged in some not-too-flattering reflections on that animal's courage. Unless my memory serves me false, one of the two stories I quoted concerned a leopard in the Wad Medani region. Now I have just come across another paragraph, this time in the *Sudan Times*, about another leopard—or it may have been the same—in the same part of the world. On this occasion, however, the beast showed pluck, and plenty of it, in the long run; though it opened operations on "four little boys—the oldest of whom was not over five years old," and failed to come off victor even then. Later, the boys having given the alarm, "about thirty men, armed with spears and axes, started for the leopard, which was found still in the vicinity." And then the amazing beast "attacked them, causing one of them grave injuries" before they succeeded in killing it.

⁂

The *Echo de Paris* has paid a handsome compliment to Colonel Lawrence, but it is not one whit too handsome. For the work done by the force of Bedouin and Druses with which he has been operating—and which, the French report says, "he had formed"—has fitted in perfectly with General Allenby's great move. Doubtless that was the intention; but intentions of the kind, however excellent they may be, do not always get fulfilled. It depends on the leader; and Colonel Lawrence has proved himself the right sort of leader. He is, in fact, a fine example of the archæologist turned soldier and making an excellent job of it. His knowledge of Turkey and of the Arabs was, I believe, acquired in the service of the British Museum, for whom he worked at Carchemish in 1911, under Mr. D. G. Hogarth. He also travelled throughout the length and breadth of Syria, and knew its people and their language remarkably well, long before the war broke out. By great good luck, the winter before the war, he and Mr. Leonard Woolley had explored the Sinai Peninsula on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund. At the same time Captain Newcombe was in that region connecting up the triangulation of the survey of Egypt with that of Palestine; and the three Englishmen joined forces for some time.

⁂

The archæological results of that winter's work are recorded in "The Wilderness of Zin," the P. E. F.'s Annual for 1914-15, which was reviewed in The Near East when it appeared. The Introduction to that volume was written by Mr. Lawrence (as he then was), his friend and companion being absent on war service. It contains a couple of sentences that give us a hint of the writer's dislike of fuss and formality, and, perhaps, of his liking for the Arab. He writes: "Near Ain Kadeis, where our riding camels strayed away, the Arabs brought them in, unasked, to the station at Kossaima. It will be obvious from this that we had no dragoman with us." There you have the view of the true lover of the desert and of the Bedawi. A dragoman would, if he could, filter the air of the desert for you—through a dirty filter, most likely—and charge you for it; and men like Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Woolley do not usually cling affectionately to him. Mr. Woolley, by the way, had the bad luck to be captured—in a very daring enterprise off the coast of Asia Minor—and is still, I fear, "a prisoner of the Turk."

Corsair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PEACE FOR THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondent in "Peace for the Balkans" first asks why people who write about the Balkans are all partisans and then, showering "brave" and "gallant" on Serbs and "loyal and enthusiastic" on Greeks, writes of Bulgarians as "hated," "the traitor," "the despicable part played by Bulgaria," etc. Yet we all know the character of the king forced on rather than chosen by the Bulgars, that he has often been called the astutest diplomatist in Europe—diplomacy being a talent in which the Bulgars themselves are conspicuously lacking—and that the Prussians were not likely to neglect any means for making it impossible for the Bulgars to go against him *and them* from the very start. Why, then, hurl adjectives at an unhappy people forced to fight against their friends? I fear that your correspondent, had he the "personal acquaintance with these countries" which he says he is without, would be the fiercest partisan of the lot. The Serbs have always seemed to me to be the beauties of the Balkans—although the admirers of the Montenegrins and Albanians say I should give the palm to them. The Serbs are also very poetic in their imaginings, gifted thus with all that is specially supposed to charm women. The Greeks are probably better endowed with brains, and amongst those I have known I have been struck by great nobility of character. They are also surely more civilised than the other races. The Bulgars seem to me the most hard-working, most plodding, steady-going people, in many respects recalling the Chinese, whom I know so much better, by making no attempt whatsoever to please, but simply seeking to do everything that is pleasant, and being extraordinarily grateful for the least sign of appreciation. There are amongst them, I am sure, as amongst the Chinese, dour characters with a deliberate disregard of appearances and polite phrases that is repelling. But I have not been long enough in Bulgaria to encounter them. I have been only long enough in the Balkans to notice the different merits in all the different races. They are all brave, so that it seems to me absurd to attach that epithet to any. I do not believe there is one of them that would shrink from an act of treachery (as others would call it) to save his own country.

But the question that concerns us outsiders is not which we like best, nor whether *we* like any of them, but how they can be led to like one another or to find one another even tolerable. Unless they can be led, or coaxed, or educated into even tolerating one another, they are brave, and they will fight each other to the death. There was a time when it must have seemed impossible that Englishmen and Scotsmen should ever agree. The Scottish people, as some love to call themselves, may still find it hard to tolerate the easy-going, somewhat dull-looking Englishmen. But we all live together—and, above all, work together—now, without the slightest inclination to kill each other. I do not know which of the two are the most likeable, nor does it indeed seem very clear whether any or all are likeable. But on any steamer by which I travel I am glad to notice a Scotsman in the engine-room, a Cornishman in the pilot-house. Once make the Balkan peoples tolerate each other, and things will arrange themselves so that the right people will be making attar of roses, trading in pigs, navigating vessels, carrying on business, and cultivating the fields, and neither Serb nor Montenegrin, nor Bulgarian, Albanian, nor Greek starving to death, or forcing others to starve.

But if English people will persist in out-Heroding Herod and being more pro-Serb than the Serbs, or more phil-Hellene than the Greeks, the man-butcheries will go on and the women and children starve.

I have been trying lately to think how union can be formed among those who really know something about the Balkans, but one straightway advocates a marriage for our Prince of Wales, because that way he might get a strain of pure Montenegrin blood, another not only seeks to extol another race, but to do so must blacken the poor Montenegrins till they have not a shred of character left.

Being English, I have often tried hard to find out a single thing in which English people are universally acknowledged to excel. There must surely be something. If the admirers of any race would devote themselves—say, for a month—to discovering the charm or the special qualities or most striking merit of any other race, I think gradually we might arrive at peace even in the Balkans. It rests with the onlookers to begin. For the hatreds there have been aroused and diligently fanned by those who sought to make a profit out of them. There was a time when Serbs and Bulgars called themselves cousins, sang the same songs, spoke the same speech.

Do they not even now understand one another—I mean one another's language? I have not ventured to touch upon the Roumanians. The great Danube rolls between them and the Balkans, and seems to set them apart.

Now that the Turks have been largely driven out, the one hope for those left behind is in Union, or there will be nothing but bones left, and the Jews of Salonika faring sumptuously upon the pickings.—I am, etc.,

A. E. N. Little.

83, Piccadilly, W.1.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the article published in your issue of 20th inst. your correspondent puts forward an interesting line of argument, but his sweeping classification into "phils" and "phobes" of those who interest themselves in Balkan politics is misleading. There are, of course, enthusiasts whose affection for one particular nation prompts them blindly to support the most extravagant claims of the ultra-Chauvinists. Though your correspondent seems to suggest that they are largely to be found among the friends of Serbia and Greece, the fact is, I think, that the vast majority of them are Bulgarophils. A few are Philhellenes; practically none of them are Serbophils.

But I would point out to your correspondent that there are publicists who have neither identified themselves with the extreme pretensions of our Allies nor compromised themselves by supporting the undefiled Chauvinism of our enemies. We—if I may be permitted to include myself in this group—seek to take a "wide view of Balkan necessities," which includes other necessities than the mere satisfaction of Bulgarian rapacity. We are anxious to attain a lasting settlement of the question which shall be based upon logic and justice, and take into account all claims, together with the lessons of recent history.

There are only two alternatives. The one lies in a compromise of existing claims which shall be loyally accepted as a *settlement* by all the parties concerned; the other entails the removal of the causes of Balkan unrest.

Now we are obliged to recognise that past attempts at compromise have not been happy, and it cannot be denied that Bulgaria has hitherto been the obstacle. Bulgaria was dissatisfied with the compromise at Berlin in 1878, although it removed the objections to the Treaty of San Stefano, which, to quote Lord Salisbury, would have absorbed "a considerable mass of population which is Greek in race and sympathy." Serbia compromised over Macedonia during the pourparlers of 1912 (see Gueshoff's account of his negotiations *re* the Serbo-Bulgar Treaty). Later on Serbia agreed to changes in the military convention and rendered unstipulated assistance at Adrianople. All this was compromise. Bulgaria failed to accord the support promised against Austria, and continued the war against Turkey for her own particular ends. Yet she could not agree that this necessitated any compromise, and she precipitated the disastrous war of 1913 rather than yield to Russia's entreaties. She preferred to fight rather than to compromise, though Greece, Serbia, and Roumania were ready to do so.

In August, 1914, and at several subsequent dates, Bulgaria refused to discuss Serbia's offers to compromise. Early in 1915 she "sacrificed the compensations (compromise) offered by Venizelos in Thrace" (see *Echo de Bulgarie* of January 1, 1916), and during the summer and autumn of that year she declined one Allied offer of compromise after another.

The unfortunate truth which faces us is that Bulgaria is not out for compromise. Even the *Manchester Guardian* has admitted that Bulgaria's neighbours were ready to make all the concessions which she had any right to expect. The fact is that, though numerically the smallest race in the Peninsula (they themselves admit it), the Bulgars aim at nothing less than hegemony. They want all the Dobruja, all the Maritza, all Greek Macedonia, all Central Macedonia, all Southern Serbia, all the Serbian Morava. And still they want more—the Danube, the Black Sea, the Marmora, the Ægean, the Adriatic, the "Empire of the Four Seas."

It is an elaborate programme, and the difficulty is that no concessions would be accepted as a settlement. They would be regarded simply as instalments, mediums of more power wherewith to obtain more territory. Ethnology, history, geography—all these are mere means to the desired end.

Let your correspondent be assured that nobody wants to wipe Bulgaria off the map, and that even now, when Serbia has been laid waste with a diabolical hand, when the Greeks of Eastern Macedonia have been tortured, despoiled, and exiled, when Bulgarian union with Germany has robbed us of Gallipoli, linked up the Central Empires with Turkey, and cost us rivers of blood and treasure which would have been unnecessary, had she compromised—despite these additions to the rôle of Bulgarian infamy, many would still support the principle, were there any reason to suppose that it would achieve the object in view.

But, unhappily, there are no grounds for this assumption. We are driven to the conclusion that there is only one practical way to Balkan harmony, and that Bulgaria must be beaten to her knees and then deprived of the power to disturb the peace in future.

Some writers suggest that racial passion is confined to the Peninsula, and proceed forthwith to advocate that the League of Nations should be tried on the Balkan dog. Let us be logical. Most of us recognise that it is not sufficient to beat Germany. We opine that some means or other, from within or without, must be found to cut her militaristic claws. We know that if she gets off with part of the coveted swag and is left with sufficient power again to attack her neighbours, it will not be long before the world is once more called to arms. We desire a League of Nations to enforce peace—principally upon Germany. To that confederation we shall hope to admit a reformed Germany herself on terms—terms which imply that she must make reparation for her misdeeds, give up her dream of hegemony, accept the coming settlement as final, and decide to live at peace with her neighbours. Then, and not till then, can we think of concessions.

Similarly, in the Balkans we want a League of Nations. There is a place for a reformed Bulgaria in that League. But she, too, must make reparation for her misdeeds, give up her dream of hegemony, accept the coming settlement as final, and decide to live at peace with her neighbours. Then, and not till then, can our Allies in the Balkans think of concessions.—I am, etc.,

Crawfurd Price.

10, Chester Place, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

BACK TO SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Surprisingly good news from the Balkans! Several most important ridges between Monastir and Prilep have been stormed, and some others are so strongly attacked that their fall may be hourly expected. When all those ridges are taken, the Serbian troops will be able to cut the railway line running along the Vardar River, in which case all the Bulgarian positions down to Gevgheli will be in imminent danger.

Again Serbians! The immortal Serbians! Like a sphinx they are silent for a time and again they rise to give a mortal blow to their enemies. Over 4,000 prisoners! I don't know whether the people of this country realise what an enormous success it is for a small army like the Serbian. If compared, it means really at least as much as the biggest bag of prisoners that the huge army of ours and of our Allies in France have had in a span of time of twenty-four hours. If only this successful action were wisely supported by a simultaneous action on the whole Balkan front, then it might turn to a complete defeat for the rapacious enemy. It happened once that after the splendid Serbian victory at Kaimakchalan the defeated enemy was not pursued at all, so that a real victory was not crowned with the deserved and expected results. We do not know the reason of that—perhaps those who were at that time at the head of the Allied Army over there will know it better. I know only that the victorious Serbs then were awfully disappointed.

I hope this time the same mistake will not be repeated. The Serbian Army, loyal to us to the death, is very much depleted. Like children, the Serbs have confidence in the British and French. Therefore it is our moral duty to take care at the utmost that no Serbian soldier shall be lost any more without a burning need, and that no Serbian victory remain unutilised.

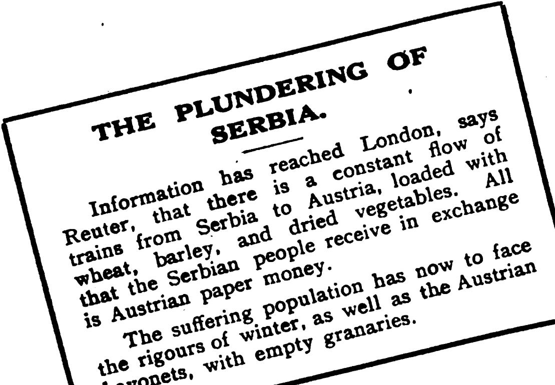
Therefore we rejoice from our very hearts because of the Serbian victory, but would be very sorry if this new Serbian move should not be followed by a general move on the whole Macedonian front.—I am, etc.,

Charles L. Egan.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY.

Further corroborative evidence has recently been received by his Majesty's Government that the exchange of prisoners of war under the Berne Agreement is being persistently blocked by Enver Pasha and his associates, at the instigation of the German Government.

There is also reason to believe, it is stated, that these persons are not only responsible for the obstruction of the agreement and for the general ill-treatment of British prisoners, but that they are also materially interested in the continuance of malpractices which include the interception of prisoners' supplies.



THE PLUNDERING OF SERBIA.

Information has reached London, says Reuter, that there is a constant flow of trains from Serbia to Austria, loaded with wheat, barley, and dried vegetables. All that the Serbian people receive in exchange is Austrian paper money.

The suffering population has now to face the rigours of winter, as well as the Austrian bayonets, with empty granaries.

Why Serbia Needs Your Help

The cutting from the Press reproduced above is evidence of the terrible sufferings that the Serbs are called upon to endure as the price of their stedfastness to the Allied Cause. The Serbs are suffering as no other nation has yet suffered. Their trust is in Britain—that we will "see them through." That trust must not prove misplaced. All the help we can send them—all the food, clothing, and medical aid we can give the stricken remnant of Serbia's population, all the sustenance and comforts we can send the starving Serbian prisoners-of-war are only their just due for their self-sacrifice. The splendid news of victory on the Bulgar front in which Serbian arms have played a gallant part is an earnest of the Serbians' indomitable courage and hope for the future. The direct avenue of British aid to Serbia is the Serbian Relief Fund. This Fund is the only one administered by British hands solely for the benefit of the Serbians. The Serbian Relief Fund can quickly translate your cheque into material and much-needed help. Send a donation to-day to The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Plymouth, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(Registered under War Charities Act, 1916.)

5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7.

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Parcels of clothing for men, women, and children to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION.*

Our verdict on this substantial and well-got-up volume must be similar to those which we have passed on most books dealing with the Indian constitutional problem: it was well worth publishing, and it deserves the careful attention of the student, but it does not furnish a completely satisfactory solution. The work has been some time in the press, for the preface is dated last Christmas, and consequently the writer has had no opportunity of dealing with the official scheme of reforms, but he handles various unofficial proposals in a workmanlike style, and we may fairly say that he performs efficiently the first function of the master-builder in clearing the site of a large accumulation of rubbish. He proceeds to erect a large and ornate structure, with a wealth of elaborated detail, but unfortunately resting upon rather sketchy and inadequate foundations, and consequently not altogether suitable as a permanent residence for the Indian nation. His design has several interesting features; in particular, his insistence on the need for a visible representative of the kingship, as distinct from the head of the working administration, where he is undoubtedly expressing one of the strongest political sentiments of his nation, and his methods are on the whole fair and courteous; but he is clearly afraid of the masses of the people, and he postpones anything like direct representation to a somewhat dim future. For the time being he is content to base his elaborate structure on an "institutional" franchise, an extension of the unsatisfactory system now in vogue, and beyond this he looks to a scheme of District Assemblies, representing the landholders and income-tax payers, to provide a more permanent foundation. As so commonly happens in India, the writer is weakest in the region of economics, and his occasional remarks on such topics as railways, currency, or rural prosperity betray a thoroughly complacent ignorance; but his views on these matters are not, in fact, relevant to his main theses, for he does not appreciate the closeness of the relations between economics and politics, and in the palace of his imagination the livelihood of the inmates is taken for granted. Still, the palace is well worthy of a visit.

IN MYSTERIOUS EGYPT.†

Here we have a dozen stories, half centring round a mysterious "imam," one Abu Tabah, who appears to be a kind of Cairene Sherlock Holmes and Chief of City Police combined; the other half detached incidents. We greatly prefer the latter half of the book; though we have found Abu Tabah much more entertaining—and incomparably easier to believe in—than many of his European *confrères.* All the stories are well written, though we detect now and then a tendency to run riot in the matter of language; the author certainly seems to know Egypt well; and he makes the most of the "mystery" of the land in a very clever fashion. We like him best, however, when he is telling us a comparatively simple tale in the person of a native, as he does in the last story in the book. This—"Pomegranate Flower"—is in the style of "The Thousand Nights and a Night," and is extremely well done. We should like Sax Rohmer to give us more in the same vein.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Riddle of Nearer Asia." By Basil Mathews. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 2s. net.)

"Modern Religious Movements in India." By J. N. Farquhar. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Legends of Babylon and Egypt." By L. W. King. The Schweich Lectures, 1916. (London: Oxford University Press. 3s. net.)

"Eastern Exploration, Past and Future." By W. M. Flinders Petrie. (London: Constable and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Kanarese Literature." By E. P. Rice. (London: Oxford University Press. Heritage of India Series. 1s. 6d. net.)

"Indian Painting." By Percy Brown. (London: Oxford University Press. Heritage of India Series. 1s. 6d. net.)

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"THE WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"GERMANY, TURKEY, AND ARMENIA." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"LOYAL INDIA," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"HORRORS OF ALEPPO," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"MARTYRED ARMENIA." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"TURKISH PRISONERS IN EGYPT." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

ROUMANIA AND THE RED CROSS.

At a meeting held on Monday evening at the Lyceum Club in connection with Red Cross work in Roumania, M. Bonescu, of the Roumanian Legation, said his countrymen would never forget what the women of Great Britain did for them in the terrible days through which their country had passed during the past four years, and Captain Ghyka, on behalf of the Roumanian Army, expressed his deep gratitude for the splendid efforts of the British Red Cross workers. Their work among the wounded, he said, would never be forgotten. A telegram from the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires spoke of the magnificent work of the Red Cross as "one of the best and noblest links between Roumania and the mighty British Empire."

ARABIC DICTIONARIES FOR SALE.

SPIRO'S "AN ARABIC-ENGLISH VOCABULARY" (Cairo, 1895), strongly bound, leather back and corners, very clean condition and perfect, 15s. "English-Arabic Dictionary." By F. Steingass, Ph.D. (London: W. H. Allen.) Cloth, very clean and in excellent condition. 17s. 6d. "Arabic-English Dictionary." By William Thomas Wortabet. Second Edition. (Beyrout, 1893.) 10s. 6d. "Arabic and English Dictionary." By S. Kassab and G. Hammam. (Beyrout.) 5s.—Apply "Alif," c/o "The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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OCTOBER, 1918.
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* "The Future Government of India." By K. Vyasa Rao. (Macmillan and Co. 12s. net.)

† "Tales of 'Secret Egypt.'" By Sax Rohmer. (Methuen. 6s. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. September	1918. September		1336. Julheggia.	5679. Tishri.
27	14	Friday	21	21
28	15	Saturday........	22	22
29	16	Sunday	23	23
30	17	Monday	24	24
October				
1	18	Tuesday........	25	25
2	19	Wednesday	26	26
3	20	Thursday	27	27

The Countess of Minto has left 18, Carlton House Terrace for Hawick.

Sir Rennell Rodd, British Ambassador to Italy, left 17, Stratford Place, last week for Rome.

The Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mango at The Gables, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Norman V. Kent, the Wiltshire Regiment, and Enid Sybil, daughter of the late Mr. W. A. Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, of Mussooree, India, and Wimbledon.

The engagement is announced between Captain Herbert Bland Stokes, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, son of Sir Gabriel Stokes, K.C.S.I., and Enid Madeleine, daughter of Lucas White King, C.S.I., and niece of Viscount Northcliffe.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Preston, R.E., son of the late Captain John Preston, Resident Magistrate of Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland, and Mrs. Preston, of Aspall Hall, Suffolk, and Margaret, elder daughter of Sidney H. Wells, of Gezira, Cairo.

A memorial service for the Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia, Kyrion II., will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, this (Friday) morning, at 11.30. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Constantine Pagonis, will officiate.

It is understood that Lord Southborough has accepted the chairmanship of both the committees which are to complete in India in the ensuing cold weather the work of investigating the problem of Indian constitutional reform begun by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy.

The engagement is announced of Captain Burnett S. Stone, of the Indian Army, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Herbert Stone, of "The Retreat," Devizes, Wilts, and Marjorie, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Brown and Mrs. Brown, of Whitehaven, Cumberland.

Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross, was on Monday received in audience by the King of Italy, and had the honour of remaining to dinner with his Majesty. Sir Courtauld Thomson has recently arrived in Italy, where he is making his headquarters.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Caryl ap Rhys Pryce, D.S.O., Royal Field Artillery, younger son of Colonel Douglas D. Pryce, Indian Army, of Penns Rocks, Withyham, Sussex, and Ellen Mary, widow of Lieutenant Ronald Falshaw Morkill, West Yorkshire Regiment (attached R.F.C.), daughter of the late Thomas Loyzleur Wilkinson and Mrs. Wilkinson, of Neasham Abbey, Neasham, Co. Durham.

Last Saturday, at St. James', Picadilly, the marriage was solemnised of Thomas Horatio Westmacott, Captain General List, formerly of Calcutta, second son of the late Edward Vesey Westmacott, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Edward Vesey Westmacott, 15, Stafford Mansions, Buckingham Gate, to Laura Evelyn, third daughter of Ven. E. H. Winnington Ingram, Archdeacon and Canon of Hereford and Vicar of Bridstow. The bride's father officiated, assisted by the Bishop of London. London.

At St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on September 19, the marriage took place of Colonel C. W. P. Ramsey, of Montreal, Canada, to Dorothy, youngest daughter of Sir John Jackson, M.P., and Lady Jackson, of 48, Belgrave Square. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. H. Thompson, and Sir John Jackson gave away his daughter, who was attended by two nephews, Master Hugh Sinclair and Master Jack Hamilton, as pages, and by three little nieces, Miss Salie Sinclair, Miss Barbara Hamilton, nd Miss Catherine Sinclair. Major J. M. Williams, R.E., was t man.

The engagement is announced between G. T. Hamilton Harding, Indian Police, I.A.R.O., Lieutenant attached Egyptian Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hamilton Harding, Preston, Agra Patnas, Ceylon, and Margaret, only daughter of Mr and Mrs. A. G. Seton, Kleva, Bjornlunda, Sweden.

◆

General Jekoff, Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Army, has undergone an operation on the ear in Vienna. He is making good progress.

Sir Henry Trotter, K.C.M.G., will take the chair at a meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held on Wednesday, October 9, at 4.30 p.m., at 22, Albemarle Street. Miss Annette M. B. Meakin will read a paper, "Life in Russian Turkestan and Germany's Menace to India."

In connection with the Society of London Muslims, Kawaja Kamal-ud-Din will be At Home at the Moslem Prayer House, 111, Campden Hill Road, Notting Hill Gate, on Saturday afternoon, September 28. At 5 p.m. he will deliver an address on the Moslem conception of Heaven.

Dr. J. G. Pinches, Lecturer in Assyrian, will deliver a public lecture at University College, Gower Street, on the afternoon of October 3, on "Shinar and Asshur, Pictures of an Early Civilisation." The lecture, which will have lantern illustrations, will be open to the public without fee or ticket.

◆

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. H. M. C. Trotter, Accountant-General, Punjab, has succeeded Mr. H. N. Heseltine as Accountant-General, Railways.

Bimbashi P. B. Roussel has been appointed a district traffic manager, Sudan Government Railways and Steamers Department.

Mgr. Barlassina, who was recently appointed Auxiliary to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, will leave Rome early in October to take up his post.

The Hon. Mr. J. M. Holms, Member of the Board of Revenue and Vice-President of th Legislative Council, United Provinces, has resigned from the Civil Service.

Mr. W. S. Marris, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, now on special duty with the Secretary of State in London, is expected to return to India in October.

Lieutenant G. Milner, Royal Engineers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a special service officer, granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Military Works Department for duty.

Sir James Meston, who has been appointed to succeed Sir William Meyer as Finance Member, will not reach India until the end of next month. Sir William Meyer has consented to remain in office until that time.

M. Saulescu, Roumanian Finance Minister, has resigned. His resignation is said to be due to a difference with the Ministry and the parliamentary majority concerning the reorganisation of the National Bank and the Land Bank.

Sir Ralph Spencer Paget, K.C.M.G., who was formerly British Minister in Serbia, and has lately been H.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary at Rio de Janeiro.

The Government of India have this year sanctioned the award of State technical scholarships to the following candidates for a course of training in England in the subjects noted against each:—Mr. E. C. Barlow, leather tanning; Mr. Jitendra Mohan Das, iron smelting and the working of bye-product coke ovens; Nirendra Nath Ghosh, metallurgy of iron and steel; S. Dogar Singh, ceramic industries.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

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Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON.
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OBITUARY.

The Rev. William Henry Hobart, Vicar of Highbridge, Somerset, died at the Vicarage on September 23, in his sixty-third year. He was from 1882 to 1892 Chaplain of Vepery, Madras.

Lieutenant John Rollo Lowis, Yeomanry, who was killed in action on September 4, was the eldest son of the late Hon. John Lowis, Government Advocate of Burma, and Mrs. J. Lowis.

Colonel Charles Darracott Scott died at Pevensey, Sussex, on September 18. He joined the Army in 1881, and took part in the Burmese Expedition of 1886 and the Hazara Expedition of 1888. He was the son of the late Major-General H. Y. D. Scott.

Mr. Charles Arthur Galton, late of the Indian Civil Service, died on Tuesday at Hove, aged seventy-seven. On leaving Exeter College, Oxford, he went to India in 1863, and served in Madras as Assistant Collector and Magistrate. In 1888 he was appointed Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, and five years later became acting Chief Secretary and Member of the Legislative Council.

The death has occurred at The Mythe House, Tewkesbury, of Colonel Newman Burfoot Thoyts, in his eighty-eighth year, after a long illness. Colonel Thoyts was the second son of Mortimer George Thoyts, of Sulhamstead House, Berks. He served in the Bombay Staff Corps, and on retirement lived for many years in Cheltenham, where he was Mayor for three successive years. He was J.P. for the County of Gloucester.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary Colonel) G. D. Pike, M.C., Gurkha Rifles, is officially reported to have been accidentally killed at Vladikavkaz on August 15, during fighting between Cossacks and Bolsheviks, which he was watching from a window. Colonel Pike accompanied his battalion from India to France with the Expeditionary Force and was awarded the Military Cross in February, 1915, and given a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy in February last. He had been appointed British Military Agent in the Caucasus in January.

Second Lieutenant Z. Manoukian, Lancashire Fusiliers, killed in action on September 3, aged nineteen, was the only son of the late S. Manoukian and Mrs. Manoukian, of 41, Warwick Avenue, W.9, formerly of Manchester. He was educated at Repton, and in 1916 he was elected to the first classical scholarship at Oriel College, Oxford, previous to obtaining his commission. He was sent to the front last June, and was soon promoted second in command of his company. His senior officer writes :—"I have lost my best officer, and the whole battalion will miss him, as he was universally popular. He was real grit all through, and his men would go anywhere with him.'"

Major-General Henry Leslie Grove, late of the Madras Staff Corps, died suddenly at his residence, 17, Lingfield Road, Wimbledon, on Monday, aged eighty-nine years. He was the son of Major Henry Jones Grove, was appointed to a cadetship in the East India Company's service in 1845, and was posted as ensign to the 45th Madras Infantry. His service was entirely in the Madras Presidency, where he ultimately held the appointment of Inspector-General of Army Schools, retiring with the rank of Major-General in 1879. General Grove's only surviving son, Mr. Henry Montgomery Grove, late of the 1st Bengal Cavalry, was British Consul at Warsaw at the time of the German invasion.

Lieut.-Colonel Lord Alfred Browne, D.S.O., R.F.A., who was killed on August 27, was the youngest son of the late Marquess of Sligo. Born at Darjeeling, India, in 1878, he was educated at Marlborough College, and passed into the Royal Military Academy, in 1896, and in 1898 received his commission in the Royal Artillery. After serving at Gibraltar and in India he retired in 1908. He rejoined at the outbreak of the present war, and served at the front in 1914-15 in command of a battery, being mentioned in dispatches. In 1917 he was appointed acting lieutenant-colonel and commandant of an R.A. officers' cadet school. He returned to the front this year in command of a brigade of R.F.A., in which capacity he was serving when killed.

Major Beresford Havelock, North Staffordshire Regiment, who is reported killed in action on September 14, in his twenty-seventh year, was the only son of the late George Broadfoot Havelock, 98th Regiment and 101st Royal Bengal Fusiliers, and Mrs. Havelock (Bournemouth), and grandson of Sir Henry Havelock of Lucknow. He was at Sandhurst in 1908, and was commissioned in the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment in 1910. He was a fine rider and among the numerous races he won in India, where he joined the 2nd North Staffordshire Regiment (98th), was the Regimental Point-to-Point at Peshawur. Major Havelock was in two of the biggest frontier fights (Shobkudr) in 1915, and passed the Staff School at Mhow in 1916, when he embarked for Mesopotamia in November, 1916. He was in the triumphant march to Baghdad as staff captain to the brigade, which was the first to enter the ancient city. He was gazetted temporary major December 14, 1917. In 1916 he married Kathleen, daughter of Mr. Sydney Smith, late Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, and leaves a [illegible]

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Bucharest message says that the Amnesty Bill has passed the Roumanian Senate. The Bill had already been passed by the Chamber.

Swiss Jews belonging to the Aguduth Visroel, a body which for some time stood aloof from Zionism, have decided to establish a colony in Palestine and to transfer there the Jewish War Orphanage at present in Switzerland.

A Royal decree calls up six reserve classes of the years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, and 1908 from the whole of Greece, also four classes of auxiliaries and medical corps auxiliaries from 1909 to 1912. The men must report before October 18.

It has been decided to form a Charity Organisation Board for India. The Viceroy, on whose suggestion the step has been taken, has consented to become patron. The object aimed at will be to co-ordinate charitable effort, and the new body should have a great field of usefulness before it.

The Burma Government has sent a letter of thanks to all the men who offered their services for war purposes, but who have not been instructed to apply for commissions. The letter informs them that as they cannot be spared by their employers they are to remain for the present in their existing employment.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that recently at Cairo Assizes "a youth seventeen years old . . . was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for having murdered his step-sister, a baby of only six months old." The motive of the crime, the report continues, was jealousy, since on their father's death, the children would have to share the father's property, consisting of just over one feddan of land.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1918.

THE ALLIED VICTORIES IN THE EAST.

Within four or five days the military situation in Palestine has been completely changed by a brilliant operation which has resulted in the elimination of practically the whole Turkish force immediately opposing the British advance. On the morning of September 19 General Allenby, after a subsidiary attack the previous evening near the Jordan, launched his offensive along the whole line from the river to the coast. The enemy's front was pierced on the coastal sector, and through the gap British, Australian, and Indian cavalry streamed northwards. By the following day they had reached the Haifa-Damascus Railway and had severed the Turkish communications with the north. In the meantime the rest of General Allenby's forces were pressing on the retreating Turks, who, thrown into hopeless confusion, were trying to make their way westwards across the few available fords of the Jordan. On September 22 the last avenue of escape in this direction was closed, and General Allenby was able to report that with the capture of 25,000 prisoners the Seventh and Eighth Turkish Armies had virtually ceased to exist. The dramatic swiftness of this blow and its complete success appeal irresistibly to the imagination. For the second time at, as it were, a single stroke General Allenby has secured the liberation of a large portion of Palestine. There are still some Turks east of the Jordan; but Arab forces are co-operating on this flank; they have cut the enemy's railway communications at Deraa junction, and should prove most useful auxiliaries in rounding up the remnants of the Turkish Army south of Damascus. The total strength of this army is estimated to have been little short of 100,000, with 30,000 rifles. The German Commander-in-Chief, General Liman von Sanders, is known to have escaped, and it remains to be seen how many of his late force will have been accounted for by General Allenby. If the numbers of the enemy that have delayed the capture of Palestine seem at first sight somewhat small, it has to be remembered that the British have anticipated the opening of the campaigning season, and, doubtless, the arrival of Turkish reinforcements. During the summer months the Turks will have considered that they were not likely to be subjected to any serious attacks; and it will no doubt come as a shock to them that their period of immunity should have been closed at such an early date. The Turks have been in some anxiety with regard to Palestine, and have tried to persuade their German allies to send them reinforcements. Their own military strength has never been very great, in spite of the glib talk of an army of millions by members of the Government. The man-power may be there, but it has been impossible to arm and equip it, and, if report be true, to keep all those who have been equipped with the colours. More recently a certain fatalism may have overcome the Turkish authorities with regard to Palestine and Mesopotamia, and it may have seemed more profitable to expend their diminishing strength on schemes of easy conquest in Transcaucasia and Persia than to attempt the impossible in the southern portions of the empire.

It is too early to gauge all the consequences of General Allenby's success; but as General Marshall could testify to the effect of the earlier victories in Palestine on the situation in Mesopotamia, we may feel confident that before long this still more decisive action will be felt not only on the Tigris, but also as far as the Caucasus. Indeed, unless the situation between the Black Sea and the Caspian prevents it, we may expect to find General Marshall and General Allenby able to engage upon concerted movements which will complete the embarrassment of the Turks. For at the present moment the Constantinople authorities are by no means free to devote their undivided attention to events in Palestine and Mesopotamia. On their European flank, in addition to the disquieting evidence that their "invincible" German allies are being most thoroughly beaten, they have the Bulgarian line broken through, with the possibility of consequences almost as disastrous to themselves as the reverse in Palestine. In spite of the distance from the Vardar to the Jordan, the simultaneous successes of the Allies add materially to the advantages to be derived from the two offensives. The Bulgarians and the Turks—such is the cordiality existing between them—may be equally pleased to see the other hammered; but in this war they stand or fall together. Bulgaria might hope to survive for a season the defection or defeat of Turkey; but the position of the latter becomes at once impossible, if Bulgaria has to make peace with the Entente. In this eventuality the sense of security engendered by the interposition of the whole of Asia Minor between Constantinople and the advancing British is destroyed by the knowledge that the capital becomes vulnerable from the land side. By the time this train of thought is set in motion there can be little doubt that the glory of a fight in the last ditch will have ceased to appeal to the clique who now control the destinies of the Ottoman Empire, and that they will be more concerned with the selection of a suitable place of asylum, where they can hope to enjoy the pecuniary gains that they have derived from the war.

The Allied success in Macedonia may be for the present less complete than the Palestine *coup*, but the possibilities of the situation are even greater. In the first place it may be borne in mind that, although General Franchet d'Esperey commands a composite force of the Allies, the advance is essentially a Serbian and Greek offensive. These two armies are fighting over familiar ground, and for them the war in the Balkans cannot be over until Bulgaria acknowledges defeat, and both Serbia and Greek territory have been entirely cleared of the enemy. We may, therefore, conclude that the plan of campaign has been drawn up on a grand scale. The extent of the enemy's powers of resistance could not be accurately known; but provision will surely have been made for the development of such an initial success as has actually been achieved. At the moment of going to press the Allies are established on the Vardar and are nearing Veles. They should experience little difficulty in reaching Uskub, dealing the while with enemy forces that may have been cut off in the Prilep district. Future movements will depend largely on the rate at which the right wing of the Allied Army can advance, and above all on the capacity of the Bulgarian military authorities to rally their war-wearied and disaffected forces. The secret of General d'Esperey's plans had been well kept. There can be little doubt that the Bulgarians, who were expecting an Allied offensive, had counted on the Greeks opening the attack on the east of the line. It was the Serbians, however, who struck the main blow, while the British and Greek forces kept the bulk of the Bulgarian army occupied on the right. If the rapid advance of the Serbians compels the enemy to abandon his almost impregnable lines on the Belashitza *massif* confronting the Allied right, his demoralisation will have been complete, and the Allies will be in a position to vary the direction of their pressure in the manner that has been so successful in France. In these speculations, however, we must not forget the desperate efforts that Germany will make to galvanize the Bulgarians into a vigorous defensive, while compelling Austria to send help, whether she can spare the men or not. Whatever the issue of these operations, the Near East within a single week has come into its own, as being fraught with potentialities that, at comparatively small loss to the Allies, may exercise a tremendous influence on the course of the war.

GENERAL ALLENBY'S ADVANCE IN PALESTINE.

A wonderful and epoch-making week has just concluded in Palestine. The long-expected advance has produced dramatic results such as have but seldom occurred in the history of war. The thunderbolt character of General Allenby's offensive has not only resulted in the destruction of two Turkish armies—the soldiers killed or captured, most of the guns in our hands, and practically all the transport destroyed—but a very large district of Palestine, with cities of age-long historic interest, and often of sacred association, has been liberated without material damage. The peaceable inhabitants have been set free from the oppression and terror of centuries of misrule.

The military events have been scattered over so wide a field that it is quite impossible to construct from the official reports and Mr. Massey's graphic letters more than a tentative outline of this week of continuous battles.

Our line before the present offensive was one which we have held with but little alteration for many months. Commencing on the coast a little north of Arsuf, the opposing trenches ran some five miles eastward to a little south (apparently) of the village of Tabsor, and then another five miles to Kefr Saba, close to the railway. This latter vital point was especially heavily defended, and was further protected by the lofty and heavily fortified village of Kalkilieh. From here the lines ran south-east into the foothills of Samaria, skirting for some distance the Wady Kana on the south, and running (some eight or nine miles south-east from the railway) to Rafat, a village 1,080 feet above sea level on a strong natural position for defence, between the Wady Dumeh and the Wady el Lahham. Some six miles further east the Turks held Furkah, on a lofty summit 1,980 feet above sea level, on the northern edge of the deep Wady Ishar. On the other side of this wady we held Mezrah and Arura, also lofty points. Between these and the Jerusalem-Nablus high road our lines ran along the ridge on which stands Khurbet Ghurabeh and el Burj. Close to the road we dominated Sinjil and Turmus Aya, but in the very broken country which slopes from here eastwards our lines bent back southwards. The country consists of a tangle of deep valleys and rugged slopes, the general direction being at right angles to our advance. Near the head of the deep Wady Samureh we held the lofty Tell Ashur—a very powerful position captured from the Turks some months ago—and were possibly in place a little north. The Wady Samureh becomes further eastwards the Wady el Aujeh, which has long been in our hands, as were the hills of Abu Tellul to the north of it. From the mouth of the Aujeh our main line, with some advanced posts to the east of the river, lay along the Jordan to the Dead Sea.

In preparation for the planned great sweeping movement on the coast, General Allenby determined to secure the line of probable retreat of the forces opposed to him on the high road, and for this purpose, on the evening of the 18th, the right wing—a strong force of Irish, Welsh, and Indian infantry—was advanced, amid great difficulties, on account of the rugged nature of the country, a distance of three or four miles across the Wady Samureh to el Mugheir. This village is situated upon one of the few usable " roads " in this district. The infantry shortly afterwards advanced another one and a-half miles and captured Khurbet Jibeit, a river astride a second possible line of retreat. This manœuvre secured the shepherding of the beaten Turks towards the north and the retreat of those who escaped us down the Wady Farah.

Meanwhile, at 4.30 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, a heavy attack was commenced on the western defences along a front of sixteen miles, between Rafat and the sea. The advance was inaugurated by a simultaneous and intense bombardment along the whole line. The sudden outbreak apparently took the enemy by complete surprise. The short artillery barrage was followed by an advance all along the line, and by 8 a.m. the whole hostile defence was overrun. Near the coast itself, where the bombardment was assisted by some naval units, a wide breach was soon made in the three lines of trenches by Londoners and Indian infantry, and at 7.30 a.m. a large mass of cavalry poured through the gap. " We had the wonderful spectacle of long columns of British Yeomanry, Australian Light Horse, and picturesque, keen Indian Cavalry moving over a wide expanse of country in the coastal section to get to the enemy's rear. There has been no finer spectacle in the Palestine war than this rapid and well-ordered advance. The horsemen had to cross deep wadis and move over roads heavy with sand-dust, but all obstacles were lightly brushed aside." (Massey.)

Further inland heavy resistance was offered at et Tireh (some seven miles east from the sea), but that was captured during the morning. El Miskeh, another fortified village, held out till the afternoon; but as by then the line of retreat was seriously threatened by our cavalry, now far behind the Turkish lines, this place was hastily evacuated. The strongly fortified Kalkilieh offered some resistance, and had to be heavily assailed by artillery, but was finally captured by East Anglian troops before noon. The Turks now rapidly retreated towards the mouth of the Wady es Shair, hoping to reach the road to Nablus or the Nablus—Jenin high road. Meanwhile, in the difficult broken country further inland, our French Allies were victoriously overcoming the resistance of the enemy about Rafat. The forces on the right—Irish, Welsh, and Indian—meanwhile kept up a continuous fight, marching forward along the sides of the Nablus road and driving the Turks towards the north.

The large cavalry force which had broken through at 7.30 a.m. on this memorable morning with great dash successively crossed the Wady el Falk and the Wady Iskanderuneh, ten miles further north, fighting over the old Crusading country. By midday they had reached Liktera—better known as the site of the Jewish Colony of Khudeireh—nineteen miles from the point of departure. From here this great force of cavalry passed somewhat east of north over the hill country known as the Belad er Ruah (the breezy land), just east of the eastern end of Carmel, probably emerging (as I have done, riding this way) at Tell Keimun, on the Plain of Esdraelon. From here at sunrise on the 20th they swept on to Nazareth. Here they met with considerable opposition—it had long been rumoured that the Turks had prepared a line of resistance along the Nazareth hills—but they promptly surrounded the town and captured it with 2,300 prisoners. General Liman von Sanders, the German Commander-in-chief, had evacuated the town only the previous evening. The capture of this historic site was important, not only because of its size or for sentimental reasons, as a large Christian town, but because it lies astride the main road from Haifa to the Lake of Tiberias. The rapidity of movement may be realised when we read that in twenty-four hours this force advanced over fifty miles, with stiff fighting in several places, before capturing Nazareth.

Meanwhile, a second section of Yeomanry and Indian Cavalry who had broken through at Tabsor advanced northwards a little to the west of the coastline, and progressed with equal impetuosity to the historical place of Megiddo, now known in part as the Wady Musmus. Along this route passed many an army in ancient history. Thothmes III. has recorded in considerable detail his advance by this way, and many centuries later another Pharaoh here led his troops towards the Euphrates

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN

against the Assyrians. He was rashly opposed by the pious King Josiah, who perished at Megiddo. It was only consonant with history that near Lejjun below the lofty hill Tell Mutasellim, the site of Megiddo, the great fortress city which once guarded this pass, our troops should be met by opposition. The Lancers here encountered a whole Turkish battalion entrenched at the entrance to the plain. They made a resistless charge and cleared the way, killing ninety and capturing 410. From here the cavalry crossed the historic plain north-east to El Afuleh. This they speedily took with 1,500 prisoners and considerable quantities of rolling-stock and stores. This capture was of first-class importance, as El Afuleh is the junction of the Haifa-Damascus railway with the Afuleh-Gaza-Egypt line, and close here runs the Jenin-Nazareth road. Though but a poor village in itself it marks an historic event, because close by Napoleon's General Kleber obtained a striking victory—known as the "Battle of Tabor"—over a large force of irregular Arab cavalry. From here forces were rapidly pushed eastwards to Beisan, an important station in the Jordan Valley, on the Haifa-Damascus railway and the site of the ancient Bethshan, later known as Scythopolis, one of the chief cities of the Decapolis. And another force advanced still further north-east and secured the two very important bridges, road and railway, each known as Jisr el Mujamia, at the most important crossing of the Jordan south of the Lake of Galilee.

We must now return to the doings of the infantry. The forces which had so successfully overcome all resistance in the early morning of the 19th swung north-east, and, with astonishing energy, pushed ahead no less than twenty-two miles in twelve and a half hours, fighting at intervals all the way. With the assistance of some mounted men, they swung to the entrance of the Wady es Shair—the Nablus valley—captured the fortified hill of Tul Keram, and secured the whole section of the line up to Messudieh—the nearest point the railway reaches in the direction of Nablus.

By the evening of September 20 " the enemy's resistance had collapsed everywhere save on the Turkish left in the Jordan Valley." Our left wing had now swung round to a line moving almost north and south from Messudieh Junction, through Baka to Bidieh, closing all exit for the hills from the west. The cavalry at el Afuleh and Beisan closed the north. South, our forces occupied a line moving from es Sawieh south-eastwards to el Mugher. The only passage still open was that down the Wady Farah to the Jisr ed Damieh, on the Nablus-es Salt road.

Meanwhile, it should be stated, the Arab forces of the King of the Hejaz had been rendering signal service east of the Jordan. Besides inflicting a severe defeat on the Turks at et Tafileh, south-east of the Dead Sea, they had sent a strong force of mounted men, who, eluding the Turkish forces at Amman, had passed north and attacked and severely damaged the lines and bridges about the important railway junction of Deraa (the ancient Edrei), thereby cutting off the most important line of communication of the troops in Western Palestine with their base at Damascus.

By 9 p.m. on September 21 a ten mile line of our troops had been got into position, running from Bir Asur (four miles north-east of Tul Keram), through Subastiyeh (ancient Samaria) to Beit Dijan, five miles east of Nablus, shutting all retreat to the north.

The southern force meanwhile was advancing rapidly along the line of the high road, with heavy fighting all the way. On entering the plain of Mukhneh they were met by severe artillery fire from the hills behind Huwara, but by keeping in open formation towards the eastern side of the plain managed to progress. Meanwhile Yeomanry rounded off the entrenched force and captured Huwara itself with many prisoners. The sides of the trap were fast closing upon the doomed force, and a vast mass of troops, with baggage and guns, began to pour down the only road remaining open, running from the village of Ballata (where the Nablus valley—between Ebal and Yenzim—opens to the east) down the Wady Farah. This flight had been anticipated and as our infantry drove them into the narrow pass our airmen swooped down upon them with terrible effect; nearly ten tons of bombs were dropped at low altitudes and 56,000 rounds fired from machine guns. Between our artillery behind and the airmen in front, the packed column, extending over six miles, was almost entirely destroyed. Along this line the whole column became one mass of broken enemy troops. " In this area alone eighty-seven guns of various calibres, fully 1,000 horse and oxen-drawn vehicles, nearly 100 motor lorries, cars, field kitchens, water-carts, and a mass of other impedimenta were found. The road was black with the carcasses of thousands of animals and the bodies of dead Turks and Germans " (Massey).

Nablus was entered the same afternoon by Australian and French mounted troops.

In the north cavalry from Nazareth approached Kefr Kenna (the traditional site of Cana in Galilee) and Suffurieh (the ancient Sepphoris, the Roman capital, at one time of Galilee).

The next morning, Sunday, September 22, the passage of the Jordan at Jisr ed Damieh was secured, and by 1 p.m. New Zealand troops got across the river and secured the Nablus-es Salt road.

On Monday, the 23rd, the important port of Haifa—the one reasonably good harbour in Palestine—and the historic city of Akka (Acre), so famous in connection with British feats of arms, were both occupied. At Haifa our troops received a warm welcome, even from the German colonists. This gives us the whole section of the railway from Akka and Haifa to the Jordan. The possession of Haifa will enormously facilitate transport problems connected with the advance, and in securing Akka we have probably brought under our control all the maritime plain up to the famous ladder of Tyre. An important military road runs from Akka close to Safed, across the Jordan at the Jisr Benat Yacob (" the bridge of the daughters of Jacob "), and on to Damascus. No doubt the securing of this road in its entirety will be one of the next steps taken.

On the same day (23rd) we re-occupied es Salt for the third, and we hope the final, time, taking prisoners and guns. The position of the considerable Germano-Turkish force in Amman must now be most precarious, and it seems not improbable that they will try to break out to the north. Their only hope of safety lies in the direction of Damascus. The Arabs have captured Maan, upon the Hejaz railway to the south, and have broken the line at Deraa to the north. Our forces at es Salt—Australians, New Zealanders, West Indians, and Jewish troops—threaten them to the north-west, and will doubtless assist the Arabs in the demolition of the railway just north of Amman. It is difficult to see how the Turkish garrison can escape without immense loss. Meanwhile the latest news reports a total of over 40,000 Turks and Germans captured, with 265 guns and enormous military stores of all descriptions.

Never in all the long history of Palestine, with its countless wars, has the land witnessed such a crushing and lightning stroke—one which has at one blow liberated for ever this oppressed and ravaged land from the accursed rule of the Ottoman Turk

E. W. G. M.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL ALLENBY.

The King has sent the following telegram to General Sir Edmund Allenby:—

"It is with feelings of pride and admiration that we at home have received the news of the ably conceived and brilliantly carried out operations in which the British, Indian, and Allied Forces under your command, with the support of the Royal Navy, have gained a complete victory over the enemy.

"I am confident that this success, which has effected the liberation of Palestine from Turkish rule, will rank as a great exploit in the history of the British Empire, and will stand for all time as a memorable testimony to British leadership and to the fighting qualities of British and Indian troops. GEORGE R.I."

The Lord Mayor of London has conveyed to General Allenby the heartiest congratulations of the citizens of London on the recent splendid victories of the British troops in Palestine.

Sir Douglas Haig has sent the following telegram:—

All ranks join with me in sending our heartiest congratulations on your latest magnificent success to you and our comrades in Palestine.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Defender of the Dardanelles.

Land and Water (September 12) contains the first part of an article, "The Dardanelles Bombardment," by Mr. Henry Morgenthau, formerly American Minister in Constantinople. The account is full of interest. Here is an incident that happened when Mr. Morgenthau was being shown the Dardanos battery:—

> The Turkish generals were extremely proud of the fight which this Dardanos battery had made against the British ships. They would lead me to the guns that had done particularly good service, and pat them affectionately. For my benefit, Djevad called out Lieutenant Hassan, the Turkish officer who had defended this position. He was a little fellow, with jet-black hair, black eyes, extremely modest, and almost shrinking in the presence of these great generals. Djevad patted Hassan on both cheeks, while another high Turkish officer stroked his hair; one would have thought that he was a faithful dog who had just performed some meritorious service.
>
> "It is men like you of whom great heroes are made," said General Djevad. He asked Hassan to describe the attack and the way it had been met. The embarrassed lieutenant quietly told his story, though he was moved almost to tears by the appreciation of his exalted chiefs.
>
> "There is a great future for you in the army," said General Djevad, as we parted from this hero.
>
> Poor Hassan's "future" came two days afterwards, when the Allied Fleet made its greatest attack. One of the shells struck his dug-out, which caved in, killing the boy. Yet his behaviour on the day I visited his battery showed that he regarded the praise of his general as sufficient compensation for all that he had suffered or all that he might suffer.

A Two-Year Republic.

A correspondent in *The Times* recently gave the following account of the history of the Republic of Koritza:—

> This State [which is officially spelt Korce in Albanian] originated in the late autumn of 1916, in the brilliant brain of a French cavalry colonel. The bulk of Albania was at that time occupied by the Austrians. In the south the Italians held Avlona, on the Adriatic, but between them and the Allied Salonika forces was a solid wedge of Austrians and King Constantine's unfriendly Greeks.
>
> In the autumn General Sarrail pushed forward in a north-westerly direction, and occupied Koritsa and the region near Lake Malik. This was the first time that French troops from Salonika had found themselves in Albanian territory, and the colonel in command was faced with the problem of setting up a civil administration. North-east lay Serbia and south-east lay Greece, but Koritsa was neither. According to the Treaty of Bucharest, the only legal instrument recognised by the Allies, it was part of Albania. The colonel solved the difficulty by proclaiming Koritsa, and the *caza*, or administrative district of which it is the capital, to be an autonomous Albanian republic, under the protection of the Allies.
>
> General Sarrail, confronted with a *fait accompli*, accepted the situation, and Koritsa has remained a republic. A Council of twelve Elders, mixed Mussulman and Christian, was set up as the governing body, Essad Pasha uttered a blessing in Albanian, a flag was devised, a post office system instituted, and stamps issued.
>
> All has not gone without a hitch. The two-headed eagle, which flaunted so bravely on the flag and the first stamp issue, roused antagonism, and was said to be not the genuine Albanian bird beloved of Skanderberg and all good Shkipetari, but a monstrous Austrian Imperial creature. Yet, on the whole, Koritsa has greatly enjoyed its autonomy, even if it realises that the days are coming when it will be merged in some larger whole. Meantime, owing to various happy advances of the Allies, it has gained several extensions of territory.

As a matter of fact, before the above account was written or published the Republic had ceased to exist, if the *Balkan Herald* of Athens is well informed. Writing on August 21, it says:—

> This little free State no longer flourishes; it ceased to exist many months ago. It was abolished by the French, who created it. There are matters which cannot profitably be discussed in the public Press, but there were cogent reasons for suppressing this independent republic. *Sic transit gloria Korces.*

Our Victory in Palestine.

The following are a few extracts from various articles dealing with General Allenby's great victory in Palestine:

> It has been a masterly operation, brilliantly conceived and as brilliantly executed. General Allenby must have been well backed by his officers and men and by their French colleagues to achieve so complete a success. And we may say in passing that the victory will serve to remind some of our military critics that the day of cavalry—and of cavalry leaders—is not over. But there is more to consider in this matter than tactics or even strategy. Palestine is practically clear of the enemy, and we may now begin to think of Damascus, and even "the vital junction of Muslimie." We can cut off the Turk from his chief line of communications with Mesopotamia—and we might perhaps bring the Turk to terms.—*The Morning Post.*
>
> The liberation of the Holy Land would seem to be accomplished, and that is an event which must exert far-reaching moral influence in the Christian, the Jewish, and the Moslem world. The operation to which it is due seems to have been a model of conception and of execution. It is a fine sample, on a limited scale, of real Napoleonic tactics in a stricken field. —*The Times.*
>
> General Allenby's victory is the most complete defeat yet inflicted by the Allied arms in any theatre of war, and is likely to have consequences of high importance, both in the military and the political spheres, throughout the enemy confederation. Last night's news established the amazing fact that the Turkish army in Palestine had been wiped out of existence in a single brilliant operation, long prepared, suddenly launched, and carried through with a rapidity which might have been supposed impossible.—*The Daily Telegraph.*
>
> The value of the triumph does not consist alone in the large captures of men and material; it will accentuate the war-weariness of Constantinople and react upon the military situation in the Balkans and Mesopotamia. Whatever prospect there may have been of the "Prussians of the Balkans" receiving assistance from the Turks has been shattered by General Allenby; and the forces in front of General Marshall in Mesopotamia will doubtless be depleted for an attempt to restore the position in Northern Palestine.—*The Daily Graphic.*

The East and the West Fronts.

In a leading article, "The Allied Victories in the East," *The Times* refers to, and disposes of, certain views put forward by extremists who can see only the Western Front.

> There is no ground for the fears that one sees expressed even now that these victories in the East may lead us away from the main business of the war. Victory has to be won in the West, but the East can make that victory easier than it would otherwise be. No troops are being employed in these Eastern campaigns that are not strictly necessary, even if our object were that of simple defence, or that could be more profitably used elsewhere. Both the Serbian and the Palestine victories have a very strict relevance to the matter in hand. Turkey is the great buffer for Germany against our communication with Russia and against our power to interfere with Germany's ambitions there. Moreover, anything that weakens Bulgaria weakens Austria and increases still further the Bulgarian discontent at the policy of subservience to the Central Powers. And what weakens Austria not only diminishes the help that she can give on the West, but goes to defeat the great political objects that Germany had at the beginning of the war, and to which she is now reverting as the sole hope of her escape from complete and unequivocal defeat.

◆

It is stated by the *Petit Parisien* that General Puvishitch, who had come specially from Salonika, has personally conferred on King Albert of the Belgians, on behalf of the Serbian Government, the Grand Cross of the Order of Karageorge, with swords, and the gold medal for valour. The Cross of Charity in gold was conferred on Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. N. Marias, a Greek who died recently at Mansourah, left by his will £E200 to the Greek community of Alexandria, £E300 to that of Mansourah, £E200 for the Greek Invalids Fund, £E100 for Moslem Benevolent Societies, £E500 and a house, to be used as a school, to the Greek community of the Isle of Patmos, and £3,000 to be converted to a fund, the interest of which will be yearly a dowry for two poor Patmos girls.

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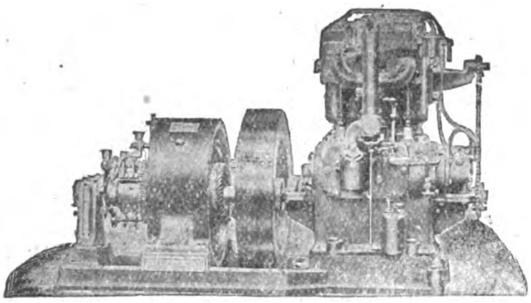

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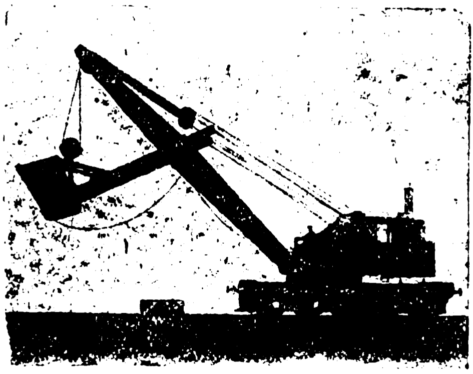

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

My view that the profits made by Greek shipping firms and businesses during the war would place Greece in a most favourable position as regards the provision of capital for future industrial developments is fully borne out by the results of the excess profits tax which was introduced this year. The tax was estimated to produce £1,200,000, but the yield has amounted to no less than £8,000,000! This result suggests very clearly that estimates of the profits of Greek industries, and, in particular, of shipping firms, during the last couple of years have greatly erred on the side of moderation. From the revenue point of view the large surplus over the estimate is invaluable. It has been a difficult task for the administration to straighten out the tangle in which Greek finances were left on the departure of the late King, and this unexpected revenue will be of immense assistance in meeting war charges and in helping to place the State finances on a satisfactory basis.

⁂

Bulgaria's difficulties with regard to the export of tobacco, to which I referred last week, have been increased by this year's excellent tobacco crop. The weather this spring was unfavourable for grain crops, and the Bulgarian farmers, no doubt under the impression that the Central Powers would provide a profitable market, seized the opportunity of increasing the area under tobacco. The result has been a crop of 50,000,000 kilograms, while there are still some 30,000,000 kilograms of previous crops in stock. There is no question that Germany and her Ally need all the tobacco they can obtain, but what they can take depends entirely upon transport, and as only a small amount can be made available for tobacco imports, Germany, whose pre-war consumption of Bulgarian tobacco is said to have been 25,000,000 kilograms, has only negotiated for 4,000,000 kilograms. As transport is not to be obtained for the requirements of the Central Powers it is naturally impossible for Bulgaria to find a market in neutral countries bordering on Germany and her Ally, who formerly imported about 10,000,000 kilograms from her. If there were no other complications the position would be bad enough, but that is not the whole story.

⁂

The year seems to have been a good one for tobacco cultivation throughout the Near East, and the tobacco crops of Turkey and the Ukraine are also reported to have been splendid, so that the Central Powers are not in any way compelled to depend on Bulgaria for whatever quantity of tobacco they are able to import. From their point of view it is fortunate that they are not, for the Bulgarian tobacco merchants would simply have taken advatage of the position to increase still further the high prices that have obtained for Bulgarian tobacco during the last couple of years. The pre-war price was from 9 to 12 francs, and this rose to 56 francs, a price which was touched for some time last year. By August last it had fallen, however, to 36 francs, mainly, no doubt, because it is realised that Germany and Austria are not now obliged to deal with Bulgaria at all, and will only do so at a reasonable price. Even at 36 francs business seems out of the question, as it is stated that that figure is twice as high as the Central Powers are willing to pay. Meanwhile Turkey seems to have attempted to secure the market by lowering the price for her tobacco, and altogether the situation seems full of possibilities.

⁂

I mentioned recently that an authority estimates the value of gold coins melted down in India during the war at £30,000,000. According to a correspondent the figure may well be as much as £40,000,000. He tersely describes the position by saying that every piece of gold put out by the Government has immediately gone into the melting pots and hoards. Whether the efforts now being made to check the traffic in gold coins will be entirely successful remains to be seen; certainly a most effective step has been taken in that direction by prohibiting the transport of coin by rail.

⁂

Indian has hitherto been able to carry on during the war without the increases in taxation that have taken place in other countries. It seems certain, however, that this state of things will not continue, as a resolution has been passed in the Imperial Legislative Council agreeing to impose next year an excess profits tax at the rate of 50 per cent. Presumably this tax will form the main feature of the next Indian Budget, and for final details we may have to wait until that is introduced. In the meantime the imminence of the new tax is having a marked effect on Indian shares, which, as a whole, have been receiving excellent returns during the war, and are rated accordingly.

⁂

On previous occasions I have drawn attention to Germany's hope that she will be able to obtain a "sphere of influence" in North Persia, and so make that country serve as an instrument in the working out of her Eastern ambitions. An article in a recent issue of the *Frankfurter Handelsblatt* gives further point to what I have written on this subject. After discussing the attractive resources of North Persia, especially as regards oil and copper, the journal proceeds boldly to discuss plans for developing the country's communications. Germany, it says, would have to consider the building of canals on the Kawal River and on the Schabund, and also the construction of "a great network of railways." The latter project gives an excellent clue to the design, as we are obligingly told that German "interest in this railway scheme is scarcely less than that in the Baghdad line." In other words, the resources of Persia are a secondary consideration, Germany's idea being to make of North Persia "a road to the East" which will enable her to threaten India. I wonder what the Persians will have to say to this project.

⁂

Initiative of any kind is so rare in Turkey that a word is called for by the enterprise of the members of the Constantinople Press in establishing a co-operative society for their mutual benefit. The society, which has a capital of £6,000 in £6 shares, of which no member may hold more than ten, is to be administered until its first general meeting in November by a provisional council, which will be responsible for the distribution of articles of food and clothing at a reasonable price. It is surprising that it should have been left to Constantinople to give an example of the organisation of a body of professional men in order to reduce the cost of living. I must point out, however, that the journalists in question are for the most part not Turks at all, but mainly Levantines, who, as a race, are renowned throughout the Near East for their astute business qualities, which readily explains the present undertaking.

⁂

Commenting on the present shortage of small coins in Egypt, a native contemporary suggests that the Egyptian Mint, which, it states, has been kept safely with its machinery, should be utilised to alleviate the crisis. I have no doubt the suggestion is well meant, but, unfortunately, it is not a shortage of Mints which has to be dealt with, and it is difficult to see how the resuscitation of the Egyptian Mint would remedy matters.

⁂

The latest development in regard to British trade organisation is the decision to form a British Manufacturers' Corporation, which was decided upon at a representative meeting at Manchester last week. It is stated that the object of the corporation is to secure a large extension of British exports after the war, and that for this purpose it is proposed to organise agencies in foreign countries. A provisional committee, with Sir Charles Mandleberg as chairman, has been appointed to carry out the formation of the corporation, and it is understood that so far 300 firms have signified their adhesion to the scheme.

⁂

In the majority of cases the spread of the co-operative credit system has everything to commend it in agricultural countries, but occasionally it produces somewhat unexpected results. A case in point is afforded in the recently-issued administration report of Bengal for 1916-17. After stating that the societies formed for weavers, a "depressed" and indigent community, increased from seventeen to thirty-four, while nine were formed by fishermen, the report adds that "it is a melancholy fact, illustrating the futility of Socialistic uniformity, that some of these societies used the increased prosperity and capital which co-operative sale and the elimination of the middleman had won for them to become middlemen themselves, and in their turn to exploit the labour of their less fortunate brethren who had remained outside the co-operative pale." In one case the fishermen found that they were able to obtain Rs.14 per maund for their fish as against the Rs.5 they obtained before they formed a society, and in consequence of their unexpected prosperity they gave up their work and sublet their fishery.

⁂

The effect of the war has been very marked on industrial activities generally in India, and in no direction has this been more evident than in regard to the cotton weaving industry. Throughout the war production has been greatly increased, and in 1917-18 the increase was more than 500,000,000 yards, or nearly 50 per cent., above the pre-war average. For the same period imports amounted to 1,555,000,000 yards, a decrease of roughly 41 per cent. In 1916-17 the number of looms in Indian mills rose from 88,100 to 110,800, and at the end of that year the paid-up capital stood at Rs. 15,98 lakhs, compared with Rs. 14,94 lakhs in 1913-14. In the year before the war the total dividends of thirty-six companies amounted to Rs. 60 lakhs, equivalent to 12 per cent. on their aggregate ordinary paid up capital of Rs. 5,13 lakhs. In 1917, however, the dividends of the same companies amounted to no less than Rs. 1,71 lakhs, or about 33 per cent. on a capital of roughly Rs. 5.23 lakhs. These figures show the really remarkable development of the industry.

⁂

The report of the Assam Oil Company for 1917 records a marked advance on the results for the previous year, the profits being £89,800, against £69,200, which, with the amount brought forward, makes £105,100, against £80,200. The ordinary shares have received an interim dividend of 8 per cent., against 6 per cent. in 1916, and this has not been increased, but the dividend on the participating preference shares is raised from 7 per cent. to 8. £25,000 is allotted to depreciation, and £5,000 to the reserve fund, the total for these purposes being £5,000 less than the previous year, but the carry-forward is higher at £38,100, against £15,300. It, however, includes provision for excess profits duty for 1916 and 1917. It only remains to add that the report states that the outturn from the wells again showed improvement, and prices were higher, while progress with the drilling was satisfactory, and the usual prospecting work was carried on as energetically as possible.

⁂

Attention is drawn by *The Times* to the interest now being shown in financial circles in the position of the Four per Cent. Turkish Guaranteed Loan. The market price of this security, our contemporary points out, "stood at 103 before the war, and is now about 74¾, thus yielding £5 8s. per cent., as compared with £4 5s. per cent. from Consols or £4 12s. 6d. per cent. from Irish Guaranteed stock at their present prices. The interest on this Turkish loan was guaranteed jointly and severally by Great Britain and France until the capital should be repaid. The loan is secured on the Egyptian tribute and the Customs duties of Smyrna and Syria, and since 1878 the tribute payable by Cyprus to the Turkish Government has been retained by Great Britain and applied to the service of the loan. It is pointed out that in consequence of the transfer of Egypt and Cyprus to British control, the question of the tribute is practically bound to be dealt with in the rearrangements after the war, and that it is not unlikely that the opportunity may be taken to pay off the loan or convert it, so as to relieve the British and French Governments of their responsibilities under the guarantee. Should the loan, however, remain as it is, it seems to be in the position of a perpetual British Government security, and it seems somewhat remarkable, therefore, that it should stand at its comparatively low price in the market."

⁂

I understand that tenders are called for for cutting, embanking, and other works on two sections (about twenty-five miles) of the Tangier—Fez Railway. Tenders must be in by November 12.

Commentator.

ROUMANIAN COMMERCE.

Retrospect and Prospect.—II.

By A. Loveday.

It is necessary now to review the development of Roumania's export trade, on which her power to purchase depends. As that export trade has extended *pari passu* with the increase of agricultural production, it is to the statistics of the latter that we naturally turn. Unfortunately, no agricultural statistics were published during the period 1877-85, and any figures showing the percentage increase of crops since the latter date are liable to be misleading owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable base period. If the average production for the period 1891-5 be taken as equal to one hundred, the following figures, representing the quinquennial average increase of the two main crops, wheat and maize, are obtained :—

	Wheat.	Maize.
1891-5	100	100
1896-00	87	110
1901-05	133	106
1906-10	133	135
1910-13 (3 yrs. av.)	155	168

But the increase of the wheat crops has, in fact, been more considerable than these figures indicate, the mean for the years 1891-5 being well above the average of preceding years. Had the period 1886-90 been taken as the base instead of 1891-5, the final figures for the years 1910-13 would have been 168 for wheat and only 141 for maize. The statistics for these first five years after the unfortunate lacuna in the published records, however, are not above suspicion, and the maize crop for the first year, if correctly computed, was a record which still remains unapproached.

It was noted above that six million hectares out of a total area of about 13 million were cultivated. The following table shows the extent of the more important cultivations during the period of the cereal years 1909/10-1913/14, and the export of maize, wheat, oats, and barley :—

Period 1909/10-1913/14.

Crop.	Area (000) ha.	Harvest (000) M.T.	Net Export (000) M.T.	Consumption (000) M.T.	Consumption per head, kg.
Cereals..	5,091	—	3,068 (gross)	—	—
Wheat..	1,852	2,389	Cal. year. 1,427*	595	83·6
Maize ..	2,084	2,730	Cal. year. 982	1,710	240
Oats	447	421	156	—	—
Barley ..	534	544	Cal. year. 351	—	—

* Includes wheaten flour.

In comparison with these figures may be given the exports of wheat during the same period by the more important producing countries of the world :—

Net Exports of Wheat and Flour Converted to Terms of Wheat 1909/10-1913/14 (000) Metric Tons.

Country.	Net export.
European Russia ..	4,467 (excluding exports through Asiatic boundaries)
U.S.A.	4,168
Canada	2,520
Argentine	2,254
Australia	1,445
Roumania	1,427
India	1,350

As an exporter of wheat Roumania thus ranked sixth in the world and second in Europe. As a producer and exporter of maize she gave place only to the Argentine and the United States of America. Maize is essentially the crop of the small peasant proprietor, and the increase of the exportable surplus is to a certain extent a measure of the improvement in the conditions of agriculture, since the total area under maize has not greatly increased since 1886, and the amount which the peasant retains for his personal consumption does not greatly vary from year to year unless the harvest has been exceptionally bad. It will be noted that the average consumption per head of the population during the five years 1909-14 was 240 kg., while that of wheat was only 83.6 kg. These figures may be compared on the one hand with the average consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom of 162.5 kg. per head, where the domestic production during the same period was 1,623 million metric tons, and on the other to the present German bread and flour ration which, inclusive of potatoes, rye, and other ingredients, may be estimated at about 95 kg. per individual. In Germany, where rye has always been more popular than wheaten bread, the average consumption of wheat per head of the population during the quinquennium preceding the war was only 86 kg., the lowest in Europe with the exception of Sweden, Norway, and Roumania. There are, of course, no accurate figures available of the production of these cereals in Roumania since the German invasion. That that production must have shown an appreciable diminution is beyond question. But it is more open to doubt whether, if the Roumanian army is demobilised and the peasant soldier returns to his home, as assuredly he will does the German permit him, normal crops will not once more be reaped. The yield per hectare for all crops in Roumania is low; for wheat it only averaged during the period under discussion 12.9 quintals, compared with 21.2 quintals in Great Britain. There are two main reasons for this fact, primitive methods of cultivation and lack of capital. Capital Germany will no doubt be unable to supply. But it is, on the other hand, by no means improbable that she will enforce more scientific methods of agriculture, and abolish over large areas the individual tillage of minute plots in favour of the extensive cultivation of considerable districts. Before the war the production of wheat per hectare on large holdings was 20 per cent. higher than on small, and in the production of maize the difference was still more marked, although it cannot be said that the large proprietors in Roumania, for all the fortunes they made in years of abundant harvest, sank over much capital in the land.

One of the most remarkable facts with reference to the trade of Roumania has been the growth of exports to Belgium since 1886. This has been coupled with a decrease in exports to Austria-Hungary, to the United Kingdom, and in a lesser degree to Turkey. The whole of this increased export to Belgium was accounted for by commitments of grain to that country as a free mart, and some Roumanian writers have seen in this fact a proof of the growing economic independence of their country. To a certain extent, no doubt, their view is correct, and the year 1886 marks the beginning of that tariff war with Austria-Hungary which finally liberated her from the economic vassalage to which she had been forced to submit during the previous decade. But the figures published by the Roumanian Government are in some measure misleading, as an appreciable proportion of the consignments to Belgium were passed straight through to Germany, and appear correctly in the German trade returns as imports from Roumania, although no complementary exports are to be found in the Roumanian trade returns.

The actual position may be illustrated by the following table :—

Exports of Wheat by Roumania and Imports by Germany. (000) metric tons.

	From Roumanian Trade Returns.			From German Trade Returns.	
Year.	Total exp'rts.	Exports to Belgium.	Exports to Germany.	German imports from Roumania.	German total net imports.
1909..	858	246	41	120	2,223
1910..	1,841	895	29	169	2,063
1911..	1,458	820	31	227	2,178
1912..	1,372	563	23	272	1,975
1913..	1,153	590	25	95	2,011
			Average.		
1909-1913..	1,336	623	30	176	2,090

The first and last columns, read in conjunction with the harvest figures given in a former table, afford a basis for estimating roughly the extent to which Germany might compensate herself for the loss of her overseas trade in wheat by imports from Roumania. The pre-war exports of maize by Roumania exceeded Germany's net imports, averaging in the years considered above 982,000 metric tons, compared with 817,000 metric tons.

Germany's main object, however, in wishing to force, or to induce Russia to force, Roumania to enter the war at the time she did was to obtain possession of her petroleum wells.

The petroleum industry is the example which Roumanians always quote of England's neglect of her opportunities, a neglect which Roumanians have watched for their own reasons with no small measure of regret in recent years. However this may be, it is no doubt true that the real development of this source of wealth began with the foundation of the Deutsche-Petroleum-Aktiengesellschaft in 1903 under the auspices of the Deutsche Bank, and that since that date Germany has obtained and held the premier position in the industry. According to the latest British consular report, out of seventy-three petroleum companies, with a nominal capital of £18,500,000, in 1913 Germany held 37 per cent., the United Kingdom 30 per cent., the Netherlands 12 per cent., and France 6 per cent. of that capital.

In addition to her capital holdings, Germany also controlled a number of companies of French, Dutch, and Italian origin. The group formed by the Disconto Gesellschaft, for instance, under the title of the Allgemeine Petroleum Industrie A.G., Berlin controlled the Credit Petrolifier, the Internat. Rumeensche Petroleum Maatschappij, Amsterdam, the Telega Oil Co., and the Italo-Romano Co., amongst others, while the Dresdner Bank group was founded by a combination of Franco-German financiers.

The increasing value of this industry to Roumania is shown by the following table, giving in millions of francs the quinquennial value of exports for the twenty years preceding the war:—

Exports of Petroleum and Petroleum Products.

Period.	Millions of Francs.
1894-8	1
1899-03	4
1903-8	24
1909-13	62

But by giving the average for the five years immediately preceding the war the extraordinarily rapid progress achieved during that period is concealed. The actual exports in the year 1913 amounted to 131,481,000 francs in value, or 19.6 per cent. of the total value of all exports. The production of crude petroleum, in fact, doubled between the years 1906 and 1913, being 97,100 tons in the former and 1,899,000 tons in the latter year. Parallel with this increase in the output of crude petroleum, there has been an appreciable development of the refining industry in Roumania, the quantity of crude petroleum sent to the refineries having increased from 73 per cent. of the total output in 1901 to 91 per cent. in 1911, and the extracts actually obtained from 90 per cent. to 98.5 per cent. in the two years respectively.

From the figures given in the table below it will be noted that, in spite of the relative neglect of this industry by the British, the United Kingdom purchased continually increasing quantities of its production, and were far larger customers of Roumania than was Germany:—

Exports of Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Roumania to Various Countries of Consignment in Thousands of Metric Tons.

Country.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
United Kingdom	126	179	215	240
France	140	116	166	158
Germany	53	55	88	128
Italy	28	18	24	119
Egypt	73	110	137	130
Austria-Hungary	39	47	83	78

The markets, however, are better defined than the above table indicates. In 1913, for instance, Austria-Hungary purchased 77 per cent. of the total exports of crude petroleum, the United Kingdom about 33 per cent. of the residues, France about 33 per cent., and Germany about 27 per cent. of the benzine; while of the refined petrol England and Egypt each took over 20 per cent., whereas Austria-Hungary's imports were negligible, and Germany only accounted for 33,631 out of a total export of 428,097 metric tons.

THE WORLD'S CROPS.

According to estimates received by the Board of Agriculture from the International Agricultural Institute, wheat has been produced this year to the extent of 962,078,000 cwts. in England and Wales, Canada, India, the United States, Spain, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis, or 17.1 per cent. more than in 1917 and 7.6 per cent. above the average for the five years 1912-16. Barley is estimated to prove 5.2 per cent. greater than the yield of 1917 and 7.2 above the average for 1912-16; and oats 3.4 less than last year, but 12.3 per cent. above the average for the five years mentioned. Maize production in the United States and Canada is 15.4 per cent. less than 1917, and the potato yield in France, England and Wales, Canada, and the United States this year is reckoned to be 12.6 per cent. below that of 1917.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Jerusalem's Water Supply.

It was well known to travellers and tourists that the pleasure of a visit to Jerusalem had to be paid for in the hard cash of inconvenience, for before the war there were few comforts there, and absolutely no amusements, shops or clubs, no music, and only one or two good hotels. Above all there was no water supply or sanitation worth mentioning, and streets and people looked inexpressibly unclean. An interesting picture of the vitally different conditions which obtain to-day has been given by a priest of the Eastern Church who recently left Jerusalem. He states that from the time of the liberation of the Holy City by the British Army, a most wonderful transformation has been in progress, which amazes the inhabitants and those who visit the city. Apart from the established order, safety and equity, of which these people have had no conception, the abundance of pure water flowing from fountains and standpipes all over the city is considered a veritable miracle. This latter transformation is due to the skill of the British engineers, who, as was reported at the time, accomplished in a little more than two months, what the Turks could not, or would not do in their rule of four hundred years.

Cisterns and Water Carriers.

Jerusalem's water supply depended upon cisterns and the picturesque, but usually unclean water-carriers. Almost every house has its underground cistern, or reservoir, which is filled during winter with rain water collected from the roofs. The quantity (as well as the cleanness) of the water is obviously uncertain. It was for such cases, and for houses that have no cisterns, that the water-carrier with his leathern water-bag was needed. To supplement the cistern supply the Mosque of Omar reservoir divided with Bethlehem the water which flowed from near Solomon's Pools down an aqueduct constructed by Roman engineers under Herod. But this was not nearly sufficient, nor was it constant in supply. The British engineers, therefore, went farther afield, and found a group of springheads in an absolutely clean gathering ground on the hills, yielding some 14,000 gallons an hour, and this water which was running to waste, is lifted to the top of a hill from which it flows by gravity through a long pipe line to Jerusalem. Supplies of this excellent water run direct to the hospitals, and from standpipes all over the city the inhabitants take as much as they desire. It is reported that the water consumption of the people has become ten times what it was last year, and this fact alone shows how the boon is appreciated. A householder has merely to apply to the Military Government for water, and a sanitary officer inspects the cistern, orders it to be cleansed and sees it is done, and then the department of public health grants a certificate that the cistern is clean, and then engineers run a pipe to it and it is filled no matter what its capacity may be.

Triumph for British Engineers.

It is admitted that the installation of the Jerusalem water supply is a triumph for the British engineers. It is asserted that a preliminary investigation and survey of the ground was made on February 14, and a scheme was submitted four days later. Owing to the shortage of transport and abnormally bad weather, work could not be commenced till April 12. Many miles of pipeline had to be laid, and a powerful pumping plant erected, but water was being delivered to the people of Jerusalem on June '18. There has not been a stoppage or a hitch. Other military works have done much for the common good in Palestine, but none of them has been of greater utility than this. Mohammedans seeing clear water flow into Jerusalem, regarded it as one of the wonders of the time; whilst, according to the priest mentioned above, many of the old Greek priests were crossing themselves for being spared to witness it, and to see the Holy City clean and beautiful.

Artesian Wells in Greece.

Artesian well engineers and contractors will find a very wide field for business enterprise in the Near East, particularly in Greece, where in many large towns and important agricultural districts the great desideratum is water. In most of these towns and districts there are convincing proofs, natural as well as practical, that artesian wells could successfully be opened, and the necessary water supply obtained. Just before the war commenced the Greek Government, it was reported, set aside an annual sum of £3,000 for five years to cover the expense of experimental borings for water in various parts of the country. The Government also announced its willingness to sign an agreement with any competent firm of engineering contractors for the carrying out of these borings, payment to be at so much a metre. The localities chosen at the time for the successive operations were in the immediate vicinity of Athens, Corinth, Patras, Volo, Larissa, Trikkala, Karditsa, Lamia, Levadea, Thebes, Missolongi, Pyrgos, Kyparissia, Calamata, Gythion, Sparta, Tripolitsa, etc. Owing most probably to the serious political events in Greece, with the subsequent withdrawal of M. Venizelos from the Government, nothing has been heard since of this proposal. But as the annual sum has, we presume, been set aside, and the present Government proposed the scheme, it will be worth the while of British firms interested in this class of work to give attention to this matter. For, apart from the experimental soundings which the Government requires, the contractors for the experimental borings, etc., will undoubtedly find lucrative employment in boring for landowners in the districts where the existence of water is proved. There are also many municipalities in the larger islands of the Ægean Sea which are very anxious to carry out similar boring experiments.

Composite Buildings for Greece.

The rebuilding of Salonika, after the great fire which recently demolished a large part of the town, is, in existing circumstances, a very serious question. Labour and materials for building will be very scarce for some time, and people are in need of houses to replace those that were burnt. It is said that French, Italian, and American firms have tried to introduce certain types of iron and composite buildings, which would be partially prepared in their respective countries and finished on the spot. But it appears that the cost of these buildings was in most cases beyond the means of the class of people who were in immediate need of a home, and in other cases the designs and construction generally were not suitable for the climate. It was not reported if any offers were made from this country, yet there are several British firms engaged in the construction of iron, wooden, or composite fixed and portable buildings, such as cottages, bungalows, schools, churches, etc., which would meet the requirements of those who are in need of temporary or permanent small houses, not only in Salonika, but in many parts of Greece. It may be of interest to such firms to know that a design which was proposed by a firm, and was apparently regarded with favour by would-be buyers at the time, was a building designed to produce the highest possible efficiency with a combination of standard component parts. It could be taken to pieces, transported and re-erected with extreme rapidity. The plates were designed so that the building could be erected on uneven ground. The erection, it was claimed, required no skilled labour. The frame of the building consisted of vertical stanchions and horizontal members of tubular steel and wrought-iron, such as are used for electric installations. Between the framework sheets of thin tinplate are inserted, forming shutters or walls, which may be painted or tarred. The floor and roof consisted of sheets of corrugated iron, but the floor could also be covered with ordinary boards. The first cost of such a building was claimed to be a fraction of that of brick or other buildings of corresponding capacity and of normal type. The weight of a cottage 22 ft. by 10 ft. was said to be 23 cwt., and the heaviest part weighed 85 lb. This was the smallest size, but much larger buildings could be made on the same principle. As a strong, easily transported, and cheap design of building it was favoured by those who required a temporary house or a bungalow.

GREEK LIGNITE INDUSTRY.

History and Prospects.

The recent discovery of large deposits of lignite in Greek Macedonia, which was referred to in these columns last week, gives special interest to a detailed survey of the Greek lignite industry by the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, Mr. Henry A. Hill, which has recently been issued. Obviously his statement of the position will be liable to modification should the new lignite field justify the hope of an output of 200 tons per day, since it would mean that its cost would probably be lower after the war, and as it is out of the question, in view of the increased cost of labour and transport and the shortage of shipping, that it will then be possible to deliver British coal in Greece at anything like the pre-war figure, lignite may enjoy a demand which it would never have had but for the war.

It is interesting to note that before the year 1915, says Mr. Hill, the demand for lignite in Greece was negligible. Since the outbreak of the war, however, the demand has increased so enormously that some 30 concerns which possessed concessions have commenced mining the product with lucrative results. Besides these firms the Mining Office of the Ministry of National Economy has issued 164 concessions to mine magnesite in accordance with a law promulgated March 31, 1916. Under this law, if the holder of a concession fails to exploit it the first informant receives that privilege on depositing a guaranty for account of the original holder of the concession of nine-tenths of the expected profit. In the case of lignite the guaranty deposited for the first concession holder is 2s. 2d. per ton.

Pre-War Position.

The small demand for lignite in pre-war years can be easily understood when it is considered that Cardiff coal delivered at the wharf at the Piræus cost 20s. 3½d. per ton, while the best lignite was delivered at the price of 13s. 8d. to 14s. 5½d. per ton. When one realises that the heating power of lignite is only half that of coal and that the use of lignite, owing to the moisture produced, damages boilers and boiler grates, it is surprising that there was any demand at all for it. However, according to a statement of a prominent shipowner, the only concerns which were authorised to use lignite in pre-war times were those whose coasting steamers ran between Athens and Salonika.

Since 1915 the situation has changed entirely; with the outbreak of the European war coal became difficult to import and later quite impossible. Fuel was urgently needed to run power plant, railways, vessels, etc., and the timber of the country was either insufficient or difficult to exploit. The unused hoards of lignite were then remembered, and the mining of this product increased rapidly. This new demand for lignite can be understood when it is stated that Greece in ordinary times imports about 500,000 tons of coal and that this amount was increasing annually with the development of her infant industries. During 1916 the import of coal decreased to 112,204 tons.

Coal Imports.

The following table shows the imports of coal into Greece for the years 1909 to 1916:—

Year.	Imports.			Average price per ton.
	From Great Britain.	From Germany.	From all countries.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	s. d.
1909..........	313,715	6,471	328,202	13 4
1910..........	392,097	25.842	421,409	13 4
1911..........	489,285	18.765	532,404	16 8
1912..........	346,676	37,841	395,529	20 0
1913..........	463.554	25,535	491,710	20 0
1914..........	469.525	39,395	540,506	20 0
1915..........	154,479	—	157,008	39 7
1916..........	51,994	—	112,204	75 0

A special service, created some six months ago, for the control of transportation and called "La Direction Supérieure des Transports" recently estimated the monthly fuel (lignite or wood) needs of the country at 37,000 to 42,000 tons, distributed as follows: Steamship companies, 12,000 to 13,000 tons; railway companies, 7,000 to 8,000 tons; electric light company, 8,000 to 9,000 tons; other industries, 9,000 to 10,000 tons; and various consumers, 1,000 to 2,000 tons. The same service also estimated that the production of lignite for the twelve months from February, 1918, onward would be 239,000 tons, equal in heating power to 119,500 tons of coal.

To insure the proper mining of lignite the Greek Government has issued several royal decrees and promulgated the law mentioned above. When creating the Direction Supérieure des Transports the Government authorised it to "organise the exploitation of lignite mines and the distribution of this product." Later this service was instructed "to undertake the exploitation for account of the Government of lignite mines, requisitioning them, renting them, or taking over mines belonging to the country." The Direction Supérieure des Transports is working in strict unison with the Mining Office of the Ministry of National Economy.

At the present moment the owner of a lignite concession is perhaps as much envied as a shipowner, with the difference that while he is envied for the immediate profits few will buy his concession. This is not due to the enormous price asked for a lignite concession but to the fact that everyone fears that it will be valueless as soon as the war ends. Nowadays the holder of a concession usually leases it for 18 months or 2 years, 15 per cent. of the profits being paid him.

Industry's Future.

The question has recently been raised as to whether Greek lignite will sell after the war. The Mining Office of the Ministry of National Economy believes that for years to come Greek lignite will find a good local market, and that although the smaller mining companies will have to close their mines the larger ones will continue to work at the same pressure as to-day. The more pessimistic business man argues that when the Dardanelles are thrown open to merchant vessels Greece will be able to procure as much coal as she then desires from England, and there will be no demand for lignite. This will be the case should the merchant vessels going to a port in the Black Sea to load wheat bring coal to Greece in ballast at pre-war prices. It should be borne in mind in this connection that Greek lignite mines have been able to improve their plants by installing Décauville railways, building dwellings for the labourers, providing machinery, etc., during the war; perhaps therefore in peace times they may be able to supply lignite at lower prices than heretofore.

A company is now being formed for manufacturing briquets from lignite and is importing a considerable amount of machinery (coal crushers, cylindrical screens, bricked elevators, briquetting presses, blower fans, cylindrical driers, etc.) for this purpose from the United States. A member of this company states that the briquets manufactured will be of excellent quality, and that it is hoped that the gas plants in Greece will be able to use them in the manufacture of gas. The Greek Government seems interested in this company, and is assisting it.

The following figures of the selling price of a ton of lignite for the past four years are of interest: 1914, 13s. 8d.; 1915, 17s. 5½d.; 1916, 35s.; and 1917, 44s. 3d. to 80s. 5d. These figures seem large, but it should be taken into consideration that the cost of mining material and labour has greatly increased during the past years.

Production of Lignite.

A good idea of the increased production of lignite during the last few years may be gained from the following figures: 1909, 3.873 tons; 1910, 1,500; 1913, 170; 1914, 20,002; 1915, 39,745; 1916, 84,466; and 1917, 153,240 tons.

Below is shown from what districts the lignite is produced and the amount taken from each during 1917. It will be seen that the largest quantity is mined at Kymi:

Euboea:	Tons.
Kymi	59,679
Aliveri	31,238
Psakhna	10,269
Xerochori	536
Total	101,722
Attica:	Tons.
Oropos	24.615
Megara	8,184
Arafina and Irakleion	2,747
Total	35,546
Peloponnesus:	Tons.
Messenia	3,471
Achaia and Elis	8,189
Argolis and Corinth	1,160
Arcadia	1,700
Laconia	1,182
Total	15,702
Phthiotis and Phocis	270
Grand total	153,240

The mines of Kymi, besides producing the largest quantity of lignite, also produce the best quality.

The deposits of lignite seem to be large and are not in danger of being quickly exhausted. It is difficult, however, to estimate with accuracy the quantity of lignite in Greece. It is estimated that there are deposits of 10,000,000 tons at Kymi, 2,500,000 tons at Aliveri, and some 15,000,000 tons in the remainder of Greece. At the present rate of exploitation, the deposits will last for many years to come. The capital invested in the lignite industry at the end of 1917 was estimated at 15,000,000 drachmæ (£12,062,500). Since that time the amount has increased.

Large Present Demand.

At the present moment lignite has replaced coal in practically every industry in Greece, and the demand for this product is enormous. The railways of Greece are run by lignite; the power plants, when in a position to obtain it, use lignite; the coasting vessels also use lignite. However, this fuel is spoiling grates which are unadapted for its use, and in most cases industries are looking forward to the day when they will be able to ban lignite from their establishments for ever. The amount of Greek lignite used to replace coal seems to be in the proportion of two to one. As soon as the war ends Greece will make immediate efforts to secure the large quantities of coal now so badly needed.

It should be remembered that Greece in normal times imports more than 500,000 tons of coal annually. This amount consists usually of 10 per cent. Welsh coal (best Cardiff); 25 per cent. second quality Welsh (Newport), containing 20 to 30 per cent. of small coal used for factories and steamers; 10 per cent. coal of second quality used only for obtaining gas; 35 per cent. bunkering coal (Durham, Yorkshire, and Northumberland); 10 per cent. patent briquets; and 10 per cent. German coal. As will be seen from this, England has had practically the monopoly of coal in the past. After the outbreak of the war America shipped a certain quantity of coal to Greece.

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TUNISIA CORK HARVEST.

The *Tunisie Française* states that the cork harvest of the Khroumirie forest is estimated at about 60,000 quintals. The journal adds that it would be placed on sale at the end of this month, but that "it is hardly probable that this sale will have any better success than last year because of the lack of transportation, unless the French cork makers succeed in their agitation for the designation by the Government of the necessary tonnage."

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A Bucharest telegram states that private goods traffic from Germany to Austria-Hungary and Roumania has been resumed.

The control of the supply of cotton cloth and piece goods throughout Bengal was notified in the *Official Gazette of India* on September 14.

Mr. T. C. Marriott, Acting Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, states that on December 31, 1917, there were 127,420 Indians in the colony. During the year 91,044 acres were cultivated by Indians.

The Durbari *Gazette* of Bhavnagar notifies that anyone found guilty of melting silver or gold coins will be liable to punishment extending to three months' imprisonment or fine, or both.

Thirty-eight factories were started in Madras last year, 12 of them rice mills, one a weaving factory, two saw mills, three tile works, one tannery, nine ginning factories, and one engineering factory. At the beginning of 1918 Madras had 468 factories.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent states that according to a Vienna telegram, the Austro-Hungarian Government has announced that the Customs may be paid in bank notes (instead of, as hitherto, in gold), plus an agio of 150 per cent. The telegram explains that the new measure aims at covering the Budget deficiency and the reduction in the circulation of bank notes.

THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Visit to Birmingham.

The provincial tour of the members of the Greek Commercial Mission commenced with a visit to Birmingham, where they arrived on September 19. A civic reception was given to them on the following day by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir David Brooks, at the Council House.

Welcoming the delegates in a brief but felicitous speech, Sir David said that Greece, through the wise direction of her great statesman, M. Venizelos, and under the rule of a new King, had associated herself with the Allies, and with a reconstituted army was now fighting side by side with British troops, and he expressed the hope that the common sacrifices they were now enduring would leave behind them a feeling of cordial friendship between this country and Greece, and that in the days of peace they would be able to develop their interests and relations to the advantage of both countries. Their visit was with the object of seeing something of Birmingham manufactures and business methods. At present the city was devoting all her energies to the production of munitions of war. He thought, however, that they would be able to see from their visits to the large factories something of the way in which business was conducted, and also many interesting mechanical operations.

M. Michalocopoulos, the Greek Minister of Agriculture, who replied, said that in Greece they knew Birmingham and had heard of its famous son, Mr. Chamberlain, who had devoted his life to cementing and consolidating the great British Empire. They had seen in this cruel war how England, a peace-loving country, had had to be transformed into a great war arsenal; how in great centres like Birmingham workmen were busy breaking down the chains with which Germany had prepared to bind them. In future the relations between Greece and her Allies must be closer and more compact, both from the point of view of mutual defence and of commerce. The day of peace was coming, and he was quite sure that the British Empire, which for centuries had used its sea power only in order to protect her freedom and to put a stop to barbarism and war domination, would continue to use that power until a lasting peace was secured. It would be the business of the delegates when they returned to Greece to see how the commercial relations between the two countries could be improved.

The delegates subsequently visited the B.S.A. and the works of the Austin Motor Company, and in the evening were entertained at dinner by the Lord Mayor at the Queen's Hotel. On September 21 they visited the Dunlop Rubber Co., and on September 23 they were shown over the premises of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd., leaving later for Nottingham.

Wreath on Byron's Tomb.

The morning of September 24 was spent by the delegates in Nottingham in an inspection of the lace works of Messrs. Thomas Adams, Ltd., where they saw curtains and other laces being made, and also industries which have been started since the outbreak of war. In the afternoon the hosiery works of Messrs. J. B. Lewis and Sons were visited, and time was found *en route* for a visit to Byron's home at Newstead Abbey. Subsequently the delegates placed a wreath of laurel, tied with a ribbon of the Greek national colours, on the poet's tomb in Hucknall Church. The wreath bore the inscription "With the eternal gratitude of the Greeks."

At the dinner in honour of the delegates at the Victoria Hotel, at which Mr. J. P. Houfton presided, the Sheriff (Mr. H. Offiler), in welcoming the representatives, said that while we regretted that Greece was unable to come into the war at the beginning, we realised the tremendous difficulties she was up against. He added that great advantages were to be obtained from the interchange of trade between the two countries.

M. Michalocopoulos, who responded, said that they welcomed the opportunity of fighting shoulder to shoulder with the British. They were grateful for their invitation to come here. M. Venizelos was of opinion that, as they were united in war, they must be united in peace. Unless they were they could not repair the ravages of war. He would like to invite representatives of British industries to visit Greece, to learn their commercial methods.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the visitors, said that Greek and Briton were shedding their blood for the same high ideals. They were determined that there should be no bargaining with the enemy, and that they would dictate terms of peace.

On September 25 the mission visited Lincoln, where they were shown over the works of Ruston, Proctor, and Co., Ltd., and other firms. At one of the premises they inspected they were shown a machine for shelling the maize which comes from Greece. They returned later to Nottingham, and on the following day went on to Derby.

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TRADE WITH GREECE.

Cargo from United Kingdom via Egypt.

In connection with the difficulties which have for some time restricted the export of goods from this country to Greece, it has now been arranged, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, that transhipment may be effected in Egypt, and, as regards the Port Said route, the Greek Government Transport Department has undertaken to provide in respect of goods urgently required in Greece a certain amount of tonnage space monthly between Port Said (see note below as regards Alexandria) and Greek ports, about one-quarter of the space being reserved for Salonika.

The following requirements and suggestions should be noted in this connection :—

(1) Applications for information as to space on vessels sailing between this country and Port Said should be addressed to the Secretary, Indian Conference Committee, 138, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

(2) For goods on the export prohibited list licences must first be obtained from the War Trade Department, 4, Central Buildings, S.W.1. In respect of goods which it is desired to export from the United Kingdom direct application must be made to that Department on the usual form. For goods brought to the United Kingdom for transhipment application should be made to the Customs Department on form S.90, copies of which can be obtained from the Custom Houses at transhipment ports. In respect of all goods, whether exported or transhipped, a recommendation from the British Minister at Athens will be required, except for goods of comparatively small value.

(3) When a licence is granted the Customs Department will on request issue the following documents which should be forwarded with the usual shipping documents to Port Said in order to facilitate clearance at that port. The documents should, in each case, be prepared by the exporter. (a) For United Kingdom exports, Form S.73; (b) For transhipments, a duplicate shipping bill.

(4) A through Bill of Lading is not issued, and it is therefore necessary to arrange for a shipping agent in Port Said to take the necessary steps in regard to the transhipment.

(5) Enquiries as to further details, or in respect of any difficulties which arise, may be addressed to the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence).

With reference to the foregoing, a despatch from H.M. High Commissioner in Egypt, under date 28th August, observes that as the congestion at Port Said is far greater than at Alexandria, the Egyptian Authorities and the Naval Examining Officers would much prefer that the port of transhipment should be Alexandria rather than Port Said.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Question of Production.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

A very strong tone has prevailed in all quarters of the market this week. There seems to be every likelihood of production being reduced to a greater extent than ever. Many spinners and manufacturers are anxious with regard to coal supplies and it is understood certain proposals are being made by the Government to lessen consumption, which if carried out will mean the stoppage of machinery and more unemployment. Fortunately the strike of the operative spinners has come to an end. The Control Board has decided to allow spinners using American cotton to run full hours for five weeks and at the same time the working of looms has been cut down from 65 per cent. to 60 per cent. Prices in Egyptian yarns have again advanced. Now and again remarkable figures have been paid for quick delivery. Demand far exceeds supply. The Egyptian cotton crop continues to do well. Business in piece goods for Egypt has been checked by the very independent attitude of sellers. Many buyers have refused to pay the advances required, but of course manufacturers are quite indifferent as to booking fresh orders. Only a small turnover has transpired for India, chiefly in light materials. There has not been quite so much practicable demand for South America. American yarns have been decidedly stiff in price. The shortage of supplies is more pronounced than ever.

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Monsoon Weakening.

The Indian Trade Commissioner (Mr. D. T. Chadwick) has issued the following cabled news received from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 18 :—

The monsoon is weakening. Rain was still much needed in Bombay and crops are reported to be suffering considerably. Elsewhere conditions are generally favourable, except in parts of the United Provinces and Madras. (These "parts" are probably the Western United Provinces and the Madras Deccan.)

Raw Jute Europe Fours Rs.13 a maund (say, 26s. 6d. a cwt.) Fine Broach for September delivery Rs. 915 a candy (last week's figure was Rs. 922).

A resolution has been passed in the Imperial Legislative Council agreeing to impose next year excess profits tax at rate of 50 per cent. In consequence the Bombay Share Market is very depressed, the chief falls being in mill shares.

Hitherto the export from India of certain articles of which cotton, oilseeds, and oils, and many foodstuffs were the chief, to European Allies and Spain has been permitted. Spain has now been struck off the countries to which that list applies.

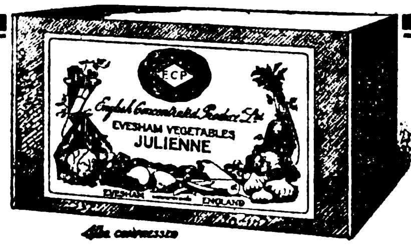
War Loan closes at nearly 47 crores of rupees, say at £35,000,000, with exchange at 1s. 6d.

◆

"THE FINANCIER RUBBER SHARE HANDBOOK."

The appearance of the fifteenth edition of this exceedingly useful publication must be considered as highly opportune at a time when the position of the rubber industry is attracting keen attention. It gives just the information needed by rubber shareholders and others interested in this industry in regard to all important companies, and it has the added merit that its facts are presented in clear and compact form.

According to a report from Vienna, the Austrian manufacturers of agricultural machinery are devoting increasing attention, says *Motor Traction*, to the construction of motor ploughs. A large business is expected in these machines, not only in Austria and Hungary, but also in Bulgaria, in which latter country the Government has recently arranged to supply the large farmers with motor ploughs at cost price.



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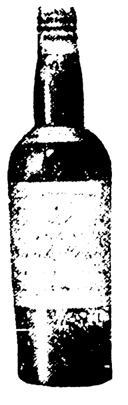

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EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The question of the future administration of this great railway system, the *Pioneer* says, will have to be decided soon, as notice to terminate its contract has been given to the company by the Secretary of State, and unless a new contract is entered into the existing arrangement will come to an end next year. As the decision arrived at will probably mean the shaping of the future railway policy of the Government of India, the question at issue is a momentous one, and it is to be hoped that no extraneous considerations will be allowed to influence that decision. It has already been proved that the weight of commercial and official opinion is in favour of the continuance of the system under which most of the lines are owned by the State and managed by companies. The advocates of State management would probably decline to alter their views because the management had been transferred to an Indian undertaking. It appears, however, that some of those who opposed State management when Government first invited opinions on the subject are attracted by the suggestion of an Indian company with a board of directors in India. The question arises whether, if such a system were adopted, it would be possible to raise in this country all the railway capital required for future developments, since uncertainty exists as to the degree of support which British investors would extend to a railway having its board and headquarters in India. This is a matter which should receive the closest consideration in arriving at a decision.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Sir Harold Stuart, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., has joined the board of the Vizianagram Mining Company Limited.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture is preparing a decree to prohibit poppy cultivation this year in order to increase the areas planted in cereals.

The Central Telegraph Office staff at Rangoon has decided to promote a co-operative society for the Burma Telegraph Staff.

The Stock Exchange at Sofia, which was opened on January 21 with a membership of 56, had 77 members at the end of six months, including all the banks, and a number of merchants and trading companies.

Reuter's Athens correspondent states that on September 21 at a Cabinet meeting, M. Negropontis, Minister of Finance, dealt with the economic situation of the country, and explained various necessary measures calculated to improve the position.

E. M. d'Souza and Co., who are well known throughout Burma as wholesale and dispensing chemists, are stated to have gone into chemical manufacturing on an important scale. They have selected a 16 acre site in Rangoon, and have engaged a London expert with a view to making from local materials pure chemicals and drugs of B.P. standard for the local market, India and the Straits Settlements.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Assam Oil.

The report of the Assam Oil Company for 1917 states that out-turn again showed improvement and prices were higher. Refinery worked well and plant and machinery were maintained in good condition. Progress at drilling was satisfactory, and usual prospecting work was carried on as energetically as possible. Increasing difficulty was experienced in maintaining supplies of the necessary stores for working both departments. Profit was £89,791. Adding amount brought forward makes £105,052. Directors have transferred £25,000 to depreciation and £10,000 to reserve, and in July last declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares. A further dividend of 1 per cent. on the preference shares, to make the total dividend equal to that paid on the ordinary shares, was also declared at the same time. The above payments leave £38,052. The directors do not recommend a final dividend on ordinary shares, but propose carrying forward the whole of the above sum, which includes provision for excess profits tax for 1916 and 1917. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C.2, October 2, noon.

Jetinga Valley Tea.

The report of the Jetinga Valley Tea Company for 1917 states that profit amounted to £14,455; £7,749 was brought forward, less excess profits duty, £1,236, and after adding transfer fees and dividends on investments and interest, £778, total is £21,755. The directors propose to pay a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year (free of tax), together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. (free of tax), to place to investment depreciation fund £1,000, to reserve £3,000, and to carry forward £6,417.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The coupons of Greek loans falling due October 1, 1918, should be presented for payment at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son. The undermentioned loans will be paid in gold at the stated percentage of their face value in accordance with instructions received from the International Financial Commission, Athens:—Greek Four per Cent. Rentes, 32 per cent.; Greek Five per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893, 32 per cent.

The first ordinary general meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on October 2, at 3 p.m.

Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan, 1891.—Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce the numbers of 256 bonds, amounting to £75,000, of the above loan (secured by Egyptian tribute) which have been drawn for redemption on 10th proximo.

Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways.—Interim dividend for half-year to June 30, 1918, on ordinary shares at rate of 14 per cent. per annum, payable 15th proximo.

The directors of the Eastern Bank have declared an interim dividend of 3s. per share, less tax, at the rate of 5s. 9d. in the £, payable October 7.

ON 'CHANGE.

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Egyptian shares are still a very quiet market, and business for local account is on a very small scale, although during the last day or two there is some indication of a revival of demand on this side in connection with the excellent military news from Palestine and the Balkans. Private advices to hand indicate that the market in Egypt has begun to get animated again, and that we shall probably shortly see a good many buying orders coming over.

In Government stocks there is absolutely no change to record, but there are several buying orders in the market just under the quoted prices. On the other hand, sellers are inclined to stiffen, and are not at all plentiful.

In Bank shares Agriculturals at one time improved to 7 3-16, and are closing 1-16 firmer than last week at 7⅛. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are also 1-16 up at 17½.

In Railways, Delta Lights on some local liquidation have receded ¼ to 7 3-16.

Amongst Land descriptions Aboukir are 6d. quieter at 24s. 6d., and Behéras have dropped ⅛ to 15¼. New Egyptians are 4½d. lower at 21s. 7½d., and United Egyptian Lands are fractionally easier at 2s. 6d. But, generally speaking, there are very few sellers about, and it would not take much demand to clear the market.

In Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas are ⅛ down at 3 1-16, and Khedivial Mails have dropped 1s. to 60s.

Amongst Greek securities there has been again a certain amount of business round current prices, which are all unchanged this week. In a general way there are still a good many more buyers than sellers.

Paris Bourse.

A brisk demand for Egyptian securities was a feature of the market. Egyptian Unifieds closed at 96.25 against 95.50, and Credit Foncier Egyptiens rose 1 to 782. Other prices were: Serbian 4 per cent. 1895's, 64.10 (unchanged); Turkish Unifieds, 64 (unchanged); Banque d'Athènes, 116 (against 115.25); Land Bank of Egypts, 210 (unchanged), and Suez Canals, 5,190 (unchanged).

Oil Shares.

There is practically no feature to record in this market. Anglo-Egyptians (B) are unchanged at 2¾, Anglo-Persian preferences are 24s., and Roumanian Consols are 10s. 9d. As might be expected, Bakus have been weak, closing at 2s. 3d.

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SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
September 16, 17, 18	490,000	850,000
September 19............	176,000	530,000
September 20............	200,000	300,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended September 13. £	1918. Week ended September 12. £
Cattle markets	323	545
General markets	426	493
Total	749	1,038
Total for year...........	42,330	36,318

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Sept. 18	Sept 25
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	92
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881..............	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884..............	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887........	49	68½	68½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	59	59
Do. 5 %, 1890..............	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	66	66
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	69	69
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	64	64
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Ourrant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	75
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	7 1/16	7⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank...........	12	17 7/16	17½
Bank of Athens................	£2	4⅞	4⅞
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅞	8
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20¾	20¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7 7/16	7 3/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/-	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	15⅜	15½
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh..................	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/6	16/6
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	13/7½	13/7½
Gharbieh Land Co..............	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	21/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	56/3	56/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	73/3	73/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6¼	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord...........	1 3/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer..	11/16	63/9	61/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	61/-	60/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

"On 'Change" will be found on the previous page.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

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Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

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By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000 | Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000 | Reserve - - - - - £237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. .. £2,000,000 | Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. £2,000,000 | Reserve Fund £1,350,000

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ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
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OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 387.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A week ago it was evident that, although the offensive launched in Macedonia four days earlier than the attack on the Turkish position in Palestine had not attained an equally decisive military result, there were possibilities in the situation that made it even more important than General Allenby's *coup.* Only a day later the accuracy of this view was confirmed by the report that a request for an armistice for the discussion of peace terms had been made to General Franchet d'Esperey by the Bulgarians. The French Commander-in-Chief rightly refused to interrupt the operations then in progress, but offered to receive the duly accredited representatives of the Bulgarian Government, if they presented themselves at the British lines under a flag of truce. In accordance with this offer M. Niatcheff, Minister of Finance, and General Lukoff, commanding the second Bulgarian Army, were brought to Salonika, where an armistice was signed on September 30, and on the following day Bulgaria ceased to be a member of the Central Alliance.

The belief that the Bulgarians as a nation were ready to come to terms with the Allies has for some months past found expression in these columns, and the likelihood of a military defeat facilitating the process was always emphasized. The suddenness of the collapse exceeded all anticipations and can only be explained by the rapid spread of demoralization and war-weariness among all classes of the people. An unmistakable indication of the trend of events was given in May when the Radoslavoff Cabinet fell and M. Malinoff became Prime Minister. His pro-Entente views were notorious, and the Germans did not conceal their chagrin at the appointment. It was not the first rift in the lute, but the German Government had by this time accepted Bulgaria's independence of spirit as something which could not be curbed without imposing an undesirable strain on the Central Alliance. With the Allied offensive came the climax. Only immediate and effective reinforcements capable of holding the attack and intimidating the Bulgarian army would have met the situation. Germany was not in a position to give the required help, and Bulgaria made up her mind to capitulate.

Elsewhere in this issue consideration is given to the importance of the results that may accrue from Bulgaria's surrender. It should not be necessary, however, to point out that none of these results is in the nature of ripe fruit falling of its own accord into the Allies' lap. The success of the military operations in Macedonia has to be followed up by a new campaign against Austria-Hungary, which from the nature of things may well prove even more formidable than the problem before the Allies at Salonika. Those who have appreciated the situation in the East have realised the importance of detaching Bulgaria from the Central Powers as a useful short cut to ultimate victory over Germany; but at no time have they rated the support of Bulgaria to the Central Alliance so high as to imply that her defection must without more ado entail the collapse of Germany and Austria-Hungary. It so happens that the Allies are putting in some very useful work at this moment on the Western Front; but magnificently as the Balkan Allied Army has done so far—and in this connection we cannot but echo the tributes paid on all sides to the exploits of our Serbian and Greek Allies—it has even tougher work ahead of it, if it is to make the same contribution to the final defeat of Germany as the Western armies are making.

The terms of the armistice make no reference to the ultimate conditions of peace to be imposed upon Bulgaria. It will not be lost upon the latter that she has thus been afforded an opportunity of rehabilitating herself in some measure in the eyes of the Allied Powers. Among the troops that inflicted the overwhelming defeat upon the Bulgarian army none fought better than the fellow-countrymen of the Army Corps that handed over Fort Rupel to the Bulgarians and of the soldiers who shot down Allied Marines in the streets of Athens in December, 1916. Greece has nobly wiped out the disgrace that her Germanised ruler sought to fasten upon her. A graver stain is Bulgaria's; but similar steps on her part will be at least an earnest of a new mind, and must go some way towards meeting the score that Serbia and Greece have marked up against her.

It is not possible in the space at our disposal this week to do justice to the military operations in Macedonia that within a fortnight brought about the collapse of Bulgaria's powers of resistance. In their position in the van of the attack the Serbians have told the story of their own prowess by the dramatic rapidity of their advance. To the Greeks, side by side with British troops, was allotted a less spectacular part; but their task was of no meaner order, and was carried out with equal efficiency. It was the breaking of the Bulgarian line in the Doiran sector that not only enabled the Serbians to press their initial success, but also completed the rout of the Bulgarian armies and deprived them of their last chance of keeping a rallying point. At the same time the whole strategy of the offensive seems to have been brilliantly conceived.

In Palestine, General Allenby has lost no time in following up the great victory of last week. While part of his force was detached to deal with the Turkish Fourth Army between the lower Jordan and the Hejaz Railway, the advance towards Damascus was continued. By September 29 a body of ten thousand Turks, finding escape impossible, surrendered on the railway line, some seventeen miles south of Amman station. By October 1, at six o'clock in the morning, Damascus, the capital of Syria, was occupied by British troops, and 7,000 more Turks were taken prisoners. The occupation of Damascus is an event of supreme importance by reason of the effect that it will have in the Turkish world. The episode comes at the end of a series of rude awakenings, of which the captures of Baghdad and of Jerusalem were outstanding features. For this reason some of its significance will have been discounted; but the accumulative effect on the Turkish mind will be profound.

For an enemy approaching from Syria or Mesopotamia across Asia Minor Constantinople still retains a degree of security that in the absence of events elsewhere might enable the rulers of Turkey to retain their equanimity and to continue to oppose a diminishing resistance to the British advance from the south-east. It is, however, just the events elsewhere—to wit, in Bulgaria—which, coming upon their own reverses in Syria, cannot fail to make a deep impression upon Turkey. Unfortunately the situation in Constantinople differs in many marked particulars from that in Sofia. Bulgaria tolerated no interference in her private affairs by German officials. In Constantinople a German assessor sits, or until lately sat, in every Minister's room, and, we may suppose, other German officials permeated the lower strata of the Turkish civil service. German officers and troops are or were much in evidence in the capital, and certainly the *Goeben* is still able to train her guns on the city. In these circumstances, even with a desire as strong as that of the Bulgarians, the Turks will not be able to carry through the process of capitulation with the same despatch as their late allies.

An exchange of telegrams between the Jugoslav Committee and the Serbian Government has afforded the latter an opportunity of calling attention to the fact that it still "awaits the unanimous solemn recognition of our future State by our great Allies and friends in order that our agreement may become a juridical, international statute of the future kingdom of our united people." In view of the fact that the Allied Powers have formally acknowledged the status of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, it may seem invidious that they still hesitate to accord the same recognition to the Jugoslavs. A reasonable explanation was to be found in the inability of Italy to see eye to eye with the Jugoslavs regarding the western boundary of the future State. Italy, however, has now gone so far as to admit that the Jugoslav peoples have a right to their new State and that its formation will not be antagonistic to a just and durable peace. Now that Italy's misgivings have been removed, it should be possible for the Allied Powers as a whole to give the Jugoslavs the formal recognition on which they naturally set special store.

The morganatic marriage of the Crown Prince of Roumania raises questions which must be settled in Roumania itself. Perhaps the wisest course would be for neither the Court nor the Parliament to take any step in a hurry, but to allow the war to come to an end first, then to review the position, not in the light of old-time precedent but in the new spirit engendered by the war, always bearing in mind that the touchstone of the decision should be the good of the country. In the present instance this will call for a very personal examination of all the circumstances.

It is pleasant to be able to recognise that, in proportion to her actual, if not to her potential, resources, India has made a substantial contribution towards the attainment of the brighter prospect which is now dawning on the world, and there is additional ground for satisfaction in the fact that her efforts in the general cause must necessarily result in future benefits for herself. She was undoubtedly slow in starting, but under the inspiration of Lord Chelmsford she has of late worked hard to add her men, her money and her munitions to the common stock, and in doing so she has learned some lessons of the utmost value in regard to the utilisation of her resources for her own particular needs. Let us glance for a moment at some of these recent additions to the stock of her experience.

First, as to man-power, it used to be thought that the hereditary specialisation of employment was a permanent and disabling feature of Indian national life, and that, while the fighting classes could be counted on to fight, and to fight well, they must bear the burden of defence alone. We are learning now that, while this drawback operates strongly, it is not necessarily insuperable or permanent. Fighting men are being drawn from classes and districts where the taste for fighting seemed to have been lost, and, with proper training, they are showing that they can fight. That knowledge is a great asset, for, whatever may happen in Europe, there is likely to be a good deal of fighting in Asia between now and the millennium, and India's first need is to be able to defend her frontiers more successfully than she has done during the last twenty centuries.

Then, as to money. A very short time ago the market held that India was "worth" at most two or three millions yearly in the way of capital for public needs. Now we have learned that, when public needs are great, this estimate can be safely multiplied by ten, and henceforward financiers, whether public or private, will know that the money is to be had, and that India's development need no longer be crippled by fear that capital will not be forthcoming. They have learned, too, something about the best ways of bringing the money out, while the number of potential investors has increased enormously; and though it would be absurd to suggest that all difficulties have vanished from the path of progress, it is safe to say that the country has entered on a new financial era.

So as to munitions. Stern necessity has proved, what was formerly only hoped, that India can produce a great variety of manufactured goods which she was hitherto content to buy. We have still to see whether in time of peace she can continue this production on a commercial basis; but the first and most difficult step has been taken, and while this product or that may prove to be unprofitable, it is safe to say that things can never be as they were before the war. Increased production, the habit of investment, and the knowledge that fighting men can be found in case of need—these things do not suffice to make a nation, but they form a very substantial contribution to the work of nation-building to which the Empire now stands pledged.

One small step towards the fulfilment of that pledge is marked by the appointment of Lord Southborough as chairman of the twin committees which are to carry on the investigations left over by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu. Scarcely anyone knows who Lord Southborough is, but as Sir Francis Hopwood his name has been familiar for the last generation. As an eminent Civil Servant, it may be assumed that he has a full share of the tact and caution which distinguish his class in this country, while he must have obtained a deep insight into constitutional questions during his work in South Africa and more recently as Secretary of the Irish Convention. He has no special knowledge of India, but that will doubtless be contributed by the members of the Committees, and we hope, as we certainly wish, that he will be successful in his laborious and delicate undertaking.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

There are many indications of constant friction between the disarmed and half-starved Roumanian soldier-peasant and his Teuton oppressor. During the last few months the *Kommandatur* in Bucharest arrested so many people that there was no more room for them in the prisons. Even the Bishop of Rimnicu Valcea was arrested, and was detained for more than a month. Some high German officers produced letters, written to them by Roumanians, threatening that they would "die like Mirbach." The situation was so precarious that two months ago von Mackensen declined to take the responsibility for it, unless his army were increased, and four new divisions were added to the seven in Roumania. He even went to German Headquarters to discuss the inevitable collapse of the German military power in the Near East. As the result of this conference the rulers of Germany determined to change the style of the firm, so to say, and in place of the Prussian to have a "Saxon-Bavarian-Austrian Alliance," and to make the simple-minded believe that this alliance is against Prussia. It was in pursuance of this plan that Bavaria and Saxony sent ambassadors to Sofia. It is, of course, another form of German political camouflage.

A clear sign that the Prussian power is collapsing is the fact that M. Marghiloman, the Roumanian Premier, and his opportunist supporters warned their taskmasters nearly a month ago to withdraw the Army of Occupation, because the feeling of hatred against them was so powerful that they could not be responsible for the situation. The victorious offensive of the Allies encouraged the Roumanians so greatly that German officers feared to enter Moldavia and Bessarabia, and even in Bucharest they were exposed at every step to hostile demonstrations and to all kind of sarcasms. In the Roumanian mountains were bands of Austrian deserters armed with machine-guns, and even with guns, living as in the days of Robin Hood.

In addition to other calamities, the Roumanian harvest was very poor, being only one-fifth of that of the last few years. The Germans tried to cultivate all the land, and for that purpose they sent many Indians, taken prisoners on the Western Front, into Roumania, where they are still working in the fields.

In spite of the way in which events in the Near East are developing, the Germans are bent upon keeping open the road to Asia. They will hold on to Roumania, because if they leave that country their situation in Ukrainia will become untenable. As an indication that the German command intends to keep a front in Roumania, we may point to the fact that they fortified the left bank of the Danube and the Dobruja nearly three months ago. German spies and agents of all kinds were some time ago sent into Moldavia and Bessarabia to destroy the stocks of munitions and arms, and thus render impossible any eventual rising on the part of the Roumanian army. They succeeded partially in doing this, and at Socola, near Jassy, the biggest munition depot of the Roumanians was blown up, and over 500 people were killed. Even the large stocks of Roumanian munitions and armament at Odessa were partially destroyed by the German and Austrian agents.

By the kindness of a correspondent we are able to give some extracts from a letter written recently by a Roumanian gentleman after his return from a visit to his own country. If he aimed at giving an impression of his visit, the writer declares, he would say that it is harrowing to live in the poor country at the present time. Never could his imagination have pictured what he saw with his own eyes. He continues:—

We are an enslaved people, ruled by brute force and spied upon by renegades. At the frontier station, where I was accustomed to seeing the first signs that I was in my own land, I saw German police and German gendarmes, and some hundreds of Roumanian prisoners, emaciated and wretched, human wrecks, who were only kept alive by the hope of seeing their own homes again. The brightness of dawn just touched the summits of those mountains which had always been ours, and which they now wish to tear from us. Having contrived to rid myself of the company of the German officer who had been thrust upon me, I questioned the poor peasants. They were all cowed and weakened by the privations they had gone through.

My arrival at Bucharest was as painful as my journey through the country: soldiers of four nations patrolled the place, and ruled the inhabitants of our capital. They batten on the people; their requisitions on the occupied territory are literally savage. Everything is taken from us, to be sent to Germany—to say "taken" is not quite accurate, it should be "bought," but at the meanest prices, representing usually only twenty per cent. of the value of the goods or the article taken. A metre of cloth costs us 40 fr., and it takes three metres to make a shirt. You can imagine how many men will have to shiver through the coming winter. Indispensable articles of food are priceless, because everything of the kind is bought up and sent to Germany. In the villages everything is carried off, down to the solitary cow whose milk served to feed the children, or the last sack of flour that had been hidden against yet harder times than those through which poor Roumania is now passing.

The outward appearance of Bucharest is quite changed; the town is dominated by the German soldiery; the citizens dare not show themselves. Only the Jews are regarded favourably by the new masters, for they are their accomplices. What the German cannot do for fear of compromising himself the Jew does, and the spoils are shared between them. . . .

A bomb having fallen on our own house had so completely wrecked the first floor that the German officers would have nothing to do with it. But no, I was going to fall into error. One of these "gentlemen" did pass two nights there, and on the morning of his departure, after having packed such articles as took his fancy, in a bag belonging to me, he called the servant, and had the cynical effrontery to say that she would find that nothing had been taken. The bag which he had packed was on a chair ready to be carried off!

They have turned a large and beautiful house belonging to a friend into a telegraph and telephone exchange. Twenty Hungarian soldiers sleep in the salons; the house has been almost cleared of its contents; the rooms have been made filthy—I cannot tell you more on the subject.

At my own country house they have taken everything; the ties and memories that linked me with the place no longer exist. It was a poor old relative who fought single-handed to save the grain that had been got in; her courage and devotion were admirable; alone, she stood up for the rights of her son and myself. They wished to drive her away, but before her tenacity the Germans had to give way, and one of them said: "She is defending the interests of her son, who is at the front. We cannot drive her away. . . ."

"Peace" in Roumania is a mere fiction: a state of war still exists with the exception that the cannon no longer roar. . . . The Germans went to Roumania with the worst intentions; they have endeavoured to set the peasants against the property-owners, and all those intellectuals who were nationalists; and they employ Jews to collect information and as informers. If they have not succeeded in carrying out their plans, it is because the Roumanian peasant is too sensible and too patriotic to accept the theories propounded to him by the Germans, and he has placed no trust at all in the word of these self-styled agents of civilisation after seeing how they conducted their savage requisitions, how they seized even the metal baths used for washing the children in.

The sweet sound of the bells is no longer heard in Roumania, for they have all been taken away and melted down in the German munition factories. The Bulgarians robbed the sarcophagus of St. Demetrius, believing that they would find some valuable articles in it. The peasants declare that they wished to carry it off across a river not far from Bucharest, but the Saint made himself so heavy that it was impossible to lift him up! The truth is more simple, more prosaic: German gendarmes surprised their worthy allies in the perpetration of their felony, and carried the sarcophagus of the Saint back to Bucharest, and replaced it in the Metropole [cathedral].

As soon as one passes the frontier—that is to say, the ever-famous and glorious lines of Marasesti—one feels free. There, too, poverty and misery reign, but the people bear themselves proudly, their spirit is high, and not to be broken. Jassy is a little town, but over-populated; too little to hold all those who have fled there; but one feels that here is the true soul of the country; that in this sorely-tried soul there still lives the hope of a better future and the conviction that our Army was beaten not by force of arms, but by force of circumstances.

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MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, September 6 (delayed).

German Machinations.

There is no doubt that Germany based considerable hopes on Morocco as a means of weakening France, and as one of the many centres where she hoped to set light to Moslem fanaticism and use if for her own ends. Her plans were carefully laid, and she had admirable material to work with. Along a great part of the line of the Atlas there were already in arms many warlike tribes ready to welcome assistance from anywhere to resist the pressure of the French forces, which, they knew, without it must inevitably add their territory to the area of pacified Morocco. She had a considerable number of German subjects ready and well prepared to carry out her plans in stirring up agitation, organising supplies for the tribes in arms, and even in directing their actual fighting.

How closely these plans in this very subsidiary field of efforts were co-ordinated with her main campaign was very curiously illustrated by a statement made by General Lyautey, the French Resident-General, in the course of a speech at Casablanca. He had, he said, during this summer, while inspecting the troops on the north-eastern border of the French zone, come into possession of a letter written in Arabic but addressed by the Germans to the tribes. The letter told them that the great German offensive would open on May 28, and that they were on that day to unite in a great effort to drive the French from Morocco. The tribes opposing the French troops certainly showed great activity during that critical time, but their efforts, like their predecessors, furnished only further proof of the hopelessness of the struggle in which they are engaged.

In the South, where German emissaries and money have been employed actively, the Protectorate authorities have made very great and skilful use of the powerful chiefs whose influence extends far beyond the line of complete occupation. On several occasions these chiefs, cleverly supported, have led important combined military and diplomatic expeditions, which have nipped in the bud, or crushed, dangerous disturbances; and have enabled the South and South-east of Morocco to be firmly held without making any great call on the army of occupation.

Death of a Great Chief.

The news of the death of the greatest of these chiefs, Si Madani El Glaoui, has recently reached Tangier, and has here, as elsewhere, been received with a regret that the loss of very few native notables would have called forth. Only a few weeks ago his favourite son was wounded fighting in the Southern Atlas, and though carried in an aeroplane—a strange stretcher indeed for a Berber chief—to the nearest place where he could be treated, died on arrival. The loss was much felt by his father, who, long a sufferer from the effects of an old wound, was unable to shake off an attack of a species of influenza now very prevalent, and soon followed his son to the grave.

Si Madani was the chief of the Glawa, a tribe that gives its name to the pass by which the track from Marrakesh to Tafilet crosses the Atlas, and has played a most prominent and varied part in Moroccan history of the last twenty or thirty years. After being for many years a supporter of Mulay Abd el Aziz, for whom he carried out many vigorous campaigns, he afterwards, disgusted with his treatment, or impatient with the Sultan's weakness, took the chief part in the movement which overthrew Mulay Abd El Aziz and put Mulay Hafid in his place.

A "Coup d'Etat."

A story told by one who professed to have been a witness of the scene assigns to Si Madani a very energetic part in the first overt step taken. Mulay Hafid was still only Viceroy at Marrakesh, when one day most of the notables in the city were summoned one by one by Government messengers and told that they must go to the Viceroy's palace at once. When they arrived, they found a strong body of Glawa tribesmen, who had recently arrived from the mountains, on guard, and as the doors closed behind them felt themselves very much as prisoners. When all had assembled, Mulay El Hafid addressed them and spoke eloquently of the anarchy into which the country had fallen on account of the Sultan's feeble administration—without, no doubt, drawing his hearers' attention to the great and profitable part he had taken in causing that state of things. After his introductory speech, one of those present suggested that the only remedy was a change of Sultan, and that there was no one better fitted to take the place of Mulay Abd el Aziz than Mulay el Hafid. This was doubtless a proposal that considerably startled at least the more cautious of the assembly, and a second speaker, a man very intimately connected with Mulay el Hafid, voiced this feeling and began to point out the great danger of taking such a radical step. He had not proceeded far in his discouraging speech when Si Madani snatched a rifle from the hands of one of his men and aimed at the speaker, who rushed to Mulay el Hafid and sought and obtained his protection. After this significant hint of the treatment which the party of prudence might expect, there was no further opposition to the proposal, and, before the meeting ended, Mulay el Hafid had taken the first great step towards obtaining the Sultanate. The story, if true, admits of the very possible explanation that the whole scene had been planned before by the chief actors in order to discourage opposition.

A "Holy Man."

After Mulay el Hafid's fall the Glawa seemed certain to lose all their influence, but the adroit and most valuable part played by them at the time of the incursion of El Hiba opened the road to greater, if less independent, power than before. In 1912, El Hiba, son of the better known Ma el Ainin, who had for years, with swarms of his blue-clad and most rascally followers, made yearly visits from his home in the South to collect from the chief Moroccan towns tribute to his holiness and miraculous powers, led a band of raiders some 10,000 strong to the North and occupied Marrakesh. Several of the European residents in Marrakesh had narrow escapes, and the French Consul and some other French subjects were taken prisoners. When, very shortly afterwards, El Hiba's men, who had started to march or wander northwards, were utterly defeated by a French column and driven back on Marrakesh, it was the Glawa who very skilfully succeeded in raising the city against the invaders, secured the safety of the European prisoners, and drove El Hiba's scattered followers in full flight to the South.

From shortly after that time the Glawa, with Si Madani at their head, became most valuable and trusted instruments for the pacification of the country and the spread of the influence of the new French-supported Government. Throughout the last few critical war years, Si Madani and his, if possible, still more vigorous younger brother, Hajj Thami, have been entrusted with much of the responsibility for the tranquillity of the South, and, with the cleverly given support of the French authorities, have on the whole succeeded, and lessened very much the efforts required from the small French army of occupation.

RELIEF WORK IN PALESTINE.

General Allenby's great advance finds the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund with more than a year's experience of active work in the south behind it, and eager to extend its activities into the large new area in Central Palestine now opened up. There can be no question that in Nablous and Samaria, Haifa and Nazareth, and the hundreds of villages adjacent, great distress and starvation will be found, as was the case in the similar advance in the south ten months ago. The military authorities, who have shown such appreciation of the efforts of the Relief Fund in Jerusalem and elsewhere, will be ready to facilitate in every way the extension of its work to the north. This will only be possible, however, if the financial resources of the fund are largely increased in the immediate future.

There is to be a great meeting of thanksgiving for the liberation of Palestine at the Queen's Hall on Monday, October 28, at 5.30 p.m., when the speakers will include Viscount Bryce, Sir Henry McMahon, and the Bishop in Jerusalem, who has a thrilling story to tell of work and conditions behind the British lines in Palestine. Applications for tickets should be made to the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, 110, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

RECORDS OF ANCIENT PALESTINE.

By Joseph Offord.

Many readers of The Near East will be interested to learn that a further part of the marvellous collection of despatches between the Governors for the Pharaohs in Palestine and Syria, and the native rulers, chiefs and sheikhs, and the Egyptian Foreign and Colonial Offices, known as the Tel-el-Amarna Tablets, has been brought to light and secured for the Louvre Museum. The great mass of the find at Tel-el-Amarna of these tablets was distributed among the museums of Cairo, London and Berlin, but sporadic specimens from the same source have been produced at long intervals. This tended to suggest that all that had been buried at the spot had not been secured, and a few years ago the Germans re-explored Tel-el-Amarna and obtained several tablets, some of a literary character, which have been published in a work since hostilities began. The new collection at the Louvre was not obtained in this way, but its origin need not be discussed here.

No series of cuneiform writings have been found to compare in value for the information they afford of the history, religions, languages and culture of the people of pre-Mosaic Palestine with the Tel-el-Amarna records. These new specimens will, it is to be hoped, be published by the eminent Assyriologist and sincere friend of England, M. Thureau Dangin; but as he has been devoting himself to the military service of his country, and as the acquisition of the tablets (some time ago) was of such supreme interest, a preliminary account of them has been given at a meeting of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Letters by Père Scheil.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

"Lenin Longing for Order"—so runs a headline to a report from Moscow (viâ Amsterdam). With a little luck, we may get even better news, and have the heading: "Lenin's Love for the Law." But personally I should prefer: "Lenin Gone Aloft." It would be less alliterative, but much more satisfactory.

⁂

Canon Rawnsley has written to *The Times* to suggest that Stonehenge, recently presented to the nation by Mr. Chubb, should be converted into a memorial to those who have lost their lives in the War, and that on Midsummer Day a solemn service should be held there in memory of all the men of the British Empire who have thus died. Nothing (the Canon suggests) "would be needed but a huge stone Celtic cross in the neighbourhood of the circle," etc. He also informs us that he feels "that such a monument in the solemn propinquity of this great British shrine would be preferable to a Priapic monument of cones and Eastern Welis on a huge bare platform in Hyde Park."

⁂

Now, far be it from me to venture to criticise the Canon's views in the matter of selecting a site for an Imperial memorial, as contrasted with a purely Celtic one; or the desirability of placing the emblem of Christianity in (or "in the neighbourhood of") the old-time circle. Nor do I ask to be informed what particular Priapic monument in Hyde Park the eloquent Canon is having a sly dig at. But I *do* ask why he should write about "Eastern Welis" as if they were an architectural feature. Unless all my Oriental friends have been misinformed, a "weli" is a (Moslem) saint. By ignorant people the word is often used for the saint's tomb; but even so it seems strange to talk (or write to *The Times*) about "Eastern Welis on a huge bare platform in Hyde Park"—unless, of course, one has in mind a kind of Moslem preaching campaign! Perhaps we may yet see something of the kind if it should prove necessary to remind diligent letter-writers that the British Empire contains some millions who would hardly be enthusiastic about a Celtic cross at Stonehenge as an Imperial memorial.

⁂

The news of Bulgaria's action is excellent, but I have no intention of commenting upon it yet; for, it seems to me, the subject is a much more delicate one than is realised by a number of people who have been talking—and writing—about it very glibly. But I cannot resist the temptation to refer to a German paper's comments. The *Schwäbische Tagwacht* bewails Bulgaria's defection after "there has been a perfect deluge of princely, Ministerial, and diplomatic visitors [from Germany and Austria, of course] to Sofia." Is it not just possible that that "deluge" was the cause of the Bulgarian "wash-out"?

⁂

Talaat's talk to the Germano-Turkish League last week was not so amusing as some of his orations; though his references to the Kaiser's yearning for peace was not without humour. But there was one touch that seemed to me to be rather neat. The Grand Vizier referred to Count Burian's earnest wish for the end of the war, and his own "beloved Padishah's" great "longing for peace for the tormented races of mankind." Then he added: "The King of Bulgaria, too, at each of my visits, *said* he also shared such wishes." Talaat, you observe, declined to guarantee the truth of King Ferdinand's statement. I wonder what he thinks about it now!

Corsair.

THE LATE PATRIARCH OF GEORGIA.

A memorial service for the repose of the soul of his Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia, Kyrion II., was held at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Sophia on September 27. The service, which was organised by the Georgian National Committee and Anglo-Georgian Society, was attended by the Bishop of Islington, the Dean of St. Paul's (representing the Bishop of London), and many ecclesiastical dignitaries. There were also representatives of H.M. War Office and Foreign Office, the Greek Legation, the Polish National Committee, Esthonians, and the Armenian Association. A gracious message of condolence was sent by Queen Alexandra. Messages of regret were also received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, many provincial bishops, and Cabinet Ministers, the American, Japanese and French Ambassadors, and the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires. A beautiful and impressive service was conducted by the Very Rev. the Great Archimandrite, Dr. Constantine Ragonis, assisted by the full choir.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

PEACE FOR THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The correspondence which has taken place in your columns with reference to the Balkan question was based, I venture to submit, upon a false premiss. It is, therefore, not surprising that it has led to no satisfactory conclusion.

When the sentiment of nationality began to inspire the Balkan peoples, partitioning politics were still the guiding principle of European international life. There have been many schemes for dividing the heritage of the Turk, but the interests which centred round the Byzantine capital and the adjoining territories were so numerous that an agreement proved impossible, and, to avoid collusion, matters were allowed to linger on. Meanwhile, Balkan nationalism was making powerful headway, inspired by the revolutionary influence of the West, and fanned by the disruptive politics of Russia; the mutual jealousy of the Great Powers and the conservative policy of the Holy Alliance, however, concerted in barring the effective assertion of the new spirit, and the same causes, in one form or another, continued with the same effect throughout the 19th century. They found elaborate expression in the Congress of Paris, of 1856, when the peoples concerned were ignored, and in that of Berlin of 1878, when the representatives of the Balkan nations were allowed to come and plead their cause, after a series of secret arrangements had anticipated the respective decisions of the Congress. To be fair, I must mention that a European Commission was sent in 1857 to ascertain the wishes of the Roumanian *divans*, but its members were guided by the views of their respective Governments, and an agreed report was in consequence out of the question. I cannot refrain from quoting the very delightful and suggestive picture which the French representative (Talleyrand) drew of the situation in one of his despatches:—"After innumerable visits, bitter-sweet conversations, drafts mutually scrapped and amended, it became evident that we would never agree as to what we were *to say*. Then the brilliant idea came up that we should agree *not to say* anything at all, and to-morrow I shall submit the following argument for the acceptance of my colleagues. The *divan* has put forward four *political* desiderata, upon which the Commission is not entitled to make any pronouncement; its task is limited to the consideration of *internal* questions, with regard to which the *divan* has refused to give its views. Hence, work as far as we are concerned = 0. And that is what we came to do here."

The fate of the Balkan peoples was thus decided for a long period to come without their participation, and largely in opposition to their expressed will. The resulting unsettled state of affairs provided a fertile breeding-ground for the quarrels of European diplomacy, and the disappointment and resentment aroused by such attitude on the part of the Powers "created a very different atmosphere throughout the Balkans—a feeling compounded of the recognition of their own inability to resist the rulings of the Concert and the cynical but natural determination to exploit for their own ends the jealousies of the rival Powers." (Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, "The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans," p. 144.)

The whole system of Balkan-European relations was well illustrated by the events of 1912-13. The point of view of the Great Powers was expounded with candid precision by Viscount (then Sir Edward) Grey in an interview with the Roumanian Minister, M. Misu, on March 7, 1913. He warned the latter that the Balkan peoples must avoid provoking a general conflict. "Once a European war started, involving considerable outlay and loss of life, the Powers could have consideration for nothing else save their own interests; and as, in the end, the Powers may have to conciliate their interests by reciprocal compensations and compromise, that would necessarily be done at the expense of the small States." Not heeding the threats and warnings showered upon them, the Balkan peoples marched unitedly forward and succeeded, in the first instance, in driving the Turks out of the territories to which they laid claim. There remained the certainly delicate task of dividing the booty in a friendly manner, and here was a unique opportunity for the Great Powers to gain lasting merit by restraining their own ambitions, and by contributing sympathetic and moderating counsel for the pacification of that unfortunate region. But what actually happened? Austrian diplomacy successfully mined the Balkan League at the conference held in London, and later, to make sure of her work, Austria informed the Balkan peoples met at Bucharest to settle peace among themselves that she reserved to herself the right to revise the decisions of the conference, *whatever their nature*. Though she was not allowed to carry out her subsequent intention of using force, the mischief had been done, and Austrian diplomacy openly boasted of its achievement.

It is only too evident with whom the chief guilt lay, but we must face the fact that the other European Chancelleries sanctioned, and co-operated in, the activities of the *Ballplatz*. And this brings me to the point which I desire to emphasise, as indicating, in my opinion, the only way out of the Balkan *impasse*. It has been said very truly by M. Seignobos that "the whole political history of Europe since 1871 has concentrated in the Balkan Peninsula." Which means, in other words, that the Balkan question has been and is part and parcel of the general problem to which the European international system has given rise, and that it is useless to treat a limb alone for a corruption of which the whole body suffers. The Balkan peoples deserve perhaps more credit than they generally obtain. What political advance they have made was achieved in spite of the Great Powers, for most of the progressive changes in that region were admitted by the European Concert only after they existed in fact. Moreover, the idea of a Balkan federation was an ideal much cherished by those who built up the national consciousness of those peoples, and it is significant to find that reference to it grew increasingly remote as European diplomacy became an active element in the political life of the new Balkan States.

Will you allow me to add a few words as to "phils" and "phobes"? It does not seem generally realised that the national movement in Eastern and Central Europe was and is a parallel to the struggle for popular government which the Western peoples carried on in the early part of the last century, and that its artificial repression crippled the political development of the Balkans. As a consequence, the large mass, and the best, of the Balkan peoples have no share whatsoever in the government and politics of their country. The political "profiteers" who rule those countries, on the other hand, have indulged in extravagant and violent nationalist agitation, in order to divert popular opinion from much-needed internal reforms, to prevent which in future makes the complete and just solution of the national problems imperative. In this they often were encouraged, for their own ends, by the foreign chancelleries. In fact, the kind of politics carried on by the Great Powers in the Balkans have fostered a definite type of politician, whose relations with the foreign chancelleries are of the nature of a "business proposition," thus giving rise to a species of official "phils" and "phobes."

It would have been in the power of the Press to remedy that dangerous state of affairs. But some foreign correspondents were little else than agents of their respective Governments; others were tied by the partisan policy of their paper, as expressed either in editorial instructions or undue discrimination in the printing of despatches (and I am speaking, of course, with a knowledge of facts); while yet others, who arrived out there with a free mind, were either influenced by the limited medium in which they moved, or were flattered and captured by some politician whose faithful mouthpiece they became in exchange for occasional indiscretions.

The results of such a situation I need not point out. I would have you believe me, Sir, that there are many people in the Balkans as eager for straight talk and candid counsel from their Western friends as are those for unbiassed information concerning Balkan affairs. Much good may yet result from their co-operation, and there could be no better link between them than an independent Press. Will you allow me, therefore, Sir, to express my great appreciation of the attitude taken up by your paper, and also to pay a debt of gratitude to *The New Europe* for its courageous determination to let truth be known.—I am, etc.,

D. Mitrany.

The London School of Economics and Political Science.

THE SERBIAN RELIEF FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The ministrations of the Serbian Relief Fund are imperatively needed in the territory recovered by the recent advance of the Allies in Serbia.

To relieve the desperate condition of the old men, women and children after their long period of privation, a much larger sum is needed than this committee has at its disposal.

Will you permit me to appeal to your readers to send contributions in this urgent need to the headquarters of the Fund at 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7? Serbia has never failed us, we must not fail Serbia.—I am, etc.,

Plymouth

(Hon. Treasurer, Serbian Relief Fund).

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ADANA MASSACRES.*

"The Red Rugs of Tarsus" gives, in the form of very personal letters, a vivid description of six months spent in Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul. The style is very American and the matter very intimate and realistic, but well qualified to impress the reader with the atrociousness of the Turks in relation to the Armenians. The chapter "Round About Tarsus" gives some graphic pictures of the life and surroundings of the little American Missionary Community before the "breaking of the storm" in 1909. The latter half gives a description, the horror of which would more deeply stir the world but for these last four years of massatre and bloodshed, of the Adana and Tarsus massacres. A bright relief is given to the picture by the heroism of the small band of missionaries who again and again risked—while some lost—their lives in endeavouring to protect the unfortunate Armenians. At Tarsus alone 5,000 were protected in the mission-school premises. While all the Armenian quarter was asleep some Turks actually pumped kerosene on to the roofs of the school buildings, which were only saved from ignition by a timely—the authoress considers a miraculous—change in the direction of the wind. It is pointed out—and should never be forgotten—that the second and greater massacre at Adana was done by troops brought from Beyrout in order to *uphold the policy of the Young Turks* after the deposition of Abdul Hamid. These fiends were landed inside a circle of European and American warships anchored outside Mersina harbour as troops unquestionably loyal to the new *régime*. "They went to Adana the same day and started that night a second massacre more terrible than the first. The Armenians had given up their arms, on the advice of the foreign naval officers, trusting to the warships at Mersina—they accepted the assurance of the Government that 'the rioting was over.'"

After such an experience anyone will forgive the authoress's words: "I see blood when I think of what is called 'European diplomacy'—for blood is there, bloodshed before your eyes."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Round About Jerusalem." By the Rev. J. E. Wright. (London: Jarrolds, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Les Yougoslaves." By Franco Cviétisa. (Paris: Editions Bossard. 3fr. 60.)

"Vecnost." By Janko M. Veselinovic. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1s. net.)

"England and Palestine." By Herbert Sidebotham. With maps. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. net.)

"Italy's Great War and Her National Aspirations." By Mario Alberti, General Carlo Corsi, Armando Hoding, Tomaso Sillani, Attilio Tamaro, and Ettore Tolomei. With an Introductory Chapter by H. Nelson Gay. With 20 illustrations and 4 maps. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

It is announced that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Captain George Ambrose Lloyd, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.P., to be Governor of Bombay, in succession to Baron Willingdon of Ratton, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., who will vacate office in the autumn. His Majesty has also approved the appointment of Lord Willingdon to be Governor of Madras, in succession to Lord Pentland, who will vacate office in the spring.

It is also announced that Lord Willingdon's appointment to the Governorship of Madras, after a lengthy tenure of office in Bombay, is an exceptional measure, and it is a source of satisfaction to his Majesty's Government that his experience and knowledge of the country will not be lost to India on the termination of his present appointment. Before assuming charge in Madras Lord Willingdon will return to Europe for a few months.

THE KUT PRISONERS.

The Madras correspondent of *The Times* reports that a deputation of relatives of some of the Kut el Amarah prisoners now interned in camps in Asiatic Turkey recently waited on Lord Pentland to present a petition organised by the *Madras Mail* on behalf of the survivors of the garrison, asking that steps should be taken to secure their exchange. Lord Pentland expressed his entire sympathy with the object of the petition, and promised to transmit it to the Viceroy.

POLITICS IN BULGARIA.

Speaking at King's College, London, on Wednesday, of the present position in the Balkans, Dr. Seton Watson said that the blow by which Bulgaria had been knocked out was an effective answer to the break-through to the Persian Gulf which Germany had attempted. Bulgaria's collapse was not a separate peace—it was a military arrangement. Bulgaria had played for a high stake and had lost. Her first aim had been the recovery of Macedonia from Serbia and Greece, but beyond that she aimed at the hegemony of the Balkans. She hoped to stretch her frontiers until she extended to the four seas—the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora, the Ægean and the Adriatic. Another object was a common frontier with Hungary; this could only be realised by the annexation of a large part of Old Serbia. A third object was to prevent the unity alike of the Jugoslav, the Roumanian and the Greek races, because if either of these people were united a State would be constituted larger, more powerful, and more populous than Bulgaria. A fourth aim was to prevent Russia getting Constantinople. On all these points the Germans could and did outbid us. Now that we had attained our ends without those diplomatic bribes which had been attempted with such deplorable effects there must be no promise that would alarm our three loyal Allies—Serbia, Roumania and Greece. The only pledge we should make was that the Balkan settlement would form part of the final peace settlement, and be based as far as possible on ethnographic lines.

Of King Ferdinand Dr. Watson said there was a tendency to distinguish between him and his people, and to a certain limited extent this should be done. The decay of political life in Bulgaria during the last thirty years was largely due to Ferdinand. But if he had had an immense influence, and if a great deal that was bad in Bulgaria was due to him, his success had been largely because he had been able to identify himself with Bulgarian national aims—at their lowest and not at their highest. One factor which had helped him was the abundance of financial scandals in connection with Bulgarian political life. Ferdinand kept a safe in which he kept the evidence relating to these affairs, and as occasion required would go to the safe and bring out the necessary documents. He employed the alternative methods of bringing a man to trial, suspending a trial, and never allowing it to be finished, quashing a trial, or merely holding the threat of trial over the culprit's head. Thus Radoslovoff had been driven from office twenty years ago, when Ferdinand sent to the Press a document which proved the Minister's connection with a foreign business company. We must keep these gentlemen at arm's length.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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* "The Red Rugs of Tarsus." By Helen Davenport Gibbons. (New York: The Century Company, 1917. $ 1.25 net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. October	1918. September		1336. Julheggia.	5679. Tishri.
4	20	Friday	28	28
5	21	Saturday........	29	29
6	22	**Sunday**	30	30
7	23	Monday	Moharrem. 1	Hesvan. 1
8	24	Tuesday	2	2
9	25	Wednesday	3	3
10	26	Thursday	4	4

M. Také Jonescu arrived in Nice last week.

The Bishop of London is about to visit the troops on the Salonika front.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough will return to 17, Cavendish Square, next week from Ireland.

Great regret is expressed in the Danish Press at the removal of Sir Ralph Paget from the Legation in Copenhagen.

The Greek Minister, who left 14, De Vere Gardens for Liverpool and Manchester on September 26, returned to London on Monday.

On September 29, at Stonepit House, Henfield, Sussex, a son was born to Captain A. Guillaume, of the Arab Bureau, Cairo, and Mrs. Guillaume.

The engagement is announced of Captain S. Raleigh Amesbury, D.L.I., eldest son of the late Colonel S. C. Amesbury, I.M.S., and Ethel, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Longworth, Brightness, Bolton, Lancs.

Mr. Harold Bernard has been appointed to the Belgian Legation in Tangier, to be in charge also at Casablanca (Morocco). Mr. and Mrs. Bernard have just left London.

The King has granted permission to Hon. Captain C. Gilmour, D.S.C., and Hon. Captain H. T. Mellings, D.S.C., D.F.C., to wear the Silver War Medal bestowed on them by the Hellenic Government.

The King has granted permission to Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. P. Dawes, D.S.O. (R. Berks Regt.) to wear the Cross of a Commander of the Order of the Redeemer conferred on him by the Hellenic Government.

The marriage of Major Charles Fitzroy Cahusac, D.S.O., Indian Cavalry, and Alice Marion, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel John Sherston, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, took place quietly at Christ Church, Mayfair, on Thursday, September 12.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred the silver medal for bravery on Miss Barbara Stirling, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stirling, of Holme Lea, Goring-on-Thames, for her fourteen months' relief work on the Monastir front in 1916 and 1917.

Mr. Alexander Séfi will lecture at the School of Oriental Studies, on October 10, on "Arabic as a Medium of Education and Commerce," and on October 17 on "Islam in Its Relation to International Morality." Admission will be free to both lectures.

On September 14, at Srinagar, Kashmir, the marriage took place of H. A. F. Metcalfe, I.C.S., younger son of Captain and Mrs. Metcalfe, The Knowle, Maidenhead, and Elinor Joyce Potter, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Potter, 219, Ashley Gardens, S.W.1.

An engagement is announced between Captain B. W. Fish, M.C., late Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fish, of Birkdale, Lancashire, and Galway, Ireland, and Irene Violet, younger daughter of the late Evelyn Gray, Indian Civil Service, and of Mrs. Gray, 41, Queen's Gate Gardens, South Kensington.

The marriage took place on September 26, at St. Stephen's, Gloucester Road, of Mr. Hector Bruce Mackenzie, Lieutenant, N.Z.M.C., son of Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, and Lady Mackenzie, and Miss Elyn Caroline Nicholls, only daughter of Mr. George Jasper Nicholls, late Judge of the Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Nicholls, of Bideford. The service was conducted by Canon Burton, of the N.Z.E.F. The bride was given away by Mr. L. Marshall, I.C.S., and the best man was Sub-Lieutenant Charles S. Clark, R.N.V.R., late N.Z. Field Artillery.

The Queen has sent a cheque for over £400, contributed by the Women's Canadian Club of Vancouver, for the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

The engagement is announced of Colonel C.C. Melvill, late Manchester Regiment, of Wynbrook, Scalby, second son of the late General Henry Melvill, Bengal Cavalry, to Dorothy, only daughter of Horace E. Foster, solicitor, and Mrs. Foster, of Craigmere, Scalby, Scarborough.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Commander Frederick Colnett Corbyn, Royal Navy, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Corbyn, Bengal Staff Corps, and Mrs. Corbyn, of Southsea, and Agnes Anne, widow of Charles Geffard Pirouet, and daughter of the late Edward Austin.

Bishop MacInnes, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, has returned to England for a few weeks on business conected with his diocese, and will speak at a meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission at the Church House on October 30, when the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Robert Cecil have also promised to speak.

The engagement is announced of Major Gerald Bassett Scott, D.S.O., Indian Army, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Hopton Bassett Scott and Mrs. Scott, of Locksley, Shankill, Co. Dublin, tolBanche, only daughter of G. F. de Caen, J.P., and Mrs. de Caen, of Springfield, Delgany, Co. Wicklow, late of Kircullen Park, Moycullen, Co. Galway.

On September 26, at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, the marriage took place of Captain John Henry Crace, Indian Army Reserve, son of the late Henry Winfield Crace, of Cheshunt, and of Mrs. W. Hilton Perkin, of 33, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, to Elsie Farrar, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Farrar Roberts, of Plas Lodwig, Bournemouth West.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Mr. Thomas James Grieve to wear the Cross of Officer of the Order of the Redeemer conferred on him by the King of the Hellenes in recognition of his services during an outbreak of spotted typhoid in Epirus; and to Mr. Henry Arnold Ward to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of St. Sava conferred on him by the King of Serbia in recognition of his services under the auspices of the Serbian Relief Fund.

At the Oratory, Brompton, on September 26, the marriage took place of Commander M. Maxwell Scott, D.S.O., R.N., third son of the Hon. J. C. and Mrs. Maxwell Scott, of Abbotsford, Melrose, to Fearga, eldest daughter of the late Sir Nicholas O'Conor and Lady O'Conor, of Dundermott, Ballymoe, Co. Roscommon, and 29, Chester Square. The bride, who was given away by Mr. James Fitz-Alan Hope, M.P., and Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart was best man. Among those present at the church were: Lady O'Conor, the Hon. J. C. and Mrs. Maxwell Scott, the Duchess of Norfolk, the Dowager Marchioness of Bute, Sir Edwin Pears and Miss Pears, Captain Costiesco Ghyka, Count Ostorog, Captain Gourski, Lady Barclay, Lady Kennard and Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund and Lady Fremantle.

Captain George Lloyd, M.P., whose appointment as Governor of Bombay, in succession to Lord Willingdon, has just been announced, has a wide knowledge of the Near and the Middle East, based largely on personal observation. He has travelled much in India, Egypt and Morocco, and has acted as Special Commissioner in British trade interests in Turkey and Persia. His knowledge has very often been turned to account in the House of Commons, where he has represented West Staffordshire for about nine years. Since the war broke out he has rendered invaluable services to his country in Egypt, at Gallipoli, in Russia, in Mesopotamia, and in Sinai and Palestine. Here his knowledge of Arabic and Turkish has stood him in good stead, and some of his adventures, notably with the Arab forces in the Akaba region, should some day make interesting reading. He is, by the way, a graceful writer, and has occasionally contributed to THE NEAR EAST. Captain Lloyd married, in 1911, the Hon. Blanche Lascelles, daughter of the Hon. Frederick Lascelles.

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The East India United Service Club, 16, St. James's Square, S.W., has recently extended its field of recruitment, and the following officers, or other gentlemen, being European British subjects, are now made eligible for election :—Civil officers of services under the British Government in the Crown Colonies, Egypt, and British Protectorates, whose rank or duties are similar to those of the officers of the Indian Civil Services formerly eligible. Officers of the Guaranteed Railways of India, who have served in India for not less than five years, and whose rank or duties correspond with those of officers on State railways. Commissioned officers of military forces serving, or who have served, under the British Government in the present war in Asia, Africa, or Europe. Members, past or present, of the Bengal Club, Calcutta, the Byculla Club, Bombay, the Madras Club, and the Pegu Club, Rangoon.

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The King of Italy has congratulated the King of Serbia on the victory of the Serbs under the Crown Prince in the struggle for the reconquest of their country.

A service of Slavonic music of the Serbian Church will be sung at Southwark Cathedral by a choir of Serbian students under the direction of Mr. Kosta Manojlovic on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. An address will be given by Father Nikolai Velimirovic.

OBITUARY.

Viscount Falmouth died on Tuesday after a short illness. He served in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, and was present at Tel-el-Kebir and later at Metemmeh, where he commanded the Camel Corps.

The death is announced of Lady Gorst, widow of Sir John Eldon Gorst, K.C., P.C., who died in 1916. She was a daughter of the late Edward Johnson and of Mrs. Johnson, of Fernwood Avenue, Streatham, and was married in 1914.

Captain the Rev. C. E. De La Bere, R.G.A., killed in action on or about September 12, aged 29, was the fourth son of the Rev. J. De la Bere, M.A., I.C.S., of Porturet House, Cheltenham, and rector of Woolfardisworthy East and Kennerleigh, Devon.

Sir Doyle Money Shaw, K.C.B., R.N., formerly Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, died in London on Monday, aged 87. He entered the Navy in 1854, and saw service in the Crimea, in China, in the Abyssinian War, and at the bombardment of Alexandria. He retired in 1892.

Brigadier-General Arthur Richard Carlos Sanders, C.M.G., D.S.O., Royal Engineers, who was killed on September 20 by an enemy sniper, was forty-one years of age, and the only surviving son of Mrs. Sanders and the late Colonel R. C. Sanders, Indian Medical Service. He went to India in 1899, where he served with the Bengal Sappers and Miners at Chitral, Rawal Pindi, and other districts. Shortly after the outbreak of war he was drafted to France with Indian cavalry.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Passaroff, the recently-appointed Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm, has declared himself unable to enter on his duties.

A military mission composed of Serbian officers, which was charged with the enlistment of Jugoslavs and Czecho-Slovaks who had emigrated to America before the war, has succeeded in enrolling a very large number of recruits.

A Hindu student named Perendu Narin Sinha has been charged in New York with sending letters to Hindus in Mexico in code, with the object of evading the United States censorship. It is said that his messages referred to some of his countrymen arrested in America and charged with conspiracy against the peace of India.

The *Pioneer* (July 26) announces: The Commissioner of Lucknow is inaugurating a scheme for the enrolment of a civil guard for watch and ward duties in the chief towns of the United Provinces in order to set free policemen for active service. It is anticipated that the police force will lose the services of three thousand of its most active men.

Last Thursday, at Bonn's Hotel, Great Prescot Street, London, E., the Russian Zionists, Messieurs Isaac Goldberg and I. Rozoff, who were passing through England on their way to Palestine, were the guests of the English Zionist Federation. Mr. Jacobus Kahn, from Holland, also arrived unexpectedly on the same mission, and was included in the reception. The Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, who was in the chair, spoke of the effect created by the British Government's declaration upon Russian Zionists.

The General view of the C.M.S. Persia Mission for 1917 says that the year was quiet and uneventful. The famine which arose in the autumn caused bread to be more than double its highest price in the days of the great famine of 1870 and brought about a heavy death rate. November 25 was observed as a day of prayer by all the Christians, Anglican, Roman, and Armenian, and on December 20 a plentiful fall of rain occurred. At the beginning of May last the famine was more severe than ever, though the prospects for the next harvest were good. During the past six months the C M.S. staff have been doing their best to cope with the situation. Flour has been purchased and bread baked in the hospital ovens and distributed daily to some hundreds of people.

General Milne, commanding the British forces, has addressed a highly laudatory order of the day to the Greek units which took part in the battle of Doiran.

An Order in Council published in the *London Gazette* announces that an agreement has been concluded between the British Government and Greece with regard to the liability to military service of British subjects in Greece and of Greek subjects in this country. The Order directs that the Military Service (Conventions with Allied States) Act, 1917, shall have effect with respect to Greece and Greek subjects.

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam dated September 26, reports :—The Ottoman mission which is charged with notifying the King of Bulgaria of the accession of the Sultan Mahomed VI. arrived to-day at Sofia Railway Station, where the ceremony of notification took place. Among those present were the Crown Prince Boris and the Premier, M. Malinoff. In the same train as the mission was the Grand Vizier, Taalat Pasha, on his way back to Constantinople.

In a despatch from Palestine Mr. H. S. Gullett, official War Correspondent in Egypt with the Australian Forces, writes :—Ample supplies are assured to the cavalry force, making our position very secure. Owing to the Palestine harvest being in full swing the country is overflowing with horse feed and water is plentiful; and although thousands of the horses have covered fully 100 miles within two days they are still fit, and quite capable of a further big effort

A Reuter's message from Simla dated September 18, and delayed in transmission, says :—At the instance of the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Charles Monro, a measure has been passed providing that men enrolled in the Indian Defence Force, who previously were liable for service in India only, shall in future be liable for service abroad. A further Act has been passed whereby Europeans over 50 years of age shall be eligible for voluntary enrolment in the Indian Defence Force.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1918.

THE CAPITULATION OF BULGARIA.

Nothing has become Bulgaria so much in connection with the war as her manner of getting out of it. She has placed herself unreservedly in the hands of the Allies, and has had the good sense not to prejudice her case by any attempt to strike a bargain. The armistice signed at Salonika on September 30 holds good until the final peace settlement. In the meantime Bulgaria passes completely under Allied control. According to the main terms of the agreement, so far as they have been made known in this country, the Bulgarian army is to be immediately demobilized, its arms, munitions, and equipment being stored at given centres and placed in Allied custody; all Greek and Serbian territory still occupied by Bulgarian forces will be at once evacuated; all Bulgarian means of transport, including the railways and Bulgarian vessels, are to be placed at the disposal of the Allies; Bulgarian territory is to be available for Allied operations against the enemy, and Bulgaria ceases henceforth to be a belligerent, save with the complete consent of the Allies. Only one clause in the armistice bears any trace of a Bulgarian stipulation, although it may well have been the spontaneous offer of the Allied Commander-in-Chief; it is provided that strategic points are to be occupied by the Allied armies, but such occupation is reserved to British, French, or Italian troops. The reservation is a wise one; but we shall hope to hear that it was made with the cordial assent of both the Serbian and Greek Governments from a desire not to compromise by the temporary emphasis of the relative positions of victors and vanquished the ultimate restoration of international good will to the Balkans. The fact that this complete capitulation was made within a fortnight of the launching of the Allies' offensive, and almost before Bulgarian territory had been reached, proves that the heart of the Bulgarian people had been out of the war for a considerable period, and it may also be inferred from the readiness with which the agreement was signed and the fate of Bulgaria left unquestioningly to the Allies that three years of close partnership with Germany have satisfied the Bulgarians that, in spite of the evil record with which they face their late enemies, they are likely to be better off in their hands than in those of Germany.

The actual situation in Bulgaria is still necessarily obscure. Some explanation must be forthcoming of the part played by the country in the war, and it is hardly to be expected that those guilty of ranging Bulgaria against the Allies will be allowed to go scatheless. From their fate it may be possible to gauge the inwardness of the people's mind. If the spirit that passed muster in international relations before this war is to prevail still, there will be no disposition to inquire too closely into Bulgaria's case. She has once more been beaten to her knees, and there is the precedent of the Treaty of Bucharest, whether of the 1913 or the 1918 variety. But we are confident that it is realised to-day that this way peace in the Balkans does not lie. The Treaty of Bucharest was an example of punishment regardless of justice and the rights of nationalities. It is an experiment that the Allies cannot afford to repeat. Let the punishment to be meted out to Bulgaria be as drastic as can be devised, provided it does not carry with it injustice and sow the seeds of fresh wars. The first concern of our Allies, the Serbians and Greeks, is that Bulgaria should cease to be a menace to them and be deprived for all time of the incentive to feel that only a little effort on her part is required to cause the hegemony of the Peninsula to fall into her lap. The ground, it is obvious, has been entirely cut away from under this fear. The Serbia of to-morrow is no longer a State smaller than Bulgaria, living under the shadow of an Austrian peril. It is the moving spirit of a great Serb or Jugoslav Federation, numbering twelve million people; the future of Greece may not have been defined with the same precision, but equally with Serbia she will be able to divest herself of the old dread of Bulgaria. There will also be Roumania, enlarged to a total population of eleven or twelve millions, standing sentinel in the north. Thus the desire to see Bulgaria rendered harmless is already gratified, and the Entente Powers, including the United States, can be relied upon to make sure that not lightly shall a just settlement resulting from this war be annulled. By the terms of the armistice the political settlement is postponed until a later date. If Bulgaria succeeds in exorcising her own evil genius and the Allies lose no time in drafting a detailed settlement that will render lasting peace in the Balkans possible, and will prepare the way for the conjoint advance of the several States along a common path of material prosperity, then, we believe, practical effect could very shortly be given to the suggestion in the Salonika agreement that Bulgaria may again become a belligerent, "with the complete assent of the Allies."

A reluctance to count too much on Fortune's favours and a widespread inability to visualise the world-war as a single undivided whole are responsible for the failure to appreciate at once the potentialities of Bulgaria's surrender. Somewhat tentatively the people of Great Britain allow themselves to believe that it has brought the end of the war nearer—a belief reluctantly shared even by those who have persistently denounced all military enterprise in the East and sought to throw ridicule on the campaigns in Macedonia, Palestine, and Mesopotamia as side shows. The first result must be the elimination of Turkey. From that follows free access to the Black Sea and South Russia for the Allies, and the ultimate rehabilitation, we may hope, of distracted Russia. Roumania can be reached across Bulgaria and by way of the Black Sea, and already the Germans claim to have detected strange movements afoot in the country that they thought they had placed for ever under their heels. More important still, Austria is again uncovered in the south, with no means of protecting herself except at the expense of the Italian or the Western fronts. For the moment, however, these are results *in posse*. To attain them it is necessary that the efforts of all the Allies that have succeeded so well in Macedonia should be transferred and, if possible, intensified against Austria. The capitulation of Bulgaria has stirred things elsewhere than in South-Eastern Europe. Of this fact Germany herself is peculiarly conscious, and the Allies have only to press home their advantage from Flanders to the Danube to realise how great a stimulus has been given by the course of events in Macedonia to their resolve to bring the war at last to its inevitable end.

THE CAPTURE OF AMMAN AND DAMASCUS.

The astonishing week in Palestine which commenced on the night of September 18 with the great battle of Samaria concluded with practically all western Palestine in British possession, and with the Turkish Seventh and Eighth Armies "wiped out."

From Es Salt, which had been captured on the 23rd by an outflanking movement over the hills—along "goat paths"—on each side of the military road, the Anzac Mounted Division, assisted by some infantry, among them a West Indian battalion and some Jewish troops, advanced towards the fortified Turkish position at Amman. In our previous advance to this place the strength of its defences had been realised, but now our return wave was irresistible. On the 24th our cavalry reached Suweileh, halfway, and by dawn the next day an investment of the town from all sides was commenced. By 3 p.m. New Zealanders had entered the Circassian settlement itself, and by nightfall the whole ancient site of Rabbath-Ammon, the lofty hill which was the acropolis when the Greek city of Philadelphia was here, was cleared of the enemy. Those readers of THE NEAR EAST who know Amman will realise how great a feat it was to capture so rapidly a stronghold so well adapted for defence. It has seen many sieges and many battles from the time of King David's general Joab (2 Sam. xii. 26-31) onwards. To-day, as the most important station on the Hejaz Railway south of the Daraà junction, its capture was an essential step in our progress.

Meanwhile, forces belonging to the King of the Hejaz, who had captured Maan (the nearest station to Petra) further south, were driving the scattered Turkish garrisons along the railway line towards our forces in Amman. By the 27th 5,700 prisoners and 28 guns had been captured in and around Amman; and on the 28th, our cavalry, moving southwards, came in contact with Turkish forces retreating northwards from the Maan district at Es Kastel, 14½ miles to the south of Amman. These apparently retreated again southward before us—they were between our Arab allies to the south and our cavalry to the north—and the next day at the station Ziza—three miles to the south of Es Kastel—a force "stated by its own commander to number 10,000 men" made their surrender.

While these highly satisfactory results were proceeding, others of our forces were making their way to the East Jordan lands further north.

One party advancing from Beisan secured the southern end of the Lake of Galilee, with the important railway station of Es Semakh, and proceeded eastwards up the hills into the Jebal Ajlun (Land of Gilead). They occupied successively Irbid, the chief town of the Ajlun district, on the afternoon of the 27th, and Er Remtheh, a town situated on an outstanding hill, and, like the last, on the high road from Beisan, over the Jisr el Mujamia to Daraà. They drove before them the demoralised Turkish forces towards Mezerib, and effected a junction with the Arabs about Daraà. These latter meanwhile had captured the railway stations north of Daraà at Ezraà and Ghazaleh; had on the 26th occupied Daraà itself, and on the 27th reached the important centre Sheikh Saad, 16½ miles to the north. Daraà is the Edrei of the Bible and occupies a site which was in ancient times of considerable natural military strength. It is noted for its extensive underground passages—a veritable underground city—in which the inhabitants were able to retire for refuge in times of danger. At the present day its importance in regard to our advance lies in its being the railway junction of the Haifa-Damascus line with the main Hejaz railway. The Arab forces rendered the British cause a signal service when they destroyed the railway in this neighbourhood at the beginning of our advance.

Sheikh Sa'ad is a place well known to Palestine archæologists, as here, within the walls of a ruined mosque, is the so-called "Stone of Job"—a great block of basalt 6 feet high, bearing the cartouche of Rameses II.—an evidence that the armies of this great conqueror also passed this way. Meanwhile this Beisan force—consisting of Yeomanry and Indian cavalry—proceeded at a rapid pace towards Damascus, leaving small bodies of Turks in their rear, to be dealt with later by the oncoming infantry. The next important capture was Sheikh Miskin, a thriving townlet the seat of the Governor of the Hauran. It lies upon the great Haj (pilgrim) road some five miles almost due east of Sheikh Sa'ad and some fifty miles south of Damascus.

While this force was thus rapidly approaching Damascus along the great southern road a third body of mounted troops was engaged in clearing the northern end of the Lake of Galilee and advancing along the Akka-Damascus road. This road crosses the Jordan, here but a narrow river, at a bridge called the Jisr Benat Yacob ("The Bridge of the Daughters of Jacob"). A brigade of Australian Light Horse, reaching this bridge on the 26th, found it destroyed and the eastern side of the river defended by a thousand men, who had come from Damascus on motor lorries with light artillery and machine-guns. The Australians, however, swam their horses across the river, some to the north and some to the south of the bridge, crossing with such speed that they captured many prisoners and guns. By 6 a.m. on the 28th they were at the little squalid village of Deir es Suras, from which they advanced rapidly to the important Circassian settlement of el Kuneitrah, the principal place and seat of government of the Jaulan—some forty miles S.W. of Damascus. It is beautifully situated, with abundant water supply, and remains of earlier occupation are plentiful. It was once a great Khan on this ancient trunk road. The two columns, one coming through the Hauran and one through the Jaulan, were thus converging upon Damascus.

No time was given for the Turks to rally. By the 30th the city was surrounded north-west and south, and actually entered by some Australian mounted troops, and at 6 a.m. on October 1 this great and ancient city, the centre of an oasis of unbounded fertility and one of the most historic cities of the Arab race, fell to General Allenby's victorious armies.

Meanwhile, though we have as yet no details, French troops are said to be advancing upon Beyrout, and doubtless we shall before long learn of other forces engaged in rapidly seizing strategic points in the van of our victorious advance.

Up to the present—by the addition of 7,000 captured at Damascus—General Allenby's total captures number 67,000 officers and men.

E. W. G. M.

THE INDIAN POLICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council, it is announced, is prepared to consider applications for appointment to a limited number of posts in the higher branch of the Indian Police from young men between nineteen and twenty-five years of age who have served with his Majesty's Forces during the war, but whose services, owing to wounds or other causes, are not now required by the military or naval authorities. Candidates must have received a good education, such as might be expected to enable them to qualify for entrance to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and must be physically fit for service in India, involving constant riding. Further particulars and form of application may be obtained from the Secretary, Judicial and Public Department, India Office, London, S.W. 1.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

"White Horse Whisky" Diary for 1919.

Messrs. MACKIE & CO., Distillers, Ltd., Glasgow, London, and Island of Islay, desire to inform holders of their "White Horse" Diary for 1918 that the new Diary for 1919, shortly to be issued, will not, owing to war conditions, be supplied with the usual leather covers. The outer leather cover of the 1918 Diary should therefore be preserved for use with the issue for 1919, the latter to be inserted inside the elastic band after removing the old book.

THE INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE OF GREECE.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGLO-HELLENIC TRADE DEVELOPMENTS.

By Thomas H. Mawson,

(Senior Member of the Commission for the Replanning of Salonika.)

Anyone acquainted with the East and its prevailing optimism and the remarkable character of M. Venizelos, the Prime Minister of Greece, is convinced that a great Hellenic revival is in process of incubation, and that its effect on the life of the people will be salutary and invigorating. After centuries of lethargy or subjection, the Hellenic people with their latent virility are coming into their own, and every Greek seems to feel the spur of a dream which at last is coming true.

The British Foreign Office with its usual perspicuity has seen the coming of the dawn, and the opportunities which it offers for strengthening those ties of mutual good will which have always been so strong between Greek and British. In the material sense our Government has realised the enormous impetus which this revival may give to trade between the two countries, and from the Government to those important federations of British industries which this war has called into existence, all seem alive to the advantages which are thus offered of closer trade relations. One proof of this is to be found in the Greek Commercial Mission now touring, at the invitation of the Federation of British Industries, the manufacturing and commercial centres in this country. What the delegation will see here cannot do otherwise than profoundly impress them, and prove beyond cavil that, a great war notwithstanding, we have not lost our genius as universal providers of the world's needs.

As senior member of the Commission for the replanning of Salonika and as town-planning expert to the Greek Government, I am curious to know whether or not our financiers, manufacturers, and merchants will rise to a just conception of the volume of trade which the renaissance of Greece implies.

Probably in the concrete sense the rebuilding of Salonika is the biggest as well as the earliest task of the post-war period. From the material point of view the rebuilding of the burnt-out portion alone constitutes a great operation, but this is as nothing compared with the construction of the greater Salonika which is to be.

This great rebuilding scheme can only be compared, from the platform of modern history with the rebuilding of Chicago and San Francisco. This will be, not merely a case of gradual creation as a city develops in a natural way, but of rapid reconstruction involving a great organisation, great energy, and great expenditure, and the Hellenic Government is shouldering this business of reconstruction with energy and foresight. To gain some little conception of what this rebuilding and extension of a great city really means, the accompanying notes may be helpful. In reading the following estimates of work (which must be carried out by someone), it is to be noted that a large and central section of the city, extending about 1¼ miles east to west and over half a mile south to north, involving the dehousing of 70,000 inhabitants, was utterly destroyed in the great fire. This portion has been entirely replanned, and must be quickly rebuilt. Not only so, the new plans now include an area of about 17½ square miles, an area which will undoubtedly be occupied in the near future by a prosperous population. Some of the work necessary to this great work of reconstruction may be classified as follows:—

Streets and Boulevards.—The street and boulevard system gives the remarkable total of 176 miles of new or reformed roads, of which one hundred miles will be required within the near future. These streets will all require kerbs, channels, and side walks, along with the utilities described hereafter. The road surfaces will vary in character from wood blocks to stone sets, and from asphalt to macadam, according to locality, gradient, and prospective use, wear, and tear.

Dock, Railway, and Tram Facilities.—The preliminary plan gives some indication of the enormous extensions proposed to the docks, and also the reorganisation of the railways for merchandise and passenger traffic. This work will entail the expenditure of large sums, both in the construction of a large railway station near Port Vardar (popularly known as Piccadilly Circus) and also in the erection of large bonded and merchandise warehouses, along with the necessary offices and other buildings incidental to work of this nature. It is also proposed to erect eventually another terminus at the Kalemaria end of the city, and to construct another railway connecting Salonika with the Gulf of Orphana. Between these two stations and running through the heart of the city, it is proposed to construct an underground railway connecting these two terminii, and also to meet the needs of the inter-urban traffic of the city. It is also proposed to reconstruct entirely the tram or street car services of the city, which, in their completed state, will extend to forty miles.

Electric Light, Power, and Gas Works.—To meet the needs of a great city which is to be rebuilt on modern æsthetic and economic principles, it will be necessary to extend existing works or to erect new great power and light-producing plants, and also to lay down a large gas-producing works. The scale of these undertakings will be apparent when it is stated that power will be needed for the entire street car system, the underground railways, and for every occupation in the city which needs power. For light and cooking purposes the needs of a city—which has now a population estimated at 220,000, and which is expected to increase rapidly to 300,000—will entail the expenditure of large capital sums.

Street Utilities for Drainage, Water Supply, Gas, and Electric Light Conduits.—The main drainage system will require at least 100 miles of concrete drain pipes and extensive outfall works. Connecting drains will eventually require at least 120 miles of drain pipes of varying capacity, for water service mains the city will require at least 140 miles of piping of various bores.

Gas mains will extend approximately to sixty miles.

Electric light and power conduits will extend to approximately 110 miles.

(To be continued.)

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Near Eastern Problem.

In an article, "The Future of the Near East," published in the *York Gazette*, Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., writes very bluntly of the trickery and corruption that enabled Turkey formerly to keep at least a show of independence. He declares :—

> The Ottoman Empire has continued to exist for two reasons: Firstly, because the pre-war statesmen of the Great Powers preferred to see a barbarous and improgressive tyranny blasting the fairest regions of the world rather than that the redemption of these areas should add to the existing strength of a possibly hostile Power. Secondly, because the Ottoman Government has known how to avail itself of the protection of international finance.
>
> The Ottoman Empire has for the last half century purchased its existence by playing on the fears and rivalries of the European Powers, and by pawning and mortgaging the resources of the inhabitants of its provinces to various groups of financiers. Through the medium of certain middlemen these groups forced on the Ottoman Government arms and munitions, trafficked in bogus railways, and forestalled each other in obtaining concessions. It has always been the policy of these groups to prevent any drastic action being taken to bring the Ottoman Empire under any kind of effective control, because the financiers and their middlemen knew well enough that once the Ottoman Empire was controlled, the profits of the concession hunter and the armament tout would come to an end. It has been part of the nemesis of the Allies that they countenanced and even assisted in building uneconomic railways which, though they did not develop the country, fitted in exactly with Turco-German military schemes.

As to the future, if Allied democracy is not to fail where its predecessor the Concert of Europe failed, the control of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles must be taken out of Turkish hands. Only then will Constantinople cease to be the "hatching place of wars, the focus of intrigue, both political and financial."

> The Turk holds Constantinople because no one nation dare trust another with so great a prize. But we know what Turkish guardianship of those Straits means—tyranny in Asia and dissension in Europe. The only remedy is for the Straits to be internationalised in the fullest sense of the word. Whether the Sultan resides at Constantinople or not is a matter of little consequence, but allied democracy must be entirely responsible for the fairway, and have on the spot an effective force on land, in the sea, and in the air, which will put its authority and supremacy beyond all question.
>
> International finance before the war, as organised in Stamboul, represented nothing less than organised corruption. If the world is to envisage any prospect of peace this odious system must be abolished once and for all. Allied democracy will have to take over not only the Ottoman debt, but Ottoman finance as a whole. The question of concessions, loans, and exploitation will have to be decided in the open by a body of persons who command the respect and confidence of the world. The basic principle on which that body should act should be that the twofold purpose of economic development is to benefit the inhabitants of the country and to add to the total wealth of the peoples of the earth as a whole. Unless this is done the cesspool of Levantine roguery will continue to infect the world with fresh fevers and pestilences.

In conclusion, Sir Mark reminds his readers that they must not lose sight of the fate of the subject peoples of the Ottoman Empire. "It is unbelievable that Allied democracy can accept a continuance of Ottoman government of non-Ottoman peoples as a part of a just peace. Reforms may be dismissed as hopeless; the history of Turkey for the last hundred and twenty years has been a history of abortive reforms written in the blood of the oppressed whom the reforms were intended to free. The matter which Allied democracy has to decide is the future fate of the Greek, the Armenian, the Kurd, the Chaldean, the Syrian, the Arab, and the Jew."

Articles to Note.

"Mesopotamia: The Land Between the Rivers," by Major-General Sir George MacMunn, K.C.B., in the *Cornhill* (October).

"From Baghdad to the Mediterranean in the Hands of the Turks" (concluded), by Captain G. N. Gibbs, A.E.; and "The Future of India: (1) 'India as a Colonising Power: A Reply to Sir Theodore Morison,' by Lord Sydenham; (2) 'The Montagu-Chelmsford Report,'" by Sir Andrew Fraser, K.C.S.I., in the *Nineteenth Century* (October).

"Turkey, Islam, and Turanianism," by Sir Edwin Pears, in the *Contemporary* (October).

"Among Mohammedans in the Punjab," by G. P. U., in *Blackwood* (October).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The consequences of the happy issue of the Bulgarian campaign are dealt with elsewhere in this issue, and I will merely say now that no amount of comment could express more eloquently the influence on the war situation in general and on the position in the Near East in particular of Bulgaria's unconditional surrender than the changes which immediately followed in the foreign exchange market and in the prices of Near Eastern securities. The feature of the exchange market since that development has been the recovery in sterling, the importance of which is that we shall be enabled to make our purchases in neutral countries on better financial terms. Among shares, Roumanian Consols have made a dramatic rise during the week; Roumanian 4½ per cents. have made an appreciable recovery, in company with Montenegrin bonds; while other Balkan shares have participated in the rise. The picture is completed by the growing demand for Russian oil shares, which have had an excellent market this week, and have advanced all round. These developments say all that can be said at the moment.

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The German aspect of the situation requires, however, a little attention. Cut off from the direct railway route from Berlin to "Byzantium-Bagdad," as the Germans loved to phrase it, by the defection of Bulgaria, the Prussian authorities will be compelled to consider the alternative routes. There are two—by way of Constanza and by way of Odessa. The former would be preferable in peace time, as the railway is of the same gauge throughout, and thus only one break of bulk is involved, that at the seaport. But the German will not feel much more comfortable at the present moment in the Dobruja than he does in Belgium. The alternative route runs by way of Oderberg, where it quits Germany, through Cracow and Lemberg to the Russian frontier, where the gauge alters and a break of bulk is necessary—which is both a costly and a delaying operation—and on to Odessa. The country throughout Galicia and the Ukraine is flat and easy, and there is no reason in the nature of things why high railway speeds should not be maintained, were it not that the depreciation of a never very good rolling stock and permanent way has become a very serious factor these last four years. Odessa is, of course, a good deal further from Constantinople by sea than Constanza, but the defection of Bulgaria does not for the moment make the Euxine less of a German lake than before, Bulgaria's sea-power being negligible. But Germany will soon begin to realise that her dominance of the Black Sea is about as uncertain as the weather on those extremely fickle waters.

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Mr. T. H. Mawson contributes a most valuable article to this issue on the replanning of Salonika and on the openings for business enterprise that will arise in connection with developments at that town. I hope the article will be read with the utmost care by British merchants and manufacturers who may be already interested in business in the Near East, or may be contemplating trade with that region after the war, for it cannot fail to give them a profound insight into the extraordinary business possibilities that will be open to them in the Near East after the war. It will then be no longer a field in which the keenest competition in the trade world has to be encountered, and where the conditions in general are adverse to British interests. Everything will then be in favour of the growth of reciprocal trade with the Near East provided British merchants show the necessary enterprise; and in the light of the experience they have gained during the war I am optimistic enough to think they will.

⁂

Turning to what Mr. Mawson has to say about Salonika it will be noted that it is not a question merely of rebuilding the burnt portion of the town. The replanning scheme is framed on a much more ambitious scale, and provides for the development of an area of about 17½ square miles. It is, in short, a scheme of great magnitude, which, as Mr. Mawson so aptly remarks, "can only be compared from the platform of modern history with the rebuilding of Chicago and San Francisco." Reconstruction on such a scale might be expected to be a most gradual process, but this is not Mr. Mawson's view. In his opinion it will be a question of "rapid reconstruction, involving a great organisation, great energy, and great expenditure," and, of course, that will mean that within a short space of time after the war there will be an immense demand for material of all kinds for the work he specifies. Greece is not in a position to undertake work of the nature indicated unaided; she must depend on external enterprise in the main, and it will be their fault entirely if British firms fail to play a leading rôle in the work of reconstruction.

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Of the openings for contracts suggested by Mr. Mawson I will only mention the need for something like 100,000 new houses, industrial developments which point to the demand for more factories and workshops, and the development of the water supply and the gas and electric services. These requirements must suffice to indicate the unbounded scope for business enterprise provided by the reconstruction scheme. It only remains for me to add what I have so constantly laid stress on previously: that to obtain business at Salonika or elsewhere after the war, it is necessary for British firms to bestir themselves now, and to make known their existence by means of judicious advertising in papers that they are sure will reach the circles they wish to interest, and in other ways. To wait until the war ends before taking any definite action is the worst possible policy, and cannot fail to be detrimental to the true interests of British trade.

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The British Trade Corporation is now in its second year, a period which has been marked by the formation of one subsidiary undertaking, the Trade Indemnity Co., Ltd., and by much patient work of preparation which will give its results when the war ends and conditions make it possible to promote the growth of British trade. It may be pointed out that it will be the business of the Corporation not so much to be the primary mover in undertakings as to assist with finance those who are launching out in directions which it can be shown are for the benefit of British commerce. I shall not be unduly optimistic, I think, if I say that in this respect it is probable that the institution will have an incalculable influence on the growth of British trade relations with the Near East. In no region has the absence of adequate financial facilities been more detrimental to our interests in the past, and in none is its provision likely to have greater or more immediate results. In Egypt, in particular, there is great scope for initiative on the part of our exporting houses if the trade which was formerly in the hands of Germany and Austria is to be captured by this country.

⁂

A recent debate in the French Chamber of Deputies served to explain France's policy of reserving for her own use the mineral wealth of her colonies. An oil concession to a British group was in question, and it was stated by M. Lecheur, who spoke for the Government, that the head of the British group had been informed that the charter required that two-thirds of the shares should be in French hands. In this respect we may well take a lesson from our Ally, for we have paid dearly during the war for a *laissez faire* policy which permitted other countries to utilise and even to monopolise our resources. It is one thing to welcome, as France does, the co-operation of Allied capital in the development of her wealth; it is quite another to permit the Germans (as we did before the war) to oust British capital from staple trades and industries.

⁂

I wonder whether it would not be possible at some future period for a British Industrial Mission to pay a visit to Morocco. Such an enterprise would, I am sure, be most acceptable to our Allies, and would form a fitting complement to the efforts now being made in this country by the British Merchants Morocco Association and in Morocco by the British Chamber of Commerce there to increase British trade with that country.

⁂

My attention has been drawn by a valued correspondent to a most interesting passage in Volney's *Travels* in which it is mentioned that "indigo grows without cultivating on the banks of the Jordan, in the country of Bisan, and only requires care to make it of an excellent quality." My correspondent suggests that some attempts might be made to restore this lost industry, a view which will doubtless be universally shared as the industries of the region in question are neither numerous nor valuable, and indigo cultivation would be a most important addition to their number.

⁂

Sir Harvey Adamson, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma from 1910 to 1915, in an article which was quoted recently in these columns, referred to the vast coal resources of Burma which have hitherto not been utilised. It appears that this neglect will shortly be remedied, as the Burma Resources Committee have asked the Government to place a geological expert on special duty for the examination of coal and lignite deposits and to defray the cost of detailed investigation. Unfortunately, the most important coal fields in Burma are inaccessible, but important deposits exist near Magwe which lend themselves readily to development.

COMMENTATOR.

ROUMANIAN COMMERCE.

Retrospect and Prospect.—III.

By A. Loveday.

Although the petroleum industry affords a good example of the success of Germany's efforts in developing the trade and industry of Roumania, and although Germans, and Jews with German connections, were to be found in prominent positions in almost every branch of industry in that country, still Germany's main activities were devoted to increasing the sale of her own goods. The extent to which British trade has gradually receded and German trade progressed may be gauged by the following table giving the quinquennial average gross imports of Roumania from the four most important countries of origin for a period of thirty years.

Roumanian Imports (gross) in Millions of Francs

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria-Hungary.	France.	Germany.
1881-8	70	89·7	20·1	66·3
1889-93	98·5	74·5	36·1	117·7
1894-8	74·2	99·9	27·1	106
1899-03	49·2	76·1	18	77·9
1904-8	59	101·6	19·5	122·7
1909-13	68·8	119·5	31·6	184·9

The Roumanian balance of trade has been directly dependent on her borrowings. Roughly speaking it was generally against her up to 1900 while she was raising large foreign loans for her railways and the general economic development of the country, and was favourable since that date up to the outbreak of war, except in the two years 1904 and 1908 when she was suffering from economic crises, the first produced by harvest failure and the second the outcome of the 1907 agricultural revolution. The fall in Roumania's imports during the quinquennium 1899-1905 is concomitant with the diminution of her foreign borrowings. Germany, as the largest source of capital, was the most directly affected, and the subsequent increase of her exports to Roumania has been achieved through a vigorous exploitation of the Roumanian market. A further analysis of the figures given above will show the character of her commercial campaign, and for this purpose the last five years of the series will be taken. The year 1913, however, it should be remembered was in some ways unrepresentative owing to the mobilisation of the Roumanian army, and the large purchases of ammunition from Austria-Hungary which in part account for the increase of imports from that country during the final quinquennium. The most important groups of merchandise imported by Roumania during this period, together with proportions for which each of the more important exporting countries were responsible may be seen from the following figures:—

Commodities.	Value in Millions of Francs.	Percentage of value from chief importing countries.				
		United Kingdom.	Germany.	Austria-Hungary.	Italy.	France.
Metals	638·4	16	50	19	—	—
Cotton & Hemp	393	33	18	21	18	—
Machinery	254·9	8·4	56·3	17·3	—	—
Wool & Woollen Goods........	206·3	15	42·5	25	—	—
Vehicles	109·5	—	[illegible]0	20	—	14

Thus, in the case of metals, machinery, and wool and woollen goods, Germany easily held the first position. Moreover, whereas the imports from England during the period did not increase in proportion to the increase in the total imports, the growth of the imports from Germany considerably exceeded the average percentage increase. The differences are so striking as to be worthy of definitive illustration.

Roumanian Imports in 1912 as Percentages of her Imports in 1909.

From	Total.	Metals.	Cotton.	Mach'y.	Wool.
All countries	165	181	166	200	173
Germany ..	193	205	146	208	189
U. Kingdom	152	154	135	207	144

Only in the single case of machinery did the United Kingdom keep pace with the general commercial growth of Roumania, and in this case never once in the whole period did her imports amount to 10 per cent. of the total imports, while in every instance Germany made the more rapid progress. Had the year 1913 been taken instead of the more normal year 1912, this country would have shown a still more striking picture of retrogression.

It is not possible within the limits of this article to investigate in detail the various articles of import. There are, however, one or two of outstanding importance which are worth special note. In 1913 the most important single article was iron tubing, the steady demand for which in recent years was considerably increased by the decision of the Roumanian Government to lay pipe lines for petrol from Baicoi to Constantza. The 37 million francs paid for these was divided almost equally between Germany and the United States. In almost all other metal manufactures, with the exception of galvanised iron, which came from the United Kingdom, Germany secured the major portion of the orders.

Coarse unbleached yarn woven in Roumania to a considerable extent by the peasants on domestic looms constituted one of the main textile imports. It was largely owing to the importance of this trade that the United Kingdom was able to maintain her leading position in cotton. Italian competition, however, was gradually driving her back, and in piece goods, more especially those which were highly coloured, England was steadily surrendering her ground to Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Germany.

A somewhat different state of affairs existed in the case of the machinery group. Here Germany and Austria-Hungary, while practically monopolising the market in machine tools and oil engines, were beginning to meet with severe competition from the United States, in what was in effect the most important item of this group, namely, agricultural implements. The restoration and salvation of Roumania after the war will, perhaps, depend more on her power to revive and develop agricultural co-operation and on her power to purchase agricultural implements cheaply and on generous terms of credit than on any other factors.

In view of the facts and figures presented above it is worth while considering what were the main causes of the decrease of British and the increase of German and Austrian trade with Roumania.

Germany and Austria, no doubt, possessed certain definite advantages. Few countries have owed more to a single man than Roumania owes to her late king, Carol I., a Hohenzollern. It was natural that he, in controlling the economic organisation of the kingdom, should have looked to Germany for such assistance as was required. But the advantage which Germany thus obtained, more especially during the period 1890-1900, decreased rather than increased during the next thirteen years, when Roumania was paying back more in interest on her debts than she was borrowing. A second advantage, in this case accruing equally to both of these two nations, was that of proximity—proximity, partly on account of shorter transit, and partly on account of the fact that the Roumanian people themselves are not a commercial nation, with the result that a very considerable proportion of their business is controlled or managed by foreigners. It required less imagination and less effort for a German or a Hungarian to take the opportunities which presented themselves than for an Englishman or a Frenchman. Moreover, owing to the non-commercial character of the Roumanians themselves, Jews succeeded in obtaining an extraordinary hold over the whole economic life of the country. Whatever may be the international characteristics of Jews in general it is certain that the Roumanian Jew was more closely allied to the German than to his kin farther west, and the higher the proportion of Jews in any town the greater the proportion of German goods to be found on sale there. But these causes, although all operative, are insufficient alone to explain the progress made by German traders.

So far as this country is concerned it would appear that British firms were content to abandon the Roumanian market without a struggle. Their failure, or relative failure, may be accounted for partly by their unwillingness to send out either travellers or catalogues published in a language or giving measures understood by the Roumanians, and partly by their unwillingness to give terms of credit similar to those extended by their competitors. These two points are closely connected, for, relying as they did on local commission agents in many cases, they suffered considerable loss from the credit they did allow. They became thus, naturally, though wrongly, as they made the initial mistake, unwilling to grant more favourable terms. As illustrative of their lack of enterprise may be quoted a remark of the Vice-Consul at Braila in the latest British Consular Report:—" I may mention that not a single British commercial traveller called at this Vice-Consulate during the year 1913."

In the opening pages of the same report we are told that "British merchants do not seem to be over eager to push their wares in the Roumanian market, and apparently find it more profitable to extend their relations elsewhere." The conclusion drawn in this sentence is obviously a legitimate one for any consul in any particular country to make; but when almost exactly similar remarks are to be found in innumerable reports from all parts of the world, the question arises whether it would not be nearer the truth merely to state that before the outbreak of war British merchants were not over eager to push their wares.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Monsoon Still Weak.

The Indian Trade Commissioner (Mr. D. T. Chadwick) has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated September 25:—

The monsoon continues weak, and rain is still needed generally in the North and Centre. It has been moderate in Bengal and Burma. In the Deccan (Madras and Bombay), where rain was reported short till last week, recent falls have been better.

The final jute forecast estimates a crop of seven million bales, being a decrease of 1,900,000 bales as compared with last year's forecast at corresponding date.

Cotton in the United Provinces is doing well.

Fine broach cotton September delivery. Highest quotation Rs.899 a candy; lowest Rs.722.

The War Loan subscriptions, according to revised figures, exceed 49 crores of rupees (£37,000,000 approximately at 1s. 6d. exchange).

The following railway surveys have been sanctioned:—Maungdaw to Akyab, seventy-seven miles, by the Assam Bengal Railway; Magra Hat Kakdwip, twenty-nine miles, by the Eastern Bengal Railway. The last is in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the twenty-four Parganna.

AMERICAN EGYPTIAN COTTON ACREAGE.

The Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that the area planted with Egyptian cotton in 1918 is about 80,000 acres, compared with 36,000 acres in 1917. The forecast of the production is 45,000 running bales, as against 14,000 bales in 1917.

Details by States.	Acreage.		Estimated Production (Running bales.)	
	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.
Arizona	75,000	33,000	42,000	13,000
California ..	5,000	3,000	3,000	1,000

The experiment with the Egyptian cotton in the United States began in 1912, and has been greatly stimulated during the war years by the high prices prevailing for Egyptian cotton from Egypt and the scarcity of tonnage to carry it.

* * *

The *Tunisie Française* states that the last tunny fishing season resulted in a catch of 4,439 fish. In normal times a season's catch amounts to about 25,000 tunny. The price obtained for the fish this season has been high, but, it is said, does not cover the cost of production.

THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Liverpool and Manchester Visits.

The Greek Commercial Delegates spent part of September 26 at Derby, where they visited the premises of Messrs. Boden and Co., Ltd., afterwards going on to Liverpool. On September 27 they visited the United Alkali Co., Ltd., and were entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor. The following day was devoted to a visit to Lever Bros., Ltd., Port Sunlight. The Hon. W. Hulme Lever received the visitors, and presided at the luncheon given in their honour. In the course of his speech he said he was glad to learn that it was proposed to rebuild Salonika on the town-planning lines of which Port Sunlight formed an example. He subsequently read a letter from Lord Leverhulme, who wrote : "It can only be along the lines of peaceful commerce—services rendered by the citizens of one nation to the citizens of another in supplying their wants, and the fair exchange of the products of one country for the products of another—that national prosperity and well being can be built up. On these lines may there ever be a closer connection between the people of Greece and the English-speaking people—the two peoples that in the history of the world have done most for ideals and standards of liberty, freedom and democracy from the earliest dawn of civilisation."

In the evening the delegates were entertained at dinner at the Adelphi Hotel by the Hellenic community of Liverpool. At this function the guests included the Lord Mayor, Sir Alfred Booth, Mr. Max Muspratt, and Mr. Michel Ralli, and the chair was taken by M. Malandrinos. The Lord Mayor, proposing the toasts "The Anglo-Greek Alliance" and "Commerce and Industry," said that the alliance of Britain and Greece was centuries old. Any alliance, whether of peace or war, with the British Empire was a square alliance, which would be treated with the fullest respect. His Lordship added that he hoped that the Greek visitors would be impressed with the productive powers of Britain and the readiness to exchange her manufactures with other countries. Never had Britain been more entitled than during this war to be termed the "workshop of the world."

M. Gennadius, in a felicitous reply to the toast of the Alliance, said that the Lord Mayor had honoured the gathering by his presence, and cheered and guided Britons and Greeks by his wise words. Greece could not forget those who had remained true to her when she was under a cloud. The few days spent by the deputation in Liverpool would be reflected upon with gratitude and fond remembrance.

M. Embiricos, in reply to "Commerce and Industry," said Greece loved the British nation, and had looked to it as a lighthouse in times of storm. While in Liverpool he had especially before his mind the fact that to Gladstone Greece owed her possession of the Ionian Isles. By means of a growth of their credit banks, Greek traders would be aided in their desire to do their best to improve commercial relations with Britain. He advised British manufacturers to adapt, as the Germans had done, their standards and patterns to the elastic demands of all the countries with which they wished to extend their trade.

On September 29 the delegates proceeded to Manchester, and on the following day visited the British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., and the Crossley Motors, Ltd. In the evening a dinner was given in their honour at the Midland Hotel by the Federation of British Industries. Sir Herbert Dixon, who presided, said that he hoped that the tour would result in closer commercial relations with the Greeks, who were at the gate of the Balkans.

M. Michalocopoulos said England had given freedom of trade to all who came here—the Germans included. This freedom, instead of satisfying the commercial appetites of the Germans, had increased their desires for world dominance. Whether free trade would be the same thing after the war as before he could not say. Greece was prepared to enter into agreement with her Allies, with whom she was willing to co-operate. They hoped to realise in commerce what a distinguished English statesman said of diplomacy, that honesty was the best policy.

On October 1 the delegates visited the mills of Messrs. Ashton Bros. and Co., Ltd., and were subsequently entertained to luncheon by the Lord Mayor, Sir Alexander Porter, at the Town Hall, when the guests included Lady Porter, and Mr. Theodore Casdagli, the Greek Consul.

The Lord Mayor, proposing the toast of the visitors, said that the relations between Manchester people and the Greeks who lived in their midst had always been of a most friendly character, and they did not forget how Mr. Casdagli, resenting what he felt to be the betrayal of his country by its former Government, resigned the consular office in Manchester, to which he was now happily restored. It was a very happy occasion on which to receive Greek visitors. It would be a never-ending catalogue if he were to recite what the world owed to Greece in poetry, philosophy, art, and the science of government. That was the debt of the past. But they honoured Greece for what was going on in the present—Greek troops and English troops fighting side by side and winning the most far-reaching victory that had yet been won in this war.

M. Michalocopoulos, who replied, said that the part of Greece in the war had not been so big as they would have desired, but he wished to say that in M. Venizelos the Allies had had from the very beginning of the war a most ardent and devoted supporter of their cause. He recalled two sayings of M. Venizelos. One of them was made when the ex-King desired that they should wait and see the result of the Battle of the Marne and who won—"I cannot run to the support of the victorious"; and the other on hearing the German proposal that Greece should share in the spoils of Serbia—"Greece is too little a country for so big an infamy." The co-operation between England and Greece must continue in the future. Greece had perhaps more to do for humanity in time of peace than in time of war.

Sir Arthur Haworth subsequently received the visitors at the Royal Exchange, and later in the day they left for Sheffield.

◆

THE BRITISH MERCHANTS' MOROCCO ASSOCIATION.

The first annual report of the council of this association states that of primary importance to the interests of members are the communications which have passed between the Foreign Office and the council respecting British capitulatory rights in the French Protectorate. Very full representations have been made by the association with a view to the due protection of British interests. The preservation of British treaty rights, in regard to Moroccan trade, has engaged the attention of the council. The Anglo-French Agreements of 1904 and 1916, together with the Act of Algeciras of 1906, still define the position of this country in regard to trade with Morocco. Important questions affecting British ownership of Habous and Makhzen property in the French Protectorate have now been settled, and definite freehold titles are being granted by the Protectorate authorities in accordance with the agreements reached. The final settlement of those questions by the French Protectorate cannot fail to strengthen the good relations already existing between British subjects in Morocco and the French authorities. Valuable co-operation and useful assistance have been rendered by his Majesty's Consuls in the negotiations, and the spirit of goodwill and conciliation displayed by the individual owners and the French Protectorate authorities in arriving at a settlement is a happy augury for the future. Cordial relations have been established between the association and the administration of the French Protectorate, and the assurances received by the association are such as to inspire confidence in the future for British trade in Morocco. During the present year the following members of council have visited Morocco:—Mr. F. C. Lamb and Mr. L. Couper, accompanied by the secretary of the association (Mr. P. B. Robinson). Important conversations took place between Mr. Couper and General Lyautey and leading officials of the French Protectorate administration regarding the future of British trade in Morocco. Correspondence has been exchanged with his Majesty's Government respecting the reappointment of a Commercial Attaché to Morocco. The position at present is that the Attaché for Spain and Portugal is also attached to Morocco, but his services have for the last few years been given chiefly to Spain. It is obviously desirable that Morocco should be dealt with separately. The new Department of Overseas Trade is fully alive to the importance, present and prospective, of British trade with Morocco, and a special commission, consisting of Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, late his Majesty's Consul for Crete, and Mr. L. N. Barker, of the Department of Overseas Trade, is expected to be despatched from England about the end of October. Members interested in the import of Moroccan produce have been very seriously handicapped by the prohibitions placed by the Protectorate authorities on exports to the United Kingdom from Morocco, and, unfortunately, imports have been further curtailed by our own Department of Import Restrictions and by the Ministry of Shipping. Efforts have been, and are being made to obtain some mitigation of the prohibitions. The association is assured by the Protectorate authorities that the prohibitions placed by them on exports to the United Kingdom will be removed as soon as circumstances permit; that they are purely war measures; and that, in the meantime, it must be remembered that Tangier, Gibraltar, and, to some exent also, Malta, are at least receiving provisions from the Protectorate.

The first ordinary general meeting of the association was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on October 2, Mr. R. S. Hunter, vice-president, occupying the chair. In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman gave a very interesting survey of the outlook and prospects for British trade in Morocco. He pointed to the growing prosperity of the country despite war time conditions, and said that British trade had shared in some directions in this development. As to the industrial outlook in Morocco, he emphasised the work of the French in establishing flour mills, oil pressing mills, etc., and said that they must also expect to see attempts to develop the mineral resources of the country. Mr. Randall, who seconded, laid stress on the development of co-operation in this country as the result of the war, and said that British business men were coming to conditions similar to those of the times of the Guilds and Merchant Adventurers. The growth of co-operation he regarded as cause for optimism in regard to the future. The subsequent business of the meeting consisted in confirming in their offices the Earl of Onslow, president, Mr. R. S. Hunter, vice-president, and Mr. Leslie Cooper, honorary treasurer, and in electing members of the council.

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SUGAR PRODUCTION IN ALGERIA.

Algeria's sugar consumption is from 35,000 to 40,000 metric tons annually, all of which comes from abroad. The scarcity of sugar since the war, says an American Consular report, has led to consideration of the possibility of beet-sugar culture in the colony. In 1917 a number of colonists sowed sugar beets, the seeds being furnished by the Government, and an establishment was set up for the distillation of alcohol from the crop. The project, however, is still in an embryonic stage. The analyses made indicate that beets can be raised comparable in sugar content with European production. There are at present no sugar plantations or refineries in the country, and no development of appreciable importance is contemplated.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Motors and Pumps for Syria.

British engineers should not neglect to give particular attention to the very promising markets that will exist in Syria in the near future. An immediate demand for all classes of agricultural and industrial machinery is very probable. Motive power is already much needed, and, as petroleum is more available and cheaper than any other fuel in that region, oil engines will be in great demand. Opportunities, of course, exist also for steam, gas, and electrical engines and motors, but there is no question that the field is specially favourable for oil motors. It is strongly recommended, however, that manufacturers should introduce, at first, in those markets oil engines of limited power, suitable for both agricultural and general industrial and engineering operations. Engines imported through Beyrout just before the outbreak of the war were from the United Kingdom and from Germany, and varied from 5 to 18 horse power. The chief demand is for motor engines for irrigation work, and such engines were sold at £45 for 5 h.p., £85 for 10 h.p., and £120 for 18 h.p. These engines are used either with an iron form of the native water wheel or else with pumps. The pumps were as a rule, imported from America, and were then much cheaper than British pumps. These American pumps were also very inferior articles, but cheapness is appreciated in the Eastern markets, and American manufacturers offered what was wanted.

Electrical Appliances.

With the extension of the use of electricity for lighting purposes, and the growth of industrial activity that prevailed before the war in the towns of Beyrout and Damascus, a growing demand for electrical materials had sprung up in that region, which, it is certain, will now be revived. Transmission wire which was imported in diameters of from ¼ to 4 mm., came from Germany and France. Incandescent lamps, of from 16 to 200 c.p. for 105 or 110 volts, were imported from Germany, Great Britain, and France. Electric fans, which find an increasing demand owing to the heat of the summer, were imported chiefly from Italy, which could supply a cheap article. In Beyrout ventilators for 110 volts, with a wing diameter of from 25 to 40 cm., are used. Table ventilators cost from £1 5s. to £3 10s. at the works, and ceiling ventilators from £5 to £7.

Motor Cars.

In spite of the comparatively bad state of the roads and thoroughfares in the country and towns of Syria, a number of motor-cars were imported, before the war, at Beyrout and other Syrian ports by enterprising natives. These cars, with few exceptions, were bought second-hand in Egypt. Some new motor-cars and four motor buses were, later, also imported at Beyrout—the cars for private use, and the buses for the conveyance of passengers.

In view of the developments which are sure to take place very soon, the movement in the Syrian market merits special attention on the part of British firms, for as soon as the roads are put into a good state of repair, the trade in motor-cars may develop very considerably.

Potash from Seaweed.

A great industry might be developed on the Eastern Mediterranean coast if a sound and enterprising undertaking could be established, like one that has recently been established in California for obtaining supplies of potash from seaweed. The seaweed exists in great abundance all along the Eastern Mediterranean coast. The undertaking in California is proving so succesful that, according to reliable reports, one firm alone is producing three times as much potash as was previously imported from Germany. The kelp is cut by means of a kind of reaper 4 ft. below the water; and is then carried from the boat harvester by a continuous belt elevator to a crushing mill. It is stated that sufficient potash is being obtained by these means to supply not only American needs, but also those of all the Allies.

Canal Navigation.

One of the principal problems in regard to the use of canals by barges propelled by mechanical power is the damage so frequently caused to the banks by the accompanying "wash." It is claimed that this problem, and the difficulty of using an ordinary screw propeller in shallow water have been completed solved by a new invention, which has just undergone a successful trial. Instead of being fitted to the stern of the boat, the propeller is fixed inside the boat in a chamber from which the air is withdrawn. This permits the water to rush it and allows the screw to revolve where it cannot be damaged, and at the same time causes no wash. The screw is above the keel of the boat, and it will therefore revolve in whatever depth of water is necessary to float the boat. This contrivance, which, it is claimed, can be fitted to any barge within a few days, should be of considerable interest to owners of barges in the Near East, where both the difficulties specified are a source of trouble.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Effect of the War News.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

The market this week has been dominated by the striking developments in the war situation. Both buyers and sellers have been disposed to adopt a waiting policy. It is recognised that a general peace is much nearer than a few weeks ago. Much uncertainty prevails as to what will happen to prices when hostilities come to an end. Values at the moment are undoubtedly inflated, and some adjustment will be necessary. On the other hand, there is the anticipation of a tremendous demand for raw cotton, especially from European countries. Egyptian cotton merchants continue to complain about the Government's regulations and trading is very irregular. The reduction of 75 points in the official quotation does not seem to have given satisfaction to anyone. The crop news remains encouraging. Egyptian yarns remain deeply sold and producers are in a very strong position. Extraordinary figures have occasionally been paid for the quick delivery of fine numbers. A fair amount of business has been about in piece goods for Egypt. It is thought that as a result of the recent successes of the Allied troops, trade in the Near East generally will develop, rapidly. All kinds of cloth for India and China have been very slow of sale, offers being decidedly scarce. Some fair buying has been about for France. American yarns have been very stiff in quotation. The shortage of supplies of weft is very harassing. Fresh business has been rather limited. In the export yarn section the bulk of the buying has been for France. It is understood that Mr. John Taylor, one of the secretaries of the Cotton Manufacturers' Association, has resigned.

BURMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Burma Chamber of Commerce has revised its rules, says Reuter's Rangoon correspondent. Henceforward non-British firms will only be admitted as associate members, without the right to vote or sit upon the committee. Firms electing an alien enemy as director will be removed from membership. Other rules provide against enemy influence. The five existing non-British firms retain their full membership

As a result of the events in Bulgaria it is reported that panic has prevailed on the Berlin Stock Exchange.

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(1,500,000 Shares of £20 each)
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL 27,314,260
PAID-UP CAPITAL 6,828,565
RESERVE 6,828,565

(29th JUNE, 1918)
Current, Deposit and other Accounts ... £230,425,743
Cash in Hand and at Bank of England ... 42,931,098
Money at Call and Short Notice ... 29,525,701
Advances and Discounts 117,402,229

Head Office .... 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.
Joint General Managers: F. J. BARTHORPE, J. W. BUCKHURST, J. C. ROBERTSON.
Foreign Branch Office ... 82, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

SPANISH BRANCHES ... Barcelona: Paseo de Gracia 8 and 10. Madrid: Calle de Alcalá 43
AFFILIATED IN FRANCE ... ... London County & Westminster Bank (Paris), Limited
PARIS ... 22, Place Vendome. BORDEAUX ... 22 & 24, Cours de l'Intendance.
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EGYPTIAN COTTON PRICES.

Conditions of Sale.

The Liverpool Cotton Association have received an important communication from the Commercial Relations and Treaties Department of the Board of Trade respecting the conditions of sale of Egyptian cotton, with an intimation that the letter has been addressed to the Cotton Control Board. It is also stated that the Egyptian Cotton Control Commission will not be prepared for the present to execute orders for cotton of type Nos. 30 to 38 inclusive except where the cotton is required in connection with Government work.

The letter, which is dated September 1, states that having regard to the anxiety which the Board understands to prevail in Lancashire lest the price of cotton ordered in Egypt should be raised before the orders can be executed, they are prepared to guarantee that during the present cotton season, if orders are placed by spinners with the Egyptian Cotton Control Commission or with Alexandria export houses and duly registered by the latter with the Commission, the prices at which the cotton so ordered shall be sold by the Commission (if the orders can be executed) shall be those ruling for each Government type at the time the order is registered, provided that the orders placed by or on behalf of any spinner shall not exceed an amount to be determined, as follows :—"In the case of every spinner the Cotton Control Board shall certify the total quantity of Egyptian cotton which corresponds to his reasonable requirements during the entire season. The Board of Trade will from time to time direct what proportion of this total may be on order by spinners, and no spinner shall exceed this proportion of his certified total requirements. In the first instance the amount which every spinner shall be entitled to order shall be 50 per cent. of his certified annual requirements. I am to ask that your Board will assist in the matter by furnishing the necessary certificates to the Egyptian Cotton Control Commission.

Having regard to the security in respect of price, which is thus guaranteed, the profit of 75 points hitherto allowed in calculating official values of Egyptian cotton by the instructions issued on July 29, 1918, under the Raw Cotton Prices and Returns Order, 1918, will not be allowed in future, and the Egyptian Official Values Committee are being informed of this decision. The Board have had under consideration the question of the terms to be charged by the Egyptian Cotton Control Commission in the event of orders for cotton being sent to these districts, whether by spinners or merchants in the United Kingdom, and that, having regard to all the circumstances, they are authorising a charge in such cases of a commission of 1½ per cent. on the f.o.b. prices of each type of cotton. Direct orders of this description may, if desired, be placed with the Commission through Alexandria export houses, in which event the commission will be paid over to the export house employed. Arrangements should, however, be made for the Commission to be notified at the same time. In giving direct orders through an export house, a spinner may authorise that house to substitute another type of cotton where the type ordered is not available.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The balance of net earnings, after providing for debenture interest and the estimated payment due to the Government, amounts to Rs1,94,637, which, with unclaimed dividends for the half-year to March 31, 1915, makes Rs1,94,874; Rs2,24,350 was brought forward, making a total of Rs4,19,224. The directors' recommend a dividend of Rs6 per share on the ordinary shares, and a dividend of Rs2 8a. per share on the preference shares, placing to provident fund Rs2,252, and carrying forward Rs2,02,597.

Bank of Madras.

The report of the Bank of Madras for the half-year ended June 30 shows a balance brought forward from December 31, 1917, of Rs.4,02,306. The profit for the half-year, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to Rs.8,82,050. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, Rs.3,75,000, bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, Rs.75,000, and a balance is carried forward of Rs.3,84,356.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Assam Oil Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30, on the seven per cent. preference shares, payable October 1, to holders registered September 25.

The directors of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India have declared the following dividends on account of 1918, payable 26th instant, to holders registered 1st instant—namely, Preference dividend of 1s. per share, and an interim dividend of 1s. per share on both the preference and ordinary shares, less tax at the rate of 5s. 9d. in the £.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields—Gemsah: Production for week, 1,083 tons (previous week 23 tons). Hurgada: 2,456 tons, against 2,274 tons.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
September 21, 22, 23	270,000	690,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1917. Week ended Sept. 20. £		1918. Week ended Sept. 19. £
Cattle markets	362	..	174
General markets	436	..	238
Receipts	798	..	412
Total for year	43,128	..	36,730

◆

Twenty joint stock companies were registered in India last month with an aggregate authorised capital of about Rs.50 lakhs.

The Egyptian General Post Office has notified that the export of sesame seed from Egypt is prohibited to all destinations except under licence.

India's trade return for August shows that imports decreased by £1,401,000 and that exports increased by £4,830,000 compared with the corresponding month last year.

The business of the branch of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, formerly carried on by Parr's Bank at 77, Lombard Street, has been transferred to 21, Lombard Street, as from September 24.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Business in Egyptian shares has remained on the least possible scale, and this inactivity has led to some small sales by holders who have become tired and are desirous of transferring into securities where the market is active and advancing. Egypt itself is doing practically nothing at the moment. Here and there, however, there are buyers ready to take stock when it can be got cheaply, so that shares, when offered, have found a home at a slightly reduced price.

In Government stocks the market has remained quite firm, and buyers are still more numerous than sellers.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ lower at 20⅝, but Agriculturals are slightly firmer at 7 5-32; and there has been an exceptional local demand for Anglo-Egyptian Banks, which has carried the price up ⅞ to 18⅜.

Amongst Railways Delta Lights are 1-16 firmer at 7¼, round which level some few hundred shares have changed hands.

In Land descriptions Aboukirs are 6d. lower at 24s., Behéras have dropped ¼ to 15, Delta Lands 3d. to 16s. 3d., and New Egyptians 4½d. to 21s. 3d.; but the business transacted has been quite trifling. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts continue supported, and some transactions have taken place in Sidi Salems round the current level. Union Foncières are also in quiet demand whenever offered.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets are 6d. firmer at 27s. 6d., Salt and Sodas are ⅛ up at 3 3-16, and Khedivial Mails have recovered 1s. 6d. at 61s. 6d.

In Greek securities the only changes have been a fall in Greek Monopolies of one point to 67½, while Piræus-Athens Three per Cent. Bonds are two points higher at 55. Rentes are quoted at about the same price as last week, viz., 58½ x.d., and some small business has taken place in "Currant" bonds round 95.

Oil Shares.

This market has been extraordinarily buoyant. Roumanian Consols closed at 16s., and the Russian oil shares generally have made a marked advance.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares have been a feature, closing at 5,400 francs. Other prices are Egyptian Unifieds 96, Serbian 4's 64.50, Turkish Unifieds 64, Banque d'Athens 115, Credit Foncier Egyptian 780, Land Banks 215.

◆

ALGERIAN RICE IMPORTS.

There is a market in Algiers for about 20,000 bags of rice of 100 kilograms each, according to a recent American Consular report. It is stated that the chief competition in this market is Spanish rice. Under normal conditions Algeria has, at various times, drawn a portion of its supply also from the East Indies, the Far East, Italy, France, and the United States. It is believed that after the war a good part of the imports will be made in the husk, and the product finished in the country. This will be facilitated by the tariff. Rice is classified under No. 79 of the French import tariff. The duty upon rice in the husk is 3 francs per 100 kilograms (1s. 1d. per 100 lb.); broken rice, 6 francs per 100 kilograms (2s. 2½d. per 100 lb.); whole rice, meal, and grits 8 francs per 100 kilograms (2s. 11d. per 100 lb.)

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Sept. 25	Oct. 2
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	92
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	68½	67½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	59	58½xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	69	69
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	66	66
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	75	76
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7⅛	7 5/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	17½	18⅝
Bank of Athens	£2	4⅞	4⅝
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	8	8¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5⅛	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20¾	20⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7 3/16	7¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	53	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15¼	15
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/6	16/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/7½	13/7½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2⅝	2⅜
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/7½	21/3
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	56/3	56/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	73/3	73/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/-	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	61/3	63/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	60/-	61/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

"On 'Change" will be found on the previous page.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

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Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000
Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Reserve - - - - - £237,500

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) .. **£2,000,000**
Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) **£1,000,000**
Reserve Fund **£1,350,000**

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The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 383.—Vol. XIV.   FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The expectation that Turkey would make little attempt to continue the struggle after the capitulation of Bulgaria is in process of being realised. A report, at present unconfirmed, has been received to the effect that Talaat Pasha and Enver Pasha have resigned, and that a new Ministry is being formed. At the same time it is announced from Athens that delegates from Rahmi Bey, the Vali of Smyrna, were expected to reach Athens on October 7 with a view to entering into peace negotiations. Independent action in this direction on the part of the Vali of Smyrna would not be the same as Turkey's surrender, and it has to be seen whether Rahmi Bey's delegates have been furnished with any semblance of authority from Constantinople. In the event of a change of Ministry in the capital, the Governor of Smyrna might possibly be put forward as an intermediary. He has proved himself to be far more enlightened than the majority of Turkish administrators.

The Committee of Union and Progress, however, if it still holds the reins of power in Constantinople, will have to learn, as Germany is learning, that a mere Ministerial change or sham "democratisation" will not modify the Allies' decision as to the disposal of the territory that in 1914 formed part of the Ottoman Empire. Enver Pasha's influence has rested on the visible support of German bayonets, and his fall at this stage would be inevitable. Talaat Pasha has wielded perhaps greater authority, but it is by no means certain that the inner council of the Committee of Union and Progress has allowed him to emancipate himself entirely from its control. If the Committee's organisation has stood the strain of the last three years, it would be natural that Talaat should be sacrificed to the coming storm, and in the choice of a new Vizier due regard would be paid to the possibility of meeting the views of the Entente Powers. But in the case of Turkey the Allies are less concerned for the moment with the constitutional future of the country than with its territorial limitations. The first consideration is that the Turks should abandon the territory that they have ruled with such disastrous results or used to the prejudice of the peace of Europe. When they have withdrawn within their own national boundaries, there will be time to help them towards a better administration of their own than they have known in the past.

In the meantime the conquest of Syria proceeds. General Allenby's forces have lost no time in pushing beyond Damascus, and Rayat, the railway junction for Beyrout, thirty miles to the north, has been captured. At this point the narrow-gauge railway system of Palestine connects with the broad-gauge line from Aleppo, and thus the occupation of the town has added to the quantity of rolling stock and military stores already taken in the course of these operations. The advance along the coast has contrived to keep pace with the progress of the main army. On October 7 Saida (Sidon) was entered by British troops, and the French division attached to General Allenby's army occupied Beyrout. The possession of this port ought still further to accelerate the movements of the Expeditionary Force, as it will simplify the problem of reinforcements and supplies. Even if Turkey has not already made up her mind to capitulate there would seem to be little likelihood of serious opposition being encountered by our troops before the neighbourhood of Aleppo is reached. The breach between the Turkish and German forces in this region must by now be complete, and although the latter might wish to make a stand, their inferiority in numbers without Turkish support will make resistance almost out of the question.

In Bulgaria and Serbia events are developing almost entirely "according to plan." The terms of the Bulgarian capitulation, as far as is known, are being carried out without a hitch, and certainly with the approval of the people. It was stipulated in the Military Convention that all Bulgarian troops west of the Vardar must give themselves up as prisoners, and the surrender of 65,000 Bulgarians is reported. The Serbians are already north of Vranja, and within fifty miles of Nish, but it is anticipated that there will be heavy fighting before the second capital of Serbia can be taken. Austro-German reinforcements are said to have been despatched for the defence of the town, which the enemy would naturally wish to hold as long as he considered it necessary to keep up appearances in the Balkans. But the Germans are adepts at making reported movements of troops do duty for the actual operation. When the country was divided for purposes of administration between Austria and Bulgaria Nish must have been under the jurisdiction of the Bulgarians. It will, therefore, lie outside the sphere that the Austrians might be expected to be particularly anxious to defend; but the importance of its strategical position may prompt an attempt to delay its capture, if only to gain time for the evacuation of North-Western Serbia.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has elected not to face the music, and by abdicating has set an embarrassing precedent for the other rulers of the Central Alliance. The step had at least the merit of being carried out in order, if in haste. King Ferdinand appears to have met the heads of the political parties, and to have informed them of his decision; his farewell manifesto was probably already written. It may be imagined that any attempts to persuade him to change his mind were prompted by politeness rather than by conviction. In that political gathering the trout could count upon the respect of the minnows, but not upon their affection, and the politicians must have appreciated the advantage to Bulgaria of being rid of King Ferdinand's presence. The decision that his eldest son should reign in his stead was ratified, and immediately afterwards the ex-King left the country. The end was not a glorious one, and Ferdinand of Coburg ought to have heavy thoughts to keep him company in his retirement. It is more probable that he will congratulate himself on his shrewdness in evading a worse fate.

It is early days to speculate upon what King Boris will make of his task. In spite of the trying period in which he mounts the throne, he begins his reign with several valuable assets. He is personally popular; the people, war-wearied and chastened, ask for nothing better than peace and good government. Under his direction the days of adventurous policies can be closed for ever. The Turk will no longer be a neighbour, and if the Powers fix upon a just settlement of the Balkan question, neither Serbian, nor Greek, nor Bulgarian will nurse a grievance at having been left under the jurisdiction of an alien Government. The land after six or seven years of war will claim the whole attention of the industrious peasant, and the inevitable squabbles of political parties will find him indifferent for a long time to come. Those squabbles were deliberately encouraged by King Ferdinand, and the upshot was disaster for Bulgaria. If King Boris will think of his country and people first, and of himself last or not at all, he may lead Bulgaria to days of greater happiness than any she has yet known.

The collapse of the Bulgarian front in Macedonia has made all the difference to the Allied positions in Albania. Italians and French have again attacked the Austrian line, and this time there is little likelihood of a set-back. The enemy is probably unable to produce any reinforcements, and has made up his mind to retire as long as the Allies care to press him. To add to his difficulties a naval attack has been carried out against Durazzo, and he will be rendered even more dependent than before on supplies by land. In his rear is a disaffected Montenegro, with Herzegovina and Bosnia beyond, where anything may happen. Further, he cannot be altogether free from anxiety in regard to the position on the Serbo-Albanian frontier, where Allied troops pressing from the east may yet threaten his line of retreat to the north.

The veteran Prime Minister of Serbia is once more in England, and this time no small part of his attention will be devoted to matters affecting the rehabilitation of Serbia under peace conditions instead of to military requirements. His Government is reported to be already considering a removal from Corfu to Uskub. A pressing need of the country will be the distribution of relief to the people now rescued from Austro-Bulgarian domination. The strain on the Serbian Relief Fund will at once become intensified, and we hope that this organisation will receive very generous support. The aid now given to the country will not only save thousands of lives during the coming winter, but it will materially advance the day when Serbia will once more be self-supporting and able to take her rightful status in the Balkan Peninsula.

Quite apart from any question of personalities, the selection of Captain Lloyd to succeed Lord Willingdon as Governor of Bombay possesses exceptional interest at the present time as an indication of the coming order of things, when practically everyone sent out to India, from Provincial Governors down to junior assistants, will have seen service in the war. No doubt political and social "claims" will still count for much in determining the prospects of the various candidates, but, whatever appointments may be made, it is reasonably certain that the fruits of military training and experience will be brought to bear on the conduct of the civil administration to an extent which must produce substantial modifications in the working of that great organisation.

It is not difficult to foresee the view which will be taken of this process in the noisiest section of the Indian Press. We shall be told that the country is going to be "dragooned," and that the fresh "measures of repression" proposed by the Rowlatt Commission call for a ruthless agency, which will attempt to crush the growing national life by more vigorous methods than the civil administration has dared to introduce. An outcry of this sort would, of course, indicate only the success with which India has of late been sheltered from the horrors of war. Very few Indian journalists have ever been in contact with a modern army, and they can still draw in all good faith upon the traditions of the past, when commanders of the type of Sher Shah or Sivaji taught India what "dragooning" really means. The new order of things will be very different.

As India now stands, there is every reason to hope for good results from the introduction of a leaven of administrators with military experience gained in the field. The civil administration has indeed become remarkably adept of late in the difficult art of untying the knots of red tape with which it had previously circumscribed its own activities, but it is apt to spend in the process time which the country can no longer spare. As Sir Harcourt Butler pointed out in a recent speech at Allahabad, the machine was developed in an environment where time was of no account, and it cannot be expected to give the best results in days when everybody is in a violent hurry, and when the demand is for instant despatch, quick response and bold experiment.

This is where the new leaven may be expected to work. It is true that the Indian military departments were quite recently as slow as any of the rest, but that was a phenomenon of peace. In war time is everything, for a few hours may make all the difference between victory and defeat, and it is just the recognition of the value of time that India now needs, and that men of recent military experience can most effectively supply. There is not the least risk that Captain Lloyd or the men of whom he is the forerunner will make any attempt to "dragoon" the country, but there is a reasonable and hopeful prospect that they will cut the knots which would take too long to untie, and thereby help the administration to accommodate itself to the new conditions, in which swift decision and prompt execution are essential to success.

Meanwhile it is pleasant to know that Lord Willingdon will not be lost to India, for there is no question that his term of office in Bombay has been marked by the ordered progress which the country needs. It cannot be asserted that he is universally popular; politicians who have felt the weight of his hand regard him with a natural and cordial dislike, and shams and charlatans will be glad to see his back; but outside these classes his merits have gradually won general recognition, and the Presidency of Madras is to be congratulated on the prospect of being guided by his ability and experience in the momentous years which lie ahead. It cannot be repeated too often that the new India will need the very best Governors that can be found, and we trust that this appointment, while it is correctly described as an exceptional measure, may be taken as evidence that the home authorities realise the need.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 2.

The Cutting of the Khalig.

The "Cutting of the Khalig," the ceremony which traditionally marks the official recognition of the arrival of the Nile flood at the Roda Nilometer, took place last Thursday at Old Cairo. The usual official tents and booths were erected on the Nile bank, and a very large concourse of guests from the provinces and from the town attended. The ceremony was presided over, on behalf of the Sultan, by the Governor of Cairo, H.E. Abdul Rahim Pasha Sabri, who signed the customary "Hodja" testifying that the Nile had reached the height of 17 pics 2 kirats at Roda, and that it was now lawful to collect the taxes from the people. Owing to the lighting restrictions the ceremonial was restricted to the day only, the picturesque night celebrations, with firework display, being dispensed with for the first time for many years. This fact did not, however, deter the populace from participating, and enormous crowds went out to the site and patronised the fair which always takes place on this occasion.

Popularly, this ceremony is considered to mark the highest point of the Nile flood; but this is far from the case, and often there is a very considerable rise in the river levels later on in the autumn. This year, indeed, it may quite possibly happen that a further rise will occur. The levels at Roseires, which have been below normal, are now regaining some of their lost ground, and the opinion is that this year's flood, while not being up to the previous years, will be a normal though somewhat late one. As far as the cotton and contemporary crops are concerned, the situation is satisfactory, but there may be difficulties in connection with the early summer water of next year, and it may be necessary to lift water for a considerable area. Few people realise to what an extent Egypt has been saved by the good flood of the war years. Scarcely any water has had to be lifted on to the land from the Nile or the canals, which it has been possible to maintain at levels serving the areas directly. As a result, an enormous economy in fuel has been effected just at a time when the supply was becoming precarious. The importance of this factor resided in the fact that not only has a saving in money been effected by the country, but that had it not been for the favourable water conditions the difficulty in obtaining fuel might have necessitated a considerable reduction in the cultivated area, and so seriously have affected the local food situation.

The Departure of the Holy Carpet.

The final ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca took place on Saturday last, which was celebrated as a public holiday, thus bringing it about that Government offices were closed for three days in succession. H.E. Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, presided, on behalf of the Sultan, over the customary handing over of the caravan to the Emir el Hejj, the leader of the pilgrimage. The ceremony was very picturesque, and attracted a large number of spectators, amongst whom was a goodly sprinkling of khaki.

His Highness the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan gave a large tea party in the gardens known as the Antoniades Gardens at Alexandria. These gardens, which are very extensive and magnificently laid out, were recently given to the municipality for the benefit of the Alexandrian public by the well-known Hellenic resident, Mr. Antoniades, and the tea party given by his Highness was in the nature of a public inauguration. Over one thousand invitations were issued, and the gathering was a very representative one, and in every respect a great success. Notwithstanding statements to the contrary, the Sultan does not intend to return to Cairo until the end of October; consequently the receptions customarily held on the occasion of the Feast of Bairam, which falls at the middle of this month, and of the anniversary of his accession, which occurs on October 9, will take place in Alexandria. The Sovereign's return to the capital will thus take place at a later date than usual, and it is understood that the Ministries will not wait until the Palace returns, but that the seat of Government will be transferred back probably after the Bairam holidays.

Lord Edward Cecil.

At its last meeting the Council of Ministers approved the grant of six months' sick leave without pay to Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser. Lord Edward, it may be remembered, became very seriously ill last autumn on his return from France, where he had contracted a dangerous malady whilst serving with the Army. He fought hard against his illness, but had in the end to admit himself beaten, and had to take a complete rest. He spent some time at Helwan, and subsequently left for Switzerland, where he has been ever since. The latest reports are to the effect that his health has improved enormously, and it is hoped that this further period of sick leave now granted him will give him the opportunity of completing his recovery so as to be able to return to his post of Financial Adviser, which has been so ably filled since his departure by Sir William Brunyate, the Judicial Adviser.

The Racing Season.

The racing season has been a very short one in Alexandria this year, owing to the intervention of the Department of Supplies, which considered that if the number of meetings was curtailed it would lead to a smaller consumption of barley and other cereals required for human food, which are given in large quantities to the horses when in training. Whether this view of the situation is correct it is not possible for me to say, but there is one point on which most people are agreed, and that is that the curtailment of the Alexandria season cannot fail to be for the good of the horses in general, since it will give them a thorough rest before the Cairo season starts. Usually the latter ends just as the Alexandria one begins, and starts again but a short time after it ends, and as a result the horses are racing throughout the year.

From what one hears and reads, there appears to be much dissatisfaction with the manner in which racing is conducted in this country, especially with the Alexandria management; and it is to be hoped that, for the reputation of the clubs, some drastic change will be made, so as to introduce the more effective control which it is apparent racegoers consider does not exist at present. Also it is to be hoped that before another summer is on us the Alexandria Club will have made more adequate arrangements for the racing public than are afforded it at present. Considering the enormous profits which have been made during the past two years, it is surprising that it has not done this before.

The British Red Cross in Egypt.

Although "Our Day" has been fixed for October 23, subscriptions are flowing in from all parts, and already a substantial amount has been subscribed in this manner. Somewhat appropriately a report of the work done by the British Red Cross in Egypt and Palestine during the three months ending July 31 has been published. From this report it transpires that over 6,000 patients were admitted to Red Cross hospitals and convalescent homes, 546,707 diets were served by the invalid kitchens; about 40,000 convalescents were given outings, 4,547 cases of stores were sent out to the various hospitals, trains, etc., 1,680 wounded and missing reports were sent, over 44,000 books and magazines and over 150,000 periodicals and newspapers were distributed, and about 350,000 articles required by the hospitals were made up by the work-rooms specially created for the purpose in Cairo, Alexandria, Tanta and Ismailia. In addition, another Empire Nurses' Club has been established at Gaza; assistance is extended to survivors landed at Alexandria from submarined boats, by a special committee of Red Cross ladies; each hospital train is met at various points on its journey and on arrival by Red Cross workers, who provide special comforts, wherever possible fresh fruit; and slight dressings, etc., are done by the Red Cross V.A.D. This is only a short resumé of the activities of the Red Cross, which extends its attention and distributes the comforts, of which it disposes not only to British patients but also to Indians and Egyptians.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The German Device: Apres nous le deluge.

Prince Max of Baden is just now prating of "the salvation of humanity"; but the news from Roumania shows that the Germans there are organising a system of plundering the country of all objects of value. The Government was forced to abolish the law regarding the stability of police officials, so that the Germans could use them as tools for their own purposes. The pillage of the houses has been organised under cover of "investigations" which are carried on especially in the houses of the Roumanians who withdrew into Moldavia or are now in the Allied countries. After these investigations it is found that pictures, carpets, art treasures, rare books and other objects of value have disappeared.

A still greater infliction than all these investigations on the rich and well-to-do population is the billeting of German officers and men; for after they leave, the houses are not only empty but in a state of utter dilapidation. The police now do little else than protect the thieving Germans against the rage of the population. The majority of the police officials preferred to resign rather than stay to protect the pillagers and devastators of their country; and they were replaced by German agents brought into Roumania long ago during the systematic "pacific penetration."

Some time ago the Germans requisitioned all copper articles, even down to door knobs. They paid for these objects at the rate of about a franc per kilogramme, but made it obligatory to replace them by iron door-handles—"made in Germany"—at a price of four francs per kilogramme!

The Hampering of Business.

But the most severe measure was that taken with regard to the administration of the property of those Roumanians who left the country before the German invasion or who were pro-Ally. All the factories belonging to these people were closed, unless they were working for the army; and their engines, motors and plant were taken away, or even destroyed, so as to compel the proprietors to buy other motors from Germany. Many factory installations were sold by the German officials to the Bulgarians. Now the whole country is deprived of all kinds of machinery, and the Germans hope that the Roumanians, when the time comes, will be compelled to buy machinery from the Fatherland! In the matter of the destruction of the factories exception was made in regard to those mills which have been placed in the hands of Germans, under compulsion. The oil industry was also placed entirely under German administration. The property of all Roumanians who accompanied the army into Moldavia, whether as officers, as soldiers, as public servants, or as refugees, was placed under forced administration (*Zwangsverwaltung*), the administrator, usually a German, receiving a commission of 8 per cent. of the revenue. The Banque Générale Roumaine, a subsidiary undertaking of the Diskonto Gesellschaft, advanced money at the rate of from 12 to 14 per cent. for administrative purposes. The income of the estate had to be deposited with the aforesaid bank, which paid no interest upon it; but even after peace was signed the Banque Générale Roumaine refused to hand over sums deposited with it, unless authorised by the German administration. This is practically a form of confiscation, or at least of keeping the money for their necessities as long as they were able.

Another Kind of Forced Labour.

The Roumanian Parliament has passed a law by which the Administration of Railways can demand any number of labourers, and the Government is bound to force the men to work for the Administration. The men's wages are fixed by the Direction of Railways. It is necessary to point out that the whole railway system of Roumania is at the disposal of the Germans, and that they require workmen in great numbers, by reason of the efforts they are making to transport food and all kinds of stuff from Roumania. Besides this necessity, the Germans want labour in order to work out an immense number of timber sleepers for building new railways on the various fronts and in Germany. For this purpose a great number of peasants have been forced to cut trees in the Carpathians, and to transport the timber to the railway stations. It is not astonishing that in this way the Germans have succeeded in destroying nearly 10 per cent. of the superb Roumanian forests. Nearly all the railways the Germans have built in the Balkans and in Turkey have been provided with sleepers taken from Roumania. The forced labour is applied also to the workmen in the sawmills as well as to those employed on road building. All these unfortunate workmen are subject to military law and to courts-martial.

DAMASCUS BEFORE ITS CAPTURE.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, August 28.

An acquaintance who left Damascus five weeks ago, and has just arrived in Jerusalem, gives me the following information about conditions in the former city:—

The hatred between Turks and Germans is increasing daily, chiefly for the following reasons: (1) The haughty way in which the Germans treat the Turks; (2) the way in which they take the best food and the best of everything else for themselves, leaving the Turks the coarsest fare and rubbish; and (3) the spread of the opinion amongst the Turks that Germany drove their country into the European War for her own advantage, and that it will result in the destruction of the Turkish Empire. The hatred extends to all classes of both Turkish and German soldiers.

The Turks have been compelling the merchants to subscribe to the Internal Loan issued by the Government. Those who fail to subscribe the amounts demanded by the Government are dealt with by the military authorities, who sell the wretched merchants' goods and keep the profit—for the State!

The Turkish Government has not yet acknowledged that Jerusalem, Jaffa, Beersheba, and Gaza are lost to it. In order to mislead public opinion, it publishes every now and then announcements to the effect that "A—— Bey has been appointed Governor of Jerusalem"; that "B—— Bey is appointed President of the Court of First Instance at Jaffa"; or that "C—— Bey is appointed Chief of Police at Gaza."

Apparently hanging and shooting have been abandoned as weapons for dealing with those whom the Constantinople Government regards as "undesirable," and starvation has taken their place. At any rate, the recent enormous rise of prices in Syria is regarded as a step taken by the Turks towards the extermination of the Syrians. In Damascus none but the very richest can afford to buy bread, and the number of deaths resulting from hunger and starvation is rapidly rising. Turkish notes were sold for one-fifth their nominal value. Sixty per cent. of all crops are claimed by the Government. All this forces prices up, but as the whole country is starving there will be a rush to obtain the new crops, no matter at what price.

BABYLONIAN MYTHS AND LEGENDS.

At University College, London, on October 3, Dr. T. G. Pinches delivered an address contrasting the Babylonian Genesis with that of the Hebrew Scriptures. He said it was by no means certain that the Babylonians possessed the story of the Temptation, at any rate in the form we knew it in Genesis; but a tablet had been found showing two figures seated on either side of a date palm; and one of these was a female stretching forth her hand to pluck the fruit, while behind her was a serpent. The Babylonians were rich in accounts of the origin of all things, a testimony either to their inventive power or to their receptivity, for all the versions may not have existed at the same time. The oldest Babylonian story of the creation did not represent it as the work of one God, Merodach, but as due to the God of the Air, the God of the Earth, and the "Lady of the Mountain." This older group of deities was replaced by Merodach when Babylon became the chief city of the Babylonian federation, and a time came when all the gods were identified with Merodach and regarded as his manifestations—leading thus to a kind of monotheism. In Babylonian Creation stories the creation of man usually preceded that of the beasts of the field, but there was some evidence that one version was current in which the creation of the lower animals came first. According to Babylonian accounts the first created things were evil and the production of an evil power. Thus the Babylonians accounted for the self-production of evil, whilst the Hebrew Genesis represented the presence of evil in God's creation as of foreign origin. The Hebrew account was not borrowed from the Babylonian, but was written, as it were, to confute it; to emphasise that the beginning of all things was good, and that evil, when it came into the world, was an intruder with no place in the original scheme.

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GENERAL ALLENBY'S FURTHER PROGRESS.

The account of General Allenby's advance given last week concluded with the capture of Damascus. The description of "amazing welcome" given to our Army and that of our Arab Allies in the streets of this great city has since appeared. The weird night advance of the Australians from El Kuneitra, the battle of Kaukeb, the cutting off of the shattered remnants of the Turkish Fourth Army near the Jebel-el-Aswad, the headlong advance of our cavalry successfully cutting off the Turkish retreat up the Barada valley, and the blowing up of the enemy's enormous ammunition supplies at the Meidan station are all picturesque incidents of a great cavalry battle, unique in history.

On October 1 Damascus was in our hands, but no pause was allowed to the demoralised foe. On October 2 a column of 1,400 Turkish soldiers, trying to escape up the Aleppo road, was intercepted in the nick of time. "The enemy were preparing to resist, so the Light Horse drew swords, and were ordered to charge. The flashing of the swords in the bright sunlight was immediately followed by the signal for surrender." This brigade took 3,000 prisoners in two days. Another party got over the Damascus-Beyrout line, and got a whole train loaded with valuable material. Altogther by October 5, north and west of Damascus, no less than 15,000 prisoners were taken and countless material.

On October 6 the important railway junction of Rayak was captured. Here the Beyrout-Damascus one-metre-gauge mountain railway joins up with the standard gauge railway which runs through Homs and Hama to Aleppo. The same day the important Christian village of Zahleh (some 15,000 inhabitants) came into our hands. This is one of the villages of the Lebanon district, and is beautifully situated in a well-watered, sheltered valley at the eastern foot of the lofty mountain Sunnin.

With the railway junction in our hands we have before us the great level plain of El Buka'a (Cœle Syria). Some sixteen miles to the north is Baalbek—the ancient Heliopolis—with its marvellously picturesque ruins and its abundant water supply, beyond which lies Homs (the ancient Emesa), where is the junction with the Beyrout-Tripoli-Homs branch line. It should not be difficult to capture this point, with the wide plain of El Buka'n—ideal ground for cavalry and a railway in the midst for supplies—leading up to it all the way. To hold Homs secures Tripoli, a port with a great future.

On October 7 British troops entered the beautiful little city of Saida, with its wide stretching orchards and orange gardens. This is the ancient Phœnician city of Sidon, once one of the greatest cities of the East, with a history going back three millenniums. Now it has only 12,000 inhabitants, but on the whole it enjoys considerable prosperity. The neighbourhood, besides its rich fertility, has yielded most important archæological "finds," especially in connection with the necropolis. The same day the great and important city of Beyrout surrendered to a French division. The French have always had a strong interest in Beyrout since they landed soldiers there at the time of the massacres in 1860. The "diligence" road is their construction, and so is the railway. The French language is widely spoken; French fashions are widely copied. It is a very cosmopolitan city. Its situation is—from the sea—most beautiful. The red-roofed houses, half buried in trees and gardens, climb up from the shores of St. George's Bay; behind the richly cultivated lower slopes of the Lebanon are dotted with scores of picturesque villages, and over all tower the great snow-clad mountains Sunnin and Keneiseh. The city itself has fine buildings and institutions, of which latter the French (Jesuit) University and the American Syrian Protestant University, both conferring degrees recognised in other lands, are the most important. The population of Beyrout reaches near 200,000, of whom only some 20 per cent. are Moslems. Although the harbour is poor and shallow there is a very considerable trade, Beyrout being the main outlet for Damascus and the chief port

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A friend, to whom life is frequently rendered troublesome by the pressing attentions of creditors, tells me that he lately read about an American firm in India which sends out its accounts in a form that he approves of. "Mrs. So-and-so," writes the firm in question, "is requested to kindly consider herself indebted to Messrs. ——— and Co. to the extent of Rs.———," as the case may be. My friend regards that as a model of epistolary style—even ignoring the split infinitive in his enthusiasm. Certainly it is a vast improvement on the curt—brutally curt, sometimes—notes that creditors in this country feel justified in writing. But one wonders whether it is equally effective!

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Which is the safest way to carry money? Ladies, as a rule, favour purses; men, I fancy, do not. The introduction of Treasury Notes has led to many ingenious cases being designed specially for their safe carriage; and, of course, one seldom sees a sovereign purse in these days. But if you use a purse or a note-case, which is the safest way to carry it? A little while ago garter-purses were fashionable to some extent, while the Fair Sex has always—I understand—regarded the stocking as a safe hiding place. Whether the present fashion of short skirts makes it less safe is not for a mere man to decide. But one point most of us would surely agree upon: that one's headgear—hat, bonnet, cap, or turban—hardly seems to offer much security. With the exception of the Jolly Jack Tar, who is able to rival the professional conjurer in the matter of producing all kinds of odd things from his cap, most men, at least, would hesitate to carry anything of worth in such a receptacle. Recently, however, a cotton merchant of Alexandria placed a hundred pounds in bank notes in his turban, under the impression that they would be safe there. Unfortunately for him, a native thief noticed the act, and—well, you can guess the sequel. Whether the police ever recover the notes remains to be seen.

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Under the heading "Turkey's Turn Now," the *Daily Sketch* of October 3 printed the following paragraph:—

> Turkey has not been long in following the excellent example of Bulgaria. And no wonder. Allenby still keeps capturing chunks of the Turks' Fourth Army, east of the Jordan, and pressing northwards to "mop up" the Palestine "show" completely.

Is this intelligent anticipation of events, or—something quite different?

⁂

The *Egyptian Gazette* translates from a native contemporary, the *Misr*, some strong remarks on the subject of songs sung in the streets of Cairo. The *Misr* complains—and not without justice, if I may say so—that "many of the hawkers who sell sweets and refreshments in the streets . . . sing rude words and repeat wicked expressions of a nature to corrupt the character of children, who are fond of imitating what they see and repeating what they hear." Again, I read: "There are some persons who sing old songs, and a large number of children always assemble around them to hear them. Songs of this sort soon spread among the children and the lower class of people, and they repeat them openly without fear or shame."

⁂

Now, with us it is not the "old songs" but the *new* ones that are usually the greater offenders against good taste. But in other respects I am afraid that the *Misr's* remarks would apply to some extent to other cities than Cairo. It is no doubt very unfashionable to say so, but I fancy that "the lower class of people" in most countries like their "comic" songs to be highly spiced, and just as the hawkers of sweets and refreshments supply the want in Cairo, so do a good many so-called "humourists" in Western theatres and music-halls. Of course, in the West the "singer" calls a spade "an agricultural implement," and so forth; while in the Orient the hawker refers to a spade *as* "a spade." But that is just a matter of veneer. On the whole, I am inclined to back up the *Misr's* hope that "the authorities will give special attention to this matter connected with public morals."

⁂

When I read in last week's NEAR EAST the extracts from the letter written by a Roumanian gentleman about his visit to his own country, I was struck by the passage referring to the looting of the coffin of St. Demetrius by the Bulgarians. The peasants' belief that the saint had "made himself too heavy" to be carried across the river was on all fours with the cases, ancient and modern, from Egypt that I referred to recently in these notes. To have the "miracle" explained away, so to say, by the intervention of the German police is too bad. One's only consolation is that, in view of the Germans' conduct generally in Roumania, this solitary instance of decency is in itself

CORSAIR.

NOW

HELP SERBIA.

The gallant Serbian Army in its splendid advance *must* be closely followed by the ministrations of the Serbian Relief Fund.

¶ The desperate condition of the old men, women, and children in the recovered territory imperatively demands immediate relief.

¶ We owe this to them not only as the privilege of our common humanity, but as our duty to as gallant and steadfast an ally as any nation has ever known.

¶ For this purpose additional funds are immediately necessary, and contributions, large and small, are earnestly asked for.

¶ The Committee, instead of being in a position to expand its work at a moment when expansion is imperatively called for, is seriously faced with difficulty in continuing regular measures of relief work not only in Serbia and Macedonia, but in the temporary havens in Corsica, Corfu, and other places in Southern Europe and North Africa where the exiled families of the fighting men are being cared for.

¶ Serbian experience of British benevolence has been such that there is not a Serb soldier or civilian who does not echo the sentiment "We trust in God and Britain," which was recently written by a Serbian prisoner of war.

¶ The Committee of the S. R. F. earnestly begs for response to this urgent appeal for funds not only for the continuance of its existing relief work, but for the succour of those released by the Serbian Army after years of the most cruel oppression in history.

¶ Send a donation to-day to the Hon. Treasurer, THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND,

5, CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.7.

(*Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.*)

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Parcels of Clothing, Materials, Boots, etc., for Men, Women, and Children should be sent to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

The Serbian Relief Fund is the only authorised Fund under British Administration working solely for the relief of the Serbians.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

HISTORY FROM THE "TELS."*

Professor Petrie's small book resolves itself into a strong plea for the preservation of such relics of early civilizations in the Nearer East as have been spared thus far by decay and by the unchartered digger. He wishes to see established a Department of Antiquities and Museums, which shall, so to say, see that the rich mines of information are worked scientifically and speedily—and shall in any case put an end to illicit excavating with all its acknowledged evils. The importance of all this has been urged many times during past years in THE NEAR EAST; and though the present seems a bad time to ask for funds for such purposes, we hope that Professor Petrie's pleading will not fall on deaf ears. The Professor is one of our most energetic excavators and one of our most popular Egyptologists. He is therefore sure of an audience. But his interests are not confined to the Nile valley: he has excavated in Syria and Palestine, and he has followed archæological developments in Mesopotamia also. Indeed, it is chiefly with the future of archæological research in Mesopotamia and Palestine that he is concerned in these lectures. In order to interest us in that future, he tells us much about the past of these historic lands, and, if only on this account, the book will repay reading. The uninitiated reader may think, perhaps, that the author's professional enthusiasm rather runs away with him at times; may be inclined to resent the condemnation of British inefficiency that crops up here and there. Unfortunately, however, readiness to discover—and condemn—inefficiency in others seems to be no less inseparable from the 'Ologist than from other—merely mortal—men. Nevertheless we hope that Department of Antiquities and Museums will materialise, and that it may be put under one of the British archæologists who have done such good war work since August, 1914.

A RE-INCARNATION PLAY.†

In "Karma" the authors have attempted to exploit the possibilities of this well-worn theme. Here the Karma or "deed" which holds back the soul was repeated by the wife, through selfish love, to the detriment of her husband through three successive re-incarnations—at intervals of centuries. Only when in modern times the wife sees a vision of the past does she rise to higher things. Mrs. Lattin is depicted as a selfish invalid whose exactions are about to ruin her husband's brilliant prospects as an Anglo-Egyptian official. When expecting her doctor a stranger enters, and as his words recall the past she falls into a trance and beholds again her past lives. She sees herself as an Egyptian dancing girl on the banks of the Nile, and she is reminded how then she kept her lover from the higher religious life which he would lead. As she gains her point the old Egyptian priest solemnly says: "The choice is made. The future lives will bring again, and once again, this same deep opportunity, when you again shall lead his soul higher, or delay or hinder by vain, selfish love." The scene changes, and she is Lydia, the wife of Phocion. Again she thwarts his higher call when she obtains for him high office under Alexander the Great, instead of allowing her husband to take the dangerous course of duty in an Athenian revolt against him. And yet again as Lucia, the wife of a proud and independent painter in Venice, Paulo Salviati, she succeeds in bringing to her husband riches and honour at the cost of his artistic freedom.

It is not wonderful that after such an experience Mrs. Latin is a new woman, and when her husband returns to her side, with steps already taken for giving up his post, she says:—

"I shall never delay or thwart again—Ah! so many times I have—by my selfish love. Your work is a mission always. It is your soul's career—I understand at last."

Artistically the work is marred by too great similarity in the woman's fault in each act. The husband, too, seems entirely passive, though in his failure he cannot be acquitted of responsibility; he is a mere dummy.

It is an entirely Western view of the great Hindu doctrine, and is too open to criticism on the historical side. But the play may appeal to many for whom the idea of re-incarnation—especially in its Westernized form—has an attraction, and might make a successful play for amateur theatricals—though perhaps a little over-serious for the average audience.

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* "Eastern Exploration, Past and Future." Lectures at the Royal Institution. By W. M. Flinders Petrie. (Constable and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

† "Karma: A Re-incarnation Play." By Algernon Blackwood and Violet Pearn. (London: Macmillan and Co. 6s. net.)

OUR SALONIKA FORCE.

The following telegram, dated October 7, has been sent by the War Cabinet to General G. F. Milne, Commanding the British troops at Salonika:—

"The War Cabinet wish me to convey to you, and all ranks under your command, their heartiest congratulations on the decisive success which has at last crowned the operations of the British forces in Macedonia. In common with their Allied comrades-in-arms they have for three years cheerfully sustained the burden of an arduous campaign, in an unhealthy climate, without the stimulus of great offensive operations and with few opportunities for leave. The endurance and devotion of the troops have now secured the most far-reaching results, which will probably influence the course of the war in favour of the Allied cause."

ELECTRICITY IN TURKEY.

The *Evening Standard*, in its issue of October 2, when announcing the capture of Damascus by General Allenby, remarked that it was the first city in Turkey which had been lighted by electricity and to have a service of electric trams. Apropos of this, Mr. Alfred C. Silley, formerly of Constantinople, sends us the following note:—One of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid's Chamberlains and favourites was the famous Izzet Pasha, who was a native of Damascus, where he owned a great deal of property. The Sultan, wishing to confer a boon on his favourite, granted Izzet the concession for the supply of electricity in Damascus. When I visited that city in 1907, coming from Constantinople, where nothing in the nature of electricity or dynamos was allowed, I was surprised to find that the Hotel Victoria, where I stayed, was lighted by electricity, and on inquiry I was informed that it was the property of Izzet Pasha. I may add that, although dynamos were not allowed in Constantinople for industrial purposes, the Palace of Yildiz was for years lighted by electricity.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

The Bishop in Jerusalem (Dr. R. MacInnes), who left Palestine in August, addressing a meeting of farewell to Church Missionary Society missionaries at Kingsway Hall recently, referred to the victories in Palestine, and said that General Allenby's amazing advance was far beyond anything expected by the most sanguine officers when he left Palestine. Last year's advance was at the rate of 12½ miles a week; this year the advance was at the rate of 60 miles a week. The unexpected suddenness of the capture of Jerusalem had saved many of the buildings that might otherwise have been damaged, and it certainly saved many people who would have been sent into exile. There was going to be progress of an amazing character in the Holy Land after the war.

IN HONOUR OF PRINCE ALEXANDER.

In a leading article, "The Prince Regent of Serbia," *The Times* expresses the admiration which is so widely felt in this country for Prince Alexander. It says:—

Rarely has a military honour been more honestly earned. During the whole war the Prince-Regent has served in the Army, sharing its triumphs and its disasters, bearing its hardships, and helping to maintain the indomitable spirit by which it has won the admiration of the world. Among the Jugoslavs, many thousands of whom have voluntarily joined the Serbian ranks, the distinction will be especially popular, for Prince Alexander has always viewed the future of his race with clear vision and strong faith. When on a short visit to this country in the spring of 1916 he proclaimed his resolve to pursue the accomplishment of "the ideal towards the attainment of which the Southern Slav race has striven for centuries."

◆

According to *Misr*, about twenty thousand cases of theft occurred between January and June last in the goods trains and stations of Egypt.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that on October 4 M. Pichon, the French Foreign Minister, received a deputation of Roumanians, comprising representatives both of the present subjects of King Ferdinand and the Transylvanian Roumanians who hope soon to be incorporated in his kingdom. The object of the deputation was formally to acquaint M. Pichon with the fact of the constitution, under the presidency of M. Take Jonescu, of a National Council representing the whole Roumanian people, including those still under the foreign oppressor's yoke.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1337.	5679.
October	September		Moharrem.	Hesvan.
11	28	Friday	5	5
12	29	Saturday........	6	6
13	30	Sunday	7	7
	October.			
14	1	Monday	8	8
15	2	Tuesday	9	9
16	3	Wednesday	10	10
17	4	Thursday	11	11

M. Take Jonescu arrived in London at the end of last week.

The Sultan of Egypt has given £1,000 to India's "Our Day."

The Earl of Bessborough has returned to Cavendish Square from Ireland.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary of the Serbian Legation, is leaving London for Serbia.

The Serbian Prime Minister visited Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

Madame Misu, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, with the members of her family, has returned to town from Eastbourne.

The King has been pleased to promote Sir William Stevenson Meyer, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., to be a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

The King has granted permission to Mr. E. G. Bonavia to wear the decoration of a Chevalier of the Order of the Redeemer bestowed on him by the Hellenic Government.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, was taken suddenly ill at Lord Sheffield's house at Alderley on Wednesday, and has had to cancel his engagements for two or three days.

On September 4, at All Saints' Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Dr. W. F. Hume, Director of the Geological Survey, Egypt, and Miss Gladys Williams, formerly of the C.M.S. in Plaestine.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to Lieutenant Commander G. P. Lewis, R.N.R., to wear the Decoration of the Order of the Nile (3rd class) conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt for distinguished services rendered.

Mr. E. C. Donaldson Rawlins, lately British Consul at Canea, has been granted the King's authority to wear the decoration of an Officer of the Order of the Redeemer bestowed on him by the Hellenic Government for distinguished services.

The engagement is announced between Cary Richard Hampton Weekes, son of the late Arthur Weekes, J.P., Bengal Civil Service, of Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, and Gladys Kathleen, eldest daughter of Charles Craig, Flore House, Weedon.

King Peter of Serbia has promoted the Heir to the Throne, Prince Alexander, to the rank of general. The Serbian Government had proposed the promotion in June last, but at Prince Alexander's own desire it was postponed until victory had been achieved.

On August 31, at St. Andrew's Church, Alexandria, Egypt, the marriage took place of Lieutenant John Mackintosh Norman MacLeod, R.N.V.R., elder son of Mr. John M. MacLeod, M.P., to Isa, daughter of Mr. Francois Brusati, Egyptian Civil Service, Alexandria.

The engagement is announced of Major Gerald Bassett Scott, D.S.O., Indian Army, son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Hopton Bassett Scott and Mrs. Scott, of Locksley, Shankill, Co. Dublin, and Blanche, only daughter of G. F. de Caen, J.P., and Mrs. de Caen, of Springfield, Delgany, late of Kircullen Park, Meycullen, Co. Galway.

A marriage is arranged, to take place shortly in Vancouver, between James Dalziel Baker, naval architect, son of Robert J. Baker, of Stanley House, Exmouth, late of Lackagh, Co. Sligo, and grandson of the late Matthew Baker, Q.C., and Anna Colquhoun Colvin, younger daughter of Clement Sneyd Colvin, C.S.I., and granddaughter of the late Sir William Shelford, K.C.M.G., and Lady Shelford, of 31, Marloes Road, Kensington.

M. Michael B. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon on Tuesday M. Take Jonescu, M. Titulesco, formerly Roumanian Minister of Finance, Sir Ronald W. Graham, M. de la Chaussée, Secretary of the French Embassy, and Lieut.-Colonel N. Arion.

The engagement is announced between Captain Adrian Gordon Paterson, D.S.O., M.C., the King's Own Scottish Borderers, eldest son of the Rev. A. G. P. and Mrs. J. M Paterson, of Srinagar, Kashmir, and Sybil Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Webbe, of 35, Eaton Square, London.

On October 3, at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, the marriage took place of Captain Steward H. Hyde-Clarke, R.G.A., S.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hyde-Clarke, Wrentham House, Suffolk, to Vera Muriel, youngest daughter of the late C. E. G. Harrison, of Dinapore, India, and of Mrs. Harrison, 61, Edith Road, West Kensington.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that a marriage has been arranged between Captain Cyril Noel Wilson, The Buffs, only son of Mr. Cyril Wilson, of 3, Morpeth Terrace, London, and Noel Rosemary, second daughter of Colonel Crole Wyndham, C.B., late 21st (E. of I.) Lancers, and Mrs. Crole Wyndham, of 51, Augusta Gardens, Folkestone. Captain Wilson, adds the *Gazette*, joined the Coastguard Administration in Egypt early in 1914, passing on subsequently to the Frontiers Districts Administration, and is at present with his regiment somewhere in France.

Indian papers to hand by the latest mail contain an account of a presentation made on August 5, at Knox Hall, Allahabad, to Sir George and Lady Knox, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding-day. Sir Harcourt Butler, the Lieutenant-Governor, who was paying a visit to Allahabad, presided over the ceremony, and the presentation took the form of a piece of plate. In reporting the event, the *Pioneer* says:—"The occasion of fifty years of married life in India, on the top of fifty years of public service which Sir George Knox completed in 1915, is one which is probably without parallel."

◆

Monsieur A. M. Martineau, Governor of the French Settlements in India, has been made an Honorary K.C.I.E.

The Canadian Red Cross has sent to the Serbian Relief Fund £1,000 for immediate and pressing needs in the evacuated Serbian territory.

Mr. Séfi's lecture at the School of Oriental Studies on "Islam in its Relation to International Morality" will be given at 3 p.m. next Thursday (October 17).

A *Te Deum* will be sung on Sunday morning at the Greek Church, Bayswater, to celebrate the victory of the Hellenic Army and the Allies in Macedonia, and the liberation of Eastern Macedonia.

Among papers to be read at meetings of the ensuing 51st session of the Royal Colonial Institute are "An Indian Colony in German East Africa," by Sir Theodore Morison, on January 14, and "Egypt," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, on February 11.

Replying to the King-Emperor's recent message to India, Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, has telegraphed:—"Your Majesty's appreciation of India's share in the brilliant achievements of your armies will inspire her to still greater efforts towards the final triumph."

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam dated October 7, says:—"A report from Czernovitz to the *Neue Freie Presse*, quoted in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, states that Prince Carol of Roumania has communicated to his parents his firm resolve to renounce the throne. The journal asserts that the King and Queen have offered Mme. Zizi Labrino £800,000 in compensation for relinquishing all claims on the Crown Prince. The offer, however, was rejected."

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
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Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged
by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON.
Montenegrin Consulate, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

Miss Hilda Spencer Swithinback has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Burma, in place of Mr. J. J. Anderson, I.C.S.

The following telegram of thanks, dated October 4, from Salonika, has been received by the Serbian Relief Fund from the Serbian Crown Prince:—"With all my heart I thank the Serbian Relief Fund for the congratulations on the victories won by the Serbian Army and for the interest it has always shown for my country, whose sufferings have been so largely alleviated by its great activities.—ALEXANDER."

We are glad to learn that the Lebanon Hospital (for mental diseases) is still carrying on its good work at Asfuriyeh, near Beyrout. In spite of all difficulties—and they have been many and formidable—it has "carried on" throughout the war, and Dr. Watson Smith, the Director and Medical Superintendent, has stood at his post all the time. The hospital is understood to be badly overcrowded, and funds are urgently required. The London office is at 35, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., and the General Secretary is Miss A. M. Gooch.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced, from hydrophobia, of Mr. R. D. Thomson, of the Punjab Commission. Mr. Thomson was Colonisation Officer at Montgomery.

His Highness Prince Jafar of Persia died on October 4 at Llandudno in his seventeenth year. He was the son of his Royal Highness Prince Firman Firma, who was created a G.C.M.G. in 1916.

Colonel H. W. Stockley, who died at Clifton on the 3rd inst., aged eighty-two, served with the Royal Artillery in the Persian Expedition of 1856-7, and was present at the bombardment of Mohammerah.

News has been received at the India Office that the Maharajah Sir Sumer Singh, K.B.E., Ruler of Jodhpur, died at Jodhpur on October 3, after a short illness, at the age or twenty. His Highness died without issue, but has left two brothers.

Sir David Edward Durell Barclay, twelfth Baronet of Pierston, Ayrshire, who died at The Grove, Middleham, Yorkshire, on October 2, aged 60 years, was formerly a captain in the 19th Hussars, and saw service in Egypt and the Sudan. He succeeded his father in 1896, and married, in 1889, Letitia, daughter of the Hon. Amias C. Orde-Powlett.

Second Lieutenant Robert Louis Irving Arnott, Indian Army, who was killed in action on September 19, aged 19, was the younger son of Colonel Arnott, I.M.S., of 8, Rothesay Place, Edinburgh, and Wyseby, Dumfriesshire. He was appointed to the Indian Army last February, after passing through the Military College, Wellington, India.

Colonel Geoffrey Davies Pike, M.C., Indian Army, who has been accidentally killed, was born in June, 1880, and was gazetted to the Indian Staff Corps in April, 1901, and reached major's rank in September, 1915. In November, 1917, he was appointed General Staff Officer (1st grade), and in January this year became temporary colonel. Early in the war he won the Military Cross, and had since had various mentions in despatches. Colonel Pike was qualified as a first-class interpreter of foreign languages.

Major-General Henry Wylie died on October 5 at Glenfarne, Farnham Common, Bucks, aged 74. He took part in the North-West Frontier campaign in 1863, and in the Bhootan Expedition in 1865. In 1868 he served in the Abyssinian Expedition, and in the same year saw service in the Hazara campaign. Ten years later he shared in the march to Kandahar, acting as Chief Political Officer, and was mentioned in despatches and thanked by the Government. Later he became assistant to the Resident in Mysore and secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, Political Agent in Jhallawar, 1885-1887, in Bhopal, and Resident in Nepal, 1891-1900. He was Agent to the Governor-General of India for Baluchistan for two years before his retirement in 1900.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Greece has agreed to sign a treaty with Canada for the reciprocal enforcement of conscription upon the basis of the new military age.

According to a recent census, the Jewish population of Jerusalem now numbers only 26,605 souls, as against 50,000 in 1908, and 58,390 in 1913.

By 85 votes to one, the Roumanian Chamber has resolved to arrest of M. Alexander Constantinescu, who was Minister of Agriculture in the Bratiano Cabinet.

The King of the Hejaz has telegraphed to President Poincaré congratulating him on Bulgaria's surrender to the just cause of the Allies, and on the capture of Damascus. President Poincaré has replied, thanking the King and congratulating him on the brilliant part played by his troops in the occupation of Damascus.

The Alexandria Meglis el Hisby (the Moslem Personal Status Court) has decided to hold two sittings per week instead of one sitting, owing to pressure of work.

Madame Sachtouris, wife of the Greek Diplomatic Agent in Egypt, has sent to M. Venizelos the sum of £E4,438, the result of the subscriptions from Greeks in Egypt for the War Invalids' Fund.

A telegram of congratulation on the British victories in Palestine has been sent to General Allenby by the Polish National Committee in Paris. General Allenby has replied warmly expressing his thanks.

It was announced in the London *Gazette* that the following territory may be regarded as territory in friendly occupation: The vilayats of Busrah and Baghdad, excluding the district of Anah on the Euphrates.

A Budapest telegram says that the Brasso-Predeal railway, with all the works constructed by the Germans, has been taken over by the management of the Hungarian State Railway from the German military authorities.

A Berlin telegram states that the Russian battleship Volya and a number of units which have been completed during the war have now been manned by Germans, to reinforce the forces of the Central Powers in the Black Sea.

M. Venizelos last week visited the wounded in the Salonika hospitals, who were largely composed of refugees from Turkey. M. Venizelos congratulated them on their gallantry, which, he said, had contributed so much to Bulgaria's surrender.

According to the Bulgarian census of Seres, taken in December, 1916, four months after the Bulgars had occupied the town, the population amounted to 24,000, of which 5,000 died of hunger and 11,000 were exiled. Now the population of Seres hardly amounts to 5,000 or 6,000.

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Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1918.

FEELING THE WAY.

In spite of the important happenings in the East, the war-interest has swung rapidly back to the Western front as a result of the German overtures for an armistice to run concurrently with peace negotiations. There is no room for doubt that the proposal in its conception is a definite war manœuvre, from which the Central Powers would stand to gain considerably, if the Allies were to fall into the trap. On the other hand, the move has been forced upon Germany by the stern necessity of the military situation, and is not the product of spontaneous strategy. But it is probable that the German Government saw in it at first only a piece of masterly guile. By the time that the proposal has been rejected they may have appreciated some of its crudeness, as well as its boomerang effect. They have blundered over the psychology of nearly every other nation; and it may be that they have at last misjudged the psychology of their own people. So accustomed has the German Higher Command been to have the nation come to heel on order that they have overlooked the possibility of its recalcitrancy. In the formal appeal for peace negotiations, however, and, above all, in the demand for an armistice, the German people are likely to have had their hopes raised to an extent that will cause little heed to be paid to the exigencies of military subterfuges. The German fights well; but he is at his best only when he is buoyed up by a strong hope—it may be hope of the gratification of his hatred, or of loot, or merely of the end of the war. In the case of other nationalities it is as often the courage of despair that raises their fighting instinct to its highest pitch. The German nation as a whole, unless we are much mistaken, will never be with its back against the wall in this war, for all the preaching of princes or professors, *Predikanten* or the Press. It lacks single-minded confidence in its cause, and for this reason has required an incessant lashing of its passions to make it subservient to the will of its masters. The German Higher Command, therefore, have played a dangerous card in the request for an armistice, for they have taken away once and for all the hope that has hitherto buoyed up the people. They reckoned, no doubt, upon the rejection of the demand so inflaming popular opinion in Germany that the resistance of both the army and of the people at home will be immeasurably strengthened. It is not improbable that it will have precisely the opposite effect. The event will prove which estimate of German psychology is correct. In the meantime the Allied forces are doing much to queer the domestic pitch of German militarism, and it will be a tribute to the vitality of the latter and to the subserviency of the people, if Germany holds out for the full duration of another winter.

Until President Wilson's reply to their Note had been received by the German Government it was evident that the *mot d'ordre* for what is left of the Central Alliance was to mark time. Turkey is helped in rendering this last service to her ally by a variety of factors: first, that under the present regime popular feeling counts for nothing; secondly, that Constantinople is still far removed from any military menace; and, thirdly, that the inconvenient presence of German officials and German crews at the capital render communications with the Entente Powers somewhat difficult. At first sight there would seem to be no reason why the small clique that constitutes the Turkish Government should yield to any other consideration than military necessity. Its members can hardly anticipate a bright political future in their own country, even if their past record is regarded as venial; nor are the Entente Governments likely to assist them to obtain a safe asylum where German gold would pander to extravagant tastes. Their dilemma is not an enviable one, and some will be tempted to postpone a solution that is not the immediate result of *force majeure*. The knowledge that the Allies have it in their power to supply the necessary pressure may, on the other hand, prompt others to bow at once to the inevitable. In this connection the example of Bulgaria, it is to be hoped, will prove a stimulus both to the Turks and to the Allied Powers. Turkey has experienced much more in the way of military disasters than Bulgaria had when she decided that the only course consonant with her interests was to place herself unreservedly in the hands of the Allies. The latter, moreover, cannot fail to appreciate the advantage of insisting upon unconditional surrender on the part of each enemy. Their conscience on this point is clear; there are to be no terms enforced on a conquered people that will not stand the scrutiny of strict justice, but the world will be saved the compromises and makeshifts that are inevitable in a peace by negotiation and that so often contain the germs of future wars. In the case of Bulgaria pressure was applied at a spot too vital to be ignored. In the operations against Turkey British armies are still far from the capital; and if there is the least chance of the Turkish Government refusing to accept the logic of its hopeless position, no time should be lost in transferring the operations to a point nearer the nerve-centre of the empire.

With Bulgaria and Turkey passing under their control as a condition of surrender, the Allied Governments will find it impossible to keep their minds closed to the problem of the redrawing of the map of Near Eastern Europe. If they are wise, they will endeavour to make the transitional period conform, as far as can be arranged, to the final settlement. Thus it is inconceivable that Turkey should be granted an armistice without provision being made for the free passage of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus under Allied supervision. The throwing open of this waterway will entail some measure of control in Constantinople. The Allies stand pledged to remove Turkish rule from Europe. When the undertaking was given it was supposed that Russia would take charge of Constantinople in the interests of the world's peace. During a period of transition in the history of the country a Russian Government renounced the claim formerly made on behalf of Russia, and for the time being the repudiation holds good. There is no reason, however, why this action should cancel the Allies' resolve that the Turks should no longer retain jurisdiction in Europe. It is a weak argument to urge that no other settlement of the Constantinople problem is free from grave objections. The interests of Europe require that this South-Eastern corner should cease at once and entirely to be a hotbed of intrigue and world-unrest. This aim is impossible of attainment if a weak or irresolute Government remains at Constantinople. Considerable lip-homage is paid to the theory of internationalisation, and its advocates wish to see the experiment tried in this cosmopolitan city. We are convinced that international administration will never stand the practical test, which must always break down over the question of the police force, if over no other. Constantinople may be internationalised in the sense that it is not the close preserve of any one country, or that it becomes the headquarters of the League of Nations. But its administration in the interests of peace and efficiency must be entrusted to a single Power, which will supply the police force. We are of opinion that the task should be allotted to the United States, perhaps for a specified period at first, in order that there may be an opportunity for revision in the light of possible developments that no man can foresee to-day.

THE JERUSALEM UNIVERSITY.

By BERTRAM B. BENAS.

The laying of the foundation stones of the Jewish University in Jerusalem marks an epoch in the history of mankind. It sees the beginnings of the re-emergence of an ancient people among the families of the nations in their traditional character as bearers of a civilisation. For this establishment is no ordinary foundation. Conceived in Diaspora, and brought to fruition in war, it looks to that era of world-peace which was first placed before the eyes of humanity by the prophets of a people from whom the present rebuilders of Zion are sprung. The Jerusalem University project is a national link with the ancient institutions of Jewry. The academies of Palestine and Babylon were encyclopædic academies—for the Mishna and the Talmud, the subject matter of their studies, were all-embracing in their range, as was the wont of studies in the days of antiquity, and to state the fact that they were suffused with the spirituality of the God-idea is only to assert that they were the typical fruits of the specific Hebrew genius. The subsequent history of the Jewish People, which shows a gradual compression of the ambit of their world, growingly emphasised the spiritual content of their speculations with a corresponding decrease in that hold upon life which touch with a specific national civilisation of their own could most naturally allow, and thus Jewish intellect tended to become individualised, and the steady flow of a distinctive Jewish contribution to the common stock of the civilisation of humanity was temporarily both diverted and diluted. The work of intellectual Jewry, becoming individualised, ceased to draw nutrition from the fellowship of a national group. And yet to this day the essentially Jewish nature of the genius of the scientists and scholars and authors and artists in Jewry is readily detectable, just as the American spirit is recognisable in the intellectual American, except that the American spirit is fully nourished and adequately maintained by the co-operation which a group entity in a national centre can alone endow. Although so many centuries have intervened since Jewry founded its great academies in the Near East, the wide scope of the Jewish outlook will enable the thread to be picked up; and the essentially humanist genius of Jewry will find itself in line with the conscious and articulate aspirations of a progressive humanity. For the ideals of social justice and the reign of right, the basic principles of the Mosaic Code and the Prophetic literature, form the vital current which animates the whole of Jewish thought. A new foundation, based on this old foundation, with the area of an open road for development such as the large empty spaces of Palestine afford, creates a wondrous opportunity for directed reconstruction, not merely of a despoiled nationhood, but of a polity where social life can be built up anew for the benefit of society as a whole. It is a vision of the realisation of this possibility that Dr. Gaster, the Chief Rabbi of Sephardic[*] Anglo-Jewry, sees when he looks to the new Jewish Commonwealth for a "practical application of the ancient laws towards the solution of many of the social problems which so much oppress and darken the life of the inhabitants of Europe and America. . . . The Jewish re-gathering is to be of great moment in the history of the emancipation and progress of mankind. Only from this point of view has Zionism a meaning and Judaism a justification."[†] Brave words these, but redolent of the courage and sincerity which inspire the intrepid and dauntless rebuilders of Zion.

The world gains by the enrichment of variety. For centuries it has not had at hand the registered view-point of the Jewish angle of vision in the records of the world-surveys of humanity. It has had the individual view-point of the Jew, but that has not necessarily been the Jewish view-point. The Jew has been a distinguished integer in the sum of the academic family—distinguished, often enough by eminence, more often merely negatively by sheer personal differentiation. Now once again Jewry is to be a distinctive integer in the group of academic families, distinctive, not by mere negative differentiation, but by positive contribution. And thus the Jewish University in Jerusalem marks a reunion of an ancient house with the brotherhood of centres of thought and action throughout the world. A symbol of that reunion is to be found in the presence of General Allenby and representatives of all the Palestinian Communities at the memorable ceremony in Jerusalem on July 24, when Dr. Weizmann, head of the Zionist Commission, laid the first of the twelve foundation stones of the University—twelve foundation stones, emblematical of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The larger visions, cherished by the promoters of the University, illumine rather than obscure the immediate practical needs of Palestine which the new establishment will directly serve. The place which a University fills in the economy of a land was never appreciated more fully than to-day. Palestine needs doctors, agronomists, engineers, biologists, botanists, chemists, electricians, teachers and lawyers. If trained skill is needed in developed states, it is unnecessary to point out *à fortiori* its instant urgency for the progress of a comparatively undeveloped country. Justly, those who have been re-endowed with national rights are ready and eager to take up national duties

Both the idealism and the practicality of the project have been anticipated, in miniature, by existing settlements in Palestine from which in one form or another the constituent elements of a University system could be successfully drawn. The Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, the Hygienic Institute, the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Technical Schools, the Musical Academies and the National Library can be regarded not only as pledges of faith in the belief of a Jewish future in Palestine, but also as a proof of possible achievement. The revival of Hebrew as a living language linked the practical work in the old-new-land with the idealism of a renascent Jewry in the Diaspora. Thus a Neo-Hebraic poetry arose, kindled with the vision of a renewed hope, national and yet millennial, spiritual and yet humanist. Art and music were similarly inspired, and a neo-Hebraic prose began to flourish which rationalised the philosophy of Jewish history in a form joining tradition and aspiration by a devotion to the regenerating force of national renascence. The revival of the national idea among the disendowed nationhoods which the world crisis of 1914 called forth brought the most vital movement in Jewry within the aims of the world-powers of freedom and progress; and now the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People is expressly endorsed by Great Britain, France, and Italy. These Powers, by deputy, were present at the First Jewish National Re-establishment, most typical of the Jewish Spirit, the foundation on the site of the home of an eminent Englishman, the late Sir John Gray Hill, of a Jewish Temple of Learning and Civilisation. Mr. Balfour, in his inspiring message of congratulation, said: "This school of learning should be an addition to the forces of progress throughout the world." From the historic land on the Mount of Olives, which, it was the wish of its former owner, should become the centre of Hebrew learning and the Hebrew spirit, a beacon of light, a new and yet an ancient light, will shine to illumine the path of a redeemed humanity.

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[*] The Jewry adopting the liturgical rite generally prevailing in various forms in Mediterranean countries.

[†] "Judaism—A National Religion," pp. 97-98 in "Zionism and the Jewish Future," Ed. Sacher.

FAMINE IN PERSIA.

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes the following note which it has received from Professor E. S. Browne, of Cambridge:—

Letters recently received from Ispahan, Persia, tell of a deplorable state of affairs. Owing in part to the failure of the harvest and also to the disturbed state of the country, the people are dying from starvation in large numbers. One of the missionaries, a lady doctor, writes that bodies lie about the streets until the more charitably disposed place coins on them to pay for burial. Fathers are poisoning their children rather than see them die of hunger. Children whose parents are dead, or who are unable to provide for them, are left at the C.M.S. Hospital to be fed by the missionaries or starve. The hospital wards are crowded with these unfortunate famine-stricken people, but few of them have the strength to rally. During the past six months the C.M.S. staff have been doing their best to cope with the situation. Flour has been obtained from the hill villages and sent down under armed escort; and it is baked in the hospital ovens, thus ensuring the most economical distribution; but the distress has grown worse, and local funds raised by the missionaries themselves are depleted; therefore, unless a substantial measure of help can be sent from home many thousands must perish.

Contributions should be sent to Dr. Harold T. Marrable, M.D., Glebe View, Rathdrum, county Wicklow.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

"White Horse Whisky" Diary for 1919.

Messrs. MACKIE & CO., Distillers, Ltd., Glasgow, London, and Island of Islay, desire to inform holders of their "White Horse" Diary for 1918 that the new Diary for 1919, shortly to be issued, will not, owing to war conditions, be supplied with the usual leather covers. The outer leather cover of the 1918 Diary should therefore be preserved for use with the issue for 1919, the latter to be inserted inside the elastic band after removing the old book.

THE INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE OF GREECE.

By Thomas H. Mawson,

(*Senior Member of the Commission for the Replanning of Salonika.*)

Factories and Industrial Enterprises.—There are already in Salonika several factories and innumerable workshops devoted to local industries. One cotton factory employs 600 hands, and there are also flour mills, soap works, brick works, cement works, tanneries, silk works, and carpet works, as well as a brewery, which under new conditions, and with the elimination of competition from Munich, are expected greatly to increase their capacity.

Already there is evidence of a great impetus to local industries, there being several inquiries for sites from British manufacturers, who desire to erect works in a locality which they regard as peculiarly good from a strategic point of view. There are also proposals for the erection of modern abattoirs, and cold storage, and for the erection of great works for the construction of reinforced drain pipes, patent flags, kerbs, channel, and other cement works for constructive purposes.

State, Municipal, and Semi-Public Buildings.—Amongst the more important buildings required in the near future will be the following:—New City Hall and Law Courts, Police and Fire Stations, Post Office, New Banks, Commercial Exchanges, University, Schools and Gymnasia, Theatre and Opera House, Markets, and the finest and largest Bazaars in the East.

Commercial Buildings.—Several large new hotels are projected, and many cafés, streets of shops and offices, and also cinemas and other places of entertainment.

New Housing Facilities.—Houses are immediately required for the 70,000 people whose homes were destroyed by the fire, and for at least 30,000 more who will flock to the city from other parts of Greece to take advantage of the new prosperity which will come to the city after the war. In addition to the housing of the artisan classes, an immense impetus will be given to the erection of houses for the large number of residents who have grown rich through the operations of the war. Thus the Kalemaria and Mikra areas will rapidly become high-class residential suburbs.

Parks, Gardens, Boulevards, and Forests.—No city in the East will be so well supplied with publicly owned open spaces which are to be converted into city forests, public parks, and playgrounds, the whole being connected by tree-planted boulevards. Much of this work will necessarily follow the housing of the people; but from the first there will be great business for nurserymen and landscape gardening contractors.

The foregoing remarks refer only to the opportunities opened up by the rebuilding of Salonika, but of equal importance in the near future will be the expansion of Athens and the virtual rebuilding or improvement of almost every city and village throughout Greece; it is in these activities that the Eastern mind will first express itself. Let us add, they can afford to do it, for Greece has been greatly enriched by this war, for she has been able to sell not only every article of produce at war prices, but has been able to employ her labour in the service of the Allies at rates never before obtained; and in addition to this the Allies have spent millions of pounds sterling with the population of Salonika and throughout Macedonia; and all this is stimulating the desire of the Hellenes to realise something really worthy of a great and prosperous people. But greater than this fact is the probability of the natural resources of Greece being developed, and when this takes place Greece will be a great hive of industry.

All this great work is under the able direction of M. Papanastaciou, the Minister of Communications, whose enthusiasm for the work of reconstruction is most inspiring.

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* *The first portion of this article was published in* THE NEAR EAST o *October 4.*

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

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TURKEY'S PRISONERS OF WAR.

Lord Newton has made a statement to the London correspondent of the *Western Morning News* on the present prospects of relief for the British and Indian officers and men now in Turkish prison camps. He pointed out that negotiations had been going on since November last year, but although, after much delay, it had been agreed that a British ship carrying supplies for the prisoners should be sent out to fetch the invalid soldiers home in exchange for invalid Turkish prisoners, provided guarantees could be obtained from Austria and Germany that it would be immune from attack, the Germans attached to their proposal conditions to which the British Government found it impossible to agree. Finally, they decided to take some risk, and that the ship should go out whether there was a guarantee given or not. Since then the British Government had proposed that every prisoner should be exchanged, head for head, but had received no definite reply to that offer. In his opinion that exchange had been obstructed deliberately by Enver Pasha at the instigation of the Germans, who had encouraged opposition for obvious reasons and were determined to make our difficulties as great as possible. The Turks themselves had been perfectly apathetic. They have no interest whatever in any of the prisoners in our hands, except one, a prominent Young Turk, and their eagerness to secure his return to Turkey had been made manifest in many ways. But we still held him. Turkey did not want her prisoners back lest they should cause trouble at home, and nothing but defeat would make the Turkish Government amenable to reason, argument, or persuasion.

At this moment they were trying to get supplies through to the prisoners by three separate sources, and ample sums of money had been placed at the disposal of the Dutch Minister for their benefit. "I hope," Lord Newton added, "that in the event of an approach for an armistice from Turkey the first condition will be the immediate liberation of British and Indian prisoners."

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Damascus—Past and Future.

The capture of Damascus has led, as might be expected, to a veritable flood of articles about that city in all sorts and conditions of papers. In the majority of cases the writers of these articles appear to have sought their inspiration in the pages of well-known guide-books and books of travel; but a few write with first-hand knowledge of their subject, and their personal knowledge of the city makes their descriptions interesting. Thus, Sir Mark Sykes, in the *Observer*, brings out the charm that the city exercises over the traveller who approaches it from the Euphrates road, across the desert.

If you approach Damascus from the Lebanon you see at your feet a great white city set in a vast emerald park of trees, up to which the Shamiyeh plain runs from the East and the level brown or yellow tillage bends from the South. This in itself is striking, but the most wonderful impression of Damascus is gained if you come in from the Desert side, parched and weary as you needs must be if you come from Baghdad or the Hauran; for days before you reach the city your eyes have been vexed by flatness, monotony and dust. You have ridden through tracts of scrub belts, stony ground, through volcanic zones, past reeking saline swamps and barren wolds. Suddenly the desert drops from you as a mantle, and you ride through miles of wild gardens fenced with walls of mud and traversed by little swiftly running canals. You are in a land of shade and water, of singing birds and companionable men, and to one who comes from the desert's brazen sun, iron drought, and untrusting solitude, these are things to gladden the heart and broaden the breast. When our men come to write home of Damascus, it will be said by those who came in from the West that it is a fine enough place, but those who come in from the East will say whatever lies in their power to write in its praise.

Damascus must now, says Sir Mark, “be working to try and find itself as it has not done perhaps since Ibn Walid and his companions took it after that long battle on the Yermak more than 1200 years ago.” It has been crushed and brought low under the rule of the Turk, but now the Turkish tyranny and blasting influence have been swept away beyond all hope of return. Sooner or later Damascus will realise what has happened, and when that occurs we shall see the beginning of a new and wonderful era in the history of the Near East.

Damascus is the true home of Arab genius and racial feeling, its people are cultured, refined and intelligent. French and American schools, contact with European thought, Lebanese emigration to the United States, and the steady growth of Arab national feeling, have all tended to prepare the Damascenes for the hour which has now struck. On the other hand, it must be remembered that for the last three years the Turks have been engaged in murdering and exiling every leader of Arab thought they could lay their hands on, and in destroying the Moslem male population of the working classes by deliberately exposing them on the front, while the Christians of the Lebanon were being reduced in numbers by the abominable expedient of artificial famine. The Turks' method in Syria has been to cow the population of the cities by public executions, decimate the rural Moslems by military service, and starve the Christians out of existence.

But those bad days, we may hope, have passed away never to return, and the future looks bright for the oldest city in the world.

Surrounded by areas of enormous potential agricultural wealth by a prolific, industrious and naturally intelligent peasantry, Damascus, with its merchants and educated upper classes, has every capacity to become the capital of an enlightened state or political unit. How matters will develop in the immediate future as the result of this sudden emancipation it is difficult to say. Certain things we may take for granted: Whenever the Turk annexes or conquers a region, decay, poverty, stagnation and decadence set in from that hour; whenever the Turk is removed from some area which he has ruled, that area begins to progress from the day of his departure; the progress is more or less marked according to the aptitude of the inhabitants, but improvement dates from the moment the tyrant departs. . . . Damascus will prove no exception to the rule, provided the Turk is not suffered to return; and, provided the people are given reasonable opportunity, within twenty years we shall see in Damascus a city of perhaps double its present population, prosperous and progressive, with colleges and universities, and great mercantile establishments and factories. This city will be connected by rail of uniform gauge with Aleppo, Baghdad and Cairo, and will undoubtedly be one of the great intellectual and business centres of the revived Arab civilisation. This future seems to the present writer the inevitable corollary of liberation.

Article to Note.

“War Experiences in Turkish Armenia,” by O. A. Kerr, in the *Englishwoman* (October).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Recent news from India indicates that the lengthy break in the monsoon, which particularly affected the Bombay Presidency, had been relieved by seasonable rains. A failure of the monsoon means a short crop or none, and the appalling consequences of a famine. It is, therefore, a matter for congratulation that more normal conditions are being established. Although a late rainfall may not enable cultivators to reap the full benefits derived from the crops in an ordinary season, the fears of a famine are now removed. Private telegraphic advices were received in the City from Bombay that beneficial rains had fallen as late as September 24, an unusual occurrence in a district where nothing falls—beyond scattered showers—after the middle of that month. Although prospects have considerably improved, more information is awaited regarding the state of the crops, but reports from the district are cheerful, and as far as cotton is concerned it is a plant for which a heavy rainfall is not required.

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Attention is drawn by *The Times* to the fact that a new combination in the Egyptian spinning trade is foreshadowed by important transfers of cotton mills in the Bolton, Stalybridge, and Mossley districts already carried out or in course of arrangement. "Over a million spindles," our contemporary states, "are involved in the scheme. Apparently a big London financial syndicate is concerned, some wealthy men being named in connection with the transfers. So far definite agreements for the purchase of the whole of the controlling interest have only, we understand, been reached in connection with the four following firms:—Messrs. John Harwood and Sons, of Bolton, 187,000 spindles; Messrs. John Ashworth, Limited, of Bolton and Pendlebury, 137,000 spindles; Mill Hill Spinning Co., of Bolton, 82,000 spindles; and Messrs. R. H. Buckley and Sons, Mossley and Stalybridge, 261,000 spindles. The transfers do not involve any break in the continuity of the various businesses. It is understood that in the further cases where purchase is pending, the transactions are independent of those concerned with the mills already named; but there is evidently some joint action in view, although the buyers are not identical. No public offer of shares or other capital in the combination is expected to be made."

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The effect of the capitulation of Bulgaria on the Berlin Stock Exchange is thus described in a German paper:—"The news from Bulgaria caused a marked lassitude on the Berlin Stock Exchange, which has not materially recovered to any very great extent."

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The effect of prospective Near Eastern developments on the supply of drugs is discussed in the current issue of *The Hospital*, which points out that the collapse of Turkey would liberate large supplies of opium and several other valuable drugs. "During the past few years makers of morphine," adds our contemporary, "have been using Persian and Indian opium, and useful as these have been in an emergency, they are inferior to the Turkish variety for manufacturers' purposes. The Central Powers have, no doubt, been drawing extravagant supplies of opium from Turkey, but in spite of this she must still hold a large accumulation of stocks."

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In regard to this I will only say that I trust *The Hospital* is not voicing the considered opinion of British manufacturers of opium products in regard to the value of Indian opium, for it has been the belief of people competent to judge that Indian opium could be adapted for the European market, and that development, it was hoped, would bring some compensation to the Indian revenue for the loss entailed in the cessation of the trade with China.

⁂

A very useful innovation has been introduced by the London County, Westminster, and Parr's Bank in the shape of a monthly series of reviews of the foreign exchanges. The second of the series, which has just appeared, is notable for the striking comparison made between the movements of the German mark, the Austrian crown, and the British pound sterling on the neutral Exchanges. No doubt the difference shown will have vastly increased by the following issue, when there will have been time for developments in the Near East and on the Western Front to have been properly understood in neutral countries.

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A marked improvement has taken place in the earnings of Egyptian Hotels, Limited, for the year ended April 30, the profits, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, being £36,161, compared with £11,598 for 1917. The net profits amounted to £33,738, to which has to be added the balance brought forward of £3,930. Allowing for debenture interest, depreciation, reserve for doubtful debts, and allocating £10,000 to writing down the debt due from the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels, an available balance remains of £14,428. This is to be utilised to pay two years' dividend on the preference shares, completing the payment up to 1917, and a balance of £2,928 is carried forward. It is stated that the business of Shepheard's Hotel has been satisfactorily maintained since the close of the company's financial year, and it is to be presumed, therefore, that, provided conditions in Egypt remain as they are at present, the next report will make an even better showing.

⁂

I do not think that any punishment can be too severe for dishonest tradesmen in these times, and I hope that the fullest inquiry will be made into the foundation for the allegation in a Sudan contemporary that unscrupulous butchers there have not been above introducing meat into the market from non-killed or diseased animals. The difficulty in disposing of it is met, it is stated, by the sale usually taking place "after the rush of the early morning hours is over, when the eyes of the police or customers are not open to the possibility of such meat being smuggled into the market." I must add that our contemporary does not vouch for the accuracy of this report, but the fact that it has been made is the amplest justification for the promptest investigation, and should any butchers be found to have been guilty of such practices they should be severely punished.

⁂

Sir Charles Hanson, the retiring Lord Mayor, whose tenure of that office has brought him such deserved popularity among all circles, is a man of wide interests and is, amongst other things, chairman of the Gresham Life Assurance Society, which is, perhaps, the best-known assurance company in Egypt and the Sudan.

⁂

A statistical table which has just been issued showing the main features of the work of the Indian railways during each of the five years ending March 31 last throws an interesting light on the strain of the war on the Indian railways. The ordinary goods traffic rose during the quinquennium from 82½ million tons to more than 83 million tons, while other traffic rose from over 166,000 tons to 1,646,000 tons. The ton mileage of coal used rose from 4,147 millions in 1913-14 to 7,961 millions last year. Finally, the gross earnings of all railways advanced from 6,358 lakhs of rupees in the last year of peace to about 7,702 lakhs in 1917-18.

⁂

With reference to my suggestion last week that the visit of a British Industrial Mission would have an excellent effect on our trade relations with French Morocco, I may mention that the fact that the French mission to Australia contains commercial representatives shows that our Allies are quite in favour of the policy of industrial missions. I feel that this visit to Australia, where the visitors have been received with the greatest enthusiasm, is most happily conceived, for it cannot fail to cement still further the close relations between France and the British Empire which are so much to be desired, and I advocate a mission to Morocco because I feel that it would have a most beneficial influence in that direction.

⁂

During the war attempts have been made to encourage the manufacture of sugar in Turkey, and, according to reports, with some measure of success, thanks to State assistance in every direction. The Government is stated to have given encouragement to the industry by granting exemption from taxation and other privileges to sugar factories, while supplies of fertilisers and agricultural implements have been placed at the disposal of beet cultivators. This display of initiative on the part of the Ottoman Administration is not in keeping with their record, and I cannot help wondering, if it is correct, at the cause of this display of energy. As to the results of the development of sugar manufacture in Turkey we shall be able to judge after the war.

⁂

News regarding the Greek tobacco crop is slow in coming to hand. I understand that the crop estimate is 99,570,735 lb., and that it is thought to be of an excellent quality. There are about 33,858,000 lb. of the old stock in hand, and there must be some difficulty in disposing of this large amount of tobacco, more especially as the Egyptian markets are believed to be stocked for some months to come, and Italian purchases are on a strictly limited basis.

COMMENTATOR.

BEYROUT.

Chief Port of Syria.

The occupation of Beyrout by the Allies has a special interest for business circles in this country, because the city is naturally the chief port for the export of Syrian produce. It is true that its importance as a trade centre had been to some extent diminished before the war by railway developments, for the construction of the Tripolis-Homs railway and of the Hedjaz railway branch, Damascus-Haifa, took away some of the trade that previously flowed to it, but its situation, no less than its convenience as a port, not only set a limit to this tendency, but practically assured its pre-eminence as the principal outlet for Syrian trade, provided due attention was paid to its development to enable it to cope with trade requirements. It is a moot point, however, whether sufficient importance was paid to its natural advantages. for the programme of harbour and railway construction in Syria in 1914, for which France was providing the capital, included extensive harbour works at Tripolis, which would have made that centre a serious rival to Beyrout. The Tripolis project was naturally viewed with considerable dislike in Beyrout, where a section of the population put forward an alternative scheme for the construction of a line from Tripolis to Beyrout which had the merit of being much less expensive, and in view of this opposition it is not improbable that the Tripolis harbour project would have failed to materialise.

As regards the trade of Beyrout, the exports have amounted to almost a million sterling, while the imports totalled more than double that amount. Among the exports may be mentioned grain, wool, silk, dried fruit, olive oil, sesame oil, etc. The grain requirements of the town are considerable, and comparatively little grain has, therefore, been available for export. In 1913 the exports of wheat reached 1,000 tons, of barley 1,000 tons, of peas 1,000 tons, and of beans and lentils 400 tons. A fair portion of the wool clip of 1913, which amounted to 4,150 T., was exported through Beyrout, while the exports of apricot kernels in that year amounted to about 16,000 bags. The imports are mainly timber, petroleum, clothes, manufactured articles, sugar, and rice. In this connection it may be pointed out that the requirements of the Beyrout market are very different from those of the Mesopotamian market, for instance, because the population of Beyrout includes a large number of Christians, and among the women there is, therefore, a considerable opening for dainty clothing, European furniture, and ornaments of a kind which would not find a ready sale in other parts of the country. There is also a good market for books and other literature in the French language. More interesting for British manufacturers, however, will be the fact that in the future the districts served by Beyrout will offer a ready market for agricultural machinery of a type suited to the conditions, while there will also be openings in many other directions in Syria, notably for harbour and railway construction, for drainage systems, and for the supply of water, and it is surely not too much to hope that British traders will play their part in the reconstruction of a district which should be by no means the least promising trade centre of the Near East in the future.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in August:—

Cotton.—The weather was hot in the first half of the month, but cool and windy, with damp nights, in the second half; it was, on the whole, favourable. Water supply sufficient. The cotton-worm campaign has come to its close, the pest having caused practically no damage. The pink and common boll-worm attack, and in particular the former, is generally reported as moderate. From the examination of cotton bolls made by the Entomological Section of the Ministry during August, it may be stated that, judging by the percentage of sound bolls, the attack was somewhat less during the third week of August than during the corresponding period of the previous year. The comparative amount of damage will, however, depend considerably on the lateness of the harvest. Attack with aphis is reported to a small extent in some provinces. Bolls are developing rapidly and the crop is promising well. The cool weather ruling in the second half of the month has, however, checked its maturity to some extent. The first picking of early sown cotton has just started in some provinces of Upper Egypt.

Rice (*Séfi*).—Weather favourable and water supply ample. Weeding and watering are in progress. Stalk-borer has been reported in Daqahlîya, but the damage caused is insignificant. The early-sown *Yabâni* is in ear, and its harvesting will commence in some districts within a few days, and the yield per feddân is expected to be higher than last year.

Rice (*Nili*).—The crop is growing satisfactorily. Watering is carried out and the early-sown rice is well forward.

Maize.—The weather has been favourable to the growth of the crop and water supply sufficient. Watering, thinning, manuring, and hoeing are the chief operations now going on. Sowing is practically finished, and may be considered on an average as ten days earlier than last year. Early-sown fields are beginning to flower and look well. The hooded crow has caused a certain amount of damage in some parts of Daqahliya. Elsewhere, the crop is free from pests. Owing to want of artificial manures, cultivators are doing their best to manure with *Kufri*, *Tafla*, or *Baladi*.

Millet (*Séfi*).—Weather favourable and water supply adequate. The crop is slightly attacked with stalk-borer and smut. Aphis has been noticed in El Gîza Province, but the damage is negligible. Harvesting of the early-sown crop is general,. and a good yield is expected everywhere, except in Girga Province, where the yield appears to be somewhat below average.

Sugar Cane.—Weather satisfactory and water supply sufficient. Watering and manuring are the chief operations going on at present. Stalk-borer attack is prevalent, but to a very slight extent, and the crop is in good condition.

EGYTIAN STATE FINANCES DURING JUNE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Sept. 9.

The financial returns just published, for June, show a very satisfactory result for the first quarter of the year. During the three months revenue amounted to £E6,459,272 and expenditure to £E5,615,088, as compared with £E5,063,868 and £E4,826,454 respectively at the end of June last year. There is, therefore, an improvement of £E1,395,404 in revenue and an expansion of £E788,634 in expenditure, with, for result, a surplus of £E844,184, as against one of only £E237,414 at the same date in 1917.

The most important items of revenue were direct taxes £E1,406,474, Customs £E1,281,335, tobacco dues £E503,232, Excise £E183,352, judicial fees £E428,419, railways £E1,415,879, domains £E170,285, ghaffir cess £E413,679; and the main increases were under Customs £E658,566, tobacco dues £E110,667, Excise £E183,352, railways, £E347,495, and ghaffir cess £E136,278. There was a decrease of £E174,943 in extraordinary receipts.

Under expenditure the following were the chief heads:—Interior £E111,156, public health £E116,195, native courts £E100,165, irrigation £E248,639, railways £E877,809, police £E122,521, ghaffirs £E187,399, War Office £E203,971, civil pension £E130,859, war gratuities £E144,865, extraordinary expenditure £E151,900, and public debt £E1,893,908. The principal increases were: railways £E181,990, and the items debited under war gratuities and war expenditure.

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During the last few weeks the annual reports of the Trade Commissioners for South Africa, Canada, and Australia have been received. The reports of H.M. Trade Commissioners in the last two countries were issued respectively on September 26 and October 3.

INDIA'S CURRENCY.

The Issue of Gold Mohur Coins.

(From a Correspondent.)

In view of the strenuous efforts by all the belligerent countries to conserve their gold supplies it is not a little surprising that public comment has never been directed against the recent issue of gold Mohur coins in India. It may, of course, be argued that the measure was forced upon Government to minimise the serious currency situation created by the continued disappearance of rupees, but the attempt to popularise the use of a new gold coin in the midst of their present currency difficulties was adversely criticised recently at the annual meeting of the Bank of Madras. The president in his speech stated that the adoption of this method of meeting a crisis was regarded with amazement.

No one can have any doubt that the gold Mohur issue and the previous sales of the output of the Mysore gold mines were resorted to by Government with the intention of arresting the depletion of silver currency, and they could not foresee that hoarding would become more pronounced. It is unfortunate that these measures have had no result in alleviating the situation. Profiteering in gold coin is unabated. Sovereigns command a price as high as 19½ rupees and the new gold Mohur is only a fraction less.

Efforts have been made to estimate the total amount of sovereigns melted down in India during the war, and one of the leading firms of bullion brokers in Bombay states that the amount must be between thirty and forty million pounds, which is confirmed by the principal gold dealers. A very large quantity is required annually for making ornaments, and official figures of the imports of gold into India place the total as 253 million pounds since 1898 and 52 millions for the period of 20 years preceding 1898.

Absorption of Rupees.

Extracts have appeared in Bombay market reports from the speech of the president of the Bank of Bombay at the annual meeting from which some interesting details may be gathered concerning the disappearance of currency. In the two years preceding the war the absorption of rupees on a yearly average was 833 lakhs, while the absorption from August, 1914, to March, 1918, was on a yearly average of 2,150 lakhs. These figures supply eloquent testimony to the hoarding proclivities of the Indian community, and may also be accepted as evidence of general prosperity throughout the country.

From the weekly statements of the Department of Issue of the Paper Currency it may be noted that the Note circulation has been continually rising. At the end of last month a record was reached with a total of close upon 135 lakhs, and there does not seem to be any doubt that currency notes are likewise being locked away instead of being deposited in the banks.

Gold Mohur.

THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT.

One great advantage of the war has been the forced development of aviation, and it is certain that a product of peace will, within a short period, result in the aeroplane becoming one of the most common and ever increasing methods of long distance locomotion for passenger, postal, private and commercial purposes. Ideals—possibly fantastic to the unimaginative and unknowing—are now being prepared in readiness for a wonderful future. The Whitecraft World's Airlines to encircle the globe is a proposition taking concrete form. It is designed to establish associated aerodromes in various parts of the earth to assist greatly in linking together the world's commerce. In regard to flights to and from England and America, Mr. J. A. Whitehead, of Whitehead Aircraft, Limited, takes a daring gaze into the future by hinting at the creation of flexible floating aero-stations on the Atlantic Ocean. These harbours for aircraft would be kept in position under their own power.

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At Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, the price of an ordinary pair of boots has risen to 400 kronen (approximately £16).

THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Sheffield and Bradford Visits.

The visit of the Greek delegates to Sheffield lasted two days. On October 2 they inspected the works of Messrs. Thomas Firth and Sons, Ltd., Messrs. John Brown and Co., Ltd., and Messrs. J. H. Andrew and Co., Ltd., and in the evening a dinner was given in their honour by the Federation of British Industries at the Grand Hotel, when the guests included representatives of the most prominent business interests in Sheffield. Mr. Douglas Vickers, who presided, in proposing the toast of the delegates, said that it was more particularly a matter of pride that their arrival had coincided with such glorious news of the part the Greeks were playing in the war. They more particularly welcomed their Greek friends to Sheffield because they were very anxious to strengthen and cement the bonds of friendship between themselves and a nation of such noble and ancient traditions. They enjoyed, of course, the common heritage which the philosophers of ancient Greece had bequeathed to the world, but Englishmen to-day desired to find some means of consolidating the common ideals and purposes of the two nations which this war had brought into closer unity. It was felt that, whatever else followed, the bonds of commerce could be encouraged, and he personally had the greatest hopes of the outcome of the mission.

M. Michalocopoulos, in the course of his reply to the toast, said that the Greeks sincerely desired that English manufacturers should know their requirements. It was the intention of the Greek delegation to remain in London for a few weeks to take some steps towards the practical realisation of their ideals. He hoped one of the first steps would be the establishment of some English commercial schools—they had had in Greece German, Italian and Roumanian schools, but no English school. He believed that from such schools would come the best propagandists of British industries and commerce, not only for Greece itself but for the whole of the Near East, where, he could assure them, they would find large numbers of Greeks who were good traders. When he learned English he had found they had a saying that "By and by is the path that leads to never." He and his colleagues desired to avoid that danger, and they believed therefore that an extension of their visit in London, at the conclusion of their provincial tour, would lead to some really effective organisation towards a closer commercial alliance in the future. The establishment of regular sea traffic and the fixing of through freight charges, covering both sea and overland transport, so that the seller and buyer would know the exact charges to be met, was another essential. Germany had seen the necessity of this, and in the matter of credit transactions had also sought to meet the convenience of her customers. The interests of both British and Greek traders could in that respect be secured by the formation of a bank, which would be able to pay the seller while at the same time assuring itself of the stability of the buyer. It was in such details as these that trading interests between the two nations could be fostered and developed.

Sir William Ellis then proposed, "The Federation of British Industries," which, he pointed out, already represented 16,000 firms, with a total capital of 3,500 million pounds, and employing more than 3,000,000 men. It was realised that one of the fruits of the war would be a widening of their commercial interests, and the Federation had this purpose in view in inviting to this country the representatives of nations allied with them in the war. Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Dundas, K.C.M.G., who replied, indicated, the early establishment of an Anglo-Greek Association.

The morning of October 3 was devoted to a visit to Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., where the delegates were shown round the works by Mr. Douglas Vickers, who presided at the luncheon in honour of the guests, at which those present included Sir Francis Barker, Mr. William Clark, Colonel J. H. Leslie, and Mr. A. M. Jack. Mr. Vickers, in extending a warm welcome to the delegates, said that he believed they desired to see not only an armaments firm, but to learn something of its capabilities for peace-time productivity. They wanted to know how best the two nations could join in a closer commercial relationship. There would be a time, and they hoped it would come soon, when they could take up the task of converting those large shops to the manufacture of peaceful materials. It would be a hard task, involving many difficulties and large expense, but they believed they could surmount the difficulties as they had done before, and that they would be able to ask their Greek friends a few years hence to view their shops devoted to peaceful operations and manufacturing the goods which they hoped to send all over the world in exchange for raw materials, food and other things which they hoped to draw from Greece and other countries.

An Anglo-Greek Association.

M. Michalocopoulos, in his reply referred to the proposal for the formation of an Anglo-Greek Association on the lines of a Chamber of Commerce for facilitating the ideals Mr. Vickers had in view. During their two days' visit to Sheffield the delegates had seen what the city could do towards winning a war for freedom, and they had no doubt that British industries would equally assist the Allies in the pursuit of their peaceful avocations.

Subsequently the delegates went on to the works of Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd., where, in the absence of Sir Robert Hadfield, the chairman, they were received by Mr. A. M. Jack, deputy-chairman, and Mr. P. B. Brown and Major Clarke, managing directors. Before the visitors left a message of welcome from Sir Robert Hadfield was read by Mr. Jack, who added a few words recalling the historic fame of Greece, and anticipating a great future for so progressive a nation. A visit to the cutlery works of Messrs. Joseph Rodgers and Sons, Ltd., and the Eclipse Roof Glazing works of Messrs. Mellowes and Co., Ltd., followed, and the delegates then left for Bradford.

At Bradford on October 4 the delegates went over the works of Sir Titus Salt, Bart., and Co., where they were presented with printed and illustrated souvenirs in commemoration of their visit. Subsequently they were entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Mr. H. H. Tetley, and the representatives of the Textile Institute, afterwards leaving for Harrogate where the week-end was to be spent.

The delegates left Harrogate on October 7 for Leeds, where they spent the morning in visiting the works of Messrs. Joshua Wilson and Sons, Ltd., and of Messrs. John Barran and Sons, Ltd. They were the guests of the Lord Mayor at the weekly gathering of the Leeds Luncheon Club, and in the afternoon inspected the works of Messrs. John Fowler and Co., Ltd. Later the visitors attended a reception given in their honour by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Town Hall, and in the evening they were the guests at dinner at the Queen's Hotel of the Federation of British Industries, when those present included local members of Parliament and the Lord Mayor. The toast of "The Future Prosperity of Greece" was proposed by the Lord Mayor, who, in extending a warm welcome to the visitors on behalf of the citizens, said that it was a great satisfaction to this country that Greece was her Ally in the cause of liberty and freedom.

M. Embiricos, who replied, said that the industrial needs of their country after the war would be great, and they looked confidently to Britain to help them. No doubt, for a period after the war, the demand for industrial products would be greater than the supply, and there might be a temptation to neglect the markets of the East. He urged that it would be good business, however, even at some sacrifice of home requirements, to meet the immediate needs of Greece promptly, so that she would not require to look to other sources. They had suffered from the aggressive commercial methods of Germany in the past, and now they looked to Britain to help them in developing their country.

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BRITISH PROPERTY IN TURKEY.

A recent issue of the *London Gazette* contains a Foreign Office announcement to the effect that his Majesty's Minister at The Hague has received from the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople a communication, dated August 17, notifying a decision of the Ottoman Council of Ministers, published on August 8, respecting the treatment of enemy property in Turkey. This decision was that in future the Minister of Finance must make arrangements for the management of real property belonging to absent enemies and managed by third parties. Such third parties were allowed ten days in which to give information respecting their connection with the property. After that delay the Fiscal Administration would take control of it. The Netherlands Minister at Constantinople pointed out to the Turkish Government that a simple Ministerial decision touching private rights had no legal force, and that he would protest if it were carried out. As far, he says, as could be judged from the Turkish official announcement inserted in the Constantinople newspapers in language of probably wilful obscurity, the decision in question concerned only property managed by third parties who had not obtained authority in proper form from their principals. It is desirable that this oversight should be remedied wherever possible by the supply of procurations in proper form. Such procurations must be legalised by the authorities charged with the protection of Turkish subjects in the United Kingdom. The Netherlands Legation suggests under "the usual reserve" that if necessary British subjects with real property in Turkey might nominate as manager of their property Mr. Emile Phatséa, Agence Immobilière and Commerciale, Arslan Han, Galata.

EGYPTIAN (ASSIOUT) EXPLORERS.

The following official circular has been issued:—"Since the present board have taken control they have been fortunate enough to secure from the Suez Oil Co. Prospecting License No. 53, granted by the Egyptian Government, entitling them to all oil rights on the Island of Jubal, in the Gulf of Suez, upon which already a considerable amount of boring has taken place. Several boreholes have been made on this concession, and oil and petroleum gas in quantities have been encountered. Oil was met in each bore put down, especially in boreholes No. 5 and 6, where the indications of meeting substantial oil horizons are very favourable. These two boreholes are on the north of the island and closer to the large outcrops of petroleum on the sea. Borehole No. 5 is already down 1,500 feet and No. 6 to about 200 ft., and the strata encountered in both borings gives great hopes of success. Satisfactory arrangements have been concluded for the provision of further working capital to enable this company to continue its boring operations at the earliest possible date."

OAKEY'S SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
WELLINGTON "WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
KNIFE POLISH. Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Subsoil Ploughing.

Reference has been made in these notes to the unusual demand for, and successful use of, sub-soil ploughs in the East. Oriental farmers have evidently been convinced by experience of the benefits derived from their use. Grain requires several tons of water to the acre, and in dry seasons, or in dry farming sections, the utmost care must be taken to conserve the moisture. When a sub-soil plough has been used the water is retained in the little trenches made in the sub-soil, and as the upper soil begins to dry the moisture spreads outward and upward, thus keeping the upper soil from baking or forming into what is known as hardpan. Another benefit obtained from the use of the subsoil plough is the loosening of the subsoil so that the roots of growing plants can penetrate more deeply into the soil in search of the elements needed for their growth. There are, however, many Oriental farmers and agriculturists who still adhere to the archaic native wooden plough, with its spear-shaped iron share of local construction, because modern ploughs, and especially subsoil ploughs, bring to the surface the subsoil which they think, owing to the prevailing climatic and geological conditions in the East, tend to disorganise the natural fertilising elements that exist in the top soil, and consequently, impoverish the whole soil. That this view is quite wrong we have often pointed out, but in view of the continuously increasing use of the sub-soil plough, it may interest those who still adhere to the old fashioned ploughs to know that there is a new sub-soil plough which in its operation is not open to their objection.

A New Plough.

This plough is a new invention, and its object is to break and turn over the sub-soil without bringing it to the surface, and to pulverise the top soil at the same time. The employment of this plough does not necessitate the purchase of a complete new plough, for whilst complete ploughs incorporating the invention can be furnished, the newly invented plough is designed to take the place of the ordinary ploughbody, mouldboard and ploughshare, and can be interchanged with these parts of any standard make of British steel horse plough. It is claimed that the power required is no more than is needed to work a single-furrow plough of the ordinary type, although a greater depth of from 50 to 100 per cent. is ploughed. This new plough is made in two forms, viz., the cultivating sub-soil plough, which acts as described, and the turn-furrow sub-soil plough, in which a turning-over effect is secured when it is desired to turn under surface vegetation and root growth. Either type can be employed, according to the nature of the work in hand. One frame will do for both types of shares. With the turn-furrow model the sub-soil is broken up and turned over the shoulder of the point into the furrow bed, at the same time as the breast breaks up the top soil and throws it down on the top of the broken-up and aerated subsoil. This plough will doubtless meet with a good reception throughout the East if properly introduced.

Engineering Prospects in Syria.

It is admitted that one result of the liberation of Palestine and Syria from the Turks will be a great development of engineering work in that interesting and fertile region, for just before the commencement of the war there was unusual activity in mineral developments, harbour works, industrial and agricultural enterprises, etc., all of which had to be abandoned. For the mineral developments a small company was formed in Damascus to procure mining concessions, and had five or six projects in hand, including prospecting for petroleum, etc., in the Yarmuk Valley, at about 115 to 118 miles distance by rail from Damascus on the Haifa line, and also in the Ghor el Arbian vale, which is rather nearer, and at Kafraniye, and again for iron in the district of Salt and near that town. In the vicinity of the Dead Sea the company proposed to prospect for iodine, bromium, asphalt, and bitumen, while for the coal or lignite at Erni, on Mount Hermon, a concession for ninety-nine years had been applied for, but, we believe, was not granted. A variety of constructional works, which included new harbour works at such places as Alexandretta and Mersina, were also proposed, and plans, etc., were submitted. There are, also, several other suitable spots with deep-water approaches where harbours could be constructed; but to carry out the work would have involved an outlay of between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000, and no arrangements could be safely made with Turkish officials. But with their final expulsion the aspect will be entirely changed, and British enterprise will undoubtedly play an important part in these and similar projects.

Agricultural Machinery Required

Agricultural prospects in the newly liberated districts of Syria are very promising, while those of the regions immediately to the north are still more so. Recent developments have necessitated the use of all kinds of modern implements and machinery. The Cilician Plain, in the province of Adana, annually produces about 110,000 bales of cotton, as well as large crops of cereals. With the irrigation of this plain and the draining of many marshy districts new areas will be cultivated, and in all of these crops will increase. The farms in these districts are mostly very large, and as labour is very scarce and expensive, machinery of all kinds is employed. In the same category is the district of Aleppo. The Mersina-Adana Railway and the Baghdad Railway run across these important agricultural and commercial districts, and afford exceptional transportation facilities for the heaviest machinery. Steam ploughs, threshing machines, reapers, binders, and ploughs are the principal kinds of agricultural machinery in demand. Steam ploughs and threshers have been supplied almost exclusively from the United Kingdom, while reapers and binders have practically all come from America; but ploughs of German make were generally preferred. This preference has been more noticeable in Southern Syria, where, owing to climatic conditions and the nature of the soil, the ploughs must be fitted with special devices for the purpose of disposing of the weeds, which grow very quickly, and in great abundance, and cutting devices are necessary which can be used on level ground. In certain parts of these districts the farmers would not have any other ploughs but German, simply because the enemy took the trouble to create special designs of ploughs as above described, which proved satisfactory to the buyers, and secured the local markets in that line. Fortunately, these markets will be lost to them now. It may be added that recent changes in Syria and Palestine should give to British manufacturers of agricultural machinery a unique opportunity to capture those very desirable markets.

An Effect of War Restrictions.

Recent reports and urgent inquiries from various parts of the East indicate that there must be a serious dearth of agricultural machinery throughout the East. The native home-made archaic plough has been brought to the front again, the semicircular native hand-scythe is in great demand in the absence of mechanical harvesters, while all available horses, mules, and oxen are engaged for work on the old threshing-floor during this and probably the next season, owing to the scarcity of threshing machines. At the same time, the liberation of vast areas of fertile lands in the Near and Middle East, which are now ready for cultivation, and the great demand for all kinds of cereals and other agricultural products, have a tantalising effect on the agriculturists in those regions, who can see that unless mechanical power is employed not one-half of the available land can be cultivated. Thus, the urgent demand for agricultural machinery and implements in those regions is well justified, and it would be a boon to them if the war restrictions on the export of such machinery for those friendly countries were withdrawn or moderated.

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IRRIGATION IN INDIA.

An interesting review of the progress of irrigation in British India for 1916-17 has recently been issued by the Public Works Department of the Government of India. It shows that the total area irrigated by all the productive public works amounted in the year to slightly more than seventeen million acres. Towards this total the Punjab canals contributed nearly eight million acres, Madras three and a half millions, the United Provinces two and a half millions, and Sind one and a half millions. The return on capital outlay was the highest in Madras, where, excepting two systems, the canals yielded 13.2 per cent., and in the Punjab, with a return of 12.99 per cent., while in the United Provinces and Sind percentages of 8.55 and 7.57 were obtained. The mean for the whole of India was 8.81 per cent. Protected works irrigated totalled 385,000 acres and gave a return of 1.08 per cent., while minor works of all classes irrigated altogether were about eight million acres. Among the works contemplated are the Sukkur Barrage and the Sind canal system, which is now being investigated by a special staff, the Sarda scheme in the United Provinces, and five schemes in the Punjab.

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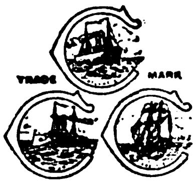

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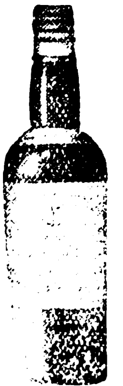

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Quiet.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has been decidedly quiet during the week. Both buyers and sellers have been inclined to mark time. The war news has had a disturbing effect upon trade. It is believed in many quarters that the end of the war is distinctly nearer as a result of the peace overtures of Germany. No one can tell what will happen to prices during the next few months, and all along the line there has been an inclination to avoid fresh commitments. The restrictions upon trading in Egyptian cotton continue very harassing. Many spinners are now refusing to entertain private orders on any terms whatever, as there is so much uncertainty as to getting hold of raw material, and sufficient work can be obtained from Government sources. Prices have been very firm in both carded and combed descriptions, but less business has been about than a few weeks ago. Favourable reports have again come through relating to the crop in Egypt. In piece goods for Egypt the demand has been slower. Although there are expectations of a broadening demand for that part of the world as a result of the success of the Allied armies, the distribution of goods is likely to be seriously hampered until the war is over. There has been no activity whatever for India and China. Some very fair orders have been booked for France. The home trade remains healthy. Rather more irregularity has been perceptible in American yarn prices, and a very limited business has been done. This week there has been an inquiry in Manchester by the tribunal appointed by the Government into the recent labour dispute. The outlook for supplies of American cotton in Lancashire is improving. In order to adjust production, however, it is being proposed that looms should be stopped for a full week to relieve the yarn scarcity.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner (Mr. D. T. Chadwick) has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 2 :—

Both monsoons weak. Rain has fallen in parts of the Deccan and Carnatic, but rain is much needed in most of the country.

Fine Broach Cotton ready for delivery quoted at Rs. 852.

Raw jute prices slightly easier. Europe Fours 13 rupees 4 annas.

Burma rice market unsettled, owing to speculation. Urgent demands from Java, Japan, Madras. Prices rising to Rs.400.

Export of rice Rangoon for Bengal prohibited.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days :—

	1917. Francs.	1918. Francs.
September 25	200,000	50,000
September 26, 27, 28, 29..	690,000	810,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Traffic Return for eleven days ended August 31 :—

	1917. £E	1918. £E
Aug. 21—Aug. 31........	6,813	10,890
April 1—Aug. 31	86,101	121,338

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Barsi Light Railway.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway Company, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings for the year, less Indian income tax and super tax, amounted to £26,423 14s. 3d., or, adding the exchange adjustment of £1,413 1s. 5d., £27,836 15s. 8d. After providing the interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, etc., on the "Latur Extension" debentures, £5,646, there is left £16,590 15s. 8d., which, with the balance of £11,447 8s. 8d. brought forward from the previous year, makes £28,038 4s. 4d. at credit of net revenue account. The directors have transferred £1,035 9s. 4d. to credit of reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, etc., which account now stands at £76,000, and have reserved £200 15s. as a provision for income tax on undistributed profits. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. (or 6s. per share) was paid on April 26 last, and the directors now recommend that a final dividend of 3 per cent. (6s. per share) be paid. This will make a total distribution of 6 per cent. for the year and leave £11,202 to be carried forward. As against the previous year there is a decrease of 252,300 passengers and Rs1,47,493 in coaching traffic and sundry receipts, and of 31,400 tons and Rs1,16,906 in goods traffic, making a total decrease of Rs 2,64,399; on the other hand working expenses show a decrease of Rs35,342, so that the decrease in net earnings as compared with last year is reduced to Rs2,29,057.

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., for the year ended April 30 last states that, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, profits were £36,162, as compared with £11,599 for 1917, £29,001 for 1916 and £6,285 in 1915. After providing for charges payable in London and Cairo net profit was £33,739; £3,931 was brought forward, making £37,669. Deducting Debenture interest, one-fifth of debenture expenses, reducing the balance carried forward on this account to nil, depreciation of plant, fixtures and fittings at hotels £4,823, reserve for doubtful debts £4,333, reserve for writing down the debt due from the Societe Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels £10,000, there is left £14,428. The directors recommend the payment of two years' dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, thus completing the payment to 1917, and to carry forward £2,928. Meeting, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., 14th instant, 2.30 p.m.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The half-yearly coupons for interest of the Ottoman 4 per cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute, due on the 10th ult., are being paid from that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Company, 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

The directors of the Assam Company announce a final dividend of 7½ per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent., or a total of £3 10s. per share, less tax, making 25 per cent. for the year 1917, payable 1st proximo.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Second mortgage debenture stock transfer books will be closed from 17th to 31st instant, inclusive. Interest payable November 1.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

We have had another dull and uninteresting week. Here the local business has been of quite a trivial character, and there has been a continued tendency on behalf of holders on this side to realise for investment in other more active directions, so that on the whole most changes in prices are again towards a slightly lower level. Intrinsic conditions in Egypt, however, continue to be exceedingly satisfactory, and a renewal of interest is likely to come along at any moment.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are ½ down at 91½, and the 3½ per Cent. Pref. Loans have declined ¾ to 79. A feature has been the rise in Montenegrin and Roumanian Bonds, which have both advanced several points since last week, the former to 73 and the latter to 68.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ firmer at 20¾, and Agriculturals 1-32 lower at 7⅛. An outstanding feature has again been the very sharp advance in Anglo-Egyptian Banks, which have risen over three points to 21½.

In railways Delta Lights are ⅛ higher at 7⅜, the good traffic receipts and the prospects for this concern after the war attracting buyers.

In Land shares Aboukirs have receded 6d. to 23s. 6d., and Behéras are ⅛ down at 14⅞. Delta Lands, after business up to 16s. 9d., are closing 3d. easier at 16s., and New Egyptians are 9d. down at 20s. 6d. On the other hand, Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have been a very firm spot, and are 3d. higher at 13s. 10½d., whilst there has also been a demand during the past few days for Gharbieh Lands, which are ⅛ up at 2¾, some hundreds of shares having changed hands at the latter price. Sidi Salems and Union Foncières have both slightly receded, the former 3-32, to 2 23-32, and the latter 9d. to 72s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares there has been a fair amount of business in both Salts and Sodas and Khedivial Mails, the former close 1-16 down at 62s. 6d., whilst the latter, on some persistent buying, have improved 2s. to 63s. 6d.

In Greek securities quotations are all unchanged, with the exception of Greek Monopolies, which are one point lower at 66½, and Rentes, which have dropped half a point to 58. Some 200 Bank of Athens shares were done in the neighbourhood of 4 15-16, round which price there are some further sellers.

Oil Shares.

A weak tone has been in evidence in this market. Roumanian Consols have fallen back to 15s., and Russians are all lower. Anglo-Egyptians (B) are 2 9-16, and Anglo-Persian preferences are 24s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares have been the feature of the market. Their closing price, 5,650 francs, represents a decline of 50 francs on the previous day's price, but even then marks an advance of 250 francs on the week. Egyptian Unifieds are 95.95 (against 96 a week ago), and other prices are Serbian 4 per cent. 1895's 66.75 (against 64.50), Turkish Unifieds 63 (against 64), Banque d'Athens 108.50 (against 115), Credit Foncier Egyptien 800 (against 780), Land Banks 210.50 (against 215), and Ottoman Banks 465.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 2	Oct. 9
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	91½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79¾	79
Greek 5 %, 1881..................	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884..................	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887..........	49	67½	66½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	58½xd	58
Do. 5 %, 1890..................	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902......	77	69	69
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910......	—	66	66
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	73
Persia 5% 1911	91	76	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	68
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	7 5/32	7⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank...........	12	18⅜	21½
Bank of Athens..................	£2	4⅞	4 15/16
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	8¼	8¼
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅝	20¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7¼	7¾
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	70½xd	70½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	55	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	15	14⅞
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh....................	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	13/7½	13/10½
Gharbieh Land Co..............	1¾	2⅝	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/3	20/6
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	56/3	2 27/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	73/3	72/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12½	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord..........	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer..	11/16	63/9	62/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	61/6	63/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

"On 'Change" will be found on the previous page.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 389.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Very little reliable information has emerged from Constantinople during the past week. The report that the Talaat-Enver Ministry had made way for a new Cabinet under Tewfik Pasha, a former Grand Vizier and Turkish Ambassador in London at the outbreak of the war, is now followed by the statement that Tewfik Pasha has been unable to form a Ministry, and that the task has been entrusted to Izzet Pasha. On the other hand from Vienna it is announced that the first step taken by the new Cabinet was to notify the Austro-Hungarian Government that, owing to the military situation, Turkey would be obliged to conclude a separate peace with the Entente. The Central Powers are said to have requested Turkey to await the result of the exchange of Notes with President Wilson. It was, indeed, generally supposed that negotiations of this nature were in progress between Turkey and her allies, for it was the natural course for the parties concerned to adopt. The prospect of obtaining peace without capitulation could not fail to appeal to the Turkish Government, and we may be sure that Germany would have held out the highest hopes of a favourable issue to her peace soundings.

If the Central States made no other reply to the Turkish communication, it is a clear indication of the way in which they read the signs of the times. The ever-dutiful German Press reflects the resigned attitude of the powers that be. The attempt to meet the Bulgarian capitulation with assurances that German troops would quickly restore the situation fell very flat, and only a few papers seem to have returned twice to the charge. For a day or two there were confident assertions that all would be well in Turkey in spite of the defection of Bulgaria, but these were quickly abandoned in favour of a tame acceptance of the new situation. It can only be supposed that Germany's own parlous condition is so well understood that the Press has no heart left for pretending that things with their allies are better than they actually are. A noticeable feature of these peace overtures is the readiness with which Germany prepares to throw over the partners in her crimes, if haply by so doing she may secure some respite for herself. The Central Alliance is indulging in *sauve qui peut* tactics, and no one country is in the least bit interested in the fate of its companions in distress. Later reports, however, represent the Germans in Constantinople as making a desperate bid for the retention of their hold on Turkey. Twenty men-of-war, commanded by German officers, are said to be off Constantinople. The intention is clearly to keep the Young Turks in power for as long as possible.

A fortnight ago the Central Powers, according to the statements of their public men and the Press, were going to reverse the situation in Bulgaria, and certainly had no intention of releasing their hold on Serbia. They did contrive to send reinforcements into Serbia, but these have imposed hardly any check on the rapid advance of the Allies. The defence of Nish appears to have been brilliantly turned by an outflanking movement which brought the Serbians to the north of the town, and the resistance of the enemy, although only broken after severe fighting, proved to be less formidable than had been anticipated. With this town in their possession the Serbians have now recovered half their country.

The naval attack on Durazzo has quickly been followed by the capture of the town by the Italians, a testimony to the effective work done by the Allied navies. Tirana, ten miles to the east, has also fallen. With General d'Esperey's left wing already in occupation of Prisrend and Mitrovitza—that is to say, established on the flank of Montenegrin territory—it is clear that the Austrians are not likely to tarry long on the order of their going from Albania. Indeed, if the Allies could advance any distance into Montenegro in time, they would probably secure the liberation of the unhappy inhabitants at a stroke, and find a useful number of them ready, provided they could be suitably armed, to cut off the retreat of the Austrians retiring before the Italian advance in Albania.

The presence in London of the Prime Ministers of Greece and Serbia and of M. Take Jonescu, who may be regarded as representative of the Roumania that is to be after the war, is more than a coincidence, and it is to be hoped that the result of their visit, which follows upon less formal discussions on the Continent, will be a final and satisfactory agreement between the Entente Powers and the three Balkan States regarding the future settlement of South-Eastern Europe. It will have been noted that the public utterances of M. Venizelos and M. Pashitch regarding the peace conditions to be imposed on Bulgaria betray a more profound grasp of the situation than the rhodomontades of some British enthusiasts. Neither of these statesmen is likely to lose sight of the fact that the future prosperity of the Balkans must be based on a recognition of the community of interests of all the States. M. Pashitch is reported to have said that, as far as Serbia is concerned, only "a very slight rectification of the frontier to assure the safety of our railways to Roumania and Salonika" is needed. Until the nature of the rectification indicated is made known, all that can usefully be said on the subject is that in the delimitation of Balkan frontiers the most zealous care must be given to the principle of nationalities, and no group of people must be left under alien jurisdiction without the opportunity being given them of being transferred without pecuniary loss to their own country.

A more formal declaration of war aims emanates from Athens on the authority of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. It opens with the statement that Greece would certainly be greatly disappointed if the coming Peace Congress did not sanction her aspirations, and if important portions of Hellas actually under foreign domination were not to be freed. She will, therefore, "ask at the Peace Congress that these mortgages be paid off in order that Epirus, Macedonia, Thrace, the islands, and the countries of Hellenic influence in Asia Minor may develop freely in full communion of thought with the mother country, securing the unity of political regime towards which for so many centuries the efforts of the unredeemed Greeks have tended." The Foreign Minister added: "I conceive Pan-Hellenism, not in the form of absolute annexations, but of intermediary solutions, such as autonomy for certain districts and a regime of guarantees for others."

Generalisations are never more dangerous than when used in connection with peace terms. It was in the hope of avoiding all vague allusions to the aspirations of this or that country that we have urged an early delimitation of frontiers according to the principles to which the Allies are pledged. There ought to be sufficient confidence among the Allies to prevent them from feeling obliged to peg out their claims in public with a view to bringing pressure on other States. We trust most sincerely that Greece will not have to bring her aspirations to the Peace Congress, to be urged on her behalf and challenged on the part of another Power. The Peace Congress, if the Allies are wise, will be called to give formal sanction to agreements already reached. Thus Greece would attend it with her aspirations already satisfied as the result of a previous exchange of views among the Allied Powers immediately concerned. Any other course must lead to misunderstanding and disappointments.

A not uninteresting feature of the situation in Bulgaria is the apparent success of King Boris's efforts to adapt himself to the times. As one speech does not necessarily make a good or even a democratic Sovereign, it will not argue an excess of scepticism, if judgment is withheld on this point for the present. But the young King's record will be followed with interest, for so much depends on his being able to act up to the promise of a favourable start. The Bulgarians, though democratically inclined, are monarchical by instinct, and the right man on the throne could lead the country to a happy and prosperous future. But unless Bulgaria can produce a second Stambuloff, it is to be feared that King Boris will have a difficult task ahead of him in eliminating the political dross which overlies certain national virtues. When normal diplomatic relations with Bulgaria are restored the Allies will find it to be to the general interest of Europe that they should be represented, for a considerable time at least, in the Bulgarian capital by some of their ablest diplomatists.

A future historian, it is to be hoped, will do justice to the political struggle of the Czecho-Slovaks and Yugoslavs of the Dual Monarchy for liberty. The story of the Czecho-Slovak troops in Russia and Siberia is a thrilling one, but it will probably be found not to surpass in real heroism the stand made by their fellow-nationals against the tyranny and the cajolery of the Austro-Hungarian Government. The movement, it has to be remembered, has been carried out almost entirely in the open. Congresses have been held, attended by delegates selected for the purpose, and the right of self-determination has been publicly insisted upon. In their feverish efforts to stave off the inevitable, the Austro-Hungarian authorities are now prepared to grant the Yugoslavs some of the autonomy that they desire, if they will stay within the Monarchy to enjoy it. But the solidarity of feeling between the two sections of the Yugoslav people—those in Austria-Hungary and those outside it—is too strong to allow the former to prejudice their case by any compromise at this stage.

In the successes that have attended British arms in Palestine and Syria the part played by the Arabs must not be overlooked. The Hejaz forces have had their work cut out for them in coping with Turkish resistance in Medina and along the Hejaz Railway; but they have stuck to it for three years, and now have had the satisfaction of playing their part in what may be regarded as the goal of the Arab revolt, the liberation of Damascus from Turkish rule. It was fitting, therefore, that the capture of this city should have been made the occasion of an exchange of congratulatory telegrams between the Hejaz and Great Britain. On the very day when the King had telegraphed to congratulate King George on the capitulation of Bulgaria the news of the entry into Damascus reached him, and necessitated a second message. King George replied with a graceful allusion to the generalship of the Emir Faisal and to the gallantry of the Arab troops, "whose effective co-operation contributed so materially to the success of the Allied operations which resulted in the liberation of Damascus and in the extension of Arab emancipation from tyranny." Another telegram was sent to King Hussein by the British Foreign Secretary. The operations which have ended so successfully began on August 31, when the Arab detachment left Akaba. Damascus was reached on October 3, after a march that tested both the power of endurance and the leadership of Emir Faisal's forces. The capture of Homs brings the British and Arab forces within ninety miles of Aleppo.

The India Office has at last issued the complete list of the two Committees whose business is to get in the foundations for the new Indian constitution. The Committees are small, as they ought to be, if business is meant; they are fairly well balanced, and most of the names command confidence. Lord Southborough, who is in general charge of both, is probably the most experienced chairman in the world, but his deputy-chairman, Sir Frank Sly, has an almost equally remarkable record in this line, and, at any rate, the business should be accomplished with despatch. It is quite possible that the "Functions" Committee may achieve something like unanimity, but it would be rash to make a similar prediction regarding its sister body, which has to work out a system of franchises and constituencies, and thus, as we indicate elsewhere, to determine the future of the Reform Scheme regarded as a whole.

The project of inviting representatives of the overseas Press to visit Great Britain during the war would not have been complete, unless the editors of Indian papers had also been the guests of the nation. Those who are now touring Great Britain are fortunate in the time of their visit. They come when interest in Indian affairs runs as high as the engrossing nature of the military situation allows, and they are welcome no less for what they can tell of India to those with whom they come in contact than for what we hope will be the nature of the message that they will carry back with them to India. Their mission will be not only to record something of what they see, but to interpret the meaning of all that they see to the people of India in the light of their own intelligence and wider experience. For Great Britain's work in India cannot be properly understood unless it is considered in relation to her work, her spirit, and her responsibilities at home. Their visit, we hope, will prove both agreeable and instructive.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 9.

His Highness the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan gave a State banquet at Ras el Tin Palace last week in honour of Mr. H. Garry, the newly-appointed United States representative, and Mrs Garry. The other guests included the Ministers and some of the leading British and American residents. H.E. Rushdi Pasha was not able to attend, owing to an attack of Spanish influenza. One is glad to add, however, that the able Prime Minister is fast recovering from his indisposition, and will shortly resume his duties.

Last Sunday a somewhat curious misunderstanding occurred arising out of the inconsequent manner in which the European and Arabic calendars are followed in this country, and as a result of which many officials absented themselves from their offices. The misunderstanding arose in connection with the birthday of the Sultan, which is always kept as a public holiday. His Highness was born on 2nd Zul Hedja, 1284, corresponding with March 26, 1868. This year the Arabic date fell on Sunday last, and those who were taken in and snatched an illicit holiday forgot that when the Protectorate was declared it was decided that the birthday and accession day of the sovereign should be celebrated according to the Gregorian calendar, the dates in the case of Sultan Fuad being respectively March 26 and October 9.

The Cotton Sacks Question.

Previous letters have drawn attention to the various economic crises through which this country has passed and is passing. To these has now been added that of sacks. Sacks are used in very large numbers every year for the movement of the cotton crop. They consist of cotton packs for the unginned cotton and grain sacks for the cotton seed; the ginned cotton being packed in steam and hydraulically-pressed bales for which the sacking of old sacks is used. Practically all are imported from India, the Calcutta variety being the one most in use. Since the war the demand has increased considerably, owing to the requirements of the military authorities, and whereas 10,000 tons were imported in 1913, last year the figure reached 22,000 tons. An idea of the number required may be gathered from the fact that most of the sacks imported are of 3 lbs. variety.

Owing to the rise in freights and the difficulty in securing shipping, the prices of sacks, as of other important commodities, have increased during the past three years; but latterly the market has risen in an unwarrantable fashion, and cotton pack prices have now reached the preposterous level of P.T.37 apiece, although C.I.F. Suez quotations are only P.T.22. Even at these prices very few lots are offering on the local market, and a veritable sack famine has come into existence. The position has become so serious that the Supplies Control Board has had to intervene and to issue a notice pointing out that it has ascertained that adequate supplies exist ready for export in India, and will be imported to meet this year's requirements, and adding that arrangements are being made with the Indian Government for the control of the export of sacks to Egypt and of the prices at which they may be sold in this country. Action has been taken by the Government none too soon; for the movement of the cotton crop has already started. That there can really be no very great scarcity in the country is proved by the fact that the imports up to the end of July amounted to 11,000 tons as compared with 6,500 tons at the same date in 1917. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that the importers hold adequate stocks, but that, taking advantage of shipping difficulties, they have held off the market in order to force up prices. The action now taken should, however, bring these gentry to their senses and cause an unloading of present stocks on the market, with a considerable lowering of prices and a consequent settlement of the crisis.

The State Railways.

As was recorded in this correspondence at the time, the fares on the Egyptian State Railways were doubled and the train service considerably curtailed on July 1 last. The reason for this was: first, that the cost of coal, etc., has gone up enormously, and great difficulty was being experienced in repairing and replacing rolling stock, and, secondly, that it was hoped that the rise in fares would reduce the number of passengers which the railways would be called upon to carry. The high cost of coal and the other difficulties still exist, and in this respect the action of the administration has been fully justified. On the other hand, the expectations as to a decrease in passenger traffic have not been realised. On the contrary, the numbers have increased to an enormous extent, the reason being that the general public is so well off that, as in the case of ordinary commodities in daily use, a rise in prices does not deter them from indulging in their desires. Something will certainly have to be done in this connection; for at present it is almost impossible to obtain a seat, and quite half the passengers, especially those in second-class, travel in the corridors, which are in addition encumbered with small luggage, and along which there is at times no means of moving. The present state of affairs reacts somewhat unfortunately on those who have to travel in the public interest or whose journeys are a necessary part of the country's economic and commercial life, whilst, of course, the overcrowded state of the carriages might quite easily conduce to an aggravation of any accident occurring to a train. From every point of view, therefore, it is to be hoped that before long some system will be evolved whereby the passenger traffic will be controlled and kept within more reasonable limits, though it must be admitted that the problem is no easy one to solve.

The Lighting Regulations.

A modification of the lighting regulations has been introduced this week. These regulations were first enacted two years ago after the one and only air raid made on Cairo by the Turks, but to-day there is no reason beyond the necessity of economy in light why Cairo after nightfall should become a city of darkness. Henceforward, provided the illuminations are not unnecessarily brilliant, it will not be necessary to close the shutters of rooms where lights are burning, and it will be possible to sit on balconies and in gardens with shaded lamps. At a time like the present, when the summer heat is on, this relaxation of the regulations is doubly welcome, whilst the modification in regard to vehicles and the removal of the side shades from the street lamps will, it may be hoped, avoid the street accidents which of late have unfortunately been somewhat frequent.

PREHISTORIC EGYPT.

Recently, at University College, London, Professor Flinders Petrie commenced a course of lectures on prehistoric Egypt. He said that the pottery found in the graves of these very early Egyptians had now been classified into periods, and it was possible to determine the position in time of a grave, if sufficient pottery were found in it. The pots were decorated in white lines, and one of the earliest examples contained representations of the Barbary sheep and the African goat. Many African plants could be identified in the decoration. No wheel was used, but the work was done entirely by hand, aided by no tool except a piece of stick. The Kabyle pottery still found in the highlands of Algeria was a direct lineal descendant from the stock from which had sprung the white line pottery of prehistoric Egypt. Representations of the human figure were also found; these had very wide-spread ears—the ears of hunters, to whom it was necessary to catch the slightest sound brought on the breeze—and these wide-spread ears remained until the first dynasty. Carved ivory tusks were found decorated with representations of the head of a bearded race. All the evidence showed that the people of prehistoric Egypt had an extraordinary skill in many of the arts and a keen appreciation of nature. Some remains had been found of people of the Bushman type, and, from the fact that these were always women, it was to be inferred that they were female slaves. They were of an altogether lower type than the masters of the country, and were probably the remains of a Paleolithic race, of which the men had been driven out or killed, while the women remained as slaves.

We much regret that in our Letter from Caira, published in our issue of September 27, the name of Mr. A. H. Sharman was wrongly spelt ("Sharmann").

MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, October 7.

Overseas Communications.

Owing to temporary conditions, mails from the French zone to Tangier are very much delayed, and occasionally letters take a month on the journey.

The question of shipping in general has now reached a very acute stage. For a long time past merchants in the French zone have not been allowed to export cereals, which have been bought for export to France by the military authorities. It now appears that the arrangements made for shipping have not provided sufficient tonnage to carry the available surplus of the very large crops, and a notice has been published that, owing to the congestion at the ports, the military authorities will, for the time, curtail their purchases, and will buy only wheat and barley; and even the buying of those grains will only be carried on within certain limits. As a very great deal of the grain bought by the authorities for shipment is customarily stacked in racks at the ports, with no covering but tarpaulins, it is no doubt prudent, in the absence of shipping to carry off the accumulations, to avoid adding to the quantity which, as experience in other years has shown, is thus exposed to great damage by the weather. Any cessation of buying by the authorities through whom almost the whole export trade is now carried on, has, however, such a dislocating effect on the trade of the whole country that the French Press is protesting energetically at the failure to make provision in time for the known shipping needs, or, failing that, to provide safe storage for grain awaiting shipment.

Questions of Property.

Considerable progress has now been made in settling, so far as British subjects are concerned, the difficult question of *makhzen* and *habous* properties. As the Moorish Government used to make it practically impossible for Christians to buy freehold properties, merchants were compelled to obtain houses and premises on such tenures as could be procured. In some cases land or buildings were rented from the Moorish Government (Makhzen), in others that Government built premises for merchants and charged a rent proportionate to the expense, while, in very many, rights of enjoyment of properties held or administered by the religious body known as the "habous" were bought. Since the French occupation the value of most properties has increased greatly, and the authorities have been taking steps to examine into the question of the rights that have been acquired over "makhzen" and "habous" properties.

In the case of "habous" property held by British subjects attempts have recently been made to clear up the whole question and make a friendly and definite settlement of the rights involved, and, in the majority of cases, it is understood, an arrangement, satisfactory on the whole to all interests, has been reached. Similar steps are being taken with regard to "makhzen" property questions, and it is to be hoped similar results will be obtained.

"Our Day" Fete.

At the end of last month a fête in aid of the British Red Cross "Our Day" Fund, organized by the British colony, was held in Tangier, and proved an immense success. A considerable contingent of visitors came over from Gibraltar, and an admiral arrived in his flagship and was good enough to allow his excellent band to give its assistance to the event. The whole of the fête, which had many original features, was capitally arranged, and, with the powerful help of Gibraltar visitors and the great attraction of the band, proved as financially satisfactory as it was enjoyable. It is generally held to have been the most successful event of its kind known in Tangier for many years. Almost every section of the Tangier population lent generous assistance, but perhaps the most noteworthy support received was that from the very large and important Jewish community. It has always had considerable British sympathies, but has rarely shown them so cordially and universally as on this occasion. A few weeks ago the official films of the Palestine campaign and the entry into Jerusalem were shown at the theatre here, and were followed with intense interest and approval by a crowded audience, which was very largely Jewish. There can be little doubt that the evidence furnished by these films, added to that which the course of the war has provided, of the British Empire's widespread power and the scrupulous care of the rights, interests and prejudices of small nations and communities shown in its exercise, have increased the existing respect and confidence of the Jews here. Both liking and interest make them anxious to testify their sympathy with an Empire which, they recognise, can offer enormous commercial opportunities. Altogether the fête, especially in view of the comparative smallness of the British colony, was a surprisingly successful and popular effort, and incidentally it furnished pleasing proof of the extent of the sympathy felt, in a very mixed community, towards the British Empire and the Allies' cause.

◆

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Inter-departmental Committee on Prisoners of War announces that steps are being taken for securing the better treatment of our prisoners in Turkish hands; and instructions have been given to General Allenby that, in the event of an armistice being concluded with Turkey, the immediate and unconditional return of the British prisoners should be required.

◆

THE VALUE OF ARABIC.

Lecturing recently at the School of Oriental Studies on "Arabic as a Medium of Education and Commerce," Mr. Alexander Séfi said that it was from the schools of Baghdad and Cordova that culture spread to the West, and the Arabs rendered notable services in those days to geography, history, philosophy, medicine, physics, astronomy, and mathematics. It was they who introduced Aristotle to European philosophers. They extended considerably the knowledge of the world's limits in Asia and Africa; and they made better known to the Europeans, Arabia, Syria, Persia, Tartary, Southern Russia, China, and Hindustan. Africa to this day seems incapable of assimilation except by the Arabs, whose frugal habits and simple religion were no drawback to their aptitude for commerce, industry, and agriculture.

The field of Arabic is, therefore, said the lecturer, very extensive and the fixing of the language by means of the Koran is a great advantage. The language itself is admittedly one of the most polished known. Some men call it the language of Angels (*lissan-ul-Malyekat*), though others say that Eve tempted Adam in Arabic, they talked love in Persian, and were ejected from Paradise in Turkish! Its literature is certainly a mental treat, but the charm of its poetry, like its music with its quarter tones, can only be faintly conveyed by translation into European languages. Arabic poetry is lyrical; and so not only measure but rhyme are necessary in its composition. Rhyme was introduced into European poetry in imitation of the Arabian poetry. Similarly with the Koran, a great deal of its beauty is lost by translation, and on that account that beauty is sometimes questioned. Hence the translation of the Koran, for ritual purposes, is forbidden.

Mr. Séfi gave examples of Arabian poetry, and a translation of a vigorous speech by Ibn-Hamza, upbraiding the Medina citizens for their treachery. It is a magnificent speech in periods, choice language, expression and sentiments, which our pacifists might learn much from. Mr. Séfi recommended to Arabic students the "Makamat" of El-Hariri, El-Hamazani, El-Yasigi, as being the Shakespeare and Tennyson of the Arabs.

◆

The Postmaster-General announces that letters and parcels intended for delivery to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and the Salonika Force by Christmas should be posted so as to reach London well in advance of the final dates given below:—Parcels for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, November 5; letters, November 12. Parcels for the Salonika Force, November 21; letters, November 28. Christmas puddings should not be sent. Arrangements have been made for the supply of puddings to troops overseas in all theatres of war for the coming Christmas.

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VELES.

By Tch. Georgevitch.

After emerging from the narrows below Zelenikova, the Vardar flows through a valley, three miles long and two miles wide, girdled in the west by a semicircle of mountains and in the other directions by rocky hills. At the exit of this valley and stretching along both banks of the river at a spot where the Vardar again enters narrows lies the town of Veles, called by the Turks Kupriuliu, on account of its situation, and of the bridge which connects both sections of the town.

Veles is a very ancient place. Polybius mentions it under the name of Bylazoraos, the chief township of Pasoniæ. It was situated on the western bank of the Vardar, ten minutes distant from the Veles of to-day, to whose early existence the ruins of two churches (according to local and perhaps exaggerated tradition, there used to be thirty-six) bear witness.

Veles has known many conquerors. In 216 B.C. King Philip of Macedon wrested it from the Dardanacee; in 168 B.C. the Romans conquered it along with the rest of Macedonia, and it remained under the rule of the Eastern Roman Empire up to the end of the ninth century. Then the Bulgars succeeded in invading Macedonia, and they were able to maintain themselves there until 969, when the Macedonian Slavs shook off the Bulgarian yoke. Within a few years, in 973, the young Slav State fell under Greek supremacy; but under the leadership of their heroic chieftain Samuils and his brother, the Macedonian Slavs emancipated Macedonia from the Greeks and re-established their Slav realm, which extended from the Adriatic to the Ægean, and within a short time included Bulgaria as well. After the fall of this Macedonian Empire (in 1018) Veles passed with it once more under Greek rule. When the Crusaders overthrew the Greek Empire in 1204 the Bulgarian Tsar Kalojan availed himself of the opportunity to seize Eastern Macedonia, and perhaps also Veles, since in 1205 Ochrida was included within his territory. After Kalojan's fall in 1207 Veles again became a Greek possession, and remained so till 1230 when the Bulgarian Tsar Jovan Asen II. reconquered the whole of Macedonia, and therefore also Veles. But only sixteen years later the Greeks seized it once more, and it remained uninterruptedly under their rule until the reign of the Serbian King Stevan Decanski (1321-1331), who united it for good with Serbia. In Dusan's reign, Veles—which Archbishop Danilo of Ochrida speaks of as the "illustrious" city—was governed by the famous Serbian despot Jovan Oliver, the father-in-law of Simeon Nemanjic, Tsar Dusan's half-brother on his father's side.

When the Turks conquered Macedonia, Veles, the site of which had now moved a little further to the north, likewise passed under their rule. In this seventh century a Serbian Episcopal See was established in the town. The Serbs took Veles from the Turks in 1912.

Veles is a notable trade centre. As it lies on the main line from Belgrade to Salonika, it is one of the principal export stations for the fertile neighbouring lowlands, especially the Ovce Polje (sheepfield). To-day the population of Veles numbers about 26,000, by far the greater part of whom are Serbs.

◆

THE KING AND THE SALONIKA FORCE

The following telegram has been sent by the King to General Sir George Milne, commanding British Forces at Salonika:—

"I warmly congratulate you and all ranks under your command upon the brilliant success achieved in concert with our Allies, resulting in the surrender of the Bulgarian army. I fully realise the hardships and unfavourable climatic conditions which have rendered the service of the troops especially arduous, and, therefore, still more praiseworthy."

◆

MONTENEGRO.

A striking and remarkable picture is now being exhibited in Messrs. Arthur Tooth and Sons' gallery, 155, New Bond Street. It is the work of the Montenegrin artist, M. Smodlaka, and represents Montenegro in the form of a woman seated and fettered in a gloomy cell. The red light of a lantern casts a sombre glow upon a figure that is the personification of desolation and misery. Through the bars of a window high up on the wall can be seen the moonlit Mount Lovtchen, the burial-place of the Montenegrin saint-hero, and the centre-point of all the national aspirations of the people of the Black Mountain. The moonlight forms the one bright spot in the picture, and typifies the national hope of the dawn of freedom and happiness. This picture, which should be seen by all who are interested in Balkan art, is exhibited by the kindness of Messrs. Tooth and Sons in order to arouse interest in the suffering people of Montenegro, and in the work of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund of London.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is a pleasure to be able to congratulate the Serbians most heartily upon the recovery of Nish. As towns go in the West, it is an insignificant bit of a place, no doubt; but it is the second largest town in Serbia, and—which is more to boast of, if I may hazard an opinion—it is a splendidly picturesque place. I have never been in it, but I have passed through it in the Orient Express, with a halt long enough to impress its picture on my memory; and I felt strongly drawn to it. It looked an ideal place for Anthony Hope to select as a background for one of his "Prisoner-of-Zenda-y" stories. I only hope the Austrians and Germans have not ruined it as they have ruined so many pleasant places.

⁂

The *Englishman* recently referred to the hard case of a "helpless but respectable" Kap Brahmin who, finding himself "in great difficulties in getting one of his grown-up daughters married," wrote to a local paper appealing for help. The poor man appears to have been so distressed by the dulness of the marriage market that he lost his head to the extent of suggesting that the paper's "numerous readers" should go to his assistance. On this, the *Englishman*, doubtless remembering the letter-writer's respectability, comments severely: "We should have thought one would have been sufficient!" Of course, only one can *win* the prize, but the respectable Kap Brahmin probably hoped to get a large number of entries, so to say; for he stipulates that, though he does not object to a "middle-aged secondary bridegroom," he shall not be called on to keep the happy pair. To my mind, the incident opens up horrible possibilities of a "Who'll Wed My Daughter?" correspondence in our own Press.

⁂

Extravagance in the matter of schools seems to be rather a weakness with "the authorities" wherever Schools and Authorities are to be found. No doubt it is agreeable to spend money on children, even if those children happen to be not your own—so long as a similar condition attaches to the money spent. What the unhappy ratepayers who have to pay for the extravagance think about the subject seldom troubles the Authorities, as far as one can judge. But, even so, I should think that the record in this line must at present lie with a certain Provincial Council in Egypt which, according to a native journal, the *Watan*, runs a school that costs £E900 a year, has six teachers, and—five pupils! This should certainly render it possible for each pupil to receive that individual attention which—the private pedagogues assure us in their prospectuses—is so necessary to success. Indeed, we may surely expect Akmim, the town so favoured in this respect, to turn out paragons of learning in the near future.

⁂

We hear in these days a great deal of abuse of the "profiteer"; and, as far as I can judge, most of it is justified up to the hilt. But we seldom hear any praise of the tradesman, the employer, or the landlord who remembers that "there is a war on," so to say. In fact, judging by the silence on this subject, there would seem to be no decent landlords or employers, and all the virtues would appear to have been monopolised by the People. My own experience leads me to think that in this case, as in one or two others, things are not what they seem. And in case my own experience may be regarded as insufficient warrant for saying a good word for dogs with bad names, I may remind my readers that early in the war several landlords in Alexandria informed their tenants that they might pay their rent when and as might be convenient to them. Unless my memory mis-serves me, too, one of these generous property owners further announced that any tenant of his who might be out of work need not pay any rent during the period of the war. If that philanthropist had as tenants some workers (so-called) I have heard of—who do not live in Egypt—they would doubtless grumble because he had not offered to support their wives and families. This is, I fear, an ungrateful world.

⁂

The appointment of Tewfik Pasha as Grand Vizier, in place of Talaat, is in itself a good move on Turkey's part. In the first place, Tewfik is a gentleman, which Talaat was not—and never could have become. Then, Tewfik, whatever he may have found it necessary of late to say to the contrary, is surely an "Old" Turk; and after the world's experience of the "Young" variety, that is a very strong point in his favour. You may remember that when he left England, in November, 1914, Tewfik was genuinely moved, and—as I wrote at the time—his farewell message to Sir Edward Grey "was in every way worthy of a diplomatist and a gentleman." It seems to me, therefore, that the Allies will be able to carry on any negotiations that there may be far more pleasantly and more profitably than could have been the case had Talaat (and Enver) remained at the helm of the *very*-sinking Turkish ship of State.

⁂

In writing thus I would not suggest that there are likely to be protracted or difficult negotiations with Turkey. The Turks will doubtless have to accept whatever terms the Allies see fit to impose on them, and of bargaining there will be none. At least, that is what we understand, judging by the pronouncements of the Allied statesmen; and in view of Turkey's utter collapse, I do not see how anything else could be expected. Nor is there likely to be any widespread sympathy with Turkey as a country, though we may feel sincere regret that the many have had to suffer, and will have to suffer still more, for the sins of the few. Truly Enver, Talaat, and that crew have proved themselves wreckers extraordinary. It is hard luck on Tewfik Pasha and the few remaining decent Turks that theirs must be the unpleasant task of trying to save a few bits of the wreckage. We shall all hope that the "Young Turk" leaders will be held to strict account for *their* carryings on. And it will have to be the Allies who do it, if it is to be done.

Corsair.

RUSSIAN TURKESTAN AND THE GERMAN MENACE TO INDIA.

Speaking before the Central Asian Society at Albemarle Street, on October 9, Miss Annette M. B. Meakin said that in harmony with the action of other provinces of the Russian Empire which were asserting their right to self-determination, the Mohammedan subjects of the Emir of Bokhara were struggling to establish a constitution. As far back as 1910, this people had risen against the tyranny of their Emir, but then the rising had been quelled. As was known, an Anglo-Indian force had reached Baku from Persia in August last. It had to withdraw in September, after severe fighting, but, according to the *Kreuz Zeitung* of October 2, the whole Trans-Caspian Railway from Krasnovodsk to Tashkent was now in British hands. She hoped this might be true. The German menace to India was threefold: political, military, and economic. The Trans-Caspian Railway had been advanced until at two points the distance between the terminal points of the Russian and Indian systems was less than that between London and Edinburgh, and, if the Germans could bring Afghanistan under control, even though it were only economic control, and if they advanced the railway as far as Kabul, that would be no more than 150 miles from Peshawar. If the German road to India was assured, their economic penetration of that and the intervening countries would follow, and that would be for them a victory far greater than any that could have been won by military subjugation. The Aga Khan had urged us to meet the menace by building up a United States of India within the British Empire, and by exerting our influence to make Persia and Afghanistan independent national entities.

In another part of her lecture Miss Meakin described the life of the people of Russian Turkestan, illustrating her remarks with very interesting lantern slides, reproducing photographs which she had taken in that country. Among others was one of the tombs of the two standard bearers of Ali, the nephew of Mohammed. These tombs were much injured by vandalism, for every Turkoman visitor liked to take away two bricks as a memento. The inhabitants of Bokhara were, she said, the most strict and fanatical of Moslems, and their women were the most secluded in the world. In public they wore black horsehair veils.

Sir Thomas Holdich, who presided, said that Miss Meakin was one of the very few Englishwomen who had been to Bokhara. With regard to the gaps between the Trans-Caspian and India Railway systems, he was of opinion that the sooner the one between Herat and Quetta was filled in the better. He did not consider that the doing so would be dangerous from the military point of view, and as to the economic point of view trade followed the flag. With regard to the more northerly gap, he had conducted surveys over the Hindoo Khoosh, and, while he did not say it would be impossible to make a tunnel thirty or forty miles long through the hard limestone core of those mountains, it would be a very expensive operation. To his mind it was ridiculous to say that a way could be made there for the advance of a military force. A problem before us was that of Persia. The responsibility of safeguarding Persian interests would naturally devolve upon British shoulders now that the eastern schemes of both Russia and Germany had failed.

PRISONERS AT PHILIPPOPOLIS.

A repatriated British prisoner of war lately arrived in London from Philippopolis, Bulgaria, has described the terrible sufferings of the Serbian prisoners interned in the same camp. Men, women and children are herded together; 300 died in a fortnight last spring from starvation and malaria. There are no sanitary arrangements at all, and disease is rife; added to these miseries is the awful curse of vermin. The British suffered so much from this scourge that they found sleep impossible in the crowded huts and preferred the open air.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WHITHER?*

Since Mr. H. G. Wells imitated Haggai at a distance, the rôle of minor prophet has become increasingly popular; but this is one of those many things which on the whole they do better in France, probably because the average Frenchman is neither an optimist nor a pessimist, but a logical person. M. Cambon is one of the best of a numerous batch. Sometimes he is frankly too severe: for instance, he cites statistics showing they have more telephones per head in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway than in France, and then asks impressively whether we can expect a France so handicapped to take its proper rank among the nations? Well, when Denmark, Sweden, and Norway equal the military, commercial, and scientific output of France we are prepared to believe that France is handicapped by the lack of the telephone bell; until then, it is a fair retort that the figures for insanity in every country except England—where everybody is proverbially more or less mad—happen to follow the figures of the telephone statistics rather closely. The lament, in fact, reminds us of the German boast of intellectual superiority on the ground that they publish more books in Germany than in England, to which the answer was made that if anybody could read German books there might be something in it; one judges not by statistics but by results, in fact. But there is a great deal of sense in many of M. Cambon's strictures, and some of his remarks might be read by English politicians with more profit than their own speeches.

HOLY RUSSIA.†

Mrs. Rosa Newmarch is well known in Western Europe as the populariser of Russian music. She has broken new ground in endeavouring to trace the influence of organised religion in that country. This vast subject is treated under three headings. First we have an Introduction which epitomizes the history of the "Orthodox" creed. There follows an anthology of quotations from Greek and Russian literature illustrating the relations between man, his Maker, and his fellow-creatures. A miniature Dictionary of Russian Authors brings Mrs. Newmarch's treatise to a fitting conclusion. Christianity in its present form dates from the fourth century of our era, so fertile in great dialecticians. SS. John Chrysostom, Basil and Gregory were protagonists in the fierce theological strife which evolved the bodies of dogma still current in Christendom. They endowed the Russian Church with its three "orthodox" liturgies, and until the recent upheaval were objects of special veneration. But five centuries of heathenism elapsed ere Christianity was introduced into Russia by two wandering monks from Constantinople. They found a powerful ally in Olga, widow of Igor I., Duke of Kiev, who embraced the new creed and made many converts. Her grandson, Vladimir the Great (980-1015), was baptised before his marriage with the sister of the Emperor Basil of Constantinople, and with a proselyte's red-hot zeal he imposed Christianity upon all his subjects. By this time the schism between the Eastern and Western Churches was complete, and Russia, which had received its creed from Constantinople, was governed in ecclesiastical affairs by the Patriarch of that city until 1575, when the usurping Tsar, Boris Gudenev, placed them under the rule of a native head. The independence of the Russian Church received a serious set-back from Peter the Great's Germanising reforms. He abolished the Moscow patriarchate and subjected religion to a Synod presided over by a layman. Russia had inherited a stringent form of monasticism from Constantinople; and all the higher Church offices are held by monks, styled the "Black" clergy to distinguish them from their "white" colleagues who serve as parish priests. During the Middle Ages Russian monasteries played the same part as our own. While the whole country lay prostrate under the Tartar yoke, they kept the lamp of learning alight, and were centres of the national life, which expanded rapidly when the "Yellow Peril" disappeared. Peter the Great, who seems to have been as ruthless an iconoclast as our Bluff King Hal, despoiled the monasteries and discouraged the spread of learning. But pilgrimages on an enormous scale brought untold wealth to the religious communities, and the war aroused them from prolonged lethargy. Some became military hospitals; others specialised in music, painting, and typography. It is quite possible that the great monasteries may once more become rallying-points for all that remains sacred in once Holy Russia. How has religion fared in the terrible cataclysm which has plunged the entire country in anarchy? Was it a mere crúst of ritual and ceremony, powerless against the assaults of blatant atheism? The beautiful morality which shines in Mrs. Newmarch's excerpts from Russian literature proves the national soul to be capable of idealism in its highest form, and a note of hope is sounded by her remarks at p. 17:—

> Never has any Church been more closely linked with the national life than that of Russia. It is this which endears it to all classes, even to those who have broken away from its teaching. . . . While I was in Russia in 1915 I was struck by the crowded state of the churches, and by the fact that the spirit of opposition to faith was in abeyance. And from those who have visited Russia more recently I learn that, so far, the Revolution has not kept the masses away from their religious duties. A secularised Russia offers as dreary a vision as the thought of this earth when its central fires have grown cold. Let us hope that the prospect is remote.

F. H. S.

GALLIPOLI BALLADS—AND OTHERS.*

There is a good deal of true philosophy in "The Anzac Pilgrim's Progress," and we enjoy the author's company from his first ballad, telling us how he "hears the call in Australia," to his last, wherein, after many adventures, he faces a fresh trial and comes off triumphant. "Sam" reminds us of Bret Harte's "Jim," but most of the ballads are distinctly, almost aggressively, original. For instance, here is just one verse from "The Sniper":—

> But we crawled out one evenin' and *we* did a snipe,
> An' he fell from his tree like a plum over-ripe;
> We stalked that bush, an' to leave no doubt,
> We rooted up Abdul an' bedded him out:
> You cannot be hyper-
> Soft with a sniper.

After that, it is hardly necessary for us to tell the reader that Lance-Corporal Cobber was at Gallipoli and saw something of the Turk. He also spent a good deal of time in Egypt, and he writes of his experiences, whether in the firing line or out of it, with humour and skill. Nor is he afraid of plain-speaking on occasion, as, for example, in "Somebody Missed the 'Bus," in which he reveals his feelings about the "queering" of the campaign. Here is the last verse:—

> You can't fell an oak with an axe that's broke—
> you can't do the work that's planned
> If yer pard's too slow at the W.O. an' don't put
> tools in yer hand:
> Does his best, perhaps, but he leaves us chaps
> stuck fast in the worst of hells,
> To be baulked an' done, when we'd almost won,
> for want o' supports an' shells.
> Through a mug's mistake we are doin' a break, yet
> though we must pack an' clear,
> We will make good, sure, what we've lost an'
> more—but it won't be now nor here.
> An' nobody knows the blighter who chose
> to soak us in such a mess;
> We are doin' a guy, an' we don't know why, an'
> can only partly guess.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Il y a Toujours des Pyrénées." By Jules Laborde. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 4fr. 50.)

"War Map of the Middle East, illustrating the Campaigns in Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Caucasus." Printed in colours. (London: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd. Unmounted sheet, 6d. net; on cloth, folded, 1s. 6d. net; on cloth, rollers, varnished, 2s. 6d. net.)

"War Map of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, showing Forts, Main Roads, and Railways, with enlarged inset Maps of Dardanelles and Bosphorus to show Forts; inset Map showing extent of Turkish Empire." (London: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd. 6d., 1s. 3d., or 2s. each.)

"War Map of the Balkan States." Printed in colours. (London: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd. 6d., 1s. 3d., or 2s. each.)

"War Map of Palestine." Printed in colours. (London: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd. 6d., 1s. 3d., or 2s. net.)

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* "Ou Allons-Nous." Par Victor Cambon. (Payot et Cie. 4fcs. 50c.)

† "The Devout Russian." By Rosa Newmarch. (London: Herbert Jenkins Ltd., 1918. Price 5s.)

* "The Anzac Pilgrim's Progress: Ballads of Australia's Army." By Lance-Corporal Cobber. (Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. October	1918. October.		1337. Moharrem.	5679. Hesvan.
18	5	Friday	12	12
19	6	Saturday........	13	13
20	7	**Sunday**	14	14
21	8	Monday	15	15
22	9	Tuesday	16	16
23	10	Wednesday	1	17
24	11	Thursday	18	18

The Countess of Bessborough has returned to town from Ireland.

Lady Howard de Walden has returned to 14, Bruton Street, for the winter.

M. M. Yovanovitch, Financial Secretary to the Serbian Legation, is seriously ill.

Admiral Lord Beresford is ill, and has cancelled all his engagements for the time being.

The Serbian Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, visited Mr. Lloyd George on Tuesday afternoon.

Mirza Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Counsellor to the Persian Legation, has arrived in London from Eastbourne.

Fathullah Khan Noury, Secretary to the Persian Legation, has returned to London from Eastbourne.

The King of Serbia has conferred upon the Archbishop of Canterbury the highest Order of St. Sava.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has appointed Sir William Tyrrell as Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Srinivasa Ramanujan, B.A., research student, Indian mathematician, has been elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

The King has been pleased to approve the honour of a baronetcy being conferred on Sir Edward Richard Henry, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.S.I.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, who recently had the misfortune to break a leg while at Oakfords, Penshurst, is reported to be making satisfactory progress.

Mr. Lloyd George entertained at luncheon, on Tuesday, M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, and M. Stavridis, the Consul-General for Greece in London

Indian papers to hand by the last mail announce that Major Loch, political agent, Koweit, has been granted leave on medical grounds, and that Major Dickson will officiate.

A marriage has been arranged between Russell Landale, I.A.R.O., son of the late D. G. Landale and Mrs. Landale, of Limpsfield Grange, Surrey, and Gladys, daughter of the late C. N. P. Phipps and Mrs. Phipps, of Chalcot, Wilts.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, entertained at dinner on Saturday evening the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Serbian Minister, Bishop Bury, Colonel Carnegie, Captain Yovanovitch, and several other guests.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, M.P., Secretary for India, has appointed Mr. Frederick Craufurd Goodenough, chairman of Barclay's Bank, Ltd., to be a member of the Council of India in succession to Mr. Laurence Currie, whose term of office recently expired.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant H. J. M. Ashby, R.N., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Noël S. Ashby, of Culworth Close, Lyndhurst, Hants, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Webb, of Cosham House, Hants, and Hindugalla, Peradeniya, Ceylon.

The King has granted permission to Miss Lilian Violet Cooper, M.D., and Miss Mary Josephine Bedford to wear the Insignia of the Fourth and Fifth Class respectively of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon them by the King of Serbia in recognition of their services at the Scottish Women's Hospital at Ostrovo during the present war.

The King has been pleased to make the following promotion in the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire:—To be a Knight Grand Commander of the said Most Eminent Order.—Captain George Ambrose Lloyd, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.P., Governor-Designate of Bombay.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, arrived in London on Sunday. At the station were M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister; M. Demetrius Caclamanos, Minister specially attached to the Legation; M. Kyriakos Venizelos, M. Jean A. Caradja, and several members of the Greek Colony.

The Mesopotamia Comforts Fund for the British troops, it is hoped, will receive substantial support on Sunday afternoon, the 20th inst., when a grand matinée is to be held at the Alhambra Theatre in its aid. Prince Arthur of Connaught has given the entertainment his patronage, and Lady Alexander, with the aid of Captain Charles Hunt Helmsley, is organising the programme.

Under the auspices of London University Zionist Society, on October 19, at 7.15 p.m., at the Jew's College, Queen's Square, Guilford Street, Mr. S. Tolkowsky, of Jaffa, will lecture on "The Battles of the Bible."

Miss Annette M. B. Meakin, F.R.G.S., assisted by ladies in native dress, will give a lantern lecture on "The Closed States of Central Asia and the Women of Bokhara" at the Wigmore Hall this evening, at eight o'clock.

By invitation of the Manchester Syrian Relief Fund, Bishop McInnes will this evening address a public meeting at the Association Hall, Manchester, on Syria and Palestine. Sir Edward Tootal Broadhurst, Bart., will preside.

The following lectures have been arranged to be delivered at the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, on the dates named, at 3 p.m. in each case:—October 23 and October 30, "Turkish Literature," by Dr. E. Edwards, M.A.; November 6, "The Popular Literature of Northern India," by Sir G. Grierson, November 27; "Turkish Literature," by Dr. E. Edwards. Admission to the lectures is free.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Dr. Svetislav Dioritch has been appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London.

The Hon. Mr. H. C. Ferard has been appionted Vice-President of the United Provinces Legislative Council.

Kaimakam C. Northcote Bey, Governor of Mongalla Province, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Mr. A. H. Ley, who has been relieved by Mr. Low as Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce and Industry Department, becomes Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the same department.

The following Memorandum was published in last Friday's *London Gazette*:—Brevet Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) W. C. Black, Indian Army, retains his temporary rank whilst employed as Commandant of a Training School in India. July 5, 1918.

M. Grouitch, who was for many years Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James's, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington.

OBITUARY.

Captain W. St. Clair Grant, M.C., Cameron Highlanders, who was killed on September 26, was the only son of the late W. St. Clair Grant, Bhagalpur, Bengal, India.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Hills Nicholson, D.S.O., Royal Fusiliers, who is reported to have been killed in action, had seen service in India, and at the outbreak of the war he was Adjutant of Volunteers in India.

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Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Montenegrin Consulate, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

Lady Macpherson died at Shiplake on October 8. She was the daughter of Colonel George Luard, of the Madras Army, and married in 1869 Sir William Macpherson, Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, who died in 1909.

Lady King, wife of Sir Henry Seymour King, K.C.I.E., died very suddenly on Saturday at Cornwall Gardens. She was Julia Mary, daughter of Dr. John Jenkins, of Montreal, and was a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Sir Henry and Lady King were married forty-three years ago.

Brigadier-General Stuart Campbell Taylor, D.S.O., died on October 11, of wounds received ten days earlier. He served with the Tirah Expeditionary Force ('97-'98), and received the medal with two clasps, and during the international occupation of Crete he was Staff Officer, British troops. He retired in 1911, but was re-employed on the outbreak of war.

Colonel Francis Cracroft Colomb, late of the 6th Gurkha Rifles, died on October 13 at Bath. He was the second son of the late Vice-Admiral P. H. Colomb. He served with the Burmese Expedition of 1885-9, for which he had the medal with two clasps, and accompanied the Chin-Lushai Expedition of 1889-90, for which he was awarded a clasp.

Lieutenant Douglas Woulfe Hay, M.C., Middlesex Regiment, who was killed in action on September 28, was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. H. Hay, of Stanley Lodge, Cheltenham, late Indian Army, and grandson of the late Major-General Woulfe Hay, Indian Staff Corps.

Colonel William Bell, late of the 56th Regiment and the Army Pay Department, has died at Stirling, at the age of eighty-two. He served during the Indian Mutiny with the field force in pursuit of the rebels into North Canara and the Goa Frontier, and also with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882.

Sir Charles Edmund Fox, K.C.S.I., late Chief Judge of the Chief Court, Burma, died on October 9 at Bigsweir House, St. Briavels, Gloucestershire, aged 64. He served as Government Advocate, Burma, from 1884 to 1900, and was then appointed Judge of the Chief Court. He was a son of the late John Fox, of St. John's, Newfoundland, and married Ethel, daughter of Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bt.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Stephen Gibbons, D.S.O., Middlesex Regiment, attached Highland L.I., who was killed on September 19, was the younger son of Sir William Gibbons, K.C.B., and Lady Gibbons, of Pine Grove House, Weybridge. He received his commission in December, 1902, and served on the North-West Frontier of India in 1908, taking part in the operations in the Mohmand country, for which he received the medal. In October, 1914, he was severely wounded, and afterwards served in a school of instruction in Egypt, becoming commandant of the school and being promoted lieutenant-colonel in May, 1917.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A conference of ruling Princes will open at Delhi early next month.

Greek residents in Australia have telegraphed their congratulations to M. Venizelos upon the surrender of Bulgaria.

A Sofia despatch announces that General Oukoff, commanding the 2nd Bulgarian Army, has been appointed Chief of the General Staff.

The Bucharest express was derailed on Friday night near Piatra. Over a hundred passengers were killed and two hundred seriously wounded.

The establishment of a school at Lahore for maimed and disabled soldiers is under the consideration of the Punjab Government, and if the scheme be found workable it is hoped to open the school during the cold weather.

According to German newspapers the Austro-Hungarian Government has protested to the Bulgarian Government for accepting the Entente armistice conditions, whereby Austrian subjects have to leave Bulgaria within four weeks.

General Milne, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Macedonia, has addressed the following message to the Greek troops which took part in the battle of Doiran:—"On the first occasion that Greek troops have fought by the side of British troops I desire to express my admiration for the manner in which they carried out the work assigned to them. You have routed the Bulgarians. I thank you for the fine spirit you have shown, which is beyond all praise."

The Government of India has decided that as a means of relieving pressure on the department the tariff for ordinary inland private telegrams should be increased to a uniform rate of one anna a word, with a minimum of twelve annas; and that the rate for express telegrams should be raised to a uniform rate of two annas a word with a minimum of one rupee and eight annas. It has also been decided to follow the example of the United Kingdom and British Dependencies and increase the Indian letter postage rate to these destinations from one anna per ounce to one and a half annas for the first ounce and one anna for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The Tangier correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Germans have lately been distributing large quantities of propaganda literature in the Spanish language in Ceuta and Tetuan. German agents appreciate that recent events in France have somewhat modified the friendly sentiments of their quondam neutral supporters, and that an effort must be made to maintain their attitude of sympathy. Notwithstanding their endeavours, the change of public opinion of the Spanish in Morocco in favour of the Allies is very marked.

The Secretary of State for India is prepared to receive applications for a limited number of appointments to the Indian Forest Service from men who served at the front and who have been discharged from the Army owing to injuries, but whose physical disabilities have not unfitted them for the work of a forest officer, and who are well educated and otherwise suitable for service as officers in the Forest Department. Evidence of education approximately up to University standard, and also as to nationality, age, and character, is required. Applications should be made on a printed form, to be obtained from the Revenue Secretary, India Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

Immediately after the British occupation of Northern Palestine Dr. Eder and Cavaliere Bianchini, members of the Zionist Commission in Palestine, visited the newly freed Jewish colonies of Chedera and Zichron Jacob. They found that there is a need for funds to replace cattle which the Turks took away from the colonists, as well as to restore damaged property and renovate farms.

A party of Indian editors is now in this country on a visit that is expected to last several weeks. The members of the party are: Mr. Sandbrook, editor of the *Englishman*; Mr. Malbub Alam, of the *Parsi Akhbar*, of Lahore; Mr. K. Iyenagar, of the *Hindu* (Madras); Mr. Hemendra Prasad Ghose, of the *Basumati* (Calcutta); and Mr. Gopal Krishna Davadhar, of the *Dnyam Prakash* (Poona).

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1918.

INDIAN REFORMS AND ENGLISH CRITICS.

More than three months have now elapsed since the publication of the official proposals for Indian constitutional reform, and the declared object of eliciting criticism has been so thoroughly attained that the man in the street may be pardoned if, amid all the momentous events of the period, he finds himself unable to assimilate the varied assortment of rhetoric and reasoning which the discussion has brought forth. It is worth while, therefore, to restate the questions at issue, and to attempt to disentangle essential matters from the mass of accidents and trivialities by which they are obscured. To begin with, stress must be laid once again on the distinction between policy and machinery, a distinction which is perfectly clear, but which has been frequently overlooked by those critics whose hostility to the end embitters their attacks upon the means. The policy of a gradual approach to responsible government has been adopted by the British Cabinet, it has been accepted by the Empire at large, and in our view it is not open to discussion. Following on the announcement of policy, we have the official sketch of the machinery by which it is proposed to realise this ideal, and while the ideal itself is beyond question, the proposals call for clear thinking and outspoken criticism before any attempt is made to put them into practice. Now, while there has been no lack of outspoken criticism, the amount of clear thinking which has been contributed is disappointingly small, and we can therefore safely neglect much that has been written, and concentrate our attention on those critics who have manifested the qualifications indispensable for their task. Practically all the arguments which have been advanced by this select body against the official scheme may be found in the pamphlet written by Sir John Hewett and published recently by the Indo-British Association, and a more enlightening summary of the opposition view is not likely to be produced. No one can call in question the writer's claim to be heard; recognised in India as one of the outstanding administrators of the time, he can speak with authority on all administrative questions, and while we may regret that he has not seen fit to offer constructive proposals on his own behalf, we must allow that many of his criticisms are deserving of the most careful attention. In particular we would point to his remarks on the proposed financial arrangements, on the excessive burden imposed on provincial Governors, a blemish on which stress has been laid in these columns, and on the risk that the productive departments, and consequently the economic interests of the masses, may suffer from the inexperience of the Indian Ministers to whose charge they may be transferred. All these matters are of real and practical importance, and we have little doubt that the authors of the official proposals will welcome the criticisms of an expert administrator as indicating the weakest points of their ambitious scheme; but at the same time we do not consider that the objections of an administrative nature are sufficient by themselves to support a verdict of general condemnation. The scheme does not come before the public as a sacrosanct entity; some of its features are good, if others are bad, and if the latter can be corrected in the light of expert criticism, we see no reason why a workable constitution should not result.

The case is otherwise with a second class of criticisms, which strike at the very heart of the official proposals. Sir John Hewett, for instance, apprehends that the scheme "is designed to hand over the Legislative Councils bodily to the educated classes, and to place the Executive Government under the control of the Legislative Councils"; he asserts that the effect will be to transfer "every act of government to an irresponsible, and what must be an unrepresentative, body of politicians"; and he concludes with the pious aspiration, "God help a government of educated Indians, when the people come to realise that they are being badly governed by it!" Now it cannot be denied that such results as these would be fatal to the scheme regarded as a whole; the policy of introducing responsible government could not possibly be carried out by establishing a government unrepresentative of the people, and ruling them, whether well or badly, without their consent, and since the policy is settled, any machinery which will not secure its realisation stands absolutely condemned. Here, however, it seems to us that Sir John Hewett, and the other critics who take the same line, are too ready to anticipate the worst. They take it for granted that an irresponsible oligarchy is to be placed in power, and they have no difficulty in showing that of all possible events that is the very worst thing which could happen to the Indian peoples considered as a whole. But must this result be regarded as inevitable? Is there no possibility that the councils will be reconstituted on a genuinely representative basis, so that the members shall be in fact responsible to the people whose affairs they will control? The answers to these questions have to be furnished by the Franchise Committee, and seeing that the constitution of this body has only just been announced, and that there has been no opportunity for the members to indicate the spirit in which they approach their extremely difficult task, it appears to us to be scarcely fair to anticipate that their report will prove effective representation to be unattainable. The terms of reference require the Committee to advise on franchise and constituencies, "with the object of securing as broad a franchise and as representative a Council as present circumstances in each province permit"; with this object in view, attention is directed to various methods of making representation effective and full recognition is afforded to the interdependence of Franchise and Functions, so that the powers to be transferred to Indian Ministers will vary with the effectiveness of representation in each province. The task thus set is one of very great difficulty, and the possibility of failure must be faced, but until the Committee's conclusions have been formulated, we are not disposed to regard failure as the inevitable result.

Let us assume for the moment that an effective scheme of representation will be found to be possible, so that the members of the Councils shall be in fact responsible for their actions to the mass of Indian opinion, and not as at present merely to a few active individuals. In that case, it is obvious that the criticisms we are considering are beside the mark; their assumed basis will be non-existent, for if the people do not like their government, they will be in a position to replace it by another, and though there may be some awkward misapprehensions at the start, the lesson will be quickly learned. If, on the other hand, we assume that effective representation will be found to be impossible, the result will undoubtedly be fatal to the whole official scheme. The essence of that scheme is a measure of responsible government from the outset, and since responsibility depends on effective representation, the scheme will on that assumption be proved to be impossible, and even should its authors be disposed to persevere, the political sense of the Imperial Parliament would ensure the rejection of proposals directly at variance with the policy it has accepted. Thus we reach the conclusion that while the administrative details of the official constitution are in some important respects open to the criticisms which have been directed against them, the constitution as a whole cannot yet be fairly judged: it must stand or fall by the report of the Franchise Committee, and until the work of the Committee has been accomplished, the ordinary man will be justified in disregarding the prophecies alike of critics and of enthusiasts.

NOTES ON EASTERN CARPETS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Antiquity of Carpet Weaving.

While it is not possible to state when the first rug or carpet was made, there can be no doubt that it was before the Pyramids were erected or the palaces of Babylon had risen from the plains. At Beni Hassan, in Egypt, the rock-cut tombs contain scenes showing men with spindles and looms, carrying us back to 2,500 B.C., and similarly, from the ruins scattered up and down the Tigris valley there has come unmistakable evidence of the antiquity of the art. In the palaces of Nineveh there are elaborate drawings of carpets, showing that the art of weaving them had reached a high standard three thousand years ago. The borders of the robes illustrated by those old artists even exhibit some of the designs that are popular in these modern times.

During the Sassanian period—226 A.D.-632 A.D.—carpets of elaborate design and finish were produced in Mesopotamia. In 637 A.D. a colossal carpet, of 1,051 square metres, originally made for Chosroes I., was found at Ctesiphon by the Arab invaders. On these enormous carpets were represented pleasure gardens, with brooks and paths bordered by trees and flowers; but, regardless of design, the one referred to was cut up and divided as booty among the soldiers. Its value was estimated at a million dollars.

In the days of the Khalifate (632-1258 A.D.) the Moslem rulers encouraged their conquered subjects to fresh efforts in the art, especially in Syria and Egypt; and we read of a carpet, interwoven with silk, which was 300 feet long and 150 feet in width. The Egyptian palaces were carpeted with silk and satin materials, and the mosques of Spain were similarly furnished. Some specimens woven in silk and gold exhibited portraits of royal families, and must have been similar in appearance to Gobelin tapestries. Not all these carpets were made in Syria and Egypt: some were made in Armenia, Assyria, and Kurdistan; while the most elaborate and costly are said to have come from Persia, which at a very early date was celebrated for the artistic character of its work.

These carpets consisted of warp and weft only, and were doubtless produced more rapidly than modern rugs, in which knots are tied to the warp. They, however, lacked the deep, heavy pile of later carpets; but they were elaborate in gold and silver and precious stones.

The Modern Period.

No relics of these floor coverings of ancient times have come down to us. It is believed that a few examples belonging to the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries still exist, but it is difficult to make any trustworthy estimate of the age of these pieces. It is probable that the oldest remains belong to the Mongolian period, commencing with the first half of the thirteenth century. Their archaic patterns indicate a remote origin, and early Mongolian influences are suggested. Similarities of design found in early tiles, metal work, pottery, and miniatures of established age give a rough indication of the date of these carpets.

"Hunting Carpets."

When we reach about 1400 A.D., we are on less debatable ground. We can institute comparisons as to design, colour, and drawing; and hence the development from the Mongolian tradition, with the formality of its stiff, geometric patterns and harsh foliate forms, to the artistic and free-flowing lines of a more advanced art, with its rhythm of graceful Arabesque. The earliest carpets in which animals—of archaic draughtsmanship—figure in the design are believed to date to about 1300 A.D., but it is only at the beginning of the sixteenth century that we note the appearance of finer examples, displaying masterly representations of animal and floral life. The best of these "hunting carpets" date from the latter half of the sixteenth century. Persian manuscripts of the same period, with their wonderful illustrations and borders, give us an idea of what these masterpieces must have been like. In this connection it is of interest to note the resemblance between the drawings of animal subjects as found in these "hunting carpets" and those on Iranian monuments, in Persian manuscripts and in manuscripts dealing with animal life by the Mogul artists in India. Some of these pieces are excellent examples of the artistic development of the early Safavid dynasty. They were rarely woven later than the end of the sixteenth century. The highest technique of this period of the Safavid dynasty is to be seen in the great Ardebil carpet now in the South Kensington Museum,* which is dated 1539 A.D. The very finest of the Persian carpets seem to have been dedicated to the service of the mosques, and no choicer example than the Ardebil carpet is in existence. It is interesting to trace the Mongolian tradition in this advanced period of carpet weaving, as may be done in the geometric patterns of the border. The same patterns are to be seen in carpets woven in the Caucasus during the last 200 years and in those woven in Central Asia, which are the direct descendants, so to say, of the early Mongolian carpets.

"Iranian" Carpets.

Most of the antique Iranian carpets that remain in existence to-day were woven in the northern provinces, though it is well known that carpets of elaborate design and skilful workmanship were produced in South Persia. In fact, many of the pieces for the palaces and mosques of Egypt came from Fars and Kerman. The latter place has long been a centre of manufacture for the textile industry; yet there are in existence but few specimens of its art dating back three or four centuries. Mongolian tradition is rarely to be traced in these purely Iranian carpets, which represent the native art unaffected by foreign influence. It is, however, often a matter of considerable difficulty to determine in what locality an antique rug was woven.

Silk Rugs.

The silk carpets were the choicest products of weaving, and the work of the most skilled artists. That they were held in just esteem is clear from the fact that they were often sent as presents to foreign Courts. For instance, it is known that in 1566 Shah Tamasp sent a number of such carpets to the Sultan at Constantinople.

Another ruler, Shah Abbas I., is associated in history with the manufacture of the celebrated "Polish" silk carpets, and it would seem that these were made under the patronage of his Court. Authorities estimate that about 200 of these carpets are owned by collectors. They are supposed to have reached Europe between 1604 and 1650, and are regarded as examples of the highest form of Eastern art. In them can be seen designs representing the best types of the Mongolian, Sarascenic, and Iranian influence. From their designs have been evolved the conventional and less elegant designs of modern Persian pieces. It is, perhaps, worth noting that it is a common practice in Persia at the present day to call any old carpets of which the place of manufacture is not known "Shah Abbasis."

So-called "Ispahanis."

It was during the reign of this monarch and his immediate successor that most of the so-called "Ispahanis" were woven, though they appeared as early as the fifteenth and some of them as late as the seventeenth century. They are believed to have come from Herat, where magnificent carpets were woven as early as the days of Shah Ismail. In fact, Herat seems to have been as important as an art centre as Tabriz. Ispahan is credited with some of these carpets, and it is probable

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*This carpet has now been taken down, and is temporarily packed away in a safe place, protected against air raids.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

"White Horse Whisky" Diary for 1919.

Messrs. MACKIE & CO., Distillers, Ltd., Glasgow, London, and Island of Islay, desire to inform holders of their "White Horse" Diary for 1918 that the new Diary for 1919, shortly to be issued, will not, owing to war conditions, be supplied with the usual leather covers. The outer leather cover of the 1918 Diary should therefore be preserved for use with the issue for 1919, the latter to be inserted inside the elastic band after removing the old book.

that the industry and the art existed in many parts of the widespread Persian empire. In almost all the "Ispahan" carpets the design includes the Palmette, Chinese cloud-bands, and the Arabesques. These, though subject to modification in size and shape, were almost constant motives.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Splendid Mosque.

The following interesting note upon one of the former glories of Damascus is extracted from an article, "Damascus: The Pearl of the East," which appeared in *Country Life* of October 12:—

> The greatest building in Damascus, and probably the greatest Mohammedan building in the world, was the Umayyad Mosque. Originally a Christian church dedicated to St. John the Baptist, it was transformed into a mosque by Caliph Walid I. The stories of its building read like ancient fable. Eighteen shiploads of gold and silver were sent to it from Cyprus. It had 600 golden lamps hung on golden chains. So much lead was required for the roof that the very tombs had to be ravaged in order to find it. Nothing was left to tell of its Christian origin except the inscription over the door, "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." But this magnificent mosque was destroyed by fire on October 14, 1893, and its antiquities to a large extent were lost; so that the glory of it departed and little was left to suggest what must have been there when the Caliph, refusing to look at the accounts brought to him on eighteen laden mules, ordered that they should be burned, and said to the inhabitants—"Men of Damascus, you possess four glories above other people; you are proud of your water, your air, your fruits, your baths; your mosque shall be your fifth glory." The architecture of the mosque was Byzantine in style, and the craftsmen who built it were brought from Constantinople, while the old columns were stolen from many of the Syrian towns.

Enver and Talaat.

In a leading article on Turkey the *Yorkshire Observer* expresses views that are probably shared by most people regarding Enver and Talaat. It says:—

> It would indeed have been strange if Enver and Talaat had remained in office to negotiate with the Allies. Neither could have been trusted. They are the Turkish henchmen of Germany, imbued with German savagery. Under their régime Turkey has pillaged and massacred. prisoners in her hands have died by hundreds, and a year ago Enver and Talaat refused to ratify a Convention for the exchange of prisoners. The Allies, indeed, would have been justified in refusing to treat with them. . . . It is only a few years ago that the Young Turk movement held the interest of Europe, and that there were strong hopes of a new and vastly improved régime in Turkey. Talaat and Enver were two of the leaders of that movement. How little these hopes have been justified! Turkey, indeed, has sunk further into ill-repute, and now awaits the vengeance of the Nemesis whom her many misdeeds have offended. The lesson must be salutary. We may then be justified, perhaps, in hoping that, having learnt it, the circumscribed Turkey of the future will apply it, and earn by her changed conduct admission to the new comity of peaceable and democratic nations which it is our plan and hope to establish.

"The Peace that India Wants."

Under the above title an article by Dr. T. M. Nair appeared in the *Evening Standard*. The writer begins:—

> In settling the final terms of peace, I hope that the component parts of the British Empire which have taken a hand in the game of war will be given a hearing. Indians have fought in many theatres of war side by side with soldiers from other parts of the Empire. But their services are particularly associated with the conquests of German East Africa, Mesopotamia, and Palestine. The future of all these countries is intimately connected with the security and development of India.

He then refers to the German hope of reaching India by way of Baghdad and the Persian Gulf, and, after expressing his thankfulness that the scheme miscarried, continues:—

> When Russia collapsed fairly early in the present war it was the fate of India that trembled in the balance. We had a great shock in India. We don't want another. We should like to see the British Empire in our part of the world consolidated in such a manner that it would be unassailable. We need not be too proud to take a leaf out of Germany's book. There are many dirty and untouchable pages in that book. but there are a few useful ones too. The Germans wanted to spread in two directions—from Berlin to Bombay via Bagdad, and from Berlin to Lake Chad via Egypt. After all that we have paid in blood and treasure it would not be unreasonable if we attempted to consolidate the British Empire in Asia and Africa by a Calcutta-Cairo-Cape Town railway—all British.

The project, he urges, is more practicable than the German Berlin-Baghdad-Bombay scheme. German East Africa was the only obstacle to a British Cape-to-Cairo line; and that obstacle is now removed. As to Persia, Dr. Nair believes that a friendly settlement could be reached. He concludes:—

> Such a consolidation of the British Empire in Asia and Africa is needed more in the interests of civilisation than of the British Empire itself. There is only one difficulty in the way, and that is the possibility of sickly sentiment getting the upper hand of common sense in this country and America. If sentiment decides to conclude a peace on the terms of "As you were," of course we will all go back to the pre-war days and conditions and may start preparations for the next war, looking upon the war that is over as only a positive check to over-population of the world.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Indian Reform. Oct. 15.

Lord SYDENHAM asked whether Mrs. Besant's statement that she was permitted to see and discuss an early draft of the report of the Viceroy and Secretary of State was correct, and, if so, to what other persons similar privileges were accorded.

Lord ISLINGTON (Under-Secretary for India) said the Secretary of State did not afford Mrs. Besant the opportunity of seeing a draft report of the proceedings as suggested in the question. The Secretary of State and the Viceroy took every opportunity to interview, informally and confidentially, all classes of the community in India, and in the course of those interviews they submitted proposals which would give effect to the announcement of August 20. That, he understood, was the entire extent to which Mrs. Besant had access in regard to what was now embodied in the important Report of the Secretary of State and Viceroy. The Secretary of State and the Viceroy had offered Mrs. Besant no privileged position beyond that which had been given to other representatives of Indian opinion.

The Rowlatt Report.

Lord SYDENHAM said the Rowlatt Report was a matter of extreme importance. The story told by the Rowlatt Committee was that of a most amazing criminal conspiracy, a conspiracy which had its ramifications extended over half the world. There seemed some reluctance, both here and in India, to publish the report, and he hoped some explanation would be made of the matter.

Lord ISLINGTON said that on July 19 instructions were given by the Secretary of State to send 20,000 copies of the report to this country as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, owing to a misunderstanding, they were not despatched until October 9, and he was afraid they would not be here for some considerable time. The Secretary of State, realising the importance of the document and the public interest in it in this country, and the fact that it had been issued for some time in India, had given instructions for it to be reprinted in this country and to speed delivery. It was hoped to lay it before Parliament in a fortnight or three weeks at the latest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Prisoners in Turkey. Oct. 15.

Sir G. CAVE, replying to a question by Mr. Joynson Hicks, said: Instructions have been given that, in the event of an armistice being concluded with Turkey, the immediate and unconditional release of British prisoners will be made a condition of it.

IN HONOUR OF SERBIA.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, was the guest of the Lord Mayor at luncheon at the Mansion House on Monday. Mr. Balfour, who was to have been present, was unavoidably prevented from attending, as he had to attend a Cabinet Council. Among those present were Lord Burnham, Lord Reading, the Greek Minister, M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian Charge d'Affaires, M. C. Miyatovich (formerly Serbian Minister), M. Milan Rakitch, Colonel Yovanovitch, Major-General Sir George Younghusband, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Sir E. Denison Ross, Mr. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., General Sir Ian Hamilton, M. Paul Marinkovitch, M. V. Marinkovitch, Alderman and Colonel Sir Charles Wakefield, Alderman Sir Edward Cooper, Colonel G. Ostoich, Colonel Cobbett, M. Peritch, Dr. R. M. Burrows, and M. N. Voukitchevitch.

The Lord Mayor, in proposing the health of M. Pashitch, announced that he would send a congratulatory telegram to the Prince Regent of Serbia, expressing gratitude for the magnificent service which he had rendered to the Allied cause. He expressed the confident hope that Serbia, whose valiant soldiers were bearing a magnificent share in the conflict, would soon be completely restored.

M. Pashitch said that Serbia, in defending herself, had staked everything. Serbia was grateful to Great Britain and the other Allies who had helped her against the brutalities of Prussian militarism. She would never forget the help of her noble Allies, who had shed their blood for the common good of mankind. They hoped that their Allies would help them in the reconstruction of their ruined country and the unification of all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, in accordance with the principles laid down in the Declaration of Corfu.

Lord Reading, in proposing the health of the Lord Mayor, said that Serbia had indeed played a noble part. She had suffered as perhaps no nation had suffered. She had given a magnificent example of what could be achieved when a nation's soul stood for right and for justice.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The appointment to the Council of India of Mr. Frederick Craufurd Goodenough, chairman of Barclays Bank, is most welcome as giving the Council a representative of finance on this side. It will be remembered that the Indian Finance and Currency Committee recommended that there should be members on the Council representing Indian official finance, Indian banking and commerce, and the London money market. The new appointment completes the representation on the Council of these classes of experience.

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The Times has published a most interesting message from its Singapore correspondent to the effect that news has been received there that the export of rubber from the Dutch Indies has been stopped. The correspondent states that the impression is prevalent in commercial circles that Holland is holding large stocks of rubber, copra, sugar, tin, and other raw materials to meet Germany's requirements at the close of the war, and adds that it is presumed that Germany has guaranteed higher prices than are available elsewhere in order to induce Holland to stock on her behalf. This would seem to indicate that Germany hopes to depend on neutrals as channels of supply of the raw materials which she formerly drew from the British Empire and our Allies. Pending further information it is not necessary to add anything on this aspect.

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I may, however, point out that the message is also of particular interest in relation to the rubber industry, for if it is correct that Germany is endeavouring to arrange for the import of large quantities of the natural product, it throws a rather significant light on the hopes entertained in that country as to the immediate future of artificial rubber. This question was discussed recently by *Vorwärts*, which cited the erection of additional rubber factories as an indication of the progress made in the manufacture of the synthetic product, but said that its successful competition with natural rubber must depend on the purpose for which the substitute is required. "Generally a doubt may be expressed," says this journal, "whether synthetic rubber can stand the test, especially in view of the present selling prices, which are many times greater than the prevailing prices on the London rubber market."

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A certificate has been issued by the War Office declaring that the vilayets of Basrah and Baghdad, excluding the district of Anah on the Euphrates, may now be regarded as territory in friendly occupation. In virtue of this certificate firms in this country will no longer have to obtain licences under the special legislation with regard to trading with the enemy before corresponding and trading with firms in the districts mentioned. I need not add, however, that import and export licences will still have to be obtained for goods the import of which is prohibited into the United Kingdom or the export of which is prohibited from the territory in question.

The great year in the Indian coal industry was 1908, and since then, with the exception of two brief advances, there has been no continuous forward movement in the prices of coal shares. Hitherto war conditions have not had the influence that might have been expected, but the mail papers record that an increasing activity in the market set in towards the end of August, and the question was then being discussed whether another movement similar to that of 1908 was not probable in the immediate future. As to that, I prefer to express no opinion, but I may point out that the reason for this activity is the fact that the growing demand for coal in India—a demand which cannot be adequately met in existing circumstances—has at last begun to have a definite influence on the situation. The opinion is held that in the face of this demand the price of coal must rise, and, of course, if this view is justified the price of coal shares will no doubt go up.

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The marked stimulus which the war has given to sugar cultivation in India is emphasised by the output for 1917-18, when the crop is estimated to have been about 500,000 tons larger than in the previous year, the figures being 3,229,000 tons, against 2,728,000 tons. The methods of working this crop are stated to give scope for considerable improvement, and it is believed that it would be possible very greatly to increase production by cultivation on a more scientific basis and by the free application of fertilisers. It is to be hoped that every effort will be made to improve matters in this direction, as India ought to be an exporter of sugar on a large scale, instead of depending, as she does, on Java and Mauritius to supplement her production for internal consumption. The sugar industry in India and in other parts of the Empire will never flourish, however, unless those who invest their capital in it have State support to enable them to meet the effects of foreign bounties. Is it too much to hope that this question will receive attention before the post-war competition begins?

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I understand that the prices for Greek tobacco this year are much lower than those for 1917, and will approximate roughly to those of the previous year. It has been a good year for tobacco throughout the Near East, and it is possible that prices may touch a much lower level than at one time seemed probable. If the general war situation develops favourably Greek tobacco growers will find compensation for this feature in having much less difficulty in disposing of their produce.

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I am indebted to a valued correspondent for some interesting particulars which he has received from a friend who recently left Constantinople regarding the economic conditions there as recently as last July. The position had by then become difficult in the extreme, and the prices that were being charged for food and clothing would of themselves suffice to explain the growing dislike of the Turks for their allies, the Germans, whom they naturally regard as the authors of their misfortunes. A few examples, typical of the changed scale of values, will serve to illustrate the increasing strain on the resources of the individual Turk. Cheese was then 400 piastres an oke, roughly 25s. 8d. per lb.; red mullet, haricot beans, and meat each cost 108 piastres an oke, or 6s. 11d. per lb.; cucumbers cost 20 piastres each, or 3s. 7½d.; fruit and vegetables cost 25 to 40 piastres an oke, or 1s. 7d.—2s. 7d. per lb.; fancy cakes, which cost 2d. before the war, were 8d.; while charcoal cost 12 piastres an oke, or 9d. per lb; and the correspondent in question says that very few people were in a position to do any cooking at all. The prices of clothing, he adds, were "simply fantastic," while a pair of child's boots cost 67s. 6d. An incident related by the correspondent throws a vivid light on the effect of these conditions and the general shortage of the necessaries of life. "It seems," he says, "that one day at Stamboul some Turkish women laid themselves down across a railway line to prevent a train leaving which was loaded with merchandise for Germany." This action of the weaker sex in Turkey speaks for itself.

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The Treasury has now appointed a committee to inquire into the gold question, consisting of Lord Inchcape (chairman), Sir Thomas Elliott, Sir Charles Addis, and Mr. W. H. N. Goschen. The committee's terms of reference are "to consider and report upon the effect of the war upon the gold production of the British Empire, with reference more particularly to the treatment of low grade ores, and how far it may be of importance to national interests to secure the continuance of the treatment of such ores, and, generally, how to stimulate the production of gold." Three of the foremost London bankers are included on the committee, and its composition should give every satisfaction to those who have been prominent in bringing the serious position of the gold industry before the authorities.

⁂

Gold producers, who, naturally, have no direct representation on the committee, will be able to bring their point of view forward through the Committee of Gold Producers, which was to meet this week to decide upon the presentation of the case for the industry. It is little use discussing at this juncture the probable recommendations of the producers, or the most likely line of action to be taken by the committee, and I will merely point out that in some important quarters the view is held that the best solution is that the Government should enter into a contract with gold producers for the purchase of all gold produced at a price calculated to maintain the highest rate of production.

⁂

General regret will be felt at the news that Lord Shaughnessy has decided to resign the presidency of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He has held that position for twenty years, and it would not be going too far to say that many of the most valuable developments of that great undertaking during the period in question were due to his skill and guidance. His decision is due, it is stated, to the conviction that in view of the extensive programme of reconstruction after the war the best interests of the company will be served by a younger man assuming the office. He will be succeeded by Mr. E. W. Beatty, who has been vice-president of the general council and a director of the company for many years.

COMMENTATOR.

GREEK CURRANTS.

This Year's Crop.

The following extracts are from Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on currants, dated October 10:—

Our last report was dated September 6, 1917, and in it we estimated the crop of currants at about 130,000 tons. The shipments during the year have been few, and those were made exclusively for account of the Ministry of Food. The British Food Controller decided early in the season to send representatives out to Greece in order to make purchases for the requirements of the United Kingdom, with the good intention, no doubt, of not depriving the British public of their Christmas plum pudding. When this decision was taken early in August last year the scarcity of tonnage was less acute than was proved to be the case during the last quarter of the year, and early in December definite instructions were given by the Food Minister to his representatives to buy about 6,000 tons at 49s. f.o.b. (average price) of Vostizza, Gulf, Patras and Amalias currants for December shipment. This purchase was duly effected, and the shipment of this small quantity, although it was made in December, was deferred for want of tonnage, and was eventually completed by the middle of July! The failure of the mission was due to the abnormal circumstances under which all countries were labouring owing to the war, and the difficulty of tonnage could not have been foreseen when this anything but laudable arrangement was made by the Ministry of Food. The control of dried fruits proved to be a great blow to the trade in general and to the importers of currants in particular. More than fifty Anglo-Greek houses established in London, Liverpool and Manchester have been deprived of their business, almost of their livelihood, and all their protests for this injustice came to naught. The experiment of buying dried fruit in the countries of production having failed, the Ministry of Food made an alteration early in May this year by fixing prices ex warehouse, duty paid. Currants were released from control, and shippers could import with the understanding that all such imports would be requisitioned by the Ministry at fixed prices—viz., at 80s. for Vostizza and Gulf, 77s. for Patras and Zante, 74s. for Amalias, and 72s. for other growths.

Shipments from Greece were, as stated above, few for the United Kingdom, and also disappointing for other consuming countries American inquiry at the beginning of the season was normal, and about 2,500 tons were shipped. Prices paid varied between 75s. and 88s. c.i.f. New York for Amalias and Patras in barrels and half cases. The high freight, 500s. per ton, and also the high rate of war and marine risk, forty guineas per cent., ruling at the time, put a stop to any further transactions with that country. Consignments have been made since of about 1,500 tons for account of the shippers, but American buyers have been pushing the Californian midget currants as a substitute, and have absolutely refused to pay the high prices asked by the consignees of Greek currants. The result was that prices fell eventually from 27 cents down to about 17 cents per pound in bond. Including shipments made to France, evidently for wine-making, which we put at about 5,000 tons, we make the total shipped during the period 1917-18 to have been 26,000 tons. To the retention stores of the Privileged Company there were delivered 8,000 tons; about 50,000 tons of fresh and dried currants were used for wine and spirit making and for other industrial purposes in Greece. There must have been a considerable quantity of currants consumed by the people as food during the year, the shops retailing this commodity as well as the wheelbarrows appearing in the streets of large towns in Greece. This quantity is estimated at more than 15,000 tons. The stock of old fruit carried over to the present season is computed at about 33,000, making a total of 132,000 tons. Deducting 15,000 of old fruit brought over from the previous season, 1916-17, we find that the crop of 1917 has given us 117,000 tons, against 88,000 tons in 1916 and 125,800 in 1915.

The 25,000 tons shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows:—To the United Kingdom, 17,000 tons, against 45,700 in 1916-17; to the United States and Canada, 4,000 tons, against 4,600 in 1916-17; to France, 5,000 tons, against 2,700 in 1916-17—total, 26,000 tons, against 53,000 tons in 1916-17.

The Privileged Company received during the season in their warrant stores 22,000 tons, of which 13,000 tons have been withdrawn before the end of the season. No dried fruit has been offered to the company by the growers for purchase, the ruling market prices being very much higher than the convention limits. In their retention stores the company received 2,500 tons, making 8,000 tons including the certificates in circulation on August 22, 1917. The Land Tax in kind, at 10 per cent. on the exported quantities, absorbed 2,600 tons, and 5,400 tons, represented by certificates in circulation, have been carried over. The retention currants and the fresh fruit purchased by the company have been sold to the local winemakers and to the distillers. The total weight of fresh and dried currants used for industrial purposes in Greece has been in 1917-18 about 50,000 tons, against 12,500 in 1916-17, and 29,000 tons in 1915-16. The Privileged Company distributed to the ordinary shareholders for the year ended August 22, 1917, a dividend of 18.50 drachmae per share, equal to a little under 8 per cent. on the capital, and to the founders' shares 2.25 drachmae per share. It paid the State £20,000 as a share out of the profits, and carried about £16,000 to the credit of the different reserve accounts.

The new crop is estimated, according to the latest news received from Greece, at 140,000 to 145,000 tons. Fortunately, no disease of any kind has attacked the vines this year, and the ravages of the oidium have been checked by the use of newly invented chemicals in default of a sufficient supply of sulphur. The quality promised is good, and so far we have no news of any damage. No samples of new fruit have yet come to hand by post, as was the case in former years. The British Food Controller has fixed the prices for new fruit the same as last season. Old currants shipped from Greece before November 1 will be admitted at these prices, but after this date at 5s. per cwt. less. The great question is the tonnage that will be available, and that is an unknown quantity. The retention has been fixed the same as last season—viz., 10 per cent. in kind and 25 per cent. in money.

FUTURE OF BALKAN TRADE.

An Enemy View.

In THE NEAR EAST of July 26 some paragraphs were devoted in "Notes and News" to the criticism of some remarks in a contemporary respecting trade prospects in the Balkans after the war. The journal in question quoted the unfavourable verdict of an engineer who had been studying the Balkans at an unstated time "with an eye to the special interests of German trade." His view was that the markets would be inconsiderable for years to come, and that as there was neither money nor enterprise it was a "vacant room." In view of the purpose of his investigations there was nothing to quarrel with in that final and somewhat discourteous expression, for, as we appositely pointed out, "if this country, France, and the United States do their duty (by giving proper assistance to Serbia and Roumania) there will be a 'vacant room' for the Germans and their allies in the Balkans, but it will not be because 'there is neither money nor enterprise.'" Our remarks on this subject seem to have annoyed the enemy Press, for the *Deutsche Orient-Korrespondenz* has devoted a long and singularly laboured article (which has been taken over by *Das Echo* of Vienna) to supporting the opinions of the engineer in question and to explaining that our views as to the prospects of the development of British trade with the Balkans are wrong.

"This engineer's studies," says the *Deutsche Orient-Korrespondenz*, "cannot have been very far-reaching, or else they are out of date, as he does not know of the recent developments of the Balkan nations. The chances are more in favour of his having become convinced of the tremendous advantage gained by the Central Powers during a year's war occupation, an advantage which England will not be able to overtake." This extract gives a very excellent idea of the mentality of the enemy peoples. All the injuries they have perpetrated on the Balkan peoples are overlooked as immaterial, that nothing that has happened during the war will make the least difference to the smooth development of their trade projects. In justice to the journal it must be pointed out that these comments were written before recent developments in the Balkans, and it is possible that the non-official enemy Press has been kept almost as much in the dark regarding the real situation as the unfortunate people of the Central Empires. Only thus is it possible to explain this peculiar outlook. The rest of the article runs much on the same lines. "Germany," we are told, "can watch England endeavour to combat her influence in the Balkans with the greatest composure. The longer the war lasts the fewer will be the prospects for England. . . The Economic Treaty of the Peace of Bucharest has so strong a German influence that England will have the greatest difficulty in winning back her former prestige. Moreover, the wrong done to Roumania through the destruction of the petroleum works during the retreat of the Roumanian forces will not be easily forgotten. As regards Serbia, where Austro-Hungarian influence has predominated for so long, the part taken by this nation in reconstruction during the war of the nation's economic policy—which had suffered a temporary eclipse—will ensure her a privileged position against which England's position will compare most unfavourably. In this sense the pessimism of the engineer is right. England need not concern herself as to the interests of the Balkan market after the war. They have already been considered and amply provided for."

It is scarcely necessary to make any further comments, for the passage refutes itself. The idea, for instance, that the Serbians and Roumanians would even contemplate the renewal of commercial relations with the Central Powers after all that they have suffered is a typical example of the mistakes which the enemy have constantly made in regard to other countries. Germany and Austria may regain their positions in these countries and resume their work of commercial penetration, but it will only be if the Allies fail to do their duty not only in helping to reconstruct these countries but also in doing everything possible to facilitate mutual trade relations. While the chief members of the Allies will all have to play their part in this work, the principal role will devolve on Great Britain, and British merchants and manufacturers, it is to be hoped, have realised by now their immense responsibility in this connection. A Government can influence trade relations to a certain extent, but the result of official efforts depends on the attitude of the individual business man. Thanks to the commercial missions from two of our Near Eastern Allies commercial circles in this country have had every opportunity of ascertaining at first hand the nature and prospects of business openings in the Balkans in the future, and we may confidently expect in a not too distant future that these missions will be followed by a third—from Roumania, the members of which in view of the sufferings of that country in the Allied cause will be assured of the heartiest welcome that any delegation to this country has ever received.

KHARTOUM STEAMER RATES.

New rates for transport of goods and animals by craft belonging to the Sudan Government have been introduced, with effect from September 1. The new rates are based on a charge per ton per kilometre, but bulky goods will be measured and 50 cubic feet, or 1.5 cubic metres, is being taken as equivalent to one ton of 1,000 kilogrammes as at present. These rates apply to up-stream and down-stream traffic, and will be in force summer and winter.

Mr. R. L. Forbes, one of the general managers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, has retired from the company's service owing to continued ill-health. Mr. P. G. M. Mitchell, head of the freight department, has been appointed an acting assistant manager of the company.

A branch of the Tata Industrial Bank has been opened at Hyderabad, Deccan, and it is understood that it is intended to open a branch at Madras.

THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

Tour in Scotland.

The members of the Greek Commercial Mission began the Scottish portion of their tour at Glasgow on October 8, and on the following day, accompanied by Mr. Robert M'Farlan, of Messrs. Kerr, Andersons, and Macleod, the organiser for Scotland, of the Federation of British Industries, they visited the works of the North British Locomotive Company, and also those of the Carron Company. In the evening a dinner was given in their honour by the Lord Provost and Corporation of Glasgow. The function was held in the Satinwood Saloon of the City Chambers, and the guests included representatives of the university and of the chief business interests of the city.

The toast of the delegates was proposed by the Lord Provost, who said that the classical history of ancient Greece had left its impress upon the civilised world, and it was that civilisation they were now making such sacrifices to maintain. In more modern times the Greeks were still distinguished by their patriotism and love of freedom, and it was not surprising to find the Greek nation, after surmounting its political difficulties, ranged on the side of righteousness in the great struggle of right against might. Their guests had come to see something of their industrial activities with a view probably to extending the commercial intercourse between the two countries, which he was sure they were all agreed would not only draw them more closely together as comrades in the war, but would enable them to protect each other against any attempt on the part of their enemies in the near future to renew their policy of peaceful penetration.

M. Michalocopoulos, who replied, said that modern Greece and her Allies had adopted the moral principles of that ancient civilisation which recognised that morality was stronger than infamy, that right was stronger than wrong, that justice was stronger than crime, and that freedom united was stronger than tyranny united. Only the Germans were not able to share in those feelings. They had their own philosophy—they had their super-men, their super-State, their super-battles; and they would have now their super-collapse. He believed they now saw the first golden sunbeams of a victorious peace—not a peace by negotiation, but a peace by unconditional surrender. Their enemies knew very well that unconditional surrender to Great Britain and France and America and all the Allies did not mean destruction. It meant—and it must mean—justice, and justice was a just punishment for all the disasters and ravages they had perpetrated on innocent peoples. In the task of reconstruction after the war the Allies must be united, as they were united in war. The Greek nation would do all in its power in order to prevent in the future the German commercial penetration and to promote commercial relations with this country, not only for reasons of sentiment, but because they in Greece were persuaded that British commercial penetration never was accompanied by political domination.

M. Embiricos proposed the toast of the Corporation, and the Lord Provost replied.

On October 10 the delegates visited the works of Messrs. Yarrow and Co., and afterwards some of them went to Paisley, where they were able to inspect the works of Messrs. J. and P. Coats, while others visited the Art Galleries at Kelvingrove and other places of interest in the city. In the evening they were entertained at dinner by the Federation of British Industries at the North British Station Hotel. The chairman was Mr. T. Cuthbert Stewart, of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, who is chairman of the Scottish Committee of the Federation, and among the guests were Sir William Beardmore, Bart., Sir John Lindsay, and Mr. R. H. Hunter.

M. Embiricos, replying to the toast of the delegates, which was proposed by the chairman, said that they in Greece desired the help of British manufacturers in carrying out their policy, which was to avoid the economic penetration of Greece by the Central Powers. It was said that trade followed the flag. He was of opinion that trade followed the means of communication more than the flag. They in Greece wanted more regular lines of steamships and more regular sailings between their country and Great Britain. The Germans had had an advantage in being more elastic in their methods than the British manufacturers. He laid particular stress on the importance of the establishment in Greece of schools in English, and asked manufacturers to influence the British Government in that direction.

Mr. J. W. Murray, president of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, proposed the toast of "The Federation of British Industries." He explained the objects of the Federation, and pointed out that while the chambers of commerce served a commercial purpose even to a greater extent than a manufacturing one the Federation was representative of the manufacturing interests. In the great fight for the maintenance and expansion of their trade there would be ample room for both organisations.

Mr. John King, who replied, said they hoped the Federation would meet the aspirations and the needs of the manufacturers. In the past they had missed some mouthpiece by which they could speak unitedly not only to their own Government, but to foreign Governments as well.

The delegates brought their visit to Glasgow to a close on October 11 with visits to the works of Messrs. Beardmore and Co., where they were entertained to luncheon by Sir William Beardmore, and of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, subsequently going on to Edinburgh, where the week-end was spent. The principal event of their stay at Edinburgh, in the course of which they visited Holyrood and the Castle, was the dinner given in their honour on October 12 at the City Chambers by the Town Council. The Lord Provost, Sir J. Lorne Macleod, presided, and the company included the Rev. Dr. Ogilvie, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Professor Mair, Mr. Alexander Darling, Master of the Merchant Company, Sir Richard Mackie, and Mr. J. Currie.

The Lord Provost, in proposing "The Guests," said the Ancient Greeks were the educators of Europe. The glory of Greek civilisation had always inspired admiration and enthusiasm. For five centuries the Greeks suffered under the blast of Turkish tyranny, domination, and misrule. In their liberation and re-establishment as a people the Greeks had never failed to acknowledge the friendship, support, and loyalty of Great Britain. The delegation had visited the chief industrial centres of this country. Edinburgh also possessed industries of some importance; and the trading between the port of Leith and Greece, already considerable in the days before the war, was capable of much expansion. It was even ventured sometimes to call this city "Modern Athens." Their friends would judge the correctness of this description.

M. Michalocopoulos, who replied, said that Edinburgh had called up remembrances very dear to them. Their ancestors, centuries ago, cultivated philosophy, science, medicine, political economy. In Modern Athens to-day the arts and sciences were cultivated with the same spirit and ideals as by their ancestors. To learn Homer was perhaps easy; but to conceive the spirit of their Grecian literature was more important. Scotland had succeeded in this. They were the heirs of Greek traditions. It was the British Navy which had saved the freedom of the world. Their enemies were asking to have the freedom of the seas. The freedom of the seas existed before the war. Britain had controlled the seas, not to enslave the world, but to protect the world against pirates. Germany had this freedom before the war as much as Great Britain. Everywhere her ships were transporting merchandise. There was harmony before the war; peace and security to everyone to develop in conformity with his energy and ability. Germany was not satisfied. She preferred the war. Now, after all the damage she had done in Belgium, Serbia, France, Roumania, she asked to be a free member of the League of Nations without paying anything. He thought in Scotland they said if you called the tune you paid the piper. While everyone would hope to have a society of nations, just as they had a society of men, they must remember that extreme generosity was not justice. Punishment for all crimes against innocent people and every international law they owed to their civilisation and to the future generations, and as a guarantee for the freedom of the world in the future. The Greek Government had determined to remain united with the Allies in their task of reconstruction. The Greek nation and Government acknowledged that Britain had had the great part of sacrifice in the war—in life, money, industry. They had protected all the smaller nations. The really free small nations considered Great Britain their future guarantee for liberty.

The Lord Provost read a letter from the Greek Minister in London regretting his inability to accompany the delegation to the ancient capital of Scotland, known to their own great geographer, Ptolemy, as "the winged camp."

The delegates went on to Newcastle on October 14, where a reception was given in their honour by the Lord Mayor, who subsequently entertained them to dinner. On October 15 visits were made to the works of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and to the works of Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorne, Leslie and Co. The visit to Newcastle ended on October 16, when the delegates went on to Middlesbrough.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Restricted.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has been lifeless throughout the week. In well-informed quarters it is asserted that business at the moment is of smaller dimensions than at any time for three or four years back. Bearish sentiment has prevailed in all directions. Owing to the small turnover, engagements of spinners and manufacturers have tended to run down, but contracts on the books are still very extensive. Favourable reports continue to be received relating to the Egyptian cotton crop. The demand from Lancashire spinners continues healthy. In Egyptian yarns rather less business has been about, but small lots for quick delivery are still sought after. Combed qualities are particularly strong. Piece goods for Egypt have attracted less attention. Distribution on the other side, however, is said to be encouraging. There has been a general absence of demand in cloth for India, and no signs of improvement for China. Very little has been done for South America, and business for France is now falling off. American yarns have been very slow of sale, with more irregularity in quotations. Ring beams have been cheaper.

Trade Problems.

Lancashire cotton spinners and manufacturers have this week supplied particulars to the Cotton Control Board of stocks and consumption of raw cotton, yarn and coal. The returns are now being tabulated, and it is expected that interesting statistics will be published in due course. The question of future production in Lancashire will largely be determined by the figures obtained. For many months the problem of raw cotton imports has been very acute, but it is feared in some quarters that the shortage of coal supplies will prevent the running of more machinery in the near future. At the moment the output of the spinning mills and weaving sheds is only about two-thirds of normal times.

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner, Mr. D. T. Chadwick, has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated October 9:—

Rain is much needed in most provinces. In the Punjab it is required both for the standing autumn crops and for spring sowings. In Assam crops are fair to good.

Latest quotation of fine broach for ready delivery is Rs.830 a candy. Piecegoods market continues to decline.

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At the request of the Board of Trade, the New British and Key Industries Exhibition will remain open until October 24, so that the members of the Greek Commercial Mission may visit it.

EGYPT'S TRADE DURING JULY.

Greatly Increased Imports.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, Sept. 8.

Trade improved considerably during July, especially under imports. The latter amounted to £E4,243,398 and exports to £E2,011,281, as compared with £E2,820,232 and £E1,919,567 respectively during the corresponding month last year. Both sides of the external trade account of Egypt are now about level for the year, imports totalling £E28,634,305 and exports £E28,944,856 for the seven months, the former having increased by £E11,386,900 and the latter by £E6,061,483 by comparison with the position on July 31, 1917.

The chief imports during the month were: Meat £E301,243, cereals £E66,670, mineral oils £E52,831, stationery £E173,664, coal £E343,530, textiles £E2,217,522 (cotton piece goods £E1,696,458, woollen textiles £E80,575, cotton yarn and thread £E68,959, ready-made underclothing and hosiery £E104,376), manufactured iron and steel £E146,579, and tobacco £E233,270. The increase during the month was mainly accounted for by meat £E196.003, stationery £E134,055, textiles £E1,278.522 (cotton piece goods £E1.105.596); there was a decrease of £E194.943 in petroleum, of which none was imported, and of £E223,060 in coal, of which 30.569 tons less came in.

The principal exports were hides and skins £E42.208, rice £E38,230, cotton seed £E42.508. onions £E29.945, cotton £E1.681.918, and cigarettes £E56,636. Sugar fell off by £E83,477, and there were no oil cake exports; cotton, on the other hand, increased by £E191,372 in value and 92,121 cantars in quantity.

Direction of Commerce.

The United Kingdom more than doubled its share of imports during the month, the value rising from £E1,380,576 to £E2,805,846 (practically all the mineral oils, cotton piece goods, woollen textiles and iron and steel, as well as all the coal); Australia trebled hers (all the meat); the United States fell from £E218,967 to almost nothing; France rose by £E97,351 to £E138,061; Japan from £E30,245 to £E214,047 (glass, cardboard, matches, tobacco and raw silk and silk thread); whilst Italy fell off by 33 per cent. to £E193,950, and Greece by 40 per cent. to £E153,998. For the month the United Kingdom had 66 per cent. of the total imports.

Under exports, however, there was a decrease of 33 per cent. in the share taken by the United Kingdom to £E1,562,776, and the United States had an enormous drop from £E553,676 to barely one-tenth of that figure, in both cases due to cotton. On the other hand, France increased her share to £E452,193 (from £E197,954), Italy hers to £E515.216 (from £E2.220), and Japan hers to £E157,543 (from £E96,728), in every case due to increased cotton exports.

Trade between the Sudan and Egypt progressed as far as exports to the former were concerned, but fell off in respect of traffic in the opposite direction. Imports from the Sudan into Egypt amounted to £E198,315, against £E213,807, and exports from Egypt to £E276.558, against £E124,422 during July, 1917. The chief imports into Egypt were:—Live stock £E86,195 (seven times the value of last July and three times the number of head), cereals £E51,086, gum £E34.077; whilst the principal exports from Egypt were:—Sugar £E77.392, cotton piece goods £E86.960, cereals £E23,999, and tobacco £E12.091.

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M. Negropontis, the Greek Minister of Finance, has arrived in Paris in order to come to an understanding with the Allied Governments on financial questions relating to war expenses.

MOROCCO TRADE NOTES.

The Tunnel Project.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER, September 6.

Fuller details have now been given of the scheme for making a tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar, in connection with which an important French railway company is seeking to obtain a concession for a line which, it is hoped, will eventually connect Paris and Dakar. The author of the scheme has very sanguine hopes, and looks forward to the possibility, when the Channel tunnel and the Gibraltar Straits tunnel have both been completed, of eventually placing London in railway communication with the Cape.

From the sketch plan which has been published it appears that it is proposed to run a railway from the terminus at Algeciras to a point on the coast a few miles to the west, slightly to the east of Tarifa. The tunnel would be made across the Straits to reach the African shore three or four miles west of Ceuta, in the country of the Anjera, a very turbulent tribe, nominally in the Spanish zone of influence, but actually, though not very completely, in the zone of influence of Raisuli. The end of the tunnel would be joined to Tangier and the Tangier-Fez railway by a line running at a short distance from the coast. The scheme has apparently got so far that the Spanish Government have appointed a representative to examine its possibilities. The cost of the tunnel is estimated at 10,000 francs per linear metre. The execution of the whole plan, including the improvement of Dakar port, which, it is hoped, will become the great port for passengers leaving for or arriving from South America, is expected to cost 300,000,000 francs.

An announcement has just appeared of calls for tenders for cutting, embanking, etc., on two sections, about 25 miles, of the Tan-

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gier-Fez railway. Seeing the comparatively small extent of the works to be tendered for, and the time (up to November 12) which is allowed within which to make the tenders, it is scarcely likely that any other than a firm already represented in Morocco will send offers.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Electric Installations in Constantinople.

In view of the approaching "great changes" in Constantinople, a few notes on a subject in which electrical engineering is concerned will be of interest to British manufacturers, many of whom are still under the impression that electricity is disliked in Turkey, and especially in her capital. This view may be attributed, perhaps, to the fact that Ottoman statistics of imports did not give separate details of imports relating to electricity, and probably little was allowed to be mentioned in the papers. In previous engineering notes we referred to the extensive employment of electricity in Beyrout and Damascus for lighting and industrial purposes, Damascus being the first city in Turkey to be lighted by electricity and to have a service of electric trams. But, as a matter of fact, electricity has made marked progress in Turkey since 1910, and especially in Constantinople, where, before the outbreak of the war, an important network of electric tramways was to be completed. Four principal lines were already working—the tunnel to Chiehli line, the tunnel to Tatavla, Karakeui to Beshitash, and Karakeui to Emin Eunu. The public accorded an emphatic welcome to these lines, which are built of first-class material and have worked well. Most of the cars have two trailers. The electric light was to be installed in the city just before the war, the mains having been already laid; while the telephone was being placed at the disposal of the public. In regard to these developments, however, it may be mentioned that electricity was not altogether a novel institution, for electric bells were installed almost everywhere; private electric plants were furnishing electric light to a certain number of houses; State departments were connected up by telephone, which was likewise installed in many business establishments and even in private houses. But what was then only the exception was in prospect of becoming general when the war began. It was considered probable at the time that the greater number of the electric generating plants belonging to private individuals would stop working when the municipal service commenced. Electric lifts and cranes would likewise be served with current from the public supply, also the motors used in small trades, then—and possibly now—driven by petrol, etc. Needless to say, the greater part of the wires and other fittings and appliances were imported from Germany. British manufacturers may soon have an excellent opportunity to take their proper share in the further development of this work.

Agricultural Machinery in Turkey

In our notes last week reference was made to the dearth of agricultural machinery in the East. The dearth evidently prevails chiefly in countries or districts friendly to or dominated by the Allies, a fact which justifies the idea that it is, to a certain extent, the result of war restrictions on the export of such machinery from the Allied countries, and especially from this country. Turkey, apparently, is more fortunate in this respect, for, in spite of her sorry plight, the provision of modern agricultural machinery in the Turkish Empire is steadily increasing, according to recent reports. A German paper referring to this says that it was reported from Aidin that a credit for 400,000 piastres (£3,600) has been opened there, and would be devoted to the purchase of agricultural machinery in Germany and Austria-Hungary: that the exhibition of such machinery in the new museum in Constantinople would largely increase the market for it: and that the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture has granted the Agricultural Committee in Smyrna a loan of 400,000 piastres (£3,600) for the purchase of 200 threshing machines which are to be employed outside the Smyrna district. (There must be some mistake in reference to the 200 machines to be purchased with 400,000 piastres (£3,600), unless hand-power or horse-gear driven little machines are referred to, and these would be quite inadequate for this district.) The same Ministry, the paper says, has ordered from German and Austria-Hungarian factories agricultural implements, including 3,400 ploughs and 500 seed drills, to the value of 40,000,000 piastres (£360,000). The Directorate of the Halkali School has sent a large number of its pupils into the province to teach the farmers how to use reaping machines. The School for Art and Industry in Stamboul has also sent a number of its pupils into the province, together with Hungarian experts appointed to work the threshing machines. It is also stated that 1,500 young Turks are at present being trained in Germany, 800 of whom have been placed through the agency of the Germano-Turkish Association. These 800 are composed of 200 trade apprentices, 150 mining apprentices, 150 agricultural apprentices, and some 300 boys from Turkish higher schools who are being instructed in Germany, at the commercial secondary schools; in engineering works, and on large farms. The annual cost of maintenance and training for 300 boys amounts to roughly half a million marks, half of which is being borne by the Turkish parents and the other half is provided from German sources through the Germano-Turkish Association and by donations.

Agriculture in Morocco.

Emphasis has often been laid in these columns on the great prospects for trade in agricultural machinery in Morocco. A Canadian agriculturist who recently visited Morocco expressed his firm belief that the country will soon be one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in Africa. Extensive areas of land are being exploited by French and other European planters, while the Moroccan farmers very willingly adopt modern implements and methods for the cultivation of their farms. Showia, a very promising district, is reported to have made remarkable progress in agriculture recently, owing to the security now enjoyed by the native farmers and to the improved methods and implements introduced by European colonists. The latter, although often wanting in experience, have succeeded in many ways in inducing the Moorish farmers to abandon some of their primitive agricultural implements and to use ploughs, harrows, etc., of European make and design. Besides, the price of labour having been materially enhanced, the old methods are too expensive now, and many Moorish farmers avail themselves of machinery, especially motor-driven threshing machines, mowers, and other labour-saving devices which they hire from the European colonists. In this connection heavy oil motors are recommended as much more suitable in Morocco than steam generators, as water in that country is salt and rapidly corrodes the boilers; moreover, the tracks in the country districts being bad, heavy machinery is difficult to move about. Petroleum is cheaper than coal there; mechanical traction, therefore, with heavy petroleum oil motors is considered as being the most suitable.

* * *

GOLD PRODUCTION.

At the meeting of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce on October 10, Mr. James Martin, J.P., presiding, a resolution was passed at the instance of the Financial Section affirming the opinion that the production of gold in existing circumstances was an essential war industry, and therefore should receive preferential treatment by the Government in order to preserve the supply, and it was resolved to bring the matter before the committee of inquiry on the subject and the Government by deputation or otherwise.

* * *

The Government of Madras has sanctioned the expenditure of Rs.67,770 for the improvement of cotton cultivation during 1918-19.

It is reported that Mr. C. M Pearce, General Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railways, is likely to retire from the service in February.

Among the latest wills is that of Mr. Henry Reissmann, of the firm of Messrs. Henry Reissmann and Co., East India merchants, who left estate of the gross value of £77,502.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are called for by the Egyptian Postal Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and of summer and winter uniforms for the year 1919-1920, including bags, mail; boots; clocks and accessories; fuel; furniture (ready-made); furniture and equipment (to be manufactured locally at Alexandria); house and bed linen, etc., hardware articles; lamps and accessories; rolling stock and accessories; stamps and accessories. Tenders must be made out on the printed schedules, which, with copies of the specification, may be obtained on application to the Central Stores, Egyptian Postal Administration, Alexandria. All the samples of the articles required can be seen in Egypt, and some of the samples at the offices of the Egyptian Government representatives, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1. The tenderer should submit samples of the goods he offers, which should be addressed to the Superintendent of Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, not later than November 10. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, up to noon on November 15. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer the address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

* * *

PERSIAN EXPORTS.

The principal exports from Persia for the year ended March 20, 1917, according to the Persian Customs statistics, were:—Raw cotton, £2,555,653; rice, £2,211,657; raisins, £1,627,011; opium, £1,494,014; raw wool, £558,019; almonds and pistachio nuts, £516,104; fruit, £381,426; skins, £370,837; fish, £279,843; gum, £268,025; cereals, £172,851; live stock, £170,025; silk cocoons, £122,013; vegetables, £85,726; and henna, £75,140.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—September 30, 70,000 frs., against 20,000 frs.; October 1, 70,000 frs., against 60,000 frs.

* * *

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Egyptian Hotels.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on October 14 at 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., Sir William B. Peat presiding.

Mr. J. L. Milligan, representing the secretaries (Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman read a letter from Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., expressing his regret that in consequence of a funeral service in memory of his niece, Lady Alexandra Hamilton, having been fixed for three o'clock that afternoon, he was unable to attend the meeting. In the circumstances he desired to move:—"That a vote of sincere sympathy be accorded to the Rt. Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., in the terrible loss he has sustained through the cruel murder by the Germans on the high seas of his niece, Lady Alexandra Hamilton." This resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman went on to say that Lord Claud Hamilton had forwarded a copy of the speech which, had he been present, he would

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Tel. Address: "LIONDA, STOA PESMAZOGLU, ATHENS."
Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris. In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus. In Athens—Banque d'Orient, Athens.

have addressed to the shareholders. It was as follows:—"The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1918, are in your hands. It is with pleasure that I am able to point out to you that the profit of the year has been satisfactory. With regard to the accounts, I have little to add to the directors' report attached thereto. The plant, fixtures, and fittings have been consistently depreciated. The stock on hand has been valued by the hotel manager, and proper reserve has been made for any doubtful debts included in the sundry debtors. Owing to the continuance of the war and the problems arising thereout, the directors feel that a conservative policy should be followed in dealing with the profits this year, and have, after providing for the usual charges for debenture interest, depreciations, etc., created a reserve of £10,000 for writing down the asset 'shares in and advances to the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels.' This leaves a balance of profit amounting to £14,428 9s. 6d., including a balance of £3,930 10s 5d. brought forward from last year, to be dealt with, and the directors recommend the payment of two years' dividend for 1916 and 1917 to the holders of the cumulative preference shares, which will absorb £11,500 and leave a balance of £2,928 9s. 6d. to be carried forward. The directors regret that they are not able to recommend any dividend on the ordinary shares In conclusion, the thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to the members of the local board and the hotel staff for the admirable success of their management and working of the hotels during the past year, which is so well reflected in the accounts."

The report and accounts submitted were adopted, and a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the two years ended April 30, 1916, and April 30, 1917, was declared, payable on and after November 30, 1918

The retiring director, Mr. E. A. Harrison, was re-elected, and Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co. having been reappointed auditors, a resolution was passed recording the shareholders' appreciation of the local board's management of the hotels.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Alliance Bank of Simla.

The report of the directors for the year ended June 30, 1918, states that, including Rs.2,54,030-10-8 brought forward at June 30, 1917, the balance of profit for the year, after contributing to the staff provident fund and rebating current bills, is Rs.11,24,932-4-1. Interim dividends at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares and at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the preference shares, were paid for the half-year ended December 31, which absorbed Rs.3,41,000, leaving Rs.7,83,932-4-1. From this sum the directors now propose to make a further distribution on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30 of a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, together with a bonus of 6 per cent., which will absorb Rs.3,50,000. To pay a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the preference shares, which will absorb Rs.1,55,448-13-0, leaving balance to be carried forward, Rs.2,77,483-7-1. As sanctioned at the extraordinary general meeting held on April 20 the ordinary share capital has been increased to Rs.35,00,000 by the issue of 5,000 shares, and owing to allotments made in connection with the conversion of shares of the Delhi and London Bank, Limited, the Bank of Rangoon, Limited, and the arrangements for taking over certain offices and approved business of the Bank of Upper India, Limited, the preference capital has increased from Rs.36,61,200 to Rs.51,28,400. The premium on the issue of the above 5,000 ordinary shares, which was Rs.8,00,000 has, as foreshadowed in the chairman's speech at the extraordinary general meeting on April 20, 1917, been placed to a special reserve account against depreciation of the bank's holding of 3½ per cent. Government paper. The price at which this is now held is roughly Rs.69 per cent. To meet the shortfall on the value of debentures and stocks held by the bank due to the rise of 2d. in sterling exchange during the past twelve months and the further general fall in prices, a sum of Rs.500,000 has been transferred from the bank's reserve fund to the subsidiary reserve fund for depreciation of Government paper and other investments. Subject to their transfer, debentures and stocks held by the bank stand in the books at market rate or under and sterling investments on the basis of 1s. 6d. exchange. During the year it has been found necessary, owing to the depletion of the European staff, to close temporarily the Charing Cross Branch at Lahore. The directors anticipate that it may shortly be necessary, for the same reason, to close further branches temporarily. During the year Sir W. D. Henry and Mr. B. Bevan-Patman retired from the board, and the vacancies thus created have been filled, in accordance with the bank's articles of association, by the election of Messrs. Melville Macfadyen and W. Muir Masson. The directors who retire, at this time, by rotation are Messrs. G. A. Moncrieff, W. L. Dallas, and M. Macfadyen, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

Rubber in the Sudan.

A company was granted a concession some years ago to exploit the rubber areas of the Bahi el Ghazel, but they found the undertaking unprofitable. It is reported that the Sudan Government has now taken the matter up, and has given authority to the natives to collect and sell the rubber, as it has been decided that this is the best method as the rubber is so scattered. To encourage the natives the Government has reduced the royalty to 2½ milliemes per rottle.

New Company.

The Bank of Egypt, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £2,000, in £5 shares, to take over the business indicated by the title. The registered office is at 57½, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Burma Railways recommend a final distribution of 2¼ per cent., together with a bonus of 1½ per cent., both subject to income-tax, on account of surplus profits, in addition to the guaranteed interest payable January 1, making in all 7½ per cent. for the year 1918-19.

The Barsi Light Railway Company announces that the warrants for the final dividend for the year ended March 31, 1918. on the shares Nos. 1-26,000 have been posted.

His Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.—At the general meeting on October 22 a resolution will be proposed changing the name of the company to "His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Ltd."

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah: Production for week, 21 tons (last week, 1,083 tons). Hurgada: Production for week: 2,316 tons (last week, 2,456 tons).

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

During the greater part of this week our market continued in a very quiet condition, and prices had still a downward tendency; but during the last day or two there has been some indication of a renewal of demand in certain directions. Some of the decline has consequently been recovered, and the tone has become distinctly better.

In Government stocks Unifieds are ¼ higher at 91¾, but Egypt 3½ per cent. preferences are ¾ lower at 76½ xd.

In Bank shares, Nationals are closing ⅜ lower at 20⅜, and Agriculturals are ⅛ down at 7. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are unchanged at 21½, after being up to 23.

In Railways, there has been some demand for Delta Lights round the current quotation.

Among Land shares, Behéras are ⅛ easier at 14¾, round which price some business has been carried through. Delta Lands have improved 3d. to 16s. 3d., after transactions as low as 15s. 6d.; and there has been some buying of Gharbiehs round 2¾. The much better report issued by this company would, no doubt, have caused a rise in the price under better market conditions. In New Egyptian shares, after transactions as low as 20s. 3d., there has been a big demand during the last two days, and the price closes 1s. 6d. higher on the week at 22s. Sidi Salems, Union Foncières, and United Egyptian Lands all remain steady at last week's prices, with some small transactions here and there.

In Miscellaneous shares, Khedivial Mails are slightly quieter at 63s., while Salts and Sodas have dropped ¼ to 2⅞.

Greek stocks have continued firm and in demand, with the exception of Monopolies, which are 2 points down at 64½, and the Rente Loan, which is half a point easier at 57½. Bank of Athens are also 3-16 lower at 4¾. Piræus-Athens 4½ per cent. are quoted 69 xd.

Oil Shares.

The oil share group have been brighter this week on the improved situation. Roumanian Consols have gone ahead again and close at 17s., an advance of 2s. Anglo-Egyptians (B) are 2 11-16, or ⅛ better than last week, and Anglo-Persian Prefs. have risen and are 6d. up at 25s. Russian shares are all fairly strong. Anglo-Maikops are 7s. 9d., Bakus stand at 4s. 9d., North Caucasians are 1 5-16, Russian Generals are ⅞, and Russian Petroleums 2s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Turkish Unifieds and Ottoman Banks made a marked advance this week: the former are 75.25 (against 63), while the latter are 15 points up at 480. Otherwise Near Eastern shares have been somewhat weaker. Suez Canals, for instance, have lost much of their recent rise, and close at 5,450 francs, a drop of 200 francs on the week. Egyptian Unifieds are 93 (against 95.95), and other prices are: Serbian 4 per cent. 1895's 66.50 (against 66.75), Banque d'Athenes 105 (against 108.50), Credit Foncièr Egyptiens 782 (against 800), and Land Banks 210 (against 210.50).

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The approximate weekly returns from markets for the week ended September 26 were:—Cattle markets, £427; general markets, £441—total, £868; total for year, £37,598. The figures for the corresponding week last year, ended September 27, were.—Cattle markets, £221; general markets, £314—total £535 (the Bairam holidays fell this week)—total for year, £43,663.

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Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 9	Oct. 16
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91½	91¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	79	76½xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	66½	64½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	58	57½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	69	69
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	66	66
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	73	73
Persia 5% 1911	91	80	80½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	68	68
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	85
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	75
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	7⅛	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	21½	21⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	4 1/16	4¾
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	—	6¾
Banque Franco Serbe	—	—	—
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8⅞
British Trade Corporation	—	—	9 9/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	—	84
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	8¼	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	5⅜	5⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	—	18
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20¾	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	—	63
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7¼	7⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Pirseus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	70½	69xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/S	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14½	14¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	16/3
Do, and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/10½	13/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2¾	2⅞
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	20/6	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 23/32	2 23/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	72/6	72/6
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 390.—Vol. XIV.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Expectation has been running high during the last three weeks as a result of the German overtures for an armistice with a view to the discussion of peace terms. The third Note from Berlin on the subject, after a clear statement of his attitude by President Wilson, was merely mendacious without being clever, and seemed to indicate that the Prussian Pharaoh had hardened his heart and refused to let the people of Germany go the full length of their very obvious desire for peace. It remains to be seen whether on this point the last word is with the German people or with the military command. President Wilson's reply is certainly to the point, and leaves no room for doubt as to the Allies' attitude towards Germany. The German Government has shown that it has not yet accepted the logic of the military position, and the Allied armies must, accordingly, continue their efforts to make that position clear both to the German Higher Command and to the German people.

The most favourable development that the Germans seem able to count upon is that the approach of winter and the German resistance should arrest the Allied advance before it reaches German territory. But the weakness of their position is that even in these circumstances they cannot look forward to any future improvement which might hearten them to persevere. Moreover, if they could rely upon themselves, they know well that both Austria-Hungary and Turkey must drop out of the running, and there is no reason why the Allies' terms, which are based on clearly enunciated principles and lend no support to the interested misrepresentations of the military party, should undergo any modification as a result of a purposeless resistance on the part of Germany. One result of the Allies' refusal to continue the discussion on peace negotiations would probably be to compel Germany's allies to make up their minds as to their own individual positions. The course of events during the last three weeks both in Austria-Hungary and in Turkey has been obscure, but it was inevitable that the two countries should endeavour to mark time while Germany was trying the effect of her overtures to Washington.

A thoroughly robust faith in those overtures would have prompted Turkey to retain the Talaat-Enver Ministry until the negotiations for peace had definitely failed. But Talaat has been succeeded by Izzet Pasha as Grand Vizier, and the new Government has lost no time in taking a leaf out of the German book. Turkey is also going to democratise herself—according to the Prussian model. Arabia, Syria, Armenia, and the Jewish zone of Palestine are to be promised autonomy, and just as Germany seeks to save something from the wreckage of her hopes in accepting President Wilson's "Fourteen Points". as a basis for negotiations, so Turkey would offer to make Constantinople a free port and to dismantle the fortifications of the Dardanelles on condition that Constantinople should be allowed to remain the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Germany, according to the statement of her Government, has never been guilty of any outrages on land or at sea, and with equal conviction the President of the Turkish Chamber declares that: "Whatever the final result may be, Turkey by its display of self-sacrifice and patriotism has won its right to an honourable place in the family of nations."

This claim of Halil Bey's will inevitably be checked by the experience of British prisoners of war in Turkish hands. Wherever possible British soldiers have paid a tribute to the Turkish army as a "clean fighter," but the expression has never been extended to Turkish officials as a whole or to the Government of the Committee of Union and Progress. Some of the stories regarding the treatment of British and Indian prisoners in Turkish hands will not lend much countenance to the Government's claim for "an honourable place" anywhere, and in regard to "the family of nations" it may be expected that the Allied Powers will wish to keep this circle far more select than it has been hitherto.

The problem concerns Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria no less than Turkey. All four peoples have been, without doubt, guilty of outrages and atrocities in connection with their conduct of the war. What action are the Allies to take with regard to such deeds? The answer which must be supplied by the Allied Governments will have to be based on two principles: (1) that the decision shall be capable of practical application, and (2) that it shall be applied consistently in the case of each of the four States. Already Germany and Greece, from different points of view, have urged the appointment of neutral Commissions to inquire into the allegations of excesses, the former in regard to the charge brought against the Germans themselves, the latter in regard to the charges made against the Bulgarians. If the Allies accept the Greek proposal, they cannot with any consistency reject the German suggestion. In these circumstances the whole question calls for serious consideration, and ought not to be decided impetuously without reference to the practical results that can be attained.

The report of the Carnegie Commission at the end of the Balkan Wars will be fresh in everybody's memory. After compiling evidence of Turkish, Bulgarian, Serbian, and Greek "atrocities," it left the matter exactly as it was generally supposed to have stood before the inquiry began. On this occasion there is a desire to see something more practical achieved. The statement that only 20,000 Serbians out of 50,000 have survived their rigorous treatment as prisoners of war in Bulgaria is a terrible indictment; but it is probably equalled, if not surpassed, by the tragedies of Russian and other Allied prisoners' camps in Germany. Everyone would like to see those responsible for the deaths of so many thousands of prisoners brought to justice; but how can the degree of responsibility be fixed and the penalties inflicted? The Allies have pledged themselves to exact retribution for certain crimes which can be laid at the door of individual perpetrators, and it is for the Governments to decide whether the practice can be extended to include responsibility for the wholesale maltreatment of prisoners.

The Allied forces continue to make progress in the Balkans. On Bulgarian territory French troops, having reached Vidin and Lom Palanka, have cut the enemy's communications on the Danube. In the meantime the Serbians are pressing back the Austro-German forces that still cling to Northern Serbia. Our Allies have now recaptured Parachin, in the Morava valley from which point their line bends south-west towards Montenegro. The Bor copper mines are also in their possession. Serbian and Montenegrin *komitaji* are reported to be operating, supported by French elements, in the Ipek district, where they have taken fifteen hundred prisoners.

With the Prime Ministers of Greece and Serbia, as well as a representative of Roumania, in London it was inevitable that the absence of Montenegro from any discussions on Balkan affairs that might be taking place should be a subject for comment. The Montenegrin Government has apparently not found it necessary to accredit permanently a diplomatic representative to Great Britain; but it would have been thought that the interests of the country called for the presence of the head of the Government from time to time in London. It is true that Montenegro is a small State and cannot hope to compete in the matter of diplomatic display with her larger and wealthier neighbours; but it is not good policy for a Government to remain always in the background, as it encourages the idea that the country has no particular interests of its own to support, and is content to be merged unheard and unconsidered in any general solution of the Balkan question that may be reached. This we can hardly believe is the official attitude of Montenegro, particularly in view of the fact that the Government has acknowledged the existence of critics by carrying on a press campaign in Switzerland.

It is difficult, therefore, to suppose that the Montenegrin Government has been well advised to allow itself to be so completely engrossed with its affairs in Paris or Pau that it can find no time for a visit to England. Methods of communication with the British Government exist in the French capital, but the personal equation always counts for much. The failure to pay more attention to Great Britain argues possible shortsightedness, especially at a moment when Montenegro is about to be liberated from the Austrian yoke, and will need to rely for a considerable extent on public funds for help in the revictualling of the country. Fortunately, Montenegro can count upon the services of friends, both official and unofficial. The steady efforts of the Montenegrin Red Cross Fund, under the chairmanship of Sir Roper Parkington, are now to be supplemented by the raising of a special fund in Glasgow at the instigation of the Consul for Montenegro in that city, Mr. David Mason. A Flag Day is fixed for November 30, and it is to be hoped that it will prove a great success.

Sherif Faisal, the Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Hejaz Army, had a message of sound common sense to give to the inhabitants of Damascus. The city has passed under the administration of the Arabs, and for the time being the son of King Hussein represents the paramount power. He inculcated the doctrine of respecting the rights of others, and reminded his hearers that it was the sufferings of the Syrian nation which had led to the wresting of Damascus from the hands of the Turks. Aleppo, he added, had yet to be rescued from slavery, and he trusted that the sword of the Arabs would not be sheathed until the northern lands were free. The sword of the Arabs has brought Damascus relief from the sword of Othman, and, in due course, we may expect that Arab administration will prove even more welcome in the place of the travesty of administration that went by the name of Ottoman.

The Egyptian Government has approached the question of the salaries of its civil servants in a comprehensive and generous spirit. A heavy additional charge is imposed upon the Exchequer, but it has long been recognised by all acquainted with the circumstances that the step was overdue. The Sudan Government, we are glad to note, will follow the example of Egypt. The prosperity of these two countries during the war has been an outstanding feature of their recent history; but prices have risen, and while other salaries have responded, the rank and file of those connected with the government of the country have been unfairly penalised.

It is symptomatic of M. Venizelos's statesmanship that no utterance of his ever lends support to the efforts of those who would accentuate differences or antagonisms between the Balkan peoples. He was the real author of the Balkan League, and it may be supposed that he realises that the future prosperity of the Peninsula is dependent upon the ultimate revival of the League. But he has gone further, in seeking to make the present war an occasion for the removal of all misunderstanding between Greece and Italy. At least it can be said that it will not be the fault of the Greek Prime Minister if the two countries fail to arrive at an amicable settlement of the Southern Albanian question. We could wish that the whole Near Eastern question had been settled on sound lines by now.

The full text of the lengthy manifesto published by the Moderate, or Liberal, leaders in Bengal shows that we were not mistaken in regarding its issue as a definite step towards reality in Indian politics. It is an important document, if only by reason of its conclusive exposure of the methods followed by the group of Extremists who still pose as the "National" Congress. We are told that in that organisation "it is particularly difficult for a minority to obtain a full hearing," that a "satisfactory discussion" is possible only in the Subjects Committee, that in the Congress itself "speakers who wish to amend or oppose labour under great disadvantages," and even that "exponents of the minority view may be roughly handled." That is how the Congress works since its machinery was captured by the Extremists.

It is true that substantially similar accounts of the working of the organisation have appeared in the Anglo-Indian Press, but they have been written by hostile critics who have been abundantly denounced as perverters of the truth. Now we have the unvarnished facts set forth over the signatures of men like Babu Surendranath Banerjee and Babu Ambika Charon Mozumdar, who know the internal working of the machine from prolonged and intimate experience. Their testimony cannot be set aside, and it disposes once for all the exaggerated claims which are sometimes made on behalf of the Congress in this country as well as in India: the Liberals at least recognise that a machine of this sort is unworthy of the stage which Indian politics have reached.

The authors of the manifesto do not claim to speak for India as a whole, a fact which of itself bears witness to the progress they have made. They claim rather to represent a majority of the intelligent opinion of the country, which is just the position taken up by an ordinary party, though not every party has such valid grounds for asserting that the country is at its back. We have no particular affection for the party-system regarded as an institution, but at the same time we are bound to recognise that the world at large has hitherto been unable to do without it, and India is probably on the right track in following the universal practice. In any case a frank acceptance of the facts is very much better than insistence on a purely theoretical unanimity.

The weakness of the situation lies, of course, in the absence of any constitutional method of ascertaining whether the claim to a majority is well founded. The reticence of " intelligent opinion " in India is such that individuals can at most hazard a conjecture as to its probable direction, and while we may believe that in a fair contest the Liberals would leave the extremists far behind, we have no means of verifying our view, and for this purpose, as for so many others, must be content to wait until the Franchise Committee has completed its task. Judging, however, by the contortions of the extremist party, of which recent mails have brought a vivid picture, the claims of the Liberals have a much better foundation than those originally put forward by their opponents.

In this connection we may notice one point which, so far, seems to have attracted comparatively little attention in India. Should the cleavage of politicians into two parties become definitely established, it will considerably facilitate the task of the Governors who may have to introduce the new constitutional arrangements. The Governor of Bengal, for instance, will know that his Ministers must be either Liberals or extremists, and his field of choice will thus be narrowed at the outset by a consideration of the composition of his Legislative Council, which, though it will not at first have power to dismiss Ministers, will in practice be able to make their position intolerable. The Governor's burdens will in any case be so heavy that the lightening of even one of them may be regarded as a substantial asset.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—

" THE WELFARE OF EGYPT," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

" TURKEY, A PAST AND A FUTURE," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

" GERMANY, TURKEY, AND ARMENIA." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

" LOYAL INDIA," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

" THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

" HORRORS OF ALEPPO," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

" MARTYRED ARMENIA." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, " to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

" TURKISH PRISONERS IN EGYPT." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, September 16.

His Highness the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan received in audience this week General Sir Edmund Allenby, the C.-in-C. of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces. His Highness took the opportunity of personally expressing to the gallant general his lively appreciation of the brilliant work done by the forces under his command and his good wishes for their further success.

War Allowances.

At its meeting on Wednesday last the Council of Ministers approved of a scheme for granting war allowances to Government personnel, which had been prepared by the special committee recently set up under Mr. E. M. Dowson, the Acting Under-Secretary of State, for the purpose of studying the question. Under this scheme an increase of 40 per cent. is granted to all employees drawing £E150 per annum and under; above that figure an allowance of £E60 per annum is granted on all salaries up to and including £E780 per annum; and those drawing more than £E780 but less than £E840 per annum will have their salary brought up to the last-named figure. These allowances are to date from April 1 this year, and will cost the Government the annual sum of £E1,846,000, included in which is the £E564,000 already accorded to the personnel drawing £E200 per annum and less.

This, it must be admitted, is a large sum to add to the salary bill of the State. There is, however, not the shadow of a doubt but that the addition is more than justified by the enormous rise in the cost of living since the war, and especially during the past year. Considerable relief will be afforded thereby to the smaller employees for whom the special allowance of £E1 per month voted in August, 1917, has proved totally insufficient; whilst the sum granted to the higher personnel will go some way towards helping them to meet the heavy extra expenditure which they are called upon to bear to-day by comparison with pre-war conditions. The war allowance previously granted to the smaller personnel is already covered by the new excise on sugar levied recently; and it is expected that some of the balance of the cost of the grant now made will be recouped out of the profit accruing to the Egyptian Treasury from the purchase and re-sale of the cotton crop under the agreement come to between the British and Egyptian Governments.

The Controller of Supplies.

Mr. J. I. Craig, who resigned the post of Controller of Supplies in March this year, has now retired from the service of the Egyptian Government, and at its last sitting the Council of Ministers agreed to the proposal to give him his salary from June 23 up to August 15, and to accord him his pension as from the latter date. Mr. Craig, who up to his appointment as Controller of Supplies last October had held the post of Controller of State Statistics, and who reverted to it on his resignation of the former, has done an enormous amount of most valuable work for this country, especially since the outbreak of war, when he became member of the Supplies Commission, which up to the inception of the Supplies Department looked after the food supplies of the country; and his retirement from the Egyptian Civil Service has been received with widespread regret by all those who are in a position to assess at their true value the services he has rendered during the past fifteen years. At the same time the news that he has been appointed to a high position under the Government at home has given much pleasure, and all who knew him wish him the best of luck in his new sphere of activity.

The Servant Question.

One of the questions which has become somewhat of a problem to Anglo-Egyptian householders of late years has been that of servants. At no time has the Berberine, who furnishes the main portion of the domestic element, been very satisfactory, but since the outbreak of war the difficulties in obtaining good servants at anything like a reasonable wage have become tremendous. This is in great part due to the demands made, more especially recently, by the military authorities. During the early part of the war officers and mess servants were drawn from the ranks, but the demand for men in the firing line has forced the number of soldiers set aside for this purpose to be very restricted, and they have been entirely replaced by native servants. This not unnaturally has depleted the supply available for the civilian population, for, given the much easier conditions of service in a camp or mess, the Berberine shows a decided disinclination to take service with civilians. But insult was, so to speak, added to injury by the terms under which native servants engaged for military duties. A monthly wage of P.T. 280 was fixed, which was paid by the War Office, to which were added free rations and a minimum pay of P.T. 30 per month payable by the officer. Before the war it was possible to obtain a good "Suffragi" for P.T. 200 to 230 per month without food, but the action of the military has had for result that the gross wages have been increased by over 60 to 80 per cent., and only the most inferior servants are left for the civilian element. What is so surprising with regard to the inordinately high rate fixed for these servants is that the Board which settled the question included amongst its members at least one Anglo-Egyptian resident, who ought to have known better the local conditions. There would have been no difficulty in getting the servants for the Army at civilian rates, considering that the conditions of service offered them are in every case much lighter than those to which they have been accustomed in civilian employ, and the only result of this mistaken decision has been unnecessarily to augment the cost to the British taxpayer and increase the financial burden borne by Anglo-Egyptian householders, who are already suffering in every other respect somewhat considerably through the war. It is satisfactory to note that the ridiculously light labour given to these servants has attracted the attention of the responsible military authorities, and that it has been settled that one servant shall henceforward do for three officers—instead of one, as has been the case hitherto. Whilst, however, this may tend to increase the servant supply available for civilian requirements, it is to be feared that, thanks to the precedent set up, the tariff has been raised for all time against the Anglo-Egyptian residents.

Visitors from the Sudan.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Acting Governor-General of the Sudan, is expected next week in Cairo with his Staff. He will proceed to Alexandria for a short time, and then will be occupied in the discussion with the Anglo-Egyptian authorities of the various important questions which always arise between the two administrations. Colonel Bernard Pasha, the Financial Secretary, is already here busy with the preliminaries of the annual budget, which he will in due course discuss with his immediate chief and the Acting Financial Adviser.

For the past three months Alexandria has been full of Anglo-Sudanese residents, who are spending their leave there. In this respect the officials of the Sudan Government and their families have a distinct "pull" over the Anglo-Egyptian community. They may have to put up with a more strenuous climate south of Asswan, but at the same time, in addition to having a hill station at Erkowit, where they can repair in case of need during the summer, they can come down to Alexandria and Port Said and obtain complete change, not only of climate, but also of surroundings and interests. By contrast, the Anglo-Egyptians are very badly off. They have no hill station to go to, and when they run down to either of the ports the change is really very slight, for one can scarcely look upon either of these resorts as anything else but "a Cairo by the sea" in so far as surroundings are concerned. What is, indeed, playing havoc with the nerves of the residents, especially the fair sex, and is impairing the working capacity of the men, is the everlasting sameness of the climate and environment, from which they can never get away unless they go Home to England. Since the war, and especially now, such relief has become impossible. It is no wonder, therefore, that they look with envy upon their Anglo-Sudan compatriots, who are at any rate able to get some change by coming down to Egypt.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, September 16.

The flood has reached its height, and has now begun to fall. It has been somewhat below normal, notwithstanding the unusually high level of the White Nile at the beginning of the rise. The Blue Nile did not get within a metre and a-half of its last year's level, and thus removed any danger that had been anticipated of dangerous floods.

The rains have been so far fairly satisfactory but somewhat late, and some districts still require further rain to ensure the ripening of the crops. On the whole, the prospects are good, although it is probable that some Durra will be dried up for want of the final rain.

The basins have filled up as far as the height of the Nile allowed. At Wad Hamid an accident occurred that imperilled all the upper and more fertile basin, as the bank broke just as the basin was filling up. However, after a few days it was possible to repair the break, and there is now every hope that the basin will be a success.

The Acting Governor-General and Sirdar and his staff came down from Erkowit on September 11, to be at Khartoum for the Kurban Bairam. He will proceed north on the 19th, and will be joined at Atbara by Lady Stack, who accompanies him north.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The summer season on Mount Troödos has passed, and has differed but little from its war-time predecessors. The High Commissioner's receptions on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, which began early in July, have been continued.

As anticipated, Greeks in ever-increasing numbers have spent the hot season in the hills. Platras, the nearest village to the camp, is the most crowded and fashionable. Here the Public Health Board has passed some wise and necessary by-laws; and it is a very satisfactory sign of progress that several district municipalities have been similarly taking precautions against the various dangers to village sanitation, including measures against flies, for the washing of cups and glasses, etc., with running water, in cafés, and for keeping beds free from vermin! Famagusta has given a good lead in several directions.

Tenders have been invited for the lease of the fresh water lakes of Famagusta, in the east of the island. Some of the few island lagoons that exist used to be farmed out at high prices in bygone times for fishing. Thus the large salt lake in the Limassol District used to provide abundant fish. It is now an example of melancholy neglect and waste, not even being utilized for the collection of what is the best salt in the island. Offers were made in the early years of the Occupation for working the salt, which might have been profitably sold outside the Ottoman Empire (for the Convention excluded sales within it); but the opportunity was, like so many others, allowed to slip away.

THE TURKISH CABINET.

Under date of October 20, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that a Constantinople telegram, dated October 13, states that the new Turkish Cabinet has been definitely constituted as follows:—

IZZET Pasha	Grand Vizier and Minister War
RESHID AKIF Pasha	President of the Council
RAOUF Bey	Marine
HULUSSI Effendi	Sheik-ul-Islam
RIFAAT Pasha	Foreign Affairs
FETHI Bey	Interior
DJAVID Bey	Finance
DJELALE Mukhtar Bey	Food Controller
HAYRI Effendi	Justice
ZIA Pasha	Public Works
SAID Bey	Education
ABDUL RAHMAN CHERIF Bey	Pious Foundations

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DR. MAC INNES ON CONDITIONS IN JERUSALEM.

Dr. MacInnes (Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem), speaking at St. Margaret's Church, Lothbury, on Tuesday, said that besides military work the British in Palestine had already done a great deal for the material improvement of the people. The bringing up of the broad gauge railway to Jerusalem and the providing the city with a pure water supply were wonderful improvements. In the matter of water supply, the British had done within four months what the Turks had not done in four hundred years. Indeed, on one occasion, when an English philanthropist had offered an enormous sum of money to provide Jerusalem with a water supply, the scheme had fallen through because there was not sufficient backsheesh to be given to officials.

Of the relief work that had been done in Jerusalem, Dr. MacInnes said that when the British first occupied the Holy City one effect had been to greatly increase the distress already prevailing. This was because while the Turks were masters of the city they had held the Jordan and the grain-growing country on the east of that river had supplied the city with food. When the Turks were driven out and crossed the Jordan they stopped this supply. However, their action had been foreseen, and a supply of rice had been got to the city just in time to meet serious want. Food was still enormously expensive, but there was no fear now of any general state of starvation. In the country districts also the people probably had supplies buried in the ground sufficient to keep them alive, but he trembled to think of the possible condition of the inhabitants of Nablous, Nazareth, Haifa, Damascus, Beyrout, and other towns that had recently come under British rule in the north. It had been very hard, when administering relief in Jerusalem, to have to discriminate between cases; to have, for example, to refuse clothing to children who really needed it because the garments were required for other cases of even greater distress. In all this work the greatest care had been exercised that assistance should only be given to those in real necessity. For a very long time past there there had been in Jerusalem a state of indiscriminate charity which had demoralised the recipients. Before the war the city had had eighty thousand inhabitants; there were far more people in it than could find work there. A large number of Jews had gone there simply from a desire to end their days in the Holy City. Many of these were not fit to work, others could but would not work; and there had grown up a dreadful state of pauperisation which it was now most difficult to overcome.

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MONTENEGRO.

A special appeal is to be made in Glasgow for the benefit of "Starving Montenegro." A flag day is fixed for November 30, and already donations are coming in well. The movement has the support of the Lord Provost, and behind it is the driving force of Mr. David Mason, the Consul for Montenegro in Glasgow. There will be a large meeting in St. Andrew's Hall on the day. The names of the speakers will be announced later. Contributions will be received by the secretary to the Lord Provost. With the near prospect of Montenegro's liberation from the Austrian yoke, there is an urgent need for funds to assist in the revictualling of the people and the rehabilitation of the country.

◆

Over 700 Greeks from Eastern Macedonia, who were deported by the Bulgarians into Serbian territory and subsequently liberated by the Allied armies in the Kitchevo region, have arrived at Salonika.

The *Pioneer* reports a curious fatal accident which occurred at Hyderabad. The wife of an actor of a Gujrati theatrical company while performing there was cutting up onions with a sharp knife when she was seized with an epileptic fit and fell, cutting her throat with the knife.

A Reuter's message reports that the Commander of the First Serbian Army, General Peter Boyovitch, has been promoted to the rank of Field-Marshal in the Serbian Army for the skill and mastery he has shown in commanding the leading Serbian Army during the three weeks' march from Monastir to Nish.

The Society of Biblical Archæology, which was founded in 1870, has been amalgamated with the Royal Asiatic Society. The amalgamation will bear the name of the Royal Asiatic Society only, but the *Journal* of that body will contain a notice that the *Proceedings* of the Society of Biblical Archæology are incorporated with it.

The Bishop in Jerusalem, in the course of a sermon at Westminster Abbey on Sunday, said a new era had begun in Palestine in the dramatic way that appealed to the imagination of the East. The Turks had arranged to send 700 people away from Jerusalem on December 12, as they were suspected of sympathy with the Allies, but on the day before that General Allenby entered the city.

The Palestine Office in Jaffa has recently issued the first volume of the statistics of the Jews in Palestine, dealing with Judea only. The compilation was made by Mr. M. Wilkanski during the course of the war, and represents the first attempt to provide accurate statistical information regarding the Jews of Palestine. The present volume consists purely of tables of figures, without any attempt to draw conclusions from them or to institute comparisons. The information obtained relates to population, occupation, place of origin, language, and many other topics. The statistics with regard to Galilee are not yet quite complete, and will no doubt be issued later.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

AN ALBANIAN PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs made yesterday a declaration to the English Press concerning the aspirations of Greece, in which he made mention of Epirus.

As Albanian Delegate in London I wish to protest energetically in the name of the Albanian people against the pretension of the kingdom of Greece with regard to the part of Albania called Epirus.

Never at any epoch in Hellenic history has Epirus formed part of Greece; never has Epirus been conquered by the Greeks; Epirus has been inhabited from a remote antiquity by a population which is Albanian by race, by language, and by tradition, and which will not submit to any foreign domination.

The ruins of three hundred villages in Epirus burnt by the Greeks deliberately, after the Balkan Wars, are striking proof both of the Albanian character of the region and of the methods of the Greeks against a foreign population.

The Minister asserts: "We should certainly be greatly disappointed if the coming Peace Congress did not sanction the aspirations of Greece." We Albanians, however, believe that the Great Powers, who have sacrificed millions of human lives in order to destroy Prussian militarism, will not permit the erection of little Prussias in the Balkans and the enslavement of peoples.

The principle of nationality—if it be not an empty phrase—will assure to Albania all the territories torn from her in 1912-1913.—I am, etc.,

Mehmed Konitza.

6a, Maddox Street, W.1.
October 17, 1918.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the good old days of Turkish rule the law affecting the cultivation of tobacco provided that any one doing so must plant a certain amount of land. Very small plots were forbidden, as the supervision of them caused much trouble to the Excise officers. This was a perfectly fair and well-understood arrangement.

The Island Government on October 11, 1917, issued an order prohibiting the cultivation of tobacco except under licence. There was no stipulation as to the size of the area proposed to be put under tobacco, and applications for many small plots were granted. On July 26, 1918, an order appeared in the Government *Gazette* prohibiting the employment in tobacco cultivation of any male between the age of 12 and 60, and of any female between the age of 12 and 50. In other words, the manipulation of tobacco which is a very delicate operation was to be handed over to children and old men. And the order came into force in four days' time—viz., August 1. A saving clause, however, was inserted which ran thus: "The Commissioner *may* grant special permission in writing if he is satisfied that such person cannot be engaged in the work of harvest."

Let me now review the course of events. The Proclamations of October, 1917, and of July, 1918, each began by stating that it was desirable in the public interest that the amount of foodstuffs grown in the island should be increased. If that were so, then why grant any licences? But another point arises: can a law be superseded by a Proclamation? Possibly martial law overrides ordinary law. To most people out here it seems that the proper course, in order to increase food production, would have been to have allowed the existing Turkish law to regulate the matter, or to have forbidden absolutely the cultivation of tobacco. Having, however, granted some thousands of licences, it was extremely unfair to the growers to tie their hands at four days' notice.

So much for the tragedy of the proceedings; now comes the comedy. Harvest in Cyprus is practically finished by the end of July; a small amount of work remains to be done on the thrashing floor, but from the labour point of view it is infinitesimal. The order holds good "until the raw tobacco is ready for transport for manufacturing purposes." That date would probably be some time in December or January. Harvest, therefore, seems to have been used as a stalking-horse; that plea will not deceive a Cypriote.

It is too early as yet to ascertain what effect it will have on the tobacco crop. Undoubtedly a large number—probably a sufficient number—of permits will be issued by Commissioners, more or less at random, for it will be impossible for them to satisfy themselves that each person "cannot be engaged in the work of harvest." In one sense, the task would be an easy one; for, as I have pointed out, there is now no harvest work to be employed on. Permits, therefore, can be granted with an easy conscience.

The drafting of the order comes under review, for the concluding sentence is certainly a harsh one, to say the least. It provides for punishment by fine or imprisonment, or both, and ends by stating that any person on whose land any person shall commit a breach of the order shall be liable to be punished as aforesaid. Much tobacco land is held under lease. A man resident in Baffo may own land at Famagusta, and lease it for tobacco, amongst other crops. If his tenant offends in some unimportant detail, the owner may be arrested, taken to Famagusta, be tried, and if found guilty, be imprisoned. I myself have land let for tobacco cultivation, with a fair crop growing on it. In self-defence I must watch all that goes on; I must ascertain whether the women working on the land are either over 50 years of age or are the possessors of a "special permit." Otherwise, I may be cast into prison. Finally, as there is no English newspaper published in the island, we have no means of making our grievances known except through the medium of The Near East.—I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

Kyrenia, August 3, 1918.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Egyptian Capitulations. Oct. 17.

Lord R. Cecil, Assistant-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to Major G. Peel, said the Commission appointed at Cairo by the Egyptian Government in March, 1917, for the purpose of elaborating the legislative, judicial and administrative reforms which would be rendered necessary by the disappearance of the Capitulations had made progress as rapidly as circumstances admitted. It was the intention of the British and Egyptian Governments to come to an agreement with the Allied and neutral Powers who were parties to the Capitulations for the abolition of the latter as soon as sufficient progress had been made in the preparation of a new judicial system to replace that at present in existence.

Colonel Yate: Does not the fact that we are at war with Turkey *ipso facto* abolish the Capitulations?

Lord R. Cecil: I would not like to accept that without consideration.

Prisoners in Turkey.

Sir G. Cave, replying to Sir E. Hume-Williams, who asked for information about prisoner camps in Turkey, said: Representatives of the Netherland Minister at Constantinople have visited camps and hospitals in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, and their reports have been received. A Dutch inspector proceeded on August 19 to visit the camps in the interior of Asia Minor, and it is known that he has been to Kedos, but no reports from him have yet been received. I am glad to be able to state that the accounts given in the reports above mentioned and in recent letters from prisoners show a substantial improvement in their conditions, due largely to the Turkish Red Crescent Commission, which visited the camps in anticipation of the Dutch inspection.

Indian Prisoners. Oct. 21.

Mr. J. Hope, Lord of the Treasury, replying to two questions put by Mr. Cotton, said: I am informed by the India Office that there are two Indian officers and 513 rank and file at present prisoners of war in German hands; two officers and 13 rank and file have been exchanged; and nine officers, of whom eight have since been repatriated, and 60 rank and file, of whom two have since died and 16 have been repatriated, have been transferred to a neutral country. The great majority of these prisoners have been transferred to Roumania, the remainder being interned in various camps in Germany. On the whole their treatment appears to be satisfactory. The number of Indian officers and men prisoners of war in Turkey is 217 and 6,569 respectively, and the number who have been repatriated on grounds of health is six and 1,170 respectively. None have been transferred for internment to neutral countries, as there is no agreement in force with the Turkish Government for this purpose.

Prisoners in Turkey.

In a written reply to a question put by Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. Hope states: The Turkish Government and the Governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary have been notified that a British ship will be sent to Scala Nova on a fixed date with 1,000 Turkish prisoners of war to embark a thousand British invalid prisoners of war. It is understood that the Turkish Government are collecting the latter at a point near Smyrna. The ship in question will also convey stores for the use of our prisoners in Turkey who cannot be immediately repatriated. In addition to the above steps for carrying out the Berne Agreement, his Majesty's Government have proposed to the Turkish Government the repatriation of all British, including Indian, prisoners of war in Turkey who have been over eighteen months in captivity, against that of similar numbers and ranks of similarly situated Turkish prisoners of war in British hands. To this proposal no reply has yet been received, and the Turkish Government have, therefore, been informed that his Majesty's Government must insist on an immediate answer.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RUSSIA THAT WAS.*

It is seldom indeed that time deals quite so disastrously with a book before its birth as this. M. Vandervelde, the respected Belgian Socialist, went to Russia in the first flush of enthusiasm for the revolution, in those halcyon days when the only question in dispute was whether the Millennium was to begin the day after to-morrow or began the day before yesterday. Everybody was everybody else's brother—until they began cutting each other's throats; but the author plaintively remarks that after all they did not cut so very many at first, and those wicked journalists exaggerated the number. Perhaps the journalists expected their turn to come next, and after all it is a little difficult to report one's own execution with the proper sang-froid.

When M. Vandervelde arrived in Petrograd he found that nobody was drunk and everybody talked as much as they liked, and he saw that it was very good. But after a time the atmosphere of an interminable debating society evidently rather repelled him; the unexpected sobriety, however, was altogether excellent, and he wrote that "perhaps the leaders of the old *régime*, who have at least the merit of this radical reform, owe their lives to that fact." It is a little unfortunate that the book should not be published until a month after the Tsar was shot, and that the present reviewer should chance upon that passage on the very day when the Russian Government published the names of the ex-Ministers who had been executed. These undesigned coincidences are occasionally awkward.

The author was naturally touched by the sympathy expressed for Belgium by many of the Russians, but his cool judgment must have made him wonder whether the sympathy had any tangible meaning, and the event has shown that it had not. It was a civil speech, probably combined with a more or less magnificent gesture, of about as much value as the present Russian paper money.

The real value of this book lies less in its account of the Russian revolution—in which it is easily surpassed by M. Claude Anet's wonderful sketch—than in its discussion of the Stockholm question, which became urgent last summer. Here M. Vandervelde, who must be accepted as an authority, unravels the facts with lucidity. The origin of the thing was apparently the desire of the neutrals, Dutch and Scandinavian, to keep out of the war, and the fear that they would not be able to keep out much longer. The force of events—or, as he hints in one or two cases, their own inclinations—helped to play the German game. The Russians simply wanted peace, and advocated Stockholm from that point of view, and not, as we were told *ad nauseum* at the time, in order to encourage them to go on fighting—which was absurd. After this *exposé*, perhaps Mr. Ramsay Macdonald will apologise, and Mr. Henderson once again say that he was misrepresented, as he usually is, according to his own account. M. Vandervelde saw the way things were shaping, and evidently understood that no good could come from the conference. The best proof that he was right is Brest-Litovsk.

He admits, by the way, that M. Troelstra was pro-German, which was so furiously denied by our pacifists not long ago. We are afraid they will find this simple and honest record little to their fancy; it gives them away too completely, and will rather damage their case for reconstituting Stockholm. But it is only fair to recognise the difficulty of their position. After all, the one reason they want to go to Stockholm is that they want to talk to the Germans; and that is the one reason which puts them out of court with their countrymen.

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* "Three Aspects of the Russian Revolution." By Emile Vandervelde. (G. Allen and Unwin. 5s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Gallipoli Diary." By Major Graham Gillam, D.S.O. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Seaways of the Empire." By A. J. Sargent. (London: A. and C. Black. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Over There." By Captain R. Hugh Knyvett. (London; Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

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The October *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains, besides the usual "Notes and News," a further—and most interesting—instalment of Dr. Masterman's "Hygiene and Disease in Palestine in Modern and in Biblical Times." Mr. Offord contributes a paper on "Palestinian Scarabs," and another on "The Vicissitudes of the Population of Palestine as foretold in the Prophecy of Noah"; and Mr. W. T. Massey's article on "The Jerusalem Water Supply" is reprinted from the *Daily Telegraph*.

SALONIKA, 11th October, 1918.

"Have just returned from visiting reoccupied regions. There is much distress among population. Whole villages destroyed. Thousands without homes, clothes, or food, and in the greatest misery. Need for help is urgent. I am opening immediately soup kitchens and dispensaries in Ghevgheli, Doiran, and Kavadar, and hope to open others elsewhere. Principal hospital will be moved shortly to either Uskub or neighbourhood of Nish. We shall have great need of funds for development of work in new regions. In addition to money, warm clothes and boots in unlimited numbers are urgently needed. Please make immediate fresh appeals to generosity of public."—*FRANK CLEMOW.*

Dr. Clemow, who sends this cable, is in charge of the Serbian Relief Fund's advanced units in Serbia.

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Parcels of Clothing, Materials, Boots, etc., for men, women, and children should be sent to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. October	1918. October.		1337. Moharrem.	5679. Hesvan.
25	12	Friday	19	19
26	13	Saturday........	20	20
27	14	Sunday	21	21
28	15	Monday	22	22
29	16	Tuesday	23	23
30	17	Wednesday	24	24
31.	18	Thursday	25	25

Lord Lamington has arrived in London from Scotland.

A piece of statuary is to be presented to General Milne by Salonika.

M. Také Jonescu and M. Titulesco left London for Paris last week.

The Bishop of London arrived in Salonika on October 17, and has gone to the front.

Colonel Sir John and Lady Roper Parkington arrived at the Empire Hotel, Bath, last week.

M. Pashitch, who left London for Paris last week, has been suffering from influenza since his arrival in France.

M. Venizelos had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen on Monday at Buckingham Palace.

Lady Islington and the Hon. Joan Dickson-Poynder will return to 8, Little College Street, to-day from Glynde.

Colônel FitzPatrick, the Commissioner-General for the British Red Cross Society at Salonika, has left London for Serbia.

The King of Serbia has conferred the Order of St. Sava (3rd Class) upon Paymaster H. M. Fitch, R.N., and (5th Class) Commander Alfred Stead, R.N.V.R.

The marriage of Major G. B. Scott, D.S.C Indian Army, and Miss Blanche de Caen will take place at Delgany Church, Co. Wicklow, on Tuesday, October 29, at 2.30.

The Imperial War Graves Commission has appointed Sir Robert Lorimer, K.C.B., F.R.I.B.A., to report on the architectural treatment of cemeteries in Egypt and Italy.

Sir Duncan Baillie, K.C.S.I., who was acting Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, India, in 1913-14, has been elected chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

As a result of a matinée organised by Lady Alexander in aid of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund for British troops, and given at the Alhambra Theatre on Sunday, a sum of £1,400 has been added to the fund.

Miss Edith Johncock, of the Edinburgh Medical Mission, in charge of the military hospitals in Nazareth, who has been a prisoner since the outbreak of the war, has been released, and is now safe in Damascus.

The Prince Regent of Serbia has requested the Lord Mayor to convey to the citizens of London his heartiest thanks for their warm congratulations on the recent Serbian victories and for their generous interest in his country.

An engagement is announced between Arthur Herbert Conway Jackson, I.C.S. (captain, I.A.R.), of Bombay, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jackson, of Shrewsbury, and Margery Ruth, only daughter of Mr. J. R. Carless, of Shrewsbury.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain R. L. P. Wells, attached Indian Cavalry, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Wells, and Stella, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. Simms, 6, Pelham Street, S.W.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Ronald Brymer Beckett, I.C.S., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Beckett, of 35, Hurlingham Court, S.W., and Norah, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ford Anderson, of 41, Belsize Park, N.W.

The five Indian editors now visiting England were received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Saturday. The visitors, who later expressed keen delight in the warmth of their welcome, were received separately in the Indian Room. Sir James Dunlop-Smith was in attendance.

The Government of India have awarded a State scholarship, tenable in Europe, to Miss May Millicent Kingsley, B.A., the candidate nominated by the Government of Burma. Miss Kingsley was recently appointed to act in the Indian Educational Service as professor of English at the Government College, Rangoon.

On October 17, at St. Margaret's, Ockley, the marriage took place of Major George Denne Franklin, Indian Medical Service, eldest son of G. C. Franklin, M.B.E., F.R.C.S., of Fareham, to Ethel Janet, eldest daughter of the late Rev. H. J. Carver, for many years Rector of Melbury Abbas, Dorset, and of Mrs. Carver, Hatchlea, Ockley, Surrey.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant-Commander Claude Preston Hermon Hodge, D.S.C., R.N., fifth son of Sir Robert Hermon Hodge, Bart., M.P., and Lady Hermon Hodge, of Wyfold Court, Oxfordshire, and Gwendoline Rose, younger daughter of Mr. J. Goulding Davis, Public Works Department, and Mrs. Davis, of Bahawalpur, India.

The engagement is announced of Major R. C. B. Williams, Indian Infantry, Brigade Major, Ferozepore, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bridgewater Williams, Richmond, Surrey, to Mary Lloyd, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Cruickshank, Guningrah, New South Wales, Australia. The wedding will take place at Lahore early in November.

A marriage has been arranged between Reginald William Knollys, of the Sudan P.W.D., son of the late William Edward Knollys, C.B., and Mrs. Knollys, and Celia Grace, fifth daughter of Christopher George Croft, The Bailey House, Richmond, Yorkshire. The wedding will take place quietly at 11, on October 30, at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The engagement is announced between Major-General S. D'A. Crookshank, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., Royal Engineers, second son of the late Colonel A. C. W. Crookshank, C.B., Indian Army, and Beryl Mary, younger daughter of the late Commander Willoughby Still, Royal Navy, and Mrs. Still, of Coombe Dingle, Bristol, and granddaughter of the late Colonel H. M. Nation, Indian Army.

The King has granted unrestricted permission to the following gentlemen to wear the decoration of the Order of the Nile, conferred on them by H.H. the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of services rendered under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society during the present war:—Class II., Temp. Col. Sir Courtauld Thomson, K.B.E., C.B.; and Lieut.-Col. Sir J. G. Rogers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B.; Class III., Col. C. Needham; Class IV., Capt. John Falconer; and Mr. C. H. Lyddon.

King Alexander of the Hellenes has sent a telegram to President Poincaré warmly thanking him for his message of congratulations on the capitulation of Bulgaria.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian ex-Prime Minister, has arrived in Berlin. Colonel Gantcheff, who has hitherto represented the Bulgarian Army Command at German Main Headquarters, has left this post to proceed to Coburg.

According to the *Berliner Mittagszeitung*, Prince Paul, the fourth son of the ex-King Constantine of the Hellenes, has entered the German Navy as a lieutenant, and will be attached to the Baltic station. Prince Paul is 17 years of age.

For the Chair of Medicine in the University of Belgrade, as a memorial to Dr. Elsie Inglis, over £2,500 has been promised or subscribed towards the £12,000 required. Donations may be sent to the Elsie Inglis London Memorial Fund, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Five public Rhodes lectures on Indian Institutions are to be given at University College as follows:—November 11, "Caste," by Sir James Bamfylde Fuller; November 18, "Hinduism," by Mr. William Crooke; November 25, "Islam in India," and December 2, "Ecclesiastical Institutions and Endowments in India," by Professor T. W. Arnold; December 9, "Races of Northern India," by Mr. W. Ameer Ali.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Milan Gavrilovitch has left London for Athens, where he will act as Serbian Chargé d'Affaires.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mirko Popovitch has been appointed Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation at The Hague.

Lieutenant Nemanya Voukitchevitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has been transferred to the Legation at The Hague.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Rawlins, I.A., and Major Cyril Barrett, I.A., with the Insignia of Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire.

The following have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and posted as stated:—

Major Sir P. L. Brocklehurst, Bart., Derbyshire Yeomanry, to the 10th Sudanese.

Brevet-Major G. A. Campbell, D.S.O., Army Service Corps, to the Department of Supplies.

Captain G. V. Golding, Army Veterinary Corps—services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Captain J. R. Ellison, Army Veterinary Corps, to the Veterinary Department.

Captain C. P. Fisher, Army Veterinary Corps—services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Captain W. H. Heaney, Army Veterinary Corps—services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Captain J. Fairley, Royal Army Medical Corps, to the Medical Corps.

Lieut. W. Moore, Highland Light Infantry—services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Lieut. J. P. Mead, East Surrey—services placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Thomas Haig Moorhouse, a pioneer among the planters of Ceylon and Malaya, has died at the age of 74.

The death is announced as having taken place at Satara, Bombay Presidency, on October 14, of influenza, of Mr. Ludovic V. M. Robertson, I.C.S., aged 37.

Lieut.-Colonel E. F. H. Dobson, Indian Medical Service (retired), was drowned through the sinking of the Japanese steamer Hirano Maru on October 5.

It is annouced that Lieutenant-Commander C. J. F. Eddis, R.N., who commanded H.M.S. Firefly in Mesopotamia, and took an important part in covering the retreat of our troops from Ctesiphon, died on October 19 of pneumonia. He was 33 years old.

Major Maxwell Montagu Carpendale, Indian Cavalry, died on October 15 of malaria, while on active service abroad, aged 35. He was the eldest son of the late Colonel M. M. Carpendale, of Shanklin House, Co. Dublin, and Mrs. Carpendale, of Bray, Ireland.

Among those who lost their lives through the torpedoing of the Leinster on October 10 was Colonel William Oliver Matless Mosse, Royal Munster Fusiliers, late Commanding 114th Mahrattas, son of the late Deputy Surgeon-General C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G.

Lieutenant Gavin Ralston Mure Caldwell, Coldstream Guards, who fell on October 9, was the only child of the Rev. W. H. Caldwell, who is now serving as Chaplain to the Forces, Egyptian E.F., and Mrs. Caldwell, and a great-nephew of the late Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lionel Dudley MacKinnon, late Coldstream Guards, who died at North Berwick last week at the age of sixty-eight years, received his commission in 1871. In the Egyptian Expedition of 1882 he was present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and three years later he took part in the actions at Hasheen and Tamai in the Sudan.

Colonel E. R. Reid, C.B., D.S.O., who died at Blenheim, Blackheath, Colchester, on October 14, as the result of illness contracted during war service, was a son of the late Lestock R. Reid, I.C.S., Governor of Bombay, 1846-47. His long service with the Army included some years in India, two in Burma, and two in Ceylon, and he also saw service in the Buchuanaland campaign ('84-'85) and the South African war. He retired in 1910, but volunteered for service on the outbreak of the present war.

Mr. James Dyer Tremlett, of Dalethorpe, Dedham, Essex, formerly Judge, Chief Court, Punjab, left £28,619. He gave his collection of Indian coins to Cambridge University to be placed in the Fitzwilliam Museum, and after making some benefactions bequeathed the residue of his estate to the Church Missionary Society for the benefit of the outcast tribes of the Punjab.

SOME RECENT WILLS.

Mr. David Forbes, of Smyrna and New York, left property valued at £222,638.

Mr. Herbert Burleton Jones-Bateman, of Eyarth Hall, Llanfair, Dyffryn, Clwyd, Denbigh, for thirty years a judge in India, left property to the value of £35,166.

Surgeon-Major William Jasper Rendell, a Crimean and Indian Mutiny veteran, of Convena House, Wadebridge, Cornwall, formerly of Courtfield Road, South Kensington, left property valued at £48,404.

Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, K.C.M.G., of The Villa, Manival Bulkeley, Alexandria, Egypt, President of the Quarantine Board of Egypt, and Vice-President of the Municipality of Alexandria, who was drowned at sea when the transport "Arcadian" was torpedoed, left property valued at £21,239.

Lieutenant Edward John Woodhouse, Indian Cavalry, of Sabour, Behar, India, formerly Economic Botanist to the Government of Bengal, and afterwards Principal of the Agricultural College of Behar, who died from wounds on December 18, left property of the value of £11,163. Among his bequests are:—£100 to the Officer Commanding the Behar Light Horse for the benefit of the regiment; £20 to the Indian Officers' Club at the Sabour Agricultural College; and £20 to the Bhagalpur Club. He left legacies to his half-brothers and sisters, and the residue to his sister Alice Margaret Groves.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1918.

SERBIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

Only matters of supreme importance, we may feel confident, would have brought the Serbian Prime Minister to London at a time when his Government is on the point of ending its long exile and the victorious Serbian Army, with the help of the Allies, has recovered the greater part of Serbia. One reason for the visit is connected with the revictualling of Serbia—a problem that has had to be taken in hand on a far larger scale within a short space of time than was anticipated by the Entente Governments or by the Serbians themselves. Another reason, without doubt, is to be found in the anxiety of the Serbian Government to secure official recognition for Yugoslavia. It would be idle to pretend that the situation in regard to the future Yugoslav State does not appear at first sight anomalous. The Allies have accorded whole-hearted and complete recognition to the Czecho-Slovaks, but have refrained from conferring a similar status upon the peoples who will form a still more formidable barrier against any future thrust of Germany to the East. The cause for this reserve on the part of the Allies is not far to seek. The future Yugoslav State will comprise Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes, and it is reasonable to suppose that the first and the last of these three units will not occupy a position in the new State permanently inferior to that of the Serbs. But under existing conditions, with the Croats and Slovenes for the most part still subject to Austro-Hungarian rule, the Serbs have been the protagonists of Yugoslavia, and have inevitably imparted an entirely Serbian character to their conception of the Yugoslav State that is to be. Their instinct may be absolutely true; the Yugoslav peoples may have no other desire than to range themselves under the Karageorgevitch dynasty and to have Belgrade as their capital. But the Allies would be showing scant courtesy to the Croats and Slovenes if, in the absence of any official intimation of their views to this effect, they took a step which might be held to stereotype the Yugoslavia of the future as pre-eminently Serbian, to the exclusion of Croat and Slovene elements. In this matter the Allies are showing no distrust of Yugoslavia or lack of appreciation of the splendid heroism of the Serbian nation; they are adopting a perfectly natural attitude, and the only one strictly in accord with the policy of self-determination to which they are pledged.

The omission on the part of the Allies of any public pronouncement regarding the administration of Yugoslavia only calls for notice in proportion to the efforts made by the Serbian Government to secure the coveted recognition; and the more importunate the Government becomes, the more likely is it to defeat its own purposes, as it is apt to lend colour to the suspicion, wholly unwarranted, no doubt, that it is seeking to register some advantage for itself before the very considerable intellectual contribution to the new State that will be made by the Croats and Slovenes is accurately appraised by the Allied Powers. In regard to the political affairs of all countries there is a time for speech and a time for silence. For those who have "inside knowledge" the sole determining factor should be the good of the State, and in the case of the Balkans the common good of all the States comprised within the Peninsula. Unfortunately this test is not always applied. There has recently been a somewhat ruthless rending of the veil in front of Serbian politics, which has been in the interest neither of Serbia nor of Yugoslavia, for the reason that it is based on partisanship. It has, however, rendered necessary some plain speaking, if the harm done is to be counteracted. THE NEAR EAST stands *inter alia* for the peace and harmony of the Balkans, both as between the different States and within the individual States. We refuse to subscribe to the theory that there must always be strife in the Balkans, or that political parties must inevitably represent so many armed camps. It is impossible to set about the work of promoting the interests of the whole Peninsula, without recognising the merits of each people and having absolute confidence in the future of each State. In many quarters unfortunately the worth of friendship is measured by the degree of undiscriminating partisanship with which a cause against another country or another political party is espoused. For refusing to lend itself to this time-honoured but thoroughly bad practice THE NEAR EAST is sometimes taken to task for an alleged unfriendliness to the very peoples the promotion of whose true interests, together with those of Great Britain, in these countries forms its *raison d'être*. But because there is a political controversy raging among the Serbians, we see no reason for adding fuel to the flames, and for prejudicing the future interests of Yugoslavia. True friendship for Serbia would suggest the discountenancing of all intrigue, the pointing of the way to the undoing of mistakes already made, and the restoration of harmony between the political antagonists. We prefer the method of the *Journal des Débats*, which urges the Serbian Government to form a common organ of administration with the Yugoslavs, to those of an English weekly, which merely indulges in vilification of M. Pashitch for the benefit of his political opponents.

The bane of Balkan politics in the past has been intrigue, and so long as this evil is perpetuated, the States concerned must be prepared for some reserve on the part of the Allies. Even apart from the natural desire to leave the recognition of Yugoslavia open, until Croats and Slovenes as well as Serbians had won their independence, the Allied Powers could not fail to take cognisance of the fact that the Serbians are still the victims of that passion for intrigue which has proved the undoing of Balkan States in the past. The circumstances are a matter of common knowledge. There are two separate intrigues in progress. One is carried on with the connivance, if not the actual approval, of M. Pashitch's Government, and the other is directed against his administration and, in particular, against his retention of the Premiership. Into the history of the latter intrigue we do not propose to enter here; but it may be pointed out that Serbia as a whole must suffer from any attempt at this juncture to justify a sweeping denunciation of the Government which has steered this heroic people through the storm and stress of the last four years to ultimate victory. For, let there be no mistake, neither Balkan politicians nor their English partisans take kindly to half-measures in indulging their controversial instincts. A political opponent is necessarily a Tsar, a Bolshevik, and a Bolo rolled into one, and if the Allied Governments took the accusations *au pied de la lettre*, they would withdraw their support from Serbia at once. Fortunately they can keep their heads where others lose all sense of proportion and of justice. The Balkan politician may be good-humouredly forgiven; but no condemnation of his English abettor can be too severe. The other intrigue is more subtle, and possibly more prejudicial to the recognition of Yugoslavia. It is the attempt of a band of Serbian politicians, aided by some Montenegrins, to bring about the complete absorption of Montenegro in Serbia before the Montenegrin people as a whole can exercise the right of self-determination in the only way that the Allied Powers understand the expression. In urging the recognition of Yugoslavia the Serbians, we are confident, have no other aim than the gratification of the natural desire to have the status of the new Balkan Power established. But it is obvious that any seemingly Imperialistic designs against Montenegro lend support to the charge that they are scheming for a Yugoslavia which shall merely be a Greater Serbia, and must hopelessly compromise them in the eyes of democratic allies. We trust that both these unworthy intrigues will be rigorously suppressed, and that the new era which is opening up for the Balkans will be clouded by none of the shortcomings and petty strife of the pre-war period.

EUPHRATES-MEDITERRANEAN RAILWAY.

BY VICTOR L. TRUMPER.

Our operations in Mesopotamia have drawn people's attention to the geography of that part of the world, and to the fact that a Levant-Busreh railway would shorten the distance between London and India by nearly a thousand miles. However, as far as the British are concerned, the main route to India will always be through the Suez Canal, as that is the one which can be most easily protected by sea-power.

The commercial possibilities of a railway from the Euphrates Valley to the Mediterranean are in a different category, and considerations which are paramount in regard to a strategic route need not be considered in a purely commercial enterprise. Before entering upon consideration of the utility of a railway from Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean, it is well to realise thoroughly the relative positions of the two places. Palestine and Syria together constitute a strip of territory, running roughly north and south, between Egypt and Asia Minor, and forming the eastern boundary of the Mediterranean. Mesopotamia, with the Euphrates and Tigris valleys, is a strip of land starting from the head of the Persian Gulf and running in a north-west direction till it meets the fertile region of Northern Syria, near the Gulf of Alexandretta. Between these two is a triangle of desert whose base runs due east from Maan, on the Hejaz railway, and whose perpendicular runs from Maan nearly due north, passing to the east of Amman, while the hypotenuse is formed by the western boundary of the Euphrates Valley. Another way of looking at it is to realise that from Maan to Busreh is about seven hundred miles, though the two places are in the same latitude; while the distance between Aleppo, the principal town in Northern Syria, and the nearest point of the Euphrates is barely fifty miles.

Bearing in mind the geographical position of this district of Northern Syria, it is easy to realise its importance in ancient times. It was the meeting-place of the empires of antiquity. Egypt might and did extend its sway over Palestine, but an attempt to advance further north ended in a decisive check at Carchemish from the Hittites, and the Pharaoh had to make peace on equal terms, however much he tried to disguise it in the official *communiqués* carved in various temples in Egypt. It was through this district that the armies of Assyria and Babylonia passed when they overwhelmed the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and as soon as these buffer states ceased to exist Egypt was face to face with the rising power of Assyria—and Egypt went under. It was at Issus, in this region, that Alexander the Great destroyed the power of Persia, at that time the paramount Power in the East; and this victory, followed by the reduction of Tyre, practically gave him the mastery of the then known world.

If this was an important district politically, it was even more so commercially, for it was the meeting-place of the trade routes between Egypt and Babylon, and later on between Assyria and the Ægean, and indeed the whole of the Mediterranean. The Phœnicians who inhabited the coast towns were the great traders, and seem to have been welcomed wherever they went, the various rulers realising that their desire was simply to trade and that no political machination lay behind it. Solomon attempted to control some of the trade between Mesopotamia and Egypt, by building Tadmor in the Wilderness (called Palmyra in later times), which was on the route taken by caravans; for it was far enough north for the distance saved by crossing the desert to outweigh the difficulties of the journey. Much more might be quoted to show what a volume of trade formerly passed through this district.

The country, too, is rich in itself. Apart from vegetable products, there are undoubtedly antimony, manganese, and coal to be found: two hundred talents of iron were among the tribute given by a Hittite king on the capture of Carchemish. Timber, of course, has been largely exported both to Mesopotamia and to Egypt, and the valleys are extraordinarily fertile, growing all kinds of grain, fruit, cotton, and tobacco. Among the animal products may be mentioned leather, wool, and silk; which latter is a valuable and growing industry. In ancient days plenty of ivory was obtained; for we read that on one hunting expedition Thothmes secured a bag of one hundred and twenty elephants.

The Euphrates valley, we are told, is to be the granary of the world, and this makes the construction of a railway linking it with the Mediterranean an imperative necessity.

The difficulties from an engineering point of view are not great. It is hardly realised that from the coast of the Mediterranean, at the mouth of the Orontes, to the River Euphrates is only a distance of one hundred and thirty miles, of which only a distance of forty miles is over a thousand feet above sea level. Thus, there need be no tunnels and no heavy gradients, and once the Euphrates valley is reached all is comparatively easy, for the ground is as flat as the proverbial pancake. The distance saved would be immense. Take, for example, the carriage of goods between London and Mosul (Nineveh), or Baghdad. By the present route it works out as follows:—

	Miles.
London to Busreh by sea	6,700
Busreh to Baghdad by rail	300
Busreh to Mosul by rail	500

Now, assuming that there will be a railway from Antioch or Alexandretta to Mosul or Baghdad, how do the distances work out?

	Miles.
London to Alexandretta by sea	3,400
Alexandretta to Mosul by proposed rail	400
Alexandretta to Baghdad by proposed rail ...	500

It will be seen at a glance that on the rail journey there is not much to choose either way, but on the sea transport 3,300 miles would be saved, to say nothing of eliminating the cost of the Suez Canal dues.

With a convenient outlet for Syrian and Mesopotamian trade at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, the commerce of Egypt will become of increasing importance, not only for Egypt's own products, but as a transhipping and distributing centre for the whole of the Near East. It is to be hoped that political considerations after the war will not prevent the realisation of this most promising undertaking.

◆

THE LONDON YUGOSLAVS.

The Southern Slav Committee of London has authorised its president, Dr. Trumbitch, to issue the following declaration:—

The Yugoslav Committee of London, as the representative and mandatory of seven million Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes of Austria-Hungary, and of the numerous Southern Slav communities in North and South America and the British Dominions, definitely rejects the manifesto addressed on October 16 by the Emperor Charles to "his" peoples. The committee speaks on behalf of the Southern Slavs of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, to whom the oppressive rule of that same Monarch denies free utterance. Our people are thoroughly determined to sever every tie with the Hapsburgs and their Monarchy. The Yugoslavs emphatically deny the right of the Hapsburgs to speak in their name.

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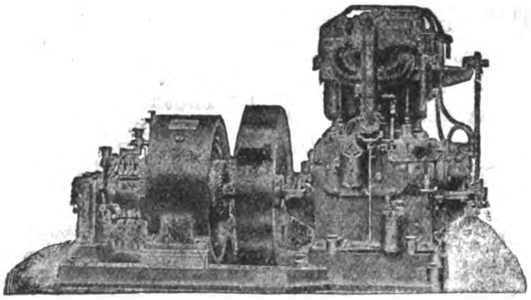

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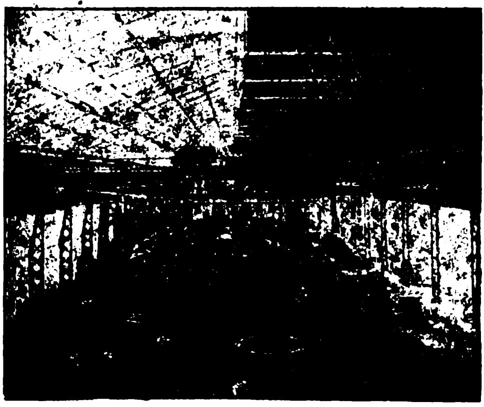

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

So, after all, it is not Tewfik Pasha who is Grand Vizier of Turkey, but Izzet! In the present state of confusion and contradictory rumours, one can only repeat: "Izzet?".

⁂

The Egyptian *Fellah* is a likable person, and when he is not flustered by strange surroundings he is by no means lacking in native shrewdness. But when he finds himself in unfamiliar surroundings he is apt to lose his head; and in that state he falls a ready victim to any plausible swindler. From Cairo comes a story illustrating this, anr calculated to turn green with envy those enterprising gentlemen in this country who live on their wits. As it seemed to me to require an Oriental manner of telling, I have persuaded an Eastern friend to write it out for me. Here it is:—

The Story of the Two Peasants.

In the days of the Sultan Fuad—may his shadow never grow less!—there dwelt in a village of Egypt two poor but honest men, named Mohammed Ahmed and Abdallah Ali. And in those days the Sultan with his Allies, the Sultan of Feringhistan and the Sultan of the Far Western Lands made war upon the Pasha of Potsdam, even he who called himself Hajji Wilhelm, though he had never so much as sniffed a breeze that blew from tho Holy Cities, and though his mere presence there would have sufficed to poison the blessed and beneficial waters of the Well, Zem Zem, for all time. And because of this war many workmen were wanted in the Sultan's capital; and for this reason went Mohammed Ahmed and his friend thither. And in course of time, by hard work they earned much money, so that their hearts became enlarged within them, their bosoms expanded, and their heads swelled greatly. Then, said they: "Lo, we are now men of substance. Let us, therefore, return to our homes, that our friends and neighbours of aforetime may envy us, and that their countenances may become yellow with jealousy." So they gathered together their belongings and went forthwith to the place whence start the caravans-that-go-by-steam, which the Feringhis call "stay-shun." And there, by reason of the pushing of the crowds, the shouting of small boys, and the shrieking of the *Jann* imprisoned in the *machina* that draws the carriages on the iron road, their senses left them, and they became even as men who walk in their sleep, or as amorous youths to whom a dancing-girl has given what is called The Glad Eye. (Though what that means, I swear by the Beard of the Profiteer, I know not.)

⁂

And while they were thus bemused there came to them a stranger who, speaking them fair, told them where to go to take their tickets, and offered to take care of their baggage while they went. "For," said he, "I perceive that you are strangers, and I would fain earn the blessing that comes to him who helps a stranger on his journey." Thereupon they thanked him and departed, leaving their goods in his care while they sought for tickets. But when they returned the stranger had disappeared, and so had their goods. Then were their hearts turned to water in them, and they reviled the city and all who dwelt therein. "Would that I could find thee, O Son of a Calamity!" cried Abdallah; and "Cursed be the Father of Dandriff-Siftings," wailed Mohammed—and much more to the same effect. But though they cursed and wept, the stranger came not; and their goods were gone.

⁂

Yet Fortune, it seemed, had not entirely deserted them; for as they groaned and moaned, wandering hither and thither and wringing their hands, there came to them another stranger, who asked what troubled them. They told him, and he laughed, saying: "It is even as I thought. Ye be two foolish fellows. But Allah the compassionate hath sent me to your aid, and *inshallah* I shall recover your property for you; for I am an officer of the police, and I think I know the man who has robbed you. It is an old game of his" (said the stranger), "but justice shall overtake him this time, and that right speedily. Now come ye with me to the Kadi. But first, since ye be fools and sons of fools, unfit to be trusted with valuables in this great city, give to me your money and anything else of value that you have on your persons." So Ali and his friend did as the officer told them, and they all went to go to the Kadi. But even as they went the officer turned away swiftly up a side street; and the two friends saw him no more. And if they had cursed before, they now cursed much worse. Ali cried: "Oh, Son of —— "

⁂

No! Emphatically no! Doubtless Ali's language was quite justified, but The Near East is a family paper—a fact which my Oriental friend appears to have forgotten. The story, however, is true—only too true for poor Mohammed Ahmed and Abdallah Ali.

Corsair.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The King on Monday received a British officer who, with seven others, recently escaped from a Turkish prison camp in the interior of Asia Minor. Reuter's Agency reports that these British officers, who were captured at Kut-el-Amara, set out across the Taurus Mountains, travelling for the most part by night. After nearly a fortnight's tramp the eight men reached the sea, where they discovered a Turkish patrol boat lying in a creek. When the crew were on shore the party took possession of the vessel, crept out under the eyes of the sentry, and made for Cyprus, steering with the help of the sun and the stars. On the verge of starvation, they reached the island, having crossed 120 miles of open sea. The officers are now in this country.

In accordance with the suggestion contained in the report of the Secretary of State and the Viceroy on Indian Constitutional Reforms, it has been decided that, as the Committees on Franchise and the Division of Functions (whose appointment was recently announced) visit each province, one civilian officer and one Indian appointed by the local government should join them with a view to ensuring that the special conditions of each province are adequately represented. A corresponding procedure will be adopted when the committees are examining questions affecting the Government of India.

The Serbian Red Cross appeals to the sympathies of the British public to supplement the generous gifts of the Australian, Canadian, Italian, Japanese and New Zealand Red Cross Societies to the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain. These gifts are being forwarded to Serbia with all possible despatch, and will be distributed by the society's own officers in that country. Contributions may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, 9, Ennismore Gardens, London, S.W.1.

The British Police Mission to organise the police of Athens has arrived in that city.

It is believed that the name of Sultan Fuad I. will be given to Rue Rosette, which is one of the most important streets in Alexandria.

Part 216 of "'The Times' History of the War" deals with "The Redemption of Mesopotamia." It contains a map and many interesting illustrations.

General Milne, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in Macedonia, has sent to General Danglis a telegram, in which he declares that without the heroic assistance of the Greek Army it would have been impossible to obtain the victory of Doiran.

The Madras Government have directed that the children of men who have enlisted in the combatant branches of the Indian Army since the outbreak of war should, so long as they remain in the service, be exempt from the payment of fees in elementary schools and allowed to pay half the standard rates of fees in colleges and secondary schools.

Dr. McInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, Lord Bryce, and Sir Henry McMahon will speak on October 28, at 5.45, at the Queen's Hall, on behalf of relief work in Palestine, which has been made possible through the British victories. Reserved tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s., may be obtained of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, 110, Victoria Street, S.W.

An exhibition formed for the Serbian Relief Fund of articles made by Serbian refugees and soldiers was opened in Liverpool on October 17 by Sir Valentine Chirol. The exhibition consists of Serbian costumes, articles of dress, etc.

From an authoritative Serbian source Reuter's Agency learns that some 200 officers and 20,000 soldiers of Yugoslav nationality, who were either captured or gave themselves up to the Italians on the Piave front, have submitted a petition to be sent to the Serbian front in order that they may fight against Austria-Hungary with their Serbian brothers and for the unity of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, many residents of Alexandria and Ramleh state that they distinctly felt an earthquake shock shortly after 2 o'clock on the afternoon of September 29.

A survey party of five members will leave Sydney in November to travel to Port Said viâ Cape York, New Guinea, Malaysia, India, Arabia and Egypt to map a route and landing-places for a London-to-Sydney aerial mail.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Good progress is being made with the project for the formation of a British Metals Corporation owing to the widespread support given to the scheme by the trades concerned. The capital of the corporation will be £5,000,000 in ordinary shares, about £2,000,000 of which is reported to have been already subscribed. The importance of the institution will be gathered from the fact that the following gentlemen are closely associated with the enterprise:—Mr. Charles Vincent Sale, of Messrs. Sale and Co., who is deputy-governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and who, it is believed, will be chairman of the corporation; Sir Charles Fielding, chairman of the Rio Tinto Company; Mr. Andrew Wilson Tait, chairman of the British Aluminium Company and the Otis Steel Company; Mr. Cecil Budd, of Messrs. Vivian Younger and Bond; Mr. A. Hugh Smith, managing director of Messrs. Cookson and Co.; and Mr. C. W. Tennant, of Messrs. Charles Tennant, Sons, and Co.

⁂

An interesting note recently appeared in the German Press to the effect that "the German Syndicate of Surveyors and Builders, which has been employed, since 1914, in working out plans for the reconstruction of Stamboul, have received orders to prepare a chart for the canalisation of that city." It was added that Brussa and other Turkish towns would probably be similarly treated. *Das Echo's* advice to the German contractors was to "get busy early," which sounds almost prophetic in view of war developments which have set a rigid limit to further economic penetration by Germany in Turkey.

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It cannot be said that Germany has wasted the opportunity afforded her by her control of Roumania. As a matter of fact she seems to have resorted to every kind of device that would be likely to ensure her an economic monopoly of the country after the war. One of the latest examples of this policy is given by *Das Echo*, of October 3, in which it is stated that "a contract has recently been concluded through which the interests of Roumanian national shipping will remain German, even after the conclusion of peace negotiations." The journal goes on to say that "in Braila German capitalists on the Danube have already taken barns, warehouses, and cranes, and contracts for twenty years have been concluded." The result of all this will be, we are told, that we shall be "completely crowded out." Doubtless that would be the case if Germany's measures were allowed to stand, but I think we can safely leave the abolition of all these outward signs of Teutonic policy to Roumania immediately opportunity offers, and that should not be very far distant.

⁂

One interesting development of British trade activity has been a movement to undertake the production of a standard work of reference on all sources of the supply of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom. More than three thousand firms have given their support to this undertaking, which, it is estimated, will cost at least £300,000. The work will be called "The Standard British Exporter," and will be printed in the commercial languages of the world, and presented to British Consuls and Chambers of Commerce. The project is certainly praiseworthy, and when carried through ought to be of great assistance in the promotion of the British export trade.

⁂

The Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, had rather more favourable results for the year ended March 31 than in recent years. The receipts from the railways and collieries amounted to Rs. 14,40,900, against Rs. 14,26,500. The coal output was 289,100 tons, against 280,700, but the sales were only 267,000 tons, against 315,100. Expenses with regard to the railways were heavier than in the previous year, and as a result the net revenue from this source fell to £33,700 from £37,500. On the other hand, there was an increased surplus of £69,700, against £68,900 from the coal trading account, while the income from associated undertakings amounted to £12,200, against £11,100. The available labour is £112,400, against £111,800, which, after meeting fixed charges, allows for 5 per cent. on the B stock, £4,100 being carried forward.

⁂

The admirably arranged tour of the Greek Commercial Mission which ended this week has afforded our visitors an excellent opportunity of seeing the manufacturing possibilities of the United Kingdom. In about five weeks the delegates have visited most of the leading manufacturing centres of England, and have also seen something of what Scotland and Wales can do in that line. Their visit cannot fail to have left them convinced that very great scope exists for the development of trade relations between the two countries. For many years after the war Greece will be largely concerned with the task of development, with constructing ports, railways, and roads, the erection of factories and dwelling houses, the carrying out of wast drainage schemes, and with many other highly essential works such as those referred to by Mr. Mawson in his articles on the reconstruction of Salonika. It is in these directions that the co-operation of British firms can be of great assistance to Greece, and it is the duty of our firms to render whatever service they can to our Ally.

⁂

It is not only in this direction that the tour is likely to have been invaluable. Trade between countries to be entirely satisfactory must be on a mutual basis, and it will not be enough for British exports to Greece to increase after the war if a marked advance does not take place in our imports from that country. The tour has given our importers as well as our exporters a chance to learn from the most authoritative sources the openings that exist for trade with Greece, and I am confident that they will do everything possible to increase the consumption here of the staple products of our Ally.

⁂

Sir Charles Macara draws attention in the current issue of the *Textile Recorder* to the importance of the establishment of a cotton reserve. He refers to the danger through a variety of possible causes of a shortage of the cotton supply, and contends that "in establishing a reserve of cotton we shall be considering the legitimate interests of all who are connected with the industry, from the planter to the spinner and manufacturer, and from the cotton pickers in the fields to the operatives in the mills and weaving-sheds, and at the same time do much to cheat the operations of the gambler. With the cultivator of cotton the crop is, of course, a question of money. He is not growing cotton simply to please cotton-users. He must be guaranteed a reasonable price for his crop, quite regardless of whether it is a large or a small one, and a reserve of cotton will help us to bring this much-needed reform about."

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There can, I think, be no question as to the advisability of such a reserve, and it is satisfactory to know that the American Government is taking an interest in the question. "It would be a good thing," says Sir Charles, "if the American Government were to take over the crop at a price that would encourage an adequate, but not an excessive, production. The financing of the cotton crop by the Government is another important matter at this time, because the hold of our Allies on the crop, in much the same way as the British Government hold the East Indian, Egyptian and Colonial cotton crops, will have a great bearing on the negotiations for peace. The International Federation of Cotton Spinners has for years advocated a reserve of cotton. They advocated it before the war, and since the war I have done my best to keep so important a matter before the people concerned. The International Federation has done a great work for the world's cotton industry; and if the proposal here outlined were carried out the Federation could claim to have done a great work for the Allied nations. A reserve of cotton is an urgent necessity."

COMMENTATOR

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THE GREEK COMMERCIAL MISSION.

End of the Tour.

The members of the Greek Commercial Mission went on to Middlesbrough from Newcastle on October 16. Their time in Middlesbrough was limited, but they were able to visit the works of the Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Cochrane and Co., Ltd., and Dormans Long and Co., Ltd. Mr. B. Talbot, managing director of the Cargo Fleet Iron Co., met the delegates at the station, and escorted them over the works. Mr. John E. Janis, director, and Mr. Gerald Cochrane, manager, received the delegates on their visit to the works of Cochrane and Co., Ltd., where they were entertained to luncheon. Later in the day the delegates left for Saltburn-on-Sea, and the following day they went on from there to London.

On October 18 the delegates left London for South Wales, on the concluding portion of their provincial tour. They visited the Port Talbot Steel Works, where they were entertained to luncheon by Colonel J. R. Wright, and afterwards were shown over the Melym Works and the works of the Neath Steel Sheet Co., arriving at Swansea late in the afternoon. They were entertained at dinner in the evening at the Hotel Metropole by the Federation of British Industries. The Chairman, Mr. F. Gilbertson, president of the Swansea Metal Exchange, proposing the toast of "Our Guests,' said that the Greeks were like themselves in many respects; they were a small nation and, like Wales, they loved their country. Wales was bordered by the sea, as the Greeks were; Welshmen, like the Greeks, were great rovers and successful colonists, and the Greeks were represented all over the world, their enterprise taking them to the ends of the earth. Swansea and Wales welcomed the Greeks because they were akin to the Welsh in many ways. The Greeks were a maritime nation like the Welsh, and there was much they could do together to develop the civilisation of the world. Welsh industries were not hothouse growths, but had been built up in face of the competition of the world, fostered by hostile tariffs and commercial systems which they had not hitherto thought fit to adopt. But with a fair field they could not be beaten.

Mr. R. Beck, chairman of the Swansea Harbour Trust, in a felicitous speech of welcome, said that the Greeks had resolved to take their place as a manufacturing power in spite of the previous German interference and methods. The war had taught them a lesson to use what brains and opportunities they had to encourage new markets for our produce. The predominant power of their district had been in the manufacture of steel, and he was sure the visitors recognised the possibilities that were before them.

Mr. Tsitsis, who replied, spoke of the possibilities of developing trade relations between the two countries, and urged the desirability of sending teachers to teach their boys English—a language they all loved.

On October 19 the delegates visited the works of Messrs. Vivian and Sons, Ltd., afterwards going to Llanelly to visit the works of the Welsh Tinplate and Metal Stamping Co., Ltd. They then returned to Swansea, where they were entertained to luncheon by Mr. F. W. Gilbertson, and later in the day left for Bristol. The following day (Sunday) the delegates went to Syston Court to visit Mr. Rawlins, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, uncle of Mr. C. E. D. Rawlins, late H.M.'s Consul for Crete, of the Department of Overseas Trade, who is attached to the Mission.

On October 19 the delegates were received at the Council House by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sheppard, with whom were the Sheriff, Mr. Percy Steadman, and the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Mr. J. E. Rawlins. The Lord Mayor, in welcoming the delegates, said they would not have time to see all that Bristol had to show them, but he might point out that it was an important city, both with regard to population and commerce. Also it was one of the oldest cities in the United Kingdom, and was linked with Greece in many ways.

M. Damalas, who replied, said that when they came to England they were very pleased to find that Bristol was included in their tour, partly because of the importance of the ancient city and also by reason of its industries, in which they were greatly interested. They expected that after the war they would be able to do a large business with Bristol.

During the morning the delegates visited the works of Messrs. Denham Brothers, and also attended an exhibition of agricultural and other machinery manufactured by the well-known firm of R. A. Lister and Co., Limited, of Dursley. Returning to Bristol the visitors were entertained to luncheon at the Royal Hotel by the Sheriff, and in the afternoon other works were visited.

In the evening they were entertained to dinner at the Royal Hotel, Mr. Clare Smith, district secretary of the Federation, presiding. The Chairman, in giving the loyal toasts of the "Kings of England and Greece," said that both nations had great traditions, and one of the finest qualities of tradition consisted in the possibility of continuous progress, which was the idea they all had in mind at the present time.

The Lord Mayor, in proposing "The Imperial Forces of Great Britain and her Allies," said that they were glad, in the war, to have the help of Greece, whose early difficulties they well understood, and for that reason they rejoiced all the more that they came out on the side of right and liberty. The saving of the Balkans was largely due to the part that the Greeks had played.

Sir Percy Stothert, in proposing "Our Guests," said that Bristol, whose trade had permeated into all parts of the world, was the principal port for the importation of Greek currants, and he hoped that trade with that country would constantly increase. Greece came into the war in spite of adverse circumstances, and they admired the Greeks all the more for it. He hoped that by the exchange of visits between the two countries they might be brought into still closer commercial relationship.

M. Damalas, in reply, said that but for Great Britain the small nations must have become the slaves of Germany, and they were all glad that victory over the common enemy seemed so close at hand. The Germans offered Greece peace and security, but they decided to take the course which involved war, hardship, and honour. He spoke of the bravery and sacrifices of the Greek forces, and said they deeply appreciated the acknowledgments which the Allies had made of their services in the war. The visit of the delegates had increased their admiration for British commercial enterprise, and Greece was anxious to do more and more business with this country. They hoped British manufacturers and merchants would pay more attention to trade with the East, and they would do their best to see that England got a larger proportion of Greek trade in exports and imports.

M. Tsitsis, proposing "The Federation of British Industries," said he believed that the future of British industry would be a great one, and he expressed the greatest admiration for the progressive manner in which British trade was carried on.

The Sheriff, in reply, said the Federation had undertaken an important work, which was not only to develop the export trade but to promote commerce in the truest and deepest sense.

Formation of a Trade Committee.

The Greek Mission has now completed its official tour of provincial towns, and has returned to London. On Wednesday, at a luncheon given in honour of the delegates by the Federation of British Industries, at Prince's Restaurant, the necessary steps were taken to give permanent expression to the purpose underlying the visit, the improvement of commercial relations between Greece and Great Britain, Sir Richard Vassar-Smith, President of the Federation, presided at the luncheon, and among those present, in addition to M. Michalocopoulos, Greek Minister of Agriculture, and the other members of the Mission, were Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, head of the Department of Overseas Trade, and Mr. A. T. Waugh, British Commercial Attaché at Athens.

The Chairman suggested the formation of a small united committee, representing the British and Greek nations, to foster and encourage trade between the two countries, and especially referred to the importance of establishing better banking facilities.

M. Michalacopoulos, on behalf of the Mission, acknowledged the kindness with which they had been received during their present visit, and said they had seen for themselves in their tour what wonderful efforts had been put forward by the manhood and womanhood of Great Britain, and especially in the industrial world, to help not only their own Armies and Navy, but the whole of the Allies, in the supply of coal, food, and munitions of war. It had enabled the Allies to teach the brutal Huns that there was something more than brute force to be reckoned with when conducting civilisation, and that above all, was the great moral force of justice, right, and freedom, for which the Allies were fighting.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland said that his Department would be only too pleased to do anything that they could to promote the objects of such an association or committee as had been suggested by the chairman.

Mr. A. T. Waugh, British Commercial Attaché at Athens, said that he thought that the proposed committee would supply a long-felt need in bringing the two nations together. Now that the "iron was hot" he hoped they would "strike" for the establishment of any agencies for promoting trade between the Allies. Already steps had been taken in Greece for exhibiting and making known articles of British industry and for popularising British methods and institutions.

On the suggestion of the Chairman it was agreed to form a committee, the first names to be Sir Francis Barker, Mr. Philip Lockhart (Leicester), and Mr. Edmund Hill (Secretary of the Federation), and M. Embiricos (Greek ex-Minister of Supply), M. B. Zamanos (founder of the Vodens Cement Works), and M. J. Damalas (finance and banking).

GREEK REVENUE.

According to a statement made by the Greek Minister of Finance, reported by Reuter's Agency, the revenue of Greece for the first six months of this year shows a satisfactory result. While for the first half of the three preceding years the revenue did not exceed 80,000,000 drachmæ, the first half of the present year yielded 100,520,000 drachmæ—that is, an increase of nearly 20,000,000 above the average for the last three years. These figures indicate not only the soundness of the financial policy of the State, but the economic strength of the Greek people, who have not shrunk from new taxation.

SUDAN COTTON CROP.

The Sudan cotton crop is estimated in the July report of the Sudan Government Central Economic Board at 8,300 kantars of 315 rottles, unginned, this being 5,000 kantars below the January estimate. It is stated that at least 3,300 kantars of this deficit are to be attributed to the fact that a large amount of the cotton was allowed to fall to the ground as soon as it was ripe and was rendered useless by becoming covered with dust and sand. The remainder of the deficit is accounted for by a severe outbreak of "asal" which attacked the later grown cotton. The provision of camels to carry the ginned cotton to Atbara and Suakin has caused considerable difficulty. With regard to next year's crop, cotton seed is being issued for a crop of 10,000 kantars, as this is regarded as being the maximum that can be dealt with in view of the shortage of transport.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce has decided to take action in conformity with the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Chamber held on October 8, and will ask to be allowed to submit evidence before the Government Committee of Inquiry which has been appointed to consider the question of gold production. The resolutions were as follows:—(1) That the production of gold in existing circumstances is an essential war industry and should therefore receive preferential treatment by Government in order to preserve the supply. (2) That the Council of the Chamber be asked to bring this matter before the Government and the Committee of Inquiry by deputation or otherwise.

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In order to increase as much as possible the cultivation of cereals, the Sultan of Egypt has prohibited the cultivation of opium throughout Egypt.

GREEK CURRANTS.

Outlook for Christmas.

A correspondent writes :—For four successive Christmases little or no interest has been taken in the provision of the traditional fare for that normally festive season, but the sudden change in the war position suggests the possibility that English housewives may this time be able to concentrate their attention on such highly material questions as the provision of the Christmas pudding. That thought put it into my mind that, in the circumstances, it might not be without interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST to know what are the prospects of an adequate supply of one of the staple ingredients for this delectable dish, namely, the modest currant, for which we are mainly dependent on Greece. Mr. G. A. Burlumi, of Messrs. Burlumi and Co., whose illuminating report on the currant trade appeared in your columns only last week, was kind enough to outline the present position for me. He was, frankly, not very encouraging on the prospects for the present year, though he held out every hope of a speedy resumption of the normal trade in this commodity after the war.

"Everything depends," he told me, "on tonnage. The Minister of Food in Greece, who is my brother, is trying to get ships to send over as large quantities of currants as possible in time for distribution for the Christmas trade. At the present time there are 4,000 tons in the warehouses of the United Kingdom which can be released for Christmas. As a rule, from the beginning of the season, commencing in August to the end of the year, the consumption of currants here amounts to about 35,000 tons. This year, unfortunately, the public may have to be content with the quantity mentioned, though it is, of course, possible that we may get one or two cargoes before Christmas. But, as I said previously, it all depends on tonnage."

Mr. Burlumi emphasised the importance of the trade in currants to Greece, and said there was no doubt that Greece would find this country her best customer for currants in the future. "Just now," he said, "if we could find tonnage for 100,000 tons of currants they could all have been disposed of at high prices."

In his view, six months or a year after the war would see the currant trade resuming its normal round, but he says that prices are not likely to be anything near as low as they were before the war. "The normal imports of this country from Greece," he pointed out, "were about 70,000 tons, and although the crop appeared to be large—ranging from 100,000 tons to 140,000 tons—it must be borne in mind that during the war there has been a steady inquiry from France for wine making, while a great quantity of currants is now being used in Greece for industrial purposes. The demand from France after the war is likely to be very considerable, and for many years after the war British consumers must not expect to buy currants at low prices." This point with regard to France is extremely interesting, for it adds yet another to the many curious and unexpected results of the war. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will not need to be reminded that the halcyon period of the Greek currant producers was during the years when France, owing to the ravages of phylloxera among the vines, became an importer of currants on a large scale for blending purposes. When the vines recovered, the demand ceased, and bad times came for the Greek currant trade. Indeed, from that day to the outbreak of war the position with regard to the trade has been an almost constant preoccupation of the authorities. Now, apparently, the problem has been solved by the action of the military party in Germany in provoking a world war, though I can scarcely think that Kaiser Wilhelm and his clique had the interests of Greek currants at heart when they decided to invade France.

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SUDAN TRADE NOTES.

Openings for British Enterprise.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, September 16.

Amid the immense economic changes that are being planned in the British Empire the Sudan hopes to creep in as a minnow among the Tritons and to attract the interest of British capitalists. The difficulty of communications, the remoteness of the area where much of the profitable products are obtained, and the unsettled conditions of the country have hitherto made it hardly worth while for the important firms to interest themselves in the country. As the conditions improved (*e.g.*, in the gum trade when the railway extension reached El Obeid) some British firms began to employ special agents. At the present time there are two British firms and one Greek firm that obtain the bulk of the trade in gum. This is fairly satisfactory, but it would be still more so if the other products of the Sudan could also attract British capital. The cattle trade has been developing at a pace quite beyond expectation, and would possibly have gone faster had the steamers and railways been able to cope with more traffic, but during the war it is practically impossible to obtain material for new construction or even to replace wastage. That, however, should be set right after the war, and then it may be that the cattle trade will progress even faster than before. At present this trade is entirely in the hands of natives, Syrians and Egyptians, and there would seem to be an opening for British enterprise.

Growing Prosperity of Natives.

War conditions have profoundly altered the position of the natives of the Sudan. In the past one of the great objections that British firms had with regard to Sudan trade was that the system of long credit obtained, and that that was not worth the while of British firms. The fact was that the natives of the Sudan had to make use of this system of credit as they had no money. Since the outbreak of war they have been selling their commodities at enhanced prices and in very large quantities. Money has come into the country in a considerable stream, and the greater part has gone into the pockets of the natives. They have thus acquired a working capital which they never had before, and they can pay their way. It is said by some of the merchants who deal in cotton goods that their native clients are the most reliable that they have, that they pay up their bills with surprising punctuality, and are glad to take advantage of discount. This is a new departure for the Sudan, and is evidence that they are, and have been, reasonably honest, but that the lack of capital made it difficult for them to meet their liabilities if the smallest accident happened.

Possible Demand for Tinned Goods

In a country where so many things are obtainable only in tins, owing to the impossibility of producing them in the tropical heat, there is a considerable trade in groceries of all sorts. This trade is almost entirely for the officials of the Government, so that it is not a very large one, but as the tastes of the natives widen with experience they are likely to create a demand. As regards one commodity this is already the case, for the ubiquitous sardine is already widely known and appreciated. The trade has been so far almost entirely in the hands of the Greeks, and, though there is one famous Piccadilly firm represented, the business has not yet attracted British capital to any degree.

There have been signs of considerable activity recently in the coffee trade of Gambeila, although the harvest this year is comparatively poor, but firms are arranging for a more forward policy in the future. With the present situation in Abyssinia it might seem too speculative for British firms to concern themselves with this trade, but it is to be hoped that the troubles of Abyssinia will be settled, and then a rich field of commercial enterprise should be opened up. So far the volume of trade through Gambeila has not justified the employment of European representatives of British or other firms, and the trade has, therefore, been in the hands of Greeks and Syrians, but it is reasonable to hope that the increase in trade will interest British firms sufficiently for them to send agents to such places even at a slight loss for a year or so in order to bring into British hands a not inconsiderable amount of coffee trade, whilst there is also the trade in wax, hides, and honey to be developed.

There is little doubt that there is money to be made in the Sudan, but it is necessary to spend money in the first instance. The distances are so great, and the prices to be paid for transport accordingly high, and the time elapsing between the purchase locally and the ultimate sale in Europe so long, that an individual working on his private and small capital might easily find his activities curtailed by lack of money. An accident such as the destruction of his goods might put him permanently out of action, and his own illness be a serious hindrance to the promotion of business. With a big firm these difficulties are to a certain degree surmounted, and, though local conditions of health may temporarily dislocate things, there would be no damage that could not be repaired swiftly, so long as the business remained solvent, as it would with strong backing. But the general circumstances of the trade make it more suitable for established firms than for individual enterprise.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Wind-mills for India.

At a recent engineering congress in India some interesting suggestions were made in regard to the use of windmills for pumping and irrigation purposes. It seems wonderful that no extensive use has been made so far in India of the windmill. In the steady monsoon winds, which prevail during most months of the year, the efficiency should be satisfactory enough to secure extraordinary economy in working. Whether by day or by night the wind would be the ruling factor, and the cultivators would not complain if they saved their crops. Such mills, besides, might be used for running other agricultural machinery. Why should not each village be self-supporting, and have its own simple mill and machinery? Windmills, it is true, have fallen into disuse in Great Britain owing to the cheapness of coal, but there are some who predict that it will not be long before they once more become a considerable source of power. The suggestion was made that windmills can and ought to be designed within the capacity of any village blacksmith and carpenter to repair, renew parts, and keep in running order, and in due course to re-erect, in accordance with certain standard designs. The suggestion, however, for the construction of rustic home-made windmills by the natives seems not very practical, inasmuch as windmills of the most modern and improved type, durable, light, and simple, are manufactured, and can be obtained in this country at prices within the means of the average Indian farmer. And such mills require neither mill-house nor skilful attendants, and can stand any storm.

Soil Treatment.

The ordinary Oriental farmer gathers, usually during the autumn, all available cut boughs, twigs, dry leaves, etc., and burns them in the middle of the field which subsequently he will plough. He has a knowledge that the fire greatly improves the soil; but in his anxiety to effect such improvement he very often lets the fire go too near bushes or under trees, which with the slightest breeze can easily take fire and soon transmit it to others. This dangerous method of improving the soil is responsible for many fires that often destroy orchards, olive groves, and forests of great value; and for this reason landowners in the East, as a rule, forbid the practice. A known process which is used by market-gardeners and nurserymen in Western Europe and America is that of blowing saturated steam at a few pounds pressure underneath suitable insulated trays laid on the surface of the soil The treatment is continued until the top layer, say nine inches or so, of soil attains a minimum temperature of about 82 deg. C. This process costs about £50 per acre of bed and is wasteful of heat; but as it leads to increased crop-production of high-priced foods it pays the growers in this and other continental countries, but, probably, not those in the East. For the latter, as well as for other agriculturists, a safe and economical method of treating the soil to improve its productivity is required; and as a newly-invented machine seems to possess these characteristics a few notes in reference to it will be of much interest to landowners and farmers in the East.

The Machine.

The machine includes a method comprising the application of a flame or radiant heat uniformly to virtually all the fragments constituting a layer of soil in that area, and the simultaneous application of a stirring action to them for a period sufficiently long in duration to ensure that the soil shall be thoroughly broken up and that the flame or radiant heat shall be virtually uniformly applied to all the fragments of the layer, irrespective of their original situation. The machine is fixed on a suitable frame mounted on driving wheels and steering wheels by which the machine travels over the ground to be treated. At the lower end of the frame is fixed a non-continuous helical agitator connected by suitable gearing with an internal combustion engine or other motor, mounted on the frame. The motor is used also for the propulsion of the machine. When the machine is in operation, the agitator is arranged to enter the soil to the depth to which the heat treatment is to be applied. The compressed air and oil fuel supply are adjusted and the burners lighted so as to heat the soil to the desired temperature. The whole vehicle is then moved over the ground to be cultivated, the driver controlling it from the seat on the fore part of the machine. As the vehicle travels forward, the agitator rotates and the layer of soil is turned over and over, and virtually all the particles in the layer are heated uniformly. The temperature attained by the soil during its treatment is determined by the intensity of the flame, by the speed at which the vehicle is taken over the ground, and by the rate at which the agitator is rotated. The gearing is so arranged that these speeds may be varied relatively to one another to produce the desired effect, which is to heat a layer of the soil throughout to a temperature of between 80 and 100 degrees C. The machine can also be made not self-propelled, but adapted for animal or other traction.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Agricultural Department has been very fully occupied. Rules have again been put in force in the Kyrenia District to fight the serious carob disease, which the natives call *brakhi-karpia*, or "short-pod" (cecidomyia ceratoniæ). They provide for knocking off, burning, or burying in quick lime, the infected beans and flowers, within 30 days of gathering. No other means of combating the malady has yet been devised.

Steps have been taken to reduce a troublesome wheat pest (the *tinea temperatella*), which develops into a diminutive moth, after causing considerable damage to the green blades. In infected areas of 7 Limassol and 4 Famagusta Villages stubble had to be burnt, and lands ploughed to a depth of four inches. A scale attacking orange trees, so productive in Cyprus, has also given trouble. During September and October owners are required to spray the trees attacked with a lime-sulphur solution. All these operations have to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Director of Agriculture.

As regards sales of cereals, no transactions are allowed at higher prices than 9s. a bushel for wheat, 8s. 4d. for vetches, 4s. for barley, and 2s. 2½d. oats.

The orders regulating the cultivation of tobacco are being carried out as strictly as possible. In order to safeguard the work of harvest, an Order in Council issued by the High Commissioner directed that no male person over 12 or under 60, and no female over 12 or under 50 shall, without special permission engage in tobacco cultivation. The picking of all tobacco must be completed before October 31, when all waste leaves, etc., must be destroyed. Some bales of last year's tobacco, both Turkish and Latakia (Syrian), should have recently reached England, and the pronouncements to be passed on these consignments are awaited with no little interest. If the latest inland-grown samples become marketable in Great Britain there seems no reason why "Cyprus cigarettes" should not soon acquire an excellent reputation, and in time, perhaps, rival "Egyptians" in popularity; which, indeed, as far as title is concerned, would be more justly earned on their merits, since the leaf would be the *bonâ-fide* product of Cyprus, whereas of that used in "Egyptian cigarettes" not an atom is grown in Egypt.

THE GOLD MOHUR.

Messrs. Montagu notify the terms of a *communiqué* issued to the Indian Press about the end of August:—"The Government of India are issuing a rule under the Defence of India Act prohibiting dealings in any legal tender coin above its face value, the value of the sovereign being declared to be fifteen rupees. As is known, the Government of India have in recent months been issuing gold coin, namely, sovereigns, and latterly gold mohurs, for the purchase of wheat with the object of assisting the currency position and reducing the demand for rupees. This object is, however, being frustrated by the withholding from circulation of these coins in expectation of securing a speculative profit, and the intention of the present rule is to make illegal speculative transactions in the currency."

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Manchester, Wednesday.

The tone of the market remains very slow. No increase of business can be reported, and buyers have again adopted a waiting policy. In the meantime there are indications of prices giving way, chiefly in American yarns. The war situation continues obscure, and trade prospects are undoubtedly very unsettled. Numerous complaints continue to be heard with regard to the regulations of the Government relating to the buying and selling of Egyptian cotton. Representations have been made to the authorities, and there have been rumours of changes in the scheme, but the committees that have control are wide apart, and satisfactory arrangements seem almost impossible. The demand for Egyptian cotton continues healthy. Egyptian yarns continue rather quieter, but late rates have been very firmly held, and in certain counts and qualities record prices have been paid this week. The bulk of the trade has been in descriptions suitable for Government cloths used for military purposes. Restricted dealings have occurred in piece goods for Egypt. Favourable advices, however, continue to be received with regard to distribution in Cairo. Cloth inquiry for India has been flat, and there has been nothing doing for China. Home trade buying has been less active. Prices in American yarns have favoured buyers, especially in ring beams. There is more irregularity in quotations than for a long time back. Some inquiry has been about in special yarns for the Near Eastern outlets, but business of any importance has not matured.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

In the House of Commons on October 21, Commander Bellairs asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Board of Admiralty was still the responsible Department in regard to the large investment which was made in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company prior to the war; and, in view of the fact that no statement had been made since 1914 as to the progress of the undertaking, whether he would cause one to be made now.

Mr. Bonar Law: The interests of the Government in the undertaking are represented by the two *ex-officio* directors nominated respectively by the Admiralty and the Treasury. Accounts of the company's progress are given in their annual reports and in the speeches of the chairman to the shareholders, which have been published from time to time in ordinary course.

Commander Bellairs: My right hon. friend refers me to the report of a private company. Will he not imitate the report of the two Suez Canal directors and call for a report from these two directors, seeing the large sum of money involved?

Mr. Bonar Law: I will consider whether it is desirable?

TRADE WITH GREECE.

Referring to the recent exhibition in Glasgow of samples of foreign-made goods obtained from Greece, the Glasgow *Chamber of Commerce Journal* comments as follows:—

"The exhibition contained various samples of German enterprise. There was, amongst many other articles, a range of matting made of German paper, and of silk and cotton fabrics and goods of imitation leather. There has been a tendency to minimise the importance of the Greek and other markets in the Near East. It should be remembered, however, that Salonika is the gateway of commerce to the Balkan States. The re-planning of the city, upon which, it is expected, twenty million pounds will be spent within five years of the close of the war, will bring into existence numerous enterprises, and the industrial advantages will be obtained mainly by the nations which are alive to the possibilities. The Germans, in spite of the distractions of war, are showing themselves sensible of the potentialities of the Balkan markets, and they are taking steps to obtain some of the best warehouse sites. French and American manufacturers are also showing indications of being alive to the possibilities."

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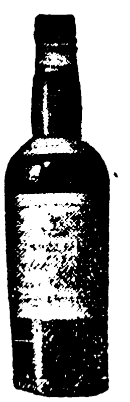

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

Control of Trade.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated October 18 :—

Mr. M. M. Gubbay has been appointed to control inter-provincial distribution of foodstuffs. (Mr. Gubbay was the first Wheat Commissioner in India in 1913.) The rise in prices in ordinary commodities in India has occasioned the appointment of Directors of Civil Supplies in the various provinces.

A bill to control dealings in cotton and to appoint "Contract Boards" with necessary powers has been published by the Government of Bombay.

Dated October 23 :—

Rain much needed in Punjab, United Provinces, Bihar Bombay. Light rains have fallen in Bengal and parts of Bombay. Crop prospects in Assam are fair to good (very similar to last week's report D.T.C.).

Fine broach ready delivery, Rs.800. Piece goods market depressed.

◆

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at May 31, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		£E. 2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,400,129
Mixed Tribunals		2,571,339
Egyptian Government		7,268,846
Sudan Government		119,226
Bankers' Accounts		759,953
Cheques and Bills payable		369,027
Sundry other Accounts		614,066
		£E.26,649,282
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 13,765,287
Sundry Securities		237,485
Advances on Merchandise		1,472,377
Advances on Securities		988,156
Advances otherwise Secured		1,495,644
Sundry other Advances		449,725
Bills of Exchange		3,838,855
Local Bills Discounted		100,686
Buildings and Furniture		224,996
Money at call and at short notice		1,374,750
Bankers' Accounts		1,014,516
Sundry other Accounts		209,665
Cash—		
Notes	1,393,003	
Gold	35,375	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	48,762	
		1,437,140
		£E.26,649,282

Issue Department.

Notes issued	30,600,000
	£E.30,600,000
	£E.
Gold	3,509,354
*British Treasury Bills	11,790,646
	15,300,000
Securities :—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	551,507
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds	14,748,493
	£E.30,600,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officel* of October 30, 1916).

◆

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The approximate weekly returns from markets for the week ended October 3 were :—Cattle markets, £482; general markets, £480; total, £962; total for year, £38,560. The figures for the corresponding week last year, ended October 4, were:—Cattle markets, £247; general markets, £379; total, £626; total for year, £44,289.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., was held on October 23 at Winchester House, Lord Ribblesdale (the chairman) presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts the Chairman said that the railway earnings showed an increase as compared with last year, but there had been the almost inevitable increase in expenditure, so that the profit earned at £32,680, against £37,528, was not so good as in the previous year. In the colliery their profit was about £1,000 better. The income was smaller, following on smaller sales, but, whereas last year they had had to write off a considerable amount for a decrease in stocks, in the year under review their stocks had become bigger again. The falling off in the sales had not been in the demand for coal, but had been more in their ability to supply. As to the condition of their properties, the directors had continued to devote as much energy as possible to the important part of the company's management which was included under the headings of maintenance and betterment, and, all things considered, he thought they had been able to do very well. With regard to the position of their present colliery, he need not do more than remind the shareholders that, in the opinion of their expert advisers, sufficient coal was in sight to continue the present output for very many years. The Government had granted leases for the new areas at Lekha-Pani, and extensions of the seams of coal had been found there which made it an even more valuable property than at first anticipated.

With regard to the various companies in which they were interested, the Assam Oil Company for 1917 had increased its distribution from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent., while the Makum Tea Company continued to do well, though he gathered that the result for 1918. owing to the action of the Government in taking over the greater part of their tea at a fixed price, would not be so good as for 1917. The Rivers Company's dividend also showed an improvement which he believed would be maintained. Last of all, there was the Namdang Tea Company, which was still in the embyrotic stage. For the current year he believed the income from their crop would pay, or very nearly pay, for the whole of their expenditure. As to the immediate position in Assam, they had had to take the step at last of reducing the train service to a certain extent, but the general manager hoped largely to maintain their receipts. At the mines the figures for August and September were very low, the cause being, he believed, a most virulent epidemic of influenza. It was difficult to say whether later on they would be able to make good that shortage. The general result of the year was a balance at credit of general net revenue account of £108,954, and from the balance now available the directors proposed a final dividend of 3 per cent. on the "B" stock, leaving £4,129 to be carried forward.

Mr. Walter Butler, M.I.C.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

◆

The new cotton seed oil made its appearance on the market at Alexandria three or four weeks ago, and it was then expected that a few days would see the oil difficulty over there and throughout Egypt.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has not been much business doing this week. Prices have been rather irregular. In Government stocks Egyptian Unified are $\frac{3}{4}$ up at $92\frac{1}{2}$ on the renewal of inquiry from Egypt.

In Bank shares Nationals are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at $20\frac{1}{8}$, and Agriculturals have lost 1-16 at 6 15-16. On the other hand, Anglo-Egyptian Banks are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 22.

Amongst Railways Delta Lights have improved $\frac{1}{8}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$.

In Land shares Aboukir have weakened 6d. to 23s., Behéras $\frac{1}{4}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$, Sidi Salems 1-16 to 2 21-32, and Union Foncière also 1-16 to 3 9-16. On the other hand, Delta Lands have improved 6d to 16s. 9d., and Foreign Trusts are fractionally better at 14s. There has been a good demand for United Egyptian Lands round 2s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares Salt and Soda are 1-16 down at 2 13-16, whilst Khedivials are 6d. higher at 63s. 6d.

In Greek securities Monopoly are again $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 64, and the 1902 and 1910 Loans have each dropped one point to 68 and 65 respectively.

◆

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 1s. per share, equivalent to 10 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, payable 8th proximo. Last year the dividend was at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway recommend a distribution on January 1 next of £1 5s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, making £3 per cent., less English income-tax, for the half-year. This is the same rate as paid in January last.

The directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., have decided to pay a final dividend of 2 per cent. less income-tax, from surplus profits on January 1, 1919, in addition to the guaranteed interest of $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for the half-year ending December 31, 1918, making a total distribution for the half-year of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and together with the payment that was made on July 1, 1918, a total payment of $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for the year, as against $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. paid last year.

◆

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic returns for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E8,108, making the total from April 1 £E138,444. The corresponding figures for 1917 were £E6,940 and £E99,430.

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days :—October 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, 870,000 francs, against 750,000 francs; October 13, 250,000 francs, against 250,000 francs.

◆

In view of the reduced demand for remittances to India the sale of Council drafts announced for October 22 did not take place.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 16	Oct. 23
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	91¾	92½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	76½xd	76½xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	64½	64
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57½	57½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	69	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	66	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Ourrant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	73	73
Persia 5% 1911	91	80½	80¾
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	68	68
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	85	84½xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75	74½xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7	6 1/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7¾
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	21½	22
Bank of Athens	£2	4¾	4¾
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6¾
Banque Franco Serbe	—	—	—
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 33/64	9 33/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	84	84
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18	18
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅜	20⅛
National Bank of India	43	63	63
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	7⅜	7½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69xd	69xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	55	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/6	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	14¾	14½
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	13/10½	14/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 21/32	2 21/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	72/6	71/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	57/6	56/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	63/-	63/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 391.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the capture of Aleppo General Allenby has rounded off his conquest of Syria, and it may be expected that the enemy, if he carries on the war, will withdraw the remnant of his army north of the Cilician Gates. The present offensive began from the Jaffa-Jordan line on September 18, and thus within six weeks practically the whole of the enemy forces in this theatre of war have been put out of action. General Liman von Sanders, the German Commander-in Chief, is reported to have had twelve thousand men under him in Aleppo, but he was not prepared to offer any determined resistance to the British advance. He had saved himself by flight from General Allenby's first encircling movement; his withdrawal from Damascus anticipated by only a few hours the arrival on September 30 of the first British troops, and once more he showed little inclination to run any personal risk, by hurrying from Aleppo with the bulk of his forces two days before our cavalry and armoured cars entered the city. It is not surprising that he should have been recalled, but it will be of interest to see whether he can now reach Germany.

With a more homogeneous force a resolute and able commander might have offered considerable opposition to the British advance. But General Liman von Sanders was either not cast in an heroic mould or had decided that he was not called upon to sacrifice himself for the Turks. The latter had long since ceased to appreciate the rôle they had been forced to play of sacrificing themselves for Germany, and consequently General Allenby has encountered little resistance north of Damascus. He has now reached Muslimieh Junction on the Baghdad Railway, and the Turks confronting General Marshall in northern Mesopotamia have had their lines of communication cut. A way of retreat is open to them through Diarbekr, but no further supplies of war material can reach them.

The enemy's collapse in Syria is as complete as it was in Bulgaria, but in the latter country the Government was a free agent and could surrender of its own volition, while the Turks have been dragooned into continuing the war even when they are no longer able to offer any effective resistance. It is to Germany's advantage to have Turkey remaining in the war as long as the Germans can hold out, for she is more concerned to save as much as she can from the wreckage of her hopes in the East, by representing the Turks as faithful allies to the end, than to study Ottoman interests. Accordingly the Turkish Government at Germany's behest postpones the inevitable step, and with characteristic fatalism watches the gradual shrinkage of Turkey. Troops, it is said, are being hurried to the Chatalja Lines for the defence of Constantinople, but it is more probable that all parties in the country have their minds set upon peace rather than upon further fighting. The evacuation of Baku is a significant step. The example of Germany and Austro-Hungary has led the Turkish Government to attempt to gain an armistice through diplomatic channels; but sooner or later it will have to adopt the military methods of procedure.

In the meantime General Marshall has resumed military operations on the Tigris, and is driving the Turks northwards in the direction of Mosul. The first resistance of the enemy was, as usual, stubborn; but the British troops, moving in three columns, one on each bank of the river and the third on the Kifri-Mosul road, have pierced his defences, and the Turks are again in flight. On October 28 a counter-attack enabled the enemy to score a temporary advantage on the Tigris road, but the co-ordination of the British columns restored the situation. The village of Kalat Sherghat has been the centre of further resistance, but the last stand made by the Turks five miles to the north has now been broken. A portion of the force attempted to escape by the north-west and was cut off by General Marshall's cavalry, leaving a thousand prisoners in his hands. This success brings the British forces within fifty miles of Mosul.

With the Austro-Hungarian Government sending out "S.O.S." messages all over the world and resorting to every device before adopting the obvious one of sending a flag of truce to the Italian lines in Venezia, the details of the retreat of Austro-Hungarian troops in Serbia and Montenegro tend to lose the interest that ought otherwise to attach to them. The military operations in these countries have resolved themselves into a contest of speed, the enemy endeavouring to make good his escape regardless of his sacrifices, the Allies following as rapidly as transport allows. The Serbians, indeed, are but little hampered by such considerations, and their commissariat arrangements have been one of the features of the Allied advance. Even with the lengthening of the lines of communication there is little sign of the pursuit slowing down. The Serbians are within a score of miles of Belgrade, the Italians have reached Alessio and San Giovanni di Medua, and are advancing on Skutari. The position of the Austrian forces in Albania must be unenviable, as, even if they succeed in making their way through Montenegro, they will find themselves in Jugoslav territory, which has now to be regarded as an Allied country. But before the critical moment comes for them, the action of the Vienna Government may have solved the difficulty.

In the liberation of Montenegro it is to be hoped that due regard will be paid from the first to the true interests of the country. Reference has been made in the reports from the seat of war to the reapparance of *komitajis*. In the circumstances it is inevitable that bands of men liberated from the Austrian yoke will be with difficulty restrained from taking up arms to assist in the expulsion of the invader, and in this connection the word is perhaps a misnomer. It is desirable that it should be made clear that in the final settlement of the Balkans there will be no room for the perpetuation of the old *komitajis*, who did such forceful work as national propagandists. Montenegro, in particular, must tread warily. Her first need will be the revictualling of the people still in the country; then will follow the repatriation of those who have been in exile. At the earliest possible moment there must be an adjustment of the political difficulties that have arisen during the war, and it is particularly desirable that in arriving at a solution the Montenegrins should be left entirely to themselves, and should not be subject to propaganda instigated from outside.

The House of Lords has decided on appeal that it is possible for a British subject to acquire a domicile in Egypt. Concurrently it has also decided that a married couple so domiciled cannot be divorced; for the marriage cannot be dissolved by the Consular Court, and the High Court in England has no jurisdiction. Both decisions are of importance, for as the judgment declared, "it has often been pointed out that there was a presumption against the acquisition by a British subject of a domicile in such countries as China and the Ottoman dominions owing to the difference of law, usages and manners." But, their lordships continued, "since special provision for the protection of foreigners in such countries had been made, the strength of the presumption against the acquisition of a domicile there was very much diminished." Clearly, the Order in Council which denies the Consular Court jurisdiction "relative to dissolution or nullity or jactitation of marriage" will have to be reviewed in the light of this judgment.

The formation of a Roumanian National Council in Paris is, we may hope, only a temporary expedient; for, even if Germany elects to continue the struggle single-handed, she will not be able to retain her army of occupation in Roumania. That sorely tried country will, therefore, once more be free, and will also be in direct communication with the Allies by way of the Balkans. The policy that the Roumanian Government felt constrained to adopt under the shadow of German bayonets can hardly be the policy that will commend itself to the nation at large when it regains its liberty. If M. Marghiloman is unable personally to adapt himself to the new conditions, he will not expect to remain at the head of the Government, and it should not be necessary for any body of men outside the country to have to form the nucleus of the régime for which Roumania is obviously longing. In the meantime, however, it will be useful for the Allies to have on the spot in Paris an organisation that can speak with authority on Roumanian affairs and aspirations. The presidency of the Council, as was to be expected, has been offered to M. Take Jonescu, and the Transylvanian poet Octavian Goga represents the Roumanes of Hungary.

Last week's Indian debate in the House of Lords served at least one useful purpose in eliciting a definite statement of the attitude of the War Cabinet to the Chelmsford-Montagu proposals. There has been no lack of ill-informed talk on this subject in this country as well as in India, and we have been assured sometimes that the Cabinet had swallowed the Report whole and sometimes that individual Ministers had determined to hang the matter up for an indefinite period. At last we have the formal declaration, which surely might have been made several weeks ago, that the Cabinet occupy the position which has been taken in these columns since the opening of the discussion: the questions of Franchise and of Functions are of the essence of the scheme, and the judgment of the Government is suspended until the Committees on these subjects have reported.

When all the data are at last available, the Cabinet will follow the regular constitutional practice, and introduce a Bill to give effect to their decision; then Parliament will be able to play its part, and, if it sees fit, will afford a hearing to all the interests concerned. It is, no doubt, a tedious process, especially as Parliament will have many other things to do, and we hope that no time will be wasted in letting India know what her future is to be; but the duty laid on Parliament is too important to be shirked, and it is better that India should have to wait for some months than that her future should be settled without due deliberation. Speed is, of course, the fashion just now, and Indian politicians are desperately in a hurry; but something more than speed is wanted for a long course over difficult country such as that which lies ahead.

The Press seems to have displayed very little interest in Lord Islington's announcement that a Committee has been appointed to consider the future organisation of the India Office, but the news will be welcome in India, where the curtailment of interference from Whitehall is a platform on which officials, politicians, and men of business can meet without reserve. We need not inquire how far their criticisms have been justified in the past, but it is obvious that on administrative grounds alone a change is overdue. The direction in which reform is possible is a more difficult question, to which we may return.

Apart from the official announcements, the most valuable feature of the debate was Lord Selborne's plea for maintaining the strength of the Government of India, which is certainly threatened by some of the official proposals, and still more by the amendments put forward by both schools of Indian politicians. The warning is timely, for a weak Government is never a wise one; and unless India has at the centre a Government strong enough to be wise, trouble is bound to follow in the Provinces, whatever form the constitution ultimately gives them. The ideal should be a central Government so conscious of its strength that it will never interfere without necessity; a Government conscious of its weakness would be interfering all the time in the hope of anticipating possible dangers, and would thereby make anything like real self-government impossible.

The rest of the debate has been unkindly described as a parade of the Old Guard, and it must be said that some of the speakers indulged in the sort of criticism which we have more than once condemned as illegitimate; they are hostile to the proposed measures because they do not accept the declared policy of a gradual approach to responsible government. Lord Lansdowne, for instance, spoke of an inclined plane leading downward to "unmitigated democracy," and he viewed the idea with "the utmost apprehension." Is it not more nearly in accordance with the facts of the situation to think of a path to be cut leading up a steep hillside, piercing thickets and, it may be, skirting precipices, but with a clear though distant view of the city by which the summit is crowned!

Messrs. W. and A. K. Johnston have made fresh additions to their war publications with maps of the Balkan States, the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, Palestine and the Middle East. The latter is a particularly comprehensive sheet, embodying Turkey in Asia, Palestine, the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and Persia. A war map of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus may seem somewhat belated; but unless the Turks hasten their capitulation, this map may yet prove as useful as the others. Unfortunately, the boundary assigned to Turkey is that of the Treaty of Bucharest, and does not take into account the rectification of 1915, which brought the Bulgarian frontier back to the Maritza.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 23.

The Bairam Feast.

The Bairam Feast passed off quite uneventfully in Egypt. Government offices were closed for the week, and on the first day the Sultan held the customary reception at Ras el-Tin Palace, which was very largely attended by notables from the provinces, although it was supposed to be confined to residents of Alexandria and officials actually on duty in that city. Usually the people consume a great deal of food during the feast, especially on the first day, the day of sacrifice; and public distributions of bread and meat are made by the charitable institutions, etc.; but since the war the Ulema of Al Azhar have annually issued a *Fetwa* exhorting the people to be economical in their consumption and not to sacrifice more animals than might be absolutely necessary. It is believed that this intervention of the religious authorities has had some effect in reducing consumption, especially of meat.

Victims of Influenza.

The High Commissioner, who recently made a trip to Palestine, has been laid up since his return with an attack of Spanish influenza. He has now recovered sufficiently to be able to attend to business. The Prime Minister has also completely recovered from his attack, and has now left on a tour in Palestine, where he will be the guest of the Commander-in-Chief. His visit should be of especial interest to him, coming, as it does, at the time when the long-looked-for advance is in progress.

The Palestine Advance.

The news of the successful advance in Palestine has been received with much rejoicing in this country. From all the details which have come to hand, it appears that once again General Allenby laid his plans and made his preparations with remarkable ability and thoroughness. Indeed, by many well-informed people here this latest phase in the campaign is regarded as one of the most brilliant episodes of the present war, and it will certainly live as such, just as the Gaza-Beer-Sheba affair of last autumn will figure amongst the battles which have been won purely by tactical and strategic dispositions. It is interesting to note that nothing on the Western front has come up to the fighting in Palestine in regard to the notice which it has attracted in this part of the world; and the measure of the attention given to military activities on this front is the eagerness with which the newspaper supplements are bought up and scanned for the latest details. Indeed, the Palestine advance is the all-absorbing topic of conversation in clubs, hotels, and bazaars, and great developments are looked for as a result of this latest well-directed blow at the Turkish army in Syria.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

Telegrams have been received by the Government reporting that the ceremonies connected with the Bairam Feast took place without untoward incident at Mecca, and that the pilgrims have returned to Jedda preparatory to leaving for their homes. One or two cases of plague have been reported amongst them, and as a precautionary measure the pilgrimage has been declared infected, and consequently all pilgrims will have to undergo quarantine. Those returning to Egypt and the north and the west will have to spend ten days at Tor before they are allowed to proceed to their destinations. The pilgrims from this country and the caravan may, therefore, be expected back at Suez about the first of the coming month.

The War Gratuities.

Payment of the war gratuities to the Government officials, of which details were given in my last letter, will start at the end of this month, when arrears from April 1 will be paid. The decision has been received with very great pleasure by all classes of officials, especially among the lower grades, who have been sorely in need of assistance for some time now. Whilst these gratuities will certainly give relief, it is to be feared that, unless some other action is taken, the relief will be but short-lived. No sooner was the news of the Government's decision confirmed, than certain of the local shops and merchants put up the prices of untariffed commodities by 20 to 25 per cent., and from what one gathers, this tendency is likely to continue. Perhaps the most serious problem is, however, that of rents, which have been raised considerably in many districts, and of which a further and general increase is now threatened.

Whatever arguments may be advanced in defence of an increase in the price of non-tariffed commodities, which, being regarded as non-essentials, may by comparison be considered as luxuries, though they certainly do not come entirely within that category, nothing can excuse the increase in rents which has taken place since the war, more especially during the past year. Cost of maintenance may have risen, but in most cases landlords restrict their activities in this respect to only the most urgent work. The rise in rents may justly be regarded as pure profiteering, since the capital invested remains the same, and the increase in rentals merely means a larger return on the investment. There is in this case every reason for State intervention, especially if the granting of gratuities to the Government staff is followed by an increase in the rents charged to the officials in question. Precedent has been afforded in the legislation introduced by the British and French Governments; and it is to be hoped that if the rapacious tendency of the landlords continues some action will be taken to prevent this further exploitation of the tenant class.

The Food Question.

The food question has again become critical, particularly in Alexandria. Arrivals from the interior have fallen off very considerably owing to the cultivators who still hold their crops declining to part with their produce at the tariff rates. They are convinced, despite the declaration to the contrary of the Supplies Control Board, that the price will be increased in the very near future, and not unnaturally they do not see why they, as the producers, should not profit by that increase. As a result of this, Alexandria was short of bread on Thursday last, and many householders were unable to get supplies, whilst the public caterers were at their wits' end to know how to provide for their clients. The Supplies Control Board has now issued orders to the provincial governors to seize all stocks of wheat at the tariff prices wherever found, and place them at the disposal of the cereal merchants, who, under the auspices of the recently formed Cereal Merchants' Association, will undertake to forward them to Alexandria. It is to be hoped that this will shortly lead to relief, but meanwhile it is interesting to note that Cairo is threatening to follow Alexandria in the matter of shortage. The only permanent solution to the problem would appear to be a general requisitioning of cereals, especially of wheat and maize, with heavy penalties for all who conceal stocks.

Royal Exchange
ASSURANCE. A.D. 1720.

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THE CONQUEST OF SYRIA.

The same day—October 1—which saw our occupation of Damascus, witnessed the northward advance along the coast, from Haifa, of a strong infantry force, in which was a division of Scottish, English, and Indian troops which had been the first to enter Baghdad, destined to consolidate our possession of the whole Phœnecian coastline. The first twenty miles, first to Akka (Acre) and on along the plain past Ez-Zib (the Achzib of Joshua, xix., 29, etc.), the route is easy going. The road then crosses the steep rocky promontory of Ras en Nakura close to the sea; then, four or five miles further, it reaches the Ras el Abiad, the Scala Tyrorum of Josephus, known to us as the "Ladder of Tyre." This is the climax of difficulty for wheeled traffic, and all along this long rocky path, we are told, Indian pioneers, labouring hard, had to blast the rocks, cutting away at some places and building up at others, for three days before a good enough path could be made for the field and heavy guns. Inland, over the rough roads of Upper Galilee, there was no possibility of transporting heavy artillery, but except for this place—along which the heavy guns were hauled for four hours—the route along the coast is not bad; indeed, a carriage road, of sorts, runs all the way from Tyre to Beyrout.

By October 7 armoured cars reached Sidon, followed the next day by the infantry, our men being received everywhere with rapturous greetings. On the 7th a French division reached Beyrout by sea, and on the 8th the city was occupied by our troops, 60 Turkish officers and 600 other ranks surrendering. The main Turkish force had evacuated Beyrout by order when Damascus was captured. Inland progress kept level with that on the coast.

On October 9 armoured cars advanced from Rayak in el Buka'a to Baalbek, famous for its wonderful ruins, when they found that the 500 Turkish troops there had surrendered to the local inhabitants. A fairly clear evidence of the sympathies of the people of the land.

On the 12th the Turks retired from Homs, setting it in flames. This city has always been an outpost to Aleppo. Here the Moslem Army, under Abu Obeida and Khalil, defeated the Byzantine forces under Constantine—a victory which decided the fate of all Northern Syria in the seventh century.

On October 15 Yeomanry and Indian cavalry entered Homs, while on the coast two days previously (October 13) armoured cars and Lancashire and Hertford Yeomanry had entered Tripoli unopposed. This city is connected by Beyrout by a French-owned railway, and in 1911 the line was extended—through the easiest pass from the coast to el Buka'a—to Homs. Tripoli, or Tarablus, an ancient but now much decayed port, consists of two parts—el Mina, the very poor harbour city, and the city proper, on the little river Nahr Abu Ali—the two parts are connected by a tramway. It was a very important city in the days of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem; the Count of Tripoli was the only great knight who escaped death or capture at the battle of Hattin. The total population to-day is not more than 30,000. A great future, however, lies before Tripoli, as this port is the natural harbour for Aleppo, and, indeed, for Mesopotamia, as well as Northern Syria. For Englishmen the place has tragic associations, as it was off Tripoli that H.M.S. "Victoria," flagship to the Mediterranean Fleet, was lost on June 22, 1893, in consequence of a collision with H.M.S. "Camperdown" during manœuvres.

Two railways for supply were now available for our advance—viz., that from Damascus through Rayak and the Beyrout-Tripoli-Homs line. Our Yeomanry and Indian cavalry advanced unopposed until close to Aleppo, where they came upon some trenches, lightly held, to the S.S.W. of the city. The Turkish Army, 12,000 strong, had sought safety in flight to Katma, a mountain town, some 30 miles north of Aleppo on the Aleppo-Alexandretta road.

On October 26, at 11 a.m., our mounted forces entered Aleppo unopposed and the Indian cavalry and armoured cars lost no time in continuing the pursuit. The Air Force materially assisted in this lightning advance.

Aleppo, the chief city of Northern Syria, with a population of about a quarter of a million, is situated amid orchards and gardens, and is a prize in itself. From the military point of view the capture means the loss to the Turks of the whole Baghdad Railway east of the junction with the Aleppo line at Muslimieh. The most important results will therefore be seen on the Mesopotamia front.

Thus in six weeks General Allenby has advanced considerably over 300 miles, has cleared all Palestine and practically all Syria of Turks, and has captured some 100,000 prisoners, with all the enemy's guns, baggage, transport, and munitions which survived destruction. Everywhere the British forces have been welcomed as "deliverers." Happily, too, the rapidity of our Army's advance, and the consequently rapid retreat of the enemy, has ensured the minimum of destruction to the towns and villages of the land.

E. W. G. M.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Malta, October 15.

Malta, the half-way house to the East, has perhaps suffered least of all the Colonies in the way of the actual results of any attacks by the enemy. In this it has been fortunate, for had matters taken a turn in the other direction it might have been to-day a heap of stones, and not merely a hot rock of ninety square miles.

The discomforts of the island have been merely pinpricks; at times there has been a scarcity of matches, and cakes have had to be made without lard. The rich of the island have been badly hit financially over the Russian debâcle, but the middle classes have thriven. Thanks to an astute Food Control Board, profiteering has been reduced to a minimum, and bargaining, such a special trait in the Maltese character, has sunk several points.

In its Governor, Field Marshal Lord Methuen, Malta has been fortunate, and his enthusiasm has brought out of the inhabitants all those traits of Christian charity that their religion inculcates, with the result that the amount of money which has been raised per head has proved phenomenal.

It will have been seen from the Press telegrams that it is the wish of Lord Methuen to raise sufficient funds to erect a hospital for Malta, as a development and extension of the present Merchant Sailors' Rest. Already, in spite of all the continued calls on the private purses of the people, subscriptions of a substantial nature have come in.

The whole staff of the Dockyard, from the unskilled labourer up to the clerical staff, are loud in expressions of gratitude towards Admiral Ballard, C.B., who, with the permission of the British Commander-in-Chief, went to the Admiralty to plead for an adequate war bonus for the Maltese. He was successful in his mission, and as a result the labourers obtain sums ranging from ten shillings to fifteen shillings a week.

◆

SYRIA AND PALESTINE RELIEF FUND.

A great public meeting of thanksgiving for the deliverance of the Holy Land was held at the Queen's Hall, London, on Monday.

Lord Bryce, who presided, said that our entry into Damascus had been welcomed not only by the Jews and Christians but by the Moslem Arabs. We had deserved and inspired their confidence; they knew what we had done in Egypt.

Sir Henry McMahon said the Fund had been started about two years ago, when reports coming from Palestine and Syria led to fears that horrors were taking place there comparable to those of Armenia. Committees had been formed in London and Cairo, money collected, and machinery set up for the administration of relief. Thanks to these timely measures the Fund's workers were ready when the moment came, and had entered Palestine with the British troops. They had been hard at work there ever since, their assistance being not only welcomed but asked for by the military authorities. The effective administration and distribution of charitable relief was a difficult problem, but in the case of this Fund the work had been done by members of the great missionary societies, who knew the people as none other could know them. The guiding principle had been to give relief to all alike according to their need and irrespective of race or creed. The area of British military occupation was daily growing, and the calls on the Fund's resources were ever increasing. The following cable had been just received from the Fund's chief representative in Palestine:—"Thankfulness and satisfaction at our arrival universal. The Government have called on us for immediate medical relief, and we have sent hospital equipment and personnel to Nablus and Nazareth, counting on Homeland's generous support. Hospitals are in good condition. Responding to a telegram from the Governor, I visited Haifa. We are opening two schools there, and investigating need. Enormous scarcity of food and clothing has led to immorality in bigger towns, where many widows and children are totally unprovided for. Consequently, there is a great demand for relief workshops. We found an ordained Syrian reduced to wearing clothes made from cover of church organ. Americans are relieving Salt and Tiberias. An arrival from Beyrout says that two out of every three civilians are beggars. Lebanon is a graveyard. Administration Committee are considering the possibilities of relief in the north, but our needs are men, transport and financial guarantees."

Dr. MacInnes (Bishop in Jerusalem) gave further particulars of work done by the Fund. He said that most of the children brought to its agents were orphans, and many were brought by our own soldiers, who had found them, and in some cases looked after them for weeks. Speaking of the difficulties, he said that among those who took advantage of the Fund's soup kitchen in Jerusalem was one lady who sent her servant for the soup. On three days a week this was much nicer, and also more nourishing than on the alternate days, and it was found that the number who came for it on those days was much greater than on the others. By striking off the list all those who only came when they thought the soup was good enough, the number of recipients had been reduced from 1,700 to 1,500.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Anti-German Manifestations.

Since the collapse of Bulgaria and the consequent ferment in Austria-Hungary the Roumanians have been continuously in conflict with the authorities of the German occupation. The office of the German censor in Jassy has been mobbed because of the suppression of the news from Bulgaria and the Western Front. The same fate has overtaken the *Gazeta Jasilor* (the Gazette of Jassy), a newspaper edited by German agents.

Great manifestations took place not only at Jassy but in various towns in Moldavia and Bessarabia on receipt of the news that the French had occupied Lom Palanka, on the southern bank of the Danube. The few German officers in Moldavia no longer dared to walk in the streets. They had ceased to wear their uniforms long ago, fearing to be attacked by the people, and now they are withdrawing to Wallachia, where there is still a large German garrison. Even in Wallachia, despite the very severe military measures taken lately by the Germans, there were manifestations at Bucharest and in nearly all the towns on the Danube. At Turnu-Severin, when the Austrians and the Germans assembled in honour of the Emperor Charles's birthday, there were big demonstrations; so that General von Graevenitz ordered the troops to disperse the manifestants.

Great trouble occurred when the German administration began to take the wheat and the corn from the peasants, partly because the quantity left to them was too small, and partly because the price fixed by the Germans was extremely low. For a truckload of wheat the Germans paid only 2,300 lei, or about £60. The price of a truckload of corn is fixed at £45. In the meantime the Germans sell to the Roumanians a pair of boots for £30—£35, a suit for £40—£50, a pair of socks for £3! General Garlesteanu, who was the Chief Controller of agricultural products, resigned because of these difficulties, and nearly all the Roumanians working under him followed his example. The Germans, in order to maintain order, brought a great number of soldiers from Bulgaria into Wallachia.

The Movement in Transylvania.

Even the Roumanians of Transylvania, despite the most severe measures taken by the Magyars, began to manifest their desire for liberty. When the Austrian troops began to withdraw from Bulgaria and from Serbia, as they passed through the Roumanian districts the population shouted "Long live Liberty!" The Roumanian deputy Vaida Voivode, speaking in the name of the National Roumanian Party in Hungary, stated that the Roumanians claim complete liberty, and that they must be regarded as a nation that has the right to benefit by the principle of self-determination. His speech produced a wild storm among the Magyar deputies; but his declaration is of great importance, because it leaves no room for doubt that the Roumanians of Transylvania, like the other nationalities of Austria-Hungary, have no desire to accept any scheme of a federalisation in the Dual Monarchy.

The Allied Troops on the Danube.

The presence of the French troops on the Danube dealt a terrible blow to the Austro-Germans, for the Danube was the principal way to transport food, not only from Roumania, but from Ukrainia too, to starving Austria. In Braila, Galatz, Cabars, Giurgiu, Bechet, as well as in all the Danubian ports there are big quantities of cereals and of all kinds of foodstuffs waiting to be transported into Central Europe. The work was now in full swing, and the Austro-Germans were hoping to finish it before the coming of winter. By stopping the Danube traffic the Allies deprived the enemy of more than half their means of transport. The railways are in a very bad state, and there is no chance of improving them, owing to lack of raw materials. It was by way of the Danube, too, that the Black Sea Fleet was supplied with munitions and materials for repairs.

◆

The result of the Indian Civil Service open competition held in August last has been markedly in favour of Cambridge, says the *Cambridge Review*. Nine appointments have been given. Of these, seven fall to Cambridge men, though it should be noted that two of these seven were Oxford graduates who had merely spent a year at Cambridge in special preparation for the examination. It is further of interest that the first four candidates on the list were from Cambridge. The honour of being head of the list has been obtained by Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, of Jesus College. Mr. S. G. Sengodaiyan, of Emmanuel, who passed fourth, is credited with the highest marks in mathematics. Thirty-five candidates had arranged to compete, though only twenty-eight appeared at the examination. Save for two exceptions all the candidates were Indian students. An open competition for the Civil Service of India will be held next year as usual.

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THE BRITISH IN JERUSALEM.

The following are extracts from a letter sent from Jerusalem by a native of that city to a friend in this country, through whose kindness we are enabled to publish them :—

You will no doubt be wondering how things are progressing and what effect the reconstruction of the lives and fortunes of the people is having. To present a faithful picture would be a difficult matter, but to state some few facts may help you to form an idea of the transformation.

It is an absolute fact that it would have been possible on December 9, 1917, to have gathered all the foodstuffs to be found in the markets of Jerusalem into two good-sized rooms, for the population had been so reduced by typhus and starvation and so drained by the military calls, and transportation had disappeared because of all horses, camels and donkeys having been requisitioned—nominally purchased—and sacrificed in the desert adventure, that nothing could be brought into the city except on some old men's backs or on women's heads. The peasants were driven first to the outskirts of the town, where they could more easily exact the kind of money and price they chose to put upon their merchandise without fear of the oppressive measures of the police, and later one-half, one, two, three, four and five miles from the city, to which distance the inhabitants were forced to walk out and carry the cash so as to secure the vegetables, fruits, fuel, etc., without which they could not exist. Many a poor person found a means to make a trifle by buying the commodities and re-selling them to his neighbours, but woe betide that unfortunate if some policeman or unscrupulous person met him and forced him to sell his merchandise for paper money, as did sometimes happen.

The contrast between this picture and the present condition is indescribable. The markets are overburdened with vegetables and fruit; donkeys have been reappearing by the score; camels seem to filter in by fives and tens; every day sees some new carriage make its début at the Jaffa Gate, where not one was seen for months; young men who had been in hiding for six months, or for one, two or three years, suddenly appeared as if risen from the dead; the poor down-trodden peasants are realising prices that neither they nor their fathers dreamed of; and produce is flowing into the city by every available means unhindered.

When the victorious British troops solemnly passed by on December 9 the inhabitants were as eager to find employment as they were hungering for food, and thousands of old and young men, Mohammedan and every other kind, of woman and children, found ready and lucrative employment, so that never have there been fewer beggars seen in Jerusalem than to-day.

These transformations have so altered conditions that over 80 per cent. of the population find themselves in better circumstances than they or their fathers ever before enjoyed. One illustration will demonstrate this. The military authorities, out of careful solicitude for the farmers, announced that on a certain day there would be a sale of captured enemy animals, so that farm work might not be delayed. That day realised thousands of pounds for the authorities, many times more than they expected; for the people seemed at once to bid over one another, so that these puny mules and horses reached prices never heard of before, £60 and £70 a-piece, one purchaser paying over £750. When this is contrasted with the condition of things prevalent under the Turks, at which time the price agreed upon between the officers for a captured British horse was £5—the British horse being always worth three times as much as a Turkish one—one can form some idea of the present prosperity of the bulk of the population.

Liberated from a Government that gathered the staff of life from the houses of the people, we have fallen under the sway of those who take upon themselves the burden of rationing the whole population, charging themselves with transporting from abroad all that is necessary to live upon; while the former Government sometimes took the very wheat they had sold to the people! And so it happens that to-day the refugees can buy rice at a cheaper rate than they paid for it *before the war*. And that which the population must be under the most lasting obligation for, next to their deliverance, is the living water that meets the thirsty and languishing at every gate and in every section of the new town. This has never been the lot of the inhabitants since the history of Jerusalem began.

Apart from the care shown by the authorities for the health, comfort and life of the people, their solicitude for the reconstruction of their lives, fortunes and futures is beyond all praise and gratitude. Experts of all kinds are here studying how to devise means for sanitation, how to improve the streets and the city, what the needs of the future are, what technical and industrial schools are necessary for the development of the population, and to enable them to shake off the curse and incubus of ages when they depended on others, that the new era of emancipation should find them self-reliant, developing their own resources, and independent of any outside aid. Surely what kings and prophets desired to see and saw not, it has been granted to us to be eye-witnesses of, to rejoice and have our full share in!

ENVER AND THE ARMENIANS.

A writer in the *Daily Express* tells the following tale of Enver Pasha :—On one occasion I asked him why the Turks persisted in persecuting the Armenians. "Have you ever seen an Armenian?" he asked. "Have you ever had any dealings with one?" Without waiting for my reply he went on: "You are a sportsman—you exterminate rats and other vermin, do you not? Well!"

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Another "war prophet" has gone wrong. To be accurate, it is a prophetess this time, and she resides in Egypt, which, as we all know, has always been a land of mystery. I learn of her through a letter published in the *Egyptian Gazette*, the writer of which describes her as "a European society lady, prominently associated with Red Cross and other charitable war work and notoriously connected with spiritualism and other occult sciences in pre-war days." The writer adds that she was known as "The Lady of Alexandria"—which is certainly a prettier title than "Mother Shipton." The story goes that some two years ago, at a spiritualistic *séance*, this interesting lady learned from a spirit the date on which "the war would definitely finish," to wit, October 12. The information was imparted "only under guarantee of silence"; and until lately the "society lady" kept her word—or so the story goes! But the recent good news from the front proved too much for her. She succumbed to temptation, and imparted the spirit-given information to a friend. Thereupon—the story adds; but Allah knows the truth—she was instantly struck dumb.

⁂

I gather that at the time the letter was written, Cairo, and European Egypt generally, waited more or less breathlessly to see whether the "prophecy" would be fulfilled. As I have seen no cable to the effect that it has been, I conclude that the Nile valley continues to share the luck of the world at large; and it follows, therefore, that "The Lady of Alexandria" is proved a false prophetess. So, let us hope, she will soon recover her speech, if she has not already done so. Then she will be free to start afresh in the prophetic line. For nothing daunts these folk. Failure is immaterial to them; notoriety is the breath of life. If they can advertise themselves—and their books—they are prepared to "explain" anything under the sun. But I should not be surprised to hear that "The Lady of Alexandria" was related to that other Prophetess (of the 'Bus), or even to Mrs. 'Arris.

⁂

Between Damascus and Aleppo there can hardly be any comparison. The southern city is much the more interesting and much the more picturesque of the two, while its surroundings are incontestably more pleasing than those of Aleppo. As for historical interest, Haleb, though of no mushroom growth, cannot presume to enter into rivalry with "the oldest city in the world." Yet, in spite of all these things, and though I must admit that I like Damascus far better than Aleppo, our capture of the latter city afforded me greater pleasure than the capture of the former. The reason for this is that, whereas in Damascus I spent my time chiefly in the society of Arabs and stayed in a real khan, in Aleppo I was thrown by fate much into the company of Germans. For in Aleppo, as elsewhere in Turkey, the Teutons were doing their very best to take the place that had formerly been occupied by Englishmen, and I found there quite a strong colony of them.

⁂

That was just at the time when the Baghdad Railway scheme was fairly launched, and the Germans in Aleppo were—naturally enough—inclined to be jubilant and to regard themselves—again, naturally enough—as the coming power in Turkey. To me, personally, they were very friendly; they took me to their club, where we played skittles together, and showed themselves good hosts in every way. But it was impossible to remain insensible to the German atmosphere, so to say; and though I enjoyed exploring the bazaars and the famous citadel, Aleppo failed to cast a spell over me as Damascus and some other Eastern cities had done. The Baghdad Railway project was then, and has ever since remained, a kind of nightmare to me. Now, at last, it is possible to hope and believe that it never will be realized as "a German project." The Germans, as you know, claimed it as such, though in point of fact it was simply an adaptation of an English scheme, some fifty or sixty years old! That a British force should be astride the great line at Aleppo, and another in possession of the stretch of it north of Baghdad, must be a bitter reflection indeed for Berlin.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—As an Epirote who knows something about those Turco-Albanian Beys and Aghas of Epirus, I am painfully surprised to see in some English papers Mehmed Bey Konitza posing as Albanian delegate and protesting on behalf of Epirus! It was unfortunate indeed that such protest as that published in your issue of October 25 found space in THE NEAR EAST, which is believed—and rightly too—to be well informed about matters and persons in the Balkan Peninsula.

Mehmed Bey, after having abused Greek culture and civilisation, abuses now the impartiality, the hospitality, good faith and broad-mindedness of the British Press, distorting ancient and contemporary history of Epirus. The only truth in his protest is that Epirus was never conquered by Greece, because Epirus was always Hellenic and there is no need of conquest. Mehmed Bey knows very well how much Hellenic is his own country, the district of Konitza; he knows also very well what is, in conscience and feeling, the district of Chimarra, this stronghold of freedom; he knows how long and hard the Souliotes, the Albanian-speaking Epirotes, contributed to the liberation of Greece, fighting with Greeks side by side as brothers, as sons of the same mother country; he knows that before the activities of Austro-Italian propaganda all Albanians, including many true patriotic Beys of Central Albania, like the prudent and wise Nestorian Kemal Bey of Valona, always looked towards Athens.

In any case we Epirotes ask to be left free to decide our own destiny. If the Beys want union with Northern Albania they can go there, leaving to the Christian compatriots the estates they seized from them as their price for changing their religion. We ask self-determination, that is all.—I am, etc.,

CHR. KESSARY,
London Correspondent of the Athens *Estia*.
30, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W.2,
October 27, 1918.

COUNT TISZA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Count Tisza, in his speech in the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, cunningly endeavours to smooth matters by saying that Hungarian law recognises the Croatian nation as a political entity, and by excluding Croatia he declares that the Hungarian race is in the majority as regards relative numbers. He admits that a large part of the population does not speak the Hungarian tongue, yet he asserts that they are loyally devoted to the principle of Hungarian national state.

Leaving out all other Slavs who suffer under Hungarian oppression, I will refer only to the so-called Voivodina, which is composed of the counties of Banat, Batchka and Syrmia, and populated, with the exception of some Roumanians, Germans and Hungarians, entirely by Serbians, who would rather die than become loyal Hungarians. In 1877, when Serbia was at war with Turkey, the population of Kikinda, a town in Banat, revolted because they were not allowed to go to the assistance of Serbia. They destroyed everything they could find that was Hungarian, and threw down the pictures of Franz Josef from the walls of official buildings, replacing them with pictures of the then Prince Milan of Serbia.

An amusing incident occurred during my visit to Mokrin (also in Banat) six years ago as the guest of an old school friend. Being in need of some postage stamps, I sent my host's son, a boy of twelve, to purchase some. The post office was close by, but it was nearly two hours before the boy returned. He explained that he had been kept waiting for the stamps by the official, who pretended that he could not understand Serbian, as most of the officials are Hungarian. The boy said that he persisted in asking for the stamps in that language, and was at last served, whereupon he told the official, in Hungarian, to go and hang himself.

Such is the spirit pervading the Voivodina, especially at Banat, where the people are staunch Serbs, and hate everything Hungarian, even the language.

Count Tisza is one of the principal criminals guilty of provoking this most bloody war, in which millions of men have perished in their youth, and millions of old people, women and innocent children in Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, and Poland are suffering untold misery, and Count Tisza must be held responsible for it.—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.
Polperro, Lyncroft Gardens, N.W.,
October 23, 1918.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A NEW PALESTINE GUIDE.*

Lieut.-Colonel Pirie-Gordon, who edits this guide-book, tells us in the preface that it is "based upon the appropriate chapters of Baedeker's 'Palestine and Syria,' with additions drawn from the works of other writers." His modesty, we suspect, prevents his telling us how much the book owes to his own knowledge and his care in bringing it up to date. Thus, when we read that "in crusading times Bireh was known as the Grand Mahommerie," we may search Baedeker's pages in vain for this item of information; and so it is over and over again throughout the book. Then, too, one suspects that Baedeker would find it more painful to record that Ramallah "is the seat of a Deputy Military Governor" than his British editor does.

The book is produced chiefly for the benefit of members of the E.E.F., and unless they are ungrateful indeed they will give it a warm welcome. They may have had little opportunity of late to study the scenery, ruins, and so forth of the land through which they have been passing, on the heels of the enemy; but a good many of them will have time for future visits, no doubt, and others will enjoy reading the history that was made in the land before they arrived to add fresh pages to it. As to the historical portions of the work, a note in the preface shows that they have been specially selected with a view to what is most likely to interest our own fighting men; so we need not be surprised to find the deeds of "King Richard and our forefathers" bulking rather large in these pages. Occasionally Baedeker and our Guide-book seem to differ slightly in regard to facts. Thus the former, in its third edition (English), in describing "The Roman Town" at Cæsarea, says (p. 274):—

> "To the S. of the town, 5 min. beyond the gate of the mediæval wall, is traceable the vast amphitheatre of Herod, turned towards the sea. It accommodated 20,000 spectators. . . . . The whole was afterwards converted into a fortress. In the middle of it are remains of a semi-circular building, probably a theatre. By means of canals it could be filled with sea-water and turned into a naumachia."

Our Guide-book says:—

> "To the S. of the town, 5 min. beyond the S. gate of the mediæval wall, is traceable a semi-circular building, probably a theatre, which could be filled with sea-water by means of canals and turned into a naumachia. In the S.E. corner of the town (a little to the N.E. of the theatre) are the remains of the vast amphitheatre of Herod," etc.

We are patriotic enough to back the "all-British" version. But to one who has not visited the site the puzzle is not without fascination.

The general map is sure to prove useful to travellers for many years to come, and (like the three smaller sheets, of Nablous, Haifa and Shechem) it has been produced admirably by the Survey Department of Egypt. The print and paper are good—wonderfully good for these days—and though we have discovered a good many misprints, they are no great blemish save when they occur in the spelling of a name, as, on page 11, "Seiun" for Seilûn. "Mounts of sand" is, however, a curious slip (p. 44).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"An Empire Builder of the Sixteenth Century: A Summary Account of the Political Career of Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad, surnamed Babur." By L. F. Rushbrook Williams, B.A., etc. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Briton in India: A Pocket Interpreter containing Phrases and Travel Talk, etc." By J. A. Shah. (London: L. B. Hill. 2s. net.)

"Les Etats Chrétiens des Balkans depuis 1815." By Louis André. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 3fr. 50.)

"A Manual of the Kashmiri Language: Vols. I. and II." by George A. Grierson, C.I.E., etc. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 12s. net.)

"Sidelights on Russia." By Hugh Brennan, M.A. (London: David Nutt. 2s. 6d. net.)

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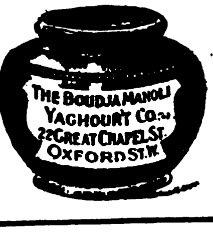
* "A Guide Book to Central Palestine." (Published by *The Palestine News*. 20 piastres.)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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. November	1918. October.		1337. Moharrem.	5679. Hesvan.
1	19	Friday	26	26
2	20	Saturday........	27	27
3	21	Sunday	28	28
4	22	Monday	29	29
5	23	Tuesday	30	Kislev 1
6	24	Wednesday	Safar 1	2
7	25	Thursday	2	3

Prince George of Serbia arrived in London last Friday from the Western Front.

Essad Pasha, President of the Albanian Government, arrived in Nice on October 23.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister will preside at a dinner in honour of the Greek Commercial Mission, to be given by the Greek community in London at the Savoy Hotel on November 7.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant Harold Christopher Hodgson, Lancers, elder son of Mr. C. Hodgson, D.P.I., Travandrum, Travancore, India, and Mrs. Hodgson, and Irene Hylda, younger daughter of the Rev. Ellis C. Mackie and Mrs. Mackie, of Stockton-on-the-Forest Rectory, York.

A marriage has been arranged between Major Geoffrey G. Rawson, M.C., Royal Engineers, second son of the late Mr. Edward Creswell Rawson, Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Edward Rawson, and Ella, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Beresford Cane, of 66, Elm Park Gardens, S.W.

The engagement is announced of Lieutenant L. F. C. St. Clair, Lancers, youngest son of the Hon. Lockhart M. St. Clair, C.I.E., and Mrs. St. Clair, and Evelyn, youngest daughter of Nicholas Synnott and Mrs. Synnott, of Furness, Naas, Co. Kildare.

An engagement is announced between Captain F. W. Metcalfe, the Rifle Brigade (S.R.), son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Metcalfe, of Stone Hall, Oxted, formerly of Ceylon, and Helen Margaret, daughter of Mr. C. J. Goodman, of Temple House, Oxted.

An engagement is announced between Austin Hugo Lampard, R.G.A., youngest son of the late Charles Arthur Lampard, of Holme Park, Rotherfield, and Mrs. Lampard, 4, Orme Square, W., and Edith Gertrude, youngest daughter of Robert White, of Hythe, Kent, late of Cachar, India.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in January at Lucknow, between Captain J. K. Haworth, R.A.M.C. (Reserve), only son of Canon Haworth, of Durham, and Zara, youngest daughter of the late Herbert F. Clogstoun, C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Clogstoun, 41, Tedworth Square, Chelsea.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (October 15) :—The many friends of Sir Vincent Frendo Azzopardi, C.M.G., will learn with regret that, owing to indisposition, he has had take sick leave.

Dr. J. Galizia, medical adviser to the Eastern Telegraph Company, passed suddenly away on September 17. He was one of Malta's ablest sons, and the extent of his kindness, both professionally and financially, can never be assessed.

The exigencies of the war have not thrown many honours our way, and consequently the whole island was gratified to learn that the Order of the British Empire had been conferred on the following prominent gentlemen :—(Commander): The Honourable Professor M. A. Refalo, LL.D. (Members): Mr. Antonio Bartolo (Editor of the *Daily Malta Chronicle*), Dr. George Borg, Mr. Antonio Cassar Torregianni.

Lieutenant A. J. Gatt, M.C., Royal Malta Artillery, with the Egyptian Force, has been granted the temporary rank of Major whilst holding the appointment of Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Services. Major Gatt is well known in the island, and his promotion has given great satisfaction.

The Times Cairo correspondent telegraphs :—"The provisional total of 'Our Day' in Egypt and the Sudan is £200,000, of which Egypt has subscribed £180,000. Contributions are still flowing in, but the amount even so far is the highest yet raised in this country."

The Serbian Church Students' Aid Council, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is president, has undertaken to help a number of selected Serbian students to complete at an English university their preparation for ordination. The work has already been started successfully, and as the number of students has now increased considerably, an earnest appeal is made for contributions to the maintenance fund, an income of £10,000 a year being required to keep the scheme going. Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. E. F. Knapp Fisher, Chapter Clerk's Office, Westminster Abbey, S.W.1.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Milutin Yovanovitch has been appointed Serbian Minister to Berne.

M. Dragomir Stefanovitch has been appointed Serbian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Lisbon.

Assent has been notified by the Italian Government to the appointment of M. Leon Borski as Chargé d'Affaires of the Provisional Czecho-Slovak Government at Rome.

Captain G. E. Oxspring, Army Veterinary Corps, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service officer, granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached to the Veterinary Department for duty.

The King has approved of the following rewards for distinguished service in connection with military operations in Egypt and the Sudan (dated June 3, 1918) :—

To be Brevet Lieut.-Col. (on Ret. List, Res. of Off., S.R., New Army, or T.F., in the case of Officers belonging to these categories, as applicable) :—Maj. (T./Lt.-Col.) M. H. Logan, W. York R., attd. Egyptian Army; Maj. (T./Lt.-Col.) L. K. Smith, D.S.O., R. Scots, empld. Egyptian Army; Maj. T. B. Vandeleur, D.S.O., R. Ir. R., attd. Egyptian Army; Maj. R. S. Wilson, Ret. Pay, R. of O., empld. Sudan Govt.

Distinguished Service Order.—Maj. Hon. T. P. P. Butler, R.A., empld. Egyptian Army; Maj. C. Graham, North'n. R., attd. Egyptian Army; Maj. C. C. Marshall, R. Lanc. R., empld. Egyptian Army; Maj. (T./Lt.-Col.) J. H. Pattisson, Essex R., empld. Egyptian Army; Lt. W. Stuart, Yeo. and M.G.C.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant Oswald Fenwicke Clennell Carr-Ellison, Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action on October 4. He had served in France and with the Salonika Force. The Order of the White Eagle (5th Class) was conferred upon him by the King of Serbia in recognition of his gallantry in leading his company in September, 1916.

It was announced last week that Captain Sacheverel Darwin Wilmot, R.G.A., had died in hospital abroad, aged 33. He was at the capture of Baghdad, and in command of a heavy gun battery at the taking of Nadjeh. He received the Serbian Order of the White Eagle, and was mentioned in despatches. He had recently passed the course of a Staff School in India, and was on his way back to active service.

Colonel Sir Philip Durham Trotter, of Mainhouse, Kelso, late 93rd (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders, died on October 26. He served in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, during which he was commandant of Dal and of Kaibar, and was employed on the lines of communication, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the medal and the bronze star and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. He retired from the Army in 1902.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard A. B. Butler, D.S.O., R.F.A., who died of wounds on October 23, served some nine or ten years in India. He was a keen traveller and sportsman, and was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's certificate for surveys undertaken during his periods of leave. He went to France in September, 1914, and served continuously there until his death, save for a short period as instructor at the Overseas Artillery School on Salisbury Plain.

Brigadier-General Edward John Granet, Military Attaché at Berne, has died there suddenly from heart failure. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1878, saw service in the Afghan War, 1879-80, and in the Sudan four years later, and in the South Africa War. He served at Rome and at Berne as Military Attaché. He was the British representative on the International Commission for the delimitation of the North and North-Eastern frontiers of Albania.

Captain Herbert Grendon Powers, M.C., who was killed in action on September 19, was the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Powers, late of Westend, Hants. He applied for a commission as soon as the war broke out, and as second lieutenant 1/5th Hampshire Regiment he went out to India with the Wessex Brigade (Territorials) in October, 1914. He afterwards joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, and early in 1916 went with the 1/1st Gurkha Rifles to Mesopotamia, where he took part in the retaking of Kut, and was awarded the Military Cross. A few months ago he was transferred with his regiment to another front.

The death has occurred at Middle Chinnock, Crewkerne, Somerset, of Colonel Arthur Dewar Parsons, late Madras Lancers. He served with the South Devon Militia, when it was embodied during the Crimean War, and received, through Lord Grey, one of the first Queen's cadetships to India, joining the 1st Madras Light Cavalry in 1856. Other service seen by him was in the Mutiny, in Afghanistan in 1878-80, and in the Burmah Campaign of 1885-8. He retired in 1899. Colonel Parsons was the youngest son of Lieut.-Colonel John Whitehill Parsons, C.M.G., 10th Hussars, and Resident at Zante when the Ionian Islands were under British Protection.

It is announced that Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Walter Balfour Barttelot, D.S.O., was killed on October 23 at Teheran. Born in March, 1880, at The Manor, Sidmouth, he was the elder son of the late Major Sir Walter George Barttelot, formerly of the 5th Dragoon Guards. He was gazetted to the 2nd Dorset Regiment in 1899, and served throughout the South African War. He also served in Egypt in 1906-08, and was for three years, 1911-14, in Australia as A.D.C. and Private Military Secretary to the Governor-General. In August, 1914, he went to France with a battalion of the Coldstream Guards, and was severely wounded in the battle of the Aisne. From July, 1915, to January, 1916, he was G.S.O., 3rd Grade, in Gallipoli. Later he was in Mesopotamia as Brigade Major and as G.S.O., 2nd Grade. In March of this year he became Military Attaché at Teheran, and in June he received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel in recognition of his service in Mesopotamia. He held the two medals for South Africa, one with six and the other with two clasps, the 1914 Star, and Croix de Guerre. In August, 1916, he was mentioned in despatches, and in June of the same year he was awarded the D.S.O. for services in the field. Last August he was specially mentioned for services in Mesopotamia, having been three times previously mentioned. Sir Walter Barttelot married in November, 1903, Gladys St. Aubyn, daughter of the late W. A. Angove, of 83, Onslow Gardens, and leaves two sons, the elder of whom is at Eton.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Reuter's Simla correspondent reports that the Viceroy has announced in the *Gazette* the King's pardon to all deserters from the Army, provided they rejoin by January 1, 1919.

On September 14 the Sirdar opened new Y.M.C.A. gardens in Khartoum. The ladies of Khartoum assisted in serving tea, and there was a large gathering of European and native society.

Among the oversea contributions to "Our Day" is a first instalment of £8,000 from the Sudan. The Sirdar, Sir L. O. F. Stack, in reporting this response to the appeal in the Sudan, points out that owing to the distance of out-stations it will be some time before the final total will be definitely known.

Dr. Ronald Burrows, acting Chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, has received from Professor Evangelides, of Athens, President of the Central Committee of Unredeemed Hellenes, a message of thanks for his plea urging the freeing of the unredeemed Greek populations of Asia Minor, Pontus, and Thrace.

In a message to the Greek troops who took part in the offensive in September General Milne, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in Macedonia, says:—"You were the first Greek troops to enter the enemy's territory. You have shown by your tenacity your contempt for danger and suffering, and have written a glorious page in the history of the Hellenic Army."

According to a Vienna newspaper:—"Care has been taken that the eventual evacuation of Serbian and Montenegrin territories shall be accomplished in a humane manner. We are adopting the principle of maintaining the institutions of social welfare established in the occupied lands by our army for the sake of the population, which is so poorly provided with the blessings of Kultur."

In the Prize Court, on October 26, the President (Sir W. Pickford) heard a motion on behalf of Commander Edward Courtney Boyle, V.C., and the officers and ship's company of H.M. Submarine E 14, for a declaration that they were entitled to prize bounty amounting to £31,000 for the destruction of the Turkish troop transport Gul Djeml in the Sea of Marmora on May 19, 1915. Judgment was reserved.

Immediately after the liberation of Haifa by the victorious British troops the Jewish community of the town held a public meeting in the college. Its first work was to send a resolution to Mr. Sokoloff and Dr. Weizmann expressing the deepest gratitude for the work done on behalf of the Jewish nation, and assuring them that all their resources, without reservation, are at the disposal of the leaders, in whom they have complete confidence, for the successful accomplishment of their task.

Dr. Benes, Czecho-Slovak Minister for Foreign Affairs, sent a message regretting his inability to be present at a dinner given (on October 25) by the British International Association of Journalists in honour of Lord R. Cecil. He added that the Czecho-Slovaks would never forget that their triumph was definitely secured on the day when he received from Mr. Balfour and Lord R. Cecil the Declaration of August 9. The trust their friends and Allies reposed in the Czecho-Slovaks would never be disappointed. Friendships and alliances born in such particular circumstances did not die.

A well-attended meeting convened by the West London Zionist Association was held at the West Hampstead Town Hall on Sunday, in support of the Jewish National Fund. Sir James Boyton, M.P., who presided, said the programme for the settlement of Jews upon the land was based on very advanced and democratic lines, and the sacrifices of the British and their Allies and of the Indian soldiers and also of many battalions of Jewish soldiers had brought within measurable distance the removal of the obstacles which had so long stood in the way of the fulfilment of their aspirations.

King Nicholas of Montenegro has issued a manifesto addressed "To the Yugoslavs," in which he recalls that on the day on which he declared war on Austria he proclaimed that he "drew the sword for the union of the Yugoslavs." He expresses his thankfulness at witnessing the realisation of his ideal—the liberation of the Yugoslavs. He declares solemnly that Montenegro ought to become a constituent part of Yugoslavia, and he expresses the hope that "we may all unite and agree as brothers in a confederate Yugoslavia, in which each member will preserve its rights, institutions, religion and customs, when none will claim any supremacy, when all shall be equal."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

IN MEMORIAM.

Berney.—In grateful memory of Captain George Norman Berney, 1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment, and his brother officers and comrades of that regiment and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who fell in action on the way to Hebron, November 6, 1917.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

THE BREAK-UP OF AUSTRIA.

Any doubt as to whether the reply of Count Andrassy, the new Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, to President Wilson's Note of October 18 was intended as a prelude to the surrender of the Hapsburg Monarchy has been set at rest by a further and still more urgent appeal for an immediate truce. President Wilson had stated that, as he had recognised the Czecho-Slovaks as a separate belligerent unit and had recognised also "in the fullest manner the justice of the nationalistic aspirations of the Yugoslavs for freedom," he was no longer at liberty to accept a mere "autonomy" of these peoples as a basis of peace, but was "obliged to insist that they, and not he, shall be the judges of what action on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government will satisfy their aspirations and their conception of their rights and destiny as members of the family of nations." Count Andrassy has now replied that the Government for which he speaks adheres to this point of view "regarding the rights of the peoples of Austria-Hungary, particularly those of the Czecho-Slovaks and the Yugoslavs," and "accepts all the conditions upon which the President makes an entry into negotiations regarding an armistice and peace dependent." Austria-Hungary is in consequence prepared, "without waiting the result of other negotiations," to enter into *pourparlers* regarding peace and regarding an immediate armistice on all her fronts. The communication to President Wilson is superfluous, as an armistice is essentially the concern of the Allied military command, and the request for one has to be addressed to the Officer Commanding the Allied forces. It may be symptomatic of the general chaos prevailing in the Dual Monarchy that the new Government felt on safer ground in trying to give effect to its decision through purely Austro-Hungarian diplomatic, rather than through Austro-German military, channels; or the quite erroneous impression gained from Germany that President Wilson in some way or another stands for milder terms may still have lingered.

Whatever the reason for the course adopted, the Austro-Hungarian Government has no alternative to surrender left to it. Its first request for the discussion of peace terms was evidently prompted by compelling circumstances, and the fact was tacitly admitted by the German authorities when they decided to take over the responsibility for the request. Since then the position in the Monarchy has gone from bad to worse. A last effort on the part of the Emperor Karl to retain his territorial inheritance was in the form of a manifesto promising a separate State to each of the Austrian races. He was taken at his word, and Provisional Governments, or their equivalents, came into existence at Prague, Agram, Cracow, and Lemberg, but with no intention of entering into any federal arrangement with the authorities of the Dual Monarchy. Worse still, Hungary, Bohemia, and the Yugoslav lands withheld their food supplies from Vienna, and one newspaper admitted that, unless speedy and thorough relief could be found, the capital was threatened with a catastrophe. The army in the field may be better off for the moment, and if the supreme command is still in German hands, an effort might conceivably be made to postpone surrender in the supposed interests of Germany, although the signal victory of the Italian and British troops on the Piave does not make this course likely. But whether the Austrian troops continue to resist or not the disintegration of Austria-Hungary may be regarded as an accomplished fact. The Emperor has left Vienna for one of his castles in Hungary, and a new Austrian Premier is said to have been appointed mainly for the purpose of arranging for the transfer of affairs from the Central Government to the National Governments. The task will probably be of more interest to the former than to the latter, as the various peoples have already made their own arrangements, and are acting as Sovereign States independent of any dispositions that the Vienna authorities may contemplate. There would seem, indeed, to be more cause for the Hapsburg Monarchy to look after itself than to profess solicitude for its unwilling subjects. Complete uncertainty must prevail as to where the process of disintegration will stop. The first instinct of the Germans in Austria has apparently been towards union with Germany; but whether the desire will be quickened or damped by constitutional developments in that country remains to be seen. Hungary claims to have made up its mind on the one point of independence of Dualism; but both the advocates of democratisation and the members of the old school alike insist upon the integrity of Hungarian territory. When the only terms on which the Allies are prepared to make peace are known there may be more inclination to coalesce on the part of the remnants of the once Dual Monarchy.

Fuit Ilium. The event that was so long anticipated has now taken place. Austria-Hungary may survive for the purposes of a military surrender, but Dualism as introduced fifty-two years ago, perpetuating the subordination of the Slavs to the German minority in one-half of the Monarchy, and to the Magyar minority in the other, is at an end. Interest for the moment centres in the Allies' plans. In the case of Bulgaria the dangerous precedent was set of drawing a distinction between an armistice and the terms of peace. The relative smallness of the country precludes the possibility of future embarrassment, and it may have seemed the simpler course to postpone a detailed settlement until the time came for a general peace. If the Allies are well advised, there should be no such distinction in the case of Austria-Hungary and Germany. The terms of surrender, unless Allied interests are to be prejudiced, should include a statement of the peace terms—at least in outline—as well as the military requirements for an armistice. Any other course must place the Allies at a disadvantage, as it exposes them to the worry, if not danger, of interminable negotiations. A conference of the Allies is now meeting at Versailles, and its deliberations are of necessity being conducted under pressure of the rapid march of events in Austria-Hungary. It is to be hoped that the whole question of the settlement after the war is not now being discussed *ab ovo usque ad malum.* If this should be the case, the arrival, under a flag of truce, of an Austrian deputation at British or Italian Headquarters on the Piave might find the Allies only ready with their terms for an armistice. The interests of the subject races of the Dual Monarchy require that a clean cut should be made at once, and that the Provisional Governments now in being at the different centres, no less than Austria and Hungary, should know without delay where they stand. There will be no justification for lengthy peace negotiations. The Hapsburg Monarchy, after the admissions already made, can offer no valid objection to the Allies' terms; its present preoccupation is far more likely to be the fate that it may expect at the hands of its own peoples. The effect of Austria-Hungary's action on Germany's waning resistance will be considerable, if not decisive, and the more rapidly the negotiations with Vienna are concluded the sooner will Germany accept the logic of her isolation. In a war that is costing the Allies fifteen million pounds a day there is no room for diplomacy that follows haltingly at a long interval after the military event.

EXORCISM IN CAIRO.

Soon after my first arrival in Cairo—many years ago—a friend of the Coptic community informed me that exorcism was still practised in some of their old churches and convents. The most powerful of the Saints whose aid is invoked is the Emir, or Mar, Tadrus (St. Theodore). Far away in the "Arab quarters" is an old Coptic convent dedicated to this warrior saint, some of whose bones are said to be preserved there. Quite recently there had been, said my friend, a striking proof of his miraculous powers. A Moslem youth, belonging to the lively fraternity of donkey boys, had fallen sick and died; preparations for burial had been made; hired female mourners were assembled, and their shrill notes of lamentation filled the air. The body was about to be laid upon the bier when a woman who had known the youth implored that the body might be taken to the shrine of the Mar Tadrus. The youth might not be dead. She knew of a case in which a person pronounced to be dead had been restored to life; and she had heard of several cases of premature burial. The proposal would no doubt have sounded strange to Moslem ears were it not that, as Lane says, "Moslems, Christians, and Jews adopt each other's superstitions, while they abhor the leading doctrines of each other's faiths." It was agreed to: the body was conveyed to the convent, prayers were made, and the boy was brought home alive. Whatever the facts may have been, the story was, I found, current at the time.

I gladly accepted the offer of my friend to guide me to the place. At nine o'clock on a Wednesday morning we started for the *Deyr*, or convent. Passing through the Esbekieh and the Muski, we reached the Ghourieh, which leads to so many quaint bazaars. At the Fountain of Toussoun Pasha we turned into the Har't er-Rûm, formerly a Frank quarter, bordering on that of the once privileged Venetians, the Moghowerîn. Winding through the narrowest and most silent of lanes, we passed by ponderous wooden doors, no longer used, which in lawless times formed the barriers of separate quarters. Finally we reached a lonely cul-de-sac, and, stopping half-way along it, my friend knocked at a low door to the left. After much creaking it was opened, admitted us, and was at once closed and locked.

A female servant informed us that the Raïssa, or Lady Superior, would shortly join us: she was attending a Lenten service in the church. She soon appeared, a lady advanced in years, wearing a gown of the ordinary blue material beneath a black silk *hâbarah*. By her permission we were shown over the church, which is an interesting one. Here in the heart of a Mohammedan quarter, never penetrated by travellers, we were, as in the Coptic churches of "Old Cairo," in an atmosphere of a remote Christian period. Absolute silence reigned in the cold precincts; but it was soon to be broken by discordant howls. We then proceeded to the chamber, close by, in which the expulsion of devils took place. This was a plain, white-washed room on the ground floor. A few apertures in the walls served for windows. In one corner some ostrich eggs were suspended from light wooden frames. Behind a coloured curtain, partly drawn, was a recess in which the relics—said to be arm bones—of the wonder-working Emir are carefully preserved in a little silken bolster.

Already the room was crowded by scores of women and girls of all ages, young married women apparently predominating. Here and there were infants in arms, and a few small boys wearing bright red tarboushes. The majority were Egyptians, Copt and Moslem, while the types and complexion of others—many unveiled—showed that they came from Nubia, Abyssinia, and different parts of the Sudan. Most of them were seated; a great many were "possessed," the others being relations, friends, and attendants. The evil spirits were unmistakably at work in different modes and degrees. Some of the demoniacs were gesticulating wildly, others were swaying their bodies to and fro, others prostrate and muttering incoherently or crying out. Some were sitting quietly, as yet unmoved. The demons were presumably of the epileptic tribe.

By permission of the Raïssa, we took up our position at the door of the ill-ventilated chamber. Scarcely had we done so when two stalwart women entered, each bearing a large *tar*, or tambourine, and followed by an attendant. These were the exorcists, both Mohammedan. They were energetic-looking women, above the average height, and wore the usual blue *miláyeh*. They lost no time in getting to work. The process was extremely simple. Placing themselves opposite each sufferer in turn, they set up a loud monotonous chant, while they beat a noisy accompaniment upon their jingling instruments. The chant consisted chiefly of an invocation of various Moslem saints, the name of the Sheikh esh-Sharâwi being frequently mentioned. This saint was a much-esteemed *weli*, to whose memory a mosque is dedicated in the north of Cairo. There his tomb is much frequented by women carrying sick infants, and by others who have no infants to carry, but who desire the honour of maternity. We listened in vain for any mention of the name of St. Theodore, who appeared to be quite overlooked by the exorcists at his own shrine.

The effects produced upon the possessed were in most cases almost instantaneous. Those who were already manifesting symptoms of the malady became doubly excited. Patients seated on the floor, who had shown no signs of disorder, became violently affected. They sprang to their feet, uttering loud shrieks or groans. In a few cases we noticed that demoniacs tried to dash their heads against the wall, being prevented only by their watchful relatives or attendants. Close to us, a girl dressed in white was carrying on a frantic dance with outspread arms. As the exorcists approached she tried to stop her ears; whereupon they redoubled their efforts, thumping the *tars* with increased energy till the noise, added to the shrieks of demoniacs, and the loud buzz of voices all round, became deafening. A black, worn-looking, Sudanese woman was nervously clutching the air. She and other patients were supported on both sides by friends while the convulsions continued. One or two patients were swaying their heads from side to side, exactly in the manner of "howling dervishes." In all cases the fits lasted till exhaustion caused the demoniacs to collapse or to sink into the arms of their friends. The theory, of course, is that the devil becomes agitated on hearing invoked against it the name of the particular saint whose influence it is powerless, sooner or later, to resist. It struggles within the body of the possessed, through which it cries aloud. Finally, it is compelled to depart, though it may be only temporarily. I gathered that in many cases several visits were needed to effect a cure.

Afterwards, long before the séance ended, we spent some time with the Raïssa in an upper chamber, or reception room, from which, through a small window, we could overlook the scene below. She told us many things about the convent and the saint; and related how the Moslems had made an attempt some years ago to obtain complete possession of the shrine. Formerly, the exorcists were Copts; but the gift of casting-out devils has confessedly passed from the Coptic clergy. I also learned, in subsequent visits to the *Deyr*, various facts about some of the most noted exorcists in Cairo, whose powers and modes of procedure I was afterwards able to study.

R. M.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

A MESOPOTAMIA-PALESTINE ROUTE.

By Joseph Offord.

With reference to the possibility of speedy communication between the British Army advancing in Mesopotamia and General Allenby's outposts to the east of Damascus and Palestine, it is interesting to know that there is one route by which the two expeditions may be united by a series of posts that would probably not involve any action with the Turkish outposts. This route was followed by Sargon and other Assyrian monarchs when at war with the Arabians and Edomites, and inhabitants of the Hauran and other districts east of the Jordan valley.

The route referred to is one leading from the Euphrates, starting at a point close to Nejef, a little to the south of the site of old Babylon, to an important oasis of North-East Arabia known as El Jowf (or Jof). The feasibility of such a road between Mesopotamia and the Damascus-Medina railway and our Palestine Army east of the Jordan does not depend only upon the evidence of ancient cuneiform records, or the account of Salah-ed-Din's great march from Cairo, by way of Akaba, to the Euphrates, although many old inscriptions in its favour could be quoted. Quite recent confirmation is obtainable. In 1909 Captain S. S. Butler read before the Royal Geographical Society a paper entitled "Babylon to Damascus." In that address he proved that between the Euphrates and El Jowf there is a distinct line of communication, with wells. Glaser, the Austrian traveller and achæologist, who spent many years in Arabia, says that the wadi water of the Jowf drains into the Euphrates. The fact of this route and the neighbouring country to El Jowf not being wholly sterile is also vouched for by the French explorer Huber, Lady Anne Blount, and others. Moreover, in Stiehler's great atlas of Western Asia the wadi between the Jowf oasis and Euphrates is inscribed as "low ground, good pasturage." To ascertain the position of El Jowf, the best way is to draw a line from the head of the Gulf of Akaba to the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab. It is then placed a little to the north of this line, nearer to Palestine than the Euphrates by about one-fourth. It is a strategic point, because upon the shortest way from Egypt to the Euphrates, and half-way between Damascus and Hail, in Central Arabia, and, as pointed out and stated by Wetzstein, is only four double marches south-west of Babylon. It will be clear, therefore, how easy it would be to reach Jowf from the river. There remains now the question of the route between the Jowf and Damascus, or the Hauran east of Jericho ford and bridge. This is quite easy, because the wadi connecting the Euphrates with Jowf is continued, slightly deflected in its direction, and leads to the East Palestine, or Syrian, district of the Hauran. The map directions, derived from recent travellers, indicate this valley as being well furnished with water all the way from the Hauran to within fifteen miles of Jowf. This wadi is known as the Wadi Sirhan. Its direction from the Hauran to Jowf is south-east; then you cross the oasis, and take the valley which acts as its continuation to the Euphrates, which runs east-north-east.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., presided at a dinner given by the English Zionist Federation at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday night in honour of Dr. Weizmann and the other members of the Zionist Commission to Palestine.

Lord Robert Cecil wrote: "In Palestine the pioneer work accomplished by the Commission, under the able leadership of Dr. Weizmann, has laid the foundation upon which, I have no doubt, will be built the solid fabric of a Jewish National Home."

Mr. Samuel said it was exceedingly fortunate that the Commission found as the head of the Government in Palestine that great soldier and statesman, General Allenby, a man of wise and sound judgment, inspiring confidence in all who met him. The question of the political sovereignty of Palestine would, of course, be established at the Peace Conference. That problem was not for the Zionists. All they asked for Palestine was that it should not, in any case, be under the joint administration of several Powers. They also asked that there should be no division of Palestine, that the natural boundaries of the country should be respected. The ideas and views of the people on the spot should be treated with consideration and respect. Further, Palestine should not be subjected to the financial exploitation of outside concessionaires. Also, as a matter of course, the non-Jewish population already settled in the land should be treated with scrupulous fairness.

In a message dated October 15, and delayed in transmission, the Athens correspondent of *The Times* reports :—"Public opinion is rather excited over the fact that the Italian Censor allowed to pass an article in the *Idea Nazionale* claiming for Italy the Asia Minor vilayets of Alexandretta, Adalia, and Smyrna, with the hinterland. The newspapers assert Hellenic rights over these territories, a portion of which has already twice been offered to Greece by the Entente."

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Turanianism v. Islam.

Sir Edwin Pears's article on "Turkey Islam, and Turanianism," in the *Contemporary Review*, will reassure those who are inclined to regard Turanianism with too much awe. The Turks, or certain of them, have made a proposal "to renounce the religion of Mohammed and to substitute for it that of the Turanians": a proposal which, "were it to materialise, would mean a relapse from monotheism into polytheism or a confusion of religious conceptions hardly distinguishable from fetishism." Thus does Sir Edwin Pears put the case, and he proceeds to show that, as far as Europe is concerned, the danger of Turanianism is that it may be turned to political ends by the "advanced" Turks, who aim at the Turkification of the whole Turkish Empire—and indeed of large areas outside that Empire. The strange part of the business is that while the "Turanians" would practically undo the work of Mohammed, they yet appear to regard the Moslem world as the most suitable field to work in for the furtherance of their ambitions. But the Moslem world has not accorded an enthusiastic welcome to their missionaries. The Moslem prefers his Prophet to Talaat, Enver and the rest of the atheistical gang who call themselves "Young Turks." Of the Moslems Sir Edwin writes:—

> Leaving aside Asia Minor and the whole of Arabia, Syria and Egypt, the best educated group is that of India. The Indian Moslems are loyal to the King-Emperor, and are deservedly trusted. They are loyal because they have learned by experience that we do nothing to interfere with their rites or the practice of their religion. In Palestine they have been wisely placed by General Allenby in charge of the Mosque of Omar and other buildings especially dear to the Moslem soul. But while the Indian Moslems are the most important group of the followers of Mahomet, there are other groups which are attracting the attention of the Turks and Germans who favour Turanianism, and are of special interest not only to our Indian fellow-subjects but to the world. Of these Persia, Khiva, Bokhara and Afghanistan are the most important.

Of these Persia is not promising, for the Persian Shiahs and the Turkish Sunnis do not love one another. Nor is Afghanistan likely to be lured from its alliance with Britain. But the Turks consider Khiva and Bokhara more promising ground. There are, the author reminds us, other groups of Moslems in Asia, to say nothing of the Circassians, the Tartars in South Russia, and those of Kazan. A large group of the latter "are possibly the most educated Moslems in the Russian Empire. They occupy a district to the east and south-east of Moscow." The author quotes from an article in *The Round Table* of December, 1917, the opinion that "if the question of Turanianism be raised between Turkey and Kazan, it is more likely that Kazan will take the lead among the Turkish-speaking peoples than Turkey." Even among the Moslems in Turkey there are "important sects, who, while not being unfriendly to Christians, are unflinchingly loyal to Monotheism. . . . Such are the Mevlevees. . . . All the members of these sects would vie with the Ulema, and indeed with not only the devout Moslems, but with the mass of the Mohammedan community, in repudiating Turanianism."

Sir Edwin Pears next deals with the attempt to substitute Turkish for Arabic, even to the extent of translating the Koran—a step which the Arabs regarded as sacrilege. He writes:—

> The worst effect of the Turkification as part of the movement towards Turanianism was seen amongst the Arabs, for while, as Dr. Doughty remarks in his "Wanderings in Arabia," Islam is a cold creed among northern peoples, "it is like a blood passion on the people of Moses and Mahomet." . . . When the doctrinaires of Turanianism proposed to abandon Islam the indignation of the Arabs became extreme. It was in vain that they claimed that the abandonment, or at least the modification, of Islam was necessary in order to obtain the domination of Moslemism over the Greeks, Armenians and other non-Turkish subjects of the Caliph. Feeling ran high on both sides. The Turanian party proclaimed that Islam was a Semitic creed, with which Turks had nothing to do. Some of them went so far as to say that as the Arabs had always for centuries been disloyal subjects, the Hadj or pilgrimage should be forbidden, and that the annual fast of Ramazan did not apply to Turkish soldiers. No branch of the Mahometan population had objected to pilgrimage. It is one of the "five pillars" always insisted upon as articles of faith or essential practices. The revolt of the Arabs in the Hedjaz followed. It was led by the Shereef of Mecca. . . . The two proclamations of the King of the Hedjaz, dated respectively June, 1916, and March, 1917, and the document supporting them signed by the leading Ulema of the sacred places, and dated November, 1916, are vivid with the spirit of Islam as a religion personally held by the writers.

Against that spirit the Turkish party of expediency is unlikely to make headway. The article concludes:—

> To suppose that any Moslems among the Turanian peoples would put themselves out of the way to join the Turkish leaders who wish for the progress of Turanianism is almost unthinkable, and I therefore will waste no more space in discussing that aspect of the matter.
>
> In conclusion, I express my opinion that the world has nothing to fear from the movement which has been proclaimed in various quarters. The small Jewish element, with Zia Bey at its head, which is supposed to harbour the belief that Turkey may form the rallying point of all the Moslem groups in Europe, Asia and Africa, will have few supporters. I doubt whether Zia Bey himself entertains any of the dreams with which his followers are accredited. Turanianism is a retrograde movement, which offends both educated Moslems and the ignorant. Ottoman statesmen already recognise that such a movement, founded on common origin, customs and language, would conflict with Pan-Islamism. Of the two forces the latter is undoubtedly the most potent, and the fiercely fanatical followers of Mahomet have already become greatly incensed against the Pan-Turanians because of their suggestion to Turkify the sacred language and to abandon the Hadj. For these reasons the best Turkish statesmen have declined to associate their names with Turanianism. Whatever, therefore, may be the result of the present war, I see no reason to believe that it will strengthen the party which favours that movement. As a political movement, also, I feel sure that it may be disregarded.

"The Moslem World."

The current number of *The Moslem World* is full of interest. Foremost place must be given to an article, "Al Riadh, the Capital of Nejd," by Dr. P. W. Harrison. Professor Weir discusses critically, but not without sympathy, the problem, "Was Mohammed Sincere?" and expresses the belief that to account for the change that came over the Prophet in the last two or three years of his life is the most difficult problem which confronts his biographer. Dr. S. M. Zwemer writes on "Animistic Elements in Moslem Prayer"; and other items of interest are "Moslems in the Caucasus During the War," by J. B. Heald, and the translation of "A Chinese Moslem Tract."

Articles to Note.

"Caste and Democracy," by Dr. T. M. Nair, in the *Edinburgh Review* (October).

"The Yugoslav as Soldier," in *The Times* (October 25).

GREECE IN THE WAR.

Speaking at King's College, London, on Tuesday, Captain Rodoconachi said that in warfare the moral factor was decisive, and it had again been the case that the Greeks had been called upon to fight for civilisation against barbarity.

Describing the operations Captain Rodoconachi said that the total force of the enemy had been 267 battalions, while the Allies had used 256 battalions, not taking into account reserves that had not been called upon. The plan had been to pin down the Bulgars to their positions on the Struma, and to break through their lines somewhere between Cerna and Doiran. To the Serbs had fallen the honours of the day; but it would be unhistorical to omit to say that the Greek Army, by adding its weight, and by its fighting qualities, especially in mountain warfare, could alone make the operation possible. The way the Greeks had fought could be judged by the fact that the Serres division had lost more than one-third of its total strength. Greece still had 150,000 men in reserve; they were training but not mobilised. To these must be added 60,000 Greeks serving with the United States, 48,000 war workers in France, and 30,000 men working in the rear of the armies in Macedonia for the Allies. All aeroplanes employed in Macedonia were adjusted and tried by Greek workmen; Greek destroyers were everywhere on convoy duty; and the Greek mercantile marine was working strenuously for the Allied cause. The grand total was 500,000 men, or 11 per cent. of the Greek population.

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As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A small mission is being sent to Morocco by the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) to investigate the trade possibilities of that country in regard to its imports and exports, natural resources, and transport and other facilities. Mr. E. H. Mulock, of H.M. Consular Service, is the head of the mission, and the second Commissioner is Mr. L. N. Barker, of the Department of Overseas Trade. All the principal towns of the French, Spanish, and International zones of Morocco, and the frontier towns of Algeria will be covered in the inquiry, and it is understood that the mission's investigations will last between three and four months.

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The enterprise of the authorities in arranging for this mission is most commendable. As my readers are aware, I have frequently explained the reasons why such an undertaking is desirable, and I am sure that the results of the tour cannot fail to be profoundly beneficial for the future of British trade with Morocco. I should imagine that there is no question that of the districts the mission will visit French Morocco offers the best prospects for trade after the war, owing to the praiseworthy work of our Allies, which even the war has not been allowed to interrupt entirely. Morocco's development has been proceeding apace, and sufficient has already been done to make it evident that the trade possibilities of the country are very great. The dispatch of this mission is the best possible indication that France will welcome the growth of trade relations between this country and Morocco, and it will, therefore, be the fault of British merchants and manufacturers if the Anglo-French Entente is not further cemented as regards Morocco when peaces comes on an economic basis.

⁂

While on the subject of commercial missions I must say a word with regard to Roumania. As I have already pointed out, it is only to be expected that as soon as conditions permit we shall have the extreme pleasure of welcoming a mission from that country on the lines of the missions which have already visited us from Greece and Serbia. But I question whether that of itself will be sufficient for the speedy re-establishment and development of our trade relations with Roumania, for the position in regard to that country is altogether different from that of our other Near Eastern Allies. In no country that has had the misfortune to come under the temporary control of the enemy have the Germans been more thorough in trying to overturn the established order and to pave the way for their future commercial supremacy and economic penetration. It is only necessary in this connection to recall the provisions for the control of the Danube contained in the treaty, to which Roumania had no option but to submit, and the action of Germany with regard to the banks and the oil industry. As a matter of course it follows that reconstruction will not only be most far-reaching but also most difficult, and in view of the importance of British interests in Roumania I suggest that instead of waiting for a mission from our Allies we should prepare to send one to them as soon as possible.

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So far as I can see there is everything to be said for this view. For many months we have been out of touch with Roumania, and while her reconstruction programme and her requirements for materials of all kinds may be similar to those of Serbia in essential outlines there is the vital difference that we have been all through in a position to learn Serbia's needs and to devise how best they can be met. A mission including among its members representatives of the leading British exporters and importers would in the circumstances be invaluable. It would give our business men an opportunity of seeing just what Roumania needs and of taking prompt steps to have these requirements satisfied. They would also, of course, be in a position to decide in what directions we can increase our imports from Roumania. I suppose it is unnecessary for me to labour the advantages of doing everything possible to further the speedy resumption of trade relations with Roumania, for it must be patent that if Great Britain and the other members of the Allies are unable to supply Roumania's requirements when the war ends Germany may find a market there for some of the goods she is said to have been storing up against the peace. The mission I advocate seems the best possible means of ensuring that this does not happen.

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I hope also that steps will be taken in due course to send out commercial missions to Greece and Serbia. The missions of those countries to us were an unqualified success, and beyond question went far to educate the British business man as to his responsibilities in the Near East. But there is nothing like seeing things for oneself, and on that account I think the value of these missions would be greatly enhanced if a number of British business men who have met the members of these missions could go to these countries and investigate the conditions for themselves. I am sure that the result would be the furtherance of British interests in those regions.

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Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland made it clear in a speech at the Newcastle Commercial Exchange this week that everything possible is being done by the Department of Overseas Trade to set up an efficient consular service for the purpose of helping British trade in the future. The service was being reorganized, he explained, and attached to it would be commercial counsellors, who would take a country as a whole, collect consular reports, and see the possibilities of the country. Between these two services they would get the information they wanted. A really efficient service was aimed at, and this would include first-class knowledge of foreign languages, and he added that in the past we had not encouraged our consuls enough, and we had paid them too little.

⁂

I am not at all sure, however, if the improvements now being made in the service will free the consuls from criticism, because many of the complaints levied against the service have been of a most unreasonable character. The consuls were expected by some business men to do all manner of things that were quite outside the scope of their work, and while many of them went out of their way to oblige, others were not so accommodating, with the result that a torrent of criticism would descend on the whole service. In making these remarks I do not wish it to be inferred that the service was equal to its rôle. On the contrary, it showed grave shortcomings, and was by no means the assistance in furthering British trade interests that it might have been, and, I trust, will be in the future. But I feel at this time of reorganization that it is due to those members of the service—and there were many of them—who conscientiously and satisfactorily carried out their duties, to point out that much of the criticism directed against the service arose from failure to comprehend its functions.

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Imitation may not be always a satisfactory method of development, but I think that if the authorities wish to make our consular service above criticism that they cannot do better than take a leaf out of America's book. It has always seemed to me that the American business man is better served by his consuls than the citizen of any other country. Beyond question the United States consular service has reached a pitch of remarkable efficiency, and its value as a guide to traders must be enormous. The consular reports, for instance, are the completest thing of their kind that can be found. No subject seems too small to be dealt with, and the reports as a whole are models of what to mention and what to omit. I am afraid I cannot say the same for British consular reports before the war, for they were not only too infrequent, but they failed to cover the ground with the requisite thoroughness. In this respect there is wide room for improvement, and the Department of Overseas Trade will earn the gratitude of the business community if it can find a remedy.

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In view of the continued prosperity of Egypt it was only to be expected that Anglo-Egyptian Bank shares should be a strong feature, since banking institutions generally have flourished during the war. The consequent rise in these shares is now seen to be fully justified, as the directors announce a substantial share bonus. It is proposed to distribute £100,000 to the shareholders with a view to the capitalisation of this amount, and its application in payment of £5 per share in respect of 20,000 new ordinary shares of £15 each. The creation of these shares will increase the paid-up capital of the company to £600,000. The shares will be distributed in the proportion of one for every five previously held. As the existing shares stand at £21½, it will be seen that the directors' decision means that the shareholders will benefit very considerably. For the rest, it only remains to be noted that a final dividend of 10s. per share, free of tax, is recommended, against a dividend at the same rate last year, plus a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share. £10,000 is written off premises account, the same as before, £12,000 is applied to a bonus for staff, against £9.000, and £38,000 is carried forward, against £67,000.

COMMENTATOR.

COMMERCIAL TRAINING AND THE NEAR EAST.

(*Contributed.*)

Everyone is by now agreed as to the vital importance to our Empire of commerce, both for the near future and for afterwards. We have before us a threefold task—to make up for lost ground; to insure against future isolation; and to attain a proper standard of prosperity for all, from the owner to the factory hand. For this task the two main essentials are *increased production and adequate training.*

For no part of the world is this more applicable or important than for the Near East. The briefest possible survey of the map will convince anyone of that. Let us take Palestine for the moment as a centre of vision. To the immediate south-west we see Egypt and the Sudan, rising year by year in value under the well-nigh complete freedom from retrograde and hostile control achieved by our unremitting labour and our admirable understanding with our Allies. Farther along the North African littoral, Tripoli, Morocco, Algeria are advancing, also at varying pace, along the road of prosperity. Due west, Cyprus and the Greek Islands, in their degree, have their promise of an organised future. To the south, the prospects of Eritrea, Abyssinia, and British East Africa are only beginning, and who knows what aid and increase may not come from a friendly Arabia Felix that may one day rival the wealth and tolerance of the ancient republic of which Mecca was the centre in the early Christian centuries?

Palestine itself, whose fertile lands and cities, once great, are now in a fair way to be fully freed from the Turk, and whose capital is now but a few hours distant from Cairo by rail, may be but the nucleus for a development that should penetrate beyond the southern shore of Asia Minor, and revive in her rich provinces the heritage of Ancient Rome, which was so near to being absorbed into a vast Berlin-Baghdad exploitation! To the East, moreover, and along the trade routes of old time, we can see a renovated Armenia; Persia, with her oil-fields; and, finally, the great river basin of Mesopotamia, whose possibilities (studied by one of our great engineers, to the order of the Turkish Government) may rival and surpass the productivity of the ancient Empires.

Among the many recent and present plans and schemes in connection with commercial development, one now before us would seem to present just that kind of training which should best fulfil the needs of those who must, in the future, "officer" the army of commercial conquest and consolidation. Intensive and rapid, collective and systematic, thorough and specialised, it is calculated to fit any candidate for any region of production or branch of industry; centrally organised from London, but suitably localised in its plan of branches, it would be easily available for all applicants, whether in this country or abroad. This scheme, in its general and initial conception, was the work of the late Mr. Henry Cust, editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, founder of the Navy League, founder and first chairman of the General Committee for National Patriotic Organisations, and a prominent member of the Empire Resources Development Committee. Its title is as follows:—The Imperial and International Institute of Commerce, Languages, and Imperial Citizenship, to consist of—I. A central institute in London; II. affiliated institutes throughout the United Kingdom and the Empire; III. co-operating institutions in each allied and friendly country.

In actual fact the project is simple. The proposed courses are as follows:—(1) Business training; (2) Trading and salesmanship; (3) Accounts, banking, and finance; (4) Commercial law; (5) Languages; (6) Production and manufacture (in their historical and geographical aspect); and (7) Technical training (in plant, engineering, mining, chemicals, etc.).

Naturally the courses are "specialised" for the region, or industry, with which the candidate is concerned. For the Near East, for example, commercial law would comprise a working knowledge of the Egyptian code and native procedure, while languages would be Arabic, French, Italian, and probably modern Greek, Turkish, etc.; production would involve knowledge of cotton, cereals, wool, petroleum, etc.; and technical knowledge would consist of mining, irrigation, agriculture, and so on.

It is probable that four or five competent instructors would deal with the whole curriculum of such a branch institute as the Near East would require, supplemented, if needed, by the special language classes involved. The chief point would be that the student could devote his whole time for a short period towards his own specific end—very much as students normally work with a "crammer" for three or six months for their Indian Civil Service examination.

But the query will at once arise: Where will the branch be founded? If in the Near East—say, at Cairo or Jerusalem—who will be the students? The answer is not so hard as would appear. There was before the war, and will be again, a fair "floating" population of young men looking for work or else already working, but on a small scale, for insurance or commercial houses. Given more special knowledge, they could claim really good positions. In the second place, there may well be scores of men now with the armies in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Salonika, who will be attracted afterwards to the Near East.

Lastly, with the development already in hand or foreshadowed, of the many firms dealing with the Near East, it would be worth the while of a young man to go out specially for a three months' course and then step straight into the best post they could give him.

But an even simpler solution lies at home. Our great cities may be said to be already "grouped" as to their special industries and the regions with which they deal. Those who are now working on Mr. Cust's scheme are already, we understand, examining this "grouping," and will be able, before very long, to indicate just what kind of institute can be founded in what city of the United Kingdom.

The essential aim, to sum up, of the whole scheme is to provide not a mere general education of varying length and value for commerce, but a specific training towards the definite requirements of the candidate on the one hand and the merchant on the other. To revert to the simile of the system which provides for the Civil and Diplomatic Services, the scheme will provide for the commercial service of the Empire, but with even more definite promise of results in the shape of the specific posts which the great merchants of our Empire are, in the main, only too glad to offer to men who possess just what our young men of to-day do *not* possess—the requisite training for the business in which they are wanted and into which they ought to enter.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

The British Industries Fair, 1919, organised by the Board of Trade, will be held in London next year from February 24 to March 7, in the Pennington Street Warehouse of the London Docks, which has again been placed at the disposal of the Board by the Port of London Authority, and which is the same building in which the fair was so successfully held last spring.

In order in no way to interfere with the production of war requirements, the fair will again be confined to the same trades which have been included in the last three fairs, namely:—Glass and pottery, printing, stationery and paper, fancy goods, toys.

The right to exhibit will again be confined to British manufacturers, and only bona-fide trade buyers will be invited to visit the fair, as in former years. Over 2,000 notices regarding the fair have been forwarded to manufacturers of articles covered by the fair, and, in order to facilitate the work of organisation, it is hoped that firms will apply for space at the earliest possible moment. Any manufacturers of suitable articles who have not yet received notices regarding the fair, and are anxious to participate, should communicate at once with the Director, British Industries Fair, Board of Trade, 10, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

TRADE OF BAGHDAD.

A Distributing Centre.

Regarding the commercial importance of Baghdad, the United States Consul there, Mr. Oscar S. Heizer, in a recent American Consular report, points out that the city is the terminus of the upstream navigation on the Tigris, and also the terminus of the Persian road, and all goods sent to Kermanshah, Hamadan, and other important centres are loaded at Baghdad on camels or other transport animals. It is the centre of supply for Upper and Lower Mesopotamia, and is the collecting point from which the various products of the country are exported. All local products of Mosul, Diarbekir, and Sulemaniah are usually sent down the Tigris on rafts, built upon inflated skins, to Baghdad, where the products, such as wool, gum, gall nuts, skins and hides, carpets, dates, liquorice, opium, grease, and grain, are loaded upon river steamers for shipment abroad.

The articles imported from abroad via Busreh are cotton goods, twist, sugar, coffee, gunny bags, spices, silk, silk and woollen goods, metals, indigo, dyestuffs, tea, tobacco, pumps for irrigation, agricultural machinery, and haberdashery. Many of the abovementioned imports are for Persia, especially cotton goods, sugar, tea, and indigo. Also some of the exports of Baghdad come from Persia, especially carpets and rugs. There is no speciality in trade. Some important firms carry on business in every kind of article, but the general practice is for each category of firms to limit their business to a certain class of articles.

The main article of import is cotton goods from Manchester, where old and flourishing Baghdad firms have been established for many years. The principal articles of export are wool and liquorice, of which the most important part goes to America.

Almost all the business is financed through foreign and local banks. The collection for goods sent to Baghdad is usually effected by drawing a draft upon the merchant with shipping documents attached, to be paid upon arrival of goods at Baghdad. For the collection against goods exported it is customary to draw a draft at four months, with shipping documents attached, which can be discounted at the local banks. Sales of goods here are collected through brokers on terms varying from one to six months' time, for which bills are taken and discounted at the banks or with native money-lenders at from 7 to 12 per cent. per annum. A commercial committee has been formed in Baghdad, composed of two Mohammedans, two Jews, and one Christian, to encourage commerce and advise the military government and the newly-established civil courts in regard to commercial matters. While for the present the functions of the committee are chiefly advisory, and nearly all activities are in the hands of the military authorities, it may be said that there is some improvement in business, and limited facilities are now given to imports and dealers in foreign merchandise.

At present it is very difficult to form an estimate of the volume of the trade of Baghdad. Owing to the closing of the roads by the war, the commerce of Baghdad was for a time transferred to Busreh, where all important import and export operations were carried on, and are still carried on to a great extent. It may be said that Baghdad lost for a while its commercial importance, Persia being supplied through Ispahan from Busreh, Mohammerah, Bushire, and Ahwaz on the Persian Gulf, thus depriving Baghdad of the most important part of its trade. During this period the only business carried on at Baghdad was the import from Busreh of small light articles which were brought by Busreh firms from India and England for the most pressing needs of the place.

In view of its situation at the head of navigation on the Tigris, there can be no doubt that Baghdad will assume a more important rôle as a commercial and distributing centre than ever before. The commercial prosperity of the city will no doubt be much enhanced by the development of agriculture in this country, which the British authorities are encouraging in every way.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Irrigation Plans for Palestine.

Dr. Rennie MacInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, preaching at St. Margaret's, Lothbury, recently, referred to British engineering achievements in Palestine, and pointed out that British rule had accomplished in four months what Turkish rule had failed to do in 400 years. Irrigation plans, he added, had been made whereby a far greater area of land would be under cultivation than ever before in the history of the Holy Land.

India's Industries.

The question of the industrial development of India is now very much to the fore, and the agricultural resources of some of the leading provinces are receiving more attention than ever before. In Bengal, for instance, inquiries have lately been instituted regarding (a) the possibility of increasing the cultivation of rabi food crops; (b) the improvement of the organisation for the supply of manure, seed and implements; (c) the extension of cotton cultivation; and (d) the extension of the supply of new varieties of sugar-cane. Orders have been issued for the encouragement of the use of manures of proved suitability by the distribution of loans under the Agricultural Loans Act on the recommendation of officers of the Agricultural Department. The great possibilities for the increased demand and employment of machinery and implements, in consequence of this new policy, call for the immediate attention of British agricultural machinery and implement manufacturers.

New Railways in Serbia.

Shortly before the outbreak of war the Serbian Minister of Public Works submitted to the Skupschtina a Bill providing for extensive railway construction in Serbia. The programme included the building of (1) a line from Nish to Merdare, at a cost of £612,000; (2) a line from Kragujevatch to Reschka via Kraljevo, at a cost of £1,160,000; (3) a line from Krusevatz to Prokuplje via Jankova and Klysura, at a cost of £420,000; and (4) a line from Valjevo to Osecina, at a cost of £208,000. The construction of these lines was to be put out to contract with the Franco-Serbian Company for Industrial Undertakings and Public Works and an agreement was to be entered into between this company and the Serbian Government for financing the scheme. The Bill also provided for permanent-way works on the lines from Reschka to Mitrovitza, Reschka to the Bosnian frontier, and Merdare to Prishtina. Later, however, it was reported that the scheme was postponed or rearranged. The railway lines in question would be of great commercial importance, and their construction will probably be one of the first large undertakings in the Balkan States after the war that will interest the engineers and contractors in the Allied countries.

Machinery for Aleppo.

The liberation of the Aleppo district is of particular interest to engineer manufacturers. Its capital, Aleppo, stands at the meeting point of several trade routes, and up to quite recently was the chief caravan station between the Levant and the Euphrates, while before the discovery of a sea route to India it was considered one of the greatest trading cities of the world. The district like the adjacent great grain fields of Northern Mesopotamia, is very fertile, and as soon as peace is concluded there will be a great opening for all kinds of agricultural machinery. At present a very small portion of the total area of these regions has been cultivated, but it is now only a question of a short time until many millions of acres of the best soil in the world that have been lying idle for centuries will be put under a high state of cultivation. It will be evident, therefore, that an excellent opportunity for the sale of agricultural machinery will present itself in this region. Aleppo is bound to be a great centre of activity in this class of business, and this is already recognised by many Continental and American firms, who are preparing plans to approach the new market. It is noteworthy that the first steam plough, a traction motor of 30-horse-power, and a gang plough arrived at Aleppo two years before the war commenced, and after a successful demonstration by the sellers, was turned over to the purchasers. This steam ploughing set was of British manufacture, the engine burning oil as fuel.

Prospects in Mosul.

Mosul will probably prove another important machinery market. This town is on the Tigris, opposite the ruins of Nineveh. Muslin takes its name from this town, which in the Middle Ages was a considerable mart for the cotton stuffs manufactured in the neighbourhood. In this district the use of modern agricultural machinery has been increasing in recent years. Great Britain, which had a monopoly of this trade, exported to Mosul in 1912 agricultural machinery (oil engines, flour mills, reapers, etc.) to the value of £2,925, as against £625 in 1911 and nil in 1910. With the entire liberation of Mesopotamia, Mosul's position as a machinery market will be considerably enhanced.

Pumping Machines in Mesopotamia.

The attention of British manufacturers should be directed to the possibilities of Mesopotamia as a great market for pumping machinery. Within a few years, before the war, upwards of 800 irrigation plants were erected upon the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris. These plants consist of internal combustion engines with a centrifugal pump as a separate unit. The engines vary from 5 to 40 brake horse-power, but the economy and efficiency of the higher powers is now recognised, and the experimental stage having been passed, landowners do not hesitate to invest in a power which will develop the resources of their lands to the utmost. The fuel consumed in the engines is ordinary kerosene, and the importation of this article increased in consequence before the war from 3,000 cases (of kerosene oil) to about 100,000 cases per year (a case contains two tins of four gallons each).

Windmills for India.

In last week's notes on windmills for India we commented on the suggested utilisation of rustic windmills made by native craftsmen for irrigation purposes. The suggestion arose from a statement at an engineering congress that the utilisation of the oil engine for irrigation work in India has proved very successful. The suggested utilisation of windmills for pumping water for irrigation, etc., in India is well worth the attention of landowners there and of windmill designers and manufacturers in this country. Windmills will undoubtedly give more economical results if modern types of such motors are employed, but the employment of such native-made windmills as suggested, "with sails of coarse matting and arms of rough, round timber, with bamboo framing attached to spread the sails; the shaft a round polished log, to be operated by means of wooden cog-wheels and crown-wheels; the pumping apparatus to be endless ropes, with their strings of ascending and descending buckets; the tower, of pisé work, to carry a timber cap to set the sails, etc.," would prove, as a system, neither adequate nor efficient enough to conduce to a state of things when "the usual precautions taken by the Government of India to cope with famines may be found to be unnecessary, and might give way altogether to irrigation by canal and pump!" The suggestion that "in storms the sails" of such native-made windmills "might carry away, and welcome, so long as no further damage was done, since they could be replaced in twenty-four hours," is questionable, for it depends whether the storm will be satisfied to carry away only the coarse matting, bamboo framing, etc., or upset the whole structure. Experience proves that this archaic or "home-made" type of windmills is subject to the latter catastrophe. In the Near, Middle and Far East the storms are noted for their force, suddenness and damaging effect. Hence the gradual disappearance of the picturesque rustic windmills from the Oriental hillsides and plantations, and their replacement by the scientifically designed and constructed modern types of windmills. Adequately proportioned for all purposes, made of iron or steel, painted or galvanised, with modern and easily operated mechanism, the modern windmill will probably be found the most suitable and economic motive power for agricultural purposes, and especially for continuous pumping of either large or small quantities of water. The employment of small native windmills may be continued, and perhaps with pleasing results, among small native farmers in India, but as a direct or indirect system of irrigation it will be found inefficient.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Waiting Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Business in the market continues to be overshadowed by peace prospects, and trading has again been of very restricted dimensions. Speculative activity at the moment is quite out of the question. Instead of fresh orders being given out, more attempts are being made to cancel contracts which have not been completed. Spinners and manufacturers are dealing with the position of affairs in a very calm manner. Apart from American yarns, which are easier, rates do not show much change. It is expected that within the next few days the official estimate of the Egyptian crop for the current season will be published, and a yield of rather more than 5,000,000 cantars is anticipated. The demand for the article remains healthy. Egyptian yarns remain quieter. Apart from Government qualities, business has been at a low ebb. According to telegrams from Cairo, cloth prices are declining, and fresh business of any importance has been absent. Shippers to India have again held aloof. Unfavourable advices have been received as to the conditions in Calcutta and Bombay. Exporters to South America have looked on. No particular alteration in cloth quotations can be recorded. Prices in American yarns have favoured buyers. Spinners tend to lose some of their margin of profit. Producers of yarns suitable for Northern Europe outlets are expecting to do a big business after the war is over.

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WORLD'S CEREAL CROPS.

The Board of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute :—

The total production of wheat in Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, India, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis is estimated at 1,072,738,000 cwt., or 19.1 per cent. above last year and 8.1 per cent. above the average of the five years 1912-16.

The total production of rye in Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Canada, and the United States is estimated at 59,642,000 cwt., or 26.1 per cent. above last year and 50 per cent. above the average for the five years 1912-16.

The total production of barley in Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis is estimated at 230,040,000 cwt., or 3.2 per cent. above last year's production, and 6.7 per cent. above the average for the five years 1912-16.

The total production of oats in Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, and Tunis is estimated at 642,434,000 cwt., or 0.1 per cent. lower that last year and 15.8 per cent. above the average for the five years 1912-16.

Maize in Spain, Switzerland, Canada, and the United States is estimated to produce 1,353,468,000 cwt., a diminution of 15.3 per cent. compared with last year, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with the average of the five years 1912-16.

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SUEZ CANAL SHARES.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—October 17, 18, 19, 1,000,000 francs, against 320,000 francs; October 20, 21, 22, 23, 960,000 francs, against 930,000 francs; October 24, 90,000 francs, against 120,000 francs.

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TENDERS INVITED.

A call for tenders has been made by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior (Lunacy Division), for the supply and delivery of miscellaneous supplies (including clothing, bedding, hardware, table ware, and other household necessaries) required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums for the period of twelve months from April 1, 1919. Copies of the specification, and form of tender, may be obtained from the Director of the Lunacy Division, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to November 15. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer, must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be received by him. A copy of the specifications, etc., may be consulted by British manufacturers of the goods mentioned at the Enquiry Office of the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence).

INDIGO CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

The programme of work of the various scientific departments of the Board of Scientific Advice in India for 1918-19 contains the following in regard to indigo cultivation:—Factory experiments to produce a more friable form of indigo in small flakes so as to market the indigo in a form which can be readily bulked and standardised and at the same time is more easily dealt with in grinding and pasting. Study of variation of the indigotin content of the plant with different conditions of manuring at different times of year and at different periods of day. Study of different methods of extraction and manufacture of indigo so as to improve, if possible, existing processes. Study of the changes during the bacteriological steeping of indigo in conjunction with the Imperial Agricultural Bacteriologist, who has devised methods of isolating and using bacterial cultures in this stage of manufactures. Studies of the enzymic changes during manufacture of indigo. Study of various problems in indigo analysis. Investigation of problems of importance in connection with the manufacture of indigo. A survey of the soils of indigo factories in Bihar and manurial trials at these factories with the object of improving the growth of indigo crops and of minimising the prevalent diseases, "wilt" and "psylla."

INDIAN RAILWAY BRIDGES.

The Indian Railway Bridge Committee is meeting at Simla this month to frame rules for the design and inspection of ferro-concrete and masonry railway bridges and to discuss the existing Government rules relating to steel girder bridges, etc. The members of the committee are Mr. A. A. Riggs, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway; Mr. J. Graham, Great Indian Peninsula Railway; M. C. W. Lloyd-Jones, the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways; Mr. C. W. Anderson and Mr. D. D. H. Remfry, Bengal-Nagpur Railway; and Mr. W. E. Pincombe, East Indian Railway; with Mr. G. Richards as chairman and Mr. H. S. Sales as secretary.

It is reported that Messrs. Tata Sons and Co., intend to start an electric lighting station at Ernakulam, where their cocoa-nut oil factories are to be erected.

The imports of coal into Egypt during the first half of the present year amounted to 280,251 metric tons, against 265,072 such tons in the corresponding six months in 1917 and 369,683 tons in 1916.

The Madras Government will award two technical scholarships to Indians who have shown exceptional initiative in any kind of industry and who are likely to add to their usefulness by special training in Europe or America.

The Governor-General of India in Council is pleased to direct that income derived from the manufacture of tea or indigo shall be exempt from income-tax in respect of the year commencing April 1, 1918, and shall also not be taken into account in determining the total income in respect of that year.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Dooars Tea.

The report of the Dooars Tea Company for 1917 states that the net profits were £61,225; £30,818 was brought forward after adjustment of the excess profits duty and donations to war funds, making £92,043. The directors recommend a dividend for the year of 27½ per cent., of which 6¼ per cent. was paid on April 22 and 21¼ per cent. on August 19 last, and to carry forward £29,043, subject to recovery of excess profits duty for 1917.

Rani Travancore.

The directors of the Rani Travancore Rubber Company announce that in view of the difficulty that is being experienced, both in the shipping of rubber to this country and in its realisation at the port of shipment, they do not feel warranted in paying an interim dividend at present.

Assam Co.

The report of the Assam Company for 1917 shows a profit on crop of £100,615. After making provision for excess profits duty, £12,200; commission and bonus to managers and assistants, £16,746; planting and upkeep of new, and as yet unproductive, cultivation, £6,745, a balance dividend of 7½ per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent. is proposed, payable November 1, making 25 per cent., less tax, for the year, the same as for 1916, £10,000 being placed to general reserve, and £7,926 carried forward.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The directors of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway recommend, in addition to the guaranteed interest for the half-year ended December 31 next at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, a final dividend of 15s. per cent., and a bonus of £1 15s. per cent., making a total distribution of £7 15s. (7¾ per cent.) in respect of the year ended March 31.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank recommend a dividend of 10s. per share, free of income-tax, making 15 per cent. for the year; that £5,000 be written off premises account and £12,000 be applied for 20 per cent. bonus to staff, carrying forward £38,000. Meeting, 26th proximo. At an extraordinary general meeting to be subsequently held a proposal will be submitted for the distribution of a special bonus of £100,000 with a view to the same being capitalised and applied in taking and paying up to the extent of £5 per share 20,000 new shares of the bank of £15 each to be created. The sanction of the Treasury has already been obtained.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.

The net profit of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company for 1917 amounted to £67,124, to which must be added the balance from 1916 after payment of excess profits duty and war donations of £51,240, making £118,365. Dividend of 22½ per cent. for the year on the ordinary capital, of which 3¾ per cent. was paid on January 1 and 18¾ per cent. on August 19; £54,540 forward. The profit shows a heavy decline from that of 1916, due in great measure to the price paid by the Ministry of Food. For 1916 the profit was £139,266 and the dividend was 22½ per cent., with £99,557 forward.

Anglo-Ceylon and General.

The report of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates for the year ended March 31 states that net profit, with the balance brought forward, after deducting the Debenture interest, amounts to £115,510. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, leaving £78,010 to be carried forward, subject to excess profit duty for 1917-18. The profit would, in ordinary times, have permitted of a larger distribution, but it is imperative that cash resources be conserved. In Ceylon the tea crop, which last year amounted to 3,498,444 lb. from estate and bought leaf, with an average price of 9.45d. net per lb., was in the year under review 2,749,532 lb. from estate and bought leaf, with an average price of 9.41d. net per lb. The crop of cocoa amounted to 5,230 cwt., against 4,865 cwt. in 1916-17, and the sales so far effected realised 57s. 9d. per cwt. net, as against 59s. 8d. per cwt. net in the preceding year. The rubber crop was 219,216 lb., against 192,857 lb. previously, and the average price of the rubber sold was 1s. 9d. net per lb., as against 2s. 0¾d. net in 1916-17.

Upper Assam Tea.

The report of the Upper Assam Tea Company for 1917 shows a profit from crop of £40,006. The proceeds realised from all sources (£136,377) average 10.59d. per lb., while the cost of production (£96,556) is equivalent to 7.50d. per lb. It is not possible, however, to compare the sale and cost prices with those of previous years, the conditions of bringing to market and of disposal having entirely altered. Thirty-seven per cent. has been sold in Calcutta and London on the company's account and 63 per cent. taken by the Government at an all-round price of 8.62d. per lb. f.o.b. Calcutta. The cost of production for the current season's crop of 3,000,000 lb. is estimated at 6.76d. per lb. f.o.b. Calcutta, including fixed London charges. The balance-sheet shows:—Profit and loss—Balance December 31, 1916, £58,419, less dividend of 12½ per cent. paid June 30, 1917, £6,765, and after adding excess profits duty 1916 over-estimated, £1,076, and net profit for year of £20,919, total is £73,649.

North Caucasian Oil.

The directors of the North Caucasian Oil Fields, Ltd., announce that, although the accounts for 1917 are unlikely to be received before the end of the current year, the directors deem it expedient to hold the meeting as late as possible, so that any further information received may be submitted. Information to date shows that production from Western Field amounts to 15,934,914 poods (257,015 tons), against 11,500,792 poods (185,497 tons); Eastern Field, 16,047,088 poods (258,824 tons), against 18,855,867 poods (304,127 tons); total, 31,982,002 poods (515,839 tons), against 30,356,659 poods (489,624 tons). The increase in the Western Field is due to the fact that on the new plots south-east of the old Grozny plots two wells were brought into production, which together produced 8,261,800 poods (133,255 tons), the old wells in the Grozny field generally showing a decrease in output. For the first five months of the current year the production was approximately 763,324 poods (12,312 tons). It is probable that this oil was mainly produced for fuel purposes. The majority of wells on the Eastern Field also show a reduction, but one on the Bielik and one on the Chermoieff plot having been taken to a lower oil horizon, have increased their output. The directors regret to report that following upon the downfall of the Kerensky Government troubles arose last November in Grozny between the local tribesmen, the Tchetchens and the workmen, resulting in the burning of the surface works on the Bielik and Chermoieff fields. Some of the flowing wells on these fields were also set on fire, and at the date of the last advices in June were still burning. A number of the British members of the administration have remained at Grozny to protect the company's property, and the thanks of the directors and shareholders are due to these men for their devotion to the company's interests. The bulk of cash resources is believed to be intact so far as recent advices go. The Soviet Government have nationalised the company's property and have agreed to give receipts for same. These receipts, when received, and all other necessary claims for loss and damage, will be lodged with the Foreign Office, and every step taken to protect the interests of shareholders and obtain full restitution in due course. Some 5,000,000 poods of oil are in Ambar reservoirs; for the present the oil cannot be delivered to the refineries.

Bank of Bengal.

The report by the directors of the Bank of Bengal, for the half-year ended June 30, 1918, states that although the demand for money throughout the half-year for trade purposes was only moderate, the issue of Treasury Bills by Government enabled the bank to find advantageous employment for its surplus funds, and during the period under review the bank's resources were fully invested. The rate for demand loans ranged from 6 to 5 per cent., the average rate being 5.773 per cent. The net profits at head office and branches, after providing for the payment of a bonus of one month's pay to deserving members of the bank's working staff, European and Indian, amounted to Rs. 23,55,393-3-7 which, with Rs.4,49,889113-8

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brought forward from the previous half-year made a total of Rs.28,05,283-1-3. This sum the directors disposed of as follows:—In payment of a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum free of income tax, Rs.12,00,000; in payment of a bonus at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum to the shareholders free of income-tax, Rs.4,00,000; in payment of a special bonus at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum to the shareholders free of income tax, Rs.1,00,000; transferred to reserve fund, Rs.4,50,000; transferred to gratuity and pension fund, Rs.1,00,000; carried forward to profit and loss account of the current half-year, Rs.5,55,283-1-3.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

In a letter to shareholders of Whitehead Aircraft, Ltd., Mr. J. A. Whitehead, governing director, states that the preliminary figures for the year ended September 30 last (after making ample allowance for depreciation) show that the preference and ordinary dividends have been earned some three times over.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian—Gemsah—Production for the week, 24 tons (previous week 27 tons). Hurgada, 8,701 tons, against 12,294 tons.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN ROUMANIA.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to a question by Colonel Sir F. Hall with reference to the destruction of oil property in Roumania at the end of 1916 for the purpose of preventing its being utilised by the enemy for military purposes, said: This destruction was effected by the direction of the Roumanian Government, and was carried out under the supervision of Roumanian, French, and British officers. Any claim for compensation must therefore be in the first place one against the Roumanian Government, and no question of any payment being made by His Majesty's Government could be considered until the matter had been adjusted in consultation with the Roumanian and the other Governments concerned. He pointed out that even if the destruction had not taken place the British owners could have received no income from their properties so long as these remained in the hands of the enemy.

Replying to a further question, Lord R. Cecil said it was not accurate to say that anything was done by British officers except as the agent of the Roumanian Government.

GERMANY AND ROUMANIAN OIL.

Since February, 1917, says a Paris contemporary, the Germans have devoted all their efforts to refining the Roumanian petroleum deposits in order to remedy the shortage in the production of petroleum throughout Galicia and Hungary and the insignificant arrivals from Baku. In July, 1918, the wells restored were already giving about 75 per cent. of the pre-war production, and more than 650,000 tons of petroleum had been shipped to the Central Empires by rail or viâ the Danube. The Germans have diverted the Constanza canal towards the Danube, and they have in hand the project for cutting a new waterway from Ploesti to the Austrian frontier at Oderberg, for which two hundred million marks are required.

After being shut for two years the Bucharest Bourse opened on October 16. According to a telegram published in the *Frankfort Gazette*, the market was animated, and an optimistic tone prevailed. The five per cent. loan was in demand at 97½, and Steaua Romanas were dealt in at 1,170 and Astra Romanas at 2,690.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

PRICES ON OCTOBER 4.

Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	19⅞
Tram. d'Alexandrie, Priv.	Frs.	110
„ „ Div.	Frs.	153
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12 3/16
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	13
„ priv.	L.E.	4⅞
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	187
Bons de Panama	Frs.	173
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	93
„ Priv.	Frs.	112
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	102
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	3 3/16
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	1½
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	3 1/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	6 1/16
Bonded Stores	L.E.	9⅛
Unifiée	L.E.	94¾
Privilégiée		82
Land Bank of Egypt	£	7⅜
Nungovich Hotels	£	6 5/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	6½
„ Fondateur	£	550
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref.	£	4
„ Ord		48/3
Filature Nat. d'Egypte	£	8⅞
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	5⅝
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	6⅞xd
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	110
„ Jouissance	Frs.	183
Egyptian Markets		26/-
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	420xd
„ Div.	Frs.	375xd
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	289
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	5 13/32
Egyptian Salt and Soda		45/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	745
„ Fondateur	Frs.	950
„ 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	400
„ 1903 „	Frs.	293
„ 1911 „	Frs.	280½
United Lands	P.T.	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅞

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31, 1918. (New Style January 14 to August 13, 1918):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, July, 1918	2,776,918	3,527,000
Do. do. do 1917	3,058,061	994,000
Estimated receipts for 7 months (Law of Control)	16,858,333	6,241,666
Actual do. do. 1918	20,722,268	17,771,000
„ „ „ 1917	18,060,730	6,746,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months 1918	+ 3,863,935	+ 11,529,333
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months 1917	+ 1,202,396	+ 504,333

BRITISH METALS CORPORATION.

The President of the Board of Trade, replying, on October 29, to a question by Mr. Arthur Strauss as to the Government's intentions regarding the British Metals Corporation, states that the Government welcomed the formation of a strong British organisation aiming at securing for British interests the predominance in the non-ferrous metal trades of the British Empire hitherto occupied by Germany. There had been no promise, however, nor was there any intention to accord to the corporation any preferential treatment as compared with other British controlled companies having similar objects.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

Business still continues rather quiet, but here and there, perhaps, a little more interest is being taken by investors on this side. As far as Egypt is concerned there is, so far, only some demand coming along at the lower level for Government stocks, and, here and there, for some out-of-the-way shares.

Egyptian Unifieds are half a point down at 92; on the other hand Egypt 3½ per cent. Preferences are 1½ up at 78.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ easier at 20, and Agriculturals fractionally lower at 6 29-32. In Agricultural Preferences there is also a decline of ⅛ to 7⅝, but there are very few shares offering. Anglo-Egyptian Banks close ½ down at 21½, probably owing to some profit taking after the recent big rise, which is now explained by the Bank's announcement of one bonus share for every five old shares.

In Railways Delta Lights are again ⅛ higher at 7⅝.

Amongst Land descriptions there has been some business in Aboukirs, Delta Lands, and New Egyptians round the current level, while Foreign Trusts have improved 9d. to 14s. 9d. Union Foncières and United Egyptian Lands have both been firm spots, with buyers about for shares when offered round current prices. In Sidi Salems there has been a very fair amount of business doing, and the price is 1-32 higher to-night at 2 11-16.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are ⅛ lower at 12⅜, whilst Markets have improved 6d. to 28s. There has been some demand for Khedivial Mails, which are 2s. higher at 65s. 6d., with very few sellers. A feature has been the demand for Salts and Sodas, which are closing to-night at 65s. 6d., a rise of 9s. 3d. since last week. This rise has been brought about by rumours that the company is going to pay a dividend of 12s. per share.

Amongst Greek securities there is no change to record beyond a further decline of one point in Greek Monopolies to 63, and in Bank of Athens shares which have receded ¼ to 4½.

Paris Bourse.

Egyptian stocks have been a firm feature during the week. Unifieds closed at 94.50 francs, a rise of 2, and Suez Canal shares were 5,400 francs against 5,300. Other prices were Turkish Unifieds 74.55 (against 75) Banque d'Athens 100.50 (against 105), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 790 (against 795), Land Banks of Egypt 207 (against 210), Ottoman Banks 585 (against 565).

Oil Shares.

Prices have shown little movement. Anglo-Egyptians "B" and Roumanian Consols at 2 13-16 and 16s. 6d. respectively are unchanged. Russians are, however, a little stronger, Bakus being 3d. up at 4s. 9d., while North Caucasians are 1 9-32, a rise of 1-16.

◆

The Cairo authorities are considering the inauguration of an aerial post between Alexandria, Port Said, Cairo and Khartoum.

The Buenos Aires correspondent of *The Times* suggests that shipment of textile goods to Turkish importers there should be stopped, as, owing to their having imported heavily, local supplies exceed the demand, and there is danger that the surplus will be sold cheaply to enemy firms.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 23	Oct. 30
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92½	92
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	76½xd	78
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	64	63
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57½	57½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	73	73
Persia 5% 1911	91	80¾	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	68	68
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	84½xd	84½xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½xd	74½xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 15/16	6 29/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7¾	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	22	21½
Bank of Athens	£2	4¾	4½
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6¾
Banque Franco Serbe	—	—	—
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 33/64	9 33/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	84	85
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18	18
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅛	20
National Bank of India	43	63	64
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7½	7⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69xd	69xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	55	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/-	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14½	14½
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	16/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/-	14/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 11/32	2 11/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/3	71/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12½	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	56/3	65/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	63/6	65/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

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Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid)	£650,000
RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
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Branches at Ahwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

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Write Great Central Railway Publicity Office, 216 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, stating your requirements.

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Capital (Fully Paid up)	Rs.75,00,000
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Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

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By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

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Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
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By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital	£2,000,000	Called-up Capital	£580,000
Subscribed Capital	£1,450,000	Reserve	£237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

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GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER.

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WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£2,000,000	Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share)	£1,000,000
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each)	£2,000,000	Reserve Fund	£1,350,000

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ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
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SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq.
J. N. STUART, Esq.
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HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Mandalay, Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Colombo
Kandy, Newera Eliya, Zanzibar
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The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 392.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With the past week a new era has dawned for the Near East. There will be strenuous and possibly anxious days ahead, but it can be said of the peoples to-day what it has never been possible to say of them before—that their future rests in their own hands. Turkey and Austria-Hungary have covenanted themselves out of the war, and, although the actual terms of peace have yet to be announced, the liberation of South-Eastern Europe may be regarded as complete. For the moment a German army of occupation is left in Roumania, but provision has been made for its complete evacuation both from that country and from Austria-Hungary within fifteen days, if it is to avoid internment. The Austro-Hungarian Empire has not waited for the terms of peace, or even for the conditions of the armistice; it has split up into component parts, and no central authority remains to thwart the different peoples in the settlement of their national constitutions. With the knowledge that Czecho-Slovaks, Yugoslavs, and Roumanians are again the arbiters of their own destinies, we can watch with a sense of detachment the efforts of the Magyars and the Germans of the Dual Monarchy to adapt themselves to the march of events and the new spirit that the victory of the Allies has brought into the dark places of Europe.

The news of the capitulation of Turkey was made public too late to allow of reference in our last issue. The armistice was signed at Mudros on October 30 and became operative at midday on October 31. It is known now that it was not of her own will that Turkey continued the struggle so long after the surrender of Bulgaria. Tentative overtures had been tried a fortnight earlier; but there was no reason why the Turkish Government should have things made easy for it. General Townshend, liberated for the purpose, was sent as envoy to inform Vice-Admiral Calthorpe that Turkey asked for the immediate opening of negotiations for an armistice. The reply returned was to the effect that, if the Turkish Government sent fully accredited plenipotentiaries, they would be informed of the conditions in which the Allies would agree to a cessation of hostilities, and that Vice-Admiral Calthorpe would be empowered to sign an armistice on these conditions on the Allies' behalf. With noticeable despatch the Turkish plenipotentiaries arrived, accepted the conditions and signed the armistice. The main features of this document are dealt with on another page. Its purpose is to provide reasonable safeguards against the possibility of a resumption of hostilities by Turkey, while enabling the Allies to reach Russia and any other country by way of Turkish territory or waters, with a view to continuing the war against Germany or for the relief of Russia from Bolshevism.

The first military concern of the Allies must be to clear up the situation in the Black Sea and in Southern Russia. The former Russian fleet in those waters was taken over almost intact by the Germans, and it remains to be seen what use they intend to make of it. In the days of Turkey's uncertainty, immediately after the Bulgarian capitulation, it was reported that twenty men-of-war, manned or officered by Germans, had appeared off Constantinople in order to support the "Goeben" in terrorising the Turkish capital. If the report was true, they have failed in their purpose, or the Germans have thought better of their proposed action. Now that Turkey has dropped out of the war, it is unlikely that the Germans will feel tempted to resort to heroic measures in risking a naval engagement on the Black Sea, unless the Allied Fleet were to invite attack by advancing with inadequate strength.

For the present we remain in the dark regarding the political situation in Turkey that lay behind its determination to ask for an armistice. In the absence of fresh developments it is reasonable to suppose that the Committee of Union and Progress, having realised that it was impossible to continue the war, decided that the Allies' susceptibilities could best be met by a change in the *personnel* of the Government. The new Grand Vizier has made a brave show of democratic intentions; but if he is the mouthpiece of the Committee, his promises will hardly succeed in deceiving the Allies. As far as the self-determination of the subject races of Turkey is concerned, the point has already been settled for them without reference to the Turkish Government. The chief preoccupation of the Turks should now be their own domestic welfare and national progress, and in regard to both the Committee stands convicted by its past record. The new Turkey will have to start from the beginning in the school of modern statecraft. The first requirement is an honest Civil Service, and it cannot acquire this under the direction of a clique that has played fast and loose with German money. If suitable officials for the higher posts cannot be found at home, they should be borrowed from abroad.

Austria-Hungary has been forced to sue for an armistice because the searching test of war has laid bare the inherent rottenness of her political structure. An unregenerate Germany may hug to herself the belief that she has gone under because her allies failed her; but no one who belonged to the Ramshackle Empire will look for the cause of its undoing outside its own borders. The great European war has lived up to the reputation that was always anticipated for it. It has shaken the Continent to its foundations, and the map of the world will have to be redrawn. But out of the welter has come great gain, and nowhere more than in the country that provoked the struggle. The anachronism of the Dual Monarchy was apparent before 1914, and it was with the consciousness of threatened disruption that the Austro-Hungarian Government hoped to find in war a solution of its difficulties. The solution has been found, although not according to the intentions of the authorities in Vienna and Budapest.

The conditions of armistice formulated for Austria-Hungary are as thorough in their ratification of the actual military position as those which Turkey accepted four days previously. Very few additional clauses would have been required to make them include the terms of peace. For this feature the spontaneous disintegration of the Dual Monarchy is mainly responsible. As Bohemia and the districts of Yugoslavia were actually at the time under their national Governments, it was natural that it should be stipulated that the administration of the evacuated territories should be entrusted to local authorities under the control of the Allied and Associated armies of occupation. The Allies thus come at once into possession of the Trentino, and, with the right of free movement over all roads, railways, and waterways in Austro-Hungarian territory, and of the use of the necessary Austrian and Hungarian means of transportation, are in a strong position for carrying on the war against Germany on a new and vulnerable front.

The history of the now emancipated peoples of the Dual Monarchy during the past week has been too crowded to be set out in detail in a short space. In the case of the Czecho-Slovaks it is, perhaps, sufficient to say that they have shown during the early stages of this transition period the same statesmanship and consciousness of national strength as they have displayed during the subjection to Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction. At the Versailles Conference, which has been passing through the most eventful days in its existence, the Czecho-Slovaks were represented by Dr. Benes, who is stated to have recommended a definite plan for immediate Allied action in Austro-Hungarian territory. His contention was that the Czechs, from their geographical position, were masters of the situation, that Vienna was cut off from all supplies, unless these were liberated from Bohemia, and that drastic measures were required at once to prevent Vienna and Budapest from becoming the prey of Bolshevism. The Czechs were prepared to revictual Vienna, if their own supplies could be replenished in time to prevent a shortage among their own people, but Dr. Benes urged the necessity of a military occupation of the whole of Slovakia, specifying among other reasons the desirability of preventing the annexation by Germany of the German-Austrian countries.

The representations of the Czecho-Slovaks will have received the careful attention of the conference, for the terms of the Austrian armistice reveal such a masterly grasp of the position in Austro-Hungarian territories that every advantage must have been taken of the "inside" knowledge at the Conference's disposal. Whatever actual plans may be in course of adoption by the Allied Powers, the situation for the moment in both sections of what was the Dual Monarchy appears to be well in hand. The latest reports attribute "a peaceful aspect" to Vienna and "complete peace and order" to Budapest. Both cities, it is said, are expecting to be occupied by Entente troops. There can be no doubt that after the necessity of prosecuting the war at the maximum pitch until such time as Germany accepts defeat and all its consequences, one of the chief concerns of the Allies must be to see that order is maintained in the countries that have passed out of the war. In the case of the Dual Monarchy it will be noted that Hungary, under its new National Council, is inclined to acknowledge the Allied victory as a godsend with almost as much fervour as the Czecho-Slovaks and Yugoslavs.

It is clear that Bulgaria is passing through a process of political evolution, but the reports from that country are tantalizingly meagre. King Boris, after giving verbal evidence of the most orthodox views on the subject of monarchical democracy, has suddenly abdicated and left Bulgaria. A Council of Regency has taken charge of affairs at Sofia. At the same time a "peasant Government" is said to have been established at Tirnovo under the leadership of Stambulinsky, the head of the Peasants' Party. An army of 40,000 men, it is added, is behind the movement, which is characterized as revolutionary. The news comes via Berlin and Constantinople, and would seem to be based on information supplied by the Bulgarian Minister at Kieff. The Allied Governments, it would be thought, had now an interest in facilitating the despatch of accurate news through Allied channels. It is, therefore, much to be desired that intelligence regarding the course of events in the late enemy countries should be allowed to reach Great Britain direct rather than by way of Berlin.

Negotiations are in progress, according to information received from Berlin, for the evacuation of Roumania by the German Army under Field Marshal von Mackensen. The step is virtually provided for by the terms of the armistice with Austria-Hungary, and is in any case rendered inevitable by the fact that this army is now cut off from direct communication with Germany, unless the precarious link through Poland could be described by the name. This moment, it is of interest to note, has been chosen by President Wilson to remind the much-tried Roumanians that their cause is in no danger of being overlooked. His assurance to the Roumanian representative in Washington reads: "With the spirit of national unity and the aspirations of the Roumanians everywhere the Government of the United States deeply sympathises, and will not neglect at the proper time to exert its influence that the just political and territorial rights of the Roumanian people may be obtained and made secure from all foreign aggression." The Roumanians, we trust, were under no uncertainty regarding the Allies' intentions towards their national aspirations; but every reminder that the day of salvation is at hand will be welcome, and President Wilson's message is a natural corollary to the work of the Allied forces that are bringing practical relief to Roumania by way of Bulgaria and the Bosphorus.

The major honours for services in this war have yet to be awarded, and they will rightly be bestowed by His Majesty the King, the sole fount of honour in the British Empire. But we believe that it would be entirely in accordance with the popular will if General Townshend's liberation and return to this country were marked by the presentation of a sword of honour furnished by public subscription.

The capitulation of Turkey brings to a close another chapter of the record of India's effort in the war, though the record itself must remain unfinished until peace is finally established throughout the world. On the whole it is a record of which the country may be proud, and perhaps the future historian will point to the earliest chapter as the most significant of all. Now that the British Empire is mobilised in its entirety people are inclined to forget with what scanty resources it was equipped at the outset of its gigantic undertaking, and how great was the assistance furnished when four years ago India was denuded of a large part of its garrison, and its troops scattered over three continents. That was the first phase—bold and statesmanlike measures, carried out with efficiency, and welcomed eagerly by the country as a whole.

In the second phase these features seemed to disappear, and the country watched with growing perplexity the spectacle of political expedients and administrative hesitation in 1915. It is too early as yet to attempt an analysis of the causes which led to this result, but allowance must at least be made for the anxieties regarding the internal condition of the country, anxieties which were so effectually concealed that the public is only now becoming alive to their reality. The report of the Rowlatt Commission will undoubtedly bulk largely in the historian's view of this period, and it will be recognised that the vigorous and sustained effort of the last two years became possible only when the forces of disorder had been brought under control.

At the moment it is more appropriate to turn to the third phase of renewed energy which still persists, and to recall the financial, industrial, and military enterprises by which it has been marked. The War Loans, the organisation of supplies, and the systematic recruiting campaigns, constitute a group of measures which have enabled India to play an effective part, and have at the same time brought about an enormous improvement in the outlook for her economic and political future. It is already common knowledge that Indian resources have contributed very largely to the successes gained in Palestine as well as in Mesopotamia, and it is only just that, while full credit is given to the fighting forces for their achievements in the field, the public should recognise the value of the work done by the Indian administration in making those achievements possible.

Along with the administration may be fairly classed the bulk of the "politically-minded" classes, who recognised almost from the beginning that India's fate depended on the outcome of the war, and accorded their support and co-operation to the various official measures put forward from time to time. The attitude of the majority can best be appreciated by contrast with that adopted by the small but active band of Extremists, the men and women who think of themselves as India, and who regarded the day of battle as a suitable occasion for the huckstering of the *bazar*. Their offers of "conditional" support in return for political concessions seemed at least to show them in their true colours, and we believe that India is now beginning to understand them, and to rate them at their proper worth.

The view has occasionally been put forward that India's greatest opportunity would come at the conclusion of the war, when she might hope to give material help, of course, on strictly commercial terms, in the difficult task of feeding a tired and hungry Europe, which has been forced to neglect even the primary duty of providing for its own subsistence. The latest cablegrams indicate that this hope is not destined to be realised; the partial failure of the monsoon must in any case involve a heavy draft on the existing stocks of grain, and even at the best it is not likely that any large surplus will be available next May, when the European demand will probably be at its maximum. It is unfortunate for India, and perhaps for Europe, that this should be the case, and consolation must be sought in the probability that India will at least be able to feed herself.

The summary of the Report prepared by the Indian Industries Commission bears out the anticipation which has been current for some time, that Sir Thomas Holland and his colleagues would adhere to the old ideals rather than the new. An Imperial department, a uniform programme for the whole country, an all-India Industrial Service—these are the commonplaces of bureaucratic efficiency of the "Curzonian" epoch, and it need not be said that they are admirably adapted to secure the object in view. How far they are compatible with the new political ideals is another question; already there are indications that the Provinces are getting restive under the centralising policy of the Munitions Board, and when military exigencies are less urgent we may expect that the claims to autonomy or self-development will be vigorously put forward. We must, however, await the text of the Report to learn whether the Commission has succeeded in devising means of harmonising the contending aspirations.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 30.

The exodus from the seaside to the interior has been started, and Alexandria is emptying fast. Some of the officials have already returned with their families, although officially the seat of Government will not be moved back to the capital until late in October. Owing to the fact that the anniversary of the accession of the Sultan and the Moslem New Year fall within a day of each other—it is possible that they will be followed closely by another holiday, the Return of the "Mahmal," as the Mecca Caravan has been at Tor for the past three days—the Sultan will hold only one reception, a general one, on October 9. His Highness has once again given proof of his great generosity by contributing the sum of £E1,000 to the "Our Day in India," and his Grand Chamberlain, his Excellency Said Zulfikar Pasha, was deputed to convey this amount to the High Commissioner on Friday last.

The Nile Flood.

The Minister of Public Works, Sir Ismail Sirry Pasha, has just returned from a tour of Upper Egypt, where he inspected the river banks and the preparations made to cope with the flood. A note on the river situation will shortly appear, but it is understood that in his Excellency's opinion this year's flood is below the normal, and that it has reached its maximum. As a consequence there will not be sufficient water to irrigate the islands and certain parts of the basins in Upper Egypt, and a large area, estimated at about 2 per cent. of the total area of Upper Egypt, will have to remain unirrigated. This is particularly unfortunate at the present juncture, where it is so essential that every cultivable feddan should be sown with cereals.

The Cotton Crop.

The moving of the cotton crop is in full swing now, and the first picking has been completed practically everywhere. Views differ, as they usually do, but there seems a concensus of opinion that, despite the absence of pests on any marked scale, the yield is not as good this year as last, when it was above the average. So far the ginning out-turn has proved good; but, of course, it is somewhat early to say what the general run is. There has been heavy rain in the districts during the past week, quite unprecedented for this time of year; but it is hoped that it will not spoil or interfere with the second pickings.

The Palestine Victory.

The Palestine victory is still, not unnaturally, the main topic of conversation everywhere. The importance of this success does not escape the attention of the native mind, which now realises, as it never did before, the futility of the Turkish resistance and the base manner in which the Turks have been left in the lurch by the Germans. The indigenous Press is not slow to point the moral, which is re-echoed pretty freely in native circles.

From remarks made by persons who know the country it appears that this success will have particularly happy results. The area which has been occupied by General Allenby's troops is an exceedingly fertile one, especially noted in the past for its cereal crops, and the advance has taken place at a sufficiently early date to enable the putting in of the winter cereal sowings, so that the requirements of the local population and of the Army will be assured next spring. This is an improvement on the position after the taking of Gaza and Jaffa, since the offensive then took place in October and November, just too late to allow of sowing on any adequately extensive scale. Thus economically, as well as politically and militarily, General Allenby's successful advance will have far-reaching results.

As far as present requirements are concerned there is no reason to believe that their supply will present any great difficulties; for the Turks were so taken by surprise that they had not the time to remove the very large stocks of every description which had been accumulated at divers important points; neither had they the opportunity of doing much damage to the country or to evacuate the population, such as was left there. The future development will therefore not be hindered, and work can be started without any delay such as was necessarily encountered after the offensive of last autumn. In connection with the fighting which took place, information has reached here that the Armenian and Syrian soldiers, who formed part of the French troops on the left flank of the force under General Allenby, fought with great dash, and evoked the admiration of all who witnessed their work.

The handling of the large batch of prisoners—at the moment of writing they amount to 60,000 but their number is being added to hourly—is a very difficult problem. Vast camps have been prepared at Maadi and Heliopolis and Sidi Bishr, but these are wholly insufficient, and very much more elaborate arrangements will have to be made. The authorities never for one moment expected—nor were they entitled to expect—such an addition to the numbers entrusted to their care; but they are working hard to deal with them, and it will not be long before all our captures are safely housed behind the wire cages.

It is interesting to note that one of the factors which has struck the Palestine population more than anything else is the introduction of a water supply for Jerusalem. As one of the old residents, a Moslem, said: "The Turks had been here for four centuries, and although each succeeding Wali had promised to give the city a water supply, and had levied taxes for that purpose, it has been left to the British to do this beneficent work after only six months' occupation!" This contrast in administration and in consideration for the needs of the people has made a tremendous impression on one and all, and it will not be without its bearing on the general attitude towards the new régime, in both the new and the old occupied territory.

The Prime Minister's Visit.

The Prime Minister, to whose trip to Palestine I referred last week, has returned to Alexandria very much improved in health. His Excellency appears to have thoroughly enjoyed his visit, during which he visited the battlefields, and he is loud in his praises of the work done by the Egyptian Labour Corps and of the care which is being taken of them, both when they are well and when they are sick. Quite a number of notable residents have been up to Palestine during the past few weeks, among them the *doyen* of Egyptian jurnalism, Dr. Fares Nimr, the co-proprietor of *Al Mokattam*, the leading, most reliable, and widest read Arabic newspaper. All who have returned are unanimous in their appreciation of the great change the country has already undergone, and of the contentment of the people under the new régime.

The War Allowances.

Payment of the war allowances is in full swing both here and in the Sudan, where, however, a lower scale is being adopted owing to exigencies of the State budget. From notes and letters which have appeared in the local Press it seems that certain sections of the Government staff are afraid of being accorded different treatment to the rest, and that this is creating some little amount of dissatisfaction. No doubt this is due to some misunderstanding, and will be rectified in due course, for the high cost of living, which these allowances were intended to alleviate, weighs equally heavily on men falling between the categories fixed for the payment of these allowances, whatever their actual mode of employment may be.

THE ANGLICAN AND GREEK CHURCHES.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that last Saturday a high official of the Ministry of Public Worship, accompanied by the Bishop of Naupaktia, and the Archimandrite Ghermanos, called on the Bishop of London at the British Legation. The Bishop of Naupaktia, in welcoming him to Greece, spoke of the bonds that unite the Anglican Church to the Greek Church of the Orient, and expressed the hope that the near future would further strengthen these bonds. The Bishop, in returning thanks, said that on his return to London he would not fail to do his best to further the rapprochement between the Anglican and Greek Churches.

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Owing to disunion between the trustees of the Aligarh College and its staff, the principal, Mr. Twole, Mr. Gaze, headmaster of the Collegiate School, Miss Beck, lady superintendent of English, and three other English professors have resigned, says the *Pioneer*.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Land and School Reforms in Bessarabia.

After 106 years of Tsarist domination, Bessarabia returned last February to the mother country. The Bessarabian National Assembly decided by 86 votes to 3 upon union with Roumania, and a local Government, composed of Bessarabians only, was elected to act in harmony with the Roumanian Government. The Roumanian Army went into Bessarabia not as an army of occupation, but purely to protect the people and their property against the Bolsheviks, who after the disbanding of the Russian Army in Roumania spread terror and destruction everywhere. The most difficult problem the Bessarabian Government was faced with was that of land ownership; and it became far more complicated after the triumph of Bolshevism in Russia. In Bessarabia, as in Roumania, there was a great number of landowners, a kind of feudal lords, to whom the peasants were subjected in some ways. The Bessarabian peasants revolted in 1906—their revolt being connected with the movement of the Russian peasants—and Prince Urussoff, then Governor of Bessarabia, only succeeded in calming them by promising to distribute the land amongst them. The Bolshevist movement gave the peasants an opportunity to take possession of the land and share it between themselves. The situation was extremely difficult, and the Government could not allow this anarchical state of things to be continued, but, on the other hand, could not compel the peasants to give up their long-coveted booty, because they threatened the whole country with fire and pillage in that event. The Government appointed a commission, which decided that the land should be shared among the peasants in a more rational way, and that the landlords should receive their rents, which will be paid to them by the State. The latter will recover the sums paid to the landlords by raising the taxes paid by the peasants. The reform is a very important one, and will be applied throughout the kingdom when normal conditions are restored. The present Government of Roumania, although making a formal declaration that the land reform shall be brought about, has not been able to give it effect, owing to the German occupation and various internal difficulties.

The Schools.

Monitorul Oficial (the Official Gazette) publishes the decree regarding the organisation of schools in Bessarabia. The principle of free development of every nation—as a minority—is respected, and the organisation is based on solid democratic principles. At every college there are sections or classes for every nationality that is in a minority. Where other nationalities are strongly represented they will have their own colleges. The Roumanian Government has decided to create the following colleges, with parallel classes for the other nationalities: Two colleges in Chisinew (the capital of Bessarabia), one in Tighina, and in each of the following towns: Balti, Ismail, Cahul, Soroca, Orchei, Rezina, and Bolgrad. There are special secondary schools for the Ukrainians in Hotin, Tighina, Balti. The Jews have also their own colleges in Chisinew (two), in Tighina, Ackerman, Soroca. There are special schools for the Russians in Gelkin, Hotin, Bender, and Chisinew; and for the Bulgarians in Comrat, Bolgrad and Ackerman. The German population brought into Bessarabia during the Tsarist regime is also given a college, in Tarntino. The secondary schools for girls are organised on the same principle, which is also strictly respected for the schools in the villages. The Roumanian Government has entrusted Professor Stere, of Jassy University, who is a Bessarabian and suffered exile in Siberia, to control and direct the school organisation in Bessarabia, and to take the necessary measures so that the democratic principle shall be strictly respected.

The Last German Hope.

The Germans have recently sent troops to Roumania. Viewed in the light of the rapidly changing events, this measure seems rather curious. But their last hope of keeping a hold on the situation, at least for some time, was cooperation with the Magyar feudal lords, the powerful oligarchy headed by the late Count Tisza, who was the most important instrument of Prussian Junkerdom. Tisza declared recently that all the necessary measures had been taken to prevent any attack by Roumania. On the other hand, the Magyar oligarchy had begun to concentrate the Magyar troops in Hungary and Transylvania; so as to be able to keep in contact with the Germans in Roumania and to deal with the Czechs in the northern part of the Magyarland. The German Command gave orders for their troops in Ukrainia to be concentrated on the frontier of Bessarabia. so as to be able to attack the Roumanians in the rear should they decide to take up arms again. But all these plans have been turned to nought by the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian army and the rapid organisation of the Czechs in the north and the Yugoslavs in the south. The murder of Count Tisza—a savage act deserving absolute condemnation—was the signal for action and widespread movement among the long-oppressed nationalities in Hungary, as well as among the no less unfortunate Magyar proletariat. The Magyar oligarchy loses for ever the control over the popular masses, and thus the Germans remain isolated. It is necessary to make this situation clear because it is the sole explanation why Roumania could not rise until now. After the collapse of Turkey, the proclamation of the Bulgarian Republic, the revolution in Hungary, the evacuation of Roumania by the Germans is a question of days. But still the Roumanian army could play a rôle in the East if any chance be offered to it. The German occupation strengthened the spiritual union of the Roumanian people with the Allies.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta, October 22.

Despite the island's isolation, we have not been immune from the Spanish influenza, and it has claimed many victims. The camps have suffered to a great extent, and several ships have been put into quarantine; but it is generally thought that the supposed number of cases has been exaggerated and that many suspected cases have only been instances of the ordinary "flu," prevalent at this time of the year. All kinds of fanciful stories have been current, relative to the origin of the disease, which is looked at so askance as to have been nominated "*pesta.*" The oil from Spain and the chocolates from Switzerland have been equally blamed—a proof that we have little faith in neutrals in Malta.

A marked earthquake shock occurred on the 11th, commencing with faint tremors at 3.27 p.m. and continuing spasmodically until 5.36 p.m. Those who know the strength of the buildings in Malta will not be surprised that no damage was done.

A pleasing ceremony—one of very many that Malta has witnessed during the war—took place on the 16th inst. when Rear-Admiral Kozo Sato, commanding the Japanese Naval Force in the Mediterranean, visited a British destroyer at Malta for the purpose of investing eight petty officers and men with the insignia of the Order of the Rising Sun, whch had been conferred on them by his Imperial master. The ceremony was attended by Rear-Admiral Ballard, C.B., Admiral Superintendent, Malta, and by the commanding officers of destroyers present in port. Rear-Admiral Sato stated that the decorations were awarded in recognition of valuable services rendered by one of his Britannic Majesty's ships in assisting a Japanese destroyer which had been damaged by an enemy torpedo. The behaviour of the British destroyer in the face of the enemy on that occasion recalled to him the highest traditions of the Service of which her officers and men formed part, and with which both he and those under his command were proud to be working side by side in the cause of justice.

The Admiral Superintendent, in thanking Admiral Sato for his kindness in presenting the decorations, expressed on behalf of the recipients their sense of the honour conferred upon them. He felt sure it was a source of equal pride to all on board to be so closely associated with the Japanese Navy in fighting for the interests of humanity.

The islanders are excited over the escape of a German prisoner from the concentration camp. The feeling against the Hun, particularly amongst the dwellers in the *Casals*, who believe that he has been responsible for the excessive price of their staple food, bread and oil, is so strong that if caught Hugo Wohlgemuth is to be pitied. That he cannot get away from the island rock goes without saying.

The best story of a capitulation in the East is that told by Major Alan Burgoyne with regard to the surrender of Jerusalem, says the *Daily News*. He says it was actually given over, not to Sir Edmund Allenby, but to a couple of regimental cooks who were out collecting salad for an officers' mess. A party of Arabs approached the cooks and pressed upon them, with many gestures and smiles, the keys of the city. The cooks were somewhat embarrassed, and one of them is reputed to have asked the Arab spokesman "wot the 'ell they were to do with the blinkin' city."

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THE MAUDE MEMORIALS, MESOPOTAMIA.

(From a Baghdad Correspondent.)

Amongst the many proofs of their friendship and respect for the British given by the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, their hearty support of the project permanently to memorialize the late General Maude stands out most prominently. It is not alone that financial stability has been quickly assured, but on all hands it is felt that here is an object well calculated further to cement the bonds of friendship which have so rapidly sprung up between the people of the Irak and Great Britain.

After Sir Stanley Maude's death there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of raising a memorial fund, to be devoted in some suitable manner to perpetuate his name, and after the Army Commander's consent had been obtained meetings were held throughout the country for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. A meeting was held in Busreh on December 6 to open the subscription list of the Busreh Memorial Fund, and Rs.107,000 was collected on the spot. There was a very good attendance from all communities, and the local Christian merchants undertook to increase their donations 50 per cent. if the fund was devoted to building and maintaining a hospital. The meeting was most enthusiastic, and it was later decided to adopt the suggestion to found a hospital. H.E. Sir Khazal Khan, Sheikh of Mohammerah, on hearing of the scheme, sent a subscription of Rs.10,000 on behalf of himself and his two sons.

Meetings were also held at Kalat Saleh, Ali Gharbi, Amarah, and Baghdad, and donations were everywhere most generous.

At Kalat Saleh Rs.5,000 was subscribed, and it was proposed to form a poor relief fund which would be assisted by the Government if necessary. The Amarah donations amounted to Rs.30,000, a very generous sum considering the size of the town. The inhabitants of the small town and district of Ali Gharbi contributed the sum of Rs.15,000, and it was unanimously desired that the money should be expended in building a school in memory of the late general.

The citizens of Baghdad have taken up the movement to give permanent shape to their admiration and respect to the late General Maude with remarkable unanimity. Such enthusiasm as was evinced at the inaugural meeting will not be easily forgotten; the donations of rich and poor were given in the same spirit, and all contributed to raise a sum of money sufficient to provide for the construction of a memorial to the great soldier who carried out such a successful campaign. It has been proposed that the memorial shall take the form of a triumphal gateway, of local materials and design, at the north of the city. There will be a porch, supported by two wings, one of which will contain a library and the other a station for troops. Several skilled architects have already submitted plans for this gateway, and it is hoped that before many months are passed its erection will commence. Up to date no less a sum than Rs.105,000 has been subscribed.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

AN ALBANIAN PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I say a few words in answer to Mr. Kessary's letter in your issue of November 1? He says he "knows something about Turco-Albanian Beys," and is "painfully surprised to see Mehmed Bey Konitza posing as Albanian delegate and protesting on behalf of Epirus." Mehmed Bey is the official representative of at least 60,000 Albanians at present refugees in America. They are well organised; publish a paper expressing their views regarding their country, and their representatives have been received by President Wilson and by Mr. Roosevelt, both of whom have promised the Albanians to support them in their claim for independence. Mehmed Bey is thus fully justified in describing himself as Albanian delegate. The Albanians he represents include Orthodox, Moslems and Catholics. The very large majority are from South Albania—called by Mr. Kessary "Epirus." That there are certain inhabitants of that district who are renegades and wish their native land handed over to alien rule is true. We, too, have our Mr. Houston Chamberlain. But the mass of the people do not. Rather more than half of the inhabitants are Moslem. None of these want Greek rule. And of the Christians the bulk are patriotically Albanian. When I travelled through the country in 1904 I was visited by deputations of people begging me to establish Albanian schools under British protection and to help the establishment of an Albanian Church. Albanian was a forbidden language under Turkish rule, and the penalties for printing and teaching it were very severe. Not once was I asked to support Greek claims. When the French arrived in Koritza, in 1916, they freed it from King Constantine's troops, who were actively in co-operation with Germany and Austria. M. Vaucher, the correspondent of *l'Illustration*, says: "The town having been occupied by our troops and the Germanophile Greeks expelled, the National Government at Salonika sent soon a Venezelist prefect. But that was not what the Albanians wanted. Mussulman and Orthodox, they often speak Greek, but are none the less Albanian." The Orthodox Albanians then came forward, and said that if "France will proclaim our independence and give us military protection she may be sure that tranquillity will rein." Having ascertained that this was the wish of the immense majority of the population, and that he would thus obtain the calm necessary for his operations, General Sarrail proclaimed the independence of the kaza." The Albanian flag was hoisted on December 10 before an enthusiastic crowd. Some fifty Albanian schools were shortly opened and at once filled with pupils.

I have also in my possession letters written to me by Koritza Christians during the Greek occupation of Koritza in 1912-13, which entirely contradict Mr. Kessary's statements. In 1913 I went to Koritza myself, and during my stay a similar mass meeting was got up, soldiers visiting all the houses and commanding the attendance of the inhabitants.

Mr. Kessary further states that Kemal Bey of Valona "always looked to Athens." On the contrary, Kemal Bey hoisted the Albanian flag at Valona and proclaimed Albania's independence.

Let the Albanians be allowed independence within their own ethnographic frontiers. Strabo in the first century tells us that the Greek frontier was at Arta and that on the north of the bay were Epirote tribes who were not Greek but spoke the same tongue as the Illyrians and Macedonians. Brerewood, in 1625, tells us that Greek is not spoken in Epirus and west Macedon; that it had spread there, but that "the natural language of the country" had driven it out again. All that Albania asks is that a census of opinion should be taken, supervised by some impartial power, such as America or England, so as to prevent fraud or terrorism. She has then no doubts as to what would be the result.—I am, etc.,

M. E. Durham.

[In a portion of his letter for which we could not find space, Mr. Kessary referred to Mehmed Konitza Bey's connection with the Albanians in the United States, but refused to recognise the Bey's "right to speak as Albanian delegate."—Ed.]

MONTENEGRIN RELIEF FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You have more than once afforded us the opportunity of appealing to the public through your columns on behalf of Montenegro, the poorest and smallest of our Allies; and we are venturing again to ask your valuable assistance, as actual famine exists throughout this little country, and where disease is also rife. Now that the enemy is about to evacuate Montenegro, food, clothing, and medicaments are more than ever an urgent necessity.

Although it is too late to save thousands of the women and children, we must, in the name of humanity, do our utmost to preserve as many lives as possible. Unlike larger countries, the Montenegrins have no industries on which to fall back, which means that unless substantial help is afforded at once, they must remain in their destitute condition. Hitherto, thanks to the generosity of the public, our fund has been enabled to send parcels periodically to from eight to ten thousand prisoners in turn, in Austria-Hungary, as well as to afford relief to unfortunate refugees in France and Italy, as also in our own country.

The demands upon us now must necessarily be far larger than in the past, and it would be a source of great regret if we were not able to meet them. We therefore appeal to the public, which has always shown itself generous and sympathetic, to help us to rescue this brave and chivalrous people from starvation and restore them again to the position they have so honourably held amongst the nations of the world.

Donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Honorary Treasurer, Montenegrin Consul, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.4. Bankers: National Provincial and Union of London.—Yours, etc.

Violet Rutland.
Marie Louise Parkington.

◆

Speaking at Claridge's on Tuesday at a Serbian Soldiers and Prisoners of War Comforts Fund meeting, Father Nicholas Velimirovitch said that two months ago Serbia was a small district of a few towns and villages. Now it was sixty times larger. It had been asked how Serbians could be recompensed for their sufferings. They needed no other repayment than what they now had—to see the worst elements of Europe and Asia—Austria and Turkey—at their feet.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Mr. Dobson, the Petrograd correspondent of *The Times*, suggests that a new verb, "to bolshevize," should be adopted into the English language, "to signify the open, barefaced robbery which is the more distinguishing feature of the policy and practice of the Bolshevists." The suggestion seems to me an admirable one. For one thing, its adoption would serve, as Mr. Dobson says, to stigmatise Bolshevism "for all time as a system of the most impudent, wholesale robbery that the world has ever seen"; for another, it would "fill a long-felt want" by enabling the luckless Private Person to tell the Shopkeeper what he thinks of present prices. Seriously, any plan for making the average man loathe Bolshevism and the Bolsheviki should surely be encouraged, and Mr. Dobson's suggestion would undoubtedly work out that way.

⁂

On November 1 the *Daily Express* announced:—

"The Allied Fleet has passed up the Dardanelles."

It is, I suppose, a similar spirit of enterprise that leads the evening papers to bring out their 5.30 edition (say) at 3.15.

⁂

As I write these lines, General Townshend is reported to be in Paris, on his way home. That is to me—as, I am sure, it will be to a great many people in this country—one of the best bits of news possible even in these days of good tidings. Brilliant things have been done by other British Generals since the Battle of Ctesiphon and the glorious defence of Kut; but we have not seen, and are not likely to see or hear of, anything finer than the wonderful struggle against odds made by Townshend and his brave men in that shot-riddled, water-logged, well-nigh-foodless, little mud town on the Tigris. I hope we shall hear ever so much more about it in the future; and if one or two people suffer severely as a result, I, for one, shall shed no tears over them. But for the present it is sufficient to welcome home the brave General, who so splendidly upheld British honour in the East when it needed every support it could get. I hope London will be afforded an opportunity of showing what it thinks of General Townshend. It will not be backward in availing itself of such a chance.

⁂

Speaking at the American Officers' Club, in Chesterfield Gardens, last week, Mr. G. N. Barnes made use of some rather curious phraseology. He said, for instance: "Aleppo is the capital city of the Arabian area, and therefore we were in no hurry to get the Turks out of the war until we had taken that city. As you know, we have taken Aleppo. There are other ports and places in Arabia that are just as necessary for the Arabs to gain possession of as Aleppo . . ." and so forth. Now, in the first place, I do not think many people would agree that Aleppo is "the capital city of the Arabian area." In the second place, why did Mr. Barnes so word his remarks as to mislead any uninstructed person into believing that Aleppo is a port? Lastly, if "there are other places in Arabia just as necessary for the Arabs . . . as Aleppo," why are we not still hammering the Turk? I am afraid that part of Mr. Barnes's oration is just a wee bit like a famous remark made by the Duchess in "Alice in Wonderland."

⁂

In writing thus I hope I shall not be accused of criticising Mr. Barnes too severely. As a matter of fact, I have a good deal of respect for him; but one does expect rather more care in a Minister's speech, even when the Minister is speaking under the influence of such good news as that of the Turkish surrender. But in any case Mr. Barnes gave us some information—as, indeed, he has a way of doing: sometimes to his friends' sorrow—and very pleasing information it was, too. For it was to the effect that the Arab is to come into his own again; and whether his capital be planted at Aleppo or Damascus, Mecca or Baghdad, that is good hearing. The dull-witted Turk has been an Old Man of the Sea on his back far too long. But he has shown us that his spirit is not broken; and now that he is free of his burden we may confidently hope that he will take his proper place in the world once more.

⁂

According to a Reuter report, Przemysl has been attacked and captured by the Ruthenians. My own private opinion is that if the Ruthenians really wished the world to think kindly of them they would have "let sleeping dogs lie." To expect us to wrestle again with the pronunciation of that dreadful name is to expect too much, even in these days of rejoicing. No: I am not pleased with the Ruthenians. For all that, I decline to believe that the influenza epidemic was sent to enable us to sneeze the name correctly, as has been suggested.

CORSAIR.

SERBIA wants CLOTHES

The following communication has reached us from Serbia:—

"The fifth winter of the war will be the most terrible of all, for our clothes are worn out, and there is not a scrap or rag with which to mend them. Up to now we have used curtains, sheets, blankets, to make clothes, but these are threadbare. There is no such thing as a change of linen, but once a fortnight the children are put to bed while their miserable rags are being washed—without soap, of course. Soap is 30s. a lb. Boots and stockings are things of the past, but we should not mind so much if we at least had bits of cloth and rags to tie round our feet as we did the year before. How many of our little ones can survive the winter under these conditions? Never has our material position been more desperate!"

Parcels of Clothing should be addressed to
MRS. CARRINGTON WILDE,
SERBIAN RELIEF FUND,
5 Cromwell Road, S.W.7

Cheques and donations of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer,
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH,
G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

5 CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.7.

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1337.	5679.
November	October.		Safar.	Kislev.
8	26	Friday	3	4
9	27	Saturday........	4	5
10	28	Sunday	5	6
11	29	Monday	6	7
12	30	Tuesday	7	8
13	31	Wednesday	8	9
	November.			
14	1	Thursday	9	10

Lord Inchcape left London on Wednesday night for Glasgow.

Earl Curzon has left for the Continent, and will be absent from London for a few days.

Lord and Lady Barrymore have returned to 20, Hill Street, Berkeley Square.

M. Boresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, has been obliged to cancel his engagements owing to illness.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne are now in residence at Hadley Hall, New Barnet, which they have taken for a short term.

M. N. Voukitchivitch left London on Saturday for The Hague, to take up his post as First Secretary to the Serbian Legation there.

Captain R. A. P. Grant, Indian Army, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 1.

Count Patrice de Zogheb has left 19, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, for Egypt. His address is Palazzo Zogheb, 4, Sharia Kasr el Nil, Cairo.

Memorial services for Brevet-Colonel Sir Walter Balfour Barttelot, Bt., D.S.O., Croix de Guerre, Coldstream Guards, will be held at Stopham on Saturday, November 9, at 2, and in London at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on Monday, November 11, at 2.30.

An engagement is announced between Major C. N. Steel, Indian Infantry, son of the late Colonel Steel, XXV. Punjabis, and Mrs. Steel, and Eve, youngest daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Caudle, of Henfield, Sussex, and Assam.

The marriage arranged between Captain Matila Costiesco Ghyka, of the Roumanian Legation, and Miss Eileen O'Conor will take place at the Brompton Oratory on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at eleven o'clock. Friends will be welcome at the church.

On August 31, at Murree, Punjab, the marriage took place of Captain John Ord Cobbold Hasted, D.S.O., Durham Light Infantry, to Miss Phyllis Barrett, only daughter of General Sir Arthur Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.S.I. The Rev. T. H. Dixon officiated.

On October 30, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Reginald William Knollys, of the Sudan P.W.D., son of the late W. E. Knollys, C.B., and Mrs. Knollys, was married to Celia Grace, fifth daughter of Christopher Croft, of the Bailey House, Richmond, Yorks.

Rear-Admiral G. B. Hutton, who has just been promoted to that rank, served as a cadet of H.M.S. Northumberland during the Egyptian War, 1882, and as lieutenant of H.M.S. Starling was employed with the Naval Brigade at the defeat of the Dervishes at Gemaizah, near Suakin, in December, 1888.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain (acting Major) Eric Wells Morris, the Connaught Rangers, elder son of the late Dermot Morris, and Mrs. Morris, of Bombay, and Kathleen, younger daughter of the late James Morrison Anderson, and Mrs. Anderson, of Calcutta.

On November 3, at St. John's, Felixstowe, the marriage was solemnised of Captain Philip Ponsonby Steel, M.C., I.A.R.O., son of the late J. E. P. Steel, and Mrs. Steel, and grandson of Major-General J. A. Steel, Indian Army, to Margaret Gabrielle, only daughter of Captain and Mrs. Arthur Tighe, of Felixstowe.

The engagement is announced between Andrew Richmond Henderson, Royal Navy, only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. Richmond Henderson, of Naini Tal., India, and grandson of the late G. E. Ward, I.C.S., and Phyllis Agnes, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ward, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

The engagement is announced from Egypt of Major Schreiber, of the State Telegraphs, Cairo, and Laila, daughter of Mrs. C. F. Stettengren, of Stockholm. Major Schreiber is a member of the well-known military family founded two centuries ago by a Suabian from Durlach, who settled in England.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain Geoffry Allan Percival Scoones, D.S.O., M.C., Gurkhas, eldest son of Major Fitzmaurice Scoones, late Royal Fusiliers, and Angela Maud, elder daughter of the Rev. Spencer R. A. Buller, R.D., rector of Weybridge.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Mr. Eric Graham Forbes Adam, of the Foreign Office, second son of Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Bt., C.I.E., and Lady Forbes Adam, and Agatha, widow of Mr. Sidney Spooner, and eldest daughter of the Master of University College, Oxford, and Mrs. Macan.

Our Malta Correspondent writes (October 22):—Dr. A. Bernard, M.D., D.P.H., Acting Chief Medical Officer and Superintendent of Public Health, has been provisionally appointed an Official Member of the Council of Government, in the place of the Hon. Dr. S. Cretien, M.A., who is temporarily absent from the island.

On October 29, at St. James's, Kidbrook, Blackheath, the marriage was solemnised of Lieut. Lionel Ernest Ballance, Royal Fusiliers, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Ballance, Ashfield, Lee Road, Blackheath, to Gladys Elizabeth, second daughter of the late F. W. Holl and Mrs. Holl, 60, Kidbrook Park Road, and of Poobong, Darjeeling.

On November 5, at Turnworth, the marriage took place of Captain K. M. Mylne, Worcestershire Regiment, son of Bishop L. G. Mylne, formerly of Bombay, to Miss Dorothy Parry Okeden, daughter of Colonel Parry Okeden (retired), fo Turnworth. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. Parry Okeden, C.F., M.C., and the Rev. A. M. Mylne, C.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Stanton, C.M.G., who has been appointed a Military Governor in Northern Palestine, was entertained to a farewell dinner on October 31 by the chief officials of the Ministry of Pensions.

On October 30, at St. John the Baptist's Church, Great Marlborough Street, London, the marriage was solemnised of Mr. W. A. Saunders, third son of the late Major-General Edward Augustus Saunders, late Madras Staff Corps, and of the late Mrs. Saunders, to Beatrice May Pearce, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dyke Pearce, Cefn-Coed, Breconshire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Mark S. Teversham, Indian Infantry, only son of Colonel R. K. Teversham, D.S.O., and Mrs. Teversham, of Lansdowne House, W.11, and Miss Evelyn Mary (Bubbles) Ross, only daughter of the late David Ross, Divisional Judge, Burma, and Mrs. Ross, of Pendennis, Camberley.

A Coptic Committee, of which Mr. H. Basta, A.R.I.B.A., is chairman, has been formed for the purpose of entertaining Mr. S. H. Leeder, whose book, "Modern Sons of the Pharaohs" was recently published. It is the wish of the Copts in England to show their appreciation of Mr. Leeder's disinterested study of their country and its people, and they will give a dinner in his honour at the Holborn Restaurant on November 28.

Captain George Lloyd was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 3, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bombay. His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire. Sir George and the Hon. Lady Lloyd subsequently had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.
MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)
needs £700 WEEKLY for
Feeding Prisoners interned
in Austria-Hungary.
Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged
by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
Montenegrin Consulate, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has sent telegrams of congratulation to Generals Allenby and Marshall, in which he remarks upon India's "historic part" in the successes in Palestine and Mesopotamia.

Sir M. M. Bhownagree presided at a reception of the Indian Social Club on Monday, at the Holborn Restaurant, to celebrate the Divalee (Hindu New Year). The guests from India included Mr. B. G. Tilak, who arrived in London last week.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, is in Geneva. The Swiss newspapers state that he will preside over the Congress at Geneva which has been called to consider the constitution of a State comprising the Serbs, Croats, and Yugoslavs.

The Indian Press delegates who are visiting this country at the invitation of the Ministry of Information were the guests of the Council of the Empire Press Union at a reception held in the hall of the Stationers' Company last Friday afternoon.

Sir Alfred Kensington, late Chief Judge, Punjab Chief Court, died on November 2 at 3, Buckingham Gate, S.W., aged 63. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1877, and had held various appointments in the Punjab and under the Government of India. He married, in 1881, Alice, daughter of the late Major-General H. C. Johnstone, C.B.

A joint meeting of the members of the Armenian United Association of London and of the constituents of the Armenian Church Council of London, and of all other Armenians, will be held tomorrow afternoon, November 9, at the offices of the Armenian United Association, 47a, Redcliffe Square, S.W.10, for the purpose of electing an auxiliary member to represent Armenians in Great Britain on the Armenian National Delegation sitting in Paris under the presidency of His Excellency Nubar Pasha. The chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m. precisely by Mr. James A. Malcolm, president of the association.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has conferred the K.C.M.G. on Generals Danglis and Emmanuel Zimbrakakis, and the dignity of C.B. on Generals Spiliades, Epaminondas Zimbrakakis, and Orphanides, in recognition of their distinguished services in the recent Macedonian offensive.

Mr. Barton, Assistant Director-General of Accounts at the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, formerly Director of Accounts at the Postal Administration, Alexandria, has been appointed to succeed Goldstein Bey as General Secretary of the Egyptian Postal Administration.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Major Sir Maurice Cameron, K.C.M.G. (Second Crown Agent), to be Senior Crown Agent for the Colonies, in succession to Sir Reginald Antrobus, K.C.M.G., C.B., who has retired. He has also appointed Sir William Mercer, K.C.M.G. (Third Crown Agent) to succeed Sir Maurice Cameron as Second Crown Agent.

Sir Milne Cheetham, K.C.M.G., has been promoted by the King to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in the Diplomatic Service. He first went to Cairo in January, 1910, and from July to September of the same year he acted as Chargé d'Affaires. The following summer he was promoted to be a Counsellor of Embassy, and was again left in charge of affairs, as he was also in 1912, 1913, and 1914. He was for a short time Acting High Commissioner, before Sir Henry McMahon's appointment, and his services on that occasion were rewarded with a K.C.M.G. Before he went to Egypt, Sir Milne had served in Madrid, Paris, Tokio, Rome, Bucharest, and Rio de Janeiro.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Greek Chamber is to meet on November 14.

Cairo is suffering from a heat wave. The temperature is over 100 degs. in the shade, thus favouring the spread of influenza, which is becoming serious.

Cerebro-spinal-meningitis has appeared at Atbara, two deaths being reported. Stringent measures are being taken by the authorities to check the progress of the disease.

In Bombay city the influenza epidemic has passed its worst stage. The mortality steadily dropped from the highest point, 768 to 489 daily in the middle of October.

The Times Cairo correspondent telegraphs that influenzza is making considerable ravages in Egypt, particularly in Alexandria. Both Europeans and natives are attacked, but so far the epidemic has been in a mild form.

A British naval officer, in a letter to a friend in Greece, relates that on the very top of the Grand Couronné on the Doiran front he saw British and Greek dead lying together surrounded by dead Bulgarians

A meeting of Greeks living in London was held on Monday at the office of Messrs. Pandelis and Co., St. Mary Axe, Dr. Procopoulos presiding, to promote the interests of unredeemed Greeks at present in foreign territories. It is proposed to hold a national meeting in Paris about November 15 to put before the representatives of the Allies suggestions for the redemption of Greeks in these territories, and delegates were appointed at Monday's meeting.

On Tuesday the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council acceded to an application made on behalf of the Indian Government for a postponement until the beginning of the January sittings of the hearing of two appeals from judgments of the High Court of Madras in the case of Mrs. Annie Besant v. the Advocate-General of Madras and another.

With reference to the general notice issued in July last regarding the Army Entrance Examination which began on November 5, the Secretary of the War Office announces that it has been decided that King's India Cadets who qualify for Prize Cadetships by their position on the list of successful competitors shall be granted the emoluments as well as the titular distinction of Prize Cadets.

Correspondence which passed in April between the King and the Nizam of Hyderabad when his Majesty conferred the special style of Exalted Highness upon the Nizam and confirmed his title of Faithful Ally of the British Government has now been published, says the Simla correspondent of *The Times*. In a letter thanking the King, the Nizam declared that the longer the war lasted the closer would be drawn the bonds uniting the Princes of India with his Majesty's Throne, person, and Government.

The Earl of Denbigh, addressing the members of the Aldgate Ward Club on Tuesday, said that we must see to it that Constantinople got into good hands. Neither England nor France wanted it, and neither Turkey nor Bulgaria could be trusted with it. He was inclined to sympathise with the proposal that the United States should hold the city in the interests of the world. He was not in favour of tearing up the Baghdad Railway. No one wished to keep back the development of Asia Minor, and the whole thing might be settled by having at Constantinople people who could be trusted.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.
SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS VAN MILLINGEN.
WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

SOMERSET St

HOTEL SOMERSET,
ORCHARD STREET (by Selfridge's) OXFORD STREET, W.
Most comfortable and home-like Establishment. English cooking a special feature. Eggs, Butter, Poultry direct from the farm.
200 well-appointed bedrooms with fitted basins (h. & c.). 30 bath-rooms
15 private Suites. Passenger lift. Own Artesian Well.
Magnificent Georgian Dining Hall (100 tables,)
Inclusive terms from 10/- to 15/- daily; 3 to 4½ guineas weekly.
Double room 16/- to 21/- daily; 5 to 7 guineas weekly.
Bedroom, bath, breakfast (3 courses) 7/6 daily.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
1, DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No.: 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1918.

GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

The conviction that Turkey could not remain long at war after the capitulation of Bulgaria, and that the defection of the two vassal States must hasten the collapse of the Central Powers, has been amply confirmed by the events of the last week. If the Turkish Government could have had its own way, an armistice would have been signed some ten days earlier, but it was held that the future interests of the countries which are to be Turkey's no longer required a more complete rounding off of the British victories. Thus Aleppo was occupied on October 26, and the Turks on the Mosul road, attacked the same day, had been forced by October 30, the day on which the armistice was signed, to surrender to the number of more than seven thousand. Turkey had deliberately made her appeal to arms, and she had been thoroughly and decisively beaten in the field. The terms of the armistice granted her do not go beyond the purely military sphere. The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus are to be opened, access is to be afforded to the Black Sea, and the forts on either side of the waterway are to be occupied by the Allies. The Turkish army is to be demobilised, and all war vessels surrendered. Strategic points may be occupied by the Allies at discretion; they are to control all railways, occupy the Taurus tunnel system, and to hold Batoum and Baku. Turkish troops are to be withdrawn from North-West Persia, and all Turkish garrisons in the Hejaz, Asir, Yemen, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Northern Africa are to surrender. One clause provides that all Allied prisoners of war and Armenian interned persons and prisoners are to be collected in Constantinople and handed over unconditionally to the Allies; and it is further stipulated that an Allied representative shall be attached to the Turkish Ministry of Supplies in order to safeguard Allied interests. As in the case of Bulgaria, the ultimate conditions of peace are left for future decision; but the terms of the armistice indicate that the Turkish Government has realised that no other course is open to it than to leave itself entirely in the hands of the Allies or of Great Britain. The omission of a demand for the occupation of Constantinople is said to have given profound satisfaction to the Turks, and it may be that they are building great hopes of further leniency on the Allies' part. To what extent this optimism will be justified the future will show. Until the Dardanelles and Bosphorus have been cleared of mines and the Allied Fleets can reach the capital, little is likely to be known of the real situation there. Nothing is to be gained by allowing the Turks to imagine that the political future of their country is a matter of indifference to the Allies. There would seem to be some ground for supposing that the Committee of Union and Progress hope that by paying homage to democratic principles they will be able to retain the supreme power in their own hands. The Allies, both in their own interests and in those of the Turkish people, must see to it that an end is put to all autocratic power, whether it resides on a throne or is domiciled in a private house.

A long chapter in British history has been brought to a close with the signature of the armistice at Mudros. It has required all the vicissitudes of the four years' war to enable Great Britain to reach the point at which she breaks irrevocably with the traditional policy of preserving the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire. In 1914 she was prepared, in company with her Allies, to give a formal promise to respect that integrity in return for Turkish neutrality. If the offer had been accepted, the course of the war might have been different; but its purifying effects must have been arrested on the threshold of the region where they were needed every whit as much as in Central Europe. Opinions will differ as to whether Turkey could or could not have been kept out of the war. There can be no doubt, however, that in deciding to throw in its lot with Germany the Turkish Government yielded to an impulse which was working in the interests of the world at large more effectually than was appreciated at the time. The twenty-five conditions imposed at Mudros are an instrument of wider significance than the question whether Turkey should or should not continue the war. They are the stepping-stones to a new order which, it may confidently be hoped, will bring peace and well-being to a vast region that has long been a stranger to both. Great Britain has thus been called upon not only to reverse her policy, but to be the means by which the much-abused toleration by the Great Powers of Turkish rule has been brought to an end. In the course of the struggle she has experienced the humiliation of failure as well as the glory of ultimate victory. As the one compels remembrance of the diplomatic mistakes of the past, so we may hope the victory means the inauguration of a new era that will prove a blessing to the Turks no less than to the rest of the world. The instinct that prompted Great Britain to take a special interest in Turkey was sound in principle; her fault lay in not facing courageously the moral issues and realising that the Turkish domination over alien subjects was as prejudicial to the interests of Europe as it was fraught with tragedy for the peoples themselves. To-day we need not stop to measure the cumulative misery that has resulted from the bolstering up of the Constantinople regime, whether under an autocratic Sultan or the no less despotic tyranny of the Committee of Union and Progress. If responsibility is shared by the Great Powers, the way of reparation lies in so regulating the future of Turkey that henceforth the interests of the Turkish people and not those of a ruling clique are regarded as paramount.

The war with Turkey has been Great Britain's, the armistice is hers, and upon her, too, will devolve in a large measure the moral responsibility for the future welfare of the Turks. It is in the interests of the peoples inhabiting them that whole regions will be separated by the terms of peace from what was formerly the Ottoman Empire; but they will be neighbours of the Turkey that remains, and it will be equally in their interests that the Turks should share in the progress, political, moral, and economic, that will be theirs under the new order. In the planning, therefore, of the future of Mesopotamia, Syria, and Arabia it will have to be remembered that the work will have been but ill done so long as Turkey lags behind in the march of civilisation. The root of the trouble in the past, as far as the Great Powers were concerned, was an unwillingness to face facts and a weak-minded readiness to believe that evils did not exist if a blind eye could be turned to them. These faults, it is to be hoped, will not be perpetuated. Even if the Turks did not stand convicted of inability to rule other nationalities in accordance with even the most elementary rules of justice, the world has decided that no nationality shall be left against its will under foreign domination. The first fact to be faced, therefore, is that, with unimportant exceptions, the Turkish Government shall exercise jurisdiction only over Turks. A second fact is that so long as a Turkish Government is left with one foot in Europe it will be tempted to give a Western orientation to its policy, and it will be concerned as much with European politics as with the task of governing its own people well. As for Constantinople, it matters not that the problem of selecting another occupier presents difficulties. The day for makeshifts has passed. The experiment of finding the right government for the city must be made rather than that the future of Turkey and of her Asiatic neighbours should be jeopardised by the continuation of the present system. There can be no more hope for the Turks under the Committee regime than for the Germans under Prussian militarism, and if the Allies are determined to destroy the latter, they must be equally careful to eliminate the former. But, in comparison with the settlement of Central Europe, Turkish affairs will appear remote to the majority of the Allies. For this reason, therefore, as well as upon other grounds, it will be necessary for Great Britain to shoulder her responsibility in regard to Western Asia with decision and whole-heartedly. For some time to come, when the strong hand of the Committee of Union and Progress has been removed, the Turks may be unequal to governing themselves without foreign help. If such help is needed, it should be given unsparingly and with a clear conscience. After the great upheaval of the last four years civilisation cannot allow any black spots to remain as near to Europe as Asia Minor.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RELIGIONS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT.[*]

The modern method of studying religion is a happy sign of intellectual progress. Non-Christian religions are now treated on their essential merits, their highest ideals being emphasized, and they are not, as so frequently in the past, used merely as dark contrasts to Christianity, their weak points being often brought in contrast with Christianity at its highest.

This volume of lectures, delivered in 1917 at the University of Pennsylvania, affords an excellent introduction to the study of religions; each religion seems to be treated—as far as is possible by a non-adherent—with scrupulous fairness and with an honest endeavour to recognise its highest ideals.

The subject is so vast that the method of lectures, wherein consideration of time necessarily compresses the material, and where attractive presentation is a desideratum, is a good one. At the same time, these lectures have been so carefully edited that they read as a harmonious whole. The series begins with a valuable—and all too short—contribution by Dr. F. G. Speek on "Primitive Religion," which needs must be understood by all who would look below the surface in any religion. The most elementary and universal concept in primitive religious life is animism, which is here defined as "the belief in the existence of magic power in objects—animals, men, spirits and deities—which are superior to the natural qualities of men and which may influence the life of men, and which in turn may be influenced by human activity." This, with totemism, fetishism, and taboo, appears again and again in many religions.

The great ancient religions, although dealt with here by different specialists, show striking points of similarity. In all, animistic conceptions play a fundamental part; then polytheism, with a gradual tendency towards monotheism among the more thoughtful; then we find organized worship, priests, idols, temples; mystic rites and omens appear in each. The survival of the individual after death seems at first to be an unimportant, and in some religions an undesirable, thing.

Prof. Max Müller considers that the interest of Egyptian religion is not in its philosophical depth—which is not great—but "in its extremely primitive character." "It is an interesting link between the most rudimentary state of religious thought and the development reached by the natives of the ancient Western Orient." Beginning with a simple animism, there became mixed with it in very early times—probably under Babylonian influence—worship of the heavenly bodies. The Osiris cult, fully developed in Egypt before 2500 B.C., may, he thinks, originally have come from Phœnicia. The reason why the faith of the Egyptians so deeply impressed the Greeks was because the latter "concluded that such an earnest faith must have some deeper, secret reasons"—but to this theory investigation of the religion through the hieroglyphics has given no support.

Our interest in the religion of Babylonia lies not alone in its antiquity and its association with so ancient and great a civilization, but because through the Hebrews so many of its ideas have been carried into the religions of the West.

A widely diffused polytheism continues to be the striking feature of the Babylonian-Assyrian religion, despite the counter endeavours to devise theological systems that aimed to reduce the many gods to a limited number of superior powers in actual control of the universe. The aim of the cult of the gods was to secure, and happily to retain, their goodwill. To do this were many sacrifices and incantations—the examination of animal's entrails—the study of the heavens and the observation of unusual natural phenomena . . . . but on the whole the verdict must be given that the religion of the Babylonians and Assyrians, while never rising to any genuine spirituality . . . . yet acted as a spur towards unfolding the best in human nature.

Four very able lectures cover in lucid outline the main facts of the multiform religions of India. The first deals with the "Religion of the Veda," *i.e.*, "the contemporary religion which we find in the Veda itself, the religion of the composers of the Veda." This collection of religious writings, in parts of the religious hymns of the Rig Veda, dates back to 2000 B.C. In its earliest beginning this religion is concerned with charms, magic, and propitiatory sacrifices; then comes the evolution of priests as custodians of the ever-increasing ritualism of the fire cult, and of the cult of the sacred Soma drink. "The Rig Veda is, in general, a hymn-book for use at these three-fire ceremonies and the Soma sacrifices." The Upanishads, of a later period, are "the first extensive speculations in philosophy known in India," higher than the hymns because later and more advanced. They are constantly searching for new points of view, "with a restless yearning after truth which has perhaps never been surpassed and seldom equalled."

From these more primitive conceptions Buddhism arose as "a protestant faith," with its three-fold fundamental truths—(1) Pessimism—that all existence is evil; (2) Transmigration and Karma—that the state of each existence of each individual is absolutely conditioned and determined by that individual's morality and previous existence; and (3) Salvation, which is attained by "one who has reached the goal and freed himself from the last links of the chain binding him to existence." Such a one gains Nirvana—a condition very variously interpreted. This "new gospel of salvation" was first preached by Siddhartha, of the family Gautama, who flourished some century and a-half after Zoroaster, the founder of the religion of the Parsis, and nearly five centuries before the Founder of Christianity. Moderation "may almost be called the cardinal Buddhistic virtue," in contrast with Jainism, which teaches extreme asceticism and an extravagant devotion to the non-injury of living beings.

Sprung from the same Vedic stock of ideas, Brahminism and the countless sects comprehended under the heading of Hinduism have developed along less philosophic and more formalistic lines. Caste—common to nearly all—is a matter of prime importance to the former. "One may believe practically anything he pleases without losing caste standing; but one must live correctly, eat and drink correctly, go through a certain minimum of formal ritual observance, and, above all, marry correctly."

The name Hinduism includes many sects, nearly all of whom are devoted primarily to the worship of one of the two great gods, Vishnu and Shiva, or gods identified with one of them. "The spirit of sectarian Hinduism," according to Prof. Edgerton, "is essentially monotheistic, although the forms it assumes sometimes seem to us curious. Most Hindus—at least, practically all the more enlightened ones—believe that there is in reality but one God, though He is called by many names."

The worship of the Hindu deities is generally simple and innocent. Flowers, food, and other simple offerings are deposited in the shrines, before the images of the gods. Some temples and holy places which have acquired more than local celebrity are visited by pilgrims from far and wide; in some cases from all over India. Many rivers also are especially sacred, notably the Ganges, on which is located Benares, Civa's favourite home. The shrines are tended by priests, who are sometimes men of low castes. The images or idols are theoretically supposed to be actually inhabited by the presence of the god, after a fixed ceremony of consecration has been performed.

Fascinating as is the account given of Zoroastrianism, space will not here permit of any but passing mention. Of the older religions of Europe, that of Greece receives most adequate description; indeed, it is the longest lecture of the whole series and one of the most interesting. "The student of religions finds in Greek religion material which, for variety and detail, has no equal in any other religion." "The Greeks," Prof. Hyde states, "had no dogmas, no creeds, no sacred writings. Their religion had no founder and never felt the need of a reformer; it never pretended to judge the lives of men from an ethical standpoint." Beauty and joyousness were the features of Greek worship. The idea that the gods cared for men was a late conception; the priesthood was never hereditary, and the priest himself was a State official subordinate to the civil magistrate and in no sense a teacher. Religion rested lightly upon the Greek who was not oppressed by any deep sense of sin. The Orphic mysteries—introduced from outside in the 7th and 6th centuries B.C.—profoundly influenced the earlier ideas, introducing a new personal element into religion, a lofty ideal of morality, a new sense of original sin and new hopes of immortality. The still wider influence of the Eleusinian mysteries gave to Greek religion an emotional atmosphere of awe, mystery and promise which was largely absent from the public cult.

It has only been possible here to refer very briefly to the "religions of the past"; but there are lectures in the book on the religions of Rome and of the Teutons—of which we would fain learn more—on the "Hebrew Religion," on "Primitive" and "Mediæval Christianity" and on "Mohammedanism," all of which will well repay careful study. We most confidently recommend this book to our readers as one of the most up-to-date and readable works on this wide subject. It is an excellent introduction for those who pursue deeper studies upon any of the subjects with which it deals. The work is clearly printed and very reasonable in price. It is only to be regretted that the editor did not consider it desirable to add an index.

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[*] "Religions of the Past and Present." Edited by James A. Montgomery Ph.D., Philadelphia and London (1910). (J. P. Lippincott Company. 10s. 6d, net.)

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turkish Surrender——

The elimination of Turkey from the list of warring nations is hailed by our Press with quiet satisfaction, and on the whole comment has been restrained in tone. Naturally, reference to the "Young Turks'" indifference to their country's true interests are frequent. Thus, *The Times* remarks:

> Looking back, we doubt whether it would have been possible to avoid a rupture with Turkey. The gang of adventurers who had grasped power were determined to do Germany's bidding, and Constantinople was saturated with German influence and intrigue. We shall not discuss afresh here the question whether Great Britain and her Allies were right in attacking the Dardanelles, rather than some other point, such as Alexandretta, or than throwing their strength into Serbia early in the war. Clearly, however, they were entirely right in carrying hostilities into the East. France and Belgium have always been the principal and the decisive theatres, but the menace of Turkey could not be neglected, and had Turkey been defeated early, as she might have been, the war would probably have been greatly shortened, Russia might not have been permanently isolated, Bulgaria might not have taken the wrong turning, and Roumania might have been saved. Our broad mistake was that, having decided to attack in the East, we never did so in sufficient strength.

The *Morning Post* puts this matter more strongly, but it does not think the Turks alone to blame for the developments that led up to war:

> We may hope that with the utter defeat of their armies the Turks will come to their senses and recognise the extreme folly and gratuitous wickedness of permitting themselves to be dragged into war with their traditional friends by a sinister and corrupt combination of Jewish and Turkish adventurers. In the view of the people of this country the Turk is differentiated from his late Allies. Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria have been guilty of the blackest and most inhuman crimes, for which it is intended they shall make expiation. But we are willing to believe the Turk has been misled. We know his leaders, and we do not admire them. Presumably the Turk will know how to call them to account for one of the most ghastly and bloodstained failures known even in Turkish annals. But we also remember that this country, under what is called Liberal government, deliberately threw away the opportunity of helping the Ottoman Empire to a stable and an enlightened government. In 1910 Turkey sought the assistance of Great Britain, and Viscount (then Sir Edward) Grey, a man as timorous in action as ignorant of Eastern politics, declined the request. British diplomacy, matched against German intrigue in the Near East, has been a succession of blunders, costing the lives of thousands of gallant men, and rewarded, according to the British custom, with fulsome eulogies, decorations, and peerages. Results as fatal followed the intromission of heady and cynical politicians into the domains of military and naval strategy; and the disasters of the Gallipoli campaign shadow the triumphs of to-day.

The *Daily Chronicle* directs attention to a point about the Turkish fighting which many people seem likely to lose sight of:

> It should be noted that, save for Russian fighting in the Caucasus and Armenia, which ceased nearly two years ago, almost the whole of the war against Turkey has been conducted by the British Empire. It was our Dardanelles campaign which, though at heavy cost to ourselves, dealt Turkish man-power a blow from which it has never recovered. It has been the subsequent campaigns of our Armies in Palestine and Mesopotamia which, following the sounder plan of draining her resources at her extremities, have finally forced her to surrender. This immense military task, with its heavy concomitant naval burdens, has been carried through by the British Empire almost single-handed, without preventing us from undertaking at the same time for nearly two and a-half years the lion's share of the offensive operations on the Western front. We ought not to forget the very great part which India has played in the achievement; it would be hardly too much to say of the later stages that British India has conquered Turkey.

——And Some Consequences.

Of the full consequences of the surrender it is, of course, far too early to speak. But some of them are touched on in the following extracts from *The Times:*

> With the retirement of Turkey from the war, one leading motive is closed. It has been said that this war will be known in history as the war of the Turkish Succession, and we may now say quite definitely that the succession will not go to Germany. Yet it might have done had Germany known how to concentrate and discipline her ambitions. Looking back on the state of the popular mind before the war began, one is amazed at the indifference of our people to the maintenance of our position in the East. How few realised that Serbia, as the bridgehead between Europe and Asia, between this "wheel-going Europe" in Kinglake's phrase and "the splendour and havoc of the East," mattered anything to this country; how many were perfectly prepared to resign all responsibility for Turkey to Germany. There was in existence at the beginning of the war a complete treaty between England and Germany, initialled, but not signed, which would in effect have converted Turkey into a German province. But Germany did not know when to leave well (from her point of view) alone; she must needs bring Turkey into the war, and by doing so force us to an entirely new orientation of our Eastern policy. Had Turkey stayed out Germany would have had the advantage of the closed Dardanelles, and that was the principal service that Turkey could render her. By bringing her in she made a bogey for India, but it was a turnip-and-candle ghost, and at the same time she dug the grave of her own Eastern ambitions. The obsequies are now being celebrated over the grave.

The future of Constantinople and the Straits is referred to in many articles. The following passage, with which Colonel Repington concludes one of his articles in the *Morning Post*, expresses a view that was put forward long ago in THE NEAR EAST, and seems to-day to be highly popular:

> Many are the claimants for the future wardenship of the famous Straits, and, whatever the ultimate decision will be, somebody will be displeased. Personally, I should prefer to see the defences razed to the ground, the passage left free to all, and the Americans left in control of it. But America may restrict her interest to Palestine, and then we may have proposed an international police, always a breeding ground for jealousies and troubles. Whatever the solution—and the Russian solution has been set aside by the Revolution—our interest is that the Straits should be undefended and free. We cannot afford that they should again fall into hostile hands, and of all our military and naval interests at the peace this is one upon which no compromise is possible.

The *Westminster Gazette* gives a thought to those who have, after all, suffered most at the hands of the Turk:

> The Ottoman Government found victims among its own people as well [as amongst the non-Turkish races], who have always suffered cruelly at the hands of their unprincipled rulers; ground down in peace-time, and in war sent like sheep to be slaughtered in quarrels which were not theirs. No measures aiming to solve the Eastern question can be efficacious which do not consider the welfare of the Turkish people, or out of respect for abstract Western formulas, still unknown in the East, abandon them again to their own corrupt misgovernment. The Turkish question proper has hitherto been approached from the point of view of the Dardanelles, and an internationalised Constantinople. But the matter is bigger, and human as well as political. Constantinople and Asia Minor are not mere segments to be isolated from each other by the arrangements of diplomatists, but different phases of one general condition which has to do with living men as well as with geography. And until broad measures are taken for the welfare of such human beings the rest is only tinkering.

Articles to Note.

"The Welfare of India: (1) 'Responsible Government' in India (by Sir Harry L. Stephen); (2) India under the Emperor" (by Col. C. E. Yate, C.S.I., etc.), in the *Nineteenth Century* (November).

"The Taking of Beersheba," by Rowlands Caldicott, in the *Cornhill* (November).

"India and Mr. Charles Roberts, M.P.," by the Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.M.G.; and "Bulgaria, Turkey, and the War," by Sir Edwin Pears, in the *Contemporary* (November).

"A Forgotten Capital of the Near East," by Lieut.-Commander H. C. Lukach, R.N.V.R., in *Blackwood* (November).

"Mahomet Effendi," in *The Times* (November 7).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Armenians at Baku. Oct. 31.

Lord R. Cecil informed Mr. King that he was not able to give any information concerning the position and progress of Armenians who are co-operating with Russian Soviet forces in the neighbourhood of Baku.

Damascus.

Mr. Theodore Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would say under what flag the city of Damascus now lives; whether its local government is carried on under civil or under military authority; and to which Government its local authority is amenable?

Lord R. Cecil: General Allenby was authorised on October 1 to allow the Arab flag to be hoisted at Damascus, and this has presumably been done. In accordance with the laws and usages of war the occupied territory is under military administration, The Military Governor of Damascus, Ali Pasha Ridi El Rikabi, is responsible to General Allenby.

Leave from Mesopotamia. Nov. 4.

Mr. Watt asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists among the soldiers in Mesopotamia at the fact that many of them have not had any leave for two and three years, while the officers are readily given leave to India; is he aware that instances exist where private soldiers who could not get any leave in such rank immediately are granted a month's leave in India on obtaining a commission; and will he take any steps to bring about greater equality of treatment in this respect?

Mr. Macpherson: As I have frequently explained, leave from Mesopotamia has been limited owing to the difficulties of transport, but a proportion of all ranks have been given leave as opportunity arose. Owing to the somewhat increased facilities, it has been possible recently to increase the numbers granted leave, and I would refer to my reply on October 17 to my noble friend the member for Nottingham (South). A proportion of all ranks have also been given leave to India as transport opportunities allowed of this being done. I have no information as to preferential treatment being accorded to soldiers who obtain commissions.

Prisoners in Turkey. Nov. 5.

Lord Henry Bentinck asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the public anxiety as to the destitute condition of the British and Indian prisoners of war in Turkey, he can give assurances that the promptest possible measures will be taken to afford them relief and obtain their release?

Sir G. Cave: The Government is in constant communication with the British naval and military authorities on the spot, and immediate steps are being taken to secure the return of British and Indian prisoners as early as possible. Supplies of food and clothing which had already been arranged for are being placed at the disposal of the British Admiral in the Eastern Mediterranean for use in such manner as he thinks best.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report.

Mesopotamia Force (Petrol).—October 31.
Allies and Turkey: Armistice Signed.—October 31.
Eastern Fronts (British Troops).—November 4.
Salonika.—November 4.
Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force (Pay).—November 5.
Philippopolis Camp.—November 5.
Armistice with Turkey (Return of Troops).—November 5.
Gallipoli Medal.—November 5.

KING NICHOLAS TO THE YUGOSLAVS.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has forwarded for publication the following translation of the proclamation issued by King Nicholas of Montenegro to the Yugoslavs, from which we published some extracts last week. The proclamation is dated October 26, and is countersigned by the Montenegrin Ministers for Foreign Affairs (E. Popovitch), Finance (M. Vouiovitch), War (N. Haidoucovitch), and Justice (P. G. Chotch):—

To the Yugoslavs.

Brothers,—It was with great and profound joy that I learnt of the just and powerful reply addressed by the great President of the United States to our enemy Austria, a reply in which the right of the Yugoslavs to independence and unity was firmly laid down. At last justice is granted to those of our race who have suffered so much.

The day on which I declared war on Austria I affirmed that "I drew the sword for the unity of the Yugoslavs," and it is for that end I have fought to the last, so long as I could wield the sword. I thank God for having so graciously allowed me to see the realisation of my ideal—the liberation of the Yugoslav race. Already I see that race great and enlightened, developing in a democratic spirit, worthy of the admiration of civilised peoples and all free men; and as I have been hitherto, so I am to-day with you heart and soul.

A Yugoslav nation, such as we look forward to, can only be one that embraces all the Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs.

In our Montenegro, as you know, the best of the Serbs and the Yugoslavs have always been found. Their past struggles and their sufferings are known to the whole world, as they are to you. No people has endured such hard struggles for the love of liberty. Brothers, with the keenest and most joyful enthusiasm, sure of the approval of my faithful people, I declare most solemnly to-day that my dear Montenegro must become a constituent part of the Yugoslav nation, and enter into the Yugoslav Constitution, frankly and honestly, just as she has battled and suffered for it.

I desire that we should be united, and that as brothers we should join together in a Yugoslav Confederation, in which each shall preserve his right, institution, religion, and customs, whilst no one will dare to seek supremacy; where we shall all be equal in a maternal Yugoslav nation, which will give to all the same advantages, and to which we shall all owe loyal service; a Yugoslav nation in which we shall all employ our best efforts that she shall become great and prosperous amongst free and civilised peoples.

Rejoice, O Yugoslav Nation, our Mother, to have lived to see this great day. Rejoice also you peoples, who live around our proud mountains—Triglav, Velebit, Biokovo, Lovtchen, Frouchka, Gora, Avola, Roniania, and Velech. Let us rejoice at the same time at the resurrection and independence of our brothers, the Czechs, Slavs, and Poles, who have suffered so much.

May God assist Russia, whose fall has been so terrible, so that she may soon rise again. May He grant her happy days that she may see us, her younger brothers, united in the joy of our liberty at length accomplished. Let us hail the prompt return of Alsace-Lorraine to her noble and great country. May glorious Italy soon welcome her oppressed children. May the sun of liberty shine on all who have stretched out their arms towards her.

Greetings to dear brother Yugoslavs, on the part of the old and tried, but to-day the most happy of Yugoslavs, the King of Montenegro. Long live President Wilson, long live the Allies!

(Signed) Nicholas.

COUNTERACTING GERMAN PROPAGANDA.

We have made arrangements for forwarding free of charge **to our readers pamphlets and other publications dealing with the British and Allied cause. This literature is in** many European languages, and certain pamphlets and illustrated **publications are also available in a number of Oriental languages. All applications should be addressed to the Editor, The Near East, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following:—**

"The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore. A short summary of English administration in Egypt; alluding also to Germany's undermining influence, and the Mussulman's preference for the English rule. 36 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Turkey, a Past and a Future," by A. J. Toynbee. Development of the new Turkish Nationalism and of German intrigue in Western Asia. Moslem ideas must prevail. Mesopotamia will develop its resources mainly by colonisation. 79 pp. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

"Germany, Turkey, and Armenia." 125 pp. J. J. Kelliher and Co., Ltd., London. Containing important statements by German missionaries, Danish nurses, German officials, and other foreigners, and extracts from foreign journals prohibited in Germany by the Censor.

"Loyal India," by Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. 15 pp. Sir J. Causton and Sons On loyalty and service in the Indian Empire.

"The Clean-Fighting Turk." A Spurious Claim. 4 pp. Reprint from *The Times*. This article, written by one who has exceptional experience of Turkish manners and customs, shows that the Turk behaves like a gentleman only when it pays him to do so.

"Horrors of Aleppo," Seen by a German Eye-Witness, by Dr. Martin Niepage. 24 pp. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. The author, a teacher in the German technical school at Aleppo, reproaches German diplomacy for non-interference.

"Martyred Armenia." 56 pp. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London. The author, a Bedawi, has acquired from reliable sources and from his own information, a mass of information regarding the atrocities committed by the Turk against the Armenian people. This he resolved to publish to the world, "to defend the faith of Islam against the charge of fanaticism."

"Turkish Prisoners in Egypt." 64 pp. A report by the Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Extracted and translated from the Official Reports of the Red Cross Society.

It is announced from Athens that a mission composed of professors of the University will shortly leave Athens with the object of making men of letters and scientists throughout the world acquainted with the atrocities committed by the Bulgarians in Eastern Macedonia.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

On another page will be found the complete telegraphic summary of the report of the Indian Industries Commission. In the absence of the fuller information that will be furnished by the text of the report, anything approaching an attempt at detailed comment would obviously be out of place, but it may be said that *prima facic* the Commission's recommendations seem to have been very much in accordance with expectations.

⁂

Chief among the recommendations is the proposal for the creation of imperial and provincial departments of industries and for an imperial industrial service. The advisability of this course is not open to question, for, obviously, as much in India as in this country, it is desirable that industrial direction should be a matter for single guidance. Another interesting feature is the attention given to industries whose absence causes difficulty in times of war. With regard to agriculture, the introduction of modern methods is advocated, especially labour-saving machinery. The coal position is naturally dealt with; also the question of water-power as a source of energy, and it is suggested that a hydrographic survey should be undertaken to determine the places suitable for hydro-electric installations. The latter recommendation has already been carried out, two officers having been appointed to conduct the survey. For the rest, it may be mentioned that other questions dealt with include the adulteration of products and the shyness of Indian capital, both matters whose solution will have an immense bearing on India's industrial development.

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I have read with considerable interest a reference in a local paper to a letter from a soldier serving in Palestine, who stated that he had bought a farm there, previously the property of a German colonist, and intended to settle on it after the war. It is only an isolated instance, it is true, but I trust that it may be taken as an indication that a fair number of our soldiers who have been so fortunate as to visit some of the most promising centres of the Near East, such as Mesopotamia and Palestine, will have been sufficiently impressed with the undoubted prospects of these countries to make them inclined to stay there for good. They might do far worse than select either of the countries I have mentioned for their life's work. In Mesopotamia there should be great scope for farming on progressive lines, while Palestine offers an opening for fruit cultivation, always an attractive occupation, and one which is made doubly desirable there by the fact that the settler would be within easy distance of the homeland. In addition, both countries are very promising for the small trader, who would be able to further British interests by importing goods to meet local requirements and by exporting products likely to find a market in this country.

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The reference in Engineering Notes last week to the utilisation of windmills in India has brought forth an interesting criticism from a valued correspondent. His view, based on experiments conducted over a number of years, is that there are small prospects for the windmill in that country as a means of irrigation, owing to the absence of sufficient wind. The position, briefly stated, is that the wind forces over the greater part of India, including the whole of the northern part of the country, are slight and are useless for any practical purpose. It has to be admitted, however, that there are portions of India where it might be possible to make some use of windmills.

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A correspondent urges the importance of our doing everything possible to develop commercial relations with Roumania, "a country," he remarks, "which Providence has placed in a singularly unfortunate position, with no means of communication with the West except through the Central Powers, the Balkans, or via the Black Sea and the Dardanelles." This position, he adds, provides a very good reason why British trade relations with Roumania failed to make satisfactory progress, and he expresses the view that it will be necessary, in order to remedy this state of things, to give undivided attention to the cultivation of the Roumanian market.

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My correspondent says that he feels it essential to speak strongly on this question, because before the war the enemy Powers had so successfully penetrated Roumania that it would scarcely be going too far to say that this country was regarded as almost a negligible trade factor there. "What we have to do in the future," he says, "is to let the Roumanians know of our existence—that we are the greatest manufacturing Power in the world, that we can supply everything that anyone else can supply, and that our goods ought to receive the preference because they are lasting, and, in fact, the best that can be obtained. I see you have been advocating a commercial mission from Roumania and a reciprocal visit from this country, and that, I think, would mark a commencement on the right lines. But much more than that is necessary, and I would suggest among other measures to inform the Roumanian business community of the potentialities of British trade that an industrial exhibition representative of British manufactures should be held in Bucharest and other leading centres of the country as soon as conditions permit. If samples of the inferior enemy products could be placed side by side with the first grade goods from this country so much the better."

Among the new companies registered this week is the British-Roumanian Corporation, the object of which is the promotion of the trade interests between the two countries.

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It is to be hoped that every effort will be made in the future to develop trade relations with Abyssinia, since that country undoubtedly has rich prospects for industrial and economic development. Indeed, it is open to doubt whether any other country in the world similarly situated offers greater trade possibilities. As yet the country is undeveloped, and, as our Khartoum Correspondent pointed out recently, the inhabitants do not appreciate foreign enterprise in furthering the development of the country. That aspect will doubtless be changed as time goes on, and in the meantime it must be noted that the trade of the country is on a fairly extensive scale, and will well repay attention on the part of British business men. One reason why I desire to lay stress on the value of Abyssinian trade is that America has already obtained a very firm hold on the market in unbleached cotton goods, a staple article of import, and if we are to play our part we must be prepared to do things, and not stand still and watch our competitors taking business which might well fall to us.

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The half-yearly report of the National Bank of India shows that this bank has more than maintained its steady progress. For the six months ended June 30 the net profits were £177,200, against £143,800 for the corresponding period of 1917, and £141,300 for the first half of 1916. The amount brought forward was £139,329, making £317,057, and this sum has been utilised to pay an interim dividend of 20 per cent., against 16 per cent., which absorbs £100,000. and leaves a balance of £217,057, which compares with one of £164,500 at this time last year.

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The trade of the Sudan continues to show a marked expansion. Thus, for the eight months ended August 31, the exports amounted to £E2,790,258, against £E2,584,233 for the same period in 1917, or an increase of about 8 per cent. Imports for the same months amounted to £E2,595,752, against £E1,948,857, an increase of about 33 per cent., so that the extremely favourable trade balance of 1917 has undergone a considerable decrease. Most of the trade has, of course, been with Egypt, and this factor will not improbably become even more pronounced with the passage of time. Egypt's share of the exports was £E2,072,409, while the Sudan's imports from Egypt amounted to £E1,833,721. The second place in the list of countries exporting produce from the Sudan is taken by Great Britain with £E515,188, while India and Aden are second among the countries from which the Sudan draws her supplies with £E317,144.

COMMENTATOR.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

Commission's Recommendations.

The following summary of the Report of the Indian Industries Commission has been received by telegram from India and is issued for publication :—

The administrative proposals include the creation of Imperial and Provincial Departments of Industries and of an Imperial Industrial Service. The Imperial Department would be in charge of a member of the Viceregal Council assisted by a Board of three members entitled The Indian Industries Board, and will be responsible for the industrial policy of Government and the inauguration and carrying out of a uniform programme of industrial development throughout the country. The actual administrative (?work) would be almost entirely decentralised and would devolve on Local Government. The performance of these duties will necessitate the employment of a large staff of officers whose qualifications would primarily depend on a knowledge of mechanical engineering, and the formation of an Imperial Industrial Service is suggested in order to safeguard Government against the dangers and difficulties of casual recruiting. This service would consist mainly of mechanical engineers and engineering technologists, the majority of whom would be employed under the Local Governments. The headquarters of the Department and of the Board should be with the Government of India. Provincial Departments will be administered by Directors of Industries assisted by specialists and technical advisers who would usually be seconded from Imperial Services for work under the Local Governments. A provincial Director would thus be able to develop industries of province with help of competent engineers and scientists. He would be advised by a provincial Board of Industries composed mainly of non-officials and he should hold the post of a Secretary to Government to secure the expeditious and effective despatch of work.

Proposals are made for the better exploitation of the forests and fisheries. It is vital for Government to ensure establishment in India of those industries whose absence exposes us to grave danger in the event of war. The report advocates the introduction of modern methods of agriculture and in particular of labour saving machinery. The Commission recommends a special survey of the coal position in India. Attention should be directed to more economical method of using wood fuel, and new materials for industrial alcohol. The harnessing of water power appears to afford a reliable source of energy, especially with a view to the development of thermo electric industries, and Government should undertake hydrographic survey to determine the places which offer possibilities for the establishment of hydro electric installations. With regard to artisans, Commission recommends universal primary education, but considers that it would be unfair and unjust to impose upon employers this duty. Education of a technical kind also required, and the method of instruction to be followed will vary for workers in organised and for workers in cottage industries. For cottage industries the Commission proposes education in industrial schools being administered by headmasters with practical knowledge of the industries taught, and controlled by the departments of industries. The extension of marketing facilities must go hand in hand with the teaching of improved processes. In case of organised industries, mechanical engineering is taken as a typical instance, and the proposal includes the establishment of a system of organised apprenticeship for a period of four or five years with practical training in the workshops and theoretical instruction in attached teaching institutions. The Commission places better housing in the forefront of its recommendations to raise the standard of comfort of the Indian artisan. Subject to certain safeguards Government should use its powers under the Land Acquisition Act to acquire sites for industrial dwellings, and the land so acquired should be leased to employers on easy terms. Special remedies are proposed in the case of Bombay, where the problems of congestion are unique. General measures of welfare work among factory employees are also suggested, and special attention should be paid to the improvement of public health. Complete revolution in existing methods of training is proposed. For manipulative industries, such as mechanical engineering, an apprenticeship system similar to that suggested for artisans should be adopted. At the conclusion of this period of training they may be allowed to specialise in particular subjects. For non-manipulative or operative industries, on the other hand, the teaching institutions should be main training grounds, though practical experience is also necessary. Special proposals are made for commercial and mining education, and the future establishment of two imperial colleges is adumbrated, one for the highest grade of engineering, and the other for metallurgy. To ensure maintenance of close relations between the training institutions and the world of industry, the general control of technical education should be transferred to the Department of Industries. Re-organisation of the existing scientific services is advocated in such a way as to unite with imperial services classified according to science subjects, all the scattered workers now engaged in the provinces on isolated tasks. Rules are suggested to govern the relations of the members of these services and private industrialists seeking advice. The situation of research institutes and the conditions and terms of employment in these services are questions for the decision of which the Commission consider that the appointment of a special committee is necessary.

Useful and up-to-date information on commercial and industrial matters is essential both for Government and for private merchants and industrialists. A scheme is propounded for collecting such information and for making it available to the public through officers of the Department of Industries. The purchase of Government stores in the past has been conducted in such a way as to handicap Indian manufacturers in competing for orders, and to retard industrial development in India. The Commission propose that the Department of Industries should be in charge of this work, and that orders should not be placed with the Stores Department of the India Office until the manufacturing capabilities of India have first been exhausted. Principles enunciated in accordance with which Government might compulsorily acquire sites for industrial undertakings. The Commission consider that ordinarily Government itself should undertake manufacturing operations only of the production of lethal munitions. The administration of the Boiler Acts, the Mining Rules and the Electricity Act, the employment of Gaol Labour, the prevention of adulteration of products, and the registration of business names, of trade marks, and of partnership are matters on which specific recommendations are made. In the opinion of the Commission the compulsory registration of partnerships is practicable, and the question should be examined by Government with a view to legislation. Industrial co-operation is discussed with reference to small and cottage industries, and the question of the effects of railway rates on industries is considered. Reduced rates to and from ports have been prejudicial to industrial development, and the position requires careful examination with a view to the removal of existing anomalies. In particular it should be possible to increase the rates on raw produce for export and on imports other than machinery and stores for industrial use. The addition of a commercial member to the Railway Board and the better representation of commercial and industrial interests at the Railway Conference would help to secure a more equable system of rating. The improvement of waterways and the formation of a Waterways Trust at Calcutta are also proposed. Reference is made to the disorganisation of Indian capital and its shyness in coming forward for industrial development, and to the necessity for the extension of banking facilities in the Mofussil. The Commission is disposed to favour the establishment of an Industrial bank or banks, but considers that the appointment of an expert Committee is necessary to deal with this subject, and that action should be taken at an early date. As an interim measure a scheme is propounded for the provision of current finance to middle-class industrialists, by which the banks would open cash credits in favour of applicants approved by the Department of Industries on the guarantee of Government. Other methods of financial assistance by Government suggested, in particular, the provision of plant for small and cottage industries on the hire-purchase system. The recurring cost of the proposals is estimated at Rs.86,00,000. They involve capital expenditure of Rs.1,50,00,000, mainly on educational institutions, and a further capital outlay of Rs.66,00,000 is anticipated for future developments. The Commission consider that this expenditure may be worked up to at the end of a period of seven years.

THE GREEK MISSION,

Interview with M. Michalocopoulos

When the Greek Commercial Mission arrived the war situation, though promising in the extreme, hardly suggested the rapid developments that have taken place while the delegates have been engaged on their tour of the industrial centres in this country. The fortunate course of events has given an added importance to the visit of the mission, for the prospect of a resumption of normal trade relations no longer lies in the distant future but in the immediate foreground. In the circumstances an expression of opinion by the head of the delegation will be of much interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST, and H.E. Monsieur Michalocopoulos, ex-Minister of War and Minister of Agriculture, has kindly favoured one of our representatives with his impressions of the tour and an outline of some of the developments that will take place in Greece which will offer scope for British engineering enterprise.

The primary object of the mission was to see the manufacturing possibilities of this country, and M. Michalocopoulos first of all referred to this aspect of the tour. "Of course, because of the war your chief industrial centres which we visited are busy," he remarked, "with the production of war munitions and with war work generally; but all the same we were able to obtain a very clear and definite idea of the industrial *energy* of your people which enabled the transformation of peace industries into war industries equal to supplying the British army, and, in addition, an important part of the Allied armies. It is really marvellous when one considers that it was accomplished in less than two years. Another thing which particularly impressed the mission was the part played by women in the war, not only in work which demands some diligence and dexterity but also in heavy work. All my colleagues as well as myself hold the firm conviction that just as British industry promptly adapted itself to war conditions so it will adapt itself to meet the needs of peace, and that the difficult economic problems that will then arise, will be properly dealt with by more intense production. Obviously, greatly increased production is necessary not only to meet the financial needs of the British Empire but also to make living less dear and to enable the just aspirations of the working classes to be met."

As regards the results of the tour in paving the way for more intimate trade relations between Greece and Great Britain, M. Michalocopoulos expressed himself as being quite satisfied, and he pointed out what had already been done as an indication of future events. "We have appointed a committee of three Englishmen and three Greeks," he said, "to prepare a scheme and draw up a programme for the development of our closer commercial relationship. The most important point in the programme is to arrange for ample tonnage for the trade between the two countries on the basis of inclusive freights from the seller to the buyer, and in the facilitation of credit by the establishment of a bank in Greece which will pay cash to British manufacturers and will give credit to the customers. I am glad to say that this bank has already been established by M. Embiricos and some of his friends."

Great stress was laid by M. Michalocopoulos on the point that Greek trade covers a much wider field than Greece itself. "Greek trade, as your readers know well, exists," he said, "not only in the kingdom of Greece but all over the Near East." This warning cannot be considered other than timely for the figures of the trade of Greece proper are not very large, and British manufacturers, if they were not correctly informed, might conclude from them that Greece's requirements are bound to be on a small scale, while as a matter of fact Greek communities are scattered throughout the Near East, and the most part of the carrying trade of that region passes through Greek hands.

Turning to post-war developments in Greece, M. Michalocopoulos pointed out that their first duty there would be to develop and improve agriculture. He then spoke of engineering schemes, immediate and prospective, in Old and New Greece, notably the construction of a great shipyard which, he stated, was to be undertaken by business firms of both countries. "British business men," he said, "should study the plans for the reconstruction of Salonika, for railways, roads, the reclamation of marshes, for hydraulic works in Macedonia and Thessaly, and for the water supply of Athens, and should place their propositions before the Greek Government." In conclusion he briefly referred to the programme of railway construction. "In Greece before the war," he said, "the Government prepared plans for the development of our railway communications, and for the construction of railway lines in the new territories liberated in the Balkan wars. All these plans will be carried out soon after peace is declared."

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The approximate weekly returns from markets for the week ended October 17 were:—Cattle markets £562, general markets £549, total £1,111; total for year, £40,683. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended October 18 were:—Cattle markets £360, general markets £430, total £790; total for year, £45,872.

It is reported that the Government of India are considering a long-distance telephone scheme, and also a proposal to establish an aerial postal service in India.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

"Golden Opportunities."

In an article on agricultural machinery a contemporary recently pointed out to the British manufacturers that the progress of the past should easily be eclipsed in the near future, since after the war there will certainly be an enormous demand for agricultural machinery of all kinds for use not only in Great Britain and throughout the Empire, but also in European countries, and golden opportunities will occur for British firms with enterprise to capture those markets which in pre-war days were almost entirely monopolised by German and Austrian houses. It referred, as an example, to what has often been pointed out in these notes with regard to the great possibilities that will exist, as soon as peace is restored for the sale of a certain class of agricultural machinery in the Near East, and particularly in Greece, Palestine, and parts of Asia Minor. Unfortunately, if peace is restored to-morrow British manufacturers will find themselves very much behind their Continental and American competitors in the inevitable rush to renew old and secure new customers in those desirable markets, the value of which has already been greatly increased. It is very probable that some firms are at present too busy with war-work to trouble themselves with new cares or efforts for export business; others, and these are in majority, rely on their old connections, local agents, and friends, official aid, and on the belief that in their desire to obtain British goods buyers will come to them; while others may think it is wiser to wait and see what the various trade and other committees will do or say with regard to "foreign trade after the war." Such ideas may lead to disappointment. The war has brought such great changes, especially in the Near and Middle East, that one must not be sure that trade connections will be found the same as before the war, that agents and friends will not be easily traced, that British Consuls will have a great deal more to do than to attend to private commercial interests, that buyers in their urgent need to obtain the necessary machinery and implements which they could not get during this long war, in spite of their desire to obtain British-made articles, will be forced to accept the Continental or American articles which the energetic representative on the spot or the judicious advertisement offers to them. How many thousands of such buyers would be glad at the present time to communicate with British manufacturers of agricultural and other machinery and implements and give their orders for the coming season, if they could only have their addresses? And there is no fear now, under the war conditions, for buyers to ask for credit. There is a Latin proverb saying that "opportunity has hair in front; behind she is bald. If you seize her by the forelock you may hold her, but if suffered to escape, not Jupiter himself can catch her again." And the golden opportunities which, by facts and figures, are pointed out to British manufacturers from every quarter, at the present time, should not be allowed to escape. Individual initiative and prompt energy on the part of British manufacturers is alone needed for the capture of the Eastern markets. If they cannot at present send representatives, as some of their competitors *have already done*, they must approach them by other means, preferably by judicious advertising. The results will be satisfactory, for as we often asserted in these columns, Oriental buyers have a marked preference for British goods, but the inadequate methods and apparent indifference of the manufacturers in approaching or dealing with them enabled German and other competitors to supplant them.

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Lord Londonderry has become president of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

Proceedings at Annual Meeting.

The annual general meeting of the Federation of British Industries was held last week at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street. The proceedings commenced on October 29, when a special general meeting was held, when the new constitution was formally approved. On the following day the retiring president, Sir Richard Vassar Smith, delivered his presidential address. He remarked that the federation had now commenced the third year of its existence and continued to grow and thrive. It had nearly doubled its membership and considerably more than doubled its strength. A year ago it represented 581 members and 78 trade associations; to-day the membership was 951, in which number 164 trade associations were included. This was a remarkable result and a striking tribute to the founder of the federation, who realised the need for a national organisation of this character. He wished to congratulate the committee which had drawn up their new constitution. If an organisation of that size was to avoid stagnation it was essential to provide it with an elastic constitution, so that each section might make its voice duly heard in the governing body. Such a constitution they now had; and he appealed to all connected with the group and sub-group committees to ensure that vital force might be breathed into the skeleton which had been evolved. A distinctive feature of the past year had been the organisation of the Parliamentary side of their work. Under the chairmanship of Sir Rowland Barran, the committee of this group had met with considerable success. Their other activities were set forth in the report, and no one could doubt that the federation was justifying its existence by practical results. It was also evident that their activities were founded on sound ideals. In the past it had been the object of unjustifiable criticism and suspicion, but that was fast dying out, and he hoped that the discussions which were to follow would put an end to it altogether.

The president went on to refer to the various questions which were to be discussed, pointing out that the most urgent and difficult was the tariff question. They were now within sight of being able to present to the Government a national policy which would meet the requirements and safeguard the interests of every trade. Another vital matter of State policy was taxation. The resolution which would be proposed on this subject sought to define the principles which should guide the Government in apportioning taxation. Other important subjects they were to consider were labour, education, housing, and the organisation of industry through trade associations. It would add enormously to the strength of the federation and to British industry generally if their huge membership would definitely adopt the policy of buying each other's products in preference to foreign goods. Finally, it would be impossible to direct the process of reconstruction effectively without the co-operation of industry.

Sir Richard Vassar Smith then proposed that Sir Vincent Caillard should be the president for the coming year. This was seconded by Mr. Dudley Docker and unanimously agreed to.

The following gentlemen were appointed vice-presidents:—Lord Aberconway, Sir Rowland Barran, M.P., Sir A. Herbert Dixon, Bart., Sir Algernon F. Firth, Bart., Sir Robert A. Hadfield, Bart., Mr. E. Manville, Sir H R. Rowell, K.B.E., and Mr. W. P. Rylands.

Sir Vincent Caillard, Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B., Sir Algernon F. Firth, Bart., Sir Robert A. Hadfield, Bart., and Sir Richard Vassar Smith were appointed trustees. Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. were appointed auditors.

Sir Algernon Firth proposed a resolution impressing on the Government and country the necessity of maintaining the principle of private ownership of capital, and encouraging the free flow of capital into industry and of preserving and encouraging that spirit of individual enterprise and initiative which was the vital principle of national life. Mr. H. R. Armitage seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Dudley Docker moved a resolution emphasising the supreme importance of British industry, and urging upon the Government the necessity of recognising the importance of industrial interests and of consulting the representatives of employers no less than of employed.—The resolution was seconded by Mr. P. H. Lockhart and carried unanimously.

Sir Vincent Caillard moved a resolution on the subject of national economic policy, remarking that they had reached the point when they could look at the subject free from old prejudices and controversies. Their object was to frame a policy that should safeguard the requirements of all those interests, whether by way of protective duties, maintenance of free import, subsidy, transport facilities or otherwise, and thus enable each industry to attain its maximum productions. The whole strength of the country and the whole well-being of all classes, and of labour especially, rested on production. The resolution also included declarations in favour of Preferential treatment for the Empire and our Allies, and urged the Government to set about the preparation of provisional schemes immediately in order to apply a practical test to the problems involved.—It was seconded by Mr. Muspratt and carried unanimously.

A resolution was moved by Mr. T. Biggart urging the Government so to regulate and apportion taxation as to encourage the flow of capital to industry and increased production; the provision of adequate reserves to meet the cost of renewals and extensions and the maintenance by manufacturers of adequate stocks.—The resolution was seconded by Sir William B. Peat and carried unanimously.

At the meeting on October 31 resolutions were carried dealing with education, housing, technical education, industrial unrest, and the constitution and co-operation of industries.

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Messrs. Harrison and Crosfield, Ltd., have opened a branch office in Cochin for their export trade subordinate to their Quilon office.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Effects of Uncertainty.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, Wednesday.

Business in the market continues disorganised by the very uncertain outlook. The confidence of traders has been severely shaken, and it may be some time before the conditions are such that buyers will be disposed to place orders with any freedom. Spinners and manufacturers at the moment are losing ground. At the time of writing the official estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop has not been published. Owing to prices being fixed there is less interest than usual in the probable out-turn. Egyptian yarns remain firm. A very slack demand has been reported in piece goods for Egypt. It is said that merchants in Cairo are nervous as to the future course of events. There should be big openings for trade, however, in that part of the world before long. Certain houses with connections in East Africa have met with an encouraging inquiry. Business for India has been very dull, and more cases are being mentioned of contracts being cancelled. The rains in the Bombay district this season have been a failure, and the grain crops are suffering. American yarns have been sluggish at very irregular rates. All kinds and qualities are more plentiful than a month ago and the margin of profit for spinners is being steadily narrowed. Some trade has been done in yarns for France and shippers to the countries of Northern Europe are looking forward to sending goods on a larger scale in the near future.

Cotton Trade Wages.

The demand of the cotton operatives of Lancashire for an increase in wages has now been considered at joint conferences between the employers and the trade union officials. At the end of last week a discussion took place between the Master Spinners' Federation and representatives of the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation and the Cardroom Operatives Amalgamation. In reply to the application of the workpeople for a rise of 40 per cent. on current rates, which means an advance of about 66 per cent. on list rates, the employers offered 40 per cent. on list rates, which would bring the total advances since the beginning of the war to 100 per cent. on list rates. The trade union officials, however, refused the offer, and they are now considering what further action shall be taken. Last Tuesday the weaving employers met the operatives in that section of the trade, and in reply to the request for an advance of 50 per cent. on current wages, which means about 82 per cent. on list rates, the masters made a long statement, in which they referred to the application as unreasonable and unjustifiable, and suggested that the claim of the operatives should be modified, as it was quite impossible for any agreement to be come to on the basis of the present demand. The trade union officials stated that, owing to the unsatisfactory reply, they had decided to place their case before the Government Committee on Production.

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA

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SCOTCH WHISKY

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THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

South Indian Railway.

The report of the South Indian Railway Company for the year ended March 31 last states that the total length of line worked was 1,829 miles. Gross earnings were £2,357,778, against £2,168,884; working expenses £1,010,946, against £1,077,168; net earnings being £1,346,832, against £1,081,716. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of £198,894 in gross earnings. Notwithstanding the higher prices that have to be paid for all stores, materials and fuel there was a decrease of £66,222 in working expenses, due to the unavoidable postponement of repairs and renewals, and to a reduction in train mileage owing to the necessity for conserving rolling stock. Coaching earnings increased Rs12,34,704 (£82,313), goods Rs16,85,460 (£105,697), and other sources Rs1,92,993 (£12,866). Steamboat earnings showed a decrease of Rs29,744 (£1,982). Passengers carried numbered 36,511,676, against 44,559,356, the amount received being £1,032,665 and £975,146 respectively. The result of increased fares had been to decrease the number of third-class passengers carried by 8,057,074 and of second-class passengers by 651, and to increase the earnings by £34,185 and £14,467 respectively. First-class traffic has, however, largely increased in numbers and amount. Earnings from parcels traffic amounted to Rs14,06,341 (£93,756), an increase of Rs3,47,129 (£23,142). There was a decrease in goods traffic carried for the public of 35,078 tons, but an increase of £100,331 in earnings. There was a decrease of 135,630 in passengers carried on the company's steamers and of Rs58,592 (£3,906) in the earnings. The net loss in working the steamer service amounted to Rs2,86,156 (£19,077). Revenue account to the end of October last shows total receipts were £115,339. Interim dividend and Indian super-tax for 1917-18 absorbed £10,250, leaving a balance to credit of surplus profits account, subject to income-tax and excess profits duty, of £105,089. The surplus profits are by far the highest so far received, but there is nothing for congratulation in this fact, because the larger earnings are due to the practical suspension of expenditure on repairs and renewals owing to the difficulty of getting the requisite materials. As, however, the net earnings are so large, the directors decided to pay an interim dividend in July last of 1¼ per cent., and now recommend a final dividend of 2 per cent., making 3¼ per cent., which, with the 3½ per cent. paid as guaranteed interest, makes a total distribution for the year of 6¾ per cent., as against 5½ per cent. last year. Meeting, Finsbury Pavement House, E.C., 13th instant, 2.30 p.m.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 last states that net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £177,228; £139,829 was brought forward, making £317,057. An ad-interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was paid on September 25 last, amounting to £100,000, leaving £217,057 to be carried forward. The balance-sheet shows:—Liabilities—Capital paid up, £1,000,000; reserve fund, £1,350,000; current, fixed deposit and other accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, £26,719,205; bills payable, £1,693,279; acceptances for customers, £634,482; profit and loss, £317,057; total, £31,714,023. Assets—Cash on hand, at call and at bankers, £5,466,304; bullion on hand, £2,709; together £5,469,013; Indian Government Rupee securities, £386,852; War Loan, Indian Government Guaranteed Debentures and other securities (of which £16,350 War Loan lodged with Bank of England as security for Government accounts), £2,057,642; house property and furniture, £180,528; bills of exchange, including Treasury bills, £14,421,088; discounts, loans receivable and other sums due to the bank, £8,564,419; customers for acceptances per contra, £634,482; total, £31,714,023.

◆

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated October 31:—

Rain insufficient everywhere. Famine conditions expected in Bombay Presidency.

Cotton.—Fine Broach, ready delivery, quoted 800 Rs. (the same as last week).

Two officers have been deputed to formulate a scheme for a hydrographic survey of India.

Dated November 6.

Light rains in parts of Bombay, Bihar and Bengal. Situation is generally unchanged.

Quotations for fully good Broach for April—May delivery fluctuated widely. The highest being Rs.798 and the lowest Rs.675 a candy, closing at Rs.685.

◆

A LANGUAGE FOR COMMERCE.

Dr. John Pollen, C.I.E., presided at a luncheon given to the members of the Greek Commercial Mission by the Common Language Committee at the Holborn Restaurant on November 2. The toast of "The Delegates" was proposed by Mr. A. Barton Kent, who, speaking on the means of increased commercial intercourse with Greece, said Esperanto was so easy that learning it gave courage to attack the national and classical languages.

M. Michalocopoulous said that he thought Esperanto should be introduced into the schools of all nations as an auxiliary language and a means of communication between civilised peoples. It had been approved for this purpose by the Government of Greece.

Lord Lamington, who replied to the toast of "The Visitors," said that the nation to benefit most by a *lingua franca* was our own, on account of our national indolence in learning foreign tongues. The great ideal of this country was freedom; it had given freedom of the seas for the benefit of the world, and nothing could tend to break down the barriers between nations and to promote free intercourse more than a common language.

◆

At the seventy-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be held on December 11, at 11 a.m., the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, less income tax, will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 6 per cent., both free of income tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 18 per cent. for the year. Dividend warrants will be posted on December 16.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been rather more activity this week in spite of the practical cessation for Egyptian account, owing to the fact that Egypt can only buy here, and that for the time being, in many instances, prices are lower over there than on this side. It is said that the lower prices in Egypt are due to the belief in some quarters that with the end of the war will come a much less prosperous state of affairs; but the best opinion seems to be that, whilst this may prove to be the case to some extent as regards certain industrial concerns which have benefited largely from the war, on the other hand, most other investments, especially the Agricultural Land shares, should have prosperous times ahead of them after the war, owing to the big demand there is likely to be for a considerable time to come for their produce, and the fact that they will be able after the war to get delivery of drainage pumps and other agricultural machinery required for the improvement of the land.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have improved ½ to 92½ xd, whilst the 3½ per Cent. Prefs. are also ¼ better at 78¼.

In Bank shares the market continues very quiet, and there are no changes of prices to report.

Amongst Railways Delta Lights have had a big jump this week of ⅞ to 8¼, with very few shares changing hands, because as soon as some serious buyers came along the floating supply of shares was found to be exceedingly small.

In Land descriptions a fair business has been done in Aboukirs round 23s., and Behéras are ¼ down at 14¼, after being done as low as 13¾. Delta Lands are 3d. firmer at 17s., whilst, on the other hand, New Egyptians, on some big profit taking, are 7½d. lower at 21s. 4½d. There has been some good buying of United Egyptian Lands, which are fractionally firmer at 2s. 7½d., whilst a very substantial business has been done in Sidi Salem shares, which are 1-32 firmer at 2 23-32. A feature has been the demand for Egyptian and Foreign Trusts, which close tonight 2s. higher at 16s. 9d.

In Miscellaneous shares a big rise has again to be recorded in both Salts and Sodas and Khedivial Mail shares, which are closing tonight nearly 10s. up, in each case at 75s.

In Greek securities there has been absolutely no change to record since last week, and business has been on the smallest possible scale.

Oil Shares.

Roumanian Consols are 18s., a rise of 1s 6d. on the week, and other Roumanian shares have been a strong market. Anglo-Roumanian Petroleums closed at 9s. 9d., and Traian Roumanians, which have been in special request, are 10s. 1½d. Russians have shared in the demand consequent on the developments in the position. Bakus are 1s. up at 5s. 9d., while North Caucasians are 1 13-32, a rise of ⅛.

Paris Bourse.

Egyptian Unifieds are 94 (against 94.50), and Suez Canals are unchanged at 5,400. Other prices are: Serbian 1895's, 62.40; Turkish Unifieds, 74 (against 74.55); Banque d'Athenes, 105.75 (against 100.50); Credit Foncier Egyptiens, 775 (against 790); Land Bank of Egypts, 200 (against 207); and Ottoman Banks, 585 (against 585).

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		Nov. 6
	July 27 1914	Oct. 30	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	78½
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	92	92½xd
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78	78½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	63	63
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57½	57½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	73	73
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	68	69½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	84½xd	84½xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½xd	74½xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 23/32	6 23/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	21½	21½
Bank of Athens	£2	4½	4½
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6¾
Banque Franco Serbe	—	—	—
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 39/64	9 39/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	85	85¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18	18¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20	20
National Bank of India	43	64	66
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	7⅜	8¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69xd	69xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	55	55
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/-	23/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14¼	14¼
Do. Pref.	4½	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/9	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	14/9	16/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	21/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 11/16	2 23/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/3	71/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/6	2/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	65/6	75/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	65/6	75/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	485,580
RESERVE FUND	75,000

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RESERVE	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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Capital (Fully Paid up)	**Rs.75,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.50,00,000**

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Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	**Rs.2,00,00,000**
Reserve Fund	**Rs.1,58,50,000**
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	**Rs. 67,50,000**

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Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.

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By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital	**£2,000,000**	**Called-up Capital**	**£580,000**
Subscribed Capital	**£1,450,000**	**Reserve**	**£237,500**

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER.

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WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each)	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,350,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.S.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD.
ALFRED SIMSON, Esq.
J N. STUART, Esq.
J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

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Mandalay
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Aden, Steamer Point
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Newera Eliya
Zanzibar

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Nairobi
Nakuru
Kisumu
} British East Africa

Entebbe
Kampala
Jinja
} Uganda

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 393.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Great War is at an end. There are, perhaps, only two safe ways of giving expression to the feelings that the news has evoked; the one leads to a place of worship, the other to the streets, with a flag. The British nation has adopted both. A third way, that would make use of the printed word, is in the circumstances superfluous, and need not be attempted here. As far as the Near East was concerned, we could already welcome the dawn of a new era last week. The armistice granted to Germany supplies the framework of the picture, just as the actual conditions of peace will fill in the details. Here and there a few finished lines appear. The evacuation of Roumania by German troops has to begin at once; the Treaty of Bucharest with its annexures is cancelled; gold taken from the country has to be restored; there is to be reparation for damage done in Serbia, Montenegro, and Roumania. The future of these countries, as of their neighbours, now rests entirely in the hands of each. May the result be commensurate with the opportunity.

Those who have followed the controversy between the "Westerners" and the "Easterners" will have noted the fact that the armistice with Germany was signed six weeks—to the day—after the capitulation of Bulgaria. Nowhere has it ever been suggested that the military strength of the Central Powers rested on the support of the small Bulgarian army. But the course of events has justified those who held that a wedge driven through the Central Alliance in the Balkan Peninsula would not only prove a decisive military gain, but would also undermine the *moral* of the German and Austro-Hungarian peoples, as it would mean the complete collapse of the hopes centred in the East, which had been their main stimulus throughout the war. It is true that the great series of substantial victories on the Western Front had already begun; and it would be folly to suppose that Germany would have sued for peace unless a graver disaster than the defection of Bulgaria had threatened her. In the end, however, it was the irresistible combination of defeat on the battlefield and the crumbling of the national *moral* that led to the acceptance of the Allied terms for an armistice. The myopia that caused the importance of the Near East from the military point of view, as well as politically, to be so long overlooked is now, we may hope, a thing of the past.

An Allied Fleet has reached Constantinople, and the subsequent course of events in Turkey, we may hope, will be regulated in harmony with the conditions which are likely to prevail in that country when the final conditions of peace have been fixed. In the meantime, the first consideration of the Allied Governments must be the situation in Russia. An attempt must be made to reach that unhappy land with a view to rescuing it from its present *impasse*. It is to be hoped, too, that in Southern Russia the Allies will be more successful than the Germans were in finding grain with which to relieve the food situation in Europe.

The second declaration of war by Roumania against Germany deserves mention as a historical fact. The existence of the Treaty of Bucharest had troubled people outside Roumania. It was argued that here was a document bearing the signatures of Germany and Roumania; could the Allies acquiesce in its being treated as another scrap of paper? The scruple was wide of the mark, as there could be no question of Roumania having agreed willingly to the terms imposed upon her. But she met the doubts of the over-sensitive by declaring war on Germany—an act which carried with it the annulment of all treaties between the two countries—and so has set herself technically right. The step, which was taken on November 10, was rendered unnecessary by the terms of the armistice which the Allies required Germany to accept; for among the thirty-five clauses was one which provided, as already stated, for the cancellation of both the Treaties of Brest-Livotsk and Bucharest. The resumption of hostilities in Roumania did not take place, inasmuch as by 5 a.m. on November 11, Germany had agreed to withdraw her troops from that country.

As was to be expected, the turn taken by events made it impossible for M. Marghiloman, who represented pro-Germanism in Roumania, to retain the office of Prime Minister. The collapse of Austria-Hungary left the Roumanian people free to express their true feelings. Imposing demonstrations in honour of the Entente Powers took place at Jassy, beyond the reach of Mackensen's bayonets, and M. Marghiloman resigned. General Coanda is reported to be at the head of the new Ministry; but nothing is known at present of the composition of the Cabinet. The presentation of an ultimatum to the German Commander was one of the first acts of the new Government.

However bright the future of the Balkan Peninsula may be, there can be no doubt that the immediate outlook is overclouded by the appalling shortage of foodstuffs. The Allies are confronted with the task of furnishing supplies to millions, and can afford to make little distinction between friends and enemies. Food, it is understood, is available; the chief difficulty is transport; but the problem is engaging the attention of the Allied Governments, and it is hoped that the first convoys of relief will soon be nearing the more urgent of their destinations.

A significant question was put to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs last week by Mr. Ronald M'Neill. Mr. Balfour was asked whether he could give any information as to the position of Montenegro in relation to the changes occurring in the Balkans; whether care was being taken that the preservation of Montenegrin nationality under its own monarchy should not be prejudiced without the consent of the Montenegrin people; and what steps it was proposed to take to ascertain under what conditions the people of Montenegro might be willing to join a Serbo-Croat federation or other form of political union. The reply given was that the points raised would certainly not be lost sight of, but it would be understood that it was not possible at present to discuss them by question and answer across the floor of the House.

The reference in Mr. M'Neill's question is to a subject of no small importance to the future peace of the Balkans, which cannot be ignored with impunity. THE NEAR EAST has always been unwilling to accept *ex parte* statements regarding affairs in the Balkans or to lend itself to widening the unhappy breaches that have kept the different peoples apart. It is, therefore, not prepared to believe without further confirmation all the reports that reach it of what is now happening in some parts of the Peninsula. It is in the interest of all the peoples, however, that the fullest publicity should be given to any attempt, or alleged attempt, to prejudice the relations between the different States, and for this reason it becomes a duty to indicate the nature of some of the mischief now said to be afoot. The trouble originates with the desire of a number of Serbians to secure the incorporation of Montenegro within the kingdom of Serbia before Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes meet together in conference to decide upon the constitution of the new Yugoslav State. The object, we have previously stated, may *per se* be entirely legitimate and all for the best; but so long as any influential body of Montenegrins hold the view that no decision can be reached on such a question until their country has recovered its independence and the people can record their opinion, it is manifestly wrong to press the matter.

The burden of these reports is to the effect that Serbian troops are taking advantage of their presence in Montenegro to prepare the ground for the incorporation of the country in Serbia at an early date. It is unnecessary to specify the methods that it is alleged are being adopted. Those who specialise in reports of "atrocities" in the Balkans have only to select any number of statements at random and make the necessary changes in names; they will then be able to form a shrewd idea of the activities that a large number of Montenegrins are convinced are being indulged in by Serbian troops. The difficulty can only be met in one way. The Serbian Government, if it wishes to live up to the standard set by the Allies in this war, ought to withdraw all its troops from Montenegro, and ought to discountenance officially all attempts to plead the cause of the absorption of Montenegro in Serbia before the Montenegrins can determine their own future. It will not be overlooked that both at Corfu, and more recently at Geneva, Yugoslav conferences have been held to which no invitation to be present has been given to Montenegro. The statement has been made, with what truth we do not know, that for the Geneva conference an invitation was sent—but too late for the meeting.

In this connection it has to be admitted that the Montenegrin Government has not made the most of its opportunities. Both Serbia and Montenegro have been freed from a foreign yoke; but while King Peter has already reached Belgrade, King Nicholas still remains in France. His place is clearly at Cettinje, and so long as he delays to return there he offers encouragement to the enemies of his country to misrepresent his action and the whole trend of events in the Balkans.

The joint official statement made by the British and French Governments regarding their policies in Mesopotamia and Syria is a timely and in every way satisfactory document. Their aim is "the establishment of Governments and national administrations deriving their authority from the initiative and free choice of the indigenous populations." In order to carry out their intentions, the declaration continues: "France and Great Britain are at one in encouraging and assisting the establishment of indigenous Governments and administrations in Syria and Mesopotamia. . . . Far from wishing to impose on the populations of these regions any particular institutions, they are only concerned to ensure by their support and by adequate assistance the regular working of Governments and administrations freely chosen by themselves. To secure impartial and equal justice for all, to facilitate the economic development of the country by inspiring and encouraging local initiative, to favour the diffusion of education, to put an end to dissensions that have been too long taken advantage of by Turkish policy, such is the policy which the two Allied Governments uphold in the liberated territories." History, we venture to think, will record that Great Britain's dealings with Eastern peoples during the Great War, from the shortest proclamation to the administration of Mesopotamia, were the inspired product of genius and true sympathy.

Apart from her interests as a constituent portion of the British Empire, India has special reasons of her own for sharing the emotions of relief and thankfulness which have swayed us during this memorable week. The menace to her whole future involved in Germany's bid for world dominion was recognised by her almost instinctively from the first, and was brought home more and more clearly as time went on by the revelation of the deep-laid and world-wide plots designed to overthrow the existing Government and establish once again that hideous anarchy of which she has had such bitter experience in the past. Then the collapse of Russia brought the enemy within measurable distance of that North-Western Gate through which so many conquerors have marched to plunder and destroy, and only a few months ago the peril was greater than we care to think.

India may be quite sure that had the enemy legions passed through that Gate they would have equalled, and perhaps surpassed, the infamies which she still associates with the names of past invaders from Mahmud to Nadir Shah. *Dis aliter visum:* thanks to the prowess of the Allied Armies, among which her own forces have held no undistinguished rank, that menace is now definitely removed, and while so much of Europe stands confronted with all the perplexities and anxieties resulting from the overthrow of the evil but effective dynastic system which has dominated it for so long, India, which has been spared the actual horrors of war, can turn with a conqueror's calm to the many and urgent internal problems which now press for a solution, and can devote her energies to the peaceful work of political, economic and social reconstruction.

In that work England and the Empire are ready and willing to help; but is it too much to hope that there may be no more of the pestilent talk about claims and rewards which has of late been prominent in a section of the Press? In these four years of trial India has been tried and has stood the test; in her own phrase, she has acquired merit, and the result is to be looked for, not in any internal "boons," but in the strengthening of her national character and the development of her national faculties. If, then, political advance is to be more rapid than seemed possible before the war, the reason is not that India has "behaved well," but that she has made progress towards the realisation of her higher self.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 7.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Acting Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, has arrived with Lady Stack and his staff at Alexandria, where they are staying at the San Stefano Casino. Sir Lee and Lady Stack were the guests of honour on Wednesday at a luncheon which the Sultan offered at Ras-el-Tin Palace, the other guests consisting of the Minister for War, Sir Ismail Sirri Pasha, and the leading Sudan officials at present in Alexandria. The previous afternoon his Highness was present at the tea party given in the Antoniades Gardens in honour of General Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, whilst on Monday evening he gave a State banquet at Ras-el-Tin to the new Italian Diplomatic Agent.

To-day is the Moslem New Year's Day, and is observed as a Government holiday. Usually on this day a reception is held at the Palace, but as the Sultan's Accession Day is so close, that ceremony has been put off till then. An anniversary service in memory of the late Sultan Hussein was held in Cairo earlier in the week, and was attended by Prince Kamel Eddine and other members of the Sultan's family, the Sultan being represented.

The Wheat Situation.

The wheat situation continues to be acute in the towns, especially in Alexandria, and to a somewhat lesser extent in Cairo. Your Cairo contemporary, the *Egyptian Mail*, has secured a very interesting interview with Mr. Ross Taylor, the President of the Supplies Control Board, who spoke reassuringly of the situation. He pointed out that only four months have elapsed since the wheat harvest, which was normal in quality and yield, and consequently there was undoubtedly plenty of wheat in the country. The present difficulty —Mr. Ross Taylor declined to call it a crisis—is due to the unwillingness of the cultivators to sell, because they hope and expect that thereby they will be able to force up prices. To these hopes and expectations the President of the Supplies Board took the opportunity of dealing a death-blow, by asserting that he had not the slightest intention of raising the very generous prices already fixed, adding that the Government had made arrangements to requisition the supplies held by all those who refused to part with them in the ordinary way; and that these holders would find that their attitude would cost them dearly, as the expenses entailed by the requisitioning process would be deducted from the price payable to them. It will be noticed that the statements made by Mr. Ross Taylor confirm the notes which have appeared on this subject in this correspondence, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Government intends to deal drastically with those who for their own ends are making their urban fellow-creatures suffer so severely.

The Cotton Crop.

There is reason to anticipate that a material change for the better will be registered this season in the conditions under which cotton is purchased in the interior. Until the outbreak of hostilities the handling of the crop was almost exclusively in the hands of the large exporters, who dealt with the large consignments to the general satisfaction of all concerned. After the first year of the war prices began to fluctuate, with a rising tendency; and the small merchant, taking advantage of the situation, started to buy on an increasingly large scale. The high prices at Alexandria encouraged speculation, and the small merchants were able to offer extraordinary prices to the cultivators to such an extent that the large houses reduced their dealings in the interior to the minimum and confined their operations to purchasing ginned cotton at Minet-el-Bassel, as they did not consider themselves justified in entering into transactions which, to say the least, were speculative, and at times precariously so. As a result of this state of things, the small merchants in the interior have during the past two years handled the bulk of the crop, and have made enormous sums out of their deals, the rising prices having helped them very considerably.

To-day, however, the situation is about to undergo a complete change. The arrangement between the British and Egyptian Governments for the purchase of the entire cotton crop at a fixed price has removed most of the speculative features from the market, and the small merchant has no longer the same incentive to buy recklessly, as he has done in the recent past. His only chance of profit is speculation on the allowances which he may be able to get from the Cotton Control Commission above the price fixed for F.G.F. Sakellarides, and it is to be foreseen certainly, from the prices which that element is offering to the cultivators, that his fingers will soon be burnt in the process. The fixing of the price of cotton in Alexandria will undoubtedly lead to the majority of the small dealers restricting their activities to the minimum and to a resumption by the large houses of their purchasing operations in the interior. The difficulty in obtaining cotton sacks will also in a great measure assist in bringing about this return to pre-war conditions, for the large houses all have their stocks, and the smaller dealers merely buy from hand to mouth, or at the last moment, and at present cannot satisfy their requirements. The re-entry of the large houses into the market in the interior and the elimination of the small dealer, at any rate on the scale on which he has more recently operated, will in every respect be for the good of the market and of the country, for it will remove the speculative factors, it will reduce to a minimum the exploitation of the smaller cultivators, it will facilitate the control of the crop, and it will altogether give a healthier complexion to the whole operation of moving the cotton crop.

The Telephone Administration.

When the Egyptian Government purchased the telephone system from the Telephone Company of Egypt the control of the work was handed over to the State Telegraphs Administration, which created a new department for the purpose. From this one would have imagined that the new service would be brought into line with the other Government services, and would carry on its correspondence in English and Arabic. But this is not so; the heads insist on addressing their clients in the French language, which has for some time now, especially since the declaration of a British Protectorate, been replaced by English in official correspondence. It is true that the old contracts, which form the base of the new agreements, were all in French, and that it would have entailed considerable work at a time when the staff is limited to draft them afresh in English—they have, all the same, had to be altered in order to incorporate the change in proprietorship—but the same excuse does not apply to the ordinary correspondence with subscribers, especially in connection with the contracts, which is being conducted in French, and which could just as easily be carried on in English. It would be interesting to know whether this introduction of the French language into a new administration as its official means of correspondence with the outer world has the approval of those responsible for the higher and political administration of this country.

KING NICHOLAS ON BRITISH SOLDIERS

At the conclusion of the dedication of a war memorial in the form of stained glass windows in the Chapel of Clayesmore School, Winchester, a ceremony performed on November 8 by the Bishop of Guildford, the following communication addressed by the King of Montenegro to the Headmaster (Mr. Alex. Devine) was read: "In spirit I take a very sincere part in the touching and sacred ceremony to be conducted by the Bishop of Guildford in commemoration of the glorious death of noble British boys on the field of battle for right and justice. What fine fellows these are who have fallen not only for the greatness and glory of their great country and their beloved King, but also for liberty and the freedom of small nations. God bless their noble souls."

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PRINCE ALEXANDER OF SERBIA

The Serbian Press Bureau forwards the following translation of a letter addressed by King Peter to the Crown Prince Regent Alexander, upon the occasion of his Highness's promotion to the rank of General.

We have already announced that upon the occasion of the recent brilliant victories which brought about the liberation of Serbia his Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian Army, was promoted to the rank of General. Already in June, as we said before, the Serbian Government submitted the request to the King that he would, on the occasion of his own name-day of St. Peter's, confer this high rank upon the Crown Prince, who had long earned it by his soldierly merit and the services rendered to his country. But the Crown Prince expressed the wish that this act should be deferred till later, until after the enemy's defeat. The moment arrived. and upon the renewed request of the Serbian Government King Peter despatched the following to the Crown Prince Regent:—

His Royal Highness Prince Alexander, by the fulfilment of his duty in the recent wars of 1912-1913 against the Turks and Bulgars, in that most glorious period of our national history, "won his spurs" as a leader and hero, who by his merits personifies the present and future of our people. In the brilliant military successes scored by the Serbian armies in 1912-1913 his First Army forced the successful decision by the battles of Kumanovo. Bitolia, and the Bregalnitza. These victories were of decisive importance.

Under his command the Serbian army attained the height of its glory in the campaign of 1914. It amazed the world by its victories over the Austro-Hungarian army. During the unexpected onslaught of the Austro-Hungarian armies upon Serbia the world was the spectator of an unequal struggle, recalling that between Goliath and David. In those days, when the whole world, aghast, was prepared to watch the consummation of an unprecedented international crime, the youthful Commander and his young army, ill-equipped and insufficiently armed—in that dramatic moment, we repeat, the youthful Commander and his army, small but imbued with self-reliance, calm and collected, went forth to meet its savage attacker, met him on the Cer and Jadar, and in the first encounter compelled him to retreat across the Danube and to stand on the defensive. The whole world was filled with admiration by our victory at Rudnik. The enemy, expelled from our country, with loss of his arms, guns and rolling-stock, was completely defeated.

Then came the year 1915. Attacked on all sides by forces numerically immensely superior, Serbia's fate was that of a hero-martyr. Her neighbour, the Bulgar, stabbed her in the back at a most critical moment. Our troops, in their defensive campaign, invariably scored victories redounding to their honour; but the enemy, helped by the most adverse concatenation of circumstances imaginable, drew his chain ever more tightly round the devoted Serbian people and its gallant army.

The withdrawal across Albania in the winter, through trackless and desolate country, marked the highest pinnacle of effort and self-sacrifice. Our Allies, cut off from us by the sea, looked on with dread and apprehension, wondering what would be the end of our retreat across Albania and over the sea. We ourselves set fire to our rolling-stock and destroyed our artillery. We covered Albania with our dead, and with empty hands, in rags, starved, and, so to say, half-dead, we arrived in January and February of 1916 in Corfu.

Our enemies heaved a sigh of relief. They thought it was all over with the Serbian army. It fell to our heroic and energetic Commander, Prince Alexander, to play the part of saviour to his heroic army, an army crowned with undying glory.

On the way through Albania he fell sick and had to undergo an operation. Yet he hastened across the ice-bound Albanian crags, never thinking of himself. His youth, his love for the Serbian people and his army, not only revived the courage of the men, but set the example of energy and boundless faith in the happy issue of this gigantic struggle. He travelled to Western Europe in order to gain fresh strength and energy amid our Allies.

After immense labours in Corfu, the resuscitated Serbian army made its appearance on the Serbian front, and, to the amazement of the whole world, crowned its heroic efforts with victories such as those of Chegan, Kaymakchalan, the Chukas, Bitolia and Moglena.

In 1917 the Serbian army was ceaselessly making ready, in concert with its mighty Allies, to deal the enemy his death-blow, and thereby to deliver our native land.

The crown of all the heroic exploits of the Serbian army hitherto has been the supreme victory of these latter days—the victory which within one fortnight brought deliverance to three-fourths of our country. After the enemy's front had been broken after the taking of the Vetrenik, Dobropolje, Sokol and Kozjak heights, the Serbian army, supported by the general co-operation of our Allies, pursued the enemy as far as Skoplje and Tsarevo Selo with such supreme gallantry, endurance, speed and extreme integrity that, in conjunction with the Allied action on the remaining sections of the battle front, it brought about the cessation of hostilities between the Allied armies and the Bulgars, and the return to our country which was occupied by Bulgars.

By this great victory of our army the glory of Serbia has gained supreme lustre and recognition. It will be inscribed upon the fairest page of the history of the heroic struggle of our people waged for freedom and unity.

This great and glorious achievement, which has raised the Serbian name to Olympian heights in the eyes of the gallant armies of our Allies and of the world, in which our Army and its leader have played a unique and epic part that will be held up in the world's history as the classical example for the encouragement of nations who love freedom and independence, fills my heart also, as Sovereign and father, with immeasurable gratitude. I wish to give expression to this gratitude to the nation and to the army by conferring upon its heroic Commander, his Royal Highness Prince Alexander, the rank of General.

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PERSIAN ROADS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Speaking before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, Colonel G. S. F. Napier described the road from Enzeli to Baghdad, which was the route, he said, pursued by the British force that went from Mesopotamia to Baku. Part of it was, except for a slight diversion near Hamadan, the identical road of Darius. It was the natural route for trade from India into Persia through Baghdad, but had been deliberately neglected by the old Russian Government, so long as it lay within their sphere of influence. He described the various sections of the road in detail. The highest point, he said, was 7,500 feet above sea-level, the road rising 3,500 feet from Kazvin. Hamadan, 1,500 feet lower, was at no great distance from the summit. Of this town, he said that, owing to its altitude, it enjoyed a good climate, and before the war had been surrounded by dense groves of trees. Much of this timber had been cut down during the recent Turkish occupation, but the neighbourhood still boasted a good many trees, poplar predominating. He had been told that a plot of land with water rights and planted with poplars would return 10 per cent. per annum on the cost of purchase in ten years, and 100 per cent. per annum from ten years onwards. Hamadan was on the edge of a fertile plain, and in normal years should export large quantities of grain; but when he was in Persia famine, due to the war, prevailed everywhere; and in the villages he passed through he found the principal food of the people was bread made from the acorns of the scrub oak, while he was told that deaths had occurred from foot-and-mouth disease due to people eating the flesh of transport animals that died on the road. Hamadan was a great centre for the carpet trade; these were collected from the country around, and large quantities were also woven on the Hamadan looms. Quartz cropped up in the vicinity, and gold washing was carried on in some of the streams. The principal sights of the town included the tombs of Esther and Mordecai. A steep ride up Mount Alvand brought one to the inscriptions of Darius and Xerxes, which had enabled Rawlinson in 1835 to decipher the Babylonian cuneiform writing.

Colonel Napier also briefly described some of the other main roads of Persia. In the past, he said, those of Northern Persia had been better than those of the South, but Sir Percy Sykes had made great efforts to rectify this. Speaking of the disturbed state of the country, he said that the vocation of robber had been there described as the stepping-stone to becoming a governor; and political conditions generally had tended to restrict rather than encourage the opening up of communication between the interior plateau and the Gulf. Persia, with its sharp fall from plateau to plain, was very much better adapted to motor road than to railways.

Sir Valentine Chirol, in the course of a short discussion that followed, said that the lecturer had regretted that his lantern slides could not show colour. He (Sir Valentine) regretted still more that they could not show the wonderful atmosphere. In no other country that he had travelled in had he seen such effects of light and shade. Every day these made sunrise and sunset a time in which it was a joy to live, and to see the transformation the often arid and barren mountains underwent during the magical hour. But there was another feature of Persia which the audience might congratulate itself could not be reproduced by the magic-lantern—that was the dirt; and, worse than the dirt, the smells. He fully agreed with the lecturer that the development of means of communication in Persia—so important for the country and for our trade and commerce there—depended very largely upon motor traffic. Persia offered a strange succession of mountain barriers rising and falling in parallel ranges. Sometimes in the course of one day's travel he had gone up five thousand feet, dropped four thousand feet, gone up another three thousand feet, and then down again. This made the building of railways extraordinarily difficult, but offered a far less serious obstacle to motors.

Sir Thomas Holdich, who presided, said that he was not surprised to hear that motor traffic was a reasonable possibility, for, at any rate, some of the Persian roads, and that the probable future of trans-Persian communication was in that direction but there was one other method which should not be overlooked. He believed that within two years there would be a regular aeroplane service across Persia into India.

THE KING TO HIS ALLIES.

Among the messages sent by the King on Monday to the heads of Allied countries were the following:—

TO THE KING OF SERBIA

I send you a sincere message of congratulation on the occasion of the conclusion of an armistice with our last remaining enemy. The people of this country will never forget, either the feats of military prowess or the sufferings of the Serbian people in this great struggle for liberty, and it is with deep joy that we acclaim the realisation of our purpose, in which the brave Serbian armies have so nobly shared.

TO THE KING OF ROUMANIA

On the occasion of the conclusion of an armistice with Germany I send you a message of friendly greeting to your gallant country, whose sufferings and endurance have not been forgotten by us in our hour of rejoicing. The victors of Marmaros may rest assured that their achievements and sacrifices will not have been in vain, and they can now regard the future with renewed hope and confidence. My thoughts have been continually with you and the Queen throughout the dark days your country has endured.

TO THE KING OF MONTENEGRO

I desire to convey to your Majesty a message of congratulation on the occasion of the conclusion of an armistice with Germany.

TO THE SULTAN OF EGYPT

On this auspicious occasion, when the last of our enemies has acknowledged defeat, I send your Highness my hearty congratulations and my thanks for your loyal assistance. Egypt and her people may rest assured of their full share in the future greatness and prosperity of the British Empire.

TO THE KING OF GREECE

At the moment when an armistice has been concluded with our last remaining enemy, I desire to convey to you, your Army, and your people, a message of sincere congratulation on the realisation of complete victory. The people of this country, who are bound to Greece by traditional ties of sympathy and co-operation, will ever remember the loyal assistance given to us by the gallant military and naval forces of Greece.

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LONDON ARMENIANS AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

A meeting of London Armenians was held on Saturday at the headquarters of the Armenian United Association in Radcliffe Square, the business before it being to elect another member to the delegation now sitting in Paris with the object of urging the claims of Armenia at the Peace Conference, when this is held. The original members of the delegation were appointed by the Catholicos Kevork the Fifth, who was himself elected by the Armenians in all parts of the world, so that the delegation has in any case a representative character; but the Armenian community feels that it would be better to strengthen it by some directly elected members, and Saturday's meeting was one of a series now being held for this purpose.

Mr. James Malcolm presided. He said the meeting was held under the shadow of wonderful events. Great empires were tumbling down, new States were rising on their ruins, and the fate of Armenia might be decided within the next few weeks. About the issue they had fears as well as hopes. At the outset of the war, in the face of great dangers and in spite of most alluring Turkish promises, the Armenians had unhesitatingly and unanimously decided to throw in their lot with the Allies. Since that time, and in consequence of their action, they had borne great sorrows and troubles in a just cause, and to-day they stood at the gates of freedom. The Governments that had freed the Moslem, Arab and the Jew would not leave Armenia under the Turkish yoke. Those Governments had asked for and received the military co-operation of Armenians, who had protected their flag in Mesopotamia, held the front in the Caucasus, and fought by thousands in Palestine, France, and elsewhere. With regard to the immediate object of the meeting, the two members and Hon. Secretary of the delegation in Paris were London Armenians. The Manchester Armenians had no representative, but had held a meeting, and given their overwhelming votes to Mr. Gregory Hacobian. He proposed that the present meeting should support this choice. Mr. D. H. Nevshehir seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

His Majesty's Government have appointed Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe, K.C.B., C.V.O., as High Commissioner at Constantinople for the purpose of maintaining contact with the Turkish Government during the present transitional period, and of protecting British subjects and interests in Turkey.

Rear-Admiral Richard Webb, C.B., has been appointed Assistant High Commissioner, and Mr. T. B. Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., will act as Chief Political Officer on the staff of the High Commissioner with the rank of Minister in H.M. Diplomatic Service.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

By the time these lines appear in print that notorious runaway the Goeben will, I trust, have been handed over to the safe keeping of our Navy, never again to flutter the peaceful harems of Stamboul or Pera, to say nothing of Galata. I wonder whether H.M.S. Gloucester will take part in the pleasing procession through the Straits. If so, it would surely be no bad thing to put her alongside the Goeben and allow the Turks—and others—in Constantinople to compare the chaser and the chased. There is no need for us to brag, but I think we are justified in asking Enver, Talaat and Co. what they think of the Kaiser's navy to-day, and what of the British. One would also like to know whether their views about the German account of the Battle of Jutland have undergone any change of late. Even the Turks, one supposes, will find it a little difficult to believe that the British Fleet was *quite* annihilated in that famous engagement when they see part of it moored off their capital. But perhaps they never *did* believe it, but only pretended to, to please Hajji-Wilhelm-as-Was.

⁂

It is reported—but at the time I write the report lacks official confirmation—that the German Crown Prince has met a fate which most people will say he richly deserved. Personally, I have always regarded him as being in all probability even more responsible for the War than the Kaiser; and while I have looked upon the latter with no favour, my dislike of his degenerate son has been far greater. However, this is hardly the time to discuss his character. *De mortuis.* . . . I have mentioned the young man only because I once heard a lady—and one for whom I have a very sincere regard and respect—stand up in his defence most stoutly when his character was assailed.

⁂

This was at dinner in a country house, where most of the guests happened to be Anglo-Indians; and it was in the early days of the War, when Prince Wilhelm was making himself particularly obnoxious. His champion, therefore, soon found herself in "a minority of one"; but she stuck to her guns undismayed, and declined to be convinced of his undesirability. She had seen much of him in India, and had entertained him; and, trusting to her own judgment of character, she refused to believe one-tenth of the stories to his discredit that were then echoing round the world. I think we all admired her staunchness, though we could not bring ourselves, even temporarily, to profess kindly feelings for her former guest. And later in the evening, when, over final smokes and "nightcaps," an Indian General and one or two others told tales of his Royal Highness's doings in the East—tales for which they vouched personally—I could only wonder how such a scamp could have enlisted the liking of such a particularly sweet and lovable lady as his dinner-time champion.

⁂

When Nazim Pasha—the same who was afterwards so foully assassinated by the "Young Turks"—was Vali of Baghdad he had ideas of bringing the Arabs of Lower Mesopotamia to heel by kindness, so to say. Many of his predecessors had tried force, and had failed—discovering that the Affej swamps offered no favourable field for the employment of troops and artillery, as known to them. Nazim, therefore, set out on the other tack, and invited the chief Sheikhs to a grand pow-wow in Baghdad. But the Sheikhs, remembering that the air of Baghdad had frequently proved anything but wholesome to their forbears, displayed a certain lack of enthusiasm about accepting the invitation. Very few turned up, and those who did so returned to their tribes with no favourable report of the "new" (*i.e.*, Young Turkish) Government, which seemed to them very like the old. So Nazim's experiment failed, though he deserved credit for trying it.

⁂

About a month ago the British Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia copied Nazim's example—or, at least, summoned a meeting of Sheikhs in Baghdad. In view of the good news we have been getting from Irak for some time now, it is not surprising that the meeting turned out a great success. The Sheikhs proved that they had already discovered the difference between British and Turkish rule by turning up almost to a man; and we may be sure that they returned home with very different reports from those borne away from Nazim's conference. The idea has, therefore, been justified, and the authorities in Baghdad are to be congratulated once more on having done the right thing in the right way.

⁂

Such a gathering of Sheikhs is bound to have far-reaching effects, and to benefit the country in many ways that might not be apparent at the first glance. For one thing, the Arab—and Kurdish—chieftains will have had an opportunity of seeing one another and of learning that t'other fellow is not quite such a bad sort as he has always been painted; and no doubt more than one Ibn Montague will have patched up his quarrel with Ibn Capulet. Then, they will all have had a chance to see the administrative machine running without the lubricating *backsheesh*—and what that means only those who knew the country of old can truly realise. And, most important of all, they will have had their first lesson in co-operation: the lesson which the Arab needs more than any other. **Corsair.**

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Revivification of Mesopotamia.

Both advocates of State Socialism and its opponents will read with interest an article entitled "State Colonisation: Is Mesopotamia a Precedent?" contributed to *United Empire* by Claud Mullins. "This war," the author declares, "has furnished us with a colossal example of State colonisation":

> Mesopotamia during the last four years has provided an interest to all sorts of people. To some at home it has meant mainly a convenient weapon for political sniping. To those of us who have been living and working there, it has been a crusade for civilisation—not that we often realised that at the time. But to all of us, Mesopotamia should be an event in Imperial history which demands our closest study; for the campaign in Mesopotamia is the biggest attempt at State colonisation that has ever been made.
>
> The State has embarked on great development schemes before—notably in Northern India and in Egypt. But, as a general rule, we can accurately say that British colonisation has been the work of individuals, and that Government has, often with extreme reluctance, followed in their wake. The national flag has followed individual trade. Mesopotamia is a tremendous experiment in Imperial pioneering by the State itself.

It is wrong to regard the Mesopotamian campaign solely from the military standpoint; a large proportion of our men out there are engaged on purely civil work:

> The occupied country is well organised from one end to the other. Trade is flourishing as it never did before; and all is being done under the immediate direction of the British or India Governments. I cannot, of course, detail all the manifold activities of Government in Mesopotamia; but enough is common knowledge to give an impression of the magnitude of the task done. Government has rendered the Tigris fit for constant navigation, has constructed huge wharves, quays, repairing yards, and even a dock for ocean-going steamers. Government has built railways and established a regular service of ferryboats and motor omnibuses. Government has taken over all taxation, it controls the exports from the country, it regulates its internal trade, manages the municipal markets, and carries the produce of the country on its railways. Government has further undertaken big schemes of irrigation and crop raising; it provides electric power and light, it organises the courts of law, supervises the schools and civilian medical organisations, it has re-established certain local industries, and organised local labour. Was there ever such a gigantic effort in State Socialism before? When one realises that there is not a stone or pebble south of Baghdad that has not been imported from afar, it seems incredible that so much has been accomplished. In my philosophic moments—and in a temperature round 120 degs. philosophy is a great stand-by, though it does not come easily—I have often looked around me and marvelled at the miracle that my fellow-countrymen have wrought. And to the smallest detail all has been done under immediate State direction.

The undertaking has been a success, but there is no reason why the experiment need be repeated. It has been possible to develop Lower Mesopotamia only because of war conditions, and "the experiment is not likely to be successfully repeated in times of peace":

> It is necessary to remember that the development of Mesopotamia has been undertaken when the conscription of both men and supplies is part of the laws of our Empire. Thanks to military law, the State has been able to transplant whole armies of men to the country under conditions which bear no comparison with ordinary market terms. I wonder how much, say, a man would ordinarily expect who supervises coolies on the banks of the Tigris for some ten hours a day in August. What remuneration would a doctor require who, seven days in the week, wrestles with heat stroke cases from 5 p.m. to the early hours of the morning? And would either in ordinary times be content with a share of a tent or dug-out, without a fan or punkah, and in which he probably has to wear his topee during the hot hours of the day? No, the fact is that in war time men of all classes accept risks and discomfort for the minimum pay because they are fired by a sense of patriotism. Very few of those who are, or have been, engaged in the development of Mesopotamia would tolerate the conditions after the war. . . . It is perfectly true that no army on any front is better cared for than are our troops in Mesopotamia, but it is equally true that when it comes to doing the same job in times of peace, men who are not under military law will expect far better conditions and much higher pay. Similar reasoning applies to the obtaining of supplies.

The development of Mesopotamia could never have been undertaken save under these war conditions; and therefore Mesopotamia is no guide for any experiments of the kind that may be made after the war. "The fact that State Socialism in Mesopotamia has proved both necessary and successful proves nothing beyond the commonplace fact that war conditions are exceptional."

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AMID THE IMMORTALS.

Three side-light volumes on the glories and horrors of Gallipoli that will sell themselves. Let us quote from the Senior Service book (1):—

> The Army has shown us the way to renown,
> The Navy has shown us how heroes can drown;
> To share in their triumphs our turn may yet come—
> We, too, may fall fighting for Britain and home.
>
> Chorus.
>
> So we don't care a button whatever folks say,
> For the Naval Division has just come to stay;
> And we'll make them acknowledge before we have done
> We are Army and Navy both rolled into one.

And here is their Commander, Stuart-Jones, R.N.V.R., to their gallant chaplain and monographer:—

> If any of the men who have gone can look down on the old battalion now (the Anson battalion), I don't think they'll be ashamed of us; and in my opinion all the good work we have done is almost entirely due to the example they set us in the olden days, up to which we are doing our best to live.

The Padre's mingled fun and pathos, love and pride, combine to lift his unambitious prose to the Olympian heights of epic verse.

Major Gillam, in his delightful Diary (1), honours the A.S.C., as, in his heart of hearts, Tommy has ever honoured it, especially in this war of wars. Through the happy Major's A.S.C. spectacles we obtain a dramatic film of the "Immortal XXIXth" from the original landing on the Peninsula on April 25, 1915, to the evacuation. It is an edited personal diary, "better than a play," and ends on a true top-note:—"What a nation! We never had a chance at Gallipoli. Let's forget about it." Readers who know both England and Egypt will appreciate the following:—"Called on Mrs. Carver at Ramleh for tea, and found several convalescent officers there and a few other people. Lovely house and garden and hard tennis court. But give me an English garden every time."

In propaganda work for the little "Manchesters'" (3) two-and-sixpennyworth we take an exceptional pleasure, having had the honour of dodging submarines between Alexandria and Marseilles in March, 1917, with some 1,700 of these stalwarts of the XLIInd, of Gallipoli and Egypt fame. Major Hurst, although not textually reproducing the fascinating language of the crowded transport decks, has given us a serious and artistic cameo of the doings of "the First Territorial Division to cross the seas"—to Khartoum, in fact, they went, until called to Gallipoli. At a casual guess we should say that tens of thousands of readers will be found for this little record even outside of Lancashire. All three volumes illuminate the same heroic drama played by the "Immortals." All are illustrated, but none as well as we could wish. In Major Hurst's volume we notice with pleasure a glowing tribute to the silent but brilliant work of Egypt's fifth Sirdar, now the High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate.

THE TIDES OF ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY.*

> Wherever billows foam
> The Briton fights at home,
> For his heart is made of water,
> Water blue and green.
>
> —Watts-Dutton.

This is a re-draft of a series of lectures on the ocean transport of the globe, and throws a new and little-studied sidelight on practical geography. It should have a range of readers from shipowners, shippers and statesmen to fourth-form public schoolboys in all parts of the Empire. Especially should papers on this sort of geography be set in the schools of to-day. We would, however, ask Professor Sargent to rid his next edition of the objectionable "Mercator's Projection."

The book describes the how and the why of the great ocean trade routes, as governed by distance, time, winds, speed and capacity of vessels, depth of harbours, situation of commodities of exchange, local cost of fuel, political regularity of service—a goodly list of considerations. It exhibits incidentally the utter "official" indifference to organisation of statistical data for the statesman and trader and shipbuilder, a very crying evil in an Empire so dependent upon the ocean highways. It contains a most illuminating balancing of the present and future forces working the natural rivalry of the Suez and Panama Canals. The author writes regardless of the war, contending that it "cannot change radically those permanent facts of geography on which the distribution of trade and the organization of trade routes is ultimately based." He, however, seems to ignore the air in his passion for the ocean. For ourselves, we see the day very near when air routes will have an immense effect upon sea routes as regards at least passenger traffic and mails, and therefore speed, ports of call and cargo capacity of ships. "Professor, look aloft!" may we say?

MODERN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN INDIA.*

We welcome this re-issue of Dr. Farquhar's lectures, which first appeared in 1915, and give the best account we know of the extraordinary religious ferment which has been in progress in India. The last century has seen first a series of movements for the drastic reform of Indian religions, then a very definite reaction in favour of orthodoxy, closely connected with the spread of the nationalist idea, and lastly a somewhat timid and hesitating effort towards the alteration of that social life which is still dominated by the older religious views. On all these topics the book is a mine of information, well arranged and fairly stated, and it should be read by all who are interested in Indian affairs.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Russia: Its Trade and Commerce." By Arthur Raffalovich. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore." By S. Radhakrishnan. (London: Macmillan and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

"A Modern Pilgrim in Mecca." By Major A. J. B. Wavell, M.C. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Little Daughter of Jerusalem." By Myriam Harry. Translated from the French by Phœbe Allen. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Constantin Détrôné: Les Evénements de Grèce Février—Août 1917." By Robert Vaucher. (Paris: Perrin et Cie. 3 fr. 50.)

"The Sister of a Certain Soldier." By Dr. Stephen J. Maher. (New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse and Taylor Co. 25 cents.)

◆

THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.

The Yugoslav Committee has published a map, with statistical data, of Southern Slav territory, as claimed by the Committee. A reference in the text to "*the independent kingdom of Serbia and Montenegro*" is an unfortunate error in printing, which should be repudiated and corrected at the earliest opportunity. Allowed to stand, it attributes to Serbia imperialistic designs which must necessarily prejudice both her and the Yugoslav movement in the eyes of the Allies, who have not broken up Austria-Hungary in order to perpetuate the Austro-Hungarian system across the border. It will be time enough to speak of Serbia and Montenegro as a single kingdom when the latter country has officially accepted the position.

◆

ARMY UNITS IN INDIA.

In a written reply to Colonel Yate, Mr. Montagu says:—There are a certain number of regiments and units which have been retained in India for defence and garrison duties during the whole period of the war, though that does not mean that all the *personnel* have served in India during the whole of this period. The units in question belong to the Regular Army, and it is too early yet to publish their number. The question of their relief is under consideration in connection with the post-war garrison for India.

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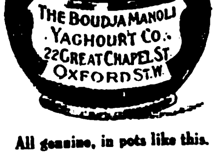
(1). "A Gallipoli Diary." By Major Graham Gillam, D.S.O. (George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

(2). "At Antwerp and the Dardanelles with the Naval Brigade." By Rev. H. C. Foster, M.A., late Chaplain Second Royal Naval Brigade. (Mills and Boon, Ltd. 5s. net.)

(3). "With Manchesters in the East." By Major Gerald B. Hurst. (Longmans, Green and Co. Manchester: At the University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

* "Seaways of the Empire: Notes on the Geography of Transport." By A. J. Sargent, M.A., Prof. of Commerce in the University of London. (A. and C. Black, London. 7s. 6d.)

* "Modern Religious Movements in India." By J. N. Farquhar, D.Litt. (Oxon). (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1918.)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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. November	1918. November.		1337. Safar.	5679. Kislev.
15	2	Friday	10	11
16	3	Saturday........	11	12
17	4	**Sunday**	12	13
18	5	Monday	13	14
19	6	Tuesday	14	15
20	7	Wednesday	15	16
21	8	Thursday	16	17

General Townshend returned to London last Saturday.

On October 10, at Simla, the wife of Captain P. G. Loch, Political Agent, gave birth to a son.

Sir Malcolm and Lady McIlwraith have arrived at 36, Stanhope Gardens, which will be their future address.

Captain A. B. Haig, Indian Army, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 7.

The Sultan of Egypt returned on November 4 to Cairo, whither the seat of government has now been again transferred.

On November 8, at Carmanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells, the wife of Captain Roy Dowland, M.C., Indian Army, gave birth to a daughter.

A marriage has been arranged between Commander F. A. H. Russel, Royal Navy, only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Russel, and Margery Lillister, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Rees, of London and Smyrna.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred on the Bishop of London the Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour. The Bishop, who is making pastoral visits to the various fronts, is not expected back in England until the last week of November or the first week of December.

On All Saints' Day, at Ardfinnan Parish Church, Francis James Bulmer de Sales La Terrière, Indian Cavalry, eldest son of Captain and Mrs. de Sales La Terrière, Dunalastair, Perthshire, was married to Joan Mary, widow of Captain Gerard O'Callaghan, 18th Royal Irish, son of General Sir Desmond O'Callaghan, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grubb, Castle Grace, Co. Tipperary. The Rev. J. Disney, Rector, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. Talbot, Rector of Clogheen.

MONSIEUR GENNADIUS.

It is with much regret that we learn of the resignation of Monsieur Gennadius, who has for so long occupied the position of Greek Minister to the Court of St. James's. His qualities as a Minister can be appreciated fully only by those who have had official relations with him, but his vigorous intellect and scholarly attainments are recognised by all who have met him. Socially His Excellency and Madame Gennadius have been and are extremely popular; and London will be glad to learn—from the correspondence published—that they are still to remain here.

◆

The Mercers' Company have made a grant of £100 to the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, and one of £150 to the Serbian Red Cross Society.

A National Conference of the Unredeemed Greeks is being held in Paris this week. The London delegates are Mr. B. Pandelis, Mr. P. Fermanoglou, and Mr. I. Chrysafides.

The five Indian editors who have been on a visit to the Front under the auspices of the Ministry of Information returned to their London headquarters at the Hyde Park Hotel last Friday.

M. Stoyanovitch has been appointed by the Serbian Government Chairman of the Commission to investigate violations of The Hague Convention in Serbia by the Austro-Germans and their Allies.

Lady Barker, whose name is familiar to most of our readers in connection with her work for former British residents in Constantinople, is to be congratulated on the successful inauguration of another helpful undertaking. This is the establishing of "Kitchener House for Wounded Officers." Situated at 34, Grosvenor Place, this is an educational club, where wounded officers are to be granted facilities for following courses of study in subjects that may interest them or may enable them to take up successfully occupations they desire to follow. The club, which is under Lady Barker's supervision, was inaugurated on Monday, when General Sir H. Mackinnon, Chairman of the Committee, presided over an enthusiastic meeting at which the scheme was explained. Any wounded officer who wishes for further particulars will be welcome at the club between the hours of 10 and 1 or 2.30 and 6.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. K. C. Mukherjea, B.A., Jesus College (M.A., Calcutta), has been elected lecturer in Bengali at Oxford University.

M. Milan Rakitch, Counsellor to the Serbian Legation in London, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Copenhagen.

The *Pioneer* announces that Colonel F. McConaghey, Political Agent, Sibi, Baluchistan, has been posted as His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Kerman, Persia.

Indian papers just to hand announce that Mr. R. H. Williamson, I.C.S., Collector of Basti, is joining the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces has appointed Mr. E. A. H. Blunt, I.C.S., Settlement Officer of Basti, to succeed Mr. J. Campbell, O.B.E., I.C.S., as Director of Civil Supplies in the United Provinces.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has, subject to the usual conditions, appointed the undermentioned gentlemen to be Assistant Engineers in the Indian Public Works and State Railways Departments :—Alampadi Subbaraya Ramalingam, Mohammad Bashoer Farooki, and Dhan Raj Sethi.

In view of the constitution and official recognition of the Czecho-Slovak National Council as an Allied and belligerent Government, the offices of the National Council and of the Czech Press Bureau, at Thanet House, Strand, were closed last Saturday, November 9. All inquiries and communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Czecho-Slovak Legation, 9, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1 (Telephone Victoria 459).

It is announced that Sir Edward D. Maclagan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., is appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab in succession to Sir Michael F. O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I. The latter succeeded Sir Louis Dane in 1913; his tenure was extended by a year in 1917, and he will remain in office at Lahore till next May. Sir Edward Maclagan has been Secretary to the Education Department of the Government of India since 1915, and prior to that had held various important posts.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant Caradoc S. M. Prinsep, R.N., who is reported lost at sea, was the second son of the late Captain James Prinsep, Egyptian Army, and Mrs. Prinsep.

Captain W. D. Ward, of the staff of the Instructional School for Officers at Bangalore, was killed in that city as the result of a motor-bicycle accident on September 4. He formerly belonged to the Hampshire Regiment of Territorials.

By the death of Sir Henry Austin Lee, K.C.M.G., which is announced from Guernsey, Great Britain loses a very distinguished diplomatist. Sir Henry was born in 1847, and entered the service in 1870. Most of his work was done in Paris or at the Foreign Office, but in 1891 he was appointed one of the representatives of Great Britain on the Council of the Suez Canal Company. In 1876 he had been attached to the third Marquis of Salisbury's Special Embassy to Constantinople. He had quite recently resigned the position of Councillor to the Embassy and Commercial Attaché in Paris.

General Sir Peter Stark Lumsden, G.C.B., C.S.I., died at Dufftown on November 9. A younger son of Colonel Thomas Lumsden, C.B., he was born in 1829, and entered the Indian Army in 1847, as Ensign. During the early years of his service he was almost constantly employed on one or another frontier expedition, and during this time he acquired an enviable reputation for courage. In 1857-58 he was employed on a special mission to Afghanistan, and on his return received the thanks of the Government. He shared in the later stages of suppressing the Mutiny, and in 1860 took part in the operations in China, on

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the staff of Sir Robert Napier's Second Division. In 1865 he shared in the Bhutan campaign. After this he held several important staff appointments. His most important for his country, however, was as British Commissioner on the Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the Afghan frontier (1879). The strong attitude which he took up when difficulties arose over certain sections of the work caused some embarrassment to Mr. Gladstone's Government, and he was eventually withdrawn; but Lord Salisbury, who succeeded to power when Gladstone's Ministry fell, rewarded Sir Peter with a G.C.B. Thereafter he worked at the India Office till 1893, when he retired and took up his residence in Scotland.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

In Colombo last week the death-rate from influenza dropped from 52 to 39.

Greece is devoting £40,000 to the relief of the population of Eastern Macedonia.

Ceylon celebrated the Austrian and Turkish surrenders by a public Bank Holiday.

New Zealand has asked the Imperial Government to garrison the Dardanelles with Anzac troops.

Fifty-five Australians, of whom five were sailors taken prisoners at Gallipoli, have arrived at Alexandria.

A Reuter's message announces that a number of Kut prisoners have arrived in Alexandria, as well as civilians from Constantinople and elsewhere.

A special Egyptian Army Order announces that war gratuities upon a higher scale will be given to officers of Egyptian Army and War Office employees.

Martial law has been proclaimed throughout Eastern Macedonia by the Greek authorities, and an Extraordinary Court-Martial has been established at Drama.

In lieu of the postage stamps formerly in use in Mesopotamia, stamps bearing Turkish designs overprinted "Iraq in British Occupation" and surcharged with values in Indian currency were brought into use on September 1.

A committee representing 250,000 Greek refugees from Thrace have sent a telegram to the Bishop of London, who is in Greece, appealing to him to intervene on their behalf. The Bishop has replied assuring them of his deep sympathy.

Delhi has been suffering severely from influenza, and the Conference of Ruling Princes has been indefinitely postponed. Influenza is also rife at Simla. The Government is considering delaying the transfer of departments to Delhi, as travelling is undesirable.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Armenian Congress at Rome has passed a resolution requesting the Allies immediately to recognise Armenia's right to be constituted an independent nation, with dominion extending from the Caucasus to the Mediterranean.

Mr. G. Ward Price reports that strong British forces landed at Dedeagatch on October 28. The town was practically deserted of its inhabitants, and had a neglected, overgrown look. The Greek refugees whom the Bulgars had abandoned here were found starving.

Sir Alfred Mond has contributed £25,000 to the Jewish National Fund for the purchase of land in Palestine. The fund, which is registered as an English limited company, at Brook House, Walbrook, E.C., is the instrument of the Zionist organisation for the acquisition of land in Palestine for Jewish colonists.

The Boy Scouts of Great Britain, through their Chief Scout, sent congratulations to the Crown Prince of Serbia on the recent success of the Serbian Army. Sir Robert Baden-Powell has received the following reply:—"My sincere thanks to the Boy Scouts of Great Britain for the congratulations sent to me and their interest in the activities of my army.—Alexander."

A school of Oriental languages has been opened in Rome. The languages taught will be Albanian, Arabic, Modern Greek, Serbian, Turkish, Russian, and Roumanian. The objects of the school are to provide commercial travellers and others who have business relations with the Near East with a knowledge of the languages of the countries with which they do business.

Mr. Balfour, in a written reply to Mr. Wright, who asked whether in any discussion of terms of peace with the Turkish Government the punishment of those proved to be responsible for the Armenian massacres would be insisted upon, says:—It is clearly impossible for me to state what terms will or will not be insisted upon at the Peace Conference, but the suggestion of my hon. friend has my sympathy.

Sir George Cave, Home Secretary, replying to a question by Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., says: I am informed by the military authorities that arrangements are being made for the notification by telegraph to this country of the names of all prisoners of war in the hands of the Turks and of their release when effected, and this information will be at once forwarded to the next-of-kin. Notifications of all casualties of a serious or dangerous character and of serious sickness have already been telegraphed from Mesopotamia.

The recently issued report on the working of the Indian mints gives some interesting figures as to the distribution of offences against the coinage, says the *Pioneer*. Of the 320 persons convicted of these offences, 56 were brought to justice in Burma, 42 in Bombay, 41 in the United Provinces, 33 in the Punjab, 30 in Madras, 29 in Bengal, and 25 in the Central India Agency; while in both Bihar and Orissa and the Frontier Provinces the convictions numbered only four and in Delhi one. In the previous year no fewer than 70 persons were convicted in the Punjab and 73 in Burma.

Speaking at a dinner given in honour of the Indian journalists now in England, Mr. Mahbub Alam, editor of the *Paisa Akhbar* (Lahore), said the Mohammedans of India had been grieved that their co-religionists in Turkey had gone into the enemy's camp, but their regret had not weakened their allegiance, and they had readily gone to fight against their fellow Moslems. The speaker was convinced that the war had welded closer bonds between Christian Britain and Mohammedan India.

Mr. Sokolow sent a message of congratulation to the King of the Hejaz congratulating him on the liberation of Palestine and Arabia. "We Zionists," stated the message, "as old friends and admirers of Arab civilisation penetrated by the idea of Semitic solidarity, and now united in common effort for the revival of old countries, rejoice with your Highness and your nation on the recent triumphant victory." In reply to this message the King said: "Above all things, I pray God to enable me to fulfil my duty towards you which is holy duty, and one it is more than ever incumbent on me to perform on account of the noble and good feelings expressed in your message."

Indian papers to hand by the last mail contain news of the death at Rangoon of a very well-known character, Mr. John Whitefield Hirst, of "The Pagoda Carving Shop." Born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, he was the son of a wealthy woollen merchant, and went to Burma to prospect for gold thirty years ago. He joined a Frenchman in Mandalay in the curio business, and on the latter selling out started business in Rangoon on his own account. When King Edward, as Prince of Wales, visited Rangoon he wished to visit Mr. Hirst's shop. The only available time was on Sunday, and Hirst declined to open his shop on Sunday for anyone, even the Prince of Wales. The Prince recognised the old man's independence, and caused many purchases to be made at the shop before he left Rangoon.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1918.

"ALL CLEAR!"

The bugle notes that rang out in London amid the firing of maroons, the hooting of sirens, and the clanging of church bells announcing the signing of the armistice were more inspired than they themselves knew. Until that moment the sound had been associated with the worst of the war that the people of this sheltered island has experienced; and just as we welcomed it in the past with thankfulness for respite from an ordeal which had proved fatal to others, so on the morning of November 11 the familiar notes spoke of a yet greater relief which could not, however, rid itself of the remembrance of the sufferings and sacrifices that the war, now happily ended, had brought upon the world. "All clear!" The message is singularly appropriate to the occasion. It tells of a fiery trial past, but it is also a challenge to be up and doing, with an energy that strives to make up for lost time. The war may indeed be over; for the terms of the armistice, when they have been carried out to the letter, make it impossible that Germany, or what was formerly the German Empire, should be able to renew the struggle. There remains, however, much to be done by each belligerent nation, and the future task is no less pressing than was the burden of self-defence imposed by the war. In these pages we are concerned primarily with the countries of the Near and Middle East, and for them equally with Great Britain, whose interests are so closely linked with the East, the challenge is unmistakable. The course of the war has enabled the British public to appreciate more thoroughly the nature of the menace to the very existence of the Empire that was being so skilfully constructed by Germany. When we reflect that in 1914 the British Government of the day was willing to surrender to the Germans, merely for the asking, the very point that they were ready to risk a world war to obtain—a position that would have enabled them to dominate the pivot of our Imperial defence—we must recognise that we cannot afford to remain indifferent to the future development of these regions. In the legitimate owners of Mesopotamia and Syria we have the best safeguard against the lands being used as a spearhead against the British Empire, provided that they can be conducted along the path that leads to settled government and material prosperity. A start in this direction has already been made in Mesopotamia, which is the more vital to British interests, and it is only necessary that Great Britain should shoulder her responsibilities openly and with conviction, in order that there may be in these parts a lasting monument to her civilising influence and a self-constituted barrier for the protection of her Indian Empire.

The task before the Balkan States is more complex and more difficult. For some of them there is the problem of material reconstruction on the ruins that mark the destructive presence of the Austro-German enemy in their land; for all of them there is the necessity of an entirely new orientation of their policy, domestic and foreign. By the terms of the armistice, it will be noted, the pledges of the Allied Powers have been redeemed. The treaty of Bucharest, as well as that of Brest-Litovsk, with the supplementary treaties, is annulled; all German troops have to be withdrawn from Roumania, Russia and Turkey, and all the Roumanian and Russian gold yielded to Germany or taken by that Power has to be restored at once. Under the comprehensive clause that enacts "reparation for damage done," provision is made for some measure of indemnity for the devastation worked in Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro. In all these countries, as well as in the former Austro-Hungarian territory and in Germany itself, the first needs of the peoples is food, and it is typical of the contrast between the Entente and the Central Powers that they should have at once grappled with this problem on behalf of their enemies no less than for their own Allies with as much zeal as the Germans showed in seeking to starve the unfortunate peoples who fell into their hands. Unfortunately, the territorial adjustments that have yet to be made in Europe have been left to the Peace Congress, and for this reason the Balkan States are unable at present to envisage the work of reconstruction in its complete details. We still hope that the folly of postponing all discussion until it is possible for German, Austrian and Hungarian representatives to take part in the negotiations will be avoided. A just settlement of the Near Eastern question cannot be easily reached; it will be practically impossible if enemy diplomatists are free to work upon the agitated feelings of some of the States more intimately concerned. The Versailles Conference has been able to decide with unanimity upon the conditions for an armistice; it could be almost equally successful with the terms of the Balkan settlement, if it would approach the subject with the same goodwill and the same determination to arrive at an understanding, while maintaining an unbroken front to all enemy intrigue.

Not until boundaries are fixed and recognition has been given to the necessity of accepting with the best grace, if not cheerfully, a hard and fast settlement can the work of reconstruction in the Balkans be undertaken wholeheartedly and comprehensively. Something, however, may be done towards preparing for this work. The first need is a determination that nothing shall be allowed to impair the harmony of the Grand Alliance; that where territorial adjustments have yet to be made nothing shall be done to prejudice any future decision, and that no attempt shall be made to press a claim which can only be maintained at the cost of estranging another State. For the purposes of the war the Allies pooled their material resources in a joint effort. They require to-day to be able in the same way to draw upon a common stock of political sagacity. One and all they have difficulties ahead; but the difficulties confronting the different countries vary. For domestic problems outside advice can avail little; in regard to foreign affairs the wider experience and acknowledged prestige of the Great Powers ought to be brought to bear for the benefit of the smaller Balkan States. The latter in the past have been accustomed to being a world unto themselves. If they have passed through this war in the proper spirit, they will have realised the need of subordinating the interests of the part to the good of the whole. There is no country in the Near East that cannot afford to make considerable territorial concessions for the sake of the permanent harmony of the Balkans. Hitherto they have been strangers to real peace and genuine goodwill among themselves, and are unable to form any adequate conception of the advantages that they stand to derive from these conditions. On this point there is room for definite guidance, which may even take the form of an injunction, from the Great Powers. If opportunity be left for further friction, this war will have been largely in vain for the Balkan States. They will not be allowed to set the whole of Europe by the ears in the hope of removing a personal grievance; but they will successfully retard or frustrate the co-operation of the whole Peninsula which is essential if the separate States are to derive the maximum benefit from the new era that the armistice of November 11 has ushered in for the world.

JERUSALEM REJOICES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem.

Our interest, like yours in England, has swept north with the advance of the army: Gaza, Hebron, Jaffa, even Jerusalem are almost lost in the mists of peace; but, of course, the sense of distance is an illusion fostered by bad roads in the lately occupied country.

The importance of Allenby's victory does not consist in the gain of certain miles of country, but in the destruction of the enemy armies. It is a victory of the old-fashioned sort, leaving the conqueror free to go wherever he likes; and he has not as a Power left Jerusalem, but extended his control over a greater area. Jerusalem certainly felt itself the centre of affairs as the good news came in from the 19th to the 25th, and when, on October 1, Damascus fell. From the first advance on Tul Keram the exiled Arabs in the city began to be agreeably excited. There were larger and larger circles for talk in the waste places round the walls, and rejoicing, less and less informal, grew to the scale of two really big celebrations on the night of September 24—one outside the Damascus Gate, a place that has grown to be the special centre of the Arabs, and one in a large waste piece of ground between the Italian building and St. George's Church. I struck this last by accident on my way to call on the Military Governor after dinner; and as the crowd contained some old friends of mine from Salt I was whirled almost by violence to a seat of honour, and watched as long as business allowed the endless dance swaying to a monotonous song with which the country-people celebrated the victory and their approaching return to their homes.

On the following day all the Arabs, Christian and Moslem, turned out with their chiefs on horseback and the good priests who have so faithfully taken care of their homeless flocks in Jerusalem. From outside the Jaffa Gate they marched, with their schools and bands, to the headquarters of the Military Administration and afterwards to the Military Governor. They were supported by all the notables of the Arab world and of the Moslem population of Jerusalem. There, with a group of high officials, came the Grand Mufti, whom everybody in Jerusalem likes and respects, a most cultivated and polished gentleman, the representative of the Husseini family, which has given Grand Muftis to Jerusalem for 600 years and many good public servants besides. He is, like the old English Chancellor, *mixta persona*. He combines an ecclesiastical function with that of a judge, and is the custodian of the principles of the Moslem Religious Law. The demonstration was, I think, primarily Arab, without distinction of religion, and then was joined by the heads of the Moslem interest, to which the movement of the Arab race, so far as I have been able to understand it after many weeks of constant intercourse with some of its leaders, is not a Moslem cause but a national one. Rich and powerful Christian Arabs are at least as eager partisans of the national movement as any of their Moslem brethren.

By the way, it seems from certain notices in the German Press that in Central Europe they regard the Arab Movement as a movement of Arabs against Syrians inside Palestine. It is nothing of the sort. The Arab movement is a movement of Arabia as a nation mainly existing beyond Jordan and spreading over the vast desert, not against Syrians but against Turkey and what they regard as the mushroom Khalifate of the Sultan of Roum, seized from the Arab tribe of the Koreish.

I think that some distinguished Rabbis came with the Grand Mufti and others in that morning affair, but I am not sure, because in the afternoon the Hebrew population turned out in its thousands, and I may have seen them then. Coming back to the country, I found the broad Jaffa road outside the city completely packed with various Jewish bodies. There were banners and tokens, and schools of boys and children. There were Maccabees, mounted and on foot, in their clean and fresh white uniform with light blue sashes. There were enthusiastic gentlemen in white waistcoats and European hats dancing wildly in the road, and setting to partners in fezzes and turbans; and whatever space was left by this vast procession was occupied by sympathetic spectators of every kind. There were the Latin Seminarists wearing the Roman black soutane and feriola with scarlet buttons and cinctures and the fez still supposed by many Englishmen to be a sign of Islam. There were all the various-coloured robes of the Arabs who had made their congratulatory expedition earlier in the day.

It seemed at first impossible to move, but I asked my chauffeur to move slowly forward, and, as we advanced at a snail's pace, the crowds most good-humouredly parted, with many cheers and gestures of enthusiasm; so that I felt for ten minutes like a public benefactor moving through an adoring populace.

Altogether it was a day of great joy and real happiness; and I dwell upon it because people at home will be wanting to know whether the enthusiasm of Palestine on its change of condition is merely the good manners of acquiescence or a spontaneous and irresistible outburst. Such a demonstration as we had the other day cannot possibly be manufactured or affected. There were, I suppose, people who waited to shout until they were out of the wood, and they now feel they are out of it, and shouted, I am sure, with all their hearts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE TURK AND THE SUBJECT RACES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I read with interest your editorial on "Feeling the Way" in your issue of October 11.

After long residence in Turkey I would emphasize the thought you express that "popular feeling in Turkey counts for nothing." Although you applied that to the "present regime," I think you might well have made the statement without limiting its application. When has "popular feeling" had any determining effect in affairs governmental in Turkey? Surely not in Hamid's time! And less in the time of the Young Turk! The fact is that the government is, and has always been, in the hands of the few, often dominated by one man—as, for instance, Hamid or Enver. The present group is astute enough to use Parliament as a cloak of fairly respectable appearance, but of no real value in actual government. It has some value in advertising the idea of parliamentary government—*i.e.*, it has an educational influence, making the people somewhat familiar with the thought, which in its way is an excellent thing, but all power remains in the hands of the small governing group. Consequently, to carry out the idea of "self-determination" and allow Turkey to work out her own system would be to leave her as she has been for centuries—a country governed by a small group, not one of whom has shown any capacity for righteous and progressive government, or any semblance of even-handed justice for all the elements of the community. The Young Turk made great promises, and did some good things after 1908, but he demonstrated—without leaving any possibility for doubt—that it will be absolutely vain to hope for any improvement on the part of the Turk in governmental affairs. He does not possess the moral perception or staying qualities to make that possible. His trend is in the opposite direction.

I think you are right in your thought that international-

WHITE HORSE WHISKY:
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE.
KING OF SPAIN.

izing Constantinople, involving multiple control, would not be very satisfactory. A mandate given to some one Power to administer in the name of the internationalizing party would secure success for the experiment. You suggest the United States. If public opinion can be predicated of Turkey, such a proposition would find hearty endorsement, not only on the part of the Christians, but on the part of a very large number of the Turks themselves. The American is not accustomed to think in that way. It will require time and effort to persuade him that his duty lies in the way of doing for other oppressed and weak nations what he did for Cuba and what he is doing for the Philippines. America should be ready to do it; she has a great responsibility to the world because of her position as one of the great leaders in civilization and national progress.

But why confine the mandate to Constantinople? Why not extend it to cover all Asia Minor? Is the soil of Europe too sacred to allow the Turk to keep a foothold there? Adrianople is one of its sacred cities. Is the soil of Asia Minor any less sacred than that of Europe? Have not the subject races of Asia Minor as good a right to be relieved from the incubus of Turkish Administration as those of South-Eastern Europe? Asia Minor is no more the "home" of the Turk than is Thrace. He is more "at home," indeed, in Constantinople than he would be in Brousa or Konia. It is true that the Turk is in the majority in Asia Minor, but that is because of conquest and the gradual elimination of the subject race element through erosion by oppression and massacre. The rights of the minority are just as sacred as the rights of the majority. The majority may be as autocratic as the Kaiser and as unrighteous as Enver.

The revolution of 1908 did not prove a change of heart on the part of the Turk toward subject races—only change of venue. It was a change from Yildiz Kiosk in Beshiktasch to the Porte in Old Stamboul. His promises were as beautiful as the colours of the rainbow in a spring shower. His administration as evil as black Tartarus. The whole outcome of what is called the Turkish Revolution of 1908 is a demonstration of the fact that the Turk is utterly incapable of administering government in such manner as to secure a moiety of justice to the oppressed subject races As long as the Turk has any power as an independent governmental entity the non-Turkish races will remain "subject races," and will be treated as such, in accordance with Turkish tradition and practice. Is it not a fact that the Turk has absolutely forfeited all right to be recognised as an independent government amongst the civilized nations of the world? Should he be left in possession of that magnificent peninsula of Asia Minor which has served through all the centuries as the great highway for the movements of peoples between the East and the West and the West and the East? Can it come within the purview of any league of civilized nations that this territory should remain in the hands of the stagnant and blighting Turk, who gives no promise from within of any sort of progressive Government? Have the Greeks of Macedonia any more sacred rights than those of Asia Minor? Have the Bulgarians of the Balkans any more sacred rights than the Armenians of Armenia? Are these races in Anatolia, even though in the minority, to be left to accentuated oppression by the very expulsion of the Turk from Europe?

I have seen the Turk at his best and at his worst. He is a pleasant-spoken, polite, hospitable person, who can enunciate the principles that lie at the basis of righteous administration of government, and promise equality and just treatment to all—as Izzet Pasha did the other day in the Turkish Parliament—in a most charming way. But there is no greater distance between his best and his worst than between the smiles and the tears of a petulant child. He can smile and smile, and smite with suave politeness and with a cruelty and absence of human sympathy that we in former years thought unparalleled, but is second only in quality to the atrocities perpetrated by the followers of the Teutonic god Thor.

No! If the Turk should be driven out of Europe, he should be *driven out of office*. Nothing less than this does Europe owe as a sacred duty to the nations that have suffered such indescribably inhuman treatment throughout the years, more particularly during the past four years, at the hands of the "unutterable" Turk.

The world thought Sasun atrocities in 1894 the acme of human brutality, and Europe thought it worth while to organize a consular commission to investigate. The horrid massacres of '95 and '96 followed, so overshadowing those of '94 that Sasun was almost forgotten as a mere incident, and we verily thought the human sufferings of that time could not be surpassed in intensity. However, the orgy of blood and destruction at Adana in 1909, which synchronized with the march of the Turkish army of "liberty" from Salonika to overthrow the old *régime* in Constantinople, so surpassed that of '95 that it, in turn, seemed as a small blot on the page of Turkish history. Then came 1915, with its imprisonments, tortures, slaughters, deportations *en masse*, confiscation of properties, rapine, abandonment in the desert, starvation, the cruel martyrdom of a nation, in the lurid light of which the horrible Adana atrocities fade into insignificance.

No. If the Turk is unfit for Europe he is unfit for Asia. Therefore let the slogan, "Drive the Turk out of Europe" be changed to "Drive the Turk out of office." It should be kept in mind that this refers to the Turk as a governing factor. On the other hand, the Turk, as a people to be governed, is obedient and easily governed. He is amenable to law properly enforced, and it need not be doubted that the great majority of the people would acclaim any change that would save them from their Turkish masters.

Drive the Turks out of office!

W. N. C.

Geneva, Switzerland,
October 28, 1918.

THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—You will, we hope, permit us to protest against the spirit of your leading article in the issue of the 8th inst. entitled "Great Britain and Turkey." "For some time to come." you say, "when the strong hand of the Committee of Union and Progress has been removed, the Turks may be unequal to governing themselves without foreign help." The necessary conclusion would be, we should have thought, to renounce the solution of foreign domination, against which, in the case of Germany, we so loudly inveighed, and to leave the development of Turkey to those Turks who are equal to governing it.

The world has decided, you say, that no nationality shall be left against its will under foreign domination; yet you calmly contemplate our domination of Turkey and our dictation to Turks of the form of her government and of the *personnel* of her governors. The only application you make of the principle of nationality is to cut off the territorial possessions of Turkey as imperial rulers. But you miss one of the great decisions of the world in these latter days—the decision for "self-determination." How can you square "self"-determination with a blank refusal to allow Turkish subject nations to decide for themselves whether Turks, Frenchmen, Greeks or Jews shall rule them?—We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

THE ANGLO-OTTOMAN SOCIETY,
A. FIELD, Secretary.
158, Fleet Street, E.C., November 10.

[In connection with the above letter, we need only remind our correspondent that foreign help is not necessarily synonymous with foreign domination. The Anglo-Ottoman Society proclaims as one of its objects "To resist encroachments on the integrity of the Ottoman Empire," but omits to specify any date. If it is anxious to see Serbia, Greece and Bulgaria restored to Ottoman rule, it is a matter for congratulation that all its objects have not been realised. If, on the other hand, its policy is merely proleptic, and it proposes to "resist" any attempt to deprive the Turks of the right to govern themselves, we are heartily in accord with the objects of the society, although we cannot follow the secretary's line of argument. The real friends of the Turks must realise that the attempt to dominate alien nationalities has been the undoing of the Ottoman Empire, and they must look forward to the day when Turkish rule will be restricted to Turks, who will then have an opportunity of proving their merits. Their education in statecraft under a series of corrupt Governments has not been a happy one, and the suggestion made by THE NEAR EAST was that they should recognise for the time being their limitations and accept the assistance of foreign advisers or administrators in their Civil Service until such time as they feel confident of being able to administer the country themselves on sound modern lines. The model in view was the Maritime Customs Service and the Salt Administration of China.—ED.]

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—I am very glad that my letter should have elicited a reply from so distinguished an authority on Albania as Miss Durham. Miss Durham has presented the Albanian case as convincingly as the scanty arguments available for it will permit. I will take this opportunity of presenting somewhat more fully the Epirote case, and leave all impartial readers to decide between the two.

Miss Durham cannot understand my surprise at Mehmed Bey posing as an Albanian delegate. The fact is, I am obliged flatly to contradict her assertion that he represents 60,000 Albanians in America. It is quite true that there are 60,000 natives of the country which she calls S. Albania, and which we call Epirus, in the States. But the significant fact is that their representative organisations call themselves Epirote, not Albanian, and work in the Epirote, not the Albanian, cause. I am in personal touch with these organisations, and four days ago I received a letter from the Secretary of the Pan-Epirote Society, "Markos Botzaris," of Worcester, Mass., informing me that the Pan-Epirote Union of the United States are about to submit a memorandum to President Wilson asking for union with Greece.

Mehmed Bey Konitza represents only a few hundreds of Moslem Albanians of rather suspicious antecedents and connections. This I know for a fact, and I challenge proof of the contrary.

The substance of my letter was that N. Epirus is in feeling and conscience a Greek country. This has been admitted by such varied authorities as Colonel Murray, M. Rene Puaux, the late Marchese di San Giuliano in his pre-Ministerial indiscretion, "Lettere d'Albania," and Prince Lichnowsky. It was made still more clear by the armed resistance of the Epirotes in 1913 to Albanian rule, which obliged the then Albanian Government to acknowledge their right to Home Rule by the protocol of Corfu. To all this Miss Durham, I am afraid, has no satisfactory reply. "Rather more than half of the inhabitants," she writes, "are Moslem." Now the *Turkish* official statistics of 1908 gave 316,651 Orthodox Christians, as against 154,413 Moslems, for the whole of Epirus, and 122,601 Christians, as against 100,981 Moslems, for North Epirus. Miss Durham, I fear, then confuses Konitza, the home of Mehmed Bey himself, which I referred to as fanatically Greek, with Koritza. I fancy she is not so sound on South Albania as on North Albania and Montenegro. It was hardly to be expected that she should be asked for Greek schools in North Epirus, as there are already 258 flourishing Greek schools. In spite of Strabo and Brerewood, an elementary knowledge of race problems makes it quite clear that language is not a sure test of nationality. Not to mention Greek-speaking Turks and Turkish-speaking Greeks, we can find nearer at hand Alsatian Frenchmen who notoriously speak a Germanic dialect. Miss Durham dwells on the war-time creation of an Albanian republic of Koritza. This picturesque incident was due far more to the arbitrary initiative of a doctrinaire officer of an Allied Army than to the spontaneous movement of any large section of the population, and, indeed, elicited numerous protests. Since then three members of the somewhat unrepresentative Government set up have been shot as spies in Austrian pay. Koritza has undoubtedly a very mixed population, but the Hellenic feelings of the majority are recognised by visitors who take facts as they find them, and do not stretch them on a Procrustean bed till they suit theories evolved from their inner consciousness.

I am glad to be able to conclude by agreeing with Miss Durham on one point. As she says, the inhabitants themselves should decide their own destiny. Like her, we "have no doubts as to what would be the result."—I am, etc.,

CHR. KESSARY,
London Correspondent of the Athens *Estia*
and the New York *National Herald.*

THE FUTURE OF ALBANIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—At a meeting held by the Anglo-Albanian Society on November 12, at which Lord Lamington presided, the following resolution was passed:—

"That inasmuch as the right of self-determination for the smaller nations of Europe has been solemnly [agreed ?] to by the United Kingdom and the United States, this meeting of the Anglo-Albanian Society trusts that those Governments and the Governments of the Allied Powers will secure the integrity of Albanian territory and will assure to the Albanian people the right to choose their own form of Government. It hopes that by these means the independence of Albania accorded by Treaty in 1913 shall be firmly established."

As the solution of the Albanian question must inevitably have an important bearing on future peace, the Society hopes that you will give space for the publication of this resolution.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM.

◆

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Armenia and Cilicia. Nov. 13.

Viscount BRYCE asked whether the Government would consider the expediency of occupying, for the purpose of preserving order, the districts of Armenia and Cilicia, in which disorders were most likely to arise, or at least of sending detachments of troops into such districts.

The ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY hoped that the Government would be able to give some assurance that they were not forgetting these unfortunate people.

The EARL of CRAWFORD said the subject was receiving the serious attention of His Majesty's Government in consultation with their Allies. He regretted that he could not state the precise action which it might become necessary to take, but he could give an assurance that the Government were fully alive to the national and humanitarian interests involved, and were determined to spare no effort to protect the rights and claims of the Armenian population.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Turkey and Peace. Nov. 6.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. Bliss that no understanding of any kind has been entered into with Turkey other than the terms of the armistice as published, except that we had agreed that Allied prisoners of war may be handed over to us wherever it can be done most expeditiously, and not necessarily at Constantinople.

In reply to another question by Sir G. Toulmin, Mr. BALFOUR said that this country at the Peace Conference would be free to advocate terms securing full liberty to Armenia.

Motors in Mesopotamia.

Mr. WATT asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that great waste of petrol is taking place in the use of Government motor cars in Mesopotamia for pleasure purposes; whether the Regulation forbidding the presence of any female in such Government cars is in practice there; and will he make inquiry into this waste?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I am not aware of any waste of petrol in Mesopotamia nor that motor-cars are used for pleasure purposes. I have on previous occasions stated that strict instructions have been issued on the subject. Inquiry is, however, being made of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

Relief for Montenegro. Nov. 7.

Sir L. WORTHINGTON EVANS, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, replying to Mr. R. M'Neill, said:—His Majesty's Government have received reports of the serious position of the people of Montenegro, and schemes for relief are already under consideration.

Balkans: Territorial Distribution.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could give an assurance that no pledge will be given by the Allies in regard to the future territorial distribution in the Balkans previous to the decisions of the Peace Conference.

Lord R. CECIL: In so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, it will certainly be our endeavour not to prejudice by prior commitments the decisions of the Peace Congress in regard to the Balkans.

Mr. BUXTON: Can the noble lord tell the House that no pledge has been given already?

Lord R. CECIL: No; I cannot say as to that.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware of the various territorial offers made to Greece—of Southern Albania in November, 1914, of territories in Asia Minor at various dates in 1915 and 1916, of the Doirana district in 1915, and of Cyprus in October, 1915; whether these offers, or any of them, hold good to-day; and whether, before cessions of territory to Greece are finally decided upon, the wishes of the inhabitants will be obtained, preferably by plebiscite?

Lord R. CECIL: The points raised will not be forgotten.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Sir ELLIS HUME-WILLIAMS asked the Home Secretary how soon the British prisoners in Turkey will be assembled in Constantinople; who is to make the necessary arrangements in Turkey, and who is detailed for the necessary duty of seeing that the arrangements are carried out; and whether all English prisoners in Turkey can be brought to this country on the ship due to arrive there this month, and originally intended to bring the 1,000 agreed to be exchanged under the Berne Agreement?

Major CHAPPLE asked what provision had been made for the immediate supply of necessities and comforts to Kut prisoners of war released by Turkey?

Sir G. CAVE: The prisoners of war in Turkey will not necessarily assemble at Constantinople, but will return by the quickest route that can be arranged. The arrangements for their return are in the hands of the British Admiral in the Eastern Mediterranean, who has been put into communication with the British military commanders for this purpose, and has at his disposal the stores of food and clothing already provided for the prisoners.

Sir J. BUTCHER: Have any active steps already been taken to get these prisoners to a place from which they can sail for England?

Sir G. CAVE: Certainly; I believe a number are already assembled at or near Smyrna.

Travel Restrictions.

Colonel WEDGWOOD asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the changed situation in the Mediterranean, any change has yet been made in the Regulations which prevent British wives from crossing the seas to join their husbands?

Dr. MACNAMARA: In the opinion of the Admiralty, the changed situation in the Mediterranean does not as yet justify any alteration of the existing Regulations.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report:—

Armenian Provinces.—November 6.
Prisoners of War: Parcels (Turkey).—November 6.
Gabbari (Alexandria) Military Prison.—November 6.
Gallipoli (British Troops).—November 6.
British Army, Salonika (Report).—November 6.
Mesopotamia: Hospitals (Supplies).—November 6.
Armistice Terms (Turkey).—November 7.
Prisoners of War: Turkey and Mesopotamia.—November 7.

◆

The East-West Club held a meeting on November 11, at the Minerva Restaurant, High Holborn, under the chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Field, to hear an address on Albania by Mr. John C. Paget, of the Anglo-Albanian Association. After the lecture there was a general and animated discussion, and eventually the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"This meeting expresses its sympathy with the present distress and political uncertainty of the little nation of Albania, particularly as the claims of small nations are so strongly supported in the declaration of President Wilson. It hopes that the complete independence of Albania, distinctly promised to it and confirmed by Europe in 1913, shall be secured."

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Obviously one cannot expect any rapid transformation at the termination of hostilities, but I hope that it will be found possible in the near future to spare some shipping for the Near East trade. Of the things that we have missed during the war, fruit, I think, by common consent, will be given first place, since its scarcity and lack of the usual variety have made matters very difficult for the housekeeper. We have always drawn large supplies of such things as currants, sultanas, dates, and figs from the Near East, and the fruit is there if we can only get it.

⁂

Greece, for instance, is well able to supply us with our normal imports of currants, and given expedition there would still be time for them to reach this country before Christmas. Then there is no reason that I can see why we should not draw a few cargoes of sultanas and figs from Syria, while Mesopotamia can export almost any amount of dates. But—and it is a very important " but "—I believe the general opinion is that it would be better to do without dates and other fruit if the absurd prices charged during the war are to be maintained. People will certainly not continue to pay such absurd prices as 2s. 6d. per lb. for dates, and it would be well for importers to understand clearly that the time has now come when prices of such things must bear some relation to value.

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I referred last week to the registration of the British Roumanian Corporation, Limited, and in the present issue will be found full particulars of this important undertaking. The objects of the corporation are very comprehensive, including the business of financiers, concessionaires, merchants and shipowners—to mention only a few of the operations with which it will concern itself. The corporation has been formed under the most influential auspices, and will beyond question play an invaluable rôle in the future development of Anglo-Roumanian economic relations. It has the distinction of being the first company to be formed at the close of the war for Near Eastern commerce, and the field of its work offers unrivalled scope for sound business enterprise. There should be a great future before it in the furtherance of British interests in a region where, before the war, Germany and Austria had matters very much their own way.

⁂

The general industrial outlook in the United Provinces formed the subject of some interesting references by Sir Harcourt Butler in a recent speech at Cawnpore. "We have no coal or iron or other mineral deposits that we know of," he said. "We cannot, therefore, expect to make great advances in engineering or such lines. But we are rich in raw material and forest resources, and we may expect the manufactures will move closer and closer in course of time to the sources of raw material. We are the largest sugar-growing province in India, and we grow an enormous quantity of oil-seeds. The future of cotton is hopeful. We have a large and steady supply of hides and skins. The tanning and leather industry is capable of considerable development. Timber is available in large quantities, and there is ample scope for the extraction of wood-pulp."

⁂

In regard to the immediate outlook, Sir Harcourt quoted some notes which Sir Logie Watson prepared for him. Sir Logie stated that in some of the industries in Cawnpore which were proving themselves so invaluable to Government in the manufacture of war supplies there must, on the cessation of the war, follow a period of depression; but this, he believed, would be merely a depression when compared with the present time of stress and rush, of incessant work and constant shifts. That there would be any "slump" as compared with pre-war days he could not believe. In Sir Logie's opinion the real expansion of provincial industries will not come in the main lines of the great master industries of to-day, but in the introduction of remunerative side lines, in the establishment of other industries, subsidiary and yet essential to the master industries, and above all in the creation of new industries to supply those commodities which had not been forthcoming from abroad during the war.

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No doubt the principal object of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China in applying to the Treasury for sanction to increase its capital is to prepare for future developments, for British interests in the East, particularly in India, demand strong financial assistance just as much as they do in other parts of the world. The proposed increase in the capital consists of 40,000 new shares of £20 each, fully paid, which will raise the paid-up capital from £1,200,000 to £2,000,000, and the shares are to be offered to shareholders at £40 in the proportion of two for three now held, which of course means a substantial bonus, as the shares stand at about 94. It is worth noting, incidentally, apropos of the suggestion of Lord Colwyn's Committee that the capital of banking institutions should be brought into more appropriate proportion to the deposits, that while the capital of the Chartered Bank has remained unchanged since 1910, the reserve has risen from £1,600,000 to £1,900,000, while the deposits have increased by over £13,000,000!

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The Burma Corporation's report for 1917, which is now available, shows that excellent progress was made in the period under review. Thus the output of refined lead showed an increase of over 6,800 tons on the 1916 figures, while the refined silver amounted to 1,525,800 ounces against 105,600 ounces! Receipts increased by £271,300 at £796,200, and it is satisfactory to note that despite war difficulties the ratio of expenditure decreased from 63.71 to 60.24 per cent. The net surplus amounted to £158,500, which represents a very fair return on the capital. The Corporation, however, has not yet reached the dividend stage, and some time is likely to elapse before that is the case, as the proposed plant expansion is to be deferred seemingly "until both the post-war probabilities and the results of the metallurgical experiments are reasonably certain."

⁂

An extraordinary amount of attention has been given in the German Press during the war to the oil resources of Persia. From time to time I have quoted extracts from articles on the subject showing very plainly that the enemy was looking in that direction for post-war supplies of liquid fuel and its allied products. Within a few weeks of the armistice German writers have continued to prepare public opinion for some *coup* in Persia by drawing the most glowing visions of the oilfields. In the latest of these articles that have come to my notice the writer says that "the oil wells of Irak contain an inexhaustible supply, in quality far superior to Baku oils. The district—over 1,000 kilometres in circumference—stretches north into the province of Kermanshah, east almost to Ispahan, then cuts through Arabistan towards the Dascht and Daghistan ranges, and ends in the vicinity of Bundar Abbas." The writer goes on to discuss the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, saying *inter alia* "English diplomacy has been ceaseless in its efforts to obtain the collective supply, thus running in direct contradiction to contracts concluded with Persia in 1907. At the outbreak of war England took advantage of the poverty of the Government to obtain a concession for the monopoly of the whole industry."

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Another of the Indian railway reports has been issued this week, that of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways, which makes a fairly satisfactory showing for the year ended March 31. There was an increase in the gross receipts, but as expenses rose at a greater rate there is a falling off in the net revenue. Business was good on the broad gauge system, but freight takings declined on the metre gauge system, though there were increased receipts from passenger traffic. The reason of the increased operating costs is not that there was an excessive outlay on the year's working, but that prudent provision was made for deferred maintenance. The surplus divisible between the Nizam and the company on the broad gauge working is £11,300, against £54,600, but there is no surplus available for division as regards the metre gauge line, while the previous year there was £28,400. It remains to note that the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent.

⁂

I understand that a branch of the Serbian Commercial Agency for the United Kingdom has been established in Italy, and that among the goods which will be imported by the new branch are textiles, woollen and cotton goods, flannels, linen wear, electrical articles, ironmongery, foot wear, office furniture and fittings, agricultural machinery, chemicals, and window glass.

COMMENTATOR.

AGRICULTURE IN MESOPOTAMIA.

(FROM OUR BAGHDAD CORRESPONDENT.)

When the British occupied the Baghdad vilayet they were faced by the following difficult situation in regard to agriculture. All cultivation on the Tigris from Samarra nearly as far as Baghdad had been destroyed. The actions in the neighbourhood of Bilad and Istabulat had been fought when the crops were ripe, and what the Turks had not eaten they had destroyed. Near Baghdad the season had been very dry, and, as this was the third dry season in succession, the stocks of all agricultural products were reduced to a minimum, so that the feeding of stock throughout the summer proved a serious problem. From Baghdad to Kut there was practically no cultivation, because the Turks had deliberately removed the tribes from the river banks and forbidden all cultivation. On the Diala river many acres of green crops were destroyed, and in September roads and railways were laid down so quickly that many water courses had to be blocked. The Russians and Turks had devoured all there was to be had in Khanikin, so that a famine resulted there. On the Euphrates the inundation canals were silted and there was a very small harvest, and though there had been heavy sowings in the Hillah district, the barrage not being under control, the yield of matured was lighter than usual. The breaking of the Saklawiyah dam had so reduced the waters of the Euphrates that the rice crop sown in the Shamiyah district twice failed to mature, and the third time was only partially successful.

The Turkish authorities, who had their hands full on account of the war, found little time to settle quarrels between those hereditary enemies, the townsman landlord and the tribal cultivator. Hillah had revolted openly, and the landowners did not dare to venture near their properties, and where land was cultivated it was cultivated by the tribe without any reference to the proprietors. The discrepancy between Turkish law and Turkish practice was an added complication, and it was clear that some system that would enable the authorities to understand and remove the difficulties of the cultivator was imperative. A great portion of the land in the vilayet is irrigated by permanent canals, and the necessity of controlling irrigation was at once apparent. In peace time many canals were privately owned, and their maintenance and clearance was incumbent upon the proprietor.

The earthwork of the Hani Hassan Canal, in the Hillah district, commenced but abandoned some three years previously, was put in hand in May, the work being undertaken by local tribes. The Ba'quba canals are cleared in the spring, the Hillah canals in autumn; and by the time that general clearance became necessary on the latter an engineering staff had been appointed to the barrage.

In addition to the regular canal systems, advantage has been taken of facilities for occasional irrigation. The Turks, by cutting the Sarriyah dam, had flooded the depression known as the Khor Aqarquf, and there was a danger that the water would destroy the Fallujah road. The flood was therefore headed off by a bund, on the other side of which was a fairly extensive cultivable area that only required water and cultivators to produce a crop. The authorities were approached and permission was obtained to construct culverts at certain places. Areas for cultivation were then allotted. This area returned crops worth £1,360.

No correct information about Hillah was forthcoming until June, but it then became apparent that there too the harvest had been below normal, and that only by the expenditure of much capital, and by the careful organisation of labour, could the country be restored to prosperity. A scheme called the Agricultural Development Scheme was therefore put forward in June, but as the Turks were in the vicinity of the Diyalah canals' headworks, the Euphrates was the only area on which development could be commenced. The scheme, with its budget of £400,000, having been finally approved on September 19, a meeting of landowners was held in Baghdad and Hillah and the intentions of the Government explained. They were invited to co-operate and were offered assistance, but at the same time warned that no one who neglected his lands would be entitled as of right to the landlord's share of the next harvest. A tour was then made of the tribal areas, and at each centre the headmen were summoned and the scheme explained to them. Certain concessions were granted to the leading Sheikhs in return for their co-operation, and as a result the provision of seed for almost all the Hillah canals was guaranteed. In this way the scheme was relieved of the necessity for providing 6,000 out of the 15,000 tons budgeted for.

THE INDIAN INDUSTRIES COMMISSION REPORT.

Reuter's Simla correspondent, in a message dealing with this report, comments as follows :—

The report, which is intensely interesting, says that constructive proposals depend on the acceptance of two principles : (1) The Government must in future play an active part in the industrial development of the country, with the aim of making India more self-contained in respect of men and material; and (2) the Government cannot undertake that part unless provided with adequate administrative equipment and forearmed with reliable scientific and technical advice.

The first chapters of the report show how little the march of modern industry has affected the great bulk of the population which is engrossed in agriculture, winning a bare subsistence from the soil by antiquated methods of cultivation. The changes wrought in rural areas, it says, are the effects of economic rather than of industrial evolution. Money has been invested in commerce rather than in industries, only those securities being taken up which appeared to offer easy profits. Previous to the war too ready reliance was placed on imports from overseas. India, the report points out, possesses nearly all the raw materials necessary for the requirements of a modern community, but her great textile industries depend on imported machinery, and would shut down if the command of the seas were lost.

Summing up, the Commission finds that India is a country rich in raw materials and industrial possibilities, but poor in manufacturing accomplishment. The deficiencies in her industrial system render her liable to foreign penetration in peace and to serious dangers in war. Her labour is inefficient, but capable of vast improvement. She relies almost entirely on foreign sources for foremen and supervisors, and her intelligentsia have yet to develop the right tradition of industrialism. Her stores of money lie inert and idle. The necessity of securing the economic safety of the country and the inability of the people to secure it without the co-operation and stimulation of the Government impose, therefore, on the Government a policy of energetic intervention in industrial affairs and the discharge of multifarious activities. This policy demands that the Government must be provided with suitable industrial equipment in the form of Imperial and provincial departments of industries.

Pundit Mohan Malaviya adds a minute of dissent. He quotes historical evidence purporting to show that India was once an important industrial country, but was forced to become a producer of raw materials by the policy of the East India Company. India's wealth rendered possible the English industrial revolution of the nineteenth century. He prefers the system of training mechanical engineers in Universities, in an atmosphere of culture, and he proposes an Imperial Polytechnic Institute for all India. He disapproves of an Imperial Board of Industries, and proposes to substitute an advisory Board largely elected by the Legislative Council. He thinks that the proposed industrial and scientific services are premature, and should be started when recruitment can be made wholly from Indian graduates. He proposes the institution of a State bank, and considers the range of the proposed salaries too high, and suggests that it should be based on a standard suitable for Indian graduates.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in September :—

COTTON.—The weather was generally favourable, being hot during the day and cool at night. Reports from the provinces of Faiyûm and Minya, however, state that on the whole the days were too cool and the nights too damp to be congenial to the crop. A rainstorm broke out and was felt in some parts of Gharbiya and Sharqiya in the last week of September, but without causing any measurable damage, although it is feared that it may in some cases affect the quality of the unpicked cotton to a certain extent. Water supply ample, and some cultivators in the Faiyûm indulged in cotton flooding, with the usual result of boll shedding. Practically all reports agree that the pink boll worm attack has been, so far, lighter than in previous seasons. The ordinary boll worm is rarely noticed. Picking became general in the Delta, except the northernmost districts, and was far advanced in Middle and Upper Egypt about the middle of September. Where the first picking was finished the result was, on the whole, satisfactory, and the second picking of the early-sown crop has started.

RICE (*Sêfi*).—The weather was rather cool, but on the whole favourable, and water supply abundant, except at the tail ends of canals in Beheira. Attacks from stalk-borer in Daqahlîya are still occurring, but the damage is negligible. The crop is ripening well, and a good yield is expected; the harvest of Yabâni is about to begin in Gharbîya. The mixing of several varieties of rice in the same field is reported from Daqahlîya as being quite prevalent in spite of repeated warnings to the cultivators. This practice is to be strongly deprecated.

RICE (*Nîli*).—The plants are well advanced in growth and early-sown fields are in ear.

MAIZE.—Weather quite favourable and water supply sufficient. Watering, hoeing, thinning, and manuring were the operations in progress during the month. Flowering is profuse and cobs are being formed in the early-sown crop. There are practically no signs of attacks from pests and the crop is generally looking healthy. The growth is satisfactory and points to a better yield than last year, but it is feared the shortage of manures may yet cause an adverse effect on the crop later.

MILLET (*Sêfi*).—The crop is almost entirely harvested, and threshing is proceeding everywhere. The yield is a little below average. Some damage was caused by the stalk-borer, aphis and smut, and in some parts of Minya the crop has been immaturely harvested owing to the introduction of flood water in the *hôds*, with the result that the seed is somewhat poor.

MILLET (*Nîli*).—Weather favourable and water supply ample. Thinning, hoeing, and watering are in progress. The crop is healthy and well advanced in growth.

SUGAR-CANE.—Weather favourable and water supply ample. The attack from stalk-borer is general throughout the whole sugar-cane belt. Nevertheless, the crop presents a good appearance, but owing to the scarcity of manures the expected yield is not quite satisfactory. In the neighbourhood of towns the crop is being cut for sucking.

Sudan Products.

The following are extracts from the report of the C.E.B. for August :—

10,240 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during August, as against 7,539 in the same month last year. This constitutes a record for August. The average price was £1,413 per kantar. 617 kantars arrived from Nahud market, as against 4,923 last year. The season has ended at Um Ruaba and Rahad, only 96 rottles being sold at the former place. There is still a good deal of the old crop to come in, so that the output for this year should again be well above the average. The total value of gum exported from Tendelti during the period January to May, inclusive, was £33,491.

Cotton.

Berber Province.—At Timirab cotton planting was pushed hard to make up for the delay caused by the wheat harvest, and some very energetic levelling was carried out by tenants of the Government land in the Karu. At Zeidab cotton planting continued, but the area on native land is less than that of last year. Cotton at Darmali is disappointing, mainly due to damage done by the frog hopper fly. The Saadabia cotton is a good deal better. Some 40 feddans of cotton have been planted at Mikeilab. At Zeidab cotton is looking well.

Kassala Province.—The total crop of the year is 8,191 kantars of 315 rottles (142 kilos), of which rather more than half is Sakellaridis. The crop is about double last year's.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—The quality of the new date crop is moderate to good, while the quantity will fall short of previous years' crops by some 20 to 30 per cent. There is a greater demand for dates, and buyers are arriving from Egypt, including several new ones. They anticipate the price in Egypt will be excellent, and local prices will reach record figures. Financially the natives are in a sounder position, and will probably hold for good prices, which merchants must give to get their dates away by water before the Nile falls. A few dates are now coming on the market, but the first arrivals in any quantity will not be till the first half of November.

◆

The Lord Mayor, Sir Horace Marshall, will preside at a meeting in the Mansion House on November 18, when an effort will be made to stimulate the Royal Horticultural Society's War Relief Fund, organised with the object of restoring the gardens and orchards of our French, Belgian, and Serbian Allies, which have been completely devastated by the enemy. An appeal is being made to all who have gardens and orchards in this country to help in the restoration. The hon. treasurer is Sir Harry J. Veitch, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

BRITISH ROUMANIAN CORPORATION.

The British Roumanian Corporation, Ltd., was registered last week with a capital of £500,000, in £1 shares. The objects of the corporation are to carry on business as financiers, concessionnaires, merchants, bankers, contractors, shipowners; to transact agency business, and to participate in any commercial, mercantile, industrial, manufacturing, mining, and other businesses, etc.

The number of directors is to be not less than three and not more than seven. So long as the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., holds 50,000 shares, or one-tenth of the issued capital, whichever shall be greater, it shall have the right to appoint two directors. The qualification of a director is shares of the nominal value of £100, and the first three directors will be Mr. E. W. H. Barry, London manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Ltd.; Mr. H. Locke, manager of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd.; and Mr. C. M. Woodbridge, director of Barclay's Bank, Ltd. The registered office is at 34-36, Gresham Street, E.C.

◆

A paper will be read by Mr R. B. Joyner, C.I.E., on "The Tata Hydro Electric Power Supply Works, Bombay," at the meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers on November 19.

The Secretary of the War Office states that Lord Harcourt's Army Agricultural Committee have learnt that the harvest recently gathered in Mesopotamia under Army superintendence and assistance has realised 475,000 tons of grain.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets for the week ended October 24 were:—Cattle markets, £685; general markets, £538; total, £1,223. Total for year, £41,906. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended October 25 were:—Cattle market, £424; general markets, £454; total, £878. Total for year, £46,750.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Unsettled Outlook.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

No business has been attempted in the market this week. Production has been suspended in order to celebrate the victory of the Allies, and fresh trade has been quite out of the question. The outlook is very unsettled. There are fears in all quarters of a further depreciation in values. There is undoubtedly a large demand waiting to be met throughout the world for cotton fabrics, but it remains to be seen when business will mature, and there is no likelihood of any big buying movement until prices are steadier. Nothing new can be said with regard to Egyptian cotton supplies. The Liverpool market has been closed from Monday to Thursday. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been quite nominal. Numerous spinners have refused to give out prices. Business in piece goods for Egypt has been at a standstill. Cables for Cairo and Alexandria have been scarce. Some attempts have been made to cancel contracts. From other outlets there is no fresh news. Business in American yarns has been disorganised, and practically nothing has been done.

◆

The agricultural inspectors in Egypt have been engaged in collecting the legal fine imposed upon cultivators for the overplanting of cotton. It is stated that the amount gathered for that purpose from the Gharbieh Province alone amounts to several thousand pounds.

Mr. A. A. Black, of the Victoria Mills Company, Limited, Cawnpore, has been appointed a member of the education section of the United Provinces Board of Industries in place of Mr. B. R. Briscoe, of the Cawnpore Cotton Mills, resigned.

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Farming in Mesopotamia.

A Scottish soldier, who has been interested in the great possibilities in Mesopotamia, writing from Baghdad to his father in Scotland, says:—"You will be interested to know that quite a lot of money is going to be spent (a lot has already been spent) on agriculture, especially in the matter of irrigation to develop crops. Maize is being experimentally grown, also cotton and oats. Sheep farms are going to be established, also dairy farms in different localities; thus the British occupation has already brought great benefits to the country and the people. The soil of the country is good, from the source of the Shatt-el-Arab delta as far north as Samarra, and is a rich deposit of alluvium, most suitable for the growing of cereals. It is only a matter of the installation of up-to-date irrigation works in different localities, equipped with engines and pumps of modern design, to develop the great stretches of plain at present more or less devoid of crops." This simply corroborates what has often been stated in these notes with regard to the great possibilities in Mesopotamia for the sale of all classes of agricultural machinery. In recent engineering notes reference was made to the kind of engines and pumping machinery that are employed in Mesopotamia for irrigation and other purposes. It is possible that with the construction of canals and the development of a large system of State irrigation which should follow the construction of the State barrages, irrigation by gravitation will supersede in parts of the country this kind of engine and pumping machinery, as the latter is now superseding the bullock and horse lift. This, however, is still a somewhat remote contingency, and for some years yet the employment of mechanical pumps will be continued and increased. Even after the completion of a system of irrigation by gravitation many tracts will remain in which mechanical pumps will be employed with advantage.

Morocco's Irrigation Scheme.

It is reported that preparations are being made in France for the development of the agricultural resources of North Africa, and especially for carrying out a scheme for the irrigation of vast regions in Morocco, where subsoil water can be obtained in abundance. As we stated in previous notes, the method used in Morocco for bringing the water to the surface for irrigation purposes, etc., is, as a rule, the same that prevails in the East—namely the slow-going bullock or horse water-lift, a tedious, primitive, and costly process, which is, to a great extent, the cause of limiting cultivation, and, probably, is conducing to the proverbial dilatoriness of the Oriental toiler of the land. In recent years, however, there has been a marked inclination in Morocco to adopt modern methods of agriculture, one of the results being a great opening for mechanical pumps, such as internal combustion engines with centrifugal pumps, windmill pumping plants, etc. It is reported now that the whole question of the development of the agricultural resources of Morocco has recently been dealt with in a preliminary report prepared for the French Government, from which it appears that Morocco is remarkably rich in hydraulic resources which are capable of being utilised for the vast development of agriculture. On this report, apparently, are based the preparations which have been mentioned.

Bridging the Danube.

Just before the commencement of the war some enterprising German contractors, with the support of their Government, were interesting themselves in a Roumanian scheme for bridging the Danube, which would give the contractors an opportunity to undertake the construction in conjunction with a Bulgarian scheme of harbour works. The Roumanian Government at the time negotiated with the Bulgarian Government as to the choice of a suitable place for the construction of the bridge. The proposal for a bridge was favourably received in Bulgaria, which, apparently, had another scheme of much interest to Roumania. Since Turkey had ceded a district on the Ægean Sea to Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Government had decided upon the construction of a Bulgarian harbour at Porto Lagos, in Eastern Thrace, and of a railway leading thence in a northern direction into the Maritza Valley. This railway was to be the continuation of the line already running from the Maritza Valley through the Balkans to the Danube. By the construction of a bridge over the Danube connecting Rustchuk and Sistova Roumania would obtain the advantage of more direct communication with the Mediterranean. Both these schemes will have to be carried out in the near future, and it is not too soon for British contractors to interest themselves in these developments if they do not wish to see the work going to competitors who will assuredly not be backward.

THE GREEK MISSION.

The Greek community in London gave a dinner at the Savoy Hotel on November 7 in honour of the Greek Commercial Mission. The chair was taken by M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, who proposed the health of M. Venizelos, whose very name he said was a eulogy. Honour had been conferred by him on Greece since his being at the head of affairs.

Mr. G. Marchetti proposed "The Greek Commercial Mission," and M. Michalacopoulos replied.

The Lord Mayor congratulated the Mission on the success of its visit to this country. Turning to the military political situation of the time, he said in the result of her efforts Greece had proved the far-sighted wisdom of Venizelos and the determination of the Greek nation to follow him for the vindication of its honour.

M. Caclamanos proposed "The Federation of British Industries." Sir Vincent Caillard responded, and announced that an association was being founded for industrial co-operation between Great Britain and Greece, and for the development of Greece.

TANNING EXPERIMENTS.

The Director of Industries, Madras, has issued the following Press communique:—A number of interesting experiments are being carried on at the Leather Trades School to ascertain the value of new tan stuffs and mixtures. The immense demands made by the war for tanned hides has brought into great prominence the question of the supplies of tanning barks and of a substitute for the bark of the Avaram shrub, which is, of course, the leading tanning material of Southern India. A consignment of black wattle bark was imported last year from South Africa and various experiments were tried, some with wattle bark alone and others with mixtures of wattle and Avaram in different proportions. The bark of the twig and trunk of Anogeissus Latefolia has also been experimented upon with promising results, as also have sumacs made from the powdered leaves of the tree. A number of other substitutes are being tried.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—November 6, 7, 480,000 frs., against 510,000 frs.

Lord Carmichael has joined the board of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited.

H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta states that a well-known merchant firm at Calcutta intend sending a representative to Mesopotamia, if the Government approve, with a consignment of agricultural implements.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Burma Corporation.

The report of the Burma Corporation for 1917 states that the amount receivable from the Burma Mines, Limited, was £144,108, against £58,155. This has been advanced to Burma Mines to meet capital expenditure, increasing the advances to £453,498. Burma Mines having given notice to pay off their debenture stock, the Corporation converted its holding into shares, and now hold 721,813 shares of total of 724,577. The board has decided to erect immediately zinc works in India. Burma Mines realised from sales of lead and silver £739,577, against £456,250, and its total receipts were £796,227, against £524,930. Operating expenditure was £479,694, against £334,433, the ratio being 60.24 per cent., against 63.71 per cent. Developments at the Bawdwin Mine have continued uniformly favourable. Ore reserves amounted to 4,138,000 tons, assaying 24.6 ozs. silver, 27.2 per cent. lead, 18.9 per cent. zinc, and 0.7 per cent. copper, against 3,644,000 tons, assaying 25.2 ozs. silver, 27.4 per cent. lead, 20.9 per cent. zinc, and 0.5 per cent. copper; and at June 30, 1918, the reserves are reported, after allowing for 31,345 tons extracted this year, to be 4,299,888 tons, assaying 24.2 ozs. silver, 26.8 per cent. lead, 18.7 per cent. zinc, and 0.7 per cent. copper, of which 3,897,345 tons has been proved. The Burma Railways have agreed to extend their line thirty-five miles to Namtu from Tahapalai. For excess profits duty the Burma Mines' statutory percentage has been increased to 12½ per cent. The general programme recommended by the consulting engineer is: (1) The average ore to be sent to the mill operating on the preliminary flowsheet. (2) That the lead concentrates produced be treated for the time being at the present Namtu smelter with such temporary capacity additions as may be required, any excess base bullion over refining capacity being exported to England. (3) That a zinc retort smelter and acid plant to treat 25,000 tons zinc concentrates a year be at once erected at Sakchi, India, any excess concentrates produced being shipped to England when shipping conditions permit. (4) That the experiments already under way in several directions for the choice of a suitable process for the treatment of middlings be prosecuted vigorously, and upon satisfactory showing a commercial plant be erected in England. (5) That final decision as to ultimate mill flowsheet, modern lead smelter, etc., be deferred until both the post-war probabilities and the results of the metallurgical experiments are reasonably certain. Meeting, River Plate House, E.C., 18th inst., noon.

Hyderabad (Deccan).

The directors of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company, in their half-yearly report, state that there is still considerable delay in receiving information from India, and complete financial results have been received only up to the end of March. Revenue accounts brought up to the end of June from information received show that the output is about 3 per cent. less and the costs 5½ per cent. more than the corresponding period of 1917, while the average prices realised show a slight increase. The higher cost is due to increases in wages, materials, and stores. During the year to date investments have been increased by the purchase of £11,450 5 per cent. National War Bonds. On account of the year 1918 an interim dividend of 1s. per share, less income-tax, has been declared, and warrants will be posted 30th inst. to holders registered October 29.

Nizam's State Railways.

The report of H.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company for the year ended March 31 last states that expenditure on capital account in respect of the broad gauge system was £24,136, making a total of £3,957,476. Net earnings, after deducting £22,739 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezwada Extension, amount to £221,301. The sum required to meet the charges for the year in respect of debentures and income-tax adjustments, together with 5 per cent. on capital stock, amounts to £210,000, leaving a surplus of £11,301 divisible between the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam and the company. The metre gauge system, Hyderabad Godavery

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Valley Line, shows that expenditure on capital account was £5,474, making a total of £2,087,786. Net earnings amount to £105,308, of which £1,042 is payable to the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam on account of tho Hingoli branch, leaving £104,266 to meet the charges on the Three and a-Half per Cent. Debentures and income-tax adjustments. At the general meeting held October 22 the Board recommended the payment of a dividend on the stock of the company for the half-year ended March 31 at the rate of 5 per cent.' per annum, less tax, making 5 per cent. for the year. Warrants were issued on October 24. It is proposed to change the name of the company to His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company. Adjourned meeting, Winchester House, E.C., 19th instant, 3 p.m.

British Metal Corporation.

The British Metal Corporation, Ltd., has been registered at Somerset House with a nominal capital of £5,000,000 in 500,000 shares of £10 each. The memorandum of association shows that power is taken to buy, sell, manufacture, crush, smelt, calcine, refine, dress, amalgamate, manipulate, prepare for market and deal in ores, metals, minerals, mineral substances and similar products, to carry on any other metallurgical operations. No share may, without the consent of the Board of Trade, be held by any enemy or by any member in trust for, or on behalf of, or in any way directly or indirectly at the disposal of or under the control or direction of any enemy or enemy State, or enemy corporation or corporation under enemy control. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than ten. The Treasury has the permanent right to be represented by one director. The first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers to the memorandum of association. The qualification of a director (except the Treasury nominee) is £5,000 shares. The remuneration of each director is to be £500 per annum, with an additional £500 for the chairman, and the board is also to receive collectively 5 per cent. of the balance of net profits remaining in any year after payment of 10 per cent dividend.

Oriental Gas.

The report of the Oriental Gas Company for the year ended June 30 last states that profit, after allocating £5,000 to renewals suspense account, was £26,415, or £338 more. The high rate of exchange produced an increment of £3,163 to equalisation account. The directors have entered into a contract with the municipality of Maniktala for the supply of gas to that district for 15 years. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent., less tax, making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year. Meeting, Finsbury House, E.C., 20th instant, noon.

Chartered Bank of India.

The directors have applied to the treasury for sanction to increase the capital of the bank from £1,200,000 to £2,000,000 by the issue of 40,000 new shares of £20 each fully paid. The issue price of the new shares will be £40 per share, and shareholders will be entitled to subscribe for the new shares in the proportion of two new shares for every three old shares now held by them. When the sanction of the Treasury is received, due notice will be sent to the shareholders announcing the date of special meeting to be held to confirm the arrangement in question.

Associated Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon for the year ended June 30, shows a gross profit of £12,848; £13,028 was brought forward, and after providing for office expenses, excess profits duty 1916-17, preference dividend and interim dividend of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares, free of tax, there remains £5,288, which the directors propose to carry forward. In view of the uncertain outlook for rubber and of the poor prices realised for the proportion of tea not allotted to the Food Controller, the Board have thought it wise to keep the company financially strong and not pay any further dividend on the ordinary shares.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.—Interim of 2½ per cent. (6d. per share), less tax, for half-year, payable 20th inst.

The annual general meeting of the Land Bank of Egypt will be held on December 3 at 4 p.m. in Alexandria.

The court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have resolved to pay out of the profits of the current year an interim dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. (less income-tax) on the preference stock, and an interim dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. (less income-tax) on the ordinary stock, being at the same rate as in the last three years. The dividend warrants will be posted to the proprietors on November 22.

The Aboukir Company, Limited, notify to the holders of Five per Cent. Debentures, falling due June 1, 1919, that the company are prepared forthwith to offer, in exchange for the old debentures, a new debenture to carry 6 per cent. interest, as from December 1, 1918, with certain rights of exchange for shares. The holders desiring to exchange should apply to the secretary for a circular containing full information. Shareholders may apply for debentures, which may not be taken by existing holders, and shareholders desiring to do so should apply to the secretary for full particulars.

The directors of the India General Navigation and Railway Company have declared an ad interim dividend of 4 per cent on the ordinary shares, free of income tax, payable 21st instant.

WOLFRAM IN BURMA.

As a result of the special measures taken by the Government of Burma during the war to promote the output of wolfram, the production increased in 1917 to 4,529 tons. The report for 1917 points out that about 80 per cent. of the provincial yield comes from the Tavoy district. This district produced about 1,950 tons in 1914, nearly one hundred tons more in 1915, 3,000 tons in 1916, and in 1917 nearly 3,700 tons. In the remaining wolfram producing areas—the Southern Shan States, and the Thaton and Mergui districts, the returns of output exhibit a satisfactory advance.

The price of wolfram remained unchanged in 1917, but early in 1918 the price was advanced 5s. per ton, and other concessions were granted to meet the heavy rises in freight, insurance, etc. With reference to the recent discovery of wolfram on the border between the Yamethin district and the Loilong State, it is mentioned that since the close of the year 1917 some 20 tons of wolfram have been extracted from a concession in this locality situated to the south of Byingye Peak, and numerous other prospecting licences are being issued in the neighbourhood. Features of the new field are the complete absence of tin and the large percentage of molybdenite which is found in the wolfram.

ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

There has been a very fair amount of business doing this week, but with some irregularity in prices. On the whole, however, the tendency has been upwards.

In Government stock, Egyptian Unifieds are ½ easier at 90.

Amongst Bank shares the only change is an improvement of 1-16 in Agriculturals to 6 31-32, after business up to 7 1-16.

In Railways, Egyptian Delta Lights have improved ¼ to 8½.

As regards Land descriptions, Aboukirs are 6d. firmer at 23s. 6d., and there has been a fair amount of business doing in Behéras and Delta Land shares round the current level. In Foreign Trusts, after a further improvement to 18s., the price closes 9d. up at 17s. 6d. New Egyptians at one time rose to 22s. 3d., and finish 7½d. higher at 22s. Sidi Salems have been a feature of strength, and a fairly large business has been put through, the price closing ⅛ up at 2 27-32. A feature of interest has been the strong demand for United Egyptian Lands, which have jumped 1s. 4½d. to 4s.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares Salts and Sodas have receded ⅛ to 3⅝, but, on the other hand, there has been a further important rise in Khedivial Mails, which are closing 13s. higher at 88s.

In Greek securities there is absolutely no change to report.

Oil Shares.

With the exception of Roumanian Consols, which have declined 6d. to 17s. 6d., Roumanian oils have been a strong market Anglo-Roumanian Petroleums closed at 11s. 3d., a rise of 1s. 6d., while Traian Roumanians, at 11s. 11¼d., are 1s. 9¾d. up. Russian shares are variable. Bakus are 6d. down at 5s. 3d., while North Caucasians are weaker at 26s. 6d. Anglo-Egyptians B are firm at 2 13-16, as are Anglo-Persian Prefs. at 25s. 6d.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares have been stronger this week and close at 5,500, a rise of 100. Egyptian securities have been in better request. Credit Foncier Egyptiens are 7 up at 782, Land Banks of Egypt are 10 up at 210, but Unifieds are a point worse at 93. Other prices are: Serbian 1895's, 62.40 (unchanged); Turkish Unifieds, 71 (against 74); Banque d'Athenes, 105 (against 105.75), and Ottoman Banks, 555 (against 558).

INDIAN STERLING TRANSFERS ON LONDON.

In view of the present demand for homeward remittances the Government of India has decided to sell sterling transfers on London from next week onwards until further notice up to a maximum limit of £1,000,000 a week at rates based on 1s. 6d., the rate at which the Secretary of State has been until recently selling telegraphic transfers on India. The rate for immediate drafts will be for the present 1s. 5 31-32d. per rupee, and that for deferred drafts 1s. 6 1-32d. per rupee. Drafts will be issued in multiples of a thousand pounds, and no single draft will be issued for a smaller amount than £10,000. Applications are to be addressed to the Controller of Currency at Calcutta, and should reach him not later than 12 noon standard time on Thursday in each week, beginning from next week.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 6	Nov. 13
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	78½	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	90½xd	90
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	78¼	78¼
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	63	63
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	57½	57½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67xd	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	73	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	82½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	69½	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	84½xd	84½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½xd	74½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 29/32	6 31/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	21½	21½
Bank of Athens	£2	4½	4½
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6¾
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 33/64	9 33/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	85¾	94
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	—	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18¼	20
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20	20
National Bank of India	43	66	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8¼	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69xd	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	55	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	23/-	23/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14¼	14¼
Do. Pref.	4¾	4 11/16	4 11/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	17/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/9	17/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/4½	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 23/32	2 23/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/3	71/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	2/7½	4/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	28/-	28/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	75/-	72/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	75/-	88/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 394.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The work of giving effect to the terms of the different armistices is proceeding more or less smoothly, to the accompaniment of characteristic wails from Germany. These are raised at an inopportune moment, as they coincide with the reports of British prisoners of war being turned adrift from their camps to make their way without food or transport to the nearest Allied forces. It is evident that the Germans are not going to recover during the early stages of peace any of the reputation that they sacrificed during the war. "Brutes they were, and brutes they remain," was Mr. Balfour's outburst at the news of the sinking of the *Leinster*, and the armistice is revealing other qualities of the bully. Now that Dr. Solf has been told by President Wilson to direct his appeals to the Allied Governments, a new agent in an attempt to reach a soft spot in the hearts of the Allies is forthcoming in the person of Prince Lichnowsky, who has hitherto enjoyed in England a better reputation than any other German official. He addresses himself, on the same lines as Dr. Solf, to his "personal friends," and enumerates Lord Lansdowne, Earl Grey, and Mr. Asquith. He has the temerity—to use no stronger word—to suggest that the armistice conditions "are inspired by a spirit which cannot be characterized otherwise than as one of revenge, because their strict execution would unfailingly lead to misery, starvation, anarchy, and chaos." That such an appeal should be put forward by the spokesmen of the nation that drafted the treaties of Bucharest and Brest-Litovsk is a warning to the Allies to draw up conditions of peace that are applicable to the German people as they have revealed themselves during the last four years, regardless of the constitutional camouflage that they may have seen fit to adopt under the stress of military defeat.

In Turkey the Allied organization, with Vice-Admiral Gough-Calthorpe as British High Commissioner, is already established at Constantinople. The forts of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus are garrisoned by troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Wilson, and the process of evacuating the German troops is being supervised by General Liman von Sanders, whose failure in Palestine and Syria has now some chance of passing unnoticed in Germany amid the great *débâcle*. Mosul was to have been occupied by General Marshall's force on November 15, and by now British Political Officers will have been placed in charge of the local civil administration and the gendarmerie. In the Caucasus and in North-Western Persia the Turks are also withdrawing. Baku was occupied by British and Russian troops on November 17. The town was found to have been looted to a considerable extent by the Turkish forces. Only in Arabia has there been any delay in carrying out the terms of the armistice, owing to the difficulty of communicating with the several Turkish commanders in the interior.

From a warning that the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs felt constrained to utter in the House of Commons on November 18, it has to be inferred that Turkey's compliance with the armistice conditions has been inclined to conform with Oriental ideas of how these things may be done rather than with the Western conception of orderly dispatch. Lord Robert Cecil stated that there were symptoms that the Turks had not learned their lesson, were still trying to carry on their old policy of delay, and were ready, if the opportunity occurred, to resort to their old device of setting one European nation against another. He warned them that they would make a profound mistake, if they did not realise that their power of delay and resistance was finished. They were now absolutely in our power, he added, and they could only hope to receive clemency or consideration if they showed that they had really mended their ways, and would hasten to carry out the terms of the armistice that they had signed. It will be hoped that this very outspoken warning does not imply that the Turkish situation is being handled on the spot without understanding of the Turkish character. No profound knowledge of the Turks is required to enable one to realise that advantage would be taken of the first symptom of any relaxation of what may be termed armistice discipline. The most effective method of correction ought to be at hand in Constantinople, and ought not to be sought in warnings from a distant Government.

The Cabinet changes in Turkey that followed the demand for an armistice are now reported to have resulted, after several makeshifts, in the complete elimination of the Committee of Union and Progress, which has been dissolved. Tewfik Pasha was first invited to form a new Ministry. He failed, and the post of Grand Vizier was given to Izzet Pasha. The reason for Tewfik's failure is said to have been his refusal to include any members of the Committee of Union and Progress. Izzet Pasha was prepared to remedy this defect, but encountered objection on the part of the Sultan, and resigned. Tewfik Pasha was once more called upon to form a

Government, and by this time the Committee appear to have decided, in view of the near approach of the Allies, that the wisest policy to adopt was self-effacement. If it be true that Enver has gone to the Caucasus and Talaat no farther than Odessa, it would seem as if they were adopting the tactics of the ex-Emperor William, and standing by at a safe distance to watch events. The Allies will do well to insist upon concrete proofs of a "mending of their ways" on the part of those now in authority.

The worst fears regarding the fate of many of the British and Indian prisoners in the power of the Turks have been confirmed by a White Paper on the subject. The story, as far as it can be pieced together, of the march from Samarra to Asia Minor of the men captured at Kut, is one of unrelieved horror. It is true, as the White Paper points out, that the treatment of the prisoners reflects the peculiarities of the Turkish character, for while some have been treated with almost theatrical politeness and consideration others have been driven and tormented like beasts. Regretfully it must be admitted, we fear, that these peculiarities have been realized too late in the day. The Turkish character ought to have been an open book to the British Government at the beginning of the war, and two alternatives were offered to them on the fall of Kut. They ought either to have bought the prisoners, or to have issued a very definite warning that, unless every precaution were taken for their proper treatment, Turkish officials, from the Grand Vizier downwards, would be held personally responsible The attempt to purchase the prisoners' release, it need hardly be said, ought to have been made nominally *sub rosa*; a public communication on the subject could only afford the Turkish Commander or his Government the opportunity of posing as incorruptible patriots and of frustrating the British Government's object.

Harrowing tales of the sufferings of prisoners of war in Bulgarian hands are also being related these days. Here, again, it is only too apparent that both the correspondents who tell the stories and the public that reads them imagine themselves in the presence of a discovery. It is, however, far from being one. This ignorance of the Balkan character is unfortunate at this juncture. At the outbreak of the first Balkan War we warned our readers in these columns to prepare for a struggle that would not conform to the principles of warfare as laid down by the occupants of Western armchairs. The warning was justified by the course of the campaign, followed so soon after by the Second War, with its charges and counter-charges, which led to the appointment of a Carnegie Commission. The findings of this body amounted to the historic verdict of "six of one and half a dozen of the other."

No one in this country will have any desire to palliate the crimes of any Balkan nation, or to pretend that the maltreatment of prisoners of war can be venial in some cases and not in others. It is only asked that the British public and the Allied Governments should approach the subject with the knowledge that murder and outrages have long been the order of the day in the Balkans, and with the determination that now at last an end shall be put to the practice. Where justice can be meted out to the offenders, it should be enforced with the utmost rigour, out invariably at the instance of the Allied Governments and not by the agency of another Balkan State. Nowhere will more sympathy be felt than in England with the "inarticulate rage" of the Serbian commander quoted by *The Times* correspondent at Sofia. The Serbian army had been arrested by the armistice in mid-career in its onrush to Sofia, and the commander very accurately summed up the Bulgarian character to the correspondent. It was his opinion that "retaliatory invasion" of their country alone could have taught the Bulgarians an abiding lesson; but now they were being helped to elude "the punishment which was manifestly their due." As a matter of fact, that very lesson was administered to the Bulgarians in 1913, as well as a score of times before, but it did not long prove an "abiding" one. The self-same lesson has been administered in turn to Serbians, Greeks, and Bulgarians by one another. It has, however, never proved abiding, and there is no reason to suppose that it would prove so this time. Its one effect has been to perpetuate the policy of lawless bands—Bulgarian, Serbian and Greek *Komitaji*—bent on reprisals. These must now be suppressed at the Allies' direction.

It is the repeated failure of the old methods as applied by the Balkan peoples to one another that makes those who believe that peace and prosperity can yet be established in the Peninsula anxious to see new methods adopted now that the Entente Powers have made the Balkan quarrel their own. In the Balkans neither war, nor politics, nor private quarrels have hitherto been carried on with kid gloves, and partly for this reason the Near East has been the storm centre of Europe. The Allies now have an opportunity of inculcating some of the lessons of the great world conflict now happily at an end, but to do so they must set their faces against blind reprisals. If at home we have to create "a better Britain," it is equally a duty imposed on the Allies to create a better Balkan Peninsula.

The liquidation of what was Austria-Hungary has been advanced an important stage by the first sitting of the National Assembly of the Czecho-Slovak State. President Masaryk, as was to be expected, was elected first President of the Republic, with Dr. Kramarzh as Prime Minister and M. Franz Tomasek President of the National Assembly. Dr. Benes is Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Yugoslav National Council is also exercising the functions of a duly constituted Government at Zagreb (Agram). By a fresh agreement with the Serbian Government the two administrations are to exercise separate jurisdiction until a joint Government shall have been constituted to represent Yugoslavia. The anomaly of open denunciation of M. Pashitch by the English Press organ of Yugoslavia continues, and his "Ottoman" propensities are said to have been responsible for the exclusion of the heads of the Zagreb National Council, the Serbian Government, and the London Yugoslav Committee from the new United Yugoslav Cabinet now in process of formation. In the meantime M. Pashitch has reorganised his Ministry, and is now the head of a Coalition Government in Serbia.

The appointment of a successor to Sir Michael O'Dwyer as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab will be received with mixed feelings in India, where, if we were to trust the local Press, we should have to believe that the name is borne by two very different personalities. In the East, South, and West Sir Michael is regarded as the embodiment of a reactionary bureaucracy, and the mention of his name is sufficient to provoke a storm of abuse, but among his own people in the North he is liked as much as he is feared. They recall how, a few years ago, he steered his province through a really dangerous crisis, and how, more recently, he has led the recruiting campaign with such success as to justify the aphorism that the Punjab accomplishes in a week what other parts of India talk about for a year. They know him almost as well as he knows them, and there will be a widespread regret when the time for parting comes.

Sir Edward Maclagan, who succeeds to the Punjab, is, perhaps, a less striking personality, and so far as we have seen he has not yet incurred the dislike of politicians in other parts of India, but he is deeply imbued with the traditions of the province, where he is assured of a warm welcome. There are many signs that the martial races of the North intend, when there is no fighting to be done, to take a more prominent part than hitherto in internal politics, which will certainly benefit by a liberal infusion of Jats, Sikhs, and (we hope) Pathans, and we are confident that Sir Edward will do all that lies in his power to facilitate their entrance into the arena, and to see that the Punjab gets at least its fair share of whatever may be going.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 14.

The Sultan's Accession Day.

His Highness the Sultan celebrated the first anniversary of his accession to the throne on Wednesday last. The day was kept as a public holiday, and in the morning a reception was held at Ras el Tin Palace. It was originally intended that the reception should be a general one; but in view of the difficulty in providing train accommodation from the provinces, his Highness gave orders that it should be restricted to those persons resident, or on duty, in Alexandria. Notwithstanding this, the attendance was a very large one. On this occasion the Sultan conferred a number of honours and grades on Egyptian officials. In the evening the President of the Council, his Excellency Hussein Rushdi Pasha, gave a banquet at San Stefano Casino, followed by a reception, his guests including the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the Advisers, Under-Secretaries, senior officials, and leading Egyptian and European residents. The previous afternoon the officers of the Sultania Guard gave a gymkhana on the square outside the Palace. It was attended by the Sultan, and provided some excellent entertainment for the guests, who included the Ministers and senior officers and Government officials.

On Saturday there was another Government holiday, making the third in the week. This time the *dies non* was in honour of the return of the Mahmal with the Holy Caravan from Mecca. The ceremony of receiving back the Mahmal took place in Cairo, where H.E. Rushdi Pasha, the Prime Minister, represented the Sultan. From what the pilgrims say, the pilgrimage this year has passed off very satisfactorily, and they are loud in their praises of the arrangements made for them by the Egyptian Government and the King of the Hejaz.

An Excellent Assault-at-Arms.

A very well-organised Assault-at-Arms was held at Zeitoun this week by the Imperial School of Instruction. The programme, which was a very varied one, included tent-pegging by Indian Lancers and all those events beloved of cavalry men. The huge concourse of spectators thoroughly appreciated the sport provided, especially the novelty contributed by the Aviation School. The latter sent over some of its smartest pilots, who performed some most remarkable feats, which gave some idea of what great advances have been made in the mastery of the air, and how aeroplanes can be made to manœuvre in just as good formation as infantry or cavalry. The Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Edmund Allenby, who was down in Cairo on short leave from his victories over the Turks, was present for a time, and the prizes were eventually distributed by Lady Allenby.

The Palestine Advance.

The wonderful advance in Palestine is still the main topic of conversation, especially in Egyptian circles. Prisoners continue to arrive here—their number now exceeds 80,000. The great part of them are in an emaciated, exhausted condition, and have had to be put at once into hospital; but despite the attention given them, many have succumbed to the privations which they evidently suffered prior to their capture. In connection with this offensive one remarkable feature has been noticeable, viz., the extraordinary amount of gold, German, British, and Turkish, which the prisoners, one and all, have on them.

The prospects of peace are also much discussed, and it is interesting to note that immediately the news was known that Germany had asked for peace terms the Stock Market fell flat and share prices came down with a run, whilst those of imported articles dropped considerably, in some cases as much as 30 per cent. As regards stocks and shares, this merely serves to show how unreliable the Egyptian market still is as an indication of the true value of investments; while as regards commodities, it gives an idea of the profits which merchants are now making.

The Sudan.

Very little is heard nowadays about the Sudan, but from time to time we get glimpses of the admirable work that is being done there. One such glimpse has just been afforded us by the notice issued in connection with the granting of war medals by the Sultan. This notice announces that medals will be granted to all troops, including the Sudan Government police, who took part in the following operations and were in certain areas between the dates mentioned:—*Darfur* (March 1 to December 31, 1916), *Zeraf Valley* (December 18, 1913, to February 20, 1914), *Lokoia Tribe* (January 1 to 25, 1915), *Matong Mountains* (February 17 to March 14, 1916), and *Lannaer Tribe* (February 27 to April 25, 1917). These, with the exception of Darfur, are all frontier affairs incidental to the administration of such a vast territory as that comprised under the designation "The Sudan," and they have nothing to do with the internal state of the country, which has throughout been eminently satisfactory. This notice, which only refers to some of the operations undertaken during the past five years, shows, however, that the flag is being kept valiantly flying in the far distant confines of this huge dependency by a small band of gallant Englishmen, whose doings receive no advertisement, but who deserve recognition every bit as much as their fellows in less remote spheres.

The Question of Rents.

Rents still continue to rise, and there is not unnaturally considerable feeling on the part of the tenants at this attempt of the landlord element to take advantage of the present situation, where, owing to the cessation of building operations and the demand of the Army for housing for their officers stationed in Cairo and Alexandria, the supply is far below the demand. A committee has been formed in Alexandria to combat the landlords, and its adherents can be numbered by the thousands. It is not known what the Government is going to do in the matter, but it would appear that something will have to be done to protect the tenants from the grasping profiteer landlords. As the tenants point out, they do not object to having their rents raised in a reasonable manner. They fully recognise that, just as their own expenses have increased, so also have those of the landlords, and that the latter must look to their house revenues to recoup them to some extent. But what they protest against is the general tendency to increase rents by such exorbitant amounts as 33 1-3 and even 40 per cent. as has been done in many cases.

War Treason Case in Alexandria.

A most extraordinary and unique case of war treason has lately been before the Military Courts, which have now passed sentence on the accused. The latter were the three brothers, members of the firm of Tarablusi, well known in Alexandria. They were accused of having had dealings with the Senussi, and of having acted as the go-betweens for procuring money from the Turkish Government for Nuri Bey, the leader of the Turkish forces in Tripoli, to enable him to pay his soldiers and bribe the followers of the Senussi to side with the Turks. The relations with the Senussi and Nuri Bey complained of dated back to the spring of 1915, when the former were still on good terms with us, and continued after he had come in against us; and the evidence showed very ingenious attempts at covering up the receipt and payment of the moneys in question. The case has lasted three months, and finally the Court delivered its decision, which was sentence of death on two of the brothers and five years' penal servitude on the third. The death sentence has since been commuted by the Commander-in-Chief to penal servitude for life.

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Sir N. Chandavarkar and Mr. Justice Beachcroft, who were appointed by the Government to report on detenus and internees in Bengal, have presented an exhaustive statement, which has now been issued as a White Paper.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Declaration of War.

On November 9 Roumania re-took her place officially on the side of the Allied nations by declaring war on Germany. The Roumanian Army, which last year barred the march of Von Mackensen to Odessa, was ready to fight again. In less than a fortnight General Berthelot, who covered himself with glory in the last battle of the Marne, succeeded in putting his Roumanians, whom he left after the Peace of Bucharest, on a war footing. At the same time that they began to move southward from Moldavia, the French and British troops crossed the Danube in several places and were advancing towards Bucharest. There had already been some artillery fighting between the Allies and the Germans, fortified on the northern bank of the Danube, when the Armistice prevented further bloodshed. The Germans retired from Roumania in great disorder, and Von Mackensen rushed over the frontier with only 2,000 men.

Last Sunday General Berthelot entered Bucharest with the Roumanian, French, and British troops, who were received with indescribable enthusiasm by the population. After nearly two years of sufferings, the Roumanians saw at last the Allied liberators marching side by side with their own soldiers through the streets of their capital. The British troops have occupied Constantza.

The presence of the Allied troops on the Roumanian soil has also great political importance for the just solution of the difficult questions of the Near East and Russia. The geographical situation of Roumania, and, much more, the great sympathy of the people for the Allies and their firm determination to co-operate with their liberators, offer great possibilities for the success of the Allied nations in that part of troubled Europe. The Peace of Bucharest was turned to nought before the conclusion of the general armistice by the Roumanian Declaration of War on Germany. Furthermore, the Roumanian Parliament, despite all the pressure exercised upon it by the Germans, refused even at the end of September to ratify the infamous Treaty of Bucharest. Now, the new Roumanian Government, being the expression of the popular will, has made the position of Roumania clear by re-entering the Alliance of her liberators.

The Roumanians of Transylvania.

After the collapse of Austria-Hungary the Committee of the Roumanian National Party of Transylvania was compelled to take measures to protect the lives and property of the Roumanians. They recalled all the Roumanian soldiers serving in the army of the late Dual Monarchy to Transylvania, to defend their homes and their rights. Thus a national army was formed under their own flag, and they tried to preserve order and to suppress the bands of brigands and deserters who were spreading anarchy and destruction all over the country. The Magyar authorities, however, interfered in the organization of the Roumanians and sought to impose the old oppressive conditions, and the Magyar oligarchy began to deport the leaders of the Roumanians and to arrest their priests and school teachers in the villages. In these circumstances the Roumanian Government was compelled to give protection to the helpless Roumanians of Transylvania. It therefore sent a note to the Hungarian Government requesting the cessation of the oppressive measures against the Roumanians of Transylvania and the immediate withdrawal of all Magyar military forces from that province. In the meantime the Roumanian National Party asked Roumania for help, and the Roumanian soldiers therefore crossed the Carpathian Mountains again to protect their brethren. This action has nothing of the character of a military occupation. It is merely the fulfilment by the Roumanian soldier of his duty to protect his younger brother.

The New Government of Roumania.

After the collapse of Bulgaria the position of the Marghiloman Government became impossible. They tried, however, still to keep power in their own hands, and the Germans greatly helped them. They offered to leave the old frontiers to Roumania, and to hand over the Dobruja. The Germans made a great agitation in Roumania on this question of the Dobruja, saying that the Allies are disposed to give the province to Bulgaria, and urging as evidence that they had pledged themselves to do so the fact that they did not ask the Bulgarians to evacuate the Dobruja as they did in the case of Serbian and Greek territory. This stupid propaganda could not influence pubic opinion in Roumania. When the Roumanian Army from Moldavia asked to fight the Germans again and the big demonstrations at Jassy took place, the Government of the German bayonet collapsed. The King thereupon asked General Coanda to form a new Government. The new Premier of Roumania represented the Roumanian Army at the Russian Headquarters, and is more a diplomatist than a soldier. He was educated in France, and is one of the greatest friends of the French and British. The new Government is formed of military men and some high officials, and is not at all connected with the old political parties of Roumania. It seems that these parties have been nearly destroyed by the war. The new Government is a transitional one, to "carry on" until the union of the whole Roumanian race gives expression to a new political life.

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MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta.

As I write, huge battleships, representing no less than five of the Allied nations, are leaving harbour for somewhere in the East; and ere these lines appear, it is probable that they will have given a good account of themselves. Even their mode of sailing is suggestive of sullen, yet supreme strength. Malta, from her position, has always been cosmopolitan and international; but never was she more so than she is to-day. British, French, Italian, American and Japanese tars fraternise in our streets in a manner more suggestive of prize days or picnics than submarine hunting and slaughter. It would break the heart of Potsdam to see how little the war worries us here, even though, in the boasted enemy conditions of peace of some short time ago, Malta was to be one of the plums to be taken by the Huns! We have not heard an enemy shot, seen an enemy aeroplane, or sighted a submarine; whilst we care so little for our enemy that we are to have our usual race meeting on the Marsa on November 23. Although the programme is more modest than it is wont to be in peace times, there will be six capital events, with the usual enthusiasm and nice frocks; and to try to imagine Malta without the Marsa would be to imagine a vain thing indeed.

I had occasion but a short time ago to refer to the charitable nature of the Governor, Lord Methuen, and the whole-hearted way in which he has stimulated all classes to help each other. One great wish before he leaves is to establish a British hospital, on sound lines and on a proper basis. To this end we are glad to learn that his Excellency is meeting with substantial support in his scheme, and it is with great pleasure that we learn of the munificent donations of £3,000 from the executors of the late Mrs. A. A. Hardman and of £1,000 from Miss Angas.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

There has been an oppressive heat-wave, in the beginning of October, a month which divides summer from winter, and which varies a good deal in different years as regards temperature. There have, however, been some good rains, especially in the hills. A few earthquake shocks have been felt. The island has not escaped an unwelcome invasion of "Spanish 'flu," which has attacked natives and British alike.

Government offices will return to winter hours on October 21. During the summer work begins and ends earlier, on account of the heat.

His Excellency the High Commissioner and Lady Clauson will be "at home" at Government House, Nicosia, on the first Wednesday of every month, from 4 to 7 p.m., from November 7.

Present conditions as regards the annual plague of locusts enable the Government to suspend collection of a part of the harassing, but hitherto necessary, Locust Tax. The levy on tithes, sheep, goats, and real properties is to be suspended for one year from next March; that on incomes and trade profits till further notice from the same date.

◆

General Clayton has telegraphed from Damascus that there are between 25,000 and 30,000 Armenian refugees in the town, of whom 5,000 to 7,000 are in need of relief. It is calculated that 10,000 Armenians were massacred by the Turks at Baku. About twice this number escaped, and there are now 1,200 Armenian refugees at Enzeli and 20,000 at Petrovsk.

The Civil Service Commissioners give notice that an Open Competitive Examination for the Indian Civil Service will be held in London beginning on August 1, 1919. No person will be admitted to examination from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before June 2, an application, in the candidate's own handwriting, on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Secretary at once.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I beg a few lines to correct some errors in the letter of Mr. Kessary? I do not confuse Konitza and Koritza. They are two quite distinct places. Konitza is mainly inhabited not by Greeks but by Vlahs. Koritza is Albanian in population.

The Vlahs largely speak Greek. So do some of the Albanians. But, as Mr. Kessary himself points out, language is not a clear test of nationality. The people are none the less Vlahs and Albanians. He is mistaken also in supposing that Mehmed Bey reresents "only a few Moslems." The President of the Pan-Albanian Society, which he represents, is an Orthodox priest, and a large number of the Federation are Christian—both Catholic and Orthodox. The number, 60,000, is, I believe, correct, as I have taken much trouble, from American as well as Albanian sources, to make certain.

Mr. Kessary is, however, correct in saying: "It is not surprising that Miss Durham was not asked for Greek schools in North Epirus"—no, it is not. I was, on the contrary, asked to help get rid of them and get national schools established, and especially to free the country of Greek priests. Just as Alsace-Lorraine had German schools forced on it, so has Albania been afflicted with Greek ones. So strong is the feeling that Orthodox Albanians have told me that they will not allow their children to learn "that accursed tongue, Greek."—I am, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM.

THE PREHISTORIC PORT OF ALEXANDRIA

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

Historians and geographers all tell us that between the Christian era and that of the Hegira the maritime provinces of the Delta were lowered, or the depth of the Mediterranean increased, so that much land cultivable even in Greek and Roman times became salted and waterlogged, while a good deal was also covered by the sea, though only to a small depth.

It may be that at some time long previous to this a similar—but not such an extensive—change had occurred in the littoral of the Eastern Mediterranean, of which we have no direct record. Homer, in the Odyssey, speaks of "an island in the sea off the coast of Egypt, that is called Pharos. In this island is to be found a commodious harbour wherein mariners can put up their ships after traversing the black waters." This, as far as scholars yet know, is the only mention of such a created haven. It would seem likely that the construction must have disappeared soon after Homer's time; for otherwise, in connection with Alexander's selection of the site of Alexandria for the foundation of a great city and port the earlier harbour would surely have been mentioned had it existed—even in ruins—by the classic authors who describe his career. Pharos Island, too, is the place where the seventy translators of the Old Testament into Greek resided during their labours, and had there been any dim recollection of such a harbour the somewhat loquacious Aristeas, who describes their appointment and proceedings, would surely have referred to it. The conclusion we must, therefore, come to is that either Homer was mistaken or the port itself and all memory of it had vanished.

The magnificent Bay of Alexandria is bounded by the new quay wall, the island of Pharos, and the two capes, which converge towards the end of the island. In it, had it not been for the strong northerly wind and consequent rollers, the ancient galleys and vessels should have had comparatively safe anchorage. M. Jondet, however, by persevering examination of the sea to the west and south of Pharos, proves* that at some time or other it was thought necessary to provide a safer haven; and he has found beneath the water extensive vestiges of such a port in the neighbourhood of the promontory of Ras-el-Tin. The area of this place of maritime refuge was between 200 and 400 metres. It was formed by constructing at its western end a sort of breakwater and sea wall of immense size, with foundations starting at some depth. This again was protected by parallel works further out. The entrance to this harbour was from the south, towards the shore, so as not to be open to seas driven by the north wind.

M. Jondet says that these remains are not reduced merely to their foundations or to fragments that would leave the cause of their existence a doubtful matter, but, upon the contrary, much of their superstructure remains. The portions most exposed to the ravages of the sea have been demolished, but enough remains to render certain what purpose the construction was intended to serve.

Finally, M. Jondet suggests that this harbour was built by one of the greater Pharaohs, such as Rameses II., but that is merely a guess, and not a very probable suggestion. It is far more likely that it was the work of a people who wanted a safe anchorage, a slight distance away from the land, so as to be comparatively safe from sudden surprise by their neighbours. We know how, later, the Phœnicians always selected as a depot some place that had an island in the offing

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*"Les Ports Submergés de l'Ancienne Ile de Pharos." Par M. G. Jondet Ingénieur en Chef des Ports et Phares de l'Egypte. Tome IX. Mémoire présenté à l'Institut Egyptien.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A YUGOSLAV DRAMA.*

We doubt whether "The Liberators" would ever achieve success on the stage—on the English stage, at any rate; it is too much in the nature of a political sermon, and, one must add, too gloomy. There is very little action, and the characters would be utterly unfamiliar to most English audiences. But as a "reading" play it is full of interest, and gives a vivid—and, we believe, very accurate, if somewhat depressing—picture of one of the ancient rivalries of the Balkans, and of a cruel situation that those rivalries might only too naturally bring about. The extent of the tragedy underlying the play can perhaps be appreciated only by those who have met representatives of all the Balkan nations, and noted how each in turn tells the same story of angels and devils, black and white, varying it only in the way he casts the characters for Angel or Devil.

The scene of the play is laid in Sofia, at the house of a Bulgarian general, whose family has befriended a young Serbian subaltern wounded and made prisoner in the "First" Balkan War. There comes the suicidal "Second" Balkan War, the defeat of Bulgaria, her loss of those things for which she had made her treacherous attack. The last act closes on a note of tremulous hope for the future. One fears that M. Tucic would make a different ending to the play where he writing it now. Stoyanoff, one of the poor wrecks of humanity who move across the stage in this sad drama, exclaims, as the curtain falls: "I will pray. I will pray . . . . and I will have faith once more!" If peace is real to come to the Balkans, Serbians, and Bulgarians alike must be prepared to "pray" . . . . and "have faith," not only "once more," but as many times as may be needful.

The play has been translated by Miss Fannie S. Copeland, who has done her work well; and Dr. Seton-Watson writes a vigorous and helpful Preface. We recommend the book to all who desire to study the "Balkanic" temperament and psychology.

LIBERATORS OF JERUSALEM.†

This twenty-four-page pamphlet seems to aim at helping us all to realise the spirit in which the British entered Jerusalem and in which they have worked there since last December. As the author says on his first page, "The significance of the event (*i.e.*, of General Allenby's entry into the city) runs back for thirty centuries into history and forward through illimitable vistas of the future; but at heart it is all summed up in the simple fact that General Allenby entered Jerusalem not as conqueror but as liberator." On this text Mr. Mathews discourses eloquently and agreeably. The numerous illustrations are interesting and very well produced, and the paper and type of the little book are excellent.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"From the Garden of Eden to the Crossing of the Jordan." By Sir William Willcocks, K.C.M.G. (Cairo: French Institute of Oriental Archæology. 5s., or 24 P.T.).

"Les Campagnes d'Orient et les Intérêts de l'Entente." Avec 15 cartes. By Charles Stiénon. (Librairie Payot et Cie. Paris. 7 frs. 50 c.)

"Dr. Elsie Inglis." By Lady Frances Balfour. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"The Dardanelles Campaign." By H. W. Nevinson. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)

"On Four Fronts with the Royal Naval Division." By Geoffrey Sparrow, M.C., and J. N. Macbean Ross, M.C., Surgeons R.N. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. net.)

◆

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, presided at a dinner at the Carlton Hotel on Monday night in honour of M. Gennadius. Among those present were Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., Mme. Gennadius, M. Michalacoupolos, Dr. Burrows, the Greek Archimandrite, M. M. Venizelos, Sir Francis Elliot, the Serbian Minister, Sir A. Crosfield, and members of the Legation and Greek officers. M. Venizelos said that M. Gennadius was leaving the service after nearly half a century of public life, during which he had discharged the difficult and responsible duties of his high post with splendid ability and devoted patriotism. The Government were deeply concerned at being deprived of the services of the *doyen* of their diplomatic body, and he was instructed to confer on M. Gennadius the first Grand Cross of the new Order of George I. Now that M. Gennadius had returned to private life the Government would be empowered by law to bestow on him the title of Honorary Minister, and he felt sure that if need be M. Gennadius would not hesitate to place his vast experience at the disposal of his country.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Count Sforza has been appointed High Commissioner for Italy in Turkey.

At Cairo the influenza outbreak is still serious, especially amongst natives.

The United States Treasury has made a loan of £1,400,000 to the Czecho-Slovak Council.

It is reported that M. Doroshenko, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, is going to Switzerland shortly.

As at present arranged, the Viceroy of India will invest the Maharaja of Bharatpur on November 28.

Count Metternich has arrived in Berne from Constantinople, where he has been in charge of German interests.

The influenza epidemic in India is declining. The Viceroy and the Government of India are now moving to Delhi.

Miss Harrison, of Dean Hill, Matlock, has left £2,500 to the Church Missionary Society for a missionary in India.

Vice-Admiral Amet has been appointed High Commissioner of the French Republic to the Ottoman Government.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. T. Dennys, Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, is due to retire from service on March 10 next.

Mr. Charles Arthur Galton, of Palmeira Court, Hove, late of the Indian Civil Service, left property valued at £5,227.

Miss Laura Pugh, of Lancaster Gate, W., daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Pugh, of Madras, left property valued at £28,785.

M. Gerassimos, a Greek resident in Egypt, has placed 50,000 frs. at the disposal of M. Venizelos for national needs.

The Governor of Bengal has nominated Mr. Edward Brooks-Henderson Panton to be an additional member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Six shots were fired by a Serb in Geneva on Thursday at the Director of the Serbian Red Cross, who was slightly wounded. His assailant fled, but was arrested.

Syrians in Sierra Leone have presented to the Governor addresses of loyalty and gratitude for the British successes in Syria, and a contribution of £557 for Red Cross funds, on the occasion of the armistice.

M. Venizelos, who was accompanied by M. Michalocopoulos and M. Stavridi, the Greek Consul-General in London, addressed the members of the Baltic Exchange on Thursday afternoon, November 14, by special invitation of the directors. He had an enthusiastic reception.

The National Assembly of the Czecho-Slovak State has held its first sitting. After a speech by the President, Dr. Kramarzh, Professor Masaryk was elected the first President of the Republic, M. Franz Tomasek President of the National Assembly, and Dr. Kramarzh Prime Minister.

A reception took place at the India Office on Wednesday evening of the delegates from the Press of India who are on a visit to this country. The Secretary for India, Mr. E. S. Montagu, was present, and the guests were received by Sir Thomas Holderness. An opportunity was given the guests of inspecting a number of historical treasures of the India Office.

A telegram from Palestine to the Zionist Organisation in London states that the greatest poverty, distress, and misery exist among the Jews in Damascus, Beyrout, and Sidon. The Zionist Commission in Palestine is proceeding there to organise relief, but large funds are required for food, clothing, and the immediate wants of the suffering population. Children are dying of starvation in the streets of Beyrout.

Lady Selborne, Joint Hon. Treasurer of the Elsie Inglis London Memorial Fund, announces that Lord and Lady Cowdray have made up their gift to this Fund to the sum of £10,000, in the hope that as large an amount as possible will be collected for the reconstituted University of Belgrade in memory of the splendid work of Dr. Elsie Inglis, the founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Contributions should be sent to the Joint Hon. Treasurers of the Fund, at 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Dr. Benes, the Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister, has sent the Prime Minister a telegram of congratulation on the Allied victory. He adds: "Our nation will never forget the help that Great Britain extended to her during this terrible war, and will do all in her power to continue the policy inaugurated during the war. The valour, the energy, and the loyalty which she has shown during the war while fighting on the side of the Allies will be the principles which will always guide her intimate collaboration with Great Britain in the future."

ANGLO-HELLENIC EDUCATION.

A lunch was given on Wednesday at the Savoy Hotel by invitation of the Ministry of Information for the purpose of considering plans for the promotion of an Anglo-Hellenic Educational Foundation which would aim at developing certain educational projects in Greece and in furthering the intellectual entente between Great Britain and Greece. Mr. G. H. Mair presided.

M. Venizelos expressed warm approval of the proposals put forward for discussion. These included the foundation of a British Grammar School in Athens, of a Greek Public School to be founded by means of the Corcialegno bequest, and a British College to provide higher education not only for Greeks but for other peoples in the Near East. As a result of the discussion it was resolved to form those persons present into a committee to consider the proposals in greater detail and to take any desirable steps to carry them into effect. Until the committee has appointed officers, Dr. Walter Seton, of the Ministry of Information and University College, London, will act as convener. Any persons interested in the proposal are invited to put themselves in communication with Dr. Walter Seton.

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* "The Liberators." By Srgjan Tucic. Translated by Fannie S. Copeland. With Preface by R. W. Seton-Watson. (Shakespeare Head Press. 3s. 6d. net.)

† "The Freedom of Jerusalem." By Basil Mathews, M.A. (Hodder and Stoughton. 6d. net.)

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A little while ago the *Egyptian Gazette*, in reporting a rescue from drowning, began its account thus:—

> On Sunday last a rather fat and heavy native woman, dressed in a galabieh, was suddenly seen to be floundering about out of her depth among the breakers at Sporting Club, just opposite the officers' Summer Camp . . .

One hopes that the plump and ponderous lady cannot read English, or, at any rate, that she will never read this all-too-candid description of her person and her natatory style. Should she do so, she would probably consider it a fair example of things that might have been more happily worded.

⁂

The success attending the efforts of those who have worked so vigorously on behalf of the various War Loans must have been extremely gratifying to the workers, and the ingenuity displayed in the way of advertising has usually resulted in the reaping of a rich harvest. But occasionally the organisers ot various schemes and "dodges" have had a setback. This was the case in Burma, where a "War Loan Train" was employed. It did great things, collecting 11 lakhs of rupees; but at one station those in charge of the travelling moneybox had an experience that would have been exasperating if it had not been excruciatingly funny. On arrival at the station referred to they found that an elaborate meal had been prepared for them: the food was of the best, if looks went for anything, and champagne had been provided in liberal fashion. But there the generosity of the hosts—who were Chinese—came to an end, and they firmly declined to invest anything in the War Loan. Thereupon the collectors determined to leave the excellent meal untouched. In sorrow rather than in anger, but, one hopes, not conscious of any aching voids beneath their *kummerbunds*, they shook the dust of that place from their feet and steamed away. And, doubtless, the hosts-that-were-to-have-been did their best to avoid waste in war-time.

⁂

I have no intention of joining in the controversy now in progress in the correspondence columns of The Near East regarding the "Albanian Protest" of Mehmed Konitza Bey. But readers who have followed the correspondence may be interested to know that the *Sphere* last week published two views of "Koritza, the seat of the Albanian Government"; and that the note accompanying the pictures stated:—

> "The inhabitants are nearly all Albanians (Tosks), both Christian (Orthodox) and Moslem. For years past the Greeks have done their best to Hellenize the people, but have met with very little success."

We are told also that "the town is modern and clean, and comes as a great surprise to people used to the filth and vermin found in Macedonian towns." I suspect that Miss Durham will have a higher opinion of the *Sphere's* description than will M. Kessary. To a simple soul like myself the flat contradictions that one encounters in Balkan controversy are very confusing.

⁂

No doubt most of my readers are aware that seafaring men generally hanker after a country life, and that when they spend strenuous hours afloat fighting the elements they console themselves with thoughts of that "snug little place in the country" in which they fondly hope to end their days. Similar visions were constantly before my eyes in those unregenerate days before I abandoned active "corsairing"; and as I watched my pile of doubloons and threepenny-bits growing steadily larger I rejoiced in the thought of the pigs and chickens, cabbage fields and orchards that should be mine some day. But things did not pan out just as I had hoped. Pigs, orchards, and so forth cost a deal of money, and—to cut a long story short—my farm still remains "a castle in Spain." At last, however, hope has sprung up in my breast again. For, a few days ago, in reading one of Mr. Ward Price's interesting descriptions of present-day Bulgaria, I came across this passage:—

> "From all sides flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are being driven towards the British Army to be offered for sale. There is certainly no sign of lack of food in Eastern Bulgaria, though the peasant is unwilling to part with produce for money of his own currency. A pair of boots or an old cooking-pot will fetch, however, almost any price in kind that you care to put upon it, and with the contents of a single old-clothes stall out of the Mile End Road you could stock a small-sized farm in Bulgaria just now."

I have got together my old clothes—and, owing to the war, they are old—and am now off to Bulgaria in haste, if only I can get free passage.

Corsair.

A GREAT MARVEL OF THIS MARVELLOUS WAR

The following letter speaks for itself:

Sir,—Recent and close association with the Serbian Army prompts me to offer my humble but sincere support to the appeal of the Serbian Relief Fund. No one who saw, as I saw, the remnants of that army upon their arrival in Corfu, after the terrible mid-winter retreat through the mountains of Albania and Montenegro, or who witnessed, as I did, the uncomplaining patience and great-hearted courage of these peasant soldiers, could fail in sympathy for their fearful sufferings or in respect and admiration for their heroic fortitude. That an army so reduced, so worn, wasted, starved and sorrow-stricken could in six short months take the field again as did the Serbians, reconstituted, re-equipped, and re-armed, not only full of confidence but eager to fight its way back to its native soil, as it is now so gloriously doing, is one of the great marvels of this marvellous war. No one who has lived with the Serbs from day to day, as I did for a year and a half, in hospital and camp, could fail o be deeply impressed by the simple fervour of their patriotism and the grandeur of their moral and physical endurance. To a Briton the absolute tfaith in the power and will of this country to support their efforts and to right their wrongs shown by these rugged, gentle-mannered soldiers is infinitely touching, and seems to demand the fullest possible return. They will go back into their country with the help of their powerful Allies, but to a country wrecked and devastated, to homes at best little better than empty shells, to wasted fields and shattered walls. They will need food, clothing, furniture, implements—everything. The Serbian Relief Fund has long earned the confidence of the Serbs, and is worthy of the most generous and prompt support in its immediate efforts to mitigate the inevitable privations and sufferings of this sorely stricken and most gallant nation through the approaching winter and the spring which, we trust, is to bring the dawn of peace to their war-wasted land.—Yours, &c.,

Edward Warren,
Hon. Major, Royal Serbian Army,
20, Bedford Street, London, 18th October, 1918.

Send a donation to-day to the Hon. Treasurer,
The RIGHT HON. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W. 7.

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to Lady Grogan. Parcels of Clothing, Materials, Boots, &c., for men, women and children should be sent to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. November	1918. November.		1337. Safar.	5679. Kislev.
22	9	Friday	17	18
23	10	Saturday........	18	19
24	11	**Sunday**	19	20
25	12	Monday	20	21
26	13	Tuesday	21	22
27	14	Wednesday	22	23
28	15	Thursday	23	24

M. Také Jonescu has arrived in London.

The Marquess of Crewe has left London for Crewe Hall.

Lord Curzon returned to London last Friday from Paris.

M. Grouitch, late Serbian Minister to Switzerland, left Berne on Sunday for Paris and Washington.

On November 8, at Poona, the wife of Mr. James Crerar, C.I.E., I.C.S., gave birth to a daughter.

On October 27, at Ootacamund, the wife of Major Seymour Bazett, Gurkha Rifles, gave birth to a son.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, accompanied by M. Michalocopoulos, spent the week-end with Sir Arthur Crosfield.

Heddaya Bey, the Governor-General of the Suez Canal, has been made Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the President of the French Republic.

Signor Tordi, Postmaster-General of Florence, has sent to General Allenby a collection of reproductions of antique silver to commemorate the reconquest of Jerusalem.

On Saturday, at Buckingham Palace, the King invested Major-General Sir Charles Townshend with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (Military Division).

Sir Robert and Lady Clegg left Madras for England in September, travelling by way of America. Sir Robert's service in the Madras Presidency has extended over thirty-four years, eight of which were spent in the Board of Revenue.

On September 9, at St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, Naini Tal, India, Major Philip F. Pope, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pope, Okefield, Crediton, Devon, was married to Eleanor Lawson Brown, daughter of Mr. H. F. Brown, Timaru, New Zealand.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant R. G. Davis, I.A.R.O., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Davis, of Hangmoor, Virginia Water, and Thea, eldest daughter of Herr Martin Petersen, of Aarhüs, and niece of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Latham, of 38, Portland Place, W.

The marriage arranged between Major Anthony Bovill, M.C., 9th Lancers, son of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Bovill, of 60, Pont Street, S.W., and Eleanor Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monins, of Ringwould, Kent, will take place, leave permitting, at Ringwould on December 5.

At an Investiture at Buckingham Palace last Saturday the King invested the following with the Insignia of the Distinguished Service Order:—Major Gerald Scott, Indian Infantry; Major Charles Wallace, Indian Infantry; and Mr. Harold MacMichael, late temporary captain, attached Egyptian Army.

The engagement is announced of Captain Hugh Lloyd Howard, M.C., Royal Engineers, only child of Mr. and Mrs. D. Lloyd Howard, of Little Friday Hill, Chingford, Essex, to Marcella, younger daughter of Mr. G. H. le Maistre, late Indian Public Works Department, and Mrs. le Maistre, of 8, Chester Terrace, Eaton Square, and La Maison du Coin, St. Aubins, Jersey.

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius entertained M. Venizelos at luncheon last Friday. Among those present to meet him were:—The Serbian Minister, Viscount Bryce, Viscount Milner, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir Charles Hanson, Sir Francis Elliot, the Hon. Pember Reeves, Principal Burrows, M. Michalacopoulos, M. Caclamanos, M. M. Embiricos, Captain Rodoeanachi, and M. J. Papas.

The marriage will shortly take place at the Hague of Captain John Clive Doveton Mullaly, 9th (Bhopal) Infantry, Indian Army, eldest son of the late Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Mullaly, D.S.O., Indian Army, and eldest grandson of the late Major-General W. J. Doveton, Madras Staff Corps, to Joan Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Warner, of Botley, Hants.

On November 6, at Meiktila, Burma, Captain W. E. Hunt, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Hunt, Effingham House, Bath, was married to Miss Ellen Winifred Farrington, second daughter of Major G. Farrington, P.W.D., Burma, and Mrs. Farrington.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—

Mr. H. W. Grimshaw has been appointed President of the District Court of Limasol, from September 15, and Mr. B. Dickenson President of the District Court of Papho, from the same date.

The Order of the British Empire has been conferred on Major Bolton, Commissioner of Limasol, and Provost Marshal in Cyprus.

The marriage of Lieutenant-Commander Claude Preston Hermon-Hodge, D.S.C., R.N., fifth son of Sir Robert Hermon-Hodge, M.P., and Lady Hermon-Hodge, of Wyfold Court, Reading, and Miss Gwendoline Rose Davis, younger daughter of Mr. J. Goulding Davis, Public Works Department, and Mrs. Davis, of Bahawalpur, India, took place at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, on Tuesday. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. S. Shuttleworth, vicar of St. Paul's, Kingston Hill, assisted by the Rev. J. E. T. Evitt, curate of St. James's.

Our Malta Correspondent writes:—

The many friends, both in Malta and abroad, of Professor Thomas Agius, M.A., M.D., F.R.Met.Soc., will be glad to learn that he has just been appointed a temporary captain in the Royal Air Force, for duty at the Malta Meteorological Station. All through the war Professor Agius has been rendering very valuable services in connection with the Meteorological Office, and his present appointment is a striking proof that his important work has been fully appreciated.

The greatest sympathy is extended to Captain Sidney Andrews, R.N.R., Malta, the genial and courteous P. and O. agent here, on the loss of his son, Captain S. O. Andrews, A.O.D., who passed away whilst on active service early in the month. His death is attributed to pneumonia. The deceased was a young and most promising officer.

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M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Serbia, accompanied by other Ministers, arrived in London on Tuesday.

Under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League, Mr. Thomas H. Mawson (City Planning Expert to the Greek Government), will give two lectures in the Great Hall at King's College, Strand: "The Rebuilding of Salonika," on Friday, November 22, and "The Rebuilding of Athens," on Friday, December 13, at 5 p.m. in each case.

Sir Basil Zaharoff, K.B.E., has intimated to the Vice-Chancellor his desire to offer to Oxford University the sum of £25,000 "for the establishment of a Chair of French, to be called the Marshal Foch Professorship of French Literature, and for other purposes connected with the promotion of French studies." Sir Basil, who is a Greek by birth, has previously founded Chairs of Aviation at Petrograd, Paris, and London Universities.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The Hon. Mr. J. P. Thompson, C.S.I., of the Punjab, has been appointed an Additional Member of the Imperial Legislative Council.

It is rumoured that the Hon. Mr. D. W. Aikman, C.I.E., Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads, Punjab, will probably retire from the public service in December next.

Mr. W. S. Hitchcock, Aide-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, has been appointed Private Secretary to his Honour in addition to his present duties.

The Council of the Royal Asiatic Society has appointed Miss Eleanor Hull, eldest daughter of the late Professor Edward Hull, LL.D., F.R.S., secretary of the Society in succession to Mr. R. W. Frazer, who recently retired.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,
THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1
(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)

needs £700 WEEKLY for Feeding Prisoners interned in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Montenegrin Consulate, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Sir Sidney Arthur Taylor Rowlatt, one of the Judges of his Majesty's High Court of Justice, to be an additional Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India in recognition of meritorious service rendered in connection with the war.

Sir George Lloyd, Governor-designate of Bombay, has made the following appointments to his staff:—Military Secretary, Major J. G. Greig, C.I.E., 131st Pioneers; Private Secretary, Mr. W. P. Cowie, Indian Civil Service; A.D.C.'s, Captain C. Benson, Grenadier Guards, and Captain C. Knox, Surrey Regiment.

The appointment of Mr. Thomas Beaumont Hohler, C.B., C.M.G., to the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service is gazetted. Mr. Hohler, who was born in 1871, entered the Diplomatic Service in 1894, and was appointed Attaché to Constantinople the following year. Later he served at Cairo, Petrograd, and Tokio; in 1905 he was appointed to Berlin, but "did not proceed"; in 1906-7 he was in Cairo, and at Adis Abeba; and the following year he was transferred to Constantinople again. In 1910 he went to Mexico, with the rank of First Secretary, and acted as Chargé d'Affaires on several occasions. As announced last week, he is now Chief Political Officer on the Staff of Admiral Sir Somerset Gough-Calthorpe, H.M. High Commissioner at Constantinople.

OBITUARY.

Second-Lieutenant Alec D. Anderson, Grenadier Guards, who was killed on November 6 by a German machine-gun at very close range, was the youngest son of the late T. C. Anderson, of Ceylon, and of Mrs. Anderson, of 13, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C.

A delayed Reuter's message from Bombay announces that the Maharaja of Rewa died in that city on November 3. Lieutenant-Colonel his Highness Maharaja Sir Venkat Raman Singh Bahadur was born in 1876, and succeeded to the Maharajaship of Rewa in 1880. He was created a G.C.S.I. in 1897 in recognition of his successful conduct of famine relief operations.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Berkeley Drummond, Indian Political Department, died on November 12 at Victoria, B.C., while on his way to England. He received his first commission in 1890. For eight years he was in military employment, after which he became Political Assistant in Baluchistan, and two years later Assistant to the Resident in Mewar. In 1905 he was Political Agent at Rajputana, and afterwards was appointed Resident in Mewar. Two years later he was Political Agent at Haraoti and Tonk.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Blois Johnson, C.M.G., C.I.E., 67th Punjabs, died at the Station Hospital, Murree, India, of influenza-pneumonia on November 6. He entered the Army in 1888, and served on the North-West Frontier, India, in 1897-8, being present at the Relief of Malakand, the operations in Bajaur, and Mohmand (medal and two clasps), and Tirah in 1897-8 (clasp). In 1902 he took part in the operations against the Darwesh Khel Waziris. He also commanded a detachment despatched to quell the rising in the Bastar Native State. He commanded the 22nd Punjabis in Mesopotamia in 1915, and was severely wounded at Kut. He received the C.M.G., and was also awarded the C.I.E. last year for good work on the Indian Frontier.

Dr. Augustus Frederic Hœrnle, C.I.E., died at his residence in Oxford on November 12, aged 77. Like his father, he served the Church Missionary Society in India, being stationed at Meerut from 1865 to 1870, when he accepted a professorship in Jay Narain's College, Benares. He was appointed principal of the Cathedral Mission College, Calcutta, in 1877, and four years later joined the Indian Educational Service as principal of the famous Calcutta Madrasah, which post he held until his retirement in 1899, when he settled in this country at Oxford. He was a great stulent of archæology and palæography, and edited many Central Asian texts. Among his published works are "Studies in the Medicine of Ancient India," a "Comparative Dictionary of the Bihari Language," and a "Comparative Grammar of the North Indian Languages."

We regret to learn from a Cairo correspondent that Mr. Robert Williams, F.R.I.B.A., died on October 16 after a short illness. He had been in practice in Egypt as an architect for nearly twenty years, and was much respected by natives and Europeans alike. Before leaving this country he had served on the London County Council, of which his interest in housing reform and kindred topics made him a valuable member. He was the author of "London Rookeries and Colliers' Slums," "Notes on English Bond," and "Jerusalem: the City of Many Sieges," and an occasional contributor to THE NEAR EAST and other journals. In his younger days he was an ardent Volunteer, and latterly was an honorary member of the League of Frontiersmen. A writer in the *Ahram*, in reporting Mr. Williams' death, wrote:—"The Egyptians have lost an old friend in the person of Mr. Robert Williams, the well-known architect. The deceased was a man of noble character, and he took a great interest in the work of Egyptians, of whom he had many friends." We understand that Mr. Williams' practice will be carried on by his son, Mr. I. R. Williams, who is at present attached to the A.I.D. headquarters in London.

Major James Boswell Egerton, Indian Cavalry, was killed in action on October 27. He received his first commission in 1900, on the unattached list of the Indian Army, and in 1901 was posted to a regiment of Punjab cavalry of the Frontier Force. He served on the North-West Frontier of India in the Waziristan operations in 1901 and 1902, and in the operations against the Darwesh Khel Waziris of 1902, and in East Africa, 1903-1904, in operations in Somaliland, including the action of Jidballa; he was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with two clasps. He served in France during the autumn and winter of 1914-15, with a regiment of Hussars. Later, his own regiment being ordered on service, he rejoined, and had served continuously with them up to the date of his death. He was mentioned in dispatches, and received the Croix de Guerre.

General Sir Robert Biddulph, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., died on Monday, aged 83 years. As a second lieutenant in the R.A. he took part in the battles of the Alma and Balaclava and the siege of Sebastopol. Afterwards he served with distinction through the Indian Mutiny operations, including the relief of Lucknow. After more service, in India and in China, he was appointed Military Secretary in Madras, where he remained till 1865. In 1878 he was sent on special duty to Cyprus. There he acted as her Majesty's Commissioner for arranging the payment due to the Porte, and in 1879 he succeeded Sir Garnet Wolseley as High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief. He remained in Cyprus until 1886, when he was created a G.C.M.G. Thereafter he held various appointments at Army Headquarters until 1893, when he was appointed Governor of Gibraltar, which post he held until 1900.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1918.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE INDIA OFFICE.

It is no matter for surprise that the recent announcement regarding the reorganisation of the India Office should have passed almost unnoticed in this country. Administrative adjustments are in any case less interesting than the political measures they are intended to subserve, and in these days, when the Old World is struggling in the birth pangs of a new era, public feeling cannot be expected to manifest itself in the details of powers and sanctions, or the precise distribution of authority between Delhi and Whitehall. Yet the impending reorganisation is a matter in which the public are deeply concerned, for the India Office constitutes what we have learned to call a key-position in the peaceful campaign for the development of India, and the future depends in great measure on the results to be reached by the Committee which has now been constituted. Of the necessity for large changes there can be no question, but let us say at once that the matter is not one of administrative efficiency. Bureaucratically speaking, the India Office takes a high rank among its neighbours: it is not perfect, and politicians in a hurry have sometimes complained of its delays, but on the whole its business is efficiently done, and on this side only some adjustments of minor importance are required. The case for reorganisation, or, as we prefer to say, reconstitution, is based on the existing position in India, as is clearly explained in the report of Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu; the old theory has worn out, and the institution must be remodelled in order to serve the new India as efficiently as it has hitherto served the old. It must be remembered that the India Office is the inheritor of the traditions as well as the formal authority of the East India Company, originally a purely commercial venture, despatching its agents to the East with definite and detailed instructions, and insisting on those instructions being carried out. It is true that the powers of the company came in process of time to be shared with the Board of Control, but the two streams of authority coalesced on the final dissolution of the former body, and the Secretary of State in Council occupies essentially the position which it formerly held. By law he controls the entire expenditure of the Indian revenues, and since everything costs money, he has thus the final voice on every administrative question: in practice he transacts a great variety of commercial and financial business, acting as the agent in this country for the Indian Governments.

This duality of functions, this union of control and business, is, in our opinion, one of the principal subjects to which the attention of the Committee should be directed. Natural in its origin, in the process of time it has become open to serious objection on both practical and sentimental grounds, and the weight of these objections is certain to increase as each forward step is taken on the road which has been marked out for India. In a business concern it may doubtless be desirable that the master should act also as the agent of his distant subordinates, but the governance of India can no longer be safely managed on these lines. It is inevitable that the master should be guided by his own judgment in matters of agency as in matters of control, and in practice this involves an amount of interference in detail which has long been irksome to the various Indian administrations and which is entirely incompatible with the introduction of responsible government. To put a concrete case, is it conceivable that a "transferred" provincial department, that is to say a department controlled by a responsible Minister, should purchase its European stores through the India Office? How can a Minister be responsible to the people of his province for transactions carried through by officials over whom he has no sort of control, officials trained in the tradition that they know what India wants much better than she knows herself? Indian Ministers will insist on freedom to choose their own markets and to employ agents over whom they have entire control, and while they may be less efficiently served, their claim cannot be denied if self-government is to be a reality. That the claim is certain to be made may be inferred from the unfortunate sentiment which has grown up in India round this subject. In any political meeting the readiest way of raising a cheer is to insist on the economic thraldom of the country to financial and commercial interests in England, and every student of the Indian Press has learned by experience that the dual position occupied by Whitehall lends itself admirably to exploitation from this point of view. Whitehall, it is said, rules India, while the "interests" dominate Whitehall, and India starves that England may grow rich. Such sentiments are, we are convinced, entirely unfounded, but in politics thoughts are things, and their existence must be taken into account. We believe that practical as well as sentimental needs can best be met by the establishment of agents of the various Indian Governments holding positions analogous to that of the recently appointed Trade Commissioner, and we trust that the new Committee will investigate the whole subject with a view to ascertaining how far it is possible to relieve the India Office of its functions as agent and confine its future activities to the exercise of administrative control.

These residual activities will in truth suffice to occupy an Imperial Minister, though they may not require a large subordinate staff. The change in the declared object of the institution will involve the introduction and the maintenance of a new spirit, the nature of which can best be described in the formula that the new India Office must be Parliamentary rather than Ministerial. Assuming, as we are entitled to do, that Parliament will shortly give its sanction to a scheme for the gradual limitation of its own authority and the transfer of powers to the various Indian Governments, the duty of the Secretary of State will be to see that the intentions of Parliament are carried out, and his position will be very different from that which he has held in recent years, when Parliament has laid down no policy, and it was open to each successive Minister to pursue a policy of his own. In the future there will be no scope for a departmental policy such as is associated with the names of various Secretaries of State, and there will be little scope even for a policy of the Ministry to which he belongs: he will stand out rather as the intermediary between Parliament and the Indian Governments which it has set up, and his duty will be on the one hand to see that no action contrary to the policy of Parliament is taken in India, and on the other hand to keep Parliament informed of the progress which is being made in carrying out its plans. He must therefore retain wide powers of sanctioning or disallowing the proposals of the Indian Governments in all the "reserved" branches of the administration, but he must approach these proposals in a new spirit, and base his decisions less on their inherent merits or defects than on their conformity to the policy which he has to carry out. The existing organisation of the India Office was not designed to accomplish such tasks, and its old-standing traditions are almost incompatible with their due performance. The problem now to be solved has thus two principal divisions: in the first place the institution has to be relieved as far as possible of all functions not directly necessary to the exercise of administrative control, and in the second place it has to be so reconstituted as to enable it to exercise this control in furtherance of the policy to be laid down by Parliament. The future of that policy will depend in no small measure on the degree of success attained in this direction.

THE BRITISH SOLDIER IN PALESTINE.

By ESTELLE BLYTH.

It is an established fact in history that English sailors and soldiers bear before the world a character for honour and humaneness which is equal to their reputation for valour. English history provides us with proof after proof of the chivalry and high character of our fighting men. From the Battle of Sluys, our first great naval victory (to look no farther back), when English sailors risked their lives to save their drowning French antagonists, to the present day, this spirit of our fighting men has been conspicuous, finding at times its perfect expression in individuals such as Philip Sidney, Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland, Sir John Moore, and in how many of to-day! Never has the character of our soldiers stood higher, never has it more entirely deserved the world-wide admiration and respect it commands to-day.

The campaign in Palestine has been but one incident in the Great War, and it has suffered some eclipse by having been fought in a land the romance of whose name has tended to obscure the actual brilliance of the campaign. The time is not yet ripe for full justice to be done to it as a campaign, but we need not fear the verdict of history on it as a military achievement.

There is, however, one aspect of it with which we are immediately and intimately concerned, and to which full justice has not been done—namely, the irreproachable conduct of the British troops in Palestine throughout a singularly trying campaign. An English army has, of course, a very high standard to live up to and maintain; and from first to last not one man in Palestine has let it down. Not only by their valour and endurance, but by their gentleness, their mercy, their uprightness, the British troops have unflinchingly maintained and manifested before the world the great ideal of Christian soldiers. They have come through no easy test; first, the weary vigil on the marches of Egypt; then, the crossing of the desert; then, the fighting in Palestine. It has been no easy campaign, though possibly the swiftness and success of General Allenby's movements may deceive some into thinking otherwise. Those who know Palestine can form some idea of the difficulties of fighting in a country in which there are practically no roads or railways, but little water, few trees; a country whose formation is far better adapted to defence than attack, and in which a big army would be petrified by its size; a country starved and robbed by the Turk, and then scraped bare by the greedy German. And, in addition to these physical obstacles, the English soldiers have had to meet other and very real difficulties. The people of Palestine for years past have longed for English rule; during the four years' nightmare when the German and the Turk reigned supreme, the natives, with touching faith in England's will and power to save them, hid their best clothes to wear "on the day the English come." When that day dawned their joy knew no bounds. An English soldier could do no wrong, because he was English; every heart, every house, was thrown open—nothing was kept back that could do honour to those who came as saviours. The frenzy of delight shown first by Jerusalem was repeated at Nazareth, at Beyrout, at Damascus, at Salt—in fact, in every place set free by the British troops. I do not fear the charge of exaggeration when I say that not one English soldier has taken advantage of the unreserved gratitude and admiration of the people. Whether they come from the farthest limit of the Empire or from some crowded London street, in all circumstances and at all times our men have borne themselves as gentlemen. They have shown themselves reverent of the sanctity of the Holy Land, compassionate of the sufferings of the people; they have confirmed in the natives of every creed and class a passionate trust in, and devotion to, England; and they have upheld in utter simplicity the highest ideal of Englishmen and English soldiers.

It is also worth recording how time after time our men have burdened themselves with little starving, sometimes dying, children, picked up by the way, of whose family no trace appeared; washing, clothing, feeding them, taking charge of them with infinite tenderness and interest until an opportunity came of handing them over to some established centre of relief.

In closing I will quote from letters which refer to the English soldier in Palestine. A chaplain writes: "This leave trip has made me feel proud of our British nation. All along the route through Palestine, Egypt, the Mediterranean, Italy, and France the British soldiers and sailors are looked up to and loved. They are such perfect natural gentlemen, and so courteous to the people amongst whom they live. To me they seem cut out for the work of reconstruction which will be given to them after the war is over."—(Chronicle of the Community of the Resurrection, No. 63, p. 21.) Of the other four letters, all from Syrians, the two latter are from Syrian Christian girls:—

> You can imagine how glad we are in being under the rule of the British Government. The day we saw the English troops entering Jerusalem was surely a great day to us. Faces were beaming with joy, and we were so happy that really we cannot describe it by writing. We surely appreciate all the work they have done, and we pray daily for their victory.
>
> You may be sure that I will always do my best to help any of the English soldiers that I can. We will never forget all that they have done for us, and risked for us their own lives. In truth, they have done more for us than we deserve.
>
> British people should be proud of their men and generals, for really what they have done in this war is wonderful. If it were not for them, where should we have been now? Now the British name is spread all over the world; it is like the Israelite name when they were near Jericho. I am sure the Turks are more afraid of this name than the people of Jericho of the Israelites.
>
> We have had hard times here. Everyone is so relieved since the English took hold of this land. One feels to be in safe hands, they are Christians not in name only but in deed too, as they are doing all their best to help the people.

Great indeed is the debt of Palestine, and of ourselves at home no less, to those who by their discipline and self-control, as well as by their valour, have added to "the renown and everlasting glory of the English nation," and "with so great a resolution as we hardly find the like recorded in any history, having struggled with and overcome their enemies in the field, have purchased to themselves in general amongst all posterity the name of Deliverers."

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Riots in India. November 14.

Lord SYDENHAM asked the Under Secretary for India whether he could give the House any information as to the rioting in Calcutta and Madras in September.

Lord ISLINGTON, in reply, said that very full reports of the riots in Calcutta and Madras had appeared in the Indian Press, to which he referred members who desired fuller information than he was able to give. He thought a tribute was due to the Governor (Lord Ronaldshay) and his colleagues for the admirable manner in which they had handled what might have been a very serious incident. The thanks of the Government had been expressed to the troops, to the Indian Defence Force, to the police, the Fire Brigade, and the Ambulance Corps, and well-deserved acknowledgments had been made of the conduct of the General Officer-in-Command at Calcutta and his staff and the Commissioner of Police. In Madras the disturbances were purely economic in character and in origin, no sectarian element being reported. Three important points had emerged from the consideration of the recent disturbances. First, in Bengal there was undoubtedly an undercurrent of lawlessness and sedition. Secondly, the Government of Bengal, in the face of a most critical and difficult position, had shown and were showing foresight, promptness and firmness, while at the same time displaying scrupulous attention to the feelings of the various sections of the community; and, thirdly, the Government could not be deprived of the special powers necessary to deal effectively with violence and disaffection in order to ensure reasonable security and safety of the people entrusted to their care.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report:—

Armistice Terms (Turkey).—November 12.
Salonika Forces (Leave).—November 12.
Gallipoli Decoration.—November 12.
Egyptian Expeditionary Force (Mails).—November 12.
Peace Terms (Turkey).—November 12.
India: Liquor Licences (Bombay).—November 13.
Gallipoli Expedition (Decoration).—November 13
India: Departmental Officers (Pensions).—November 13.
Turkey: Subject Races.—November 14.
Peace Terms: Dardanelles.—November 14.
Prisoners of War: Repatriation Arrangements.—November 14.
Armistice Terms (Turkey).—November 14.
British Communities in Turkey (Relief).—November 14.
Soldiers' Leave.—November 14.
Turkey (Mails).—November 15.
Roumania.—November 18.
Armenia (Relief Agencies).—November 18.
Macedonian Territories (Civil Administration).—November 18.
Indian Mail.—November 18.
Montenegro.—November 18.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Cairo Bookmarket.

The *Egyptian Gazette* published recently an article entitled "Cairo's Bookmarket," written by "An Arabic Scholar," and dealing with "the latest Arabic books and their authors." The writer begins by a reference to the dearth of new books brought about by the dearness of paper. He then goes on to say: "While in England there is a season in which publishers bring out their books, although they may have been printed months before, there is no such season here, and books make their appearance when their authors have saved enough money to pay for their production." As to reviews of these works, "from time to time long articles are published making out the books under treatment to be marvels of their kind, the high-water mark of erudition and scholarship, and the authors littérateurs, scientists, or philosophers second to none in Egypt or anywhere else." These laudatory articles, which are supplied by the authors themselves, are not the only notices in the native press:—

> No, indeed. The self-respecting newspapers and magazines give their readers unbiassed opinions of the latest works by men capable of estimating their merits, and do not hesitate to tear a book to pieces if they do not consider it worth reading by the public. It is true such reviews are rare, but the fact that they are made proves that there are in the country unprejudiced litterateurs who have courage enough to give their opinions on the books brought to their notice.

Later, in writing of some recently published books, the author refers to "'Amsal Al-Shark wal-Gharb' (Proverbs of the East and West), by Yussef Toma Al-Bustani. The compiler is a well-known Cairo bookseller, but, more like booksellers of old than those of the present day, he is not a man who sells books merely to earn a living or make a fortune, but one of certain literary attainments whose scope of knowledge must have been extensive." Of the book of this worthy scion of a well-known literary family, we read:—

> Proverbs are said to be the fossil words of the teachings of the accumulated experience of past generations, preserved in a form that outlives the experience that formed them. By their universal applicability to all times the wisdom they embody is attested. Perhaps of all nations of the world the Arabs are more fond of employing proverbs in their conversation and writing than any other. 'Ala Ray el Masal" (as the proverb says) is a very common expression preceding the quotation of a proverb, heard every day among all classes of the population. But the proverbs here given are not limited to those of the Arab race only but to several as the name of the book implies. Thus in speaking of "Happiness," M. Bustani tells us what Marcus Anthonius, Lord Avebury, Tolstoi, the Japanese General Kuroki, Solomon, Abdul Rahman Shukri, Kassem Amin, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al Zamakhshari, Yehia Ibn Khalid, Shakespeare, and many others have said of it. As each has defined it in his own way and looked at it from a different point of view, the interest of the article is greatly enhanced. The book would be an excellent reading-book to the students of some classes, while those of the higher classes would find in it much to quote in writing their compositions. There are no fewer than thirty subjects treated, such as knowledge, patience, self-reliance, the value of time, etc., which, if studied, will help to improve the character of the student.

The article closes with a reference to a forthcoming lexicographical-philosophical work of considerable importance—a medical dictionary in which the names of the medicines are given in Arabic. "When it is remembered that only a fraction of the medicines now used was known to the Arabs, and consequently that the majority of the names are from the Greek and other foreign languages, it will be understood how gigantic was the task the learned chemist had before him. According to the paper in question the author had to read a large number of Arabic books in which he discovered the equivalents of great many names of medicines. As for those medicines which were unknown to the Arabs the author has used new Arabic names." Scholarship and painstaking research are evidently to be found in Egypt in classes where one would not expect to find them flourishing.

Turkey, Bulgaria, and America.

The article, "Bulgaria, Turkey, and the War," which Sir Edwin Pears contributes to the *Contemporary Review*, covers a good deal of old ground; but the ground is so unfamiliar to most people in this country that it will certainly be helpful to have it covered once more. Sir Edwin reminds us how, after the Bulgarians had chosen Prince Alexander as their sovereign, "a struggle began which vitally altered the relations between Russia and Bulgaria."

> The war party in Russia, as already stated, determined to have its own way. There was no pretence of "self-determination" of the people. Russia was "the Deliverer and the Conqueror." Bulgaria should become a Russian province. During ten long years the struggle went on. An infamous Russian intrigue expelled Alexander in 1887. Then it became necessary to choose a successor. Russia put forward her candidate. But the people would not have him. A deputation was appointed by the Sobranje, the Bulgarian Chamber, to find a prince. They selected Ferdinand, as yet an unknown Austrian officer. Russia was once more disappointed, and from that time onward she became the enemy of Bulgaria.

From that time up to the present, Sir Edwin Pears considers, two influences have had great importance upon Bulgarian history: the first, that England steadily supported the independence of Bulgaria and opposed Russia's intention to force its people to accept her yoke; and the second, the influence of the United States:—

> As my readers have probably noticed, the United States has never declared war upon Bulgaria; the explanation is that Bulgaria has received from America more aid in finding her soul than from all other countries. This influence came mainly from the great American institution known as Robert College in Constantinople. The late Dr. Washburn, the Principal of that College for nearly forty years, was a man of magnetic influence, resembling that of Arnold, of Rugby. Every year saw a number of graduates in the College of various races, but notably Bulgarian, who were hard students, and whose minds had been trained to accept the ideals of America. Stambuloff, though not himself there trained, spoke in very high terms of the value of its work. His successor, Stoiloff, was a graduate, and a man greatly respected both in Bulgaria and in England. He was one of the earliest graduates, and with him was Mr. Panaretoff, who since the commencement of the world war has been the able representative of Bulgaria in Washington. Clear-headed and thoughtful, but strictly straight in his diplomatic and private conduct, he has earned the respect of all in America who take an interest in Eastern politics. The only other Robert College Prime Minister who may be mentioned is Mr. Gueshoff, whose conduct in refusing to continue in office when King Ferdinand, probably at the dictation of Austria, sent new terms to be added to those already settled between him and Mr. Passitch, the Serbian Premier, gives him a notable place in the history of the last six years. If the story as told by various writers, largely confirmed by Gueshoff himself, be true, then King Ferdinand is responsible for the second Bulgarian war and for her entry on the side of Germany and Austria.

The story referred to is thus re-told by the writer:—

> Passitch, the great Serbian Premier, and Gueshoff, who occupied the same position in Bulgaria, were authorised to arrange the difficulties between their two countries. They had virtually completed their task when Gueshoff received an order from his King to await the arrival of Savoff. When the latter arrived he produced new terms, and on reading them Gueshoff indignantly threw down his pen, and declared that as they meant war he would have nothing to do with them. Mr. Gueshoff emphasises the fact that no meeting of Ministers had taken place, and that the new terms were those of King Ferdinand alone. Efforts were made to retain the services of Gueshoff, but within a month he had resigned. War ensued. The intention of Ferdinand was to surprise Serbia, but he had miscalculated, and in the war, which was due to his interference, the Bulgarian army was deservedly beaten to its knees.

The attitude of the United States towards the Turks is much what it has been towards Bulgaria, and for very similar reasons:—

> As with Bulgaria, so with Turkey. The United States of America have not declared war upon Turkey. She has played havoc among some of the American schools in the interior of the country, where the Turkish troops were under German generals who apparently did not understand why schools belonging to their enemies should be favoured by the Turks. Nevertheless, they have been so favoured. The great institutions of Robert College and the Girls' College at Constantinople have not been seriously molested. When it is remembered that all the Protestant missions in Turkey are under the Board of Protestant Missions at Boston, a body which has large ramifications and a great influence throughout the Union, one may recognise that the Turks were wise in inflicting upon them the minimum of inconvenience. It was the sense of this influence, combined with the high value of the work they were doing, which made Turks and Bulgars alike unwilling to provoke President Wilson into declaring war on either of their respective nations.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The announcement is made that, following an Inter-Allied Conference in London, at which information was forthcoming regarding Greek finances, certain measures have been adopted by the Allied Governments concerned which will place the Greek Government in a position to liquidate its floating debt and its other internal and external indebtedness. I have frequently emphasised the fact that the Allies' share in the reconstruction of the Balkans will involve a generous measure of financial aid to those countries who threw in their lot with us in the war, and this prompt action on the part of the Allies cannot fail to have the happiest effect in the Near East, indicating as it does, that the Allies may not only be depended upon for all the help in their power, but also that it will be given at the earliest possible moment. Nothing could be more applicable to the situation in the Near East than the adoption of the maxim *bis dat qui cito dat.*

⁂

I understand that opium cultivation has now been prohibited in Egypt. For some obscure reason there has been a marked extension of the cultivation of the opium poppy in Egypt during the war, a development which has naturally been open to objection at a time when it is so essential to devote all the acreage possible to food production. I should imagine that it is in the highest degree unlikely that the prohibition will prove otherwise than permanent.

⁂

The promised excess profits tax in India is naturally a matter of great importance to the industries concerned, and it is satisfactory to learn, therefore, that the Bill embodying the proposals of the Finance Member will be published well before the time for its consideration, so that firms and individuals affected may have ample opportunity of considering it and of making any representations they desire to the Government. As regards the lines that may be followed, it may be noted that Sir William Meyer in his recent speech on the tax, after referring to improvements in the income tax machinery, said: "We think, therefore, after confidential consultation with local governments, that we ought to be able to tackle an excess profits tax satisfactorily, provided we leave out individuals and concerns whose profits have been less than a given amount which will receive further consideration, and concentrate ourselves on those who have made larger profits than this. The general method we propose to apply in respect of the latter category is to make a liberal allowance for normal expectation of profits, and to obtain non-official assistance where possible in dealing with difficult cases." Obviously it is desirable that the commercial community should be fully consulted before any final decision is taken, and Sir William's remarks suggest that this will be done.

⁂

The necessity of reviving the rubber industry in Ceylon has led the Government there to decide on the reduction of the export duty on rubber from 7½ rupees per lb. to three cents (about ½d.). Announcing this proposal at a meeting of the Legislative Council last week, the Governor, Sir William Manning, explained that it was proposed to meet the deficit of £183,333 that would thus be caused by taxation increases on cigarettes, postal rates, railway rates, and death duties, by higher stamp duties, and by the reimposition of the export duty on copra and coconut oil as from January next. The effect of the war on the Ceylon rubber industry has naturally been very pronounced, though there is little reason for thinking that the plantations in the island have been more seriously affected than those in other rubber producing centres in the East, and it is, in any case, interesting to note that the war has not prevented the extension of rubber cultivation in Ceylon. Thus the report on the Ceylon Blue Book for 1917 states that rubber continued to thrive during that period, and in parts of the Western Province was displacing cinnamon, while reference is made to the tendency to convert paddy lands in Kalutara District into rubber estates and to the utilisation of large areas in Matara District, formerly under citronella, for rubber cultivation. As the demand for rubber in the next few years is likely to be great, this persistence of the Ceylon planters is likely to meet with its reward.

⁂

A few weeks ago I was able to quote some extracts from a letter received by a correspondent showing the extraordinary level to which prices had soared in Constantinople by the end of July. Since then matters have evidently not improved, for Mr. G. Ward Price in a recent despatch from Constantinople says: "As regards her economic situation, Turkey is in a nightmare condition. In the matters of prices and the supply of goods she is living under the conditions of a Klondike gold rush. The necessaries of existence cost sums never before demanded in Europe. People with fixed incomes are starving, and the rest both gain and spend money in a fine extravagance of speculation and prodigality. To take a cab for an hour costs £T3, which at present rates means £2 sterling. The charge for a *table d'hôte* dinner in this hotel is the same sum. If you went into a Turkish tailor's with less than £50 in Bank of England notes you could not buy the shoddiest suit of clothes."

⁂

With the situation as it is described matters must be bad enough for the Turks themselves, but what must it be like for members of other races who for one reason or another have had to stay in Turkey during the war? In this connection I see that the position of British communities in Constantinople and other places in Turkey has been raised in the House by Mr. Bliss, who asked whether the Government would take measures to feed the starving portion of the British communities in these places until supplies could be provided normally. Mr. Baldwin, in reply, stated that the position of the British communities in Turkey was receiving consideration in connection with the general problem of relief in all territories where it was required, and it was hoped shortly to set up a regular system for meeting the needs of the situation, and in the meantime such emergency measures as were possible were being taken.

⁂

One of the difficulties in regard to industrial development in India is the supply of labour. An instance of this is provided by the report for 1917 of the Chief Inspector of Mines. In that year the number of persons employed in coal mines in India was 153,683, an increase of over 10,000 on the previous year. Despite this increase, the report states that the larger mines in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa were short of labour especially at the end of the year, while the persons who were employed did much less work than usual. The reasons for this position are stated to be the excellent harvest of 1916, and the abnormal monsoon of 1917, though the mining conditions also "played their part," Indian coal production, the Chief Inspector adds, is a question of labour, and given an adequate supply the output could be increased 50 per cent.

⁂

While the net profits of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31 only show a small increase, the report is none the less eminently satisfactory, indicating as it does that the steady progress of this institution has been more than maintained. There has been a marked development in the resources of the bank, a feature of the balance-sheet being an increase of almost 3½ millions in the deposits. The gross profit amounted to £273,900, an increase of £26,300 over the previous figures, but expenses were £24,600 higher, and the net profits are only £1,700 higher at £146,000. £67,000 was brought in, or £15,000 more than in 1917, and there is also £20,000 representing provision in 1915 for war contingencies, which is no longer required. The total is thus £36,700 greater at £233,000, and besides a dividend of 15 per cent. free of income-tax, the directors propose a special distribution of £1 per share, which is to be capitalised by the creation of 20,000 shares of £5 each. Last year the return to shareholders in dividends and bonus amounted to 17½ per cent.

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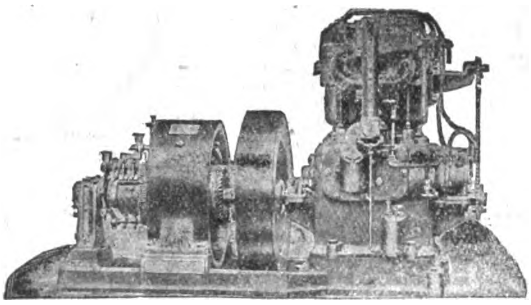

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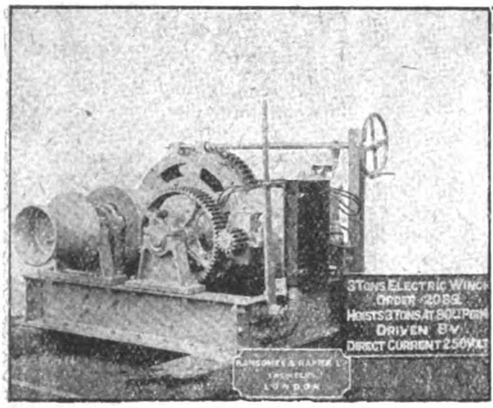

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EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

Further Expansion in August.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 13.

The August Customs returns show a further expansion in the foreign trade of this country. Imports during the month came to £E5,028,125 and exports to £E3,615,372, as compared with £E2,304,938 and £E2,717,515 respectively in August, 1917. So far imports are £E14,110,087 and exports £E6,059,340 up on the figures for the first eight months of last year.

The principal imports during the month were:—Meat, £E386,759 (all from Australia and New Zealand); cereals, £E155,117; coffee, £E96,201 (of which £E67,005 were from British possessions); stationery, £E149,778; coal, £E248,913; cotton piece goods, £E1,491,329 of which 90 per cent. were from the United Kingdom); woollen textiles, £E94,092 (practically all from the United Kingdom); ready-made underclothing, £E181,073 (one third from the United Kingdom and just under half from Japan); manufactured iron and steel, £E173,632 (50 per cent. from the United Kingdom); and tobacco, £E299,797 (60 per cent from Greece and 10 per cent. from Japan).

The chief exports were:—Hides and skins, £E73,553 (of which over 70 per cent. went to Greece); rice, £E27,648 (just over half to British possessions); cotton seed, £E51,901 (all to the United Kingdom); onions, £E32,907 (practically all to the United Kingdom); gum, £E43,209 (40 per cent. to the United States); liquid fuel, £E38,395 (60 per cent. to Italy and the balance for bunkers); cotton, £E3,131,737 (45 per cent. to the United Kingdom, 27 per cent. to Italy, 14 per cent. to Spain, and 7 per cent. to Japan); and cigarettes, £E78,689.

Direction of Trade.

The share of the imports of the United Kingdom rose from £E995,134 to £E2,386,920, whilst that of Australia increased from £E3,704 to £E518,309. Chili reappeared with £E77,965 (due to chemical manures), Japan increased her share from £E35,897 to £E359,852, Italy hers from £E143,811 to £E370,671, and Greece hers from £E190,612 to £E238,650. Under exports the United Kingdom increased her purchases by 20 per cent. to £E1,639,493, Spain hers from £E25,171 to £E435,721, Greece hers from £E75,276 to £E181,605, and Italy hers from £E502,578 to £E867,969. Japan showed the most marked falling off, her purchases only amounting to £E238,154.

Trade with the Sudan continues to be brisk. During the month imports from that country amounted to £E223,138, as against £E182,757 the previous August, and exports from Egypt attained the figure of £E265,5[illegible] as against £E113,547. The chief items on the import side were:—Livestock, £E56.447 (8,342 head); hides and skins, £E41,632; maize, £E23,403; sesame, £E23,532; gum, £E22,016; there was no cotton import. Under exports the principal articles were:—Cereals, £E22,399; sugar, £E63,996; cotton piece goods, £E97,122; and tobacco, £E12,506.

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EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES DURING JULY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 21.

The returns of the Ministry of Finance for the month of July reveal a remarkable state of affairs as regards the financial prosperity of Egypt as a State. During the four months from April 1 the revenue receipts have amounted to £E8,583,556, as against £E6,470,903 during the corresponding period of 1907, an increase of over £E2,000,000; whilst the expenditure totals £E7,031,928, as compared with £E6,109,397, an increase of just under one million pounds. As a result there was at the end of July a surplus of no less than £E1,551,628, as compared with one of £E361,506 on the same date last year.

The chief increases in revenue were customs, £E760,691; tobacco dues, £E113,389; legal fees, £E66,947; railways, £E586,444; military exemption fees, £E47,220; Ghaffir cess, £E153,543; interest on investments, £E79,347; and sale of land, £E134,466; with the addition of £E262,727 from excise and £E48,936 from telephones.

The principal items of expenditure during the month were:—Irrigation, £E113,762; railways, £E201,694; War Office, £E194,806; war gratuities, £E42,966; extraordinary war expenditure, £E64,985; Ghaffirs, £E67,252; and public debt, £E104,238.

◆

FROM WAR TO PEACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Allow me to submit some considerations that may be useful in the transition from war to peace. Skilful management is quite as essential, or indeed even more essential, in emerging from war as in entering upon it. Given this, I believe we are on the threshold of a great future in industry. But there are problems to be solved in the industrial field and large armies to manœuvre into a safe position. We have to transfer men from their posts in the fighting forces to their industrial posts, and to do this, if we do not employ those who have spent their lives at the head of the great organisations of capital and labour controlling the staple industries of the country, we shall repeat, if not intensify, the errors that were made at the outbreak of war. In these industrial manœuvres I hope our leaders of industry will be the general officers commanding. As in the operations of war, the most successful officers are those who have been nursed in the school of strategy and tactics, so in the operations of industry the men most qualified to lead are those who are not only endowed with an aptitude for business, but are also highly skilled in the art of organisation. The men who lead the organisations of capital and labour should closely co-operate with the demobilisation authorities so that our fighting men, who have served us so magnificently, may step out of the zone of war into a land which shall show distinguishable marks of purification, of a freer, happier life, a democracy less self-centred and more self-sacrificing, and with a greater bond of sympathy connecting all classes in the State. If the men who have won our battles can detect this result of the nation having been flung into the crucible of war, they will realise that their services have saved civilisation, and that a grateful nation is concerned about their future welfare. But we must help them also to realise that the delicate mechanism of the world's commerce must, under our modern system of industrialism, take some time to settle down after the violent struggle of the last four years, and what we now have to consider is how to emerge successfully from the fearful dislocation that has resulted from the war.

It must be realised that all foodstuffs, raw materials in stock or in process, indeed, stock of all kinds, have been produced under abnormal conditions, and changes in the values must of necessity be gradual if we are not to be involved in serious financial disturbance.

The United States of America and the British Empire practically control the cotton crop of the world; wool also is largely under the same control, and in negotiating for a lasting peace this immense power will, I hope, be wisely, but not vindictively used. Those raw materials which contribute so largely to the production of clothing for the inhabitants of the globe have been raised, owing to the vicissitudes of war, to almost unprecedented prices, and I hope that the Allies will act together in controlling these commodities and distributing them equitably. Further, it is in the interest of all just as important to prevent a too rapid depreciation in the prices of raw materials as it is to prevent a further undue inflation. Statistics which are available show that the cost of living has increased enormously, and, in order to deal fairly with the workpeople wages have been increased to an extent which in pre-war times would never have been thought of. Experience has shown that it would have been wiser to have dealt with all advances of wages as war bonuses, increased at intervals as the cost of living rose, on the understanding that these bonuses should be reduced gradually as the cost of living fell.

I may say I am strongly in favour of permanently raising the standard of living of the working classes, and I believe this can be done by an agreement between all the nations, and in this way alone. I always like to point to what has been done, and much has already been accomplished by international co-operation which in times past would have been considered utopian.

I give it as my firm conviction, from a large experience of both national and international trade, that if the nations of the world would only fully realise their interdependence, and organised capital and labour were to work together in developing the undeveloped resources of the world, which, in my opinion, would give ample employment to all, the appalling waste caused by this disastrous world-wide war may be made up in a much shorter time than is generally believed.—I am, yours faithfully,

Charles W. Macara.
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Gum Crop.

The following particulars regarding the Sudan gum crop are taken from the October issue of the *Sudan Chamber of Commerce Journal*:—

The season 1917-1918 promises to be a record one so far as concerns protracted arrivals. During the month of August about 12,000 kantars entered the open markets from the interior. September promises to yield a comparatively large quantity, and as far as can be gathered about 15,000 kantars are expected to come to hand from the interior before the new season begins.

Up to the present the crop is believed to be in excess of that of last month, inclusive of all descriptions of Hashab Gum, such as Kordofan, Gedaref, Gezira Hashab, etc. Doubtless the present arrivals are due entirely to the fact that Arabs were strongly impressed by the rapid advance in price which took place towards the closing stages of last season, and for that reason they have held their stocks in the interior in the hope, by doing so, of obtaining equally remunerative prices at the close of the present season. This is borne out by the quality of the gum now coming to hand, which from all appearances was gathered during the months of March and May. Arrivals for March and May fell below the average, the reason for which may be found in the foregoing remarks.

Prices have been fairly steady throughout the season, but nevertheless very high. The high prices can be attributed to the loss of a considerable quantity as a result of the German submarine campaign during the year 1917, which doubtless influenced many people with speculative tendencies. It is very satisfactory to observe that no losses have occurred from that cause throughout the whole year, not only from the fact that the submarine menace has been dealt with splendidly, but from the point of view of legitimate traders and consumers of the article. Prices in foreign markets have varied considerably, inasmuch as they have depended entirely upon available supplies. Stocks in hand at present in Khartoum, El Obeid, and Nabud aggregate 27,000 kantars of all descriptions Hashab Gum. Talh : About 5,000 kantars are available.

Egyptian Cotton Estimate.

The Government estimate of the 1918 cotton crop is 5,252,000 cantars (about 525,200,000 lb.), or an average of 3.86 cantars per feddan, says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*. Reports on the condition of other crops show that in October maize was normal, while rice was slightly above normal, with a good yield of both expected.

CYPRUS TRADE NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Olives and olive oil are among the principal articles of food of the peasantry, and the Agricultural Department has been wisely dealing with a pest now affecting trees in various parts of the island, namely, a fly (*Dacus oleæ*). Owners of olive trees known or suspected to be attacked are required, by a recent order of the High Commissioner, to bury in lime all fallen fruit which are maggoty, or suspected. Potatoes are also, unfortunately, attacked by rot, due apparently to a minute insect (*Lita solanella*); and several areas have been gazetted as infected. The pest is under investigation.

Government Butter.

The Agricultural Department is able to dispose of a limited quantity of excellent butter, made at the Government experimental farm at Athalassa, near Nicosia. Tenders are invited for the purchase of 10—20 lb. a week during the period November 10 to June 30, 1919. Fresh butter is a luxury not obtainable in Cyprus except by the few who keep cows. The article sold as "*butero*," or *semne*, is a fatty composition used in the place of lard or dripping for cooking purposes. All butter for the table is imported, Danish, in tins, being the most popular. In the future, when irrigation and pastures are improved as they should be, plenty of good butter should be made in Cyprus. The milk of the island, that of sheep and goats, is mostly made into small varieties of cheese, but a little butter has been made in late years.

Tobacco Cultivation.

A new order regulates the cultivation of tobacco in the coming agricultural year, that of October, 1917, being cancelled. No landowner may cultivate more than one-tenth of the land usually devoted to cereals, a maximum of 25 *donums* (roughly about 8 acres) being the limit. Again, no person between the ages of 12 and 60 can be employed. Licenses must be obtained by application to the Commissioners of Districts.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Reports on Raw Materials.

The current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* contains a number of reports made recently by the Institute on raw materials from various parts of the Empire. Among the subjects dealt with is the question of tobacco-growing in Ceylon. Attempts are now being made in Ceylon to cultivate an improved type of tobacco, and recently a large number of samples, chiefly of pipe tobaccos, obtained in these trial cultivations, have been reported on by the Imperial Institute. The report is encouraging. It gives full information as to the composition of those tobaccos, their probable value, and the action required in Ceylon to improve the quality for the British market.

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist to the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt, discusses a question of great importance to Lancashire, viz., the maintenance of the quality of Egyptian cotton. It is well known that if any serious deterioration in the quality of Egyptian cotton occurred, it would inflict great damage on the British fine cotton spinning industry. Mr. Dudgeon points out that Egyptian cotton has in recent years consisted of a number of varieties of cotton, each an improvement on its predecessor, and each in its turn destined to deterioration, through crossing in the fields with inferior kinds. Owing to a series of fortunate accidents the quality of the cotton produced has on the whole improved, but he asserts that unless some system of protecting improved kinds is introduced there can be no guarantee that the present good quality of the output can be maintained. The principal action required is the isolation and issue of seed of the best kinds in a fairly pure state, that is, free from seed of inferior varieties. The steps necessary to this end can only be taken by Government with the consent and active support of the Egyptian producers.

The Indian Hides Trade.

An important article is one dealing exhaustively with the sources of supply of Indian hides and skins, the trade in these materials before the war, and the changes in the direction of this trade since the war began. As our readers know, by their tariff policy and other methods, the Germans were able to take a very large share of the Indian trade in raw hides before the war, the collection in India being largely in their hands and the exports going principally to tanneries in Germany. A full investigation of the possibility of finding British markets for these hides and skins has been carried out by the Hides and Tanning Materials Committee of the Imperial Institute, who have presented several reports on the subject, which are now under consideration by the Government of India. It seems likely that partly by increased tannage of the hides and skins in India itself, and partly by their increased use in this country and the British Dominions, a market for the greater part of these important Indian raw materials may in the future be found within the Empire. The committee have already taken practical steps to familiarise tanners in the Dominions with the good qualities of the Indian hides. The article in the *Bulletin* provides a basis of information on which merchants and tanners may take action, when normal conditions of trading are restored.

Das Echo states that, contrary to all "senseless rumours," the Turkish securities of the Deutsche Bank amount to something under 5,000,000 marks.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Position Unchanged.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market continues in a confused state. There is no confidence in current rate and prices continue to favour buyers. Although the world is not over supplied in cotton fabrics it is believed that the time has not yet come when it would be safe to purchase freely, as a further shrinkage in values is anticipated. The rules and regulations governing the buying and selling of Egyptian cotton continue to cause much irritation, and spinners and merchants are hampered at every turn. Whatever success may have attended Government control in other directions it is certain that so far as Egyptian cotton is concerned the trade has been disorganised from top to bottom. Representations continue to be made to the authorities but no relief seems to be in sight. Egyptian yarns remain quieter but late rates have been fairly well held. Most advices from Egypt relating to piece goods have not been at all favourable. There has again been considerable discussion with regard to the cancellation of contracts chiefly for India. The directors of the Chamber of Commerce have advised merchants to take a strong attitude and firmly refuse applications of this kind but cases of mutual arrangement keep occurring. Here and there fair orders have been booked for France. Manufacturers continue to lose ground. Prices in American yarns continue to crumble and users who have wanted a few ships have been able to purchase on practically their own terms. Export yarns continue in request for France.

Mills to Run Full Hours.

Throughout this year the chief problem for the leaders of the Lancashire cotton industry has been how to secure sufficient supplies of raw cotton, and owing to restricted shipping facilities a considerable amount of machinery has had to stand idle. There are now signs, however, of mills returning gradually to full production. For some time the Ministry of Shipping has only been able to provide freight space across the Atlantic for about 150,000 bales per month, this being the amount for November. The trade, however, has now been promised tonnage equal to 235,000 bales for December and about 300,000 bales for January. In view of this information the Control Board has decided to allow spinning mills and weaving sheds throughout Lancashire to run full hours from the beginning of next week. It may be said that at the present time spinning mills are only working 50 hours per week and weaving sheds 46 hours per week, instead of the full time of $55\frac{1}{2}$ hours. The number of spindles in American mills to be run will still be restricted to 55 per cent. of the total but in weaving the percentage of looms has been increased from 60 to 65 per cent. Further concessions to spinners and manufacturers will be made according to available supplies of raw cotton and as operatives return from the army.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated November 19:—

The north-east monsoon has started fair. and has greatly relieved the situation in Madras and also in Bombay and the Carnatic.

The announcement of the armistice has not had a very marked influence on Calcutta markets. Inquiries for shares are brisker, and the prices of coal and miscellaneous companies have hardened.

Piecegoods.—Calcutta shows better inquiry. with tendency to rise. Karachi is said to be overstocked, and prices have fallen there. In Bombay piecegoods position is unchanged, but prices both of mill shares and raw cotton have fallen. Fully good Broach April-May stands about Rs.650.

Industries.—Messrs. Heilgers have floated Nagpur Clay Company (capital six lakhs) to work clay ochres in Singbum district.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Cement Works in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Joint Stock Company Kotwa, which was recently founded at Burgas with a capital of 3,000,000 francs, gave a commission to the Machine Factory and Iron Foundry, Louis Svest, in Düsseldorf, for the construction of a cement works on a large scale capable of a daily output of nearly 160,000 kilos. The order was given, according to reports, last August, and it will be interesting to know if it has been confirmed or carried out after what has recently happened in Bulgaria.

Machine Tools for Serbia.

It is not generally known that orders for machine tools for work, other than war work, may now be placed with manufacturers, merchants, and importers without submission to the Ministry of Munitions for approval, although the manufacture and delivery of goods will be subject to the existing restrictions. This new order will probably facilitate the preparation and despatch to Serbia of machine tools, which are very badly needed for railway and factory work, for, according to recent reliable information, it is an established fact that not only have the Serbian museums, churches, and public buildings been stripped of all their works of art, but also that the factories have been cleared of valuable machinery and farms of all available agricultural machinery and implements. A country denuded like this would be incapable of self support, and either the immediate return of the looted property must be demanded, or an adequate supply of new, or even second-hand, machinery must be quickly sent to that country.

It has not been well known that Serbia is a good market for machine tools. According to official returns, in 1911 the imports of various kinds of machine tools (metal, stone, wood-working, etc.) amounted to 204 tons, Austria-Hungary supplying 82 tons, Germany 101 tons, and the United Kingdom about 9 tons. After the second Balkan War, 1912-13, there was an increased demand for machine tools of all kinds, stone, wood, and metal working machinery, such as planing and drilling machines, turning lathes, cutting and sawing machines, and polishing machines. Germany, at the time, succeeded in obtaining a large share of the increased trade. The total imports in that year (1912-13) were valued at 252,000 francs (compared with 175,000 francs in the previous year), of which Germany contributed 136,000 francs, Austria 99,000 francs, France 15,000 francs, and the United Kingdom only 2,000 francs (£80).

The "Don't Bother" Policy.

In our notes on November 8 we quoted from an article in a contemporary which outlined the golden opportunities that will arise for British manufacturers in the near future, and pointed out that what are needed in this country if these openings are to be taken full advantage of are more modern business methods and more systematic energy on the part of British manufacturers; otherwise this country will not be ready and able to hold its own in the forthcoming international industrial struggle. Evidently these views are very generally held, for in another contemporary a leading article appeared last week, entitled, "The Danger of Don't Bother," in which it was stated that a well-known manufacturer, in conversation recently, was asked whether he was going to advertise his business on the cessation of hostilities. He replied, "No; why should I?" It was suggested that there would be a tremendous market for his wares, and by so doing he would increase his business. He said: "I was working to full capacity before the war, during the war, and expect to keep on doing so after the war." The reply was: "In that case why not enlarge your works?" to which he said, "Why should I bother? I am quite happy." "If this is the spirit of our manufacturers," our contemporary adds, "the lesson of the war is still unlearned. It was the 'not bother' policy that made the war possible. It was the 'not bother' policy which enabled the Hun manufacturers to capture our markets. It was the 'not bother' policy which gave the Hun the money with which to go to war, and blinded our rulers as to their intentions. If the people of this country 'don't bother' after the war, the industrious Hun will, in a few years, be in a position to start again. Germany was, and is, a great manufacturing country, and when the last shot is fired her brains of war will become brains of peace (don't forget she has brains), and our men of commerce will have to keep busy to prevent her being our greatest competitor again."

Enterprise Needed.

It may be hoped that some good results will come of this plain speaking. As for the manufacturers who, like the one referred to in the article, "don't bother," or ask, "Why should we advertise?" they should be reminded of the axiom of one of the most successful American manufacturers: "Advertising should be the central part—*the very spine*—of your whole selling scheme," and his expert opinion that "the sort of salesman who scorns the aid of advertising belongs back in last century, and is certain to prove a puny power in building up a progressive business." While the war of arms is over, a most desperate international industrial struggle is now being commenced, and the manufacturer who "does not bother" will be the "shirker" or the "conchy" in it—a very un-British posture. The East will be the greatest field for the international industrial struggle, in which engineers and engineer manufacturers of all categories will play a prominent part. The latter should lose no time in announcing to buyers there that they are ready to serve them, and thus receive their orders before others go and close contracts. There is no region in the world in which judicious advertising is more effective than in the East. Germans and Americans knew it, and acted accordingly with success.

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ALLIES AND GREEK FINANCE.

At an Inter-Allied Conference recently held in London information as to the situation in Greece was furnished by the Greek Minister of Finance and by members of the Inter-Allied Financial Commission at Athens, in consequence of which the Governments concerned unanimously adopted certain measures which will enable the Greek Government to liquidate its floating debt and all other internal and external indebtedness. The material prosperity of the Greek people, which has greatly increased during the war and is still increasing, had already created general confidence in the financial position of the country, and the above measures will serve to strengthen the existing feeling of security.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended October 31 were:—Cattle markets £788, general markets £520, total £1,308, total for year £43,214. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended November 1 were:—Cattle markets £429, general markets £455, total £884, total for year £47,634

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The traffic returns of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended October 20 amounted to £E13,442, making the total from April 1 £E176,066. The corresponding figures for 1917 were £E10,359 and £E126,395.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days:—November 8, 9, 440,000 frs. against 200,000 frs.; November 10, 11, 500,000 frs. against 430,000 frs.; November 12, 13, 14, 15, 680,000 frs. against 710,000 frs.; November 16, 100,000 frs. against 120,000 frs.

AN ALGERIAN ENTERPRISE.

A company has been formed at Algiers for the manufacture of paper pulp from alfa, with a capital of 3,000,000 frs. It is stated that there is an almost illimitable supply of alfa in the Department of Oran, the existing acreage being estimated at over 12,000,000 acres, with a possible annual production of 400,000 metric tons. The United Kingdom received nine-tenths of the shipments of alfa before the war.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

Our market has been irregular this week, and there has not been so much business passing. Whilst, however, there was a reactionary tendency during the early part of the week, things have brightened up rather to-day, and the feeling at the close was quite a cheerful one.

In Government stocks some business has been done in Egyptian Unifieds round 90, at which price there are still buyers; but sellers are very scarce. Egypt 3½ per cent. preferences, on the other hand, are nominally ¾ lower at 77½. Turkish Fours, 1891, are 1½ points lower at 83.

In Bank shares Agriculturals are 1-32 higher at 7, and there has been some business in the preference shares at 7⅝, at which price there is still a demand; but for the moment there are again no sellers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks, after their recent rise, have further receded ¾ to 20¾. A feature has been a big demand during the last day or two for National Bank of Egypt shares for Egyptian account, with the result that a fairly large business has been transacted, and the price closes ⅝ higher at 20⅝.

In Railways, Delta Lights, after their recent spurt, have reacted ⅛ to 8⅜.

Amongst Land descriptions, Aboukirs have further improved 6d. to 24s., with a fair business passing. Behéras are ¼ easier at 14, although the official intimation of the payment of a half-year's interest on the preference shares on account of arrears should prove a helpful factor; because it is now probable that during the winter months, when collections in Egypt are on a large scale, some more of the arrear coupons on the bearer shares will be paid off, and thus bring much nearer the time when dividends will be resumed on the ordinary capital. Behera Preferences are 4½ bid x.d. Delta Lands, on some trifling sales in an unsupported market, have relapsed 9d. to 16s. 3d.; whilst Foreign Trusts have also, after their recent big spurt, reacted 1s. to 16s. 6d. New Egyptians have remained a firm spot, with a fair amount of business passing, and they are only quite fractionally easier at 21s. 9d. In Sidi Salems the market has been quieter, and the shares are 1-16 easier at 2 25-32. Union Foncières remain a firm spot, but United Egyptian Lands are 3d. lower at 3s. 9d.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters have dropped ¼ to 12⅛, and Egyptian Markets are 6d. easier at 27s. 6d. Salts and Sodas, after dropping to 3⅜, close only 1-16 lower at 3 9-16. Khedivial Mails, after their long and uninterrupted rise, have at last reacted somewhat, and are closing 5s. lower at 83s.

In Greek securities the only quotable change is a decline of ¾ in the Monopoly Loan to 62¼.

Oil Shares.

In keeping with the prevailing tendency oils have been depressed this week, though towards the close there have been indications of a market revival. Anglo-Egyptians B closed at 2 21-32, a decline of 5-32, but Anglo-Persian Prefs. are unchanged at 25s. 6d. British Burmahs closed firm at 13s. 6d.

Roumanians have all been weak; Roumanian Consols are 6d. lower at 17s.; it is worth noting, however, that they closed to-day with a rise of 6d. Anglo-Roumanians have varied a good deal, and are 1s. 1½d. weaker at 10s. 1½d., while Traian-Roumanians are 11¼d. down at 11s.

In Russias, Bakus are 6d. lower at 4s. 9d., and North Caucasians are 1s. 6d. down at 25s. Russian Generals are ⅞, Russian Petroleums 2s. 6d., and Ural Caspians 1 9-16.

Paris Bourse.

The market has been more or less quiet, with a tendency to firmness at the close. Greek securities have been firmly held, while in the banking section considerable attention has been bestowed on Near Eastern securities.

Suez Canal shares are slightly better at 5,550, a rise of 50. Egyptian Unifieds are 3 points lower at 90, while Credit Foncier Egyptiens have lost much of last week's rise, closing at 778, a decline of 4, and Land Banks are 5 down at 205. Other prices are: Serbian 1895's, 61 (against 62.40); Turkish Unifieds, 70.10 (against 71); Banque d'Athènes, 111 (against 105), and Ottoman Banks, 566 (against 555).

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For Ship Stores and Domestic Use.

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RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

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Regular Service of First-Class Steamers taking cargo to and from **London** and **Rabat, Larache, Tangier, Casablanca, Mazagan, Saffi** and **Mogador.** Loading Berth—Morocco Wharf, Wapping.

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"We cannot speak too highly of it."—Lancet. **SARSAPARILLA**

(The best "Pick-Me-Up")

Pronounced by the Highest Medical Authorities the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for

Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.—"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla.**" Medical Review.

"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Martin.

The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."

"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.

N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.

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GRANT & CHINN,

The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.

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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

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ESTABLISHED 1825.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

Hindustani spoken. Ayahs boarded and lodged at 18s. per week each until their Return Passage is paid or a Situation secured for them to return. Ayahs met at any Dock or Railway Station in London. Experienced, well-recommended Ayahs taken entirely off Ladies' hands for a certain payment, which differs according to time of year. Ladies proceeding to India or China requiring an Ayah can generally obtain one by applying to Mrs. Fletcher, Matron.

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"I was a stranger and ye took me in."

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED from the many who owe fortune or competence to India and China, and will be thankfully received by the SECRETARY or by MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO., LTD., 4, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

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and RAWAL PINDI.

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'Phone—Gerrard 597.

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PURE MALT POT STILL

"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD.

SCOTCH WHISKY

"LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.

MADE FROM SCOTCH BARLEY IN THE HIGHLANDS.

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THE LANCET says:—"It is well adapted for dietetic purposes owing to its purity and quality."

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.

The adjourned sixty-fifth general meeting of H.H. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Ltd., was held on November 19 at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. C. A. Winter (the chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. M. T. Walker) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first referred to the broad gauge system, and pointed out that the expenditure on capital account was £24,135, of which £15,572 was spent on rolling stock and the balance on additional works and general improvements. The gross earnings showed an increase of 6½ lakhs of rupees over those of the previous year, but the working expenses had increased by Rs.10,63,226, and absorbed 52.75 per cent. of the earnings. Coaching traffic showed an increase of Rs.1,47,724, although 186,491 fewer passengers were carried. This was due to the increase in fares which had been adopted to reduce the passenger service as much as possible, in order to economise rolling stock and power. Goods traffic showed an increase of Rs.55,894, with goods rates unaltered. A most satisfactory feature was that a heavier traffic was carried by fewer trains. With regard to the increase in working expenses, an item of Rs.12,82,949, equal to £85,529, appeared in the revenue account under the heading of deferred maintenance. During the war it was impossible to get the necessary materials for the line and workshops, consequently the working expenses were not charged with the cost of materials and replacement of rolling stock that would have been debited under normal conditions. The result was that net earnings showed a larger figure than they would have done if the charges referred to had been met. This account would be continued until the materials and rolling stock in arrear had been obtained, an estimate being made yearly and added to ordinary working expenses. Another reason for the increase was that everything they had been able to get to keep the railway safe and workable had cost very much more than the usual price. Notwithstanding the provision for deferred maintenance, they had made £11,301 surplus profits, which were divided between H.E.H. the Nizam's Government and the company. Dealing with the metre gauge, he stated that the gross earnings showed an increase of Rs.39,634, but the working expenses had increased to Rs.4,09,176. Coaching traffic showed an increase of Rs.2,21,522. Goods earnings were Rs.1,83,935 less than in the previous year. The cotton crop was disappointing; heavy rain at the end of the season did great damage and the output was very much reduced. There was a considerable reduction in train mileage and a consequent saving in expenses. The working of both the broad gauge and metre gauge was so satisfactory that he was sure the proprietors would agree with him in thinking that the staff in India merited their thanks.

Lieut.-Colonel G. Huddleston seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and at an extraordinary general meeting it was resolved to change the name of the company to "His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed States Railways Company, Ltd."

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The transfer books of the ordinary stock of Burma Railways will be closed from December 10 to 31 inclusive.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ceylon Land and Produce.

The report of the Ceylon Land and Produce Company for the year ended June 30 states that net profit amounted to £14,885; £7,556 was brought forward, making £22,442. Deducting preference dividend, interim dividend on ordinary shares and income-tax, directors' fees, etc., estimated at £7,500, there is left £9,042. It is proposed to pay on 26th inst. a final dividend of 10 per cent. (making 20 per cent. for the year), less tax at 5s. 3d. in £, and to carry forward £5,354.

Anchor Line.

The report of the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Limited, for the year ended April 30 last states that all the company's steamers continue under requisition of the Government. The services have been maintained as regularly as existing conditions admitted. Profits, after providing for depreciation and a special reserve for war taxation and contingencies, amounted to £309,399; £146,912 was brought forward, making £456,311. Deducting debenture interest, preference dividend, and £250,000 placed to reserve account, there is left £180,113. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, also a bonus on ordinary shares at 10 per cent., free of tax, and to carry forward £130,113.

North Anantapur.

The report of North Anantapur Gold Mines, Limited, for the year ended June 30 states that expenditure on revenue account amounted to £36,162 and net profits to £57,017, leaving a profit of 21,855, as compared with £23,361. The total credit at profit and loss was £47,112, and after deducting the debit, amounting to £31,810, there is left a credit balance of £15,303. A refund of excess profits duty, amounting to £13,514, has been received. A balance dividend of 2s. 6d. per share and a bonus of 1s. per share on the preference and 6d. per share and a bonus of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares was paid on 1st inst., which absorbed £11,218, leaving £4,084 to carry forward. The total distribution for the year was 5s. 6d. per share on the preference and 1s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, both less income-tax.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31 states that the gross profits for the year, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and all taxation, are £273,885 1s. 2d., and deducting the expenses, amounting to £127,846 13s. 1d., there remains a balance of £146,038 8s. 1d. net profit for the year. To this amount must be added £67,000, the balance carried forward on August 31, 1917, and £20,000, being provision made in 1915 for war contingencies, not now required, making £233,038 8s. 1d., which the directors propose shall be dealt with in the following manner:—Contribution to staff provident fund, £3,038; interim dividend of 5s. per share paid, free of income tax, June 1, £25,000; dividend at 10s. per share, free of income tax, to be paid on December 2, making, with the interim dividend, 15 per cent. for the year, £50 000; special distribution £1 per share, proposed to be capitalised by creation of 20,000 shares, £100,000; bonus to staff, £12,000; written off premises account, £5,000; balance carried forward, £38,000. Branches of the bank have been opened at Jaffa and Jerusalem. Meeting, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., November 26 3 p.m.

Sucreries d'Egypte.

As regards the results of the working of this company up to October 31, it is incontestable (says the *Situation Economique*) that native production has been slightly affected by the frosts, which have interfered with the ripening of the cane. It is also a fact that the company has met with serious obstacles owing to the high cost of labour and materials, and that the demands, hardly justified, of the Supplies Control Board, had they been maintained, would have greatly impeded the development of the business, but these various reasons do not appear to warrant the fall which has taken place in these shares. The diminution in native production has its natural remedy in the purchase of raw sugar from Java. The increased cost of raw materials and labour ought to be compensated for by raising the official tariffs. Neither Russia, Austria, nor Bulgaria, all more or less exhausted, will be able to compete for a long time with Egyptian sugars in the Mediterranean. Before the war the Trieste market regulated that of Alexandria. On the morrow it will be the reverse.

Caledonian (Ceylon).

The report of the Caledonian (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30 last states that net profit, after writing off £1,000 for depreciation, is £8,087; £3,648 was brought forward, less excess profits duty £1,730, making £10,006. The directors propose a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, to place to coast advance reserve account £500, and to carry forward £2,436.

South Caucasian.

The report of the South Caucasian Syndicate states that no further development of the properties has taken place during the year ended September 30 last, and owing to the existing state of affairs in Russia the questions involved in settling the company's rights must necessarily be further postponed.

Central Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Central Tea Company of Ceylon for the year ended June 30 last states that net profit, including the balance brought forward, amounted to £6,424. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the year, to place to income-tax account £1,500, and to carry forward (subject to excess profits tax) £2,174.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax. The last interim payment was 4 per cent.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust have declared an interim dividend for the six months ended October 31 last on the deferred stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable December 11.

The interest on the 5 per cent. first debentures of the Aboukir Company, Limited, due December 2, will be paid on and after that date on presentation of coupon No. 39 at the offices of the company, 134, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C 2.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. (less income-tax) for the half-year ended September 30, payable December 2. This is the same rate as last year.

A cable has been received by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons from the Kolar Goldfield stating that owing to influenza epidemic on all mines there is a considerable shortage of labour, and the companies' returns for November may be affected.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 13	Nov. 20
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	90	90
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	78¼	77½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5%, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	63	62¼
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	57½	57½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	75	74
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5% Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	82½	81½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	84½	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½	74½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅞	$6\frac{31}{32}$	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	21½	20¾
Bank of Athens	£2	4½	4½
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6¾	6¾
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
British Trade Corporation	—	$9\frac{29}{32}$	$9\frac{29}{32}$
Chartered Bank of India	65	94	92
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14¼	14½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	20	18½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20	20⅜
National Bank of India	43	69	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8½	8⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 5% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	$1\frac{1}{16}$	23/6	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14½	14
Do. Pref.	4½	$4\frac{11}{16}$	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	17/-	16/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	17/6	16/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	21/9
Sidi Salem Co.	$\frac{5}{16}$	$2\frac{31}{32}$	$2\frac{15}{16}$
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Egyptian Markets Ord.	$1\frac{1}{16}$	28/-	27/6
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 395.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Swift retribution threatens the Allies, unless an extremely delicate situation is handled promptly and intelligently. As the least reflection must have enabled the Allied Governments to foresee, the failure to arrive at a definite settlement of the whole of the Near Eastern question while the war was on leaves a critical problem unsolved with the most powerful agency for a tactful compromise removed. But complete indifference during the early stages of the war to the danger of delaying a settlement only gradually gave place to a half-hearted attempt to discover a basis for a possible solution. The Near Eastern question now has a two-fold aspect; one concerns the delimitation of boundaries between Italian territory and the new Yugoslav State, the other is the partition of Macedonia. The former problem was the more urgent, as the points at issue made for the estrangement of two members of the Allied group, whereas in Macedonia one of the claimants was still an enemy.

Trouble has already arisen between the Italians and the Yugoslavs. It will be remembered that late in the day, but while the war was still on, the two parties made an attempt to arrive at an understanding. The negotiations, however, were at best semi-official, in the sense that there was no explicit instruction, as there ought to have been, to the disputants to compose their differences without further loss of time. Accordingly, after informal meetings elsewhere, a somewhat more formal conference was held in Rome, at which the general principles on which it was desirable that an agreement should ultimately be based were drawn up and, in due course, received the assent of the Italian Government. At the time it was urged in these columns that what was wanted was a hard and fast boundary line carefully traced from Carinthia to Albania, which would leave no room for misunderstanding on the part of either Italians or Southern Slavs. In the absence of this definite line, the collapse of Austria-Hungary has been followed by the inevitable scramble for positions between the troops of the two countries.

The spectacle is derogatory to both parties, and to the Allied Governments as a whole. "Acute tension," it is reported, has arisen at various places; but worse developments have apparently been prevented by a mixed Allied occupation at several debatable points. On the Yugoslav side it is pointed out that the trouble has arisen, in part, because the zone of occupation on the eastern and north-eastern Adriatic under the Austrian armistice was made to coincide almost exactly with the zone assigned to Italy by the "secret" Treaty of London of April, 1915. Consequently this armistice zone was regarded by the local populations as sanctioning the frontier drawn by the Treaty, and by inference we are asked to regard the Yugoslav peoples as justified in trying to enforce their claims even at the risk of armed collisions with Italian troops. Neither side to the conflict, let it be stated quite candidly, is displaying the spirit which it was hoped that the fiery trial through which they have both passed would introduce for the future into all international discussions.

The root of the whole matter is that no Allied Government outside Italy and the Balkan States has taken upon itself to master the intricacies of the Near Eastern question to the extent of realising that a solution can only be reached by compulsory arbitration. In other words, the claimants must be persuaded to leave their disputes in the hands of the British, French, and United States Governments, who must determine what in their opinion is the most equitable solution, and then insist upon its frank acceptance. The numerous preliminaries to the Conference at Rome and the nature of the Pact itself, which was entirely vague, and left room for the military incidents which have now arisen, prove that, left to themselves, the countries concerned have little chance of arriving at a final and complete settlement. Unless, therefore, storm signals are continually to be raised in the Balkans and unrest to remain the permanent state of Europe, the law must be laid down once and for all, and the knowledge must exist that a police force is within call to require its observance.

It is inconceivable that the rivalry between Italians and Yugoslavs should be allowed to be carried to extremes. At the first warning hurried steps have been taken to separate the disputants, and we may hope that, all too late, an attempt will now be made to bring them to a formal agreement. But it would be idle to ignore the material for unrest that exists in this part of the world; for even when Italian and Yugoslav differences have been composed, there is the possibility of political cross-currents disturbing the smooth development of Yugoslavia. We are confident that this new State will ultimately "find itself," if it is freed from outside interference. There is no lack of outward indications that its constitutional development is proceeding along normal lines. The component parts have agreed upon a course of action, and the Prince

Regent of Serbia is reported to have been "nominated" Regent of the whole Southern Slav State. But political intrigue is on foot in Serbia, and the Allied Governments are being asked to believe that M. Pashitch's continued direction of the Serbian administration is an obstacle to the progress of Yugoslavia. Whether this be the case or not, the Allied Governments will be well advised to insist that the matter is one to be settled by the Serbian people alone in a constitutional way. Serbia is not necessarily Yugoslavia, and the new State will be quite strong enough to deal "on its own" with any political difficulties that may arise in Belgrade. To pretend that Serbian recalcitrancy or M. Pashitch's alleged "pursuit of a personal policy" is going to arrest the growth of Yugoslavia is to ignore the fact that the motive power of the State will for a long time to come be in the north rather than in the south.

It is to be hoped that the political quarrels of the Serbians will bring Montenegro some respite from the intrigues aimed at settling her destiny before the people can record their decision on the question. Unfortunately, the Montenegrins are handicapped by being left at this critical period virtually without leaders. King Nicholas remains in Paris when his place and that of the Montenegrin Government are clearly in the liberated country. They might have to return empty-handed; but they could rely upon the speedy arrival of relief, and in the meantime they could reassure their fellow-countrymen and correct the impression that Montenegro had been deserted by the Petrovitch dynasty.

The discussion on the fate of Constantinople has called forth a somewhat severe letter in *The Times* from Mr. Ameer Ali, who lays stress upon the fact that the Mussulmans of India regard Constantinople as the "City of Islam," and points out that "to wrest it from the Turks and to hand it to any other people would indeed be an outrage to their feelings." It is a pity that the future of Constantinople should be associated by anyone with the question of creeds. The point at issue is the good government of a stretch of territory which, owing to its geographical position, is closely bound up with the peace of Europe. For an opinion of Turkish methods of government the Mussulmans of India cannot do better than consult the Arabs, who have also decided that the Turks, or at least the ruling class, far from being good Moslems, were hardly entitled to be regarded as Moslems at all. If Constantinople has to be held in trust for the world of Islam, it would be thought that the Committee of Union and Progress, hailing from Salonika, would be the last people to whom good Moslems would like to see it entrusted. It should be possible to respect the susceptibilities of Islam, while ridding the city of incompetent government.

London is shortly to be afforded the opportunity of welcoming a very distinguished visitor in the person of the Shereef Feisul, son of the King of the Hejaz, and Commander-in-Chief of our Arab allies in Arabia and Syria. The Arab campaign against the Turks has been not the least significant development of the war, and its history, though so little known in this country, is as important in its bearing on the future of that part of the world as it has been full of picturesque details. Its success has been largely due to the personality of the Shereef Feisul, who has not only proved a capable and resourceful leader in the field, but has also, under his father's auspices, succeeded in bringing the Arab people together in a way to which they have long been strangers. The other contributing factor to the triumph of the Arab cause in the revolt against Turkish misrule was the material help given by Great Britain. The visit of the Shereef Feisul to England places the seal on this co-operation, and will, it is to be hoped, prepare the way for the maintenance, with equally successful results for the future of Arabia and Syria, of close relations between the British and the Arabs.

Indian politicians will doubtless be gratified to know that, contrary to all recent precedents, the affairs of their country have furnished a "plank" in the Coalition platform for the General Election to which we are now endeavouring to attune our minds. In that document Ministers have explicitly reaffirmed the terms of last year's Declaration, and announced their intention to give effect to it, but they have offered no hint of any concrete measures to be brought forward, and consequently there is no chance of the matter becoming an issue in the contest, since so far as we can see none of the other parties in the field is in the least likely to raise any objection to the principle, however much they may have to say when the time for legislation arrives.

So far then India's position in the Election is satisfactory, but those of her politicians who have experience of the way in which things are done will probably turn from their perusal of the Ministerial programme with a feeling of depression; it is something to have a place at the start, but the course is very crowded, and the chances of an early arrival at the finish are none too bright. The work of Parliament was seriously behindhand when war broke out, arrears have been accumulating for more than four years, and now everything has to be tackled in a tremendous hurry. What chance does India stand alongside of demobilisation, increased production, education, housing, liquor control, the Second Chamber, Ireland, and all the other competitors for the attention of the new House of Commons?

We do not for a moment suggest that Ministers are insincere. We have no doubt that they honestly intend to lay the foundations of responsible government in India, but they cannot hope to do everything at once. The composition of the next House of Commons is an unknown factor, but we may be confident that a large proportion of the new members will wish to hear their own voices, and if they settle down to talk in the old familiar way even urgent measures are sure to be delayed. Of all people in the world Indian politicians have the least right to object to the consumption of time in talking, but it is unlikely that they will look at the matter in this light, and delay will have many drawbacks, apart from the disappointment of a particular class.

To put the matter shortly, the question of Indian reform having once been raised requires a prompt settlement. Everywhere we meet with paralysing uncertainty at a moment which calls for sustained and vigorous action. Neither officials nor politicians nor men of business know where they stand, and delay can serve only to strengthen the sinister forces which are already at work. We can only hope that in the coming struggle for priority India will be able to hold her own, and that her representatives in this country will have the knowledge and the energy required to apply pressure at the decisive point, not at the fringes of political activity, but at the centre where half a dozen men in effect decide what Parliament is to do.

Meanwhile, we are sorry to see that the two Committees on the result of whose investigations the Government measure will largely depend are threatened at the outset of their work in India with a boycott by the non-Brahmins of the South. Such a step would be a tactical mistake, but it would also be very much more. The Committees have to take all India into account; they will find a few sections of the people highly organised, and the rest for the most part apathetic, and they will in any case have some difficulty in preserving a due sense of proportion. The withdrawal of one of the few organisations representing the masses can only accentuate this difficulty, and still further strengthen the position of the few, and we trust the non-Brahmin Confederation will reconsider its somewhat hasty decision, and put the case of its members with all the skill it can command.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 21.

The Budget.

The various administrations are all busy drawing up their budgets for the 1919-1920 financial year. The estimates have to be submitted to the Ministry of Finance by the end of the current month, to permit of their being discussed and amended in time for publication in March next. It is understood that there will be several interesting innovations in the new Budget not unconnected with the economic and special development of the country. It should not be forgotten that in his last note of the Budget the Acting Financial Adviser foreshadowed the possibility of one or two new departures, among them the creation of a Ministry of Communications, and that the Balfour Public Health Commission recently recommended the transformation of the Public Health Department into a separate Ministry.

Hellenic Subjects in Egypt.

As a result no doubt of the change in the Balkan situation, an agreement has been come to between the Egyptian and Greek Governments whereby the former recognises as Greek subjects natives of the new Greek provinces who, having settled in Egypt, have opted for Greek nationality, and have applied within the period laid down by the Treaty of Athens of 1913 for recognition as Greek subjects by the local Hellenic consular authorities. This recognition does not, however, extend to natives of the islands of Imbros, Tenedos, or Castellorizo or to those of islands in the occupation of an Allied Power other than Great Britain. At the same time, the Egyptian Government expresses its readiness to recognise as Hellenic subjects persons of Greek origin, but registered as local subjects, who have volunteered or may volunteer for service with the Greek Army, or with the Army of any of the Allies of Great Britain, provided that at the time when the split took place in the Greek colony in Egypt in 1917 those persons had placed themselves under the protection of the General Commanding the British Forces in Egypt.

Rules for Women Travelling through the Mediterranean.

Ever since the first year of the war there have been varying regulations regarding the travelling of women and children through the Mediterranean, and from time to time references have appeared in The Near East on the subject. Since June this year the restrictions have been made considerably more severe, and a Committee, denominated the Women and Children Oversea Permit Committee has now been set up under the authority of the High Commissioner, the Commander-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Forces, and the Rear-Admiral, Egypt, to deal with all applications for permission to travel to Europe. No British women and children (under 16) proceeding in British, Allied or neutral ships, or Allied and non-neutral women and children (under 16) proceeding by British ships may travel through the Mediterranean from Egypt without a permit from this Committee. It is understood that permits will only be granted in cases where going home is medically certified as being a matter of life or death, and then only on condition that the person in question does not return to Egypt during the duration of the war.

The New Cotton Seed Crop.

The regulations in connection with the control of the new cotton-seed crop under the scheme of purchase by H.B.M.'s Government have now been published. In substance they are the same as those of the previous season, and the control of the distribution of the seed destined for sowing continues in the hands of the Egyptian Government, which itself distributed about 40 per cent. of the total seed requirements of the country direct to the cultivators last year. It is interesting to note that the total amount of seed available this year, according to the returns of the Alexandria General Produce Association, was 3,794,000 ardebs. Of this quantity 2,711,000 ardebs were exported—2,694,000 ardebs to Great Britain, and about one million ardebs were consumed by the local oil crushing establishments. It is impossible to say what will be the seed prospects during the coming season, but an important diminishing influence will be exerted on the exportable quantum by the fact that the cotton area was restricted to one-third of every holding during 1918. In addition it is understood that the crushers will receive a larger allotment to enable them more adequately to meet the local demand for edible oils, which has hitherto been supplied by imports. The prices at which they can retail the oil and the cake are tariffed by the Government; but there is reason to believe that they are able to make a very considerable profit out of the operation, which explains why the shares of these enterprises stand so high at the present moment.

The Wheat Situation.

There is not much improvement in the wheat situation in the towns despite all the efforts that are being made to relieve it. The provincial authorities are being pressed by the Supplies Control Board to seize all stocks which they can get hold of, and to arrange for them to be forwarded to Alexandria and Cairo for distribution. The Government has meanwhile sent down considerable quantities of wheat from its own reserve in order to mitigate the critical situation in Alexandria, and it is hoped that before long arrivals from the interior will commence to be sufficiently satisfactory to meet the demands of that city and obviate further drawings on the Government reserve. Since there is reason to believe that in the towns arrivals have not been put on the market, but that they have been hoarded, the Supplies Control Board has issued an Order constituting at Minet el Bassal a Cereals Bureau, which will control all wheat and wheaten flour arrivals in Alexandria. Every consignment arriving there must be notified to the Bureau, which will have full power to direct how it is to be disposed of. By these means the efforts that are being made to bring wheat to the cities will not be thwarted by local hoarders. It is understood that a similar bureau will shortly be constituted in Cairo, which is the other centre suffering most from the withholding of wheat in the provinces.

Prohibition of Opium Cultivation.

By decree, the cultivation of the opium poppy has been prohibited throughout Egypt, with the proviso that the Ministry of Agriculture has the power to remove the prohibition, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, at any time it considers advisable. Any infraction of the decree renders the cultivator liable to a fine not exceeding £E1 and imprisonment not exceeding one week, and to have the plants pulled up at his expense. Until quite recently the opium poppy has not been cultivated on any extensive scale; but, since the war, whether owing to the almost complete cessation of smuggling of "Hashish" cannot be said, the area has

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undergone considerable expansion; and, as in present circumstances every feddan that is cultivable should be put under food crops of some description, the Government decided to prohibit the cultivation of this noxious plant. It is to be hoped that this prohibition has come to stay, and that the Government will not avail itself of the power to permit the resumption of the cultivation of the opium poppy except for purely medicinal purposes, and then only under very close supervision.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Jassy Conference.

A very important conference opened at Jassy on November 19, to discuss not only economic and political questions regarding Roumania and the new Russian States, but also the policy of the Entente in Eastern Europe. Well-known politicians representing various Russian democratic organisations are taking part in this conference. M. Sazonoff, formerly Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived to represent the Ekaterinodar administration and the Government of Ufa, and the National parties of Ukrainia sent delegates. The conference has a task of extraordinary difficulty and delicacy before it, and it would be idle to prophesy what the results of its labours will be. It is obvious, however, that since Roumania is the only organised State left in Eastern Europe, it is of the utmost value and importance to the Allies; and the presence of Allied troops in the country and of Allied warships in Roumanian and Black Sea ports appears to indicate that they are prepared to take whatever steps may be necessary to extirpate the last traces of German influence there.

After the German Occupation.

The trials and sufferings of the Roumanians during nearly two years' occupation by the Germans are now over. But what was a beautiful garden before the coming of the invaders is now a ravaged country. Nearly all the villages at the foot of the Carpathians, with their treasures of popular art and architecture, are destroyed, the heaviest fighting having taken place there at the time of the German invasion. The oilfields, too, are in a deplorable state. The Germans made extraordinary efforts to restore the installations, but their success was very limited, and the oil production is now only one-fifth of what it was before the war. Naturally, the lack of oil causes great difficulties, in reconstructing other industries and in regard to means of communication; for all the factories of the country formerly used oil as fuel, as did also the trains.

As to rolling stock, Roumania used to have more than 14,000 wagons and about 5,000 locomotives. Now she has only four or five thousand wagons and a few hundred locomotives. Tunnels and bridges, including the magnificent bridge across the Danube between Fetesti and Cernavoda, have been destroyed, as have many railway stations. The splendid vineyards on the hills have been ravaged and the forests devastated. The number of cattle in the country has been reduced by 75 per cent., the rural population being thus deprived of the means to work and cultivate the land. The question of compensating all these victims of the war will be one of the most difficult to solve. It will probably be years before the Germans are compelled to pay for their infamous conduct; and the poor people need immediate assistance, if they are to begin their work again, and thus help to feed a hungry Europe.

Problems to Solve.

The most difficult problem to be solved in Roumania is the land question: the new democratic State of Roumania can only be built up on the solid base of a just solution. King Ferdinand has pledged himself to do justice to his soldier peasants who defended the country against German barbarity and Russian anarchy. After the Marghiloman Government resigned, and the Germans left the country, the King assured the peasants that the land should be divided among them and that the Franchise Bill should be voted very soon. The great masses of the Roumanian peasantry will, therefore, soon take an active part in the political life of their country, and will regenerate it.

Another important problem to be solved is the Jewish question. The Bratiano-Také Jonescu Government (1917) promised an equitable solution, and the Roumanian people are pledged to the democracies of the world to deal with the question fairly and fully.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Great rejoicings have followed the news of the latest victories of the Allies throughout Cyprus. Thanksgiving services have been held in Greek churches. In the towns the streets have been beflagged, and there would have been illuminations had circumstances permitted. It is fully recognised that the lot of Cyprus has been a happy one, and that no part of the Empire has been more favoured during the four years of hardship and trial in other lands. This feeling is increased by the tales of distress which have filtered in from Syria and Palestine, where Cypriotes have many friends, connections, and interests. Communications are being resumed with these countries. Cyprus, although prices have risen to what many regard as exorbitant rates, is abundantly provided with almost all necessary articles.

The Greek members of the Legislative Council have despatched telegrams to Great Britain, France, and the United States, congratulating the Governments on the late victories. It is hardly necessary to add that they have taken the opportunity of expressing their hopes that the aspirations of (Greek) Cypriotes will not be overlooked when peace terms are discussed. It has been decided that a deputation of three or more members shall visit Athens as soon as possible in order to advocate "the cause" with the Government of M. Venizelos, which—it is hoped—will take the matter up. The list of Greek deputations from Cyprus has been a long one!

The Chief Secretary returned to Nicosia from Mount Troödos on October 17, the High Commissioner remaining till the 23rd. He has visited Papho, where various matters claimed attention, and travelled, by way of Limassol, to the capital.

Red Cross collections in the island have amounted to over £5,200 up to the end of September.

MALTA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Malta (undated).

In spite of all that the Hun has been able to do, our little island has pursued the even tenour of its way. It was our races last week; now we have our grand opera in full swing, and those who have had the privilege of wintering with us in the past will remember the excellence of the performances. The season was inaugurated on Thursday night, October 31, when the Royal Theatre was crowded from pit to ceiling, the house presenting a very brilliant aspect. The Governor, attended by Major V. C. Micallef, A.D.C., was received at the entrance by Chev. C. de Lancelotti, impresario of the theatre, by whom he was conducted to the State box, together with his guests. As soon as his Excellency appeared at the front of the box the audience rose, and the orchestra played the Allied National Anthems amidst tremendous enthusiasm, which was redoubled when, after the curtain was raised, the entire company sang "God Save the King."

After a long and enforced absence, we have with us the Bishop of Gibraltar, and the Governor, in response to the earnest wish of the Bishop, arranged for a meeting of the entire Anglican Community in Malta, including members in the Navy, Army, and Air Service, in the hall of St. Michael and St. George, at the Palace, Valletta.

The presence of part of the Japanese Fleet lent additional importance this year to the celebration of the birthday of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The notable feature was a reception at which most of the *élite* of the island attended, which was held at the Japanese Consulate.

Personalia.

Lieut. J. E. Agius, King's Own Malta Regiment, is here at present on short leave. This officer has been one of the foremost to offer his services in the great war, and has done useful work in connection with the same.

The death of Mr. Ernesto Muscat, one of the proprietors of the *Malta Herald*, took place on Monday, the 4th inst., after a very short illness, at his residence, Strada Ridolfo, Sliema.

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LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, November 9.

The War and the Port.

The war has vastly increased the trade activities of Port Said, and if the merchants reaped a rich harvest from passengers in normal times, the Army has brought wealth untold to many.

In peace time there was a large amount of transhipment of cargo here, which was destined for ports in the Eastern Mediterranean that were not touched by the large through steamers from the Far East going to the western ports of Europe. Owing to war conditions in the Mediterranean, some of the important shipping companies kept their finest steamers east of Port Said, and only allowed some of their older and less valuable boats to do the absolute minimum of essential traffic through the war area. As a consequence there has been a tremendous congestion of merchandise at Port Said. The bonded stores were quickly filled, and every available patch of desert in the neighbourhood was utilised, the large amount of Government and Army stores all helping to crowd what space there was.

In view of the situation, the French Government, with their usual care for commercial interests, have erected extensive sheds at convenient places round the harbour, where at present about 80,000 tons of cargo are stored. At the conclusion of peace this large quantity of mostly raw material will be already within six days' journey of Marseilles, ready to be shipped by the first available tonnage. It does not require much business acumen to see what an advantage this will give over others who have to bring their raw material from the Far East.

Conditions in Syria.

The first letters are beginning to arrive here from Beyrout, and though not much definite news has come through as to the commercial conditions of things, it is hoped to be able to give a definite account soon. One thing is noted, namely, that the inhabitants have a very natural suspicion of paper money; which is not to be wondered at after their four years' experience of Turkish and German promissory notes. One man told your correspondent that English £5 notes were being sold in Damascus for £3 in silver coin. Doubtless the natives will soon realise that British "Bradburys" bring a big benefit to the buyer.

Sickness in Port Said.

In common with other parts of Europe, the town is being visited by the so-called Spanish fever, and many business houses are hard put to it to carry on, owing to the number of their employees on the sick list.

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THE LEBANON HOSPITAL.

For long centuries the condition of the insane in Syria and Palestine was pitiable in the extreme. Viewed often with a certain element of awe by the native population as *mejnun* (or devil possessed) they have been allowed to wander about more or less at will, or, when relatives or friends wished to "cure" them, they were treated with great cruelty—often with good intentions—in order to drive out the "jinn." In 1900 the first hospital for the insane was established at Asfurieh, near Beyrout, and it has continued to do its beneficent work with an ever-widening circle of influence ever since. The hospital, consisting of a collection of well-built pavilions, occupies a most beautiful situation, with very extensive grounds, on a hill top a few miles out of Beyrout. This institution had so won the hearts of the officials that, during the whole war with Turkey, it was allowed to continue open, was favoured by official help, and, most wonderful of all, the director, Dr. Watson Smith, a British subject, was allowed to carry on his duties. In spite of enormous difficulties and almost complete interruption of communication with the London Central Committee the work of the hospital was continued uninterrupted. Through the American Committee sums of money for its maintenance were forwarded from time to time. During this critical time it has been impolitic to make these facts known, but now that Syria is in the hands of the British and French, and the safety of the director and his staff is assured, it cannot be too widely known that this splendid work needs immediate financial assistance. The benefits of this hospital are open to all—Christian, Moslem and Jew—equally, and there is no doubt that there will be a very great demand upon its resources from a population which has undergone the mental and physical strain of these four long years of privation and terror. The London office of the Lebanon Hospital for the Insane is 35, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4.

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Owing to a great demand for teachers by the Government, the C.M.S. training school at Palamcotta, in Southern India, has lately been full.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig has received warm congratulatory telegrams from General Georgescu on behalf of the Roumanian Army.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE FUTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The problem of the future status of Constantinople, involving that of the waterway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, is complicated both by the historical and cultural affiliations of the city, and also by the commercial and political importance of the Straits.

These considerations suggest, as the most desirable solution of the problem, that the city of Constantinople and the territory adjacent to the waterway be made an independent state whose domestic affairs shall be controlled by a local parliament; while the city of Constantinople be chosen as the seat of the executive of the contemplated League of Nations for the preservation of peace, this city-state to have no foreign relationships except such as are involved in its status as seat of this executive. The city-state thus constituted would include both shores of the Bosphorus, the Marmora, and the Dardanelles, and also possibly the cities of Adrianople and Ismidt.

The obvious advantages of such a scheme are as follows: In the first place, it would effectually guarantee the neutrality of the Straits, assuring to the nations contiguous to the Black Sea free and uninterrupted access to the Mediterranean in the pursuit of their lawful affairs. To place Constantinople under the control or protection of any single state or group of states would involve a certain amount of jealousy or suspicion on the part of the other states interested. To constitute this territory into a sovereign state in control of its own foreign affairs would leave it subject to the peaceful intrigues of its neighbours, if it be a weak state; or would endanger the international status of the waterway, if it be a strong state. To make Constantinople the seat of a League of Nations would give to the new state the protection which the prestige of the League would command; would obviate the rivalries and discontents which any other solution would raise; and would assure the international character of the waterway so long as the League shall survive.

In the second place, such a scheme would place the seat of the executive of the League of Nations in a city which is peculiarly and uniquely cosmopolitan; in a sense in which no other city of the world is. For not only is no city of the Eastern Hemisphere so centrally located or so easily accessible by water or by land to the rest of Europe, Asia and Africa; but, also, Constantinople does not belong predominantly to any one race or religion. In any other city in Europe, Asia or Africa, no matter how cosmopolitan in character, there is a dominant type of religion and culture; all others, however welcome, being recognised as foreign. In Constantinople, on the contrary, the flying robes of the Bedawi, the fur cap of the Turk from Samarcand or Bokhara, and the latest styles from Paris or New York are equally "at home." Constantinople is predominantly neither Christian nor Moslem; neither European nor Asiatic; hence here, as nowhere else, could representatives of all the races and religions of the world meet on a footing of absolute equality. The choice of this city as the seat of the world-wide League of Nations would therefore afford to the non-European races of the world a token of the good faith of the nations of Europe in taking them into partnership in the League for the preservation of world peace.—I am, etc.,

L. P. Chambers.

Dalhousie University,
Halifax, N.S., Canada

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mehemet Bey Konitza being at present away from England, I hope you will allow me to answer Mr. Kessary's letter to you on the above subject.

Mr. Kessary makes a special distinction between Albanians and Epirotes. They are the same race, and there is more difference between the counties, say, of Lancashire and Sussex than between Albanian and Epirote. I need hardly add that there is no affinity between the Epirotes and the Hellenes, except that the Christian of Epirus is of the Orthodox Greek Church.

It is absolutely untrue that Mehemet Bey only represents a few hundred Moslem Albanians. In this connection, what does Mr. Kessary mean by Albanians? The Moslems of Epirus are as much Epirotes as the Christians, and when he speaks of "rather suspicious antecedents and connections" the accusation is too vague. If he refers to Moslems in general I can only tell him what *I* know for a fact, and that is that the Moslems form the most respectable part of the community both in North Albania and Epirus. I have been a good many years in Albania, and, amongst other things, I remember that English travellers and sportsmen crossing over from Corfu were always recommended by the Corfiotes to provide themselves with letters of introduction to the Moslems and to camp for preference in or near Moslem villages rather than Christian.

I do not know his varied authorities, but, under present circumstances, he had better have left out Prince Lichnowsky's name. Moreover, this latter gentleman has never been in Albania.

With reference to Mr. Kessary's statements about Koritza, I will quote from the *New York Times* of October 2, 1914.

"The landing of Italian marines at Avlona or Vallona in Albania means that 150,000 Albanian refugee families will receive succour and that Italy will oust the Greek soldiers who have invaded Albania in the guise of Albanian rebels. It has been represented that Albania was in rebellion and that the Epirotes were in arms against the Government. That is not true. On the South the Greek regular troops have crossed the border and are doing the fighting, calling themselves the Epirotes."

Mr. Kessary is, I presume, either a Hellene or an Epirote of the Greek Church with Hellenistic sympathies.

The religion of the Moslem Epirote will always be an obstacle to the Hellenization of his race.

Speaking as an English well-wisher to the Albanian race, I consider that the Hellenization of Epirus would be the greatest misfortune that could happen to it.—I am, etc.,

George Paget,
Major.

Gardnor House, Hampstead, N.W.3.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was startled a few days ago by coming across the following headlines in the *Egyptian Gazette*:—

SUICIDES OF EGYPTIAN STUDENTS.

A Habit to be Discouraged.

Personally, I should have been inclined to think that suicide was rarely likely to develop into a habit, though I heartily agree that it should be discouraged. When I read the article thus headed I found it began: "We frequently hear tales in the native newspapers of the bad habit, which is prevalent among Egyptian students, of attempting to commit suicide when they have failed to pass their examinations. This unfortunate tendency has been brought to the notice of the authorities of the Ministry of Education, and Mr. H. J. Boyd Carpenter, in his report as General President on this year's Secondary Education Certificate Examination (Parts II. and I.) gives vent to the opinion that this habit should be discouraged." One rather wonders whether the substitution of "pretending" for "attempting" would not be nearer to a statement of facts. Mr. Boyd Carpenter, I observe, suggests that "candidates so acting should be permanently excluded from all public examinations"; and that would certainly be wise. But would not such childish vanity—for that seems to be the explanation of the state of affairs—be suitably rewarded by a birching? That would surely "discourage" the "habit."

⁂

Certain native employees of the Sudan Government recently petitioned for leave to use native costume in their offices in place of European. The reason given was the comparative cheapness of the native clothing, which in such days was a strong recommendation for it; and, the petition being favourably received, the petitioners have now, no doubt, discarded coats and trousers, hats and collars, and taken again to the flowing galabieh and comfortable turban of their forefathers. In this respect, quite a number of people will agree with me, the war has been responsible for a good thing. For surely the native costume is not only much more picturesque—which is a small matter, of course—but also better adapted to the climate and to native habits and manners. It will have to disappear eventually, one supposes, and all the world will some day be betrousered and black-coated (or loud-tweeded, as the case may be). But anything that checks "progress" along those lines is surely something to be thankful for. At any rate, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand an Oriental in European garb is an even greater failure than a European in Oriental costume.

Corsair.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

“THOSE MEN SO BEAUTIFUL.”*

Hindenburg, in a platitudinous lucubration, has laid it down that victory goes to the strongest nerves. If he should escape the avenging justice of the Allied democracies he would do well to ask to be personally conducted by General Birdwood and General Gouraud over the southern and south-western extremities of the Gallipoli Peninsula; for there, if anywhere, he will be able to learn what real nerve means. If he should never be allowed such luck, the next best thing we can wish him is to read a German translation of this book and compare it with Liman von Sanders' private reports. The difference in nerve between the British in the Dardanelles campaign and the Germans before Verdun is like that between the Marathon news-runner who dropped dead and a Bolshevist racing down the Nevsky Prospect to have the first guzzle from a broken vodka-cask. The contemptible surrender of the unbeaten German Navy on November 21, 1918, will remain for ever as the true measure of German nerve. It had not even the excuse of treachery.

Opinions will differ for all time as to the wisdom of the evacuation of Gallipoli. Our author inclines to question it, and quotes Napoleon: “Never do what you know your enemy wants you to do.” We would rather, considering our then hazardous position in the Near and Middle East, esteem it a gesture prompted by iron nerve. The spirit of “*Fides in Deo et me ipso*” was not thereby abandoned, but rather more loudly proclaimed.

Mr. Nevinson's comprehensive and lucid story ranks with any that has yet appeared. He brings into powerful relief the pitiable lack of guns, shells, bombs and fighting aircraft; the Homeric bravery of officers and men, and the iron nerve of Sir Ian Hamilton in calling upon his men again and again to do the impossible. He writes with far more liberty from the Censor than any Dardanelles author we have yet read, and he writes as an eye-witness. His maps and illustrations are informing. In a word, his presentation of the case for “Those Men So Beautiful” (Agamemnon, 453-455) is a memorial to pure Virtue.

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* “The Dardanelles Campaign.” By Henry W. Nevinson. (Nisbet and Co. London. 18s. net.)

A FOREWORD TO “THE SHAMELESS SURRENDER.”*

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, G.C.B., was born in 1839, and entered the Royal Navy in 1853. Many people had never heard of the White Sea, or the Murman coast, until a “fed-up” world was re-galvanised in the summer of 1918 by the announcement that the Royal Navy had determined to take Bolshevism by the short hair and Archangel as a short cut to Berlin. But in 1854, over sixty years ago, Midshipman Bridge was fighting Russians in the White Sea. He now tells us, in this book, something of his long sea-life, and something of the links of the chain which binds Beatty to Nelson, something of the modest ways of ancient and modern mariners; and all unconsciously he explains the German terror of the Mistress of the Seas. For in his long career he takes us around the world, very much as a London policeman would conduct an old lady across the street, and by the time we have peeped into Esquimalt and early 'Frisco, seen Jeddah and Suez and Valparaiso, called at Calcutta, Sydney, Shanghai and Vladivostok and stepped on shore in one hundred and four Pacific islands, we begin to understand the “price of admiralty” and the impudence of the German in challenging it.

Our old Admiral's book is fascinating reading to a landlubber; for the craftsman of the ocean it will be a keepsake and a classic. We are satisfied that he and his surviving contemporaries can explain—to anybody but a German—the shameless surrender, and that very naughty and unnecessary conundrum, the “Freedom of the Seas.”

BOOKS RECEIVED.

“Problems Confronting Russia.” By Baron A. Heyking. (London: P. S. King and Son, Limited. 10s. 6d. net.)

“An Empire Builder of the Sixteenth Century.” By L. F. Rushbrook Williams, B.A., etc. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

“My Reminiscences.” By Fanny, Lady Blunt. (London: John Murray. 15s. net.)

“The Price of a Throne.” By Joseph Hocking. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. net.)

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* “Some Recollections.” By Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, G.C.B. (John Murray, London. 12s. net.)

The following communication has just reached the Serbian Relief Fund from Belgrade:—

“After our four years of privation, Spanish Influenza has now set in amongst us, and is making terrible ravages. Belgrade will soon be like a huge graveyard, since no victims have any power of resistance against the terrible scourge. Medical supplies there are none. Since 1917 there has not been one ounce of quinine for the population. We are without any food except dry bread. Those of us who are still in health can do nothing for the patients, who are languishing in cold, bare rooms, without fuel or sufficient clothing. If we could get condensed milk, blankets, and medical stores, there would be hope of saving some at least of our unhappy people.”

This communication was written just before the Serbian troops entered Belgrade. The relief we have been able to send is quite inadequate, and far, far more is needed.

Parcels of clothing (cleaned and mended ready for immediate shipment) should be addressed to MRS. CARRINGTON WILDE, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

Cheques and donations of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the Right Hon. the EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918.	1918.		1337.	5679.
November	November.		Safar.	Kislev.
29	16	**Friday**	24	25
30	17	**Saturday**........	25	26
December				
1	18	**Sunday**	26	27
2	19	**Monday**	27	28
3	20	**Tuesday**	28	29
				Tebet.
4	21	**Wednesday**	29	1
			Rabia I.	
5	22	**Thursday**	1	2

M. Také Jonescu has left London for Paris.

M. Pashitch left London for Corfu last Friday.

M. Venizelos left London on Tuesday for Paris on his way to Athens.

Prince George of Serbia visited Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House last Friday.

Mr. Arthur Nias, Director-General of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, has left London for Constantinople.

The Maharaja of Bikanir will accompany Sir J. P. Sinha to the Peace Conference, says a Reuter's message from Delhi.

Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, accompanied by the Hon. E. Napier and Captain the Hon. F. Somerset, left London yesterday for East Africa, via Khartoum and the Nile.

The engagement is announced of Captain M. Stephens, R.A.F., to Marjorie, daughter of Mr. Alexander Finn, late H.B.M. Consul-General in Chile, and Mrs. Finn, of 2, Park Road, Richmond, Surrey.

The King has been pleased to appoint Major-General L. C. Dunsterville, C.B., to be an additional Companion of the Order of the Star of India in recognition of meritorious service rendered in connection with the war.

On November 22, at Eartham Parish Church, Captain William Bertram Allan, A.S.C., son of Mr. C. W. Allan, Indian Forest Service, was married to Miss Alison Phœbe Parker, A.S.C., daughter of the Rev. A. J. C. Parker, of Eartham Vicarage, Chichester.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Charles Frederick Wilkins, Executive Engineer, Indian Public Works Department, second son of the late Mr. C. M. B. Wilkins and of Mrs. Wilkins, Ceylon, and Amy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Warner, Quorn Hall, Loughborough.

On November 21, at Park Parish Church, Glasgow, Captain George V. B. Gillan, Gurkha Rifles, only son of Sir Robert Woodburn Gillan, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., and Lady Gillan, Simla, India, was married to Sibell, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bulloch Graham, of Park Gardens, Glasgow, W.

The engagement is announced of Brigadier-General T. H. F. Price, C.M.G., D.S.O., son of Sir Frederick Price, K.C.S.I., and Lady Price, Trengwainton, Exmouth, and Lurline, widow of Major J. A. Higgon, Scolton, Pembrokeshire, and daughter of the Hon. Henry Moses, M.L.C., Sydney, Australia.

On November 4, at the English Church, Corfu, Lieut. H. Disney Vaughan-Hughes, R.N., only son of Captain A. M. Vaughan-Hughes, of Adsett Court, Westbury-on-Severn, Glos., was married to Vana, daughter of the late M. Gerassino Marchetto and of Mrs. Marchetto, of Argostoli, Cephalonia.

The Metropolitan of Athens, Mgr. Meletius, President of the Holy Synod of the Kingdom of Greece, arrived in London on Sunday from America. He was accompanied by the Great Archimandrite, Chrysostom Papadapoulos. Mgr. Meletius was met at Euston by M. Markantonakis, representing M. Venizelos, M. Jean Gennadius, M. Caclamanos, and Dr. Pagonis, the Great Archimandrite.

On November 19, at St. Marylebone Church, Marylebone Road, London, the marriage was solemnised of Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., 1st Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Whittall, of Smyrna, to Lorna Elizabeth Pears, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Pears, lately of Constantinople. The bridegroom, who had been in Mesopotamia since 1914, only arrived on leave in London, on Monday, the 18th, having been delayed several days on the voyage between Italy and England. Many friends of the parties concerned were present at the wedding, notwithstanding the short notice given.

The Bishop of London returns this week from Macedonia and the Western Front.

The marriage arranged between Captain Russell Landale, Indian Army Reserve, and Miss Gladys Phipps will take place at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, December 3, at 1.45. All friends will be welcome at the church.

The Emir and Shereef Faisul arrived at Marseilles on November 26 on board H.M.S. Gloucester. On the conclusion of his visit to France, he will cometo England as the guest of the British Government, and as the representative of his father, the King of the Hejaz.

The Coptic Committee announces that, owing to the unavoidable absence of the Bishop of London, and the imminence of a General Election, it has been thought advisable to postpone the complimentary dinner that was to be given to Mr. S. H. Leeder, on November 26. A date will be fixed and communicated as soon as possible.

The Gaekwar of Baroda has contributed £100 towards the proposed Sir George Birdwood Memorial. Among others who have already subscribed are Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, ex-Viceroy of India, Lord Reay, Lord Harris, and Lord Lamington, ex-Governors of Bombay, Lord George Hamilton, Lord Inchcape, and Sir Shapurji Broacha, of Bombay. Subscriptions may be paid to the hon. treasurer, Mr. T. J. Bennett, C.I.E., care of Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

At Brompton Oratory yesterday morning Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Assistant Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, son of Colonel Matila Costiesco and Princess Marie Ghyka, was married to Miss Eileen O'Conor, daughter of the late Sir Nicholas O'Conor and Lady O'Conor. The Rev. Father Talbot officiated, and among those present were Lady O'Conor, Miss Muriel O'Conor, the Duchess of Norfolk and Lady Mary Howard, the Dowager Marchioness of Bute, Mme. Misu (wife of the Roumanian Minister), Mlle. Misu, and M. Misu, M. A. de Fleuriau, the Swiss Minister, M. Boeresco (the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires), Prince Bibesco, Lady Hope, Lady Tyrrell, Lady Kennard, Lady (Francis) Barker, Lady Barclay, Sir Edwin Pears, Baroness d'Erlanger, Count Léon Ostrorog, and General and Mrs. Maxwell-Scott. A reception was afterwards held at 29, Chester Square.

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American admirers of the late Lord Kitchener have sent £7,000 to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund.

At a meeting of the East India Association, held at 7, Tothill Street, on Monday afternoon, Mr. S. S. Thorburn read an interesting paper entitled "India: A Democracy?"

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports (November 24): General Sir E. Allenby arrived here to-day, and was given an official reception. The High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Reginald Wingate, the General Officer Commanding in Egypt, a representative of the Sultan, and distinguished military men and civilians were present at the station. The guard of honour outside the station was provided by the Sultan's bodyguard.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Rear-Admiral Barttelot succeeded Rear-Admiral Ballard as Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard on November 17.

Our Cyprus correspondent writes:—Mr. E. H. Nicolls, Director of Public Works, has been appointed Government Engineer on the Gold Coast, with a salary of £1,200 a year.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports:—It is announced that General Danglis has resigned, and the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army has been given to General Paraskevopoulos.

Major A. L. Clive-Davies, Gordon Highlanders, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi. He has been attached to the 1st Battalion for duty.

BEYROUT AND THE LEBANON

Amidst all the tragedies of four years' war conditions THE LEBANON HOSPITAL (Mental) has "carried on" under its British Director, Dr. Watson Smith, who now writes: "All is comparatively well, but the Hospital has suffered greatly in repairs, linen, etc., and we have been living in semi-starvation and exorbitant prices."

Funds are needed immediately for relief and maintenance.

Donations will be gratefully acknowledged and a report sent by the Gen. Sec., Miss A. M. GOOCH, 35, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4

OBITUARY.

It is announced that Mme. Jonescu, mother of M. Také Jonescu, has died in Paris.

Colonel R. H. Jennings C.S.I., Royal Engineers, formerly of the Indian Political Department, died on November 21 at 20, Roland Gardens, S.W., aged 66.

The death has occurred at Taunton of Colonel Henry Alfred Walsh, C.B., at the age of sixty-five. He served in the Boer War in 1878-9 and in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-8.

Mr. George Pringle Rose, C.I.E., died on November 20 at Silthams, near Godalming. He formerly served in the P.W.D., India, and was Junior Consulting Engineer for Railways, Calcutta, to the Government of India.

Colonel Herbert A. Sawyer, late Indian Army, died at Alessio, Italy, suddenly, on November 15. He served in the Burmese Expedition of 1887-9, on the North-West Frontier of India, and took part in the Tirah Expedition. Colonel Sawyer was twice mentioned in despatches for his services, and was the recipient of several decorations.

News comes from Switzerland of the death, on November 14, from pneumonia following influenza, of Dr. Albert Zeller, who was for some years chief surgeon to the International Hospital in Cairo nursed by the Kaiserswert Deaconesses. Dr. Zeller was the youngest and sole surviving son of the late Rev. John Zeller, who for over forty years was a missionary of the Church Missionary Society in Palestine, and grandson of Bishop Gobat, the second Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem.

Mr. Nottidge Charles Macnamara, lately a Professor in the Medical College, Calcutta, has died at his home at Rickmansworth at the age of 86 years. He was a member of the Government of India Commission on Leprosy, and was also surgeon and founder of Mayo Hospital, Calcutta.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Humphrey Lyons, elder son of the late Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Algernon Lyons and Lady Lyons. Mr. Lyons, who was born in 1880, was nominated an Attaché at the Foreign Office in 1905, and in the following year was appointed to Cairo. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to Third Secretary, and two years later was transferred to Madrid and later to Peking. He became Second Secretary in January, 1913.

Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., died on November 20 at Carlyle House, Chelsea Embankment. In his young days he spent some six years in India with the R.A. Later, after some service in Ireland, he went (in 1884) to the Sudan with Lord Wolseley, and was D.A.A.G. on the Headquarters Staff in the Nile campaign. He was present at the battle of Abu Klea, was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with two clasps, the bronze star, and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. After this, he held various important appointments, in Ireland, and in this country.

Lieut. Robert Lukyn Williams, who was killed in Mesopotamia on October 27, three days before the surrender of the Turkish Army, was the third son of Mr. H. C. Williams, I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Williams, of St. George's Road, Bedford. He went to India in 1912, and when the war broke out he was in Calcutta, a member of the Calcutta Light Horse. As soon as he could be released from business he obtained a commission in the I.A.R.O., and was posted to the Supply and Transport Corps in March, 1916. He went to Mesopotamia in September of that year, and served there and in Persia from that time onwards up to his death. In the early part of this year he obtained a commission in the Indian Army, and joined the 23rd Cavalry at the end of July.

Lieutenant Francis Edmund Storrs, R.N.V.R., who died of pneumonia following influenza, was the second son of the Dean of Rochester and Mrs. Storrs, and the brother of Colonel R. Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem. In 1908 he was appointed under the Imperial Education Department to Elphinstone College, Bombay, where he served two years, and then accepted the Professorship of English at the College, Rangoon. On the outbreak of war he several times offered himself for enlistment or a commission in the Army, but was rejected on medical grounds. He was then appointed to the control of the Permit Department of the Russian Government Supply Committee, and for his services was awarded the Order of St. Anne. In 1916 he received a commission in the R.N.V.R., and proceeded to Greece, where he was engaged in the Naval Intelligence Department until recalled for special work at the War Cabinet in November, 1917.

Lieut.-Colonel William Jesser-Coope, who has died at Alverstoke. Hants, at the age of 82, served in the Crimean War. Retiring from the Regular Army in 1871, he was selected as inspector in the Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, under the late Baker Pasha. He assisted in the distribution of relief organised by Lady Burdett-Coutts in the Balkans during the Russo-Turkish War. For the Turkish Army in the field he organised a stretcher-bearer service, but was captured with his staff at Telisch and detained as prisoner of war until 1878. He was decorated with the Crimean and Turkish medals, the Order of the Osmanieh (2nd Class), the Order of Medjidieh (3rd Class), the Queen's medal and clasp, and the King Edward medal for the South African War.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The subscriptions collected from the kisms of Alexandria for the British Red Cross amount to £E7717.

A report that the Kaiser proposes to take up his residence in Corfu has caused sardonic amusement throughout Greece.

General Bridges, who is on a special mission in the Balkans, has had a long interview with M. Malinoff, the new Bulgarian Premier.

Influenza in India is rapidly decreasing, but it is feared that in some districts in the rural areas the mortality has been appalling.

For the first time since the beginning of the war an English postal valise from Egypt reached Syracuse last week en route for London via Paris.

The Armenian people in the region of Ararat (Reuter's Agency is informed) have formed an independent Republic, which consists of two million Caucasian Armenians, and is the nucleus of a future State which will embrace all Armenia.

It is reported that the Rumanes of Hungary have constituted a Government of their own, under the presidency of M. Jules Maniu, who is actively co-operating with Dr. Alex Vajda and the other Transylvanian leaders.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* on Tuesday contained a dispatch from Sir Charles Monro, Commander-in-Chief in India, dated Simla, August 20, 1918. The dispatch gives a short account of work done in India during three years of the war.

Mr. Balfour has telegraphed to the Boghos Nubar Pasha, head of the Armenians in Paris, expressing his deep appreciation of the great services rendered by the Armenian soldiers in the common cause, his profound sympathy for the terrible sufferings so courageously endured by the Armenian people, and his steadfast confidence in their future.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1918.

THE FATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

Probably no point not directly affecting Germany in the complicated settlement that has to follow the war will be more closely scrutinised in this country than the fate of Constantinople. The limited capacity of the British public to follow all the ramifications of international politics is proverbial; and the intricacy of the Near Eastern question as a whole will dispose the man in the street to accept whatever decision may be arrived at as the one that promises to make the best of a thankless task. But the future of Constantinople seems to offer a clear issue, and an unsatisfactory settlement of this problem will evoke more intelligent indignation than failure in any other strictly foreign sphere of the peace terms. In these circumstances it is well that the subject should be freely discussed, not with a view to embarrassing the Allied Governments in their conference on peace terms, but to insure that every aspect will have been carefully considered before a decision is ratified. As far as can be judged from the utterances of its spokesmen, the British Government's attitude is still in a fluid state. It subscribed in the first instance to a statement of the Allies' war aims which stipulated for the ejection of the Turks from Europe. More recently the Prime Minister declared that Great Britain did not challenge the maintenance of the Turks in the homeland of the Turkish race, with its capital in Constantinople, and as recently as November 18 Lord Robert Cecil, at the time Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, entered a *caveat* against any sweeping endorsement of the demand for the ejection of Turkish government from Constantinople by declaring that, while there was a great deal to be said for the demand, it must not be forgotten that Constantinople was predominantly a Turkish city. Both Mr. Lloyd George's statement and Lord Robert Cecil's are misleading. No part of Europe, or for that matter of Asia Minor, is the "homeland" of the Turks. By virtue of forming the great majority of the population they can claim Asia Minor as their country; but they cannot be said to occupy the same position in regard to Turkish territory in Europe. When Lord Robert Cecil speaks of Constantinople as a predominantly Turkish city, he can only mean that the Turks are more numerous than any other nationality. Turkish census returns are not necessarily infallible; but if they do err, it will be in Turkey's favour, and they had to admit that the Turkish inhabitants of the capital fell considerably short of half the population. Moreover, for the purposes of the future settlement it has to be remembered that a substantial proportion of the Turks belong to the official classes with their large households, and would leave Constantinople if the Turkish seat of Government were transferred to Asia Minor.

The multiplicity of the proposals that have been made for the future of Constantinople and the Straits is an indication of the delicate nature of the question. There can be little doubt, however, that general agreement exists among the Allied peoples on the two points, that the waterway must be made free and Constantinople recovered from Turkish rule, always supposing that the Turk is not superseded by a small or weak Power. Any attempt to compromise on the second point by distinguishing between "the evil forces which have been predominant" in the city in the past and some enlightened administration that may be created out of Turkish material in the future would certainly fail to satisfy public opinion in the Allied countries. To admit this is not to despair of the future of Turkey; still less does it imply indifference to the susceptibilities of Islam, which on reflection will not fail to endorse the Arab verdict on the Turkish ruling classes. But it is probable that the process of regeneration will be a difficult one, and to be successful it must not be handicapped by the inevitable international distractions that assail a Turkish Government in Constantinople. It is in the interests of the Turks as a people that they should be given a fair start in reconstructing the Ottoman State, freed from the complications of alien subject-communities and no longer occupying a site which, as the meeting point of East and West must always remain the cockpit of international diplomacy. If any considerable section of Turkish opinion supports Ahmed Riza Bey, President of the Senate, in a desire to arrange for close co-operation with Great Britain in the task of setting Turkey's house in order—a scheme adumbrated in these columns three weeks ago—the country's future is assured, provided the temptation to retain Constantinople as the seat of government is resisted. In this connection it is well to remember that once before Turkey asked for the help of British advisers, but the proposal was, it is understood, vetoed by Russia. The arrangements to be made at the Peace Conference may be admittedly temporary. If views regarding the near approach of the Millennium are held very strongly in any quarters, Constantinople may be administered for a season by another authority in trust for the Turks. On the other hand, if the desire is to spare Turkish susceptibilities it has to be remembered that less violence will be done to these by the application of the "clean cut" than by the permanent maintenance of an independent administration for the Dardanelles and Bosphorus in the very heart of the Ottoman Empire.

The plans that have been suggested for solving the problem of the Straits and Constantinople are at least a dozen in number, and range from the transfer of both to Russia to the internationalization of the waterway, with the city and its adjoining territory as the seat of the League of Nations. This latter portion of the joint scheme, which is elaborated by a correspondent in this issue, is the proposal, under a new guise, to make Constantinople a free town. In other words, it is proposed that what has hitherto been Turkey in Europe should become an independent State, "whose domestic affairs shall be controlled by a local parliament." In view of the fact that out of every hundred inhabitants more than forty would be Turkish, twenty Greek, nineteen Armenian, and fourteen "foreigners," it is probable that the parliamentary history of the State would be fuller of incident than its material cultural progress, unless, as is supposed in some quarters, the political education of the Greeks gave them at once the dominating position. This possibility must lead to the further one that the Greek Republic of Constantinople would sooner or later lead to its incorporation with Greece Proper, and to meet this difficulty (on the ground that there are objections which prevent such a solution being selected at the outset) the advocates of a free State have to propose a foreign military administration. The scheme must prove as invidious as it will be unpractical. A State, however small in territorial extent, must be under authority which can enforce the laws that govern the community. Experience is entirely against divided control, and Turkey's interests will not be promoted by an undue extension of a transitional or indeterminate régime. Nobody can foretell the form that the League of Nations will take. Ultimately it may evolve an ideal government for Constantinople and the adjacent territory; but in the meantime, as is apparent from the tenour of messages now being received from that city, it is desirable that the Turks should be able to settle down to the new order with the least possible delay.

EGYPTIAN MEMORIES.

THE EVE OF ASHOURA IN CAIRO.

The 10th day—*Ashoura*—of the 1st Moslem month, Moharrem, is held in deep reverence, and as a fast (especially in Persia) by Shi'ah Mohammedans as the date on which in A.H. 61 (A.D. 680) Hussein, son of Ali and grandson of the Prophet, fell as a "martyr" on the plain of Kerbela. Sunni Mohammedans respect it, as a fast, on other accounts.

Persians have often been called the Frenchmen of the East, and certainly none could surpass in politeness those whom we met in Egypt. Needless to say, these Shi'ah Moslems—who are well represented in Cairo—celebrate with unsurpassed fervour the great anniversary of Ashoura. An invitation to witness the extraordinary scenes which mark the eve of this day is a rather rare privilege, and when we were fortunate enough to receive one we naturally accepted it with pleasure.

Our rendezvous was the house of one Latif Bey. Riding from it through closed bazaars, we reached a dimly lighted lane near the Jews' Quarter, and dismounted in the narrow Har't el-Ajem, beneath a broad stone archway. On the way we had passed a number of Persians. After a short delay we were admitted, and, conducted along a narrow passage, found ourselves in the brilliantly illuminated inner courtyard of a large house. A canopy of coloured awning, with designs chiefly in green and red, shut out the starlight. The floor was spread with matting, upon which many handsome carpets were placed. The walls were covered to half their height with dark green cloth, above which ran a black border with Persian inscriptions worked in white letters. Latticed windows in two upper stories looked upon the court; those on the ground floor were occupied by visitors. Against the wall opposite the entrance were tiers of wooden shelves, upon which stood lamps and artificial flowers protected by glass shades, while in every available interspace wax candles were burning. Above them, flanked by a series of mirrors, was a large framed painting of the Persian Lion and Sun. On the west side was a flight of steps, like those of a *minbar*, or mosque pulpit, covered with green cloth embroidered with floral devices in silk and gold. On the highest but one five candles were placed on artificial white roses. To the right of the steps were seated two *munshids* (singers of poems), whose chanting continued for nearly two hours. This gave us ample time to observe the arrangements and to converse with some of the guests already assembled, among whom were a few Mevlevi dervishes, wearing their tall caps. Several of the Kadri Order were seated on the floor, and a few other Orders were represented. Next to us, wrapped in a thick cloak of camel's hair, sat the most striking and picturesque figure in the assembly. He told us that he was a dervish of the Jelâli Order, from Bokhara. There were also present several smart eunuchs—the guardians, no doubt, of some of the fair spectators in the upper rooms. The rest of the company were chiefly Persians, many of them with beards freshly stained with the bright red of henna.

At about half-past eight there was a general movement of most of the dervishes who were present. Our friend from Bokhara rose with the rest. The signal had been given that they should proceed to the Gemalieh, a street near the "Turkish Bazaar." Here the great procession is formed which makes its way from the large mosque of the Hasaneyn, in which the head of Hussein is said to be buried. Prayers are made there, and the procession passes slowly through streets along which police and soldiers are posted, to the house in which the dramatic scenes are enacted. Meanwhile the *munshids* continued their monotonous chant. Coffee was handed round several times, and some of the guests were munching ground nuts and other light refreshments.

At last, about ten o'clock, a loud din heralded the approach of the procession. A Mullah of serious but pleasing expression entered and took his place on a raised seat. Soon afterwards three wild-looking Kadri dervishes, with long black hair and rough caps, rushed in and drew up to the left of the Mullah. One of them carried one of the curiously shaped implements of his order. He was already hoarse, but was ejaculating excitedly. Then, amidst a confusion of sounds, two Persians led in a white horse. On a broad, flat saddle—supposed to represent that used at Kerbela—sat a boy of ten or twelve years, his face covered with blood, which also bedaubed the snow-white covering of the saddle. In his left hand was a handkerchief, also stained with blood. The Mullah shouted in a piteous tone: "O, Hussein, Son of Ali; O. Hassan, alas!" All the Persians present took up the cry. Many of them shouted: "O, Hussein, my soul for thine." Nothing could exceed their fervour: the scene became one of indescribable emotion. Meanwhile the horse was led several times round the limited central space, and then out of the court.

Loud cries were now heard from outside, and next followed the most ghastly scene to be witnessed in modern Egypt. From fifteen to twenty bareheaded Asiatic dervishes rushed in, brandishing above their heads long curved swords. They wore long white aprons falling square from their shoulders. These were covered with blood, which streamed from their foreheads, for they had been already cutting and notching their heads during the procession. Their frenzy was now at its height. Grasping their swords with both hands, they continued to gash their foreheads, while the blood flowed in streams over their faces. We were in the front row and unpleasantly near the devotees, and we drew back the bench on which we sat as far as possible. Several guests were bespattered with blood, and one who sat near us was so overcome that he left the court. A number of Persians now rushed forward and endeavoured to control the fanatics. Some of them tried to seize their swords; others struck down the weapons with painted sticks. A few were wounded in the struggle. Several dervishes were blinded with gore. One fell on the blood-stained floor and was carried out. Some Persians ran forward with long pieces of calico, which they tore into strips to bind the heads of the dervishes. We had been warned that the scene would be a barbarous one, but had no idea it would reach the degree of savagery that we witnessed.

The central space was now cleared, and after a short pause the next act followed. Ten or twelve dervishes, stripped to the waist, ran in, some of them wrapped in cloaks which they threw from their shoulders. Most of them carried leather thongs tied together and tipped with iron, and with these they proceeded to lash themselves over the shoulders till they almost brought blood. The others struck their breasts with their fists or open palms. They all shouted: "O, Hussein, son of Ali, my soul in thy place"; and "O, Ali, our love." Many of the audience joined, the Mullah bending forward and dictating various forms of words. This scene lasted rather longer than the last. The Mullah made a sign, and the dervishes, still shouting "Ya Hussein," passed out of the court, which was again cleared. Then, in a moment, the empty space was densely crowded by Persians who pressed in and occupied every available spot.

The Mullah looked around and waited till there was perfect silence. Then, opening a book, he read in a clear, impressive voice the touching story of the life and death of Hussein, from the time when he and his brother Hassan in infancy played upon the knees of the Prophet, until, after long trials, unmóved by the supplications of his sister and children, he gave himself up to a martyr's death. At each pause in the recital many in the audience wept and struck their breasts; some buried their faces in their hands. As the reciter proceeded his voice became more pathetic, louder and more impressive. As he approached the narrative of the death he took his turban from his head and placed it at his feet, leaving only a white skull-cap on his closely shaved head. After the words, "O, the base deed of Yezîd!" there was a pause, during which every Persian cursed the traitor's name. It is impossible to describe the extent to which the feelings of many were moved. Near us many were sobbing. Old grey-bearded men wept silently; some of the younger were more demonstrative. We noticed an old man who had spoken to us of our Christmas and Easter; his eyes were full of tears. A grim-looking soldier who sat opposite to us, who had kept his eyes fixed intently on the Mullah and shown no signs of

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE. KING OF SPAIN.

emotion, now extracted from his tunic a red pocket-handkerchief and wiped his eyes.

Gradually the emotion subsided. It was a little after eleven o'clock. The Mullah closed his book; the audience rose to their feet. Every face was turned in the direction of Mecca. The Mullah delivered a concluding prayer. The Persians raised both hands towards heaven and uttered a long groan. Then, in complete silence, we all left the court and passed into the starlit night.

R. M.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Constantinople.

Under the title "To the City," an article in the *Nation* reviews the past glories of Constantinople and speculates upon its future. It begins:

> Again the cry, "To the City!" has been heard, and again, as in olden times, the City has been Constantinople. That cry, from which the very name of Stamboul is said to have originated—how often through sixteen centuries has it re-echoed! And with what strange issues for mankind! Those spectral hosts of Goths and Attila's Huns, who swept through the world and vanished, those Bulgars and Saracens and Crusaders and Turks—all of them rallied to that cry, and some reached that destination. With that cry, generations of Russian Tsars, maintaining an impalpable and religious claim as mystical successors to the Byzantine Emperors, could confidently appeal to the ecclesiastic devotion and imperialistic avarice of their subjects. And with that cry the modern Greeks, inspired by the heart-stirring pathos of a country unredeemed, could muster their frail battalions against an enemy many ages in possession, and counting ten to one. For, indeed, ever since Constantine, with an insight like genius, selected the fortress of Byzantium as a permanent bastion to the Empire, and the site of a fresher Rome, Constantinople has been a jewel to the world. As Napoleon said: "After all, the question for Europe always remains: Who shall possess the City?"

No dream, says the writer, can be stranger or more lovely than the sight of the city itself. "For it lies compact upon both sides of a long and peaceful inlet of the sea. It is distinguished by white and lofty minarets, more beautiful than any Christian spire; and by domes for which Justinian's church, dedicated to 'Sophia,' the Wisdom of God, provided a model which no man who has seen that miracle of space captured and beautified for man's highest ends will ever forget. Its streets and houses rise upon successive hills. . . . Add the gardens, the cypress groves, the varying colour, the splendour of air and sky and sea, and one may conceive a city beautiful beyond the imagination of the world, and yet a reality of existence." As to the future of the city, "To the statesman who seeks the advantage of mankind rather than of his country or a sect, the future of the city presents difficulties complicated and serious."

> It may be doubted whether even the Red Sultan himself would in a whole century have caused so much bloodshed as Christian kings and emperors have caused in the last four years. But since that fatal Tuesday, the Turk has lain like a blight upon the Near and Middle East; and, by the consent of all, the Turk has shown himself incapable of ruling, although he ruled. The mystic claims of Russia, which held this country in terror for nearly a century, and then were silently conceded, have been happily swept away with the Tsars and all their trumpery. What, then, is to become of the exquisite City now? Shall it be transformed into a modern Greek capital, leaving Athens deserted? Or shall a Commission, or perhaps America, take it in charge, as a pledge for the service of all peoples? Or shall the League of Nations occupy it as a noble though far-distant home? Napoleon's question still awaits solution, and it is still one of the problems of the world. But for the moment our minds are full only of envy for those who now behold that magic City in her beauty once again, so beautiful, so enchanted, no matter who may be her owner.

Our Indian Fighting Men.

The *Pioneer Mail* of September 27 contained an article entitled "Recruiting Lessons from the Past." The writer shows that whereas the Indian Army was formerly a representative one, it had in recent years become "practically a Punjabi army," and he urges that there is no reason why it should not revert to its earlier character. He reminds us that:

> There are critics, well qualified to speak, who say that the extension of recruiting areas is a mistake; that the enlisting of races who have lost or never had the martial spirit is a waste of time and money; that no matter how well trained or disciplined, "down country men" will never fight or make good soldiers.
>
> Others, equally well qualified to speak, maintain that given good officers and discipline, any race can be turned into useful fighting material: they instance Egypt, where the men who fled, broken and demoralised before the onrush of the Mahdi's fanatics, were, a decade later, after Kitchener's training, facing their old terrors at Omdurman as coolly as the British with whom they were brigaded; that willy-nilly it must be done, as the fighting races recruiting limit is rapidly being reached, and that probably it will not be so bad, as the regiments which by consensus of opinion have done best in this war are the Mahrattas, who in immediate pre-war days were not held in very high repute.

Then he proceeds to show what history has to teach us concerning the value of caste and race as affecting military value:—

> Regimental records show that the "down-country" regiments, that is, those recruited in and historically connected with Madras and Bombay, are the oldest in the Indian Army List and have more battle honours than the "crack" and more warlike regiments of the north.
>
> The system which ruled in the early days and up to the Mutiny was to enlist recruits of as many divers creeds and castes as were procurable, and to mix them indiscriminately in the ranks. In the lines of a Madras regiment Hindus, Mahomedans, Christians and Pariahs lived together in complete harmony, and in Bombay regiments black Jews and Parsees added to the variety.
>
> The men who fought at Plassey under Clive, and avenged the Black Hole of Calcutta were Madrasis "miserable kaffirs of Telingana, whom the British had taught to fight in the ranks." The first Bengal army became, contrary to the intentions of its creators, a "class army." The unwarlike natives of Bengal would not furnish a single recruit, but the Hindustani natives of the north flocked down, attracted by high pay, pensions, prospects of plunder, and British prestige; they were followed by the Mussalman. They came in such numbers that the Bengal army became a sort of confraternity of the military classes of Oudh and the then North-West Provinces, and they were able to exclude all lower castes and different creeds, and the situation was tacitly admitted by the English. A certain number of northern men, rejected in Bengal for insufficient physique, were eagerly accepted in the Bombay army. Some reached Madras, but the service there was unpopular, as they lost caste by crossing the "kala pani," through the frequent service of the Madras army overseas.
>
> The Sepoys of the coast army, as the old Madras army was called, though recruited from races despised as unwarlike by their Mussalman masters, developed into veteran soldiers in the stern school of incessant warfare. There was always war somewhere in India in those days; either the Mysoreans or the Mahrattas were out, and if they made a temporary peace, wandering Pindaris had to be chastised. Madrasis fought in Java and Mauritius, and Bombay Sepoys accompanied Sir David Baird to Egypt.
>
> But after 1820, when the Pax Britannica reigned from Simla to Cape Comorin, the troops no longer had to exercise continuously the art of war, and deterioration set in: the climate of South India is more debilitating and enervating than that of the north, and the soldierly qualities the Madrassi had acquired in war were dissipated in a long peace.
>
> The Indian Mutiny was confined entirely to the Bengal army, which had been spoiled by too generous treatment and slack discipline; the Madras and Bombay troops, aggregating one-half of the total army in India, all mixed regiments, stood loyal and were ready and willing to act against the mutineers. After the Mutiny the Bengal army was replaced by newly raised regiments from the Punjab, of Sikhs and Punjabi Mussalmans, and as they were, individually, better value for money, this replacement went on through the army at large, and it can be said that for ten years before the war the Indian Army was practically a Punjabi army, over half the troops, excluding the Gurkhas, being recruited from the Punjab.

In extending recruiting areas (the writer concludes) and taking in various castes and creeds, the Government is reverting to a former policy which was very successful, and which will probably be so again.

India in War and in Peace.

The Bombay correspondent of *The Times* begins an interesting report upon the present situation in India with the statement that "the closing stages of the war have been watched . . . with passionate interest" out there. At first the attitude of India was not unfairly represented by the views of a leading Indian Moslem, who said to him: "I know nothing of military affairs, but I am convinced that the Allies will win; therefore I do not perplex myself over the war news." But, the writer continues:—

> This complacency was rudely disturbed by the military misfortunes of March and the sensational telegram sent by the Prime Minister revealing the dangers to India's frontiers arising from the German and Bolshevist extension of hostilities to Central Asia. Now that the crisis has passed it is desirable to say that the alarm caused by this message was deep and embarassing. It shook, especially in Northern India, confidence in the ultimate victory of the Allies, drove rupees down, bringing us to the verge of an inconvertible currency, and made some whose active loyalty had been conspicuous look around for a reinsurance policy. The influence of the Allied successes in France was consummated by General Allenby's victories in Palestine. Whilst we have not publicly rejoiced over the defeat and capitulation of Turkey, from deference to the susceptibilities of the Moslems, satisfaction is wide and deep, it was regarded as definitely removing the frontiers of India from the possible zone of hostilities. The tone of public feeling immediately changed. We steadily moved towards renewed confidence in the supreme victory now reaped.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Indian Mail. Nov. 18.

Mr. COTTON asked the Postmaster-General whether he can now revert to the normal practice of announcing the dates of despatch of the Indian mail; and when the weekly service will be resumed?

Mr. ILLINGWORTH: The normal practice of announcing the dates of sailings of mail steamers is being resumed this week. I regret that I am unable to give any accurate forecast when the weekly service to India will be recommended, but this question is under consideration.

Montenegro.

Mr. R. C. LAMBERT asked the Under-Secretary of State for War why, in view of the intrigues of the Serbian Government during the last four years against Montenegro, Serbian troops and independent Serbian bands have been allowed to enter Montenegro; whether these troops are, or have been, executing their Montenegrin political opponents under the pretence of their being pro-Austrian, and spreading the report that Montenegro is abandoned by its Sovereign, and should therefore become absorbed in Serbia; and whether pending the final adjustment of Balkan international questions, French or Italian troops might be asked to occupy these States to preserve order and ensure fairplay.

Mr. MACPHERSON: The task of clearing Montenegro of the enemy naturally devolved on the Serbian troops which were operating in the vicinity. I have no confirmation of the allegations made against the Serbian army by my honourable friend, and pending the Peace Conference, I am afraid I cannot discuss publicly the question of the military occupation of Montenegro, which will be determined by agreement between the Allied Powers.

1914-15 Star.

Colonel YATE asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether the 1914-15 Star will be granted to all officers and men of the 6th (Poona) Division who took part in the operations in Mesopotamia from the first landing at Busreh up to and including the siege of Kut-el-Amarah?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I think so, but perhaps my hon. and gallant friend will await the publication of the conditions of the award of the "1914-15 Star," which will be made in Army Orders very shortly.

Gallipoli Star.

Colonel YATE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether the Gallipoli Star will be given to the relatives of those who fell during the operations there?

Mr. MACPHERSON: Yes, sir; the medal will be given to the legal representative or the next-of-kin, according to whether the deceased soldier died testate or intestate.

Indian Prisoners of War. Nov. 21.

Sir J. D. REES asked the Secretary of State for India what arrangements had been made for the return to India of Indian prisoners of war?

Mr. MONTAGU: Indian prisoners of war in Turkey will be sent to Egypt, where the War Office are establishing special camps for their reception. Special arrangements have been made to clothe and equip them there, and to send them on to India. Indian prisoners in Roumania will similarly be sent direct to these camps in Egypt and thence to India. The War Office have been asked to arrange, if possible, that the few Indian prisoners remaining in Germany shall be sent direct to Marseilles, and thence also to the special camps in Egypt. There are no Indian prisoners of war in Austria.

Topics in Parliament.

The subject headings are those given in the Official Report:—

Eastern Campaign.—November 19.

India: Military Forces (Cost); Industrial Development.—November 20.

Ceylon: Constitutional Reforms; Riots (Investigation).—November 20.

Baku (British Force).—November 20.

Albania (Relief of Distress).—November 20.

EDUCATION IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The Simla correspondent of *The Times* states that the quinquennial report on Education describes the steps adopted to advance education in Mesopotamia. A normal school was established and 29 teachers passed the examination and gained appointments. Six new Government schools and a survey school were opened, from which 36 boys were appointed assistant surveyors. Young Arabs are also learning practical engineering in the workshops.

SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA.

Speaking before the Royal Geographical Society at Burlington House on Monday, Mr. Arnold Hodson described some journeys made during the last three and a-half years in a part of Abyssinia north-west of British East Africa and south-west of Somaliland. Travelling in Abyssinia, he said, was not an easy matter. It was necessary to have a passport from the Governor of every province that it was desired to pass through. A general passport from the central Government was not sufficient; for the Abyssinians act up to their own proverb that a dog knows its master but does not know its master's master. Most of the country he passed through he found extremely fertile and with a delightful climate. In the lower lands a large amount of cotton was produced and woven into shawls and blankets. Of one of the high-lying provinces, Boran, he said it was a wonderful country for stock. There was practically no cultivation there, but it was full of cattle, sheep, and horses. Boran was a very hilly province, situated on a plateau, very healthy and well watered by wells. These were sometimes of great depth; but, instead of drawing the water to the surface, a path was cut, beginning sometimes several hundred feet away and leading down to the water. Of another province, Jimma, Mr. Hodson said it was a large province, Mohammedan by religion, and one of the headquarters of the slave trade. Slaves were not allowed to be sold openly in Abyssinia, but the trade was carried on *sub rosa*. Every Abyssinian chief had his slaves, and not only the chiefs but the soldiers as well. Mr. Hodson found a variety of races inhabiting the different provinces he visited. Of the Abyssinians themselves, he said they were an extraordinary people, intensely suspicious by nature. It took months or years to win their confidence; when this had been done they could be very affectionate so long as it suited their book, but their friendship would not be deep enough to make them go against their own interests. Great hindrances to trade were the customs gates for merchants passing in and out of every province. At each such gate duties were levied, and officials had to be bribed as well; so that the profit left to the merchant was often very small. Mr. Hodson had some interesting experiences in building a consulate at Gardula. The Abyssinians were very unwilling that buildings should be erected by Europeans in their country; so, first of all, an order had to be obtained from the Governor. Then all the lesser chiefs were called together, and each was given a certain part of the work. There were many hundreds of native workers thus assembled, but the building took a long time to finish, because nearly every other day seemed to be a feast day, on which nobody would work.

ISLAM IN INDIA.

At University College, London, on Monday, Professor Arnold lectured on Islam in India. He said that Mohammedanism came into India a thousand years ago. The descendants of the invaders were now but a very small part of the population; the vast majority of the 66,000,000 Indian Moslems were of Hindu origin, springing from all castes, among others from the Brahmins. The largest accessions had been from the warrior castes. Between the Mohammedans of native descent and those of foreign origin there was a considerable difference, for the religion of the former was full of survivals of the older faith, in spite of the constant efforts of the orthodox teachers of Islam to root them out. Only 38 in the thousand of Indian Moslems were literate; the other 962 were but little touched by the movements that affected the great Mohammedan world. In common with the rest of the world India had its Sunnis and Shias, Ismailis and Wahabis, but peculiar to it were the eclectic sects that aimed at a reconciliation of Hinduism and Islam. The events of the Indian Mutiny and the Russian-Turkish War forced upon the attention of Moslems the fact that sovereignty had passed from Islam. The more thoughtful attributed this decline to lack of education, and set to work to remedy this evil. In India the greatest influence in this movement was exercised by Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, who was at once theologian, social reformer, educationalist, and politician. One of his aims was to reconcile Moslem theology with the learning of the West. He died in 1908, having founded no sect, but having gathered around him many of the finer spirits from among his co-religionists. These had developed the impulse he had given, and had sought to arouse Indian Mohammedans from the intellectual apathy into which they had fallen. Due to their efforts was the Nadwal-al-Ulama, an organisation of learned men, which had introduced into the very citadel of Indian Moslem orthodoxy a new spirit and a new way of thinking. They recognised that unless they brought about some reconciliation between their point of view and western science their hold on the new generation was seriously threatened.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

I have not had to wait long for an indication that my hope that Abyssinia will receive greater attention in future will be fulfilled, for I learn that a company is being formed to trade with Abyssinia under the title of the Abyssinian Corporation. The company will have the substantial capital of £1,005,000, and the fact that it is being launched under the most influential auspices is the best proof that it may be expected to do much to further British interests in a quarter of the world where it is very desirable that the British trader should be to the fore.

⁂

Those on both sides the "Black Water" are naturally very anxious to know how soon the P. and O. will be able to resume their normal sailings. Unfortunately, there are obvious difficulties in the way, and I should imagine that several months must elapse before Egypt enjoys the welcome but, just at first, unaccustomed sight of the arrival of P. and O. steamships at their pre-war intervals. For obvious reasons the resumption of the usual activities of the P. and O. is a matter of great importance, and it is scarcely necessary to say that no pains will be spared to expedite this phase of reconstruction.

⁂

The statement of Mr. Richardson, the chairman, at the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank that he believed the accounts would satisfy the most exacting shareholders was amply justified, for the bank has achieved excellent results during the past year, in which respect, as he pointed out, it has simply reflected the continued prosperity of Egypt. It will be noted that the bank is contemplating the extension of its operations in Syria by opening a branch at Haifa, and that the branch at Jerusalem has already confirmed the bank's confidence in the prospects of that region by paying all its expenses, including the cost of initiation, by the close of the year. In Mr. Richardson's view there is every prospect of another good year in Egypt, and as regards the bank, while profits are not likely to increase owing to the excess profits duty, for the same reason they should not decrease very much.

⁂

At the meeting Mr. Richardson, who has been chairman of the bank for seven years, announced his resignation from that position, stating that his successor would be Mr. Raoul H. Foà, who is a partner in the well-known firm of King and Foà, bill brokers, of George Yard. Mr. Richardson's services to the bank, in particular during the difficult war period, were the subject of well-deserved tributes by Mr. Foà, Mr. W. H. Skeel, and Mr. Tompkinson, emphasis being laid on the fact that he leaves office at a time when the bank is in a sounder and stronger position than ever before. It is satisfactory to be able to record that Mr. Richardson will retain his seat on the board, so that his great abilities will continue to be at the service of the bank.

Industrial developments in Egypt during the war are the subject of a flattering reference in a report on trade conditions in Egypt by the Italian Government Commercial Delegate resident at Alexandria. He points out that the war gradually brought about a shortage in a number of indispensable products, such as tissues, furniture, agricultural implements, boots and shoes, paper, bricks, and glassware, and Egyptian syndicates were formed to manufacture these articles. "The success which has attended these efforts," he comments, "led to further capital being engaged in Egyptian manufacturing enterprises, in nearly all cases with substantial results. It may be confidently asserted that, as regards the above-mentioned products, Egypt is now independent of imports, except for high-grade goods."

⁂

As showing the remarkable profits derived from the investment of capital in Egypt since the war, the Italian Commercial Delegate refers to the shares of the Egyptian Sugar Refinery Company, which were quoted at 14s. before war broke out. He notes the failure of the textile industry to develop in the country as might have been expected, and explains it by saying that it is because all the products of the spinning mills established in Egypt had been taxed with a special 8 per cent. ad valorem duty, recently raised to 10 per cent. "Yet," he adds, "there is no organic reason why the textile industry in Egypt should not succeed, seeing that all the raw materials for textiles are to be found in Egypt."

⁂

I see that the American Mission which recently spent two months in Algeria has been very favourably impressed regarding the prospects of increased trade relations between the United States and that country. In the course of its report the Mission says: "Algerian agricultural resources are far from fully utilised. Vast tracts remain to be developed. The methods of cultivation are good, particularly in the case of grain. The stock of agricultural implements and machinery is plainly insufficient. It needs increasing and bringing up to date. Many types of machinery could be used with advantage. With regard to transport, the construction of secondary railway lines is particularly urgent. Transport requirements cannot nearly be met by existing rolling stock. The Mission considers that the establishment of a direct line of navigation between the United States and Algeria would be justified."

⁂

With reference to the notification by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China on November 8 of the proposed increase in its capital from £1,200,000 to £2,000,000, it is announced that the Treasury have intimated that, subject to the usual restrictions, they raise no objection to the new issue. An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders will therefore be held on December 18 for the purpose of obtaining their confirmation.

⁂

Somewhat smaller profits are disclosed in the report of the Anchor Line for the year ended April 30, the surplus being £309,400, against £366,900 for the previous year. Including the £145,900 brought forward, the disposable total amounts to £456,300, and after deducting debenture interest and the preference dividend, and placing £250,000 to reserve, making that item £1,000,000, £180,100 remains. It is proposed to pay out of this an ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, and also a bonus of 10 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares, making the distribution on these shares the same as in 1917.

⁂

The report of the London and Maikop Oil Corporation states that no communication has been received from the company's representative since March, and it has been impossible, therefore, to make up the accounts for the year ended July 31. From an indirect source, however, it has been learned that in August they were still on the fields. Recent developments should be of great assistance in the protection of the company's interests, and the hope is expressed that the stable conditions essential to the resumption of operations may be restored at no distant date.

⁂

It is interesting to note how the attitude of the Press of the Central Powers towards Bulgaria changed after the Bulgarian defeat. Before that event the commercial prospects in that country were stated to be unbounded, a strong point being made of the wealth accumulated by the inhabitants during the war. An instance of the change is to be found in an article in the *Wirtschäftszeitung der Zentralmächte*, dated October 18, in which it is stated that in the future Bulgaria will "probably return to the economic policy she pursued before the war, and become for the most part an agrarian State. In view of the insecurity of her political situation, foreign capital for the opening up of her natural wealth will only be attracted in limited quantities, and only after all possible securities have been guaranteed." Remembering when it was written, it is possible, reading between the lines, to find in this statement a final admission that the Central Powers have realised that the day is over when the Balkans could be made to serve as a stepping-stone for their Eastern pretensions.

⁂

In the same issue of that journal there is another reference to Bulgaria which deserves notice, and that is the statement that the fact that Bulgaria lies between two seas, the Black Sea and the Ægean, is bound to lead to the construction of a canal between them. "It would be best," says the *Wirtschaftszeitung*, "for such a canal to start at Burgas, follow the Aibos Dere, where it would have to traverse an isthmus only 5 km. broad, with an elevation of 164 m. at most to reach Azmak Dere, whence the Maritza would be reached by way of the Tunja River, at a point near Adrianople, and thence the Gulf of Enos. Following this route, it would be impossible to avoid Turkish territory. If this difficulty proved insuperable, the canal would have to cross the Tunja, near Jambol, and continue through the plain to Satzlü Dere. The expense would not be so very great, while, on the other hand, the Black Sea—Ægean canal would contribute largely to the economic importance of Bulgaria."

COMMENTATOR

MESOPOTAMIA AGRICULTURE

In the Wake of the Turks.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BAGHDAD, October.

The custom of the country ordains that the fellah (labourer) is primarily responsible for seed, and if he cannot provide it from his savings he must borrow it. It was necessary that the fellah should show as much of his own seed as possible. Whether the scheme was to accomplish all it aimed at or not, the new crop would be a heavier one than its predecessor, the prices, which had soared to an unprecedented height, were bound to fall, and everyone, therefore, who could obtain seed on easy terms would sell his own and sow what he borrowed. This was the first year of our Government, and the agricultural population was anxious to be considered as having the right to possession of as much land as possible, but proprietors by the terms of their title deeds can be called upon to forfeit whatever land they have neglectfully left uncultivated for three years. They were accordingly warned that the extent of a man's right would *prima facie* be considered the land which he had put under cultivation this year. If they claimed that they had no seed, seed would be provided at current market rates, to be repaid at the rates prevailing at harvest.

The offer of advances of the seed and money required by the cultivators and the provision of an irrigation staff were not in themselves sufficient to secure cultivation. Three years of war have left tribal cultivators more independent than ever, and inter-tribal jealousies have caused considerable trouble.

In the neighbourhood of Baghdad the gardens and the land behind them are watered by lift, and it was found that the retreating Turk had deliberately destroyed private repair shops and damaged many engines and pumps. Parts of others had been rifled in the general disorder, and many by reason of long disuse required petty repair. At first there were no workshops at all, but as time went on and conditions became more settled applications for assistance in replacing spare parts and effecting repairs to pumping machinery became more numerous. A mechanic was sent down to the Euphrates to report on the agricultural machinery lying there, and the Works Department were requested to undertake the necessary repairs. This they found themselves unable to do. At the same time, in view of the growing certainty that the harvest would be a heavy one, a proposal was put forward that threshing machinery should be purchased, and application was made for a mechanical expert to organise a workshop to cope with the growing stream of work. An officer was appointed, but the Works Department suggested that it would be more economical if, instead of building a new shop, theirs were extended, and to this proposal tentative effect was given.

The services of the Deputy-Director of Agriculture and his staff were then placed at the disposal of the Administrator of the scheme. This staff was primarily intended to stimulate the production of vegetables, with a view to the elimination of scurvy. It contained officers holding degrees in agriculture, and became the nucleus of a scheme which was introduced for the purpose of making agricultural advice available, not only for military gardens, but also for Arab cultivation. The occupied territories were divided into six circles, for each of which an agricultural expert with the necessary staff has been applied for. The scheme at the end of the year was still in its infancy, but agricultural societies have already been formed at Karbala and Ba'quba, and the welcome given to the experts has been most encouraging.

◆

EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

The Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Finance, Cairo, informs the Board of Trade that a Commercial Service has been inaugurated by the Ministry. In order to foster closer relations between the United Kingdom and Egyptian traders, the Ministry desire to collect as complete a set of the catalogues of United Kingdom manufacturers as it is possible to obtain. These catalogues may be forwarded direct by British firms to the "Commercial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Cairo."

BUSREH DATES.

Government Purchases.

In the House of Commons on November 20 General Page Croft asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office (1) whether he was aware that the Surveyor-General of Supply at the War Office had been buying articles of food in competition with the Ministry of Food; was he aware that the Surveyor-General was negotiating with firms in the dried fruit trade at Busreh for a supply of dates in August, 1917, when the Ministry of Food was also negotiating in the same market; and did the Surveyor-General decline to buy through the Ministry of Food and thus save competitive buying;

(2) Whether he was aware that the Surveyor-General of Supply purchased a large quantity of dates in October, 1917, at 20s. 6d. when the Ministry of Food purchased a similar quantity and quality at 18s. 6d. per cwt.; and what saving would have been made on this transaction had these orders been executed in August by the Ministry of Food;

(3) Whether he was aware that at the time of the purchase of dates in August, 1917, 75 per cent. of the supply of dates were in the hands of a combine, consisting of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Company, Messrs. Strick, Scott and Company, and Messrs. Gray, Dawes and Company; that the price of dates at that time was 16s. per cwt. f.o.b. for the best quality; and that, in consequence of the delay due to the refusal of the Surveyor-General of Supply to co-operate with the Ministry of Food, the price increased from 16s. per cwt. for the best quality, Hallawee, to 20s. 6d. for the same quality and a similar quantity;

(4) Whether the combine of which the firm of Andrew Weir and Company were members supplied dates and other dried fruit to the Armies in Palestine and Mesopotamia; and, if so, would he state what quantity and at what price; and whether the Surveyor-General of Supply had any other dealings with Messrs. Andrew Weir and Company;

(5) Whether the facts with regard to the increased price of dates in 1917 and the attitude of the Surveyor-General of Supply were brought to the notice of the War Cabinet by the late Lord Rhondda; and what action did the Cabinet take in the matter; and

(6) Whether the firm of Andrew Weir and Company, of London and Busreh, were in any way connected with the firm of which the Surveyor-General of Supply is chief partner?

Mr. Forster: I am not aware of any purchase made by the Surveyor-General of Supply in competition with the Ministry of Food. The Army purchases of Busreh dates in 1917 were made by the Chief Political Officer, Busreh, on the advice of the India Office. After arrangements had been made for these purchases the Ministry of Food approached the War Office suggesting co-operation, but it was considered inadvisable to withdraw the instructions already given for that season, though for the present season joint purchases are being made on behalf of the War Office and the Ministry of Food. The difference noted in the prices paid by the War Office and the Ministry of Food was due to the fact that the Ministry of Food bought after the War Office had filled its requirements when there remained no other market for the holders of stocks, export being at the time rigidly controlled. No question regarding the purchase of dates was brought to the notice of the War Cabinet. The Surveyor-General of Supply is a member of the firm of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Company, who have an interest in the date industry at Busreh, but he has taken no part in the activities of the firm since his appointment to the War Office. It is not known to what extent, if any, the firm indicated was interested in the purchases effected by the Political Officer at Busreh. The Surveyor-General of Supply has had no dealings of any kind whatever with the firm in question.

General Croft: Has any representative of the Surveyor-General of Supply had any dealings with this combine?

Mr. Forster: Not to my knowledge.

◆

The estate of the late Mr. Duncan Mackinnon, chairman of the British India Steam Navigation Company, is returned at over £1,791,000, and the duty paid amounts to £309,667.

SERBIA'S RECONSTRUCTION.

Supplies and Materials Required

Reuter's Agency has had an interview with Dr. Velizar Yankovitch, Serbian Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, who is able to give the first official survey of the plans for the reconstruction of Serbia.

"I am glad to be able to announce," he said, "that these plans have been warmly welcomed by both the French and the British Governments. Lord Robert Cecil assured me that there was no limit to the support of the British Government. A vessel of 6,000 tons with a cargo of grain is already on its way from this country in order that the devastated fields of Serbia may be resown. It has to be remembered that Serbia has been at war for six years, and that for most of that time Serbian territory has been under destructive enemy occupation, that one-third of our population has died, and that all our cattle have been driven away. Serbia is therefore in a state of absolute economic ruin. But Serbia will recover. Firstly, we need food and clothes; secondly, we need agricultural machinery and supplies in order that the country may be restored. An Inter-Allied Commission will be formed at once in London to organise and control the shipment of material from the Allied countries. One of our greatest difficulties is that of communications. I went with the Serbian army into the interior in order to investigate the state of the railways. The main line from Monastir to Belgrade has been destroyed for distances of 10 kilometres at a stretch, and all the bridges have been blown up. We are therefore in great need of engineers and of railway material.

There remain, however, several ways of entry into Serbia. Material and food can be brought (1) for the south through Salonika by railway as far as Monastir; (2) for Belgrade and surroundings by railway from Fiume, which line is in its normal condition, and is the shortest possible way; (3) for the west from Ragusa and Metkovitch through Dalmatia; (4) for the east and centre from Dedeagatch through Sofia and over the Bulgarian railways; and (5) by the Danube to small Serbian ports below the Iron Gates. The Serbian people's goods have all been requisitioned by the enemy in exchange for paper receipts. The Serbian Government is also without funds. We therefore propose to ask the large Allied banking concerns to open credit for Serbian merchants up to a certain limit, with the State guarantee as additional security. The State could, should such a proceeding ever be necessary, hand over to the Allies in payment part of the war indemnity which will be due to Serbia. Besides this credit to merchants, which will allow the rebuilding of commerce and trade in the country, the Serbian Government proposes to ask for State credit for the purpose of buying cattle, grain, wagons, and agricultural implements. Serbia is essentially an agricultural country, and we must give all our aid to the agricultural industries. A prepared list of our necessities in this respect is already in the hands of the Allied Governments. After pointing out that it was to the interest, economically, financially, and politically, of the Allies to help Serbia, the Minister said he had a list of materials which are very important but slightly less necessary than food, clothes, and seed grain, the most important being sanitary and chemical materials, and telephone and telegraph wires and instruments. He added that it was proposed to erect as soon as possible two or more wireless stations, which would be invaluable in such a difficult country.

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ITALIAN TRADE WITH MOROCCO.

Some of the French reviews, the *Reforme Economique*, for instance, mildly complain of the activity of Italian competition in Morocco, says the *Financial Times*. The occasion arises out of a recent circular issued by the Italian Chamber of Commerce at Casablanca, which deals with "after-war methods for the extension of Italian trade in Morocco." Among these it is urged that an Italian line of steamers should be started between Italian ports and Morocco, and that an Italian bank should be constituted in Morocco to further the extension of Italian trade. It is also proposed to issue a catalogue of Italian goods printed in Arabic.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Opening for Builders' Material.

Before the outbreak of the war there was a great building boom in progress in Aleppo, which it was thought would continue for many months; but the war paralysed this activity, and building stopped. All buildings in Aleppo are constructed of stone, and the custom is to employ cement for roofing and walls, and plain lumber for ceiling with the rafters of rounded wood left exposed. This method is much more expensive than if metal shingles or metal ceilings were used, but no effort has been made to introduce these or any other modern decorative ceilings in Aleppo. There has always been, however, a demand there for corrugated sheets for sides, shutters, doors, arches, and awnings, gutters, etc.

New Use for Steam.

In recent notes a description was given of a new machine by means of which the productivity of the soil can be improved, the process being to apply, by a mechanical contrivance, a flame or radiant heat to all portions of the soil under treatment. Another process was mentioned in which saturated steam is used, but, as we pointed out, its cost is beyond the reach of the ordinary farmer. This latter process is used in Western Europe and in America. We were reminded since of another very simple and practical method by which steam is used for the same purpose, which was discovered by two English investigators, who made a study of improving the quality of the soil used by farmers for raising vegetables for transplanting, especially when the soil is used in cold frames or in borders, and is not manured. The method adopted consists in heating the soil with ordinary steam for some time. This kills insect pests, and seems to increase the food value of the soil. On the other hand, the seeds seem to germinate more slowly, and the early growth of the plant is somewhat retarded. This is more than made up for later, for the plant blossoms earlier, gives more and better fruit, and the root development is much more extensive. It is said that badly poisoned soils might be made available by this means.

Electric Lighting in Macedonia.

The local authorities of the towns of Seres, Drama, and Kavalla in Eastern Macedonia were studying the question of electric lighting, and were receiving proposals on the subject from agents of continental firms, when the war broke out. It is reported that new proposals are being prepared, as it appears that it is desired to make an arrangement with a company. At Drama the motive power is on the spot, but the cost of the works to be undertaken is estimated at 200,000 francs. At Seres and Kavalla the scheme to introduce electric lighting was far more advanced than at Drama, and it is probable that it will soon be actively pursued. At Kavalla the work will comprise the installations of the port. No agreement has been come to, however, and the question is still open for suggestions and proposals.

Bulgaria's Industries.

Bulgaria is often described in books of reference as a mountainous country, the exports of which consist of "grain, wool, skin, timber, attar of roses, and some other articles of minor importance," and her imports of "iron, coal, and manufactured goods." This description, with the undefined "manufactured goods," is probably often misleading to enterprising manufacturers and others, who may think on that account that Bulgaria is one of the still undeveloped Eastern markets. That this is not the case is proved by the exceptional activity shown there before the war by German, Austro-Hungarian, and American firms with a view to securing the supply of the required plant and other necessities for various local industries. These three countries have been the chief suppliers to Bulgaria of agricultural and industrial machinery and implements, such as steam engines, threshing machines, mowing and sowing machines, binders, ploughs, pumps for various purposes, machine tools, etc. In all these both Germany and Austria, in recent years, taking advantage of their superior facilities of transport, put up an energetic fight to oust American manufacturers, in which they succeeded to a certain extent.

Flour-Mill Machinery.

An important industry in Bulgaria which promises to develop on a larger scale is the milling industry. Austro-Hungarian machinery is generally being used, but the German opinion is that the success of the industry is due to "the great organising power of the Bulgarian merchant and capitalist." This milling industry touches all classes of the population, and is acknowledged to be one of the most important in the country. The output of every factory during a 24 hours' working day is calculated in railway truckloads. In these circumstances the factories have entirely superseded the formerly numerous water mills. This industry works for export. The total weight of exported flour rose from 822 tons in the years 1881-1895 to 67,204 tons in 1911, the last normal year. Another notable development is the progress of the spirit, brewing, and sugar industries; also the fruit and vegetable preserving industry, which in recent years has attained large proportions. The Germans undoubtedly had a keen eye on the great possibilities of Bulgarian industries, for besides capitalists, many German engineering firms were making arrangements for the development of the existing and the establishment of new industries when the Germano-Bulgarian alliance came to a sudden end. There is a large field of business for British manufacturers and others in Bulgaria in the future.

Greek Chamber of Commerce.

According to recent reports a Greek Chamber of Commerce has been established at Zurich, in Switzerland, to enable Greek merchants to dispose of their produce and to assist them in making arrangements for trade after the war. There has always been a considerable trade done between Greece and Switzerland, especially in light machinery, implements, tools, etc., which suited the former's market.

Diarbekir Copper Mines.

The copper mines that were owned by the Turkish Government at Agrana, in the Diarbekir vilayet, are of considerable importance. It is estimated that their deposits amount to over 1,200,000 tons of copper ore, principally copper pyrites, yielding 15.65 per cent. of copper; but, owing to unsatisfactory smelting, only some 13.25 per cent. of copper was recovered, according to the latest available reports. The "roasting," apparently, was done by wood. There are four furnaces, each smelting 2,600 kilogrammes of ore in twelve hours, running 815 kilogrammes of coarse copper. The blast is generated by a water-wheel. During the three years preceding the war the coarse copper has been sold at about £51 per ton, yielding a profit of £11 10s. per ton. The output, as a rule, is sent by camel to Samsoun or Alexandretta, but, of course, with railway facilities (for the mines are not far from the Baghdad railway line) the outlook of the mines will greatly improve as regards transport. Their future, in the meantime, is of much interest to many Syrian concerns at present.

SAFETY OF INTERNED SEAMEN.

With regard to the captains and crews of two Ellerman liners, Assiout and City of Khios, interned since the outbreak of war in Turkey, the Imperial Merchant Service Guild has received a cable from Captain Allen, of the Assiout, stating that the crews of both ships have arrived at Alexandria.

Mr. Walter Haynes is now secretary of Ruston and Hornsby Ltd.

Mr. Reginald Smith has been appointed as Consul for Belgium at Malta.

Owing to the shortage of men the Foochow agency of the Chartered Bank has been closed.

Messrs. Marsland, Price and Co., Ltd., of Bombay, have developed a speciality in the construction of concrete oil tanks with domed roofs.

M. Georges Danielopol, Director of the Roumanian State Bank, has been appointed Roumanian Minister to the United States. M. Danielopol, who is at present in Paris, will not leave for Washington until after the termination of President Wilson's visit to France.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Still Unsettled.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Any improvement in the market is slow in coming about. Buyers are still disposed to anticipate lower prices. A little more inquiry has been met with in some quarters, but business has not matured. Egyptian cotton rates continue steady. There is no particular change in the outlook for supplies. Many complaints are still met with as to the regulations under which business can be done. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton are getting more irregular in quotation. No buying of weight has transpired for several weeks, and some producers are more willing to consider offers. Nothing encouraging can be said with regard to piece goods for Egypt. The cancellations of contracts has not been very extensive, but the slump in values in Cairo has undoubtedly demoralised trade for the time being. Wires from India have been very scarce. Occasional bids have been mentioned in bleaching cloths for China. More South American shippers have wanted to stop deliveries. The home trade is passing through a very quiet time, and a decided falling-off has recently occurred in clearances in the retail establishments. Prices in American yarns continue to fall. The drop from the top is now about 1s. a lb. Stocks are beginning to show themselves in first hands. An increased inquiry has come through in cops for Holland, with isolated sales, and a steady demand has been reported for France.

CUSTOMS VALUATIONS IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, November 9.

Considerable discontent is being caused amongst the trading community of Egypt by the practice of the Government in assessing goods at what amount to fictitious values for customs purposes. These values are not calculated on the invoice value of goods, but on the home value of the same class of goods at the time those in question arrive in Egypt (which may be six months later than the invoice date), plus insurance, freight commission, landing charges, and, over and above that, something extra, so as to make absolutely sure any error is on the right side. Merchants say that if they protest, the next consignment of goods may take four days to get through the customs instead of, perhaps, two. This excessive assessment plays into the hands of the profiteer, who charges the sum that the authorities have valued his goods at, while the merchant who tries to deal fairly (and there are all too few of such) must pass on the customs dues to the consumer, who naturally thinks that he is being imposed upon.

NEW DESIGNATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL ATTACHES.

The question of the designation to be borne by the commercial intelligence officers appointed in foreign countries in connection with the reorganisation of the Government system of commercial intelligence has been under consideration. It is felt that the title of Commercial Attaché is not the most suitable, and that some other designation should be adopted to indicate the inauguration of a new system. It has consequently been decided that the designation of these officers should be altered as follows:—Commercial Attaché, 1st grade, to be called Commercial Counsellor of Embassy. Commercial Attaché, 2nd grade, to be called Commercial Secretary of Embassy (1st grade). Commercial Attaché, 3rd grade, to be called Commercial Secretary of Embassy (2nd grade). Commercial Attaché, 4th grade, to be called Commercial Secretary of Embassy (3rd grade).

Up to November 2, Indian Treasury bills have been issued to the following amounts:—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1918, Rs.43,50,00,000; April 1 to November 2, 1918, Rs. 52,50,25,000; total, Rs.96,00,25,000. Bills discharged or discounted as subscription to the Indian War Loan:—Bills outstanding on November 2, Rs.66,39,45,000.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., was held on November 26 at the offices, 27, Clements Lane, Mr. Henry Adair Richardson (the chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. G. H. Soul) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said it was his pleasure to lay before them accounts which, he believed, would satisfy the most exacting of the shareholders. The balance-sheet was, as usual, a very strong one, and indicated expansion in the right direction, but the net profits had not increased in proportion to this expansion, and none of those who knew the effect of the excess profits duty and income-tax at 6s. in the pound would be surprised at that. However, by drawing on their carry forward, and utilising the £20,000 they reserved in 1915 against war contingencies—which he foreshadowed last year might not be required—they were able to give the shareholders a very substantial bonus in shares, and, at the same time, strengthen the bank by the addition of £300,000 to its subscribed capital. Those of them who believed in the future of Egypt and the bank would welcome the opportunity of increasing their holding of shares, while those who preferred to sell their allotment would probably realise a cash bonus of perhaps £3 10s. against 2s. 6d. last year.

The bank's results simply reflected the continued prosperity of Egypt, which had been exceptionally favoured during the war. The geographical situation of Egypt had made it the base for the operations of the Armies in the East, and its cotton and food crops had realised phenomenal prices. £20,000,000 was transferred to the country through the War Office for the requirements of the Army, and the cotton crop alone was worth £50,000,000. This naturally caused a brisk demand for imported goods, which were freely bought, and as freely sold, but the sudden termination of the war, and the prospects of cheaper goods later on, had stopped business meantime, and merchants were caught with large stocks which it would take time to move off. But it was hoped that the opening up of Palestine and Syria, which must be bare of supplies, would relieve the congestion sooner than otherwise would have been the case. Cotton exporters and merchants had coined money, and the purchase by Government of the outstanding balance of the crop on August 1 had enabled them to close their books with no unsold stocks on hand, while, of course, all cultivators had made a rich harvest out of the high prices realised for their crops. So far this rapid accumulation of wealth had not resulted in any pronounced speculation, though naturally there had been a good deal of buying of Egyptian securities, and prices which were probably unduly depressed, had risen considerably. There would possibly be more when peace was definitely assured, but let them hope that the lesson of 1907 would not be forgotten, and that if speculators would speculate they would receive no encouragement from the banks. Agricultural land had risen in value; the cultivators had made money, and would put it into land, and get all reasonable assistance from the mortgage banks, who had not had much business of this sort offered them during the past few years.

The bank had opened branches at Jerusalem and Jaffa, and were now contemplating opening one at Haifa, and he was pleased to tell them, as perhaps it was a good augury for the future, that Jerusalem had, at the close of the year, paid all its expenses, including the cost of initiation. There was every prospect of another good year in Egypt. The bank had begun the year again quite satisfactorily. Their profits were not likely to increase owing to the excess profits duty, but for the same reason they should not decrease very much.

He stated, in conclusion, that that was the last time he should address them from the chair, which he had filled for eleven years. He believed he was divulging no secret when he said that Mr. Foà would take his place, and he was happy to think that he left them in good hands. The bank was never in a sounder or stronger position than it was to-day, and, in his opinion, it never had a brighter future, although no one could foretell the after-effects of the war.

Mr. Raoul H. Foà, in seconding the motion, said that they all knew how wonderfully Mr. Richardson had served the bank during the past eleven years, particularly during the past four troublous years. They felt that he had well earned his rest.

Mr. W. H. Skeel, after saying that the accounts afforded the shareholders solid grounds for satisfaction, said they were all sensible of the valuable work which Mr. Richardson had done for them, and in retiring from the chair he carried with him their best wishes. He hoped that his colleagues would arrange for his portrait to be painted in oils by some eminent artist and hung in the board room.

Mr. Tompkinson also paid a tribute to the services of the retiring chairman, and expressed satisfaction at the board's decision to capitalise a portion of the reserves.

The motion was adopted; and the proposed dividend of 10s. per share, free of income-tax, was declared, payable on December 2 next.

An extraordinary general meeting followed, at which resolutions were passed approving the scheme for the capitalisation of £100,000 of the company's undivided profits and the distribution of the same by way of bonus among the shareholders.

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Mr. J. M. MacLeod, C.M.G., British Consul at Fez for many years, has been appointed British Consul-General for Chile.

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.

Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for the year ended March 31 last states that £785,500 debentures maturing February 18 last were paid off by Secretary of State for India. The amount of capital raised to March 31, 1917, was £29,203,690. The Secretary of State's open line capital was increased by £1,049,236 and his advances for unopen lines increased by £632, making £30,253,558. Total expenditure to March 31, was £29,878,070. Capital expenditure was mainly on rolling stock ordered before the war and improvements to the main line and to the workshops at Khargpar. There was also some expenditure on the Bokharo Colliery. While gross earnings increased by Rs.51,64,120, the increase in working expenses was Rs.16,23,904, so that net earnings increased by Rs.35,40,216, or nearly 10½ per cent. The total number of passengers carried decreased by 1,604,193, or about 9½ per cent., but the amount received was more by Rs.11,84,262, or about 9½ per cent. The decrease in numbers is due to reductions in passenger train services to enable the railway to carry more material required for the war. The increase in receipts is due to fares having been raised with the object of restricting the number of passengers travelling to suit the reduced train services. In the principal commodities carried by the railway there has been an increase in tonnage and receipts. The increase in working expenses was due to the larger tonnage carried and the rise in cost of labour and materials. The proportion of working expenses to gross receipts was 46.56 per cent., against 48.10 per cent. The results of working for the year are:—Net earnings, Rs.3,01,32,863; interest on open line capital, Rs.1,61,64,594; excess of net earnings over interest Rs.1,39,68,269. The company's share of these net earnings amounted to Rs.18,95,649. This amount when remitted to England produced £142,171. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s. less income-tax at 5s. in £, the directors recommend a further dividend of ¾ per cent., less income-tax at 3s. 9d. in £; and a bonus of 1¾ per cent. for the year ended March 31, less income-tax at 3s. 9d. in £, and to write off as depreciation of reserve fund account £7,000. With these payments the whole return for the year on each £100 stock will be 7¾ per cent., less tax. After providing for income-tax and contributions to charitable and other funds, the balance at credit of surplus profits account at the end of 1918 will be more than £200,000, as against £194,000. Meeting, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., 5th proximo, noon.

Prince Line.

The directors of the Prince Line propose to pay a final dividend for the year ended June last of 15 per cent. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. has been paid, so that the year's dividend is 20 per cent., compared with 30 per cent. in 1916 and 1917, 10 per cent. in 1915, and 5 per cent. in 1914. The profit announced is £264,728, as against £430,816 in 1917, £495,328 in 1916, £341,138 in 1915, and £280,413 in 1914. The paid-up capital is £601,495. The assets are given as £3,449,712, as against £3,619,993 a year ago.

Southern India Tea.

The report of the Southern India Tea Estates for the year ended February 28 last states that including balance brought forward, after providing for general and London office expenses and writing off £500 for depreciation, profit was £8,838. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 1s. per share (free of tax) on the ordinary shares and to carry forward £6,265.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Greek Five per Cent. Loan, 1890 (Piræus-Larissa Railway).—The coupons falling due on December 15 will be paid 32 per cent. in gold of their face value in accordance with instructions received from the International Financial Commission, Athens.

The directors of Ruston and Hornsby, Limited, have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, for the half-year ended September 30 last, payable December 2 next.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in the £, in respect of the year ending December 31 next, payable on and after 19th proximo.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.—At an extraordinary meeting on November 20 a resolution was passed declaring that £1 5s. per ordinary share (being part of the moneys resulting from the conversion into money and collection of certain capital assets) be appropriated as capital among the holders of ordinary shares on the registers at the date of such distribution.

The directors of the Bengal Coal Company announce a dividend at the rate of 60 per cent. per annum for the half-year to October 31 last.

Alexandria Water.—Interim dividend of 4 per cent. (4s. per share), payable on December 15.

First Five per Cent. Debenture Coupons No. 40 of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., falling due December 1, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clement's Lane, London, E.C.4, at the face value, and at the branch offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

Notice is hereby given that new interest coupon sheets in respect of the Five per Cent. Debentures of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., will be ready for issue by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, on and after Monday, December 2. The debenture bonds must be lodged with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.4, for endorsement.

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 21:—

Rain much needed everywhere. The influenza epidemic is hindering agricultural work in many districts.

Markets.—Fully good Broach Rs.603 April-May delivery. No improvement in the piece goods position in Bombay. Prices have declined further in Karachi.

Twenty companies (mostly private) were registered in India in August, with an authorised capital of 65½ lakhs. Some of the more interesting appear to be:—Orissa Minerals, 10 lakhs, registered in Calcutta; Madras Tanning and Trading Co., 5 lakhs, registered in Madras; and the Porcupine Foundry Co., 5 lakhs, registered in Calcutta.

The Madras Government pencil factory has been put up for sale as a going concern, as after showing the possibility of making pencils at a satisfactory profit, the Government is disposed to leave the field to private enterprise.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

There has been very little doing this week, and changes in prices are only of a fractional character.

In Government Bonds, Egyptian Unifieds, after a fairly large business at 90, are offered at this price, and are quoted ½ lower at 89½, whilst a similar drop has taken place in 3½ per cent. pref. to 77.

In Bank shares, Nationals, after rising to 21, are closing only 3-16 better at 20 13-16. Agricultural Banks are dull at 7. In Railways, Delta Lights, on a certain amount of liquidation, have receded ¼ to 8⅛.

Amongst Land shares there has been a very small business doing. New Egyptians are fractionally easier at 21s. 6d., and both Foreign Trusts and Sidi Salems are again lower on further profit-taking after their recent advance, with the result that Foreign Trusts close 1s. 3d. down at 15s. 3d., and Sidi Salems have dropped ⅛ to 2 21-32. On the other hand, there has been a rather sustained demand for United Egyptian Lands, which closes 3d. firmer at 4s.

In Miscellaneous shares, Salts and Sodas are 1-16 lower at 3½, and Khedivial Mails have dropped 1s. 9d. to 81s. 3d.

Amongst Greek securities there is a decline of 1 point in Rentes to 56½, but the 5 per cent. 1890 Loan is 1 point firmer at 75. A fairly large line of "Currant" Bonds changed hands in the neighbourhood of 95. Bank of Athens shares are ¼ down at 4¼, although the price in Athens is very nearly equal to 5. Some business was also done in Piræus-Athens 4½ per cent. Railway Bonds round the current quotation.

Oil Shares.

Prices have remained at about the same level this week. Anglo-Egyptians "B" are a shade better at 2 11-16, but Anglo-Persian Prefs. and British Burmahs are unchanged at 25s. 6d. and 13s. 6d. respectively.

A feature of the Roumanian market has been the continued weakness of Roumanian Consols, which close at 16s., a fall of 1s. on the week. Anglo-Roumanians are 1½d. better at 10s. 3d., but Traian Roumanians are 3d. lower at 10s. 9d.

The only changes to be recorded in Russians are a rise of 1s. in North Caucasians to 26s., and a small rise in Ural Caspians to 1 21-32.

Paris Bourse.

For the most part Near Eastern securities have appreciated in value, the main exception being Suez Canal shares, which have fallen 90 francs to 5,460. Egyptian Unifieds are slightly stronger at 90.50, and Credit Foncier Egyptiens at 780 have recovered 2 points of their recent fall; while Land Banks are 5 points better at 210. Other prices are: Serbian 1895's, 61.85 (against 61); Turkish Unifieds, 72.95 (against 70.10); Banque d'Athenes, 109 (against 111); and Ottoman Banks, 564 (against 566).

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended November 14 are:—Cattle markets, £853; general markets, £504; total, £1,357. Total for year, £45,987. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended November 15 were:—Cattle markets, £447; general markets, £476; total, £923. Total for year, £49,476.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000

Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 20	Nov. 27
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	90	89⅛
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	77½	77
Greek 5%, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5%, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	62¼	62
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	57½	56½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	74	75
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5% Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	81½
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½	74½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	7	7
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	20¾	20¾
Bank of Athens	£2	4½	4¼
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6¾
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 39/64	9 39/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	92	90
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14¼	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	9	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	5½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18½	18½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20⅝	20 13/16
National Bank of India	43	69	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8⅜	8⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14	14
Do. Pref.	4⅝	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	16/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	16/6	15/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/9	21/6
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 9/32	2 11/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/3	71/3
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/9	4/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	71/3	70/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	83/-	81/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 396.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The peace policy remains the all-important question of the day for the Allied peoples, and is forming the subject of repeated conferences between their Governments. The past week has seen M. Clemenceau and Marshal Foch, together with Signor Orlando and Baron Sonnino, in consultation with the British War Cabinet, and it is generally understood that far-reaching decisions have been taken. These may have to await President Wilson's arrival for their final ratification; but in so far as they may affect one aspect of the Near Eastern problem, we may hope that the decisions will be translated into immediate action. The London discussions have been held under the menace, as it were, of armed conflict on the eastern shore of the Adriatic, and on no point was it more urgent that an exact understanding should be arrived at than in regard to the future settlement of these regions. Before leaving Rome Signor Orlando had at last couched a lance in support of moderation in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies. He admitted that in the "secret" Treaty of London Italy had renounced her claim to Fiume, and, although he insisted upon the Italian character of that port, he pointed out that at times circumstances rendered it necessary for a Government to effect a compromise.

By passing an overwhelming vote of confidence in the Government after the Prime Minister had thus hinted at the need for compromise, the Italian Chamber proved that it was in no unduly chauvinistic mood. Pan-Italianism, in the form of Dante Alighieri societies, at once raised its head again, and a resolution was passed at a congress calling upon the Government to urge Italian claims upon Dalmatia and other sections of the eastern coast of the Adriatic. But moderate opinion in Italy is fortunately gaining ground, and it is becoming more widely recognised that lasting international peace is likely to prove a more valuable asset to Italy than the possession of additional strips of territory, with the certain prospect of chronic unrest within her borders. An attitude of reasonableness is to be welcomed wherever it appears; but it is no effective substitute for a hard and fast delimitation of frontiers between Italian territory and the new Yugoslav State. The Allies should aim at securing the latter as soon as possible, for until this is done opportunities for friction are bound to arise.

Professor Masaryk is no stranger to England, and it was with peculiar satisfaction that the people of London were able in these crowded days to welcome him back as first President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic. The geography of Europe has been so violently disturbed as a result of the war that the man in the street is apt to feel bewildered when he tries to take stock of the new map; but in the case of the Czecho-Slovaks he finds himself at once on familiar ground. Not only has the President's name become a household word during the last four years, but the dramatic stand made by Czecho-Slovak troops in Russia against Bolshevist terrorism has been one of the outstanding features of the war, and by no means the least valuable contribution to the ultimate collapse of Germany. The organisation of these troops—the one oasis of order and discipline in a wilderness of anarchy—was the work of Dr. Masaryk, and provides an excellent augury for the future of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, so critically situated as it will be in Central Europe. No less important for the difficult days immediately ahead is the fact that President Masaryk, who has expert knowledge of Near Eastern affairs, is now in a position to place that knowledge, with added authority, at the disposal of the Allies.

The situation in Russia appears to be suffering from the lack of a definite guiding principle among the Allied Governments. It would be idle to deny that widespread disappointment is felt at the slow progress that has been made in bringing practical assistance to the great bulk of the Russian people in the struggle against Bolshevism. Quite rightly the Russians had been given every opportunity to help themselves; but the important factor in their rehabilitation was time, and the Allies' first duty was to accelerate the movement. The stand made by the Czecho-Slovak troops, brilliant and indispensable as it was, was fortuitous, in the sense that the main purpose was to work their way out of Russia with a view to playing their part in the restoration of their own country. When attacked by the Bolshevists they had to fight, and at once they stemmed the Bolshevist tide. But they still want to return to Central Europe, and the Allies, it is thought, would have been well advised to have expedited their journey and to have replaced them in Siberia and Russia by other troops. The appointment of Admiral Koltchak as a constitutional "Protector" seems to be the right solution of Russia's problem, and it is disconcerting to learn that the Czecho-Slovaks, doubtless owing to some misunderstanding, are hindering this work and helping to rally the force of opposition.

The establishment of the new Yugoslav State is a more complex matter than that of the Czecho-Slovak Republic. There is, however, no need for undue haste in the matter. A few weeks or even a few months are of little account in the life of a State, compared with the necessity that the foundations should be well and truly laid. As already announced, the formal act of proclaiming the union with Serbia and Montenegro of the Southern Slav territories formerly under Austrian rule took place at Neustad, South Austria, on November 25, when the appointment of the Prince Regent of Serbia as Regent of the United Southern Slav State was notified. A Congress is now to meet at Serajevo, and an attempt will be made to invest it with the authority of a Constituent Assembly. It is difficult to see how this can be done, unless the members of the delegations from the different units composing Yugoslavia are determined beforehand on some fixed basis. Here is clearly a case for hastening slowly. Signs of opposition are not wholly lacking, although they may be regarded as of no importance, but the new State does not want to give a handle to possible malcontents by dispensing with the formalities which the occasion requires. One of the duties of the Serajevo Congress would seem to be to formulate the constitution of the Constituent Assembly.

It is to be hoped that no false step will be taken in connection with Montenegro; for any injustice done now is sure to prejudice the smooth development of Yugoslavia. A report has been circulated on the authority of the Czecho-Slovak Press Bureau that, "on November 29, the Montenegrin Skupshtina decided to depose King Nicholas and his House, and to unite Montenegro with Serbia under King Peter." This may well be just one of the pitfalls into which the new Federal State has to beware of falling. The actual facts are necessarily outside our knowledge; but if the provisional Yugoslav Government wishes to lay claim to even the most rudimentary statecraft, it will examine very closely the credentials of the Podgoritsa assembly before it accepts its resolution. It is evident that there can have been no time for a general election in Montenegro; and if there had been it would be necessary to inquire under what authority it had been held. Without doubt the situation in regard to Montenegro is anomalous. King Nicholas and his Government delay to return to their country. If they are determined to leave it to its own devices for an indefinite period, some fresh authority will have to be created to take over the reins of government.

The future of Montenegro is now the concern of the whole of Yugoslavia, as well as of the Montenegrins, and it might be a sound course for the Provisional Government to require King Nicholas and his advisers to declare their intention in regard to their country. The constitution of Yugoslavia cannot be delayed indefinitely because Paris is more comfortable than Cettinje. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that the Yugoslav authorities will resolutely set their faces against any sharp practice or Prussianism. The Montenegrins have not forfeited their independence, and they have the right to determine their own future entirely of their own free will, however ill they happen to be served at the moment by their constituted authorities. The whole-hearted adhesion of the country to Yugoslavia is a foregone conclusion, and it is better that the Montenegrins should be able to retain their self-respect when taking the formal step. No one inside or outside Montenegro will believe that the meeting at Podgoritza was a constitutionally elected Skupshtina. If it was not, it can only have resembled the meetings in the Baltic provinces with which Germany familiarised us when she was anxious to impress the world with her adoption of the principle of self-determination.

The attempt of Mr. Justice Ameer Ali to identify Moslem opinion in India with the corrupt oligarchy of Constantinople that has brought discredit on Turkey and the Mohammedan name has not been allowed to pass unchallenged. A hundred years or more may have passed since Stamboul was corrupted into Islambol by, as one writer suggests, "the fertile fancy of some over-zealous Moslem propagandist"; but Sir Valentine Chirol points out that it would be difficult to find amongst Mohammedan Indians any trace of the sentiment towards Constantinople to which Mr. Ameer Ali gave expression much before the Crimean War. "The sympathies of Indian Mohammedans for Turkey," he adds, "and the religious deference paid to the Turkish Sultan as Khalif are themselves of quite modern growth, and owe their origin very largely to the close political relations between the British Empire and Turkey during the nineteenth century." The logical effect of Mr. Ameer Ali's contention would be to create an unbridgeable gulf between the Moslems of India and the Arabs, who have a better and older claim than any others to speak on behalf of Islam. The Arabs have cast off the yoke of Constantinople, and it is unthinkable after all that has been written and said by them about the regime associated with this city that they should endorse the contention that its withdrawal from Turkish control would be an outrage to Islam.

Reaction after the strict censorship of news during the war is, doubtless, responsible for the flourishing crop of rumours that is now raising its head in Europe. It is unfortunate that most of these rumours should concern the Balkans. This part of the Continent is no longer a German corridor, and there would seem to be no reason why the Allies should not contrive to arrange for the dissemination of reliable information. It would be of interest, for instance, to know whether Bulgaria is a monarchy, a republic, or merely a kingless kingdom. A few weeks ago it was reported that King Boris had abdicated; this week a message from Sofia states that he is ready to renounce the throne providing Bulgaria be admitted to the Balkan Confederation. Another report represented Bucharest in flames, with Roumania as a whole in the throes of a peasants' revolt. This week the return of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie to their capital is announced. Fortunately the later intelligence is the more credible. It coincides with further reports to the effect that a Roumanian army is in occupation of the Bukovina, and that a national Roumanian Council assembled at Hermannstadt (the Roumanian name for which is Sibiu) has declared the union of Transylvania with the Roumanian Kingdom. This decision, it is to be hoped, comes in time to allow the Roumanian race to be represented as a single whole at the preliminary Peace Conference of the Allies. The Roumanian Government itself will see to it that its representative is kept in touch with the opinions and aspirations of their countrymen formerly under Hungarian rule.

It is not without interest to recall that Sir Edward Maclagan, the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, is a distinguished historical scholar, whose appointment may revive the traditions associated with names like Muir or Lyall. We can hardly expect that he will find leisure for research in his new office, but we can hope that his weighty support will be afforded to any attempts which may be made to restore the study of Indian history to something like its true position. Each month sees a steady increase in the harm which is being done by the pseudo-historical teaching so sedulously fostered by the Extremists in India: their efforts to poison the minds of the rising generation can be counteracted only by the widest possible dissemination of the truth, and we trust that this need will receive the earliest attention of the authorities when the war-cloud has finally passed away.

Anyone who still doubts that the Indian Administration, like the rest of us, has been driven to move with the times, will find a convincing proof of its adaptability in the information brought by the last batch of mails regarding the decision to control the market for food-grains throughout the entire country. For nearly half a century the principle that in famine-times private trade may be assisted, but must not be interfered with, has been regarded as established beyond possibility of question, and it must be admitted that this attitude has been fully justified by results. The impending period of stress is, however, to be met by an almost complete reversal of this well-tried policy, for traders will be unable to move food between the provinces without a licence, distribution is to be controlled in the same way, and as a necessary consequence prices are to be fixed by the administration.

We have seen no official declaration of the motives which have led to this change of policy, but it is common knowledge that the railway position is a dominant factor in the case. In recent famines the traffic in grain has been very heavy, and there is no doubt that stocks have sometimes been moved backwards and forwards in advance of actual necessity. At the present juncture the war has left the railways unable to cope with any traffic which is not absolutely indispensable, and some degree of control has thus become inevitable; half-measures would, however, be fatal, and so the administrative machine has been forced to assume responsibility for the distribution of the country's daily bread, a responsibility which everyone must hope it will be able to bear.

It is certainly unfortunate that India should be overshadowed by this problem of food at a time when all her intellectual energy is wanted for the task of knocking the new Constitution into shape. The committees which are now at work will undoubtedly find the atmosphere uncongenial in some parts of the country, and it is to be feared that many of the men who could give them most assistance will, as the winter goes on, be too busily engaged to think about politics. Yet the conjuncture cannot be regarded as inappropriate, for in India, as we have often said, economic problems come first, and it is perhaps as well that the investigations of the committees should be carried on in the environment in which the results will ultimately be tested, the environment of a population to whom to-morrow's food is almost the only matter worthy of serious consideration.

In the circumstances there are special reasons for regretting the illness of Lord Southborough, the chairman of the two committees, a contretemps which, as the cable suggests, may prevent their labours being finished "in time," that is, we suppose, in time for a Bill to be introduced in Parliament during the session of 1919. In Indian conditions, such committees involve severe strain, the members travelling by night, hearing evidence by day, devoting the evenings to less formal but not less important gatherings, and doing a vast amount of hard thinking in the intervals: a trying life in the most favourable circumstances, it is almost intolerable for a man who is not thoroughly fit, and we sincerely hope that Lord Southborough's indisposition will prove to be merely temporary.

Apart from this possibility of delay, there is little to add to what we said last week regarding the Parliamentary prospects of Reform. All parties have officially blessed the general idea, but no party has committed itself to a concrete scheme, and, judging from election addresses and reports of meetings in the constituencies, the electors are not in the least disposed to complain of the omission. We hope India will not blame them for this: the fact is, we in this country are very much in the position of a practitioner who by way of experiment has taken a very large dose of his own franchise mixture; the experiment will give valuable data, but just now we are too much concerned in its immediate results on our own person to be able to think about prescriptions for sufferers everywhere.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 28.

Tantah was *en fête* this week in honour of the visit of the Sultan, which took place on Thursday last. His Highness proceeded from Alexandria by special train, accompanied by the Prime Minister, the other Ministers, and his suite. He was met on arrival by the Mudir and the local officials, as well as the members of the municipality and of the Provincial Council. After a visit to the tomb of Sheikh Ahmed el Bedawi, a much venerated Moslem saint, the Sultan held a reception, followed by a luncheon. He subsequently inspected the schools and invited the principal residents and officials to tea in the public gardens, after which he returned to Ramleh. This is the first visit the Sultan has paid to any provincial town since his accession, and it is expected that on his return to the capital early next month he will make a round of the principal towns in the provinces.

The British Residency.

The last garden party of the Alexandria season was given by the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate on Wednesday last. It was one of the best attended that have taken place since the Residency took up its abode for the summer at the Villa Zervudachi, and the gardens presented a most picturesque appearance until late in the afternoon. The guests included the Sultania Princes Kamal Eddine, Youssef Kamal, and Omar Tussun, the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the senior Government officials, officers of the Army and Navy, and the leading residents and notables. Just before tea-time his Highness the Sultan arrived and was greeted by the strains of the Sultania anthem. He was received by Sir Reginald Wingate, with whom he inspected the guard of honour drawn up at the entrance, and then proceeded into the villa, where he was welcomed by Lady Wingate and partook of tea, during which he received some of the more prominent guests.

"Our Day" in Egypt and the Sudan.

"Our Day," which was fixed for Thursday last, October 24, has been an immense success. The provisional total for Egypt and the Sudan has attained the figure of £st.200,000, of which £st.180,000 was contributed by Egypt alone. All the subscriptions have not been recorded at the head office of the Joint Committee in Alexandria, and contributions are still flowing in, so that the final total will be well in excess of the figure given above. As it stands, the present subscription to "Our Day" constitutes a record for this country. In 1917 the amount subscribed was £st.150,000, which itself was in excess of the previous years; this year's amount brings the total subscribed by Egypt and the Sudan to over £st.700,000, apart from individual subscriptions either sent in direct to the society in London or contributed at other periods of the year. The 1918 figure is all the more remarkable in that no special effort, such as street collecting or boxes at certain frequented centres, was made; and it only shows what the general public thinks of the great work which the joint societies have been doing. Prominent among the subscribers are Egyptians from the provinces, who by their subscriptions have demonstrated not only their loyalty to Great Britain and their recognition of the work of the societies, but also that they fully appreciate what is being done by them to alleviate the lot of members of the Egyptain auxiliary corps, who from time to time become inmates of the various hospitals created for them.

For Turkish Prisoners.

As may have been gathered from references in previous letters, a great many of the Turkish prisoners have had to be admitted to hospital for treatment. All that it is possible to do for them is being done, and as they are badly in need of medical necessaries the High Commissioner, using the discretionary powers vested in him as president in Egypt of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, has sent £st.500 to the General Commanding the British Forces in Egypt for expenditure on whatever is required in this respect by the Turkish prisoners under his charge.

Spurious Bank Notes.

Two or three spurious bank notes have lately been passed into circulation. They are hand-drawn and hand-coloured, and are strangely reminiscent of the famous bank fraud in London by D. S. Windle; for in the place of the signature of the Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, there appears the signature, "D. Spoof." This, coupled with the fact that the notes are of the value only of P.T.50 each, would seem to point to their being made as a joke; for it is scarcely conceivable that anyone would otherwise spend so much time as must have been required for the hand-work on counterfeiting such a small value note. The authorities are much amused, and attach little importance to this matter.

A Sultania Rescript.

A most unusual rescript was addressed by the Sultan to the President of the Council, Rushdi Pasha, this week. It announced that his Highness, in view of information supplied to him by the Ministry of Justice, had decided to deprive Prince Mohammed Ali Hussein of the title and privileges of Prince. The degraded Prince is the great grandson of Mohammed Ali Pasha, and it is understood that the motives underlying the decision to deprive him of his title and privileges are unconnected with the present war, and have no political significance.

The Wheat Position.

There is still little improvement in the wheat situation in the towns. The Government has had to continue to supply part of the requirements of Alexandria from its own reserve, and distribution there has to be done under control in order to alleviate the distress among the lower classes. In Cairo, where, owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding the other day, eleven women, four children, and one policeman were crushed to death out at Rod-el-Farag in a rush for wheat, the Cereals Bureau has been opened, and there is reason to hope that the distribution in the capital will henceforward be under complete control.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Preparing for the Future.

After a few days of rejoicing, of thankful realisation of the miracle of deliverance, the Roumanians have had again to turn to stern facts, as represented by the work of reconstruction. Grave problems await solution, and the fate of the nation depends upon decisions being taken promptly and rightly, and work being done without any delay. The masses, the peasants, kept in a state of quiescence by the 170,000 Germans of von Mackensen, are beginning to stir; and on the skill shown in directing this immense energy into the right channels depends the future of the Roumanian race.

The German occupation, which lasted nearly two years, has created immense difficulties, by stimulating, and indeed creating, social discontent, and by undermining the foundation on which the edifice of the Roumanian State rested. Bolshevism was professed by the placid German official quite as much as, if not more than, by the Russian agents. The new Government has, therefore, to face a most difficult situation. The old political parties have almost disappeared, remembered only by a few people who can hardly maintain their political existence. The rapid movement of events is bringing new men into the main current of political life; and even in the Parliament elected under the German occupation there were some great surprises: some peasant deputies astonished the Chamber by their speeches and their practical suggestions. Last year a Roumanian Labour Party was constituted—quite distinct from the old Socialist Party. The leader of this new political group is Dr. J. Cantacuzino, Professor of Medicine at Bucharest University, and one of the most prominent democrats in the country.

The union of Roumania, Bessarabia, Bukovina, and Transylvania creates a new series of problems, and the leaders of the Roumanians in the last-named three provinces demand certain conditions from the Roumanians of the Old Kingdom. The Bessarabians hastened the introduction of franchise reforms in their own province as well as in Roumania. The Transylvanians are in closer contact with the democratic elements, the great masses of the people, and with the "intellectuals" than with the old *boyars*, the very small political caste surviving from the old days of Roumania.

Undoing German Handiwork.

With von Mackensen and his soldiers have gone all the works of the Roumanian Parliament elected under the German occupation. Two decrees abolished the laws that the Germans had caused to be passed. On November 19 King Ferdinand signed a decree, prepared by the new Government, annulling all the Acts of the Parliament that supported the Government of M. Marghiloman, on the ground that the elections were manipulated by the Germans. It is, of course, notorious that some of the candidates were imposed on the people by von Mackensen. All the draconian laws regarding forced labour, confiscation of Allied properties, forced leasing of land, oilfields, harbours, wharves, the amnestying of traitors, criminals and German spies have been annulled. Unfortunately, the German agents and spies left the country before von Mackensen!

The second decree referred to concerned the new elections, which will be held in January. The new Parliament is to be elected on the basis of the reformed franchise, which is to extend over Old Roumania as well as over Bessarabia and the Dobruja. These two decrees are of great importance, for they mark the beginning of a new and free life, based on solid democratic principles.

The Roumanians of Transylvania.

The Magyar newspaper *Vilag* of November 14 reports the discussion which took place between the Roumanian National Council and the representatives of the Magyars. The Roumanians, represented by Goldish, St. Pop, Maniu, Vlad and Lazar, as a local Government, asked for complete freedom and the withdrawal of the Magyar administration and army from Transylvania. Their declaration runs:—"We must now apply President Wilson's principle. Nations speaking the same language must unite themselves. Henceforward there can be no question of any one people being oppressed by another. Transylvania and all the Roumanian districts in Austria-Hungary should separate themselves from the Dual Monarchy. Roumanians are in a majority there, and the territories concerned will naturally join Roumania. The Magyars, Szekels, and Saxons who inhabit Transylvania and form district minorities of the population will have the benefit of complete local self-government. The future Hungarian State will be able to carry on its world-wide trade through the ports of Trieste and Fiume, and, later on, through Constanza also, and will be able to develop all the more tranquilly from the fact that it will no longer possess enemies. In the future the neighbours may become partners. Hungary will have been diminished, but she will be the real Hungary."

The representatives of the Hungarian Government refused to accept the proposals of the Roumanians. The Roumanian Army did not pass the frontier until it was absolutely necessary to do so. In Arad alone thirty leaders of the Roumanians were shot. *Vilag* adds that later on there were found proofs that the poor Roumanians were not guilty, and the Magyar authorities made their excuses! But it was too late.

NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports (Dec. 3):—A telegram from Jassy of yesterday's date states that the Government has been constituted as follows:—

General Coanda	Premier and Foreign Affairs
General Vaitoiano	Interior
General Grigoresco	War
M. Pierre Poni	Public Instruction
M. Aughel Saligny	Public Works
M. Buzdugan	Justice
M. Cotesco	Commerce
M. Inouletz	Ministers without portfolio for Bessarabia
M. Ciucureano	

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SMYRNA NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SMYRNA, November 6.

The first contingent of released military prisoners, with a few civilians, left here on November 1 for England, by way of Alexandria. A further contingent is now impatiently awaiting another boat.

From all parts of the interior Smyrna has been receiving these unfortunates, most of whom have passed through hard times during their term of imprisonment. They have suffered from insufficient and bad food, lack of proper attention for their wounds and ailments, and general ill-treatment. A large proportion of them have succumbed on the way.

The work of clearing the mines outside the Gulf of Smyrna is progressing, and to-day H. M. Monitor 29 entered the port with the staff of the Eastern Telgraph Company on board.

The treatment of civilian prisoners here has been lenient in so far as their personal liberty has been concerned. But it is necessary to add that they have been exploited unmercifully—and the point should not be forgotten. Those who have held power here—and their satellites—have a big debt to pay; and it is the heartfelt wish of all honest men that it shall be paid in full. Markets have been "rigged" in every conceivable way and on all possible occasions, and commandeering has been of an extraordinarily "elastic" character—even for Turkey! Various items, from the Smyrna Quay Company's premises down to a consignment of ladies' corsets, might be instanced as examples of "military requirements" as conceived by the clique which has now, fortunately, ceased to exercise power.

THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

The Report of the Gordon Memorial College for the year 1917 tells, as usual, an encouraging tale of good work done. As Sir Reginald Wingate writes in his covering letter accompanying the Report, "it shows that, in spite of adverse conditions and lack of *personnel* due to other and more urgent calls, the work of the College, educational and research, is proceeding satisfactorily." Sir Reginald refers to the Duke of Connaught's visit, and his Royal Highness keen appreciation of the work that is being carried out by the College authorities." His letter closes with a brief reference to "the great pleasure and sense of privilege" which the notification of his election last October to be President of the College afforded him. That election, it may be added, on the authority of the Principal of the College (Mr. John Crowfoot, M.A.) has "given the greatest satisfaction to all who have been privileged to serve under his Excellency here." Sir Reginald Wingate will, we are sure, prove a worthy successor to Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener, the former Presidents.

For the proposed Medical School at Khartoum as a Sudan Memorial to Lord Kitchener £9,000 has already been collected in the Sudan, chiefly subscribed by natives. A liberal endowment for future students has been provided by a gift of land and house property by two native donors—Ahmed Hashim el Baghdadi, a retired Omdurman merchant, and Sheikh Hassan Shereef.

In his notes on the educational work Mr. Crowfoot reports that, as in 1916, there have been no changes in the senior staff, no new arrivals, and that "work which should be distributed between two house masters has fallen again . . . entirely on the shoulders of Mr. Field." He then refers to an innovation:—

"The one new feature which deserves special mention is the introduction of the Boy Scouts movement into the Gordon College. A troop was started some time ago in Atbara School, but hitherto we have been unable to find an experienced Scout master who could train boys in the Gordon College. Last year, however, Mr. Macdiarmid, of the Y.M.C.A., expressed his readiness to make the experiment, and his offer of assistance was gladly accepted. The movement is still too new for us to pronounce a final verdict upon its suitability to our conditions, but there is no doubt of its popularity with the boys; and Mr. Macdiarmid and his chief assistant, Mr. Clark, of the Public Works Department, are more than satisfied with the progress already made."

The numbers of students at the beginning of 1917 are given as follows:—Upper school, 74; Kadis, 21; Arifs, 36; primary school, 301; and workshops, 118.

In the upper school the class work of the past year has been quite satisfactory, and Mr. Simpson reports that "the examination results show that the average level of attainment throughout the school is much higher than it was when the school was first opened in 1905, or even as recently as five years ago." Approximately the same number of boys left to take up posts in the Government service as last year.

As to boarders, we read:—"The total number of boarders from the different sections . . . was 235, and the number could easily have been increased if there had been more accommodation. As it is, we are only able to accommodate this number by hiring houses in the neighbourhood, and we have long outgrown the capacity of our existing kitchens, offices, and so forth. Further building has become an absolute necessity, and the Government has placed at our disposal a first instalment towards meeting the necessary expenditure." The bill of health is a satisfactory one, and games and sports appear to be "going strong," especially football.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

BULGARIA AND HER VICTIMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A notice has appeared in the Press to the effect that it is intended to open a Pan-Hellenic List of Subscriptions for the purpose of alleviating the distress prevailing in Eastern Macedonia as a consequence of Bulgarian devastations. We, the undersigned, Hellenes and British citizens of Hellenic origin, think there is no reason why Bulgaria should not indemnify her victims, and protest against any other people but the Bulgarians being invited to make good any damage, direct or indirect, caused by Bulgarians. We take it for granted that in the case of Germany it is the resolve of the Allied Governments to exact retribution from her for the devastations inflicted upon Belgium and France, and to call for the punishment of all persons responsible for those devastations, and it is clearly fair that Bulgaria should be similarly treated for her misdeeds in Macedonia.

We are Sir, yours faithfully,

Anthony Fachiri.
M. Cornelius.
G. B. Zochonis.
B. Zachos.
P. J. Pachiyanni.
G. S. Naxachis.
G. A. Stathacopulo.
C. G. Byscouras.
L. N. Nicolopulo.
E. N. Nicolopulo.
T. Ractivand.
C. A. Martakis.
Th. Tchaoussoglou.
C. N. Megaris.
K. A. Michalopulo.
A. Calfoglu.
C. Pagonis
(The Great Archimandrite).
L. Lambrinudi.
M. Embiricos.
P. C. Dracoulis.

Alex. Pallis.
A. A. Ralli.
G. Mazarachi.
B. A. Malandrinos.
Andrew Fachiri.
A. S. Acratopulo.
A. Spartali.
A. C. Ralli.
J. A. Alexandroff.
C. G. Nomico.
G. Zlatano, Ltd.
S. Mavroudi.
S. Bostandji.
S. D. Petrocochino.
G. C. Demitriadi.
N. Eumorfopoulos.
G. Marchetti.
Z. G. Michalinos.
A. Frangopulo.
P. N. Caridia.
Alex. C. Ionides, jun.

November 16, 1918.

THE FUTURE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—You have opportunely opened your columns to a discussion of the future of Constantinople and the Dardanelles; and it is certain that not even the fortification of the Panama Canal laughs in the face of a projected League of Nations more contemptuously than this problem of the bridge between Europe and Asia and Africa. Apart from Panama, here, at the Golden Horn, if anywhere, we have an opportunity of progressing constructionally towards the universal ideal of a League of Nations. I ask for space to offer a concrete suggestion. I venture to preface it by asserting that after a baptism of blood such as has been forced on the Grand Alliance, the old-time bogey of Internationalization will prove to be no bogey at all, if dressed in the robes of Righteousness. It is proposed:—

1. The Viceroyalty of the Dardanelles, to be held for three years, with residence at Constantinople, by the nominee, in rotation, of the Governments of France, Britain, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Roumania and the United States.

2. A Viceregal Council of eight members, of which France provides two portfolios, Finance and Justice, and the other Powers one each:—Britain, Interior and Police; Italy, Public Works and Railways; Greece, Agriculture and Shipping; Belgium, Posts and Telegraphs; Roumania, Customs; the United States, Education.

3. A Legislative Council, of some sixty lay members, elected by secret ballot, with power to offer advice to the Viceroy and to initiate reforms, but without power to obstruct financial decisions of the Viceregal Council.

4. No expenditure and no taxation to be valid unless sanctioned by five members of the Viceregal Council, whereupon the assent of the Viceroy becomes obligatory.

5. Foreign diplomatic status at the Viceregal Court, other than that of Councillor, to be limited to that of Consul.

6. The Viceroyalty to ignore and tolerate all creeds.

7. The salary of the Viceroy to be £12,000 and of a Councillor £8,000.

8. Civil Service appointments carrying salaries superior to 3,000 francs per annum to be countersigned by five Councillors.

9. Vice-Councillors to be opted locally by the Viceregal Council, at a salary of £2,000 per annum.

10. Prefectures on the French model.

11. Official languages, French, English, Greek and Turkish—the latter to be reconsidered in the third triennial with a view to its abolition.

12. Religious institutions to be self-supporting, and certain Christian churches to revert to the care of their religious foundations.

13. The Judiciary to be at the nomination of the President of the French Republic.

14. The constitution of the Viceroyalty to be reconsidered at a Council of the Sovereign States in the year 1938.

I dare not tax your space with arguments for these fourteen points. I would venture to add only three riders. First—there is no solution but that the intruding Ottoman must go East, bag and baggage; secondly—the amount of and the manner of meeting the Ottoman Debt is a separate matter for the Peace Conference; thirdly—in order to acquaint mankind with the decision of the Victorious Alliance to keep the world's peace and to trust Democracy, I would propose that an offer of the first Viceroyalty be made to Marshal Foch, and that the present Prime Minister of France be delegated to explain to Islam that the claim of Christendom to Constantinople is demonstrably compatible with universal brotherhood.—I am, etc.,

Janus.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I feel obliged to write again in reply to the letter of Major Paget.

I do not propose to go into discussions here of the craniological and ethnological aspects of the Epirot question, not because I have no arguments to adduce, but because all arguments of this kind are in themselves and by themselves inconclusive. The true test of nationality is the will of a given population to belong to a given nationality. "Avoir fait des grandes choses ensemble, vouloir en faire encore, voila ce qui constitue une nation," said Renan. That is why the land of Markos Botzaris and Spyromilios, of Souli and Chimarra, is Greek. Mehmed Bey Konitza is the London representative of the Albanian Society, "Vatra," in America. This society has 1,600 members—no more; their organ was also called *Vatra*, and if Major Paget read it at all, he will be able to say whether it struck him as pro-German and pro-Turkish before America entered the war, or in favour of the return of the notorious Prince William of Wied.

Major Paget was no doubt advised to get letters of introduction to Moslem Beys when he went shooting in Epirus, because these gentlemen would be better able to see that he was not molested by the local brigands, and could also offer him a more lavish hospitality.

I regret that Major Paget should know nothing of the authorities I quoted. It shows that he has never troubled to look at the most serious books on the question. If I mentioned Prince Lichnowsky, I did so because this diplomatist was one of those whose business it was to do all they could to secure the annexation of Epirus by Albania, though we now know what their inner convictions were. The same applies with even greater force to the Marchese di San Giuliano.

The telegrams of an American correspondent, writing under Italian inspiration, are not necessarily to be taken for gospel. I will leave your readers to decide if the figure "150,000 Albanian families" carries conviction to them.

As to my qualifications for speaking about Epirus, I would ask Major Paget to put the question to Mehmed Bey Konitza himself, or, still better, to Ismail Kemal Bey, whom I know very well. Regarding the danger of Epirus being Hellenised, I can say simply that this country is too Hellenic to need to be Hellenised.—I am, etc.,

Chr. Kessary.

R.I.M. COMMISSIONS.

The King has been pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to approve the grant of commissions to officers of the Royal Indian Marine. The commissions will run in the name of the Secretary of State for India in Council, and will bear his Majesty's Royal Sign Manual. They will be granted to temporary as well as to permanent officers of the Service.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A NOVEL OF EGYPT.*

Readers who know Egypt, especially those who have felt the charm of its desert spaces, will certainly give this book a hearty welcome; so will those to whom the occult and the supernatural make appeal. Miss Lorimer introduces her hero and heroine to one another in an excavator's camp, situated in a desert valley in which many kings and queens of Ancient Egypt had their tombs. And here one of those ancient royalties—the most interesting of them all, Akenhaten (or Akhnaton, as Miss Lorimer calls him), "the heretic Pharaoh," or his spirit, appears to the heroine. Many other strange things happen in the valley, and later in the desert, whither the hero goes off on a mission that has proved a little puzzling to one reader. Then the scene shifts to London, and the time to that of the Great War, and other things happen of a more normal kind—or, at any rate, of a kind more natural in war days. But the spirit of Akhnaton still takes an amiable interest in the heroine and her hero; and, apart from one example of "spirit letter writing," throws the lovers—temporarily estranged—together, so that they "make it up" quite swiftly. At least, one supposes it is the ancient Pharaoh who thus favours the interesting and attractive couple; otherwise the "long arm" must be regarded as long indeed! The ending is cleverly arranged.

We like Miss Lorimer's heroine, Margaret, very much; and her brother, Freddy Lampton, the Egyptologist, still better. Mike, the hero, we find less attractive. "Most people," he remarks once, "think me a fool," and when he adds very soon: "I want to teach people how to live, and I don't know how to do it myself," we are inclined to agree with the majority, for once. The second "Mike" and his wife seem to us dangerously pleased with themselves. But Miss Lorimer has presented us with two positively fascinating characters, Moslem "Saints" both of them; and Freddy Lampton is refreshingly sensible, although he did allow such things as a "carelessly-tied necktie" to worry him—before the War. The sketches of native character and of Egyptian scenery are deftly done, as Miss Lorimer knows well how to do them. The description of the actual work of excavating reads rather oddly here and there to one who has seen much of such work; but there are "diggers" and "diggers," and Miss Lorimer may, for aught we know, be giving us a faithful picture of some actual excavator's methods.

The story is well told, and the volume is one to be remembered by anyone who wishes to give books as Christmas presents.

A PRE-ARMISTICE BOOK.†

Among Mr. Schreiner's acquaintances in Vienna was a very great lady. Her petrol was commandeered and her carriage horses seized, and, deprived by war of motors and brougham, she was compelled to ride in tramcars. She objected, naturally enough, to the overcrowding and the society of the great unwashed, but her nose told her that the suggestive odours were not entirely due to lack of soap. Mr. Schreiner enlightened her as to the cause. "I take it that you refer to the odour that comes from underfed bodies. . . . It reminded you, perhaps, of the faint odour of a cadaver far off? The waste of tissue due to malnutrition is a process not wholly dissimilar to the dissolution which sets in at death."

Such was the effect of war in the Austrian capital. In Germany things were bad, but they were not quite so bad; in the country districts everywhere in the Central Empires they were, of course, a good deal better. In large parts of Turkey apparently they were even worse; in the first year of the war the author saw enough corn wasted, owing to inefficiency and lack of transport, to feed the whole of the Central Empires for two years. Possibly if Germany had been able to organise and develop the natural resources of Turkey sufficiently, she would have gone a great way towards winning the war; but Mr. Schreiner has no belief in the boasted German faculty of organisation. Its natural basis is the extreme docility and love of order in the German people; but he gives details of a sufficient number of gross blunders and oversights on the part of the authorities to show that the faculty for organisation is not up to the standard of the advertisements.

In Turkey the difficulties were aggravated by other causes. The Turks have none of the German love of order, and still less of their industry; the rumours of bad feeling between Turk and German, to which Mr. Einstein bore witness, are authenticated, as it were, by the names and addresses of those who disagreed; and the Turks are fully determined after the war not to allow themselves to be exploited by Berlin. The innocent reader may ask in that case why the Turks joined the Central Powers at all? Mr. Schreiner gives the answer as it was given to him by Said Halim Pasha, then Grand Vizier. "The hour of Turkey was come," he said. "The Entente Government offered us guarantees that for thirty years Ottoman territory would be held inviolate by them. What do they amount to? We have had so many guarantees. When Turkey gets a guarantee it is merely a sign that there is one more pledge to be broken. We are through with guarantees. We joined the Germans because they offered none."

There could be no more illuminating example of the bankruptcy of international law. But the Turkish distrust of guarantees was probably inspired by German diplomacy, which has no use for pledges. Enver Pasha's view was more elementary. "This is Turkey's last chance. Better to go to hell with Germans than take more favours from the Entente." Well, they have gone. . . .

Lack of space forbids us to follow Mr. Schreiner's careful summary of the steady deterioration of the economic situation of Germany and Austria; it is likely to have a permanent value as a study of war emergency measures. But curiously enough one of the most important points of all he degrades to a footnote, which might escape the attention even of the most conscientious reviewer. Yet this sentence deserves the close attention of every student of war finance throughout the world: "We may rest assured that the German public will not continue to pay 5 per cent. on the war loans. *I may state that I have this information from prominent German and Austro-Hungarian bankers.*" A reduction of the interest will be made to 4 per cent., "no matter what happens," and the repudiation of half the war debt is being discussed. This chapter on the war loans of Germany, while by no means covering the whole ground, is deserving of very careful study.

---

*"There was a King in Egypt." By Norah Lorimer. (Stanley Paul. 6s.)

†"The Iron Ration." By George Abel Schreiner. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Iron Circle." By S. Herzog. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

"The Parrot's Training." By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (Calcutta: Thacker, Spink and Co. Rs.2.)

"Moon of Israel." By H. Rider Haggard. (London: John Murray. 7s. net.)

"Memories and Impressions of War and Revolution in Russia, 1914-1917." By General Basil Gourko. (London: John Murray. 18s. net.)

"Some 1918 Reflections." By Guy Glendower Croft. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)

NEW SERBIAN CABINET.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 2.

A Belgrade telegram received via Vienna states that the new Serbian Cabinet is constituted as follows:—

M. Pashitch	PRIME MINISTER
M. Nazarevitch	FINANCE
M. Trifkovitch	INTERIOR
M. Nunovitch	PUBLIC WORKS
Dr. Jankovitch	WAR AND TRANSITIONAL ECONOMICS
M. Juritchitch	JUSTICE

All the Serbian parties are represented, except the Liberals and the Socialists.—*Reuter*.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The following resolution, which has been passed by the Executive Committee of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee, has been circulated to the War Cabinet:—

The Executive Committee of the Prisoners in Turkey Committee begs respectfully to remind the War Cabinet of the enormous mortality among British and Indian prisoners in Turkey, especially that which occurred amongst the rank and file of the Kut garrison during their enforced march across the desert—without transport or medical arrangements of any sort—and during the immediately succeeding months when they were compelled to work on the railway, with entirely inadequate rations.

When the true facts of the case are known from the evidence of the prisoners on their return home the Committee realises that public opinion will demand some substantial redress (which, however, it may be then too late to obtain), and, therefore, urges that—

1. In the terms of peace now being discussed an indemnity should be demanded for and paid to the families of every man whose death was caused by the neglect of the Turks.
2. The guilty individuals be punished.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. December	1918. November.		1337. Rabia I.	5679. Tebet.
6	23	Friday	2	3
7	24	Saturday.........	3	4
8	25	**Sunday**	4	5
9	26	Monday	5	6
10	27	Tuesday	6	7
11	28	Wednesday	7	8
12	29	Thursday	8	9

Sir George and the Hon. Lady Lloyd have left England for Bombay.

Queen Milena of Montenegro and her daughters arrived in Paris on November 27 from Bordeaux.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, left London for Paris last week.

Mr. C. S. Wilson, Councillor of the American Embassy at Madrid, has been appointed American Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia.

Dr. McInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, has left England for Palestine, having completed the business that necessitated his absence from his diocese.

M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon last Friday General Greenly, Major Gooden, and other British officers who are going out to Roumania.

An engagement is announced between Captain Harold Finlinson, Essex Regiment (Special Reserve), of Wellington, India, and Jessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, of Park Lane, Salisbury.

M. Grouitch, Serbian Minister in Washington, and formerly Minister to the Court of St. James's, and Mme. Grouitch have arrived at the Hyde Park Hotel, where they will be for a few days before proceeding to the United States.

Sir A. Hamilton Grant, head of the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India, is on his way to England to assist the Political Department of the India Office in London in connection with the forthcoming Peace negotiations.

Assad Khan, Persian Minister in Petrograd, has been imprisoned, and it is thought that the Bolshevists intend to retain him until the Soviet representative in Turkestan, who carried on violent propaganda in Persia, is released by the British.

On November 26, at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, the marriage was solemnised of Captain Ronald Wilkinson, Indian Army, to Doris Marguerite, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. Wallis B. Mason, of 1, Osnaburgh Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.

The marriage arranged between Mr. H. C. Bennett, Imperial Forest Service, and Barré, only child of the late C. D. J. Carmichael, C.I.E., D.I.G. of Police, and Mrs. Carmichael, of Thornford, Sherborne, will take place early in the year in India.

In a Convocation held at Oxford on November 28 the Vice-Chancellor, the President of Trinity, presiding, the degree of D.D. *honoris causa* was conferred upon his Beatitude Meletius Metaxakis, Metropolitan of Athens and President of the Holy Synod of Greece.

At the special request of the Queen, several thousand garments have been sent by Queen Mary's Needlework Guild to the Serbian Relief Fund, by whom nearly half a million garments are being sent to Serbia this week, accompanied by skilled workers, who will organise their distribution.

The King has granted permission to Rear-Admiral C. F. Lambert and to Major (temp. Lieut.-Colonel) W. L. Huntingford, R.M.A., to wear the Insignia of a Grand Commander and of an Officer respectively of the Order of the Redeemer, conferred on them by the King of the Hellenes.

The engagement is announced between Captain T. C. Twining, Grenadier Guards, son of Mr. H. H. Twining and Mrs. Twining, 43, Ennismore Gardens, and Eileen, only daughter of Major-General Anderson, C.B., D.D.M.S., Southern Command, India, and Mrs. Anderson, Queen's Gardens, Poona.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Henry Carslake Brooke Johnson, temporary Captain Army Service Corps, of Lawas, Blackheath Park, S.E., second son of the late Captain W. F. Johnson, R.N., and Phyllis Loveday, second daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Wynch, Indian Army, and Mrs. Wynch, Boarden Barn, Exmouth.

The engagement is announced between Major R. Hoskyn, R.G.A., elder son of the late Major C. R. Hoskyn, R.E., B.B. and C.I. Railway, Bombay, and of Mrs. Hoskyn, 6, Colville Gardens, to Bessy Margaret Fortesque Wells, eldest daughter of the late Colonel Henry Lake Wells, C.I.E., R.E., and Mrs. Lake Wells, of 17, Drayton Court.

The marriage arranged between Captain Arthur Bernard Hodgson, A.S.C., eldest son of the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and Mrs. Hodgson, Parklands, Ipswich, and Rufby Annette St. John, only daughter of Mrs. Alice Warner, formerly of Assam, India, will take place at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on Thursday, December 19, at 11. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the Chapel.

Among recent gifts to *The Times* Fund on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John is one of £2,784, which is made through her Majesty the Queen. This is the proceeds of the sale of a Ceylon gem neckchain. The chain contained thirty-five choice Ceylon gems, and the purchase price was sent to Queen Mary by the Governor of Ceylon to be devoted to such war relief work as her Majesty might select. The Queen decided to give the money to the Red Cross.

Professor Masaryk, President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, arrived in London last Friday from New York. He was met at Euston by Mr. Synge, of the Foreign Office, who represented Mr. Balfour, Major-General Feilding, Commanding the London District, and Mr. Osuski, Czecho-Slovak Chargé d'Affaires. Among others present were Dr. Moroianu, representing the Rumane National Committee of Transylvania, Principal Burrows and members of the staff of King's College, Mr. Wickham Steed, Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, and Mr. Nosek, of the Czecho-Slovak Legation.

Our Malta correspondent reports :—

Another gallant young Maltese has paid the supreme sacrifice on the field of honour whilst serving in a British regiment. The person concerned is Lce-Corpl. Fortunate Borda, son of Mr. George Borda, merchant. The deceased, who had been educated at St. Aloysius' College, Malta, and later at Edinburgh University, had joined the Scottish Borderers as a volunteer from the latter University some two years ago. He saw much active service, and was killed in action in France.

Captain W. R. Gatt, Royal Malta Artillery, has arrived here on leave from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force after an absence of three years. Captain Gatt was one of the first among the Maltese officers to volunteer for active service after the outbreak of hostilities, and has done very good work with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

On Tuesday afternoon the Archbishop of Athens received the members of the Greek community in London at the Greek Legation, Knightsbridge.

Major-General Henry Wylie, C.S.I., of Farnham Common, Bucks, Resident in Nepal 1891-1900, and Agent to the Governor-General of India for Baluchistan, left property valued at £12,539.

BEYROUT AND THE LEBANON

Amidst all the tragedies of four years' war conditions THE LEBANON HOSPITAL (Mental) has "carried on" under its British Director, Dr. Watson Smith, who now writes: "All is comparatively well, but the Hospital has suffered greatly in repairs, linen, etc., and we have been living in semi-starvation and exorbitant prices."

Funds are needed immediately for relief and maintenance.

Donations will be gratefully acknowledged and a report sent by the Gen. Sec., Miss A. M. GOOCH, 35, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
AND RELIEF FUND,
11, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
Regt. Section 1, War Charities, 1916.

A DEVASTATED COUNTRY—MONTENEGRO,
The Smallest and Poorest of our Allies.
Thousands of Starving Women and Children need Food and Medicaments.
9,000 FAMISHED MONTENEGRINS FROM CAMPS OF CENTRAL EMPIRES MUST BE FED.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Montenegrin Consulate, 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

Field-Marshal William Gustavus Nicholson, 1st Baron Nicholson, G.C.B., R.E., who died on September 1, son of Mr. William Nicholson, of Roundhay Park, Leeds, left estate of the value of £91,151, the net personalty being £90,434.

The Duke of Connaught, Grand Master of the Masonic Knights Templar, with the members of the Order, will be present at a Thanksgiving Service in the Temple Church on Thursday, December 12, to commemorate the freedom of the Holy Land from the dominion of the Ottoman Empire.

Personal property of the value of £1,522,011 is left by Mr. Duncan Mackinnon, formerly chairman of the British India Steam Navigation Company and a director of Messrs. Gray, Dawes and Co., Great Winchester Street, E.C., who died on February 27, aged 78. Lord Inchcape is one of the executors.

Under the auspices of the Persia Society, on Wednesday, December 11, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. F. Napier will read a paper, illustrated by lantern slides, on Western Persia, describing the road from Baghdad to Baku recently traversed by our troops. The lecture will be given at 6 p.m. at the lecture theatre of the Civil Service Committee, 6, Burlington Gardens, W. Applications for tickets should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. J. Hogg, at 22, Albemarle Street, W.1, or at 13, Paternoster Row.

An Indian auxiliary of the Mission to Lepers which has been working in India for forty-four years has been formed, with Lady Chelmsford as patroness and Lady Munro, Lady Willingdon, Lady Pentland, and Lady Ronaldshay as vice-presidents. An influential committee has been formed in Simla, and the following are the members:—Lady Munro (chairman), Lady Hill, Lady Barnes, Lady Hudson, Sir W. Vincent, Surgeon-General Edwards, Colonel H. Austen Smith, Raja Sir Harnam Singh, Nawab Zulfikar Khan, Sardar Jogendra Singh, Major Norman White, Canon Wheeler, the Rev. J. Black and Mr. J. E. Woolacott.

The Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England is making an appeal on behalf of its Ophthalmic Hospital, long established at Jerusalem. Eye diseases are extremely prevalent in the Levant, and thousands of ophthalmic patients have been treated at the hospital, the only one of its kind in Palestine, without regard to race or creed. During hostilities the Turks used it as an ammunition store, and when they retreated from the triumphant troops of General Allenby they partly blew it up, and very seriously damaged it. Already out-patients are crowding to its doors. It is believed that many in England who feel gratitude for the liberation of the Holy Land will welcome the opportunity of making a thank-offering in response to the appeal. The sum of £50,000 is required. Subscriptions may be sent to the Right Hon. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.1.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Hole, late Madras Staff Corps, died at Elm Court, Babbacombe, South Devon, on December 2, aged 79 years.

Major Thomas Morgan Bond, who died last week at a nursing home in London, aged 64, served with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

At Bombay, on November 23, the death occurred, from enteric, of Mr. Eustace Ferrers Nicholson, Government Solicitor and Public Prosecutor, and formerly commandant of the Bombay Volunteer Rifles.

Colonel John Henry Augustus Spyer, who died on Saturday at Banstead, Surrey, aged 67, served in the Afghan War of 1879-80 and in the Sudan Expedition in 1884-5. He was Chief National Representative of Recruiting in East Surrey.

News has just been received in this country of the death of Mr. J. M. Framji Patel, a Parsee gentleman who was well known both in England and in India as an enthusiastic cricketer. He was the author of a history of the game in India, and one of the chief movers in regard to sending a Parsee eleven to this country.

Mr. John Griffiths has died at Norton, Sherborne, aged 81. He was formerly Principal of the Bombay School of Art, being the first holder of that position, and it was largely due to his patience and care that the school survived the early days of its existence and achieved success. His work on "The Paintings at the Buddhist Cave Temples of Ajanta" is well known and esteemed, and as an artist and designer he had powers of no mean order.

Mr. Nottidge Charles Macnamara died on November 21 at Chorley Wood, aged 86. He went out to India when only 22 as a surgeon in the service of the East India Company. In 1865 he was appointed surgeon to the Ophthalmic Hospital in Calcutta, having previously distinguished himself by researches into diseases of the eye. He was largely instrumental in the building of the Mayo native hospital, Calcutta, and his works on cholera and on leprosy are regarded as of the highest value. For the past forty-four years his work had been in London. He married a daughter of the Hon. William Butterworth Bayley, Judge of the High Court of Calcutta.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Indian Association at Nairobi has passed a resolution asking that German East Africa should be reserved for Indian colonisation under the direct control of the Indian Government.

It is reported that opinion is growing in India that the Reforms Committees will experience difficulty in performing their task in time owing to the illness of Mr. Gillman and Lord Southborough.

The number of Indian ranks recruited during the war up to September 30 last, was 1,161,780, of which 757,747 were combatants. During the same period 219,534 British and 953,374 Indian officers and men were sent on service overseas from India; and the total Indian casualties were 101,439.

The Times Simla correspondent says:—The quinquennial report on Education dwells on the extensive part played by enemy missions in India before the war. In the Madras Presidency alone there were one college and 477 schools with 31,000 pupils wholly or partly under German management, while measures were taken to continue these educational activities by other agencies.

It is announced that in order to provide a basis for the settlement of the Armenian question, the Armenian National Delegation in Paris, under the presidency of Boghos Nubar Pasha, has proclaimed the unity and independence of the Armenian lands. The territories thus declared to be Armenian include the region of Cilicia.

The Archbishop of Canterbury presided at a public meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday night, on behalf of the fund to make provision for the wants of Assyrian and Armenian refugees, some 80,000 of whom, it is computed, are homeless and starving. The Bishop of London, the Archbishop of Athens, and others spoke.

A Constantinople despatch says that the Ottoman Government has arrested 200 prominent Young Turks, among them Ferdi Bey, on his way to Odessa with a sum of £450,000 obtained in Aleppo. A telegram to the Paris *Journal* states that, at the request of the Ottoman Government, Enver Pasha, Talaat Pasha, Djemal Pasha, Nazim Pasha, and Shukri Bey, who sought refuge in Germany, have been arrested by order of the Berlin Government.

Mr. Nahum Sokolow, accompanied by his secretaries, left London last week for Paris, where he will remain until after the Peace Conference. With the approval of the British and French Governments he will open there a Zionist Bureau for the purpose of keeping the various peace delegations informed about Jewish national aspirations. Dr. C. Weizmann, head of the Zionist Commission to Palestine, will be leaving for Paris almost immediately. When the question of the future of Palestine comes up for discussion at the Peace Conference the Zionist leaders will have an opportunity of submitting before it the Jewish national claims to the country.

On Monday evening, at Sion House, Victoria Embankment, the Archbishop of Athens was presented with an address by the London clergy. It expressed the hope that the presence of the Archbishop in London would have the effect of strengthening the union between the Churches of England and Greece. The Bishop of London presided. The Archbishop, in the course of his reply, commented upon the fraternal feeling of the Anglican Church towards the Greek Church, and said he was sure that, with the assistance of the nations of the world, the Russian Church would enter upon a new development and recover its ancient glory.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1918.

INTRIGUE IN MONTENEGRO.

The report has been spread that the Montenegrin Skupshtina has deposed King Nicholas and the Petrovitch dynasty, in order to unite Montenegro with Serbia under King Peter or the Prince-Regent, Alexander. It will be well to await confirmation of this report before credence is attached to it, for intrigue or worse has been busy of late in Montenegro. The position, however, is admittedly anomalous, and it is obvious that, if King Nicholas's Government dallies much longer in France instead of returning to Montenegro, some step such as that attributed to the Podgoritza gathering will be taken, with the binding force of a constitutional act. If, in the continued absence of their King, the Montenegrins should be constrained to repudiate him, the European stage will have lost a picturesque figure, and a harsh fate will have overtaken one of whom his country in the past has had every reason to be proud. The fortunes of the Continent are not bound up with the destiny of Montenegro, and for this reason personal sympathy may be allowed more play than would be permissible in a discussion of the affairs of a larger State. The world is awry these days; the tiny kingdom has been the sport of far mightier forces than it could muster itself, and it is hardly a matter for surprise if both sovereign and people have failed to surmount the crisis in which they found themselves involved. In his day—he is now in his seventy-eighth year—King Nicholas proved himself a born leader of men, and was in every way a prince after the heart of his hardy mountaineers. When, as the result of a chance meeting at Nice, he won the friendship of Queen Victoria, a shrewd judge of character, his position in Europe was established, and apart from the family ties which he formed through the marriages of his daughters, his personality made him a welcome guest of every Court that he visited. To his own people his relationship for the greater part of his reign was that of an Homeric chief, and if latterly the Father of the Nation contrived to be lost in the autocrat, the change was more apparent to onlookers than to the bulk of those over whom he ruled. The intrigue against the King has battened on support outside Montenegro rather than within. A few weeks ago the country was under the heel of the Austrian invader, with the King, the Government, and a section of the people in exile. Allied forces have secured its liberation, but at a moment when it was supposed that the only thought of the hapless Montenegrins would be directed towards the alleviation of the pangs of hunger, we learn of the summoning of Parliament and of the decree of deposition. The rapidity with which these developments have taken place in Montenegro must create a suspicion of their spontaneity.

Those who keep as their goal in regard to Near Eastern affairs the peace of the Peninsula are only concerned to see that no deliberate action is taken to render that peace impossible. The Montenegrins must be the arbiters of their own destiny; and if during the weary years of their subjection to Austrian tyranny they have resolved that their troubles are in large measure due to the actions of the ruling house and that the future of the country lies in its absorption by Serbia, they must bear the responsibility for taking such a step. It would seem to most people, however, that they would more effectually safeguard the country against future strife and intrigue by delaying action until it could not be argued as an excuse for possible unrest that the decision of the Skupshtina had been obtained under the threat of those who came as deliverers. Much will depend upon the numbers of the Montenegrins who range themselves behind the assembly at Podgoritza, and of those who are still loyal to the dynasty, unless, indeed, Montenegro should unwisely be held in certain quarters to have signed away already her status as an independent country, and any sympathy displayed towards the Petrovitch family be regarded as *lèse majesté* to the House of Karageorgevitch. The controversy that has raged round King Nicholas and his Government in exile will have had its echo in Montenegro. Perhaps the major portion of the trouble has turned on the failure of King Nicholas' sons to inspire the confidence which had been their father's great asset. With the actual charges brought against them during the war we are not here concerned, as these have elicited replies from those who have been attacked. But behind the charges would appear to be the personal unpopularity of the Princes, who have shown themselves to be out of touch with public opinion in Montenegro. Certainly the record of the Crown Prince, who is married to a German Princess, compares unfavourably with that of his nephew, the Serbian Crown Prince. To the minds of some of his subjects King Nicholas has allowed family affection to outrun his judgment as the head of the nation; and with the failure of the Princes to play their part in the national crisis has been associated the mediocre character of the advisers whom the King has kept around him in his exile. A stronger Government must have insisted that the Princes could prove their devotion to their country more clearly than by surrendering themselves entirely to the amenities of French or Swiss social life. As the day of liberation for Montenegro approached, their place was in the Balkans; but with a strange indifference to their own position and to the King's interests they have allowed the moment when they might have reinstated the dynasty in popular opinion to pass unutilised. King Nicholas also hesitated to exchange his comfortable exile for the hardships that might have awaited him in Montenegro, and his enemies have not been slow to profit by his mistakes.

Dynasties may rise and fall, but the people remain, and, in spite of political intrigue, the chief need of Montenegro at the present moment is probably food supplies. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Allies will allow nothing to deter them from sending relief to the Montenegrin victims of Austrian oppression. Funds have been collected in Great Britain, and it is understood that the United States have also contributed generously. But the relief of the population requires to be organised on a large scale, and cannot be undertaken adequately without the co-operation of the Allied Governments.

AT HAIFA: A RECENT VISIT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Haifa is the only town in Northern Palestine without a place in Scripture. Its place is at the foot of Carmel and in dependence upon its sacred history. Carmel itself has never had a separate *political* importance. It is really a projection of the central range of Palestine, partly separated by softer and lower formations, that form the Shephelah of Israel, comparable to the Shephelah of Judah to the South. Carmel marches north-north-west from the Samarian hills, rising to its height not far from the sea. It looks like some land-leviathan stretched out to overlook the Mediterranean, and just south of Haifa, at the point of the northward bending hook of land that bounds the Bay of Acre, the mountain comes close to the beach. The sea-road from Kakon and Tul Keram ends in that narrow strip, an easily defended pass that renders the sea-way round Carmel perilous. Antiochus and Richard only followed it because the mountain was held. Beyond it lies Haifa, facing Acre, north-east across the length of the Bay. Acre is Akka and Ptolemais, and Haifa has usually depended on it in Government.

The road, the other day, was bad from Tul Keram; we made five punctures, and on the return journey four more and a broken spring. Columns of prisoners stretched sometimes out of sight either way on the rolling ground. I have never before seen so many troops on the march together, and for the most part the men seemed in fairly good case. There were bad exceptions, and some proved unfit for marching. Some civilian grumblers in Jerusalem ought to know that not all prisoners are brought south in lorries and fed on white bread and fresh eggs. How do they imagine seventy-nine thousand men are carried in luxury from one end of the country to the other? Those who saw it on its various routes, will not soon forget that captured army, a larger body of soldiers than in the old days we had ever seen together in England.

Carmel slopes from the central range of Palestine north-north-west to the sea; and the coast runs, as the Sunday yawning schoolboy knows too well, almost straight north-north-east. It follows that as you pass from Sharon upwards the low ground narrows almost regularly towards a point and the narrow beach-passage already spoken of. The Crusaders' names, Les Detroits and Patra Incisa, do not seem to be given to that passage itself, but, probably because the military character of the whole plain is determined by its northern issue, to a point about eight miles south on the road, where there must be three miles between sea and mountain.

"Les Detroits" was near Athlit (Le Chateau des Pelerins), where there is now a Jewish Colony. Lower hills of softer formation intervene between Carmel and the central range, and it is by one of the various passes in these that conquerors must reach Esdraelon, and, as Napoleon lays down, not by our sea-road "*qui longe la mer arrive au détroit de Haifa, passage difficile a forcer s'il était défendu.*" He himself only followed this road on his retreat. Going up, he went past Subbarin to the plain at Tel Keiman, as some of our forces did the other day. He took the left, most westerly, of the routes east of Carmel because he was for Acre.

We came into Haifa walking, the car going slowly on a flat rim, and so probably missed endless points of historical importance. But Haifa itself makes a great impression. It is a lovely place and not a bad town; Mediterranean first, Palestinian afterwards; almost Italian in character. The Franciscan cloister and other buildings show the jolly Tuscan arch coming straight on to the capitals, with nothing to represent the architrave. The population, which seemed cheerful enough, is less oriental than levantine, and the very few men in Arab dress are refugees waiting to get south. The situation, with the great peopled mountain behind and the long blue bay in front, bordered with palms and mulberry groves, is so glorious, and so plainly asks for development into a watering-place, that one trembles for its future when our people discover those charms and how near it is to places of supreme interest. To be able to sleep on Carmel, the mount Elijah sought as already a sanctuary of ancient prayer, and where Christian faith and devotion have so sacred a home, and to find Nazareth and Tabor within an easy drive on what will then be good roads! The temptations will be great. I see coloured advertisements of "The Scripture Riviera." May some good power protect us!

Within a week of the capture of the town everyone seemed very cheerful at Haifa; only puzzled by Egyptian money. They will, no doubt, soon have all the available stock to study. There were some rather nice old things to be got: good Swedish matches of the elder world and Apollinaris water, which one has not seen for four years, and rows of German beer-glasses with pewter lids. The troops were welcome enough, and kindly as usual. Some people told me they had been alarmed by the aspect of the Indian cavalry; and the Latin Patriarch, whose blessing I had the happiness to ask, is still convinced that Japan is among the Allies to whom the town has fallen, and their hardy troops quartered near by. I represented to his Grace that the men he saw were Ghurkas, but the Patriarch knew Japan and all the Orient very well from his days at propaganda. The Prelate, who is now aged, has had to endure eleven months of exile from his residence in Jerusalem, and has suffered severely from fever. His deportation was particularly odious to him because he is not an Ottoman subject nor dependent on any belligerent Power, but the representative of the Holy See alone.

In Haifa during the war, and especially since Falkenhayn's defeat determined the Turkish retreat from Southern Palestine, the interests and work of the many religious houses and missions have been left in very few hands. There seem to have been some few French nuns left at Nazareth and Nablus, but here in Haifa only ecclesiastics and missionaries of Ottoman or German and Austrian nationality were allowed to remain. I was glad to see the Maronite priest, Père Pierre, who has been able to carry on; the solitary Carmelite father, Père Elie (a Hungarian) who is also curé of the Latin parish; Père Kandler, the chaplain of the Sisters of St. Charles Barromeo, as well as a Catholic gentleman, M. Menni, from Baghdad; the Consul of Spain and Persia and his English wife. All these smiled at the question whether the people were pleased with the change in affairs, and they all, I think, believe that when prices are fixed by authority—as they will have been long before this page is read—food now held back will be on the market, and that there ought to be no distress. With respect to distress, one sees the most lamentable groups—not here specially, but even in Jerusalem—here and there a gaunt woman, past youth, and carrying on her shoulder or head a child plainly sick for the want of food. But these dreadful sights are not of war alone, and we shall not cease to find them when the country is prosperous. They belong really to the system—which works well enough with good and kindly people and wears so agreeable a smile when it smiles—the system of one-sided marriage and facile divorce, with its contempt of the deserted woman and the charmless widow. You may make maize a penny a pound (or whatever is a low price) and there will still be wretched women in Palestine, so long as a dyspeptic husband can put his wife on the street for a bad curry. There were not more hungry women or neglected children in Haifa than elsewhere.

These are not days for lingering on Carmel. It is too difficult to get round the country. And Carmel is one of the places where Adam Smith has been particularly happy —Sir George Adam Smith, who unites the passion of a scholar with the passion of a poet; or, say, has known how to charm with a real music the fierce activities of his learning. He is a mountaineer, and is always inspired on the heights.

> "Before him who stands on Carmel nature rises in a series of great stages from sea to Alp, the Mediterranean, the long coast to North and South with its sands and plains; Esdraelon covered with wheat, Tabor, and the lower hills of Galilee with their oaks—then, over the barer peaks of upper Galilee and the haze that is above them, the clear snow of Hermon, hanging like an only cloud in the sky."

Is not that almost as good as the Motterone Prelude to Vittoria? And we shall have the scene complete when Esdraelon has his corn again.

CAIRO TO BAGHDAD BY AIR.

On November 29 Major-General Salmond, Royal Air Force, Brigadier-General Borton, R.A.F., and Captain Ross Smith, A.F.C., with two air mechanics, started from Cairo in a Handley-Page machine, and arrived at Damascus the same afternoon.

Next day they started again from Damascus at 7.25 a.m., and flew to Baghdad, which they reached at 3.30 p.m. on December 1.

Thus in three days they visited the three countries, Egypt, Syria, and Mesopotamia, and linked up the two great Asiatic Expeditionary Forces of the British Empire.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Cairo is busy ridding itself of stray dogs and cats, which are being destroyed systematically by the authorities. As a dog-lover, I cannot help feeling some sympathy with the dogs; though, to be sure, a "stray" in the East is likely to be a horrid cur. As to the cats, my feelings are quite otherwise. But what a change from the days when the feline fraud was an object of worship on the banks of the Nile; mummified after death; and held so sacred that any mortal who killed a cat—even accidentally—stood in danger of paying for his "crime" with his own life! Shades of Bast and of the Cat that Jumped over the Moon! What a comedown for Poor Pussy!

⁂

A few days ago a friend was telling me of a little argument, between a boy and his father, regarding war prices. The youngster challenged his father to name offhand three things the price of which had not risen since the war. The father accepted the challenge, and started off at once: "The price of a seat in Hyde Park; the penny stamp; and—— er—" There he stuck, and finally "gave it up"—being, one supposes, too good a sportsman to mention the halfpenny stamp. But what a pity he didn't think of THE NEAR EAST! The fact that this journal has not raised its price is one on which those responsible for its direction are entitled to congratulate themselves—and as a humble contributor I may say as much without any risk of seeming to blow my own trumpet. It is pleasant to know that my views on this subject are shared by many readers at home and abroad. As a matter of fact, we all of us hate the kind of profiteering to which the war has given rise, and any article that has remained at its old price throughout the bad time deserves well of the public. Only once, by the way, have I found an article that had positively fallen in price—and that was a garden broom, which was a ha'penny "down." Can readers give any other instances of the kind?

⁂

Much excitement was caused recently in Zanzibar by the capture of a fish which bore strange markings on its sides, resembling one of the highly decorative Arabic scripts, such as one sees on ancient Persian tiles. An Indian who bought the finny curio was so impressed by these markings that he asked an Arabic scholar whether they were in fact decipherable, as they seemed to be. The scholar examined them, and, sure enough, read them off as easily as a learned Assyriologist would decipher cuneiform. One was: "*La Allah il' Allah*" (There is no god but God); and the other: "*Shani Allah*" (A promise from God). Careful examination proved that there was no trickery about the markings; they were Nature's work, not man's. The Indian owner, who had bought his treasure for a few *pice*, was delighted with his bargain; refused the chance of a handsome profit, running into thousands of rupees, on it; and, instead of making a meal off it, handed it over to an expert for preservation. It is hardly necessary to add that the portent was regarded as signifying the approach of some great event—probably the end of the War.

⁂

I should like to leave the story there, for it seems to me not altogether unworthy to stand beside several other well-known "fish stories"—of the Oriental variety. But as these columns are dedicated to Truth, I must give the sequel:—Some interested person, then, sent a description of the fish, and, I believe, a photograph of it also, to our own Natural History Museum here in London; and in due time Zanzibar was informed that, though it had a curio of a kind, it had not secured a miracle, so to say. The fish, it was explained, belonged to a species that is comparatively well known between Zanzibar and Madagascar. The name has slipped my memory, unfortunately; but I understand that the Museum has some specimens, and that though the markings on them are less clear than those on the Zanzibar example, this is due to the fact that the latter is, apparently, younger than the London examples. For, as the fish grows, the markings split up and lose their distinctness. As to the "portent" part of the story, it seems to me that the Zanzibar "prophecy" was no more fishy than others which had their origin nearer home.

CORSAIR.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future Palestine.

In our issue of July 19 we quoted at length from "Palestine Regained—What Then?—A Symposium," in the *Menorah Journal* for June. The October issue of the journal contains another selection of opinions, and we find them so interesting that we make no apology for giving further extracts on the subject. The first expression of opinion comes from Mr. Albert Hyamson, who differs from Lord Bryce in regard to the question of population. He writes:—

> Lord Bryce expresses the opinion that the population could be increased by only another three hundred thousand or so. In this he is unduly pessimistic and at variance with all other authorities. He looks on the future Palestine as entirely agricultural. It is true that its future as an industrial country is very problematical. We agree with Lord Bryce that the basis of the new Palestine must be agricultural, nor do we wish it to be otherwise. But agriculture carries with it certain subsidiary industries which would aid materially towards the prosperity of the country. For instance, fruit cultivation leads directly to fruit preservation and exportation. Sugar-cane and beet-root growing might well be accompanied by sugar manufacture. Silk weaving could go hand-in-hand with the silkworm cultivation. Hitherto hides have been exported from Palestine and leather imported. But tanning was one of the ancient industries of the land. The wine manufacture creates a considerable demand for bottles which might well be met at home. The well-stocked seas should render the success of a fish-preserving industry easy. Palestine was never a manufacturing land; nevertheless, some of its manufactured products were famous throughout the world. Who has not heard of Syrian dyes and Damascus blades? The silver filigree work of Palestine was and still is sought for in all the quarters of the globe. Even the mother-of-pearl and olive wood productions of Jerusalem and Bethlehem could be reorganised and developed as a small industry secure against the evils of the European industrial system.

Apart from agriculture, with its subsidiary industries, Mr. Hyamson foresees a future for Palestine as an emporium, "the commercial clearing-house between East and West." As a field for "cultured tourists endowed with the historic sense," also, the country may expect to find considerable prosperity. After going over the ground of an irrigatic Palestine, the author returns to the subject of population:—

> Yet Lord Bryce says that the country can support only another 300,000 or so of inhabitants and about a million in all—one-seventh of the population of the country in the days of its greatest prosperity according to Conder, one-fifth according to the more moderate estimate of Elisée Reclus. But there seems no reason why the earlier prosperity should not be restored, especially by the aid of modern methods, and the country again hold a happy population of six or seven millions. The present population is 700,000 at the most. Thus five millions more can be provided for before the question of expropriating or otherwise dislodging the present inhabitants need be taken into consideration. But five million Jews will not settle in Palestine in the course of a year, or of a decade or even of a generation. Statesmen of to-day need not, therefore, trouble themselves about a possible overcrowding of Palestine. This problem may safely be relegated to their grandchildren or their great-grandchildren. The capacity of the country to support an adequate Jewish population may, I think, now be taken for granted.

Regarding the question of government and administration, Mr. Hyamson, wisely, we think, confines his observations to the immediate future.

> The more remote future will lie in the hands of the Jews of Palestine and not of those of the Diaspora. Every serious student of Jewish politics is, I suppose, agreed that there can be no question, at any rate during the life-time of the present generation, of the creation of a Jewish State, in the accepted political sense, in Palestine. Apart from the fact that the Jews of Palestine, for the next twenty or thirty years at least, will form but a minority of the total population of the country, before a people can become capable of complete self-government it must serve an apprenticeship. The history of the British Empire and of the American federal system shows that no newly-emancipated people can be entrusted with full self-government at once. The process must be gradual, a system of development. More and more responsibilities must gradually be devolved on the people, the co-operation between whom and the Central Government must become closer and closer. On these lines only can success be assured. This is true if the population of the new country is homogeneous and comes from a land where self-government is, one might almost say, one of the laws of nature. How much more so must it be the case in Palestine, with its diverse populations, all equal in one respect—that of having lived hitherto under the most severe political restrictions? For the rejuvenation of Palestine a period of tutelage, of apprenticeship in self-government, is essential. This can only be attained under the protection of a great Power—one great Power, just and strong, not a condominium, or a system of partition. Either of the latter alternatives would lead to inevitable failure, for such is the universal experience and the lesson of history.

As to this question of the beginnings of the new State, so to say, another contributor to the symposium, the Rev. A. A. Berle, takes a very different view. To him, "the great function of that state is going to be international. It will, of course, stand for Jewish nationalism, and as such

> be the legitimate channel through which Jewish culture and Jewish ideals must express themselves. But since it cannot, either physically or otherwise, comprehend within its national area the whole or even the major fraction of the Jews of the world or of their influence and power, its great service to both itself and the world will be international." No time should be lost in making a start.
>
> But the organisation should not wait till the political guarantees have been secured. It should begin *now*. There should be an international commission appointed now—or organised out of the various national groups—which should take in hand the business of framing a constitution and otherwise clearing the way for intelligent and profitable discussion. Such a State framed on paper would not, of course, be final, but it would form the working hypothesis for intelligent discussion, which should begin *now*. The very fact that the population would from the beginning need such guidance, and would likewise assemble with a great variety of political antecedents, seems to indicate that the finding of certain common denominators of organic interest should begin at once. These should spring from an international group. The value of its findings would have a great deal to do with clearing away doubts and winning vital and effective support for the new State. The international commission might continue in the earlier stages of the life of the State to be an advisory body, until the conditions had become stabilised and the organic functions had begun to operate with smoothness and effectiveness. It might also avoid a great many difficulties and limit the area of mistakes in the earlier stages. The fascinating part of this matter to me is that there is no necessity, that I can see, why this State should not, by reason of the international co-operation of Jews everywhere and their mobilisation in a commission of acknowledged standing and power, leap at once into strength and power.

Another contributor, Simon Litman, expresses broad views from which we quote briefly:—

> The Jew in dispersion stands for fair play, for liberty of conscience, for justice. Such should be the ideals of his State. In its organisation should be embodied all that is best in Jewish traditions, and all of value that the Jew has learned in the school of bitter experience through centuries of martyrdom and of adaptation to various environments. In order to accomplish this we need the co-operation of representaive Jews in every walk of life, in every profession—co-operation of Jews from every section of the earth.
>
> . . . .
>
> We need leaders of vision, of intellectual grasp, of moral reponsibility, leaders who are not afraid to say what they think, but whose speech and whose action bear the stamp of sincere and responsible manhood. There is one thing we must beware of—we must beware of the activity of self-seekers, of schemers, of politicians and of fanatics. Enthusiasm is necessary; but enthusiasm, unless it is tempered with good judgment and unless it is directed by experience, is bound to bring us into trouble.

Our Arab Allies.

In view of the visit to this country of Shereef Feisul, son of the King of the Hejaz, the following remarks taken from a recent number of the *United Service Gazette* are of considerable interest:—

> We have often been told of Turkey's endeavour to create a holy war amongst our Indian Forces, but if the full facts are ever published it will be quite interesting to read how her efforts materialised against herself, for in preparing the "scene" of our violation of holy places they were caught red-handed by the Sherif, and, although no formal declaration of holy war was made, he immediately gathered his faithful followers and made war on the Turk. His campaign was a brilliant success—as many a hostile Arab found to his cost. No matter who his opponent happened to be, he went in and won. News has often been published of the "Hejaz Forces being at such-and-such a spot," but apart from that little credit has been given to this plucky band. It is to be expected that one of our diplomats will claim credit for bringing the Sherif on our side, but that little man can see a long way, and although perhaps encouraged by being recognised by England as King of the Hejaz, there is little doubt that he made war on the Turks becasue of their base treachery. Now that we have at last beaten the Turk we should include in our Terms of Peace that this faithful Ally must be recognised by Turkey as King and his safety from future attack guaranteed, or in a few years we shall have another little war on our hands.

While fully endorsing the views expressed, it seems to us that our Arab Allies have shown themselves quite capable of protecting themselves against the Turks!

Articles to Note.

"The Taking of Jerusalem," by Rowland Caldicott, in the *Cornhill* (December).

"Gibraltar and Ceuta," by Major-General Sir Charles Callwell, in the *Nineteenth Century* (December).

"The Future of Armenia," by Viscount Bryce, O.M., and "The Eastern and Western Controversy," by Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, in the *Contemporary* (December).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

**Devonshire Square,
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Reference is made in the weekly cable received by Mr. D. T. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner, to an announcement by the Government of India of its intention to proceed with the excess profits tax. This step is presumably due to an element of uncertainty that has existed on the subject in commercial circles in India, and to which the conclusion of the Armistice has given strength. I need scarcely add that there has never been any likelihood that the tax would be abandoned, and now that we have particulars of the tax it is clear that the only objection that could have been raised to it—namely, the liability to double excess profits duty—does not exist, inasmuch as profits which have already borne the incidence of excess profits duty in this country are excluded from the computation. The reason for the tax is to enable India to meet the additional expenditure that has been entailed by the expansion of her forces, and on that account it is universally welcomed as affording her a further opportunity of making a contribution to the common cause.

⁂

Another Indian bank, the Mercantile Bank of India, has decided on an issue of shares. It has been decided to offer the unallotted capital, consisting of 15,000 "A" shares of £25 each to existing shareholders at £12 10s., the paid-up price of the present shares in the proportion of one share for every three. The quotation of the shares is £37 10s., so that shareholders will receive a substantial bonus in the purchase of the new shares.

⁂

Remarkable results have been achieved by the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company during the past year, for the report shows that the profits amounted to £E398,600, against £E236,000, while the net profits were £E361,600, against £E134,800. Naturally war prices have not been without their influence, but the really satisfactory nature of the figures may be gauged from the fact that as the Government controlled cotton plant products the company was compelled to devote its attention to other sources of revenue. The dividend is raised from 25 per cent. to 60 per cent., and the carry forward is increased from £E71,500 to £E141,800.

⁂

Considering the difficulties with which shipping companies have had to contend during the war, the report of the P. and O. for the year ended September 30 makes a most satisfactory showing. The net profits, after allowing for all charges, including debenture service and fleet depreciation, amount to £826,700, an increase of £21,400 on the figures for the previous year, and the dividend on the deferred stock is maintained at 18 per cent. for the third year in succession. As half a million of stock ranked for dividend during the whole of the past year, against only six of the previous twelve months, it will be realised that the result is even better than it appears, as the distribution amounts to £575,500, against £545,900. The contingency fund and the provident good service fund each receive £50,000, while the reserve fund remains at £1,500,000. As to the strength of the company's position, the statement may be noted that "in view of the grave uncertainties of the future of shipping, the directors feel confident that the proprietors will concur with them in the policy of building up the company's reserves."

⁂

Further testimony to the part the aeroplane is likely to play in the future in providing a link between places where communications are either non-existent or unsatisfactory is provided by the news of a recent flight from Cairo to Baghdad, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. To start from Cairo on November 29 and to be at Baghdad two days later plainly illustrates the surprising possibilities that the development of aerial transport brings within view.

⁂

I learn that the Greek currant crop was somewhat smaller than was anticipated, amounting to about 127,000 tons, against 140,000 tons last year; 20,000 tons were available from the previous crop, so that, allowing for the legal retention, about 135,000 tons were left for export. According to a recent estimate, almost half this amount will be used in Greece in the making of alcohol, wines, etc.

⁂

Apropos of my recent references to the high-handed policy adopted by Germany over the question of the purchase of Bulgarian tobacco, it may be noted that *Der Grelt Handel* declares that the prohibition of Bulgarian tobacco was one of the worst economic blunders of the old régime. "The tobacco industry—amounting to a yearly output of thirty million kilos—is practically the only means," it points out, "by which Bulgaria hopes to pay back the national debt, and obtain for herself certain expensive but essential imports. When, after the first year of war, the German authorities sought to lower the rising prices by prohibiting the entry of Bulgarian blends, bitterness among the merchants was intense and indignation grew."

⁂

An excellent report is forthcoming from the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the year ended March 31. There was an increase in the gross earnings from Rs.5,12,28,400 to Rs.5,63,92,500, and though expenses also rose the expense ratio fell from 48.10 to 46.35 per cent., and the net revenue increased by over 13 per cent. to Rs.3,01,32,900. The number of passengers showed a marked decrease at 15,235,500, against 16,839,700; but owing to higher rates the receipts amounted to Rs.1,34,85,400, against Rs.1,23,01,200. There was also a decrease in freight business from 7,271,900 tons to 7,009,900 tons; but the receipts amounted to Rs.3,64,38,400, against Rs.3,36,52,300. The surplus of net earnings over interest was Rs.1,39,68,300, of which the company's share amounts to £142,200. The dividend for the year is 7¾ per cent., a record rate, and £200,000 is carried forward, against £194,000 brought in after writing off £7,000 for reserve investment, depreciation, and providing for other payments.

⁂

I have been interested to see that the view is expressed in a memorandum by the Commercial Attaché to the British Legation at Copenhagen on trade between India and Denmark, that a good market might be found in Denmark for Indian goods. One of the great problems that the Indian Government will have to solve in the future is the development of markets for Indian exports, and it may be hoped that this suggestion will be followed up, for India cannot afford to neglect any possible outlet for her goods. The Danish market was, of course, mainly supplied by Germany partly, no doubt, with Indian products, and it is pointed out in the memorandum that this was largely due "to British exporters not considering the market large enough to trouble about." It it not thought, incidentally, that there is any likelihood that Danish exports to India can assume any considerable importance, as Danish industries are, "practically speaking, in their infancy, and in view of the fact that practically all raw materials, including coal, must be imported, are unlikely to develop sufficiently to be of real importance from the point of view of the financial status of the country." In conclusion, the suggestion is put forward that the large British Indian houses in London should be encouraged to study the requirements of the Danish market, and to organise the trade with a view to excluding the trade done hitherto *viâ* Germany while developing the market generally.

⁂

Considerably reduced profits are shown in the report of the Dooars Tea Company, the net figures being £61,200, against £111,300 for the 1916 season. The dividend is reduced to 27½ per cent., against 32½ per cent., and a balance will remain to be carried forward of £29,000. This amount is subject to the recovery of excess profits duty for 1917, which, it is stated, should make the amount larger than the £30,800 brought in. The crop increased from 5,608,400 lb. to 5,825,800 lb., and was thus one of the largest ever obtained, but the net average price fell from 10.89d. to 8.52d. per lb. The Government took most of the tea at 8.23d. per lb. f.o.b. Calcutta. During 1918 the position with regard to the tea industry has been substantially the same, and if the company manages to maintain its dividend it will do all that can be expected.

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ABYSSINIA.

A Field for British Enterprise.

In view of the known policy of British merchants and manufacturers before the war of avoiding small markets, the trade figures of Abyssinia provide an ample explanation of the insignificant place of the United Kingdom in the trade returns of that country. A total external trade of about £2,000,000 was scarcely calculated to arouse interest in a market where the conditions were known to be exceptionally difficult, particularly at a time when the United Kingdom was in no special need of new commercial fields, and so it is no matter for surprise that this country's direct trade with Abyssinia amounted to no more than £13,000 to £15,000, and that of these poor figures the bulk consisted of imports from Abyssinia. The British Empire's share in Abyssinian trade amounts, of course, to a much more satisfactory total, for trade relations between Abyssinia and the Sudan are on a considerable and growing scale, while Indian products also find a market there, but it should be much better, for it has been left to other countries to supply goods which might well have come from the United Kingdom. France, Italy, and the United States have all found a fair market for their goods in Abyssinia, to say nothing of Germany and Austria-Hungary, whose trade there, ably seconded, as usual, by steamship services (the Hamburg-Amerika line and the Austrian Lloyd both touching Jibuti), was making rapid progress before the war. The encouragement given by all these countries to trade with Abyssinia has been undoubtedly largely due to the knowledge that, while the present volume of commerce is insignificant, and must remain so as long as the requirements of the Abyssinians are on a limited scale, the market will ultimately be of immense importance, and that when that development comes the countries first in the field will benefit accordingly. The view is absolutely sound, and it speaks volumes for the comparative lack of enterprise of British merchants that they should have been unwilling to offer hostages to the future by engaging in what might be for a time an unremunerative trade. What made the pre-war position even more deplorable was the fact that of all countries the United Kingdom was perhaps most favourably situated for trade with Abyssinia.

Country's Unrealised Wealth.

Fortunately the war has altered the outlook of the British commercial community, and indications are not wanting that in future Abyssinia, in common with other previously neglected Near Eastern centres, will receive the attention it deserves. That this should be the case is a matter for extreme satisfaction, for it is probable that no country holds out greater prospects for enterprise than Abyssinia. The potential purchasing power of the country is very great, though almost entirely undeveloped. Apart from agriculture there is very considerable mineral wealth, gold, iron, coal, silver, copper, and sulphur being known to exist, while there may well be other minerals, but it has not even been possible to establish the extent of the mineral riches which the country is known to possess. The Abyssinians, as a correspondent pointed out recently in The Near East, are extremely reluctant to accept foreign aid in the development of their resources, for it is not yet clear to them why the proper utilisation of their minerals cannot fail to be beneficial to them, and they prefer to go on exploiting them in their own old-fashioned way. "Methods as old as Moses" was the description applied by Mr. Skinner, American Consul-General and Commissioner to Abyssinia in 1903-4, to the system of gold production—and until there is a very complete change in their outlook it would be useless to try to induce them to consent to the introduction of modern methods.

Naturally the rapidity with which trade develops must depend on the utilisation of this unrealised purchasing power, and this in turn rests on another factor. So far the wants of the Abyssinians have been circumscribed, and until this is altered the country's material advance will be handicapped. At present, even agriculture, the staple industry and one which offers immense prospects, is in a most backward condition. The country is simply ideal for agriculture; the soil is exceptionally fertile and yields up to three crops a year in certain regions, while the climate permits of the successful cultivation of cotton, the sugar cane, the date palm, coffee, and the vine. There has been no methodical attempt to tap the riches of the soil; indeed the fact that the idea of landed property scarcely exists rather suggests that the Abyssinians do not realise the potentialities of their land. Pastoral industries, which are as backward as agriculture, might be conducted to equal advantage, for all the conditions are in the farmers' favour. Unquestionably the main drawback to progress is lack of incentive; and nothing would be so likely to correct that as increased trade with European countries. Trade relations in such a case provide a sure educative process, and it may be taken for granted that the gradual introduction of European goods will have a stimulating effect. The ambitions of the inhabitants will be quickened, and with a wider knowledge will come the perception that it is necessary to do things in a different way in order to raise the scale of living.

The Outlook.

It must not be imagined from what has been said that trade on a much increased scale is likely to be a matter of the distant future. There is, on the contrary, every probability that the next few years will see a great change in conditions in Abyssinia. In this connection it may be noted that in a report written not long before the war it was stated that while trade was in its infancy, large tracts of the country being then practically unexploited, development was, however, proceeding rapidly. Of course, it is futile to expect miracles, and it must be remembered that only a little time ago it was possible to describe Abyssinia's currency as consisting of "Maria Theresa dollars, bars of salt and cartridges." It is a long step from a state of things in which barter is the normal medium to one of trade conditions as we know them, and in the most favourable circumstances time is required to bridge the gulf. But the process of transition has been in progress for the past twenty years or so, and its results were to be seen before the war amongst other ways in a more varied range of imports, and it is this fact *inter alia* which suggests that the day of expanded trade may not be so very remote.

The pre-war trade figures show that the commodities then most in demand were cotton shirtings, which had been almost entirely supplied by America, cotton tissues, sugar, lime, and wines and spirits, etc. A fair trade was also carried on in such commodities as cement, corrugated iron, glassware, hardware, ironware, kerosene oil, metal piping, sacks, timber, and tools. Reference has already been made to the fact that Germany and Austria took pains to cultivate the market, and it should be of interest to British merchants and manufacturers to place on record the remarkable variety of articles which they exported to Abyssinia. Their exports included carpets, rugs, shawls, blankets, beads, enamel ware, crockery, hardware, cotton thread, scent, mirrors, tinned provisions, matches, watches, wines, and spirits, sewing machines, stationery, umbrellas, velvets, and waterproof canvas. The market was, of course, one particularly suitable for the trade methods of Germany and Austria, and it is not surprising to find that they took full advantage of it to fill the market with cheap and inferior wares. It is to be hoped that they will not have this opportunity in the future, and if British traders are to play their part in bringing about this result they cannot be too strongly urged to pay special attention to the list of imports from Germany and Austria. In conclusion, it may be emphasised that British firms who intend to cultivate the Abyssinian market must be prepared to be represented on the spot, or at any rate at Aden, which has hitherto been the great distributing centre for the Red Sea trade, for the market requirements are exceptional, and it is absolutely essential to be in touch with local conditions.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Sudan Products.

The C.E.B. report for September gives the following particulars of the cotton outlook in the Red Sea Province :—

There seems little doubt that the area flooded this year is considerably larger than that of last. Unfortunately, many Hods in the centre of the Delta only have received one watering, and it is to be feared that much of the land will not bear a cotton crop. The Inspector of Agriculture is, however, of opinion that the land flooded sufficiently to grow cotton equals, if not exceeds, in area that of last season, and provided that normal climatic conditions prevail, and that last year's scourge of locusts is not repeated, a larger crop than last season's may be expected. Locust patrols have been working thoroughly and continuously since the end of August in the districts between Tokar and the Eritrean border and up to the Baraka. So far practically no locusts, immature or otherwise, have been found, but the country is a mass of hills, and no amount of patrolling could absolutely ensure discovery. This, and the fact that locusts have been reported in Eritrea and Kassala, means that the danger will not be over for another month or so. The distribution of cotton seed for the whole Delta was completed by the 15th, and sowing was practically finished by the end of the month, which is two or three weeks earlier than last season.

Cattle.

372 head of cattle were imported from Abyssinia through Kurmuk during August. 734 head of cattle and 659 sheep were exported from the White Nile Province during the same month.

Gum.

195 tons of Hashab gum were exported from Sennar Province during August. 6,796 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during September, as against 5.400 kantars in the same month last year. The average price was £E1,435 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). 1,853 kantars arrived from Nahud, as against 8,521 kantars last year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

In addition to Jerusalem and Jaffa, with which it has been in communication since the British occupation, the Imperial Ottoman Bank is now in a position to correspond with its branches in Syria as follows:—Beyrout, Damascus, Caiffa, Saida, Tripoli, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and Alexandretta.

Inquiries as to the method of making mail or telegraphic payments in these places should be made to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.2, or at its office at 25, Pall Mall, Manchester.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated November 28 :—

Useful rain has fallen in Madras, otherwise the crop position is substantially unchanged. The influenza epidemic has generally subsided throughout. Bombay piece goods market remains depressed. Fully good Broach for April-May delivery is quoted at Rs563 a candy. (Last week Rs605 was quoted D.T.C.). The Government has announced its intention of proceeding with the excess profits tax, and there has been a slight fall in the Calcutta share market with a heavier fall in the Bombay one The Indian Standard Wagon Co. is being floated by Messrs. Burn and Co. (word here mangled in transmission). Railway Board guarantee to purchase minimum number of wagons annually in India.

Crop Outlook.

The failure of the recent monsoon, with the delay in the advance of winter rains, is causing anxiety in connection with the crop outlook, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent in a message dated November 23. The controller of food grains has already assumed control in Central India and Hyderabad, and test works have been started in Northern Bombay. Harvest conditions elsewhere are poor, and in most provinces prices are ruling high.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Dead Sea Bitumen.

It is not generally known that ample quantities of bitumen, as asphalt, occur in the Dead Sea region. It can easily be gathered and prepared for use in road-making, for which very large quantities of bitumen, or asphalt, are utilised annually, and there is the advantage that it will be obtainable at much cheaper rates than those which now obtain in the Near East and in Europe. British engineers who happen to be near that region should give a trial to this bitumen as a road surface dressing, and report the results. The material can best be applied by means of the usual tar-spraying machine. Dead Sea bitumen was undoubtedly used in ancient times. It is evident that the walls of the temples and palaces of Babylon and Nineveh were joined with bituminous cements, and there are bitumen-lined cisterns in Syria of great antiquity which are still water-tight and fit for use. A road surface treated with this bitumen according to modern methods may prove a most satisfactory solution of the very troublesome road question in the Near East, where, owing to climatic conditions and the narrow wheels of vehicles, the macadam system is often a source of trouble owing to the dust that rises from it.

Egyptian Oilfields.

The prospects of a good supply of oil-fuel for Egypt are very promising. At the beginning of the war the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields was the only one of the various companies formed to search for oil in Egypt that remained in operation, and down to 1914 the only finds of importance had been at Gemsah, where none of the gushers that had been struck had given anything like a permanent yield. But the new field discovered in 1914 at Hurgada has been proved to be of singularly regular formation, and its yield has steadily increased, until, according to recent reports, it now stands at over 15,000 tons of crude oil a month. Meanwhile the Suez refinery has been enlarged, and there is every reason to hope that as much oil will shortly be available for internal consumption as can be dealt with by the company's existing transport facilities. It is stated that, in consequence, most of the public utility companies in Egypt have now converted their plants to burn petroleum residue.

Roumanian Industries.

The Roumanian Minister of Commerce has recently brought forward a project for an industrial syndicate with a view to placing certain raw materials under State control. The purchase, treatment, and sale of such materials will be regulated by the syndicate. The industries concerned include tanneries, textile factories, wool, sugar, soap, candle, oil, and cellulose factories and paper mills. The factories in the occupied districts and in Bessarabia which will join the syndicate will add their stocks of raw materials to the general stock and receive therefrom according to their capacities for production.

India's Steel Industry.

It is evident that the very promising development of India's mining industry has been watched with extraordinary interest by the Germans. For months before Germany's difficult position became apparent the German Press was directing the attention of the German ironmasters to the great potentialities of India's mining industries, and were pointing out the important part which India would play afer the war in supplying manufactured metal goods, railway, shipbuilding, and other structural iron and steel materials, not only to the Near and Far East, but also to Australasia and the Pacific Archipelago. The Tata Steel Works were referred to as the principal representative of the iron industry in India, and justly so, for the great efficiency and rapid progress of that concern is very remarkable. The Tata Steel Company was founded in 1907. The works are at Sakchi, 149 miles west of Calcutta, 37 miles from the nearest ore mines, and 118 miles from the nearest coalfield. The first machinery was installed in 1910, and the first coke-oven and blast-furnace were started in 1911. The furnace was capable of a daily output of 175 tons, and this capacity was increased later to 280 tons. The war, naturally, gave a great impetus to production. To make the necessary machines the Tata Works determined to erect their own machine shops. The new blast-furnaces were constructed on American models for a daily output of 600 tons. The Siemens-Martin furnaces were enlarged, and a number of furnaces for the production of electro-steel were built. The company is now in a position to deliver various classes of manufactured goods, among which are ship-plates, boiler-plates, corrugated plates—which are extensively used in India—pipes, tinplates, bridges, roofs, and railway trucks. It is obvious, therefore, what part institutions like the Tata Works will play in the immediate future in the supply of iron and steel structural materials and other manufactured goods throughout the East.

Serbia's Reconstruction.

The reconstruction of Serbia is a question of great interest at the present time. According to official and other reliable reports "the agricultural, industrial and commercial activities of the country are completely dead." It is stated that there are no cattle, no foodstuffs, no farm implements, and no machinery, as all have been carried away by the enemy. Unquestionably the situation is very critical, and emergency measures must be taken before any extensive and far-reaching plans of systematic reconstruction are put forward. The effects of this destructive war have been so general unfortunately, that there is not a country now, whether belligerent or neutral, that has not been, directly or indirectly, affected, and is not in immediate need of the necessary materials, either for complete reconstruction, as in the case of Serbia, or for renewals of the mechanical means upon which the productivity of the country depends. With such a demand, therefore, the process of reconstruction is sure to be retarded.

Serbia is a nation made up very largely of hard-working peasants, with holdings mostly of only from 10 to 30 acres. They raise maize, wheat, barley, oats, sugar-beet, plums, tobacco and live-stock (chiefly pigs). Plums are exported (fresh, or as pulp or prunes), also much plum spirit. Much attention is also devoted to the rearing of silk worms and the manufacture of silk, an industry occupying some 40,000 persons. There is a certain amount of spinning and also weaving, especially of carpets and shawls. The other industries are milling, tanning, and boot-making, pottery, and iron founding. The mining industry has been partially developed. The petroleum industry and coal-mining are well developed; also copper mining, but on a smaller scale.

Utilisation of Water Power.

Some of the above-mentioned industries could speedily be developed by the utilisation of water-power. In previous notes Serbia's various resources of water-power were discussed, and mention was made of an expert opinion on the subject in connection with the country's agricultural and industrial development in the near future. Farmers in Switzerland, North Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Germany are very well served by numerous hydroelectric installations, both as to availability and cost. Why should not Serbians avail themselves of similar advantages in their own country? If Serbia's resources of water-power are developed along scientific lines, the establishment of hydro-electric installations will be an easy matter. There are some good waterfalls of 10 ft. and more in Serbia. If this great power, which can be carried by an electric wire to almost any distance, was employed in factories and farms, the problem of reconstruction would soon be solved to advantage. There are the Vardar, the Morava, the Ibar, and a large number of smaller rivers and streams from which all the required motive power for the development of Serbia's industrial and agricultural resources can be obtained at very low cost.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA

New Issue of Capital.

The directors of the Mercantile Bank of India have decided to issue the unallotted portion of its capital, consisting of 15,000 "A" shares of £25 each, and are offering them to existing holders in the proportion of one in three, calling up £12 10s. per share, the same as in the case of the existing shares. The new issue will rank for dividend from January 1 next.

INDIAN EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The Indian Government reiterates its decision to impose an excess profits tax, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent in a message dated November 23. A tax of 50 per cent. will therefore be charged on all excess profits earned in 1918-19, the average profits of the four preceding years being the basis of calculation. Businesses, however, paying excess profits duty in the United Kingdom will be exempt. The question of extending the provisions of the Bill for a further year will depend on the military expenditure of the country.

Greek merchant fleet losses during the war are stated to have reached 46 per cent.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Continued Decline in Prices.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The slack state of affairs in the market has been unabated, and business has again been of very limited dimensions. Prices in yarn and cloth continue to fall, quite irrespective of changes in the raw material. For nearly a couple of months spinners and manufacturers have not sold the reduced output of the machinery, with the result that their position is gradually being undermined. Nothing new can be said with regard to the Egyptian cotton crop. Stocks in Alexandria tend to increase. Only a retail trade has been done in Egyptian yarns. Prices when tested have been easier, especially in the coarser counts. Operations in piece goods for Egypt have been at a standstill. There are indications of values in Cairo being stabilised, but the rates being secured there are considerably below the Manchester level of prices. There has been practically no cloth business for India. The owners of some weaving sheds are getting increasingly anxious with regard to the future, and unless things improve machinery will soon have to be stopped. A further fall has occurred in American yarn prices, and demand remains flat. An irregular business has been done in export yarns for France and Holland. Sir George Askwith is now endeavouring to settle the wages dispute, and at the time of writing the conferences are still going on.

Cotton Spinning in 1918.

According to a statement published by Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, enormous and record profits have been made in the Lancashire cotton-spinning industry this year. Mr. Tattersall has analysed the returns of forty companies for the twelve months ending November 30. All the mills produce yarn for sale in the market. A feature of the year has been a tendency for companies to cease issuing balance-sheets. The total profit made by the forty companies is £576,134, being an average per company of £14,403, against only £5,085 in 1917. Statistics are available for the past twenty-five years, and more money has been made during the past twelve months than in any similar period in the history of the trade. After allowing for depreciation and interest, the profit on share capital works out at over 34 per cent. per annum, as compared with about 13 per cent. per annum last year. On share and loan capital combined the profit is nearly 22 per cent. per annum, against 8 per cent. per annum in 1917. In the forty mills there are 3,752,561 spindles. The total paid-up share capital amounts to £1,677,709, and loans are £953,038. The height of prosperity during the year was reached in July and August, when the margin of profit for spinners was abnormally wide. Since then a distinct change for the worse in the trade situation has occurred, and prices now being secured are much less satisfactory than three or four months ago.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended November 21 were:—Cattle markets £839, general markets £522, total £1,361, total for year £47,348. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended November 22 were:—Cattle markets £428, general markets £467, total £895, total for year £50,371.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

The Indian currency returns were as follows on November 15 (in lakhs of rupees):—Notes in circulation, 13,867; reserve in silver coin and bullion*, 3,211; gold coin and bullion in India, 2,044; gold coin and bullion out of India, 12 The corresponding figures on November 7 were:—Notes in circulation, 13,761; reserve in silver coin and bullion*, 3,109; gold coin and bullion in India, 2,040; gold coin and bullion out of India, 12.

A Reuter message from New York states that bar silver to the value of £400,000 was shipped on November 20 for India.

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* Within and without India.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Madras and S. Mahratta Railway

The report of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for the year ended March 31 last states that the gross earnings of the entire system amounted to Rs.5,70,82,835, as compared with Rs.5,19,73,685; while working expenses amounted to Rs.2,66,52,026, or 46.69 per cent., as compared with Rs.2,65,25,544, or 51.04 per cent., for the previous year. With an increase in gross earnings of Rs.51,09,150 and in working expenses of Rs.1,26,482, there was an increase in net earnings of Rs.49,82,668. In February, 1917, the passenger train service was reduced and fares enhanced, but notwithstanding these measures to enable the company to cope with goods and coal traffic, passenger earnings have increased. Parcels traffic is increasing from day to day. The increase in general merchandise is due not only to a greater volume of traffic for various reasons, but also to an increase in terminal charges, port-to-port rates between Madras and Bombay, and between Madras and Calcutta, increase in other station-to-station rates, and also to the withdrawal of special reduced rates. The mean mileage worked and maintained was 3,161, as compared with 3,169. Train mileage run was 12,228,381 miles, a decrease of 646,489 miles. The cost per train mile on the broad gauge was Rs.2.81, as compared with Rs.2,56, and on the metre gauge Rs.1.69, as compared with Rs.1.65. The gross earnings of the company's and State lines amounted to Rs.5,13.54,658, an increase of Rs.49,47,685. The increase in coaching earnings was Rs.19,46,526, in goods earnings Rs.29,09,554, and in miscellaneous earnings Rs.91,603. Working expenses amounted to Rs.2.38,91,004, an increase of Rs.2,56,185, the result being an increase in net earnings of Rs.46,91,498. The working expenses of the entire system amounted to Rs.2,66,52,026, or 46.69 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with Rs.2,65,25,544, or 51.04 per cent. The surplus profits realised £358,299. Interest on investments amounted to £14,669, bringing total receipts up to £372,968, compared with £245,473. The directors propose to pay on January 1 next a final dividend of 25s. per cent. from the stockholders' revenue account, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. to be received from Government on that date under the terms of the company's contract, making the total distribution for the half-year £3 per cent., all subject to English income-tax. Meeting, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., 11th instant, noon.

P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30, 1918, states that the work entailed by keeping and rendering to Government the accounts of steamers worked on behalf of the State has been heavy, while the delays in communication with the East and Australia have made it impossible to close all voyage accounts. In several cases estimates have had to be made owing to the loss of papers by enemy action, but care has been taken to calculate the probable results on a conservative basis. Several unclosed transactions extending over some years, for which provision had been made, have now been finally adjusted, and this circumstance, together with the result of the year's working, has enabled the directors to add £50,000 to the provident good service fund, bringing it up to £250,000, and £50,000 to the contingent fund. In view of the grave uncertainties of the future of shipping the directors feel confident that the proprietors will concur with them in the policy of building up the company's reserves. After making this provision there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £92,712 1s. 4d. brought forward from last year, of £819,427 19s. 9d. The directors propose to deal with this balance as follows: 5 per cent. dividend on the preferred stock, £152,000; 12 per cent. dividend and 6 per cent. bonus on the deferred stock, free of income tax, £575,700 14s. 5d. (of which 2½ per cent. on preferred stock and 6 per cent. on deferred stock was paid as an interim dividend in May last); leaving £91,727 5s. 4d. to be carried forward to next account. The dividend and bonus now recommended will be payable on and after December 17. The accounts as submitted provide for suitable depreciation on the ships, investments and properties. £4,360 of the first and second debenture stock has been redeemed during the past twelve months, but, as before stated, the company retains the power to re-issue this, if desired. The whole of the fleet not retained on Admiralty Charter remains under requisition by the Ministry of Shipping at Blue Book rates, the earnings being for account of the Government. Two of the company's vessels which were in the service of the Admiralty as armed cruisers have been lost by enemy action. A number of the steamers belonging to our allied companies have also been sunk by enemy action during the year. The agreed value of all these ships has been recovered and the amount placed in National War Bonds, but unless the cost of shipbuilding falls very materially it will be impossible to replace the vessels which have been lost for anything like the amounts recovered. The two mail steamers referred to in the last report, which are named "Naldera" and "Narkunda," have been taken over by the Government, under charter, as armed cruisers. No progress has been made with the large mail steamer of 16,000 tons referred to in the last report, nor has any advance been made with the work of construction of two ships of the "Ballarat" class contracted for with Messrs. Caird. The directors take the opportunity of expressing their high appreciation of the services rendered by the captains, officers, engineers, and crews in the performance of their arduous duties. The mail contract continues to be worked as a temporary war measure, on the lines mentioned in last report. In last year's report it was stated that the company had purchased the long lease of the property in Cockspur Street previously occupied by the Hamburg-America Company. The freehold of this property has since been acquired, and the office in Northumberland Avenue has been sold. The directors regret to report the death of Mr. Herbert Brooks, who had been a member of the board for 21 years. The Hon. Kenneth Mackay felt himself obliged to retire from the board on September 30 last owing to his having been unable to attend to business on account of his military duties for some years. The directors have nominated Sir Duncan Carmichael, who has had a life-long experience of shipping, to a seat on the board, and, in accordance with the provisions of the charter, he will present himself for election at the annual meeting on December 11, at 11 a.m.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the year ended August 31 last states that in view of Government control and tariffication of cottonseed and its products, the crushing of cottonseed was to a certain extent handicapped and profits realised limited. In consequence the board has been successful in creating and developing other sources of revenue independent of cotton seed crushing, which have considerably increased the resources of the company. Gross profits earned are £E399,646.000 m/ms. Deducting general administration expenses, £E4,195.697 m/ms, interest on debentures, £E3,346.687 m/ms, net profit is £E391,103.646 m/fs. The directors have set aside for depreciation of various factories, including an amount of £E3,000 for writing down the value of the patent rights for the new oil processes, £E19,520.348 m/ms, further provision for the renewal of railway line and rolling stock at Wady Natron £E10,000, leaving £E361,583.298 m/ms; £E71,472.402 m/ms was brought forward, making £E433,055.700 m/ms. The directors propose that £E291,208.320 m/ms be utilised for the payment of a dividend representing 60 per cent. on the share capital (12s. per share), and that the balance of £E141,847.380 m/ms be carried forward. Meeting, Alexandria, Egypt, 20th instant, 4.30 p.m.

Aboyne-Clyde Rubber of Ceylon.

The report of the above company for year to June 30 last states net profits, after deducting £19,517 in respect of handling charges, freight, insurance, etc., depreciation, and London expenses, amounted to £18,872; £3,866 was brought in, making £22,738. Dividend at rate of 7½ on ordinary; forward, £5,863. Rubber crop amounted to 485,659 lb., increase of 39,625 lb. Of this 431,118 lb. have been sold, realising an average price of 2s. 5.52d. per lb., as compared with 2s. 10d. per lb. Cost of production was 1s. 4.13d. per lb., as against 1s. 1.78d. per lb.

Doomoo Tea of Ceylon.

Report for year ended June 30 states that profit was depreciated by Rs.2,358 in consequence of loss on exchange and amounted to Rs.38,496. Rs.5,139 was brought forward, making Rs.43,636. It is proposed to pay in sterling demand drafts a dividend of 5 per cent., to transfer to depreciation fund Rs.7,147, and to carry forward Rs.14,988.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of Bengal United Tea announce that no interim dividend will be paid on the ordinary shares.

The directors of Galaha Ceylon Tea and Agency announce a dividend on preference shares for half-year ending 31st inst. at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable January 1 next, less tax at 6s. in £.

The directors of Cachar and Dooars Tea announce that no interim dividend will be paid on the ordinary shares.

The directors of Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust announce 3 per cent. (7 1-5d. per share), less tax, on ordinary shares (interim). Last year, 4 per cent.

The directors of Imperial Tea announce 4 per cent. (9 3-5d. per share), less tax, on ordinary shares (interim), payable 16th inst.

The directors of Consolidated Tea and Lands announce 10s. per share, less tax, on ordinary shares (interim), payable on 14th inst.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, Limited, will be held at the offices, 5, Rue Adib, Alexandria, Egypt, on December 20, for the purpose of receiving and considering the directors' report and accounts and balance-sheet to August 31, the declaration of a dividend, re-election of directors and auditors, and the ordinary business.

◆

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at July 31, 1918, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,348,696
Special Reserve		273,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		10,207,482
Mixed Tribunals		2,687,276
Egyptian Government		7,571,360
Sudan Government		28,107
Bankers' Accounts		1,468,036
Cheques and Bills payable		190,700
Sundry other Accounts		826,206
		£E.27,525,863
		£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		17,882,400
Sundry Securities		227,139
Advances on Merchandise		420,969
Advances on Securities		783,928
Advances otherwise Secured		660,684
Sundry other Advances		494,946
Bills of Exchange		3,041,632
Local Bills Discounted		99,462
Buildings and Furniture		227,768
Money at call and at short notice		833,625
Bankers' Accounts		860,070
Sundry other Accounts		270,796
Cash—	£E.	
Notes	1,628,085	
Gold	35,109	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	59,250	
		1,722,444
		£E.27,525,863
ISSUE DEPARTMENT.		£E.
Notes issued		29,800,000
		£E.29,800,000
		£E.
Gold		3,302,654
*British Treasury Bills		11,597,346
		14,900,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government		551,092
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds		14,348,908
		£E.29,800,000

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* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

NEW TURKISH COMPANIES.

According to a correspondent of *La Revue de Turquie*, some 80 joint-stock companies have been founded in Turkey during the war, many of which do a large business and possess considerable capital. It is stated that a feature of these companies is the number of them which are purely Ottoman, as previously most of the joint-stock companies were foreign, the only Turkish companies being those which exploited the concessions of railways or mines.

Among the companies founded during the war, banking and credit businesses occupy a prominent place. There are, for instance, the National Ottoman Credit (£T4,000,000), the Société du Crédit Foncier Ottoman (£T100,000), the National Economic Bank (£T1,500,000), which has been founded by the Kantarieh Company for bakery and Anatolian products, the Agricultural Bank of Magnesia (£T150,000), the Mussulman Bank of Ada Bazar (£T100,000), and the National Mutual Bank (£T1,000,000). There are numerous financial institutions with a capital of less than £T100,000, among them the Commercial Bank of Palestine (£T25,000).

New insurance companies, all with moderate capital, have been formed, notably the Osmanli Milli (£T440,000), founded by the National Ottoman Credit, and the National Turkish Insurance Co. (£T176,000).

There are a number of new commercial companies of importance:—New Commercial Company (£T500,000), Company of Anatolian Products (£T200,000), the National Company for Importation of Colonial Commodities (£T200,000), Company for Turkish Tobacco (£T500,000), The National Turkish Export Company at Smyrna (£T400,000), and the Commercial Company of Karaman (£T200,000).

Industrial companies are numerous, but only five of them have a capital of £T100,000 or over. They are the Altoun Yildiz Wool Company (£T150,000), company for shipbuilding (£T100,000), company for economic undertakings (£T100,000), company for mining and industrial research (£T100,000), and the Exploitation Company, Konieh (£T100,000).

Three agricultural companies are worth notice—The Ottoman Company for organisation and development of agriculture (£T150,000), the Forest Exploitation Company (£T150,000), and the Smyrna Improvement and Building Company (£T300,000). Finally, among miscellaneous companies appears the Theatrical Enterprise Company (£T110,000).

◆

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—November 21, 22, 540,000 francs against 180,000 francs; November 23, 24, 470,000 francs, against 510,000 francs; November 25, 26, 27, 500,000 francs, against 450,000 francs.

◆

Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt.—Meeting will be held at the offices in Alexandria on 19th instant at 4 p.m.

The directors of the British India Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. (3s. per share), less income-tax, on the ordinary shares, payable 21st instant.

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 440 4 per cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust certificates, which have been drawn for redemption on January 1, 1919, when interest thereon will cease.

ON 'CHANGE.

A Dull Tone.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

This has again been a very quiet week, without any very decided tendency, and with, on the whole, only small fluctuations, some of which, in the present very inactive condition of the market, are quite disproportionate to the amount of business done.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at $89\frac{1}{4}$, whilst the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Prefs. remain firm at 77. The Turkish $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Egyptian Tribute 1894 bonds are exceptionally strong at $75\frac{1}{2}$, a rise of one point.

In Bank shares Nationals have changed hands to a very fair extent round $20\frac{3}{4}$, at which price they close, being 1-16 down. Anglo-Egyptians are rather firmer at $20\frac{1}{2}$ xd., but Agriculturals have been rather a dull spot, and, on some small sales on an unsupported market, have dropped 3-16 to 6 13-16.

In Railways, Delta Light, after receding to 8 1-16, close $\frac{1}{8}$ up at $8\frac{1}{4}$.

Amongst Land shares Delta Lands are 3d. down at 16s., whilst Foreign Trusts have gained a like fraction to 15s. 6d. There has been a fair amount of activity in New Egyptians, which, after receding to 21s., have again become a firm market round 21s. 6d. Union Foncières are 1-16 lower at $3\frac{1}{2}$, and United Egyptian Lands fractionally quieter at 3s. 9d.

In Miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters have dropped $\frac{1}{4}$ to $11\frac{7}{8}$, at which price some small transactions were effected. Salts and Sodas, on the publication of the report and accounts, have firmed up 1-16 to 71s. 3d. The decline in Khedivial Mails has again made further progress, and the shares are closing 5s. lower at 3 13-16.

Amongst Greek securities, apart from the decline of half a point in Monopolies to $61\frac{1}{2}$ and in Rentes to 56, there is no change of prices to report, and business in this market has been on the smallest possible scale.

Oil Shares.

In keeping with the general tone of the market, oil shares have displayed a somewhat lower trend. Anglo-Egyptians "B" at 2 9-16 are $\frac{1}{8}$ lower than last week's level. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are firm at 25s. 6d., as are British Burmahs at 13s. 6d.

The Roumanian market has been comparatively featureless. Roumanian Consols are unchanged at 16s., but Anglo-Roumanians and Traian-Roumanians are both weaker, the former being $7\frac{1}{2}$d. down at 9s. $7\frac{1}{2}$d., while the latter are 3d. lower at 10s. 6d.

In Russians Bakus are 3d. lower at 4s. 6d. Ural Caspians close at 1 9-16, a decline of 3-32, and Russian Petroleums at 2s. 3d. are 3d. lower. North Caucasians are unchanged at 26s., while Russian Generals remain at $\frac{7}{8}$.

Paris Bourse.

Prices have shown a somewhat varied tendency. Suez Canals, which rose 75 francs to 5,535 francs, have been the feature among Near East securities. Other prices were:—Egyptian Unifieds 91.75 (against 90.50), Serbian 1895's 61.90 (against 61.85), Turkish Unifieds 71.80 (against 72.95), Banque D'Athenes 108 (against 109), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 783 (against 780), Land Banks 202.50 (against 210), and Ottoman Banks 550 (against 560).

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
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Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

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"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 27	Dec. 4
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6% State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	89½	89¼
Do. Pref. 3½%, 1890	88	77	77
Greek 5%, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5%, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	62	61¼
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56
Do. 5%, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5% Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4% Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do, 4% Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5% Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	81¼
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	74½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	7	6$\frac{13}{16}$
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	20¾	20½xd
Bank of Athens	£2	4¼	4¼
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6¾	6½xd
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9$\frac{33}{64}$	9$\frac{33}{64}$
Chartered Bank of India	65	90	90
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14¼	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	9	8⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	5½	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	18½	19
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20$\frac{13}{16}$	20¾
National Bank of India	43	69	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8⅛	8¼
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1$\frac{1}{16}$	24/-	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	14	14
Do. Pref.	4½	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/3	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/3	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/6	21/6
Sidi Salem Co.	$\frac{5}{16}$	2$\frac{21}{32}$	2$\frac{21}{32}$
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	71/3	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	4/-	3/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	12⅛	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1$\frac{3}{16}$	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	$\frac{11}{16}$	70/-	71/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	81/3	76/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - 75,000

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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ESTABLISHED 1894.

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Subscribed Capital - £1,450,000
Called-up Capital - - £580,000
Reserve - - - - - £237,500

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Paid-up Capital (£12 10s. per Share) £1,000,000
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 397.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

During the coming weeks the Allies have to decide upon the details of the settlement that is to confirm their victory on the battlefield and to enable the world to profit by the peace which has been won at so great a cost. In view of the number of the delegates allotted to each country it is to be hoped that the dilution of the small War Council which during the critical days of the struggle has learned the value of the Allies maintaining whole-hearted unity at all costs will not prejudice the harmony of the Conference. If the proposal to refer to separate committees the questions that turn largely on technical points be acted upon, it should be possible to avoid at the plenary meetings the spectacle of oratorical duels between the spokesmen of conflicting schemes. The preliminary discussion round the committee table will determine what is common ground in any controversial settlement and what remains contested. When the latter comes up for settlement before the Conference, it may be expected that the only arguments calculated to carry weight will be too severely matter-of-fact to leave room for impassioned eloquence.

Although the United States have retained a representative in Bulgaria throughout the war and a British mission is now installed in Sofia to superintend the carrying out of the terms of the armistice, no definite information is forthcoming as to conditions in Bulgaria. From the fact that King Boris remains on the throne, it has to be surmised that any revolutionary movement that there may have been—the actual strength of the revolutionary army was once stated—has failed. Probably the view obtains that when the whole of Europe is in the melting pot, the situation in Bulgaria is of no great importance, so long as the Allies' terms are being acted upon and peace is maintained. With regard to the maltreatment of prisoners of war, it will be necessary for the Allies' Peace Conference to fix upon a uniform course to be adopted against those who were responsible, alike in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Another point that will not be lost sight of in Paris is that any future arrangements in regard to the Balkans must guarantee the impossibility of border fighting as an aftermath of the passions rekindled by the events of the war. It will not be enough to provide that no Balkan Government shall exercise jurisdiction over any considerable alien community. Boundaries will have to be marked by a veritable no-man's land, from which all armed forces beyond the necessary police force will have to be excluded. The suggestion is not made from a desire to shield this or that people from what might be regarded as their deserts, but in the interests of the general peace. The rule must be applied to the Albanian frontiers as well as to the Bulgarian. No Balkan frontiersman is likely to be grateful for being deprived of the opportunity of keeping himself in war training; but in the new era it has to be brought home to him in a practical manner that border feuds and brigand work can no longer be tolerated. As we have urged before, there must be a distinct proviso for the disbandment of all *komitaji*.

As was to be expected, the Montenegrin Government, under King Nicholas, at Neuilly, does not acknowledge the competency of the meeting at Podgoritza to determine the future constitution of Montenegro. This right, it is pointed out, belongs only to the National Parliament, whose members have been legally elected by the people. A large number of the deputies are still detained in what was Austria-Hungary; others have not yet returned from Allied or neutral countries. The Podgoritza assembly would seem to have acted with more haste than discretion. A self-constituted Government is actually in existence in Montenegro. It consists, we understand, of four Ministers, three of whom are lawyers, and the fourth a professor and philosopher. The Premier, M. Raitchevitch, was associated with General Vechovitch in his guerilla warfare against the Austrians. The liberation of the country has been followed by a great revival of political activities, and a number of parties are competing for power. It was probably from a desire "to keep things moving" that the Podgoritza gathering was held, if indeed M. Raitchevitch's party was responsible for the step. But a body claiming to be a National Parliament or a Constituent Assembly ought to have confidence in its own authority. It should avoid unseemly haste and act in a way that would convince the outside world of its strength and of its belief in its own competence. The Podgoritza assembly has done neither.

King Nicholas still remains in France. His request to be allowed to return to Montenegro was made to the French Government over three weeks ago, but so far the latter has not seen its way to grant it. The reason for the refusal is not apparent. French troops are in Montenegro, and may be said to be engaged in the re-establishment of normal conditions in the country; but it is probable that other troops are no less active with a different end in view. In any case, if it was possible to summon a "parliament" by November 29, fairly normal conditions must already have been established. On the other hand, if the Podgoritza meeting represented a revolutionary movement, it is evident that the people to cope with it are the duly constituted authorities of Montenegro. No doubt King Nicholas looks to France to give him material assistance on his return to his country, and on this ground the French Government could plead the inopportunity of the moment for his return, but the result is to prejudice the King's position among his people. In such circumstances, however, it would have been better for King Nicholas to have returned empty-handed rather than to have allowed himself to be placed in a false position.

As things are, there is some hope that the re-victualling of Montenegro will not be unduly delayed. The matter is understood to be engaging the attention of the Inter-Allied Food Council. Funds are in existence for the purpose, a commission is ready to receive the goods for distribution, and within a few days after the details of the organisation have been approved the work of relief can begin. The Montenegrin Government has sent Dr. Dobrechitch to this country as its envoy in connection with the relief measures. In this way, it is to be hoped, the task of revictualling the Balkan States will be carried out uniformly, so that all the peoples will have the same chance of settling down to the process of economic, and, where necessary, political, reconstruction. It must be the aim of the British, French, and American Governments to convince these States that there is no desire to distinguish between them as recipients of their good will and confidence.

An interesting despatch from a Press correspondent at Baghdad indicates on general lines the attitude of the Arabs towards the British occupation.

> "Prosperity abounds," the correspondent states, "and the people are settling down to a life of security and peace. But some anxiety exists as to the future of the Irak State. Arab opinion is all for British help. We owe it to the world at large as well as to the inhabitants of this country to afford this and to back it up by armed force. Thus only can the inhabitants be given the desired degree of liberty to administer themselves under British advice, by means of representative institutions suited to the country. The inhabitants do not expect, or desire, that we should leave the country, knowing its control to be a task beyond their power. Because of the tribes, semi-civilised, turbulent, avaricious, and well armed, who might at any time plunge the country into general chaos, the British Army is essential to save Mesopotamia from disorder."

All this is axiomatic, but it needs re-stating, as a reminder to those who affect to believe that with the signature of peace or even of the armistice there is no more work for the British Army to do. The very tribes, it may be added, who are now well armed and turbulent, will be among the first to benefit by the *pax Britannica*, for they will be attracted by the settled conditions afforded under British jurisdiction, and will gradually abandon their nomadic life to join the ranks of the world's producers.

From the tenour of the French Government's reply to a communication from the Central Syrian Committee it may be inferred that the Allies are on their guard against a repetition of the mistake of being hurried into rash agreements. The Committee has the knowledge of the Allies' solicitude for the oppressed nationalities of Asia Minor, and now receives the assurance that Syria will be allowed to work out its own evolution towards a peaceful civilization. But the presence of the Emir Feisul as the guest of the French and British Governments is a guarantee against any hole-and-corner agreement regarding the future of Syria. As for what is described as a bitterly worded appeal from Shekri Ganem to the British authorities to relax certain restrictions imposed as a result of war conditions, it will be recalled that during the war some of the Syrians in what was then Turkish territory were taken to task by their fellow-countrymen for failing to do anything in support of the measures being taken for their relief, and it was suggested that they would probably be the first to cry out when once they had been liberated.

Those of our readers who are familiar with the course of Indian finance will not be surprised at the news cabled last week that the Administration is once again tightening its belt and preparing for a lean season. A bad monsoon means decreased income and much extra expenditure, and with the heavy cost of demobilisation to be provided, there will necessarily be little money to spare for all the urgent matters which have been hung up during the war. It is easy to realise the disheartening effect which such orders must produce on zealous officers who have been compelled to mark time for the last three or four years, and have been looking forward eagerly to an opportunity of putting into practice a great variety of beneficent schemes. But that is the way things happen in India, where, as a wise man once said, the bottom always falls out of the bucket.

It is satisfactory, however, to see that economic progress will not be entirely suspended, for the orders indicate that money may be spent, if it can be got, on the development of industries, on the forests, and on agricultural experiments, the three departments of activity which must now bear the brunt of the fight against poverty, as well as on the extension of education, which is scarcely less necessary for the future of the country, though it can do little to fill the stomachs of the present generation. We hope that when the financial sky clears Lord Chelmsford and his advisers will see that the productive departments get a fair chance, and are provided with the money, and the men, for which they have been waiting so long.

Apart from the undoubted needs of the country, there is a special reason just now for an immediate forward policy of economic development. In the gradual advance towards self-government, it is obvious that the productive departments cannot be reserved indefinitely, and in fact they bulk largely in the provisional list of activities to be "transferred," which is appended to the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. They are not, however, yet ripe for transfer; there is still much preliminary work to be done of the kind which can be carried through most effectively by the present bureaucratic administration; it has fallen rather seriously behindhand in these years of stress, and the lost ground ought to be made up without delay, so that the departments may be ready for transfer as soon as the new constitutional authorities are ready to take them over.

England, in fact, is in the position of trustee for a ward possessed of large undeveloped estates. The ward is rapidly growing up and will soon claim possession of the property, but will not at the outset possess very much experience of practical affairs; he will be competent to take over and manage a going concern, but it cannot be expected that he will be familiar with the more delicate operations of development. In this position the trustee's duty is obvious; the estate must be brought into working order without any further delay, the difficulties in the way of development must be faced and overcome, and the business so organised that it can prosper in relatively inexperienced hands. That, to our mind, is the most urgent task now confronting Lord Chelmsford and his advisers.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. H. F. W. Gillman, a member of the committee appointed to consider the transfer of functions under the scheme of constitutional reform. Mr. Gillman's selection was attacked in some quarters on the ground that he was hostile to Brahmin aspirations, but the truth was that he was able to see the people of India as a whole, and he appreciated the relative importance of the different classes more justly than his critics are in a position to do. For this reason in particular the Committee is weakened by his loss, but his successor, Mr. M. E. Couchman, is a good selection, and his long practical experience of agricultural and industrial affairs will be valuable to a Committee which has to make recommendations regarding the future of the productive departments.

LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 4.

Return of Residency.

The Residency returned to Cairo last Thursday from Alexandria for the winter season. The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate travelled up from Sidi-Gaber by special train, accompanied by the Staff. There was no official reception either at the departure or on the arrival at Cairo.

The Education Report.

The publication of the report on the Secondary Certificate Examinations this year has created somewhat of a stir. Not that the opinion of the general system of education or of the material from which the schools draw their pupils was in itself a surprise to most people; but the fact that the Ministry should so publicly and so boldly set on record the views of the examiners and revisors, together with those of the Chief Inspector, who was General President of the Examining commissions, came quite as a shock to the bureaucrats. As a matter of fact, it has been known for some time that there was something radically wrong with the general educational system of the country, and with the manner in which English was being taught. Wherever one went one heard the same criticism: a poor standard of English among the graduates, irresponsibility and total lack of the power of judgment, a marked absence of general knowledge, lack of keenness in the work of those who obtained Government posts, and an unwillingness to go through the drudgery that can alone lead to success in a career.

Mr. Boyd Carpenter has most courageously dotted the I's and crossed the T's of the examiners in their reports, and has emphasised and amplified the criticisms which are addressed alike to the private schools and the pupils themselves, though at the same time he has not exaggerated the situation. The conclusions he has drawn and the suggestions he has made are generally approved, and it is hoped that proper effect will be given without undue delay to the latter.

There is no doubt that the adoption of Arabic as the linguistic medium of instruction in science, geography, etc., is wrong. Attention has been drawn to this fact very frequently in this correspondence during the past four or five years, and there is no need now to labour the point. The satisfactory thing is that the Ministry of Education itself puts on record its opinion that the policy is wrong; and so there is a hope that there will be an early return to the former method, which will undoubtedly conduce to better results in the different subjects and a higher standard in English, since the students will have more opportunity of practice than they have at present. The control over candidates in the matter of their preparedness and the intervals at which unsuccessful ones may re-present themselves is also excellent. It is not sufficient, however, to penalise only the pupils who fail; similar penalties should be inflicted on the schools from which they come. Indeed, in this country, where public spirit does not exist, and everyone looks first at, and acts solely in, his own interest, education should under no circumstances be allowed to be carried on uncontrolled. Since the organisers of the private schools cannot be trusted to do this work conscientiously they should be made to fulfil certain initial but necessary conditions as to personnel and syllabus; they should be subjected to control, with the menace that if they do not conform to the requirements of the Ministry of Education, or their candidates do not show a certain standard of preparation, they can be closed by Ministerial order, and can be excluded from participation at future examinations.

The reform of the educational system existing in the country presages, and most necessarily so, an increase in the English personnel of the Ministry. The latter has given up the best part of its English staff to the war—it stands in this respect very nearly, if not quite, at the top of the list of administrations—and as a result it has not been able to carry out the inspection of the State-aided schools in the same efficient manner as it used to; hence the falling off in the State-inspected schools. Not only must all these old posts be filled up again, but the closer control over the private schools will of itself necessitate a large inspectorate staff.

The Egyptian University.

It is surely a curious turn of fate which has made the appearance of the Secondary Certificate report coincide so closely with the nomination of Saad Pasha Zagloul to the Controllership of the Egyptian University. It was during that gentleman's tenure of the portfolio of Education ten years ago that the abolition of English and the adoption of Arabic as the medium of instruction in the schools were decided upon and introduced. Although he was selected from the reactionary party by Lord Cromer to fill a prominent post in the Government, and was lauded by him in his valedictory speech at the Opera House as one of the most enlightened Egyptians, he nevertheless retained all his Nationalist proclivities; and when in the course of the pan-Egyptian wave that swept over the country in 1907-1910, the party clamoured for the adoption of Arabic in the schools instead of English, he supported the movement to such an extent that Sir Eldon Gorst in the face of strong opposition from the British educational heads ordered the change to be made. Of his reactionary turn of mind we had a sample during the session of the Legislative Assembly, when to the surprise of everyone and to the disgust of those of us who had expected greater things from him and an example to be set to the rest, he, one of the Vice-Presidents, took up a deliberately antagonistic attitude towards the Government, and encouraged the opposition faction to the point of leaving the house at its head. The pass to which his policy has now brought education in this country will, it is to be hoped, have led him to reconstruct his ideas on the subject; otherwise the ill-fated Egyptian University, to which he has now been appointed Controller, may expect to progress still further on its downward career.

The Legislative Assembly.

Mention of the Legislative Assembly reminds me that by the death of Eloui Pasha, the eminent oculist and scientist, that august body has added one more to the list of seats that have become vacant during the war. Their number is fourteen, of which nine have fallen vacant through death, one by the appointment of Said Zulfikar Pasha to the post of Grand Chamberlain to the Sultan, two through resignation, and the remaining two for political reasons. The sitting of the Assembly and the elections, which should have taken place during the war, were, it may be remembered, postponed *sine die*. It is to be presumed, however, that in the near future that body may expect to receive permission to resume the labours which were entrusted to it in 1913, and which, owing to the intervention of the war, it was only able to exercise during one session; and that the return of peace conditions will see a General Election in Egypt.

November 11.

Return of the Sultan.

His Highness the Sultan came up to Cairo by special train on Monday last. He was accompanied by the Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Acting Financial Adviser and his Household. There was a large gathering of officials and notables on the platform to greet his Highness on his return to the capital. A graceful compliment was paid him by the Royal Air Force. At the moment the special train entered the station four aeroplanes appeared over the city. They performed all manner of evolutions, dropping coloured lights at intervals, and returned to the aerodrome at Zeitun as soon as the Sultan had entered Abdin Palace. With the return of the Court the seat of Government has been re-transferred to Cairo, and his Highness presided on Saturday over the first Council of Ministers held in Cairo since May last.

The Armistices.

The satisfactory change in the general war situation is, of course, the main topic of conversation out here, as it surely must be in every other part of the universe. The foreign colonies have preserved very commendable and dignified calm in the presence of events which mean so much to all of them.

Even the news of the capitulation of Turkey, which in a way more directly interested the local population, was received very quietly, the event having been expected for some days prior to its occurrence. The sole exceptions to the general attitude of calm have been the Greek and Italian communities. The former are greatly gratified at the prospect of their fleet co-operating with the Entente navies at the entry into the Bosphorus, but their rejoicing has mainly taken the form of celebrations of Te Deums in the churches. On the other hand, the Italian community has come out with flags at every point, and many members paraded the city singing the national anthem and acclaiming the Entente Powers and the occupation of Trieste.

On the Egyptians the general collapse of the Central Empire group has had a varying effect. The fellaheen, it has left quite unperturbed; in fact, whichever way the cat had jumped they would not have really minded, for the simple reason that, although they are sympathetically inclined towards the British, their interests are wrapped up in their fields, their village quarrels and their produce, entirely to the exclusion of all extraneous influences; though it must be admitted that latterly, and by that I mean of late years, more of them have taken an interest in political matters than was the case twenty years ago. The mercantile class and those who have dabbled in cereals and general goods, South Europeans and Levantines, as well as Egyptians, are beginning to pull long faces. Prolongation of the war meant more profit for them, without any contribution to the cost of administration, whereas the cessation of hostilities, conducing as it does to freer communications between Egypt and the outside world and bringing nearer the date when a more equitable adjustment of the fiscal burden in this country will be possible, must perforce threaten the extent of their profits, if indeed it does not bring them in the long run serious loss. It will no doubt be some time before communications with the outside world assume any improvement; but in the meantime there is every possibility of a slump in the near future in certain local markets.

Amongst the remainder of the local population there is a certain element, which, I find, the sudden change in the war situation has somewhat nonplussed. This element, consisting, it is regrettable to say, largely of educated men, has up to now persisted in refusing to credit the news of German and Turkish defeat. It has asserted its belief that the Turkish army was still intact on the Palestine front, and has characterised all our statements of victories and captures of prisoners as mere fabrications. Its members are beginning at last to have a glimmer of the true situation, and to realise that all is far from being as well with the Germans and Turks as they would fain have it. They, however, derive some consolation from a most extraordinary theory which they now fondly cherish, and which I find is quite widespread. This theory is that Dr. Wilson, when he propounded his doctrine of self-determination for small nations, had in mind the Egyptians, and that at the end of the war he will insist on their being allowed to "self determine" if they so wish; in which event this element foresees the advent of self-government for them and their fellow-countrymen. Whilst the recent events on the various fronts have shattered their other views, nothing will dissuade them from the above belief, and as a result it is to be feared that a rude awakening awaits them.

Flower Show in Cairo.

The Ezbekia Gardens were recently the scene of an interesting flower show held by the Sultania Horticultural Society. The show was opened by Lady Wingate, who was accompanied by Mrs. R. Wingate and Captain Alexander. Lady Allenby also paid a visit during the afternoon, and there was a very good number of visitors. This is the second show held by the Society since its reconstruction. The first was a vegetable exhibition—and a very good one at that—whilst this one, although termed a flower show, was really a chrysanthemum show with numerous exhibits of flowers and fruits. The weather interfered considerably with the exhibits, the sudden heat wave, which we were then going through, causing all the flowers to droop. Nevertheless, they were sufficiently in condition for one to admire them and be able to compliment the exhibitors on the success of their efforts. Some of the roses were very fine, and there was an excellent exhibit of foreign fruit, tropical and non-tropical, grown in Egypt. From the utilitarian point of view perhaps the most interesting exhibit—or rather side exhibit—was the stand of native woods. There were specimens of "sant" wood beautifully grained and polished, and of "lebbekh" stained and polished. To the ordinary observer these exhibits were a revelation and an interesting indication of another direction in which Egyptian industry could develop its activities. The Egyptian Horticultural Society is certainly to be congratulated on having once more got together a very interesting show.

Spanish Influenza.

Spanish influenza, which made its appearance in Egypt some while back, has begun to assume somewhat serious proportions. The attack started in Alexandria at the end of the summer and has now spread to Cairo, where it is very severe at the present time. There have been numerous deaths amongst the indigenous population and amongst the soldiers, most of the mortality being due to pneumonia, which supervenes in so many instances. The doctors are having an exceedingly busy time, but it is hoped that the epidemic will be got well in hand before long.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, November 6.

The Acting Governor-General and Sirdar is expected to return to Khartoum with his Staff about the 15th of the month.

The arrival of the north wind has brought a welcome change in the weather, and the thermometer has reached a maximum below 100 degrees. The winter season may, therefore, be said to be about to begin.

The chief topics of interest at the present are the supply of wheat flour and the "durra" harvest. The former is somewhat low, and as the new crop cannot be expected for six months, some care has to be exercised in the distribution of supplies. The "durra" harvest has been rather disappointing. There was a possibility of a good crop, which, with the supplies in hand, would have made a considerable export easy. Unfortunately, the last rains which were required to bring the crop to maturity failed almost entirely, and as a result the crop is something below average. This applies especially in the Gezira, which forms the chief area for export owing to its proximity to the railway. There is no danger of famine, but some supervision of the distribution may be required, so that in those places where the crops have wholly failed there may be a supply for local needs. In the extreme south the failure of the rains may lead to a more serious situation, and some sort of relief may be needed. It appears that in Uganda and in parts of B.E.A. the Government has already had to start relief.

In the White Nile province the failure of the Nile flood to reach its full height has caused only a small area to be flooded for "seluca" cultivation, and this will be some handicap locally. The crops in the southern part of this province have been moderate, but in the northern half they have almost wholly failed.

It is reported from Eritrea and the western parts of Abyssinia that the rains have been disappointing, and it is not unlikely that there may be considerable want in places. In Eritrea the Government has been buying for a considerable time, and the failure of this year's crop will presumably be a serious matter.

It appears that the rains all over the high lands of Eastern Africa have failed for a considerable time. What effect, if any, this may have on the Nile flood remains to be seen. The Great Lakes, which had risen unexpectedly, have dropped several feet again, and it is to be hoped that abundant winter rains will restore the balance and bring the situation back to normal.

MOROCCO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, December 1.

The 'Flu and Some Results.

There has been much improvement in the state of public health, at least as far as regards influenza, since the rains began and the nights became cooler, both here and in the neighbouring zones. Very severe criticisms of the inaction of the international authorities in Tangier when the epidemic commenced have appeared in England. It should not be forgotten, however, as explained in The Near East some weeks ago, that whilst Tangier is "international" in so far as she is governed by the Diplomatic Corps, the Special International Statute which had been so much discussed, of which so much was hoped, and which was to have been administered by a properly constituted authority, was not, at the last moment, approved by all the Powers concerned; and so was laid aside; the consequence being that Tangier can hardly be said to be governed at all, internationally or otherwise. It is also by no means certain that, had any one Power had full authority here, anything more would have been done for the native population when the epidemic became really bad. From information which I have every reason to believe trustworthy, it appears that the condition of things amongst the natives in the French zone was quite as bad, to say the least of it; and no steps seem to have been taken there until Europeans were attacked and prominent people began to succumb. Then a move was made with such a will that, it is said, even water for domestic purposes was disinfected and tea tasted of chloride of lime!

Much excellent work was done amongst the natives here in Tangier and the surrounding villages by private individuals, two or three showing very great devotion in visiting the sick in the very poorest huts, regardless of risk to themselves, alleviating their sufferings and instructing them in precautions to be taken and in simple methods of treatment. There is plenty of ground for complaint of those who are supposed to govern Tangier, and their action and inaction are generally open to criticism; but in the case of the influenza they were no more blameworthy than any other municipal authority which had to be stirred up by public opinion.

One good result of the visitation is that many of the filthiest holes and corners—and there were some very filthy ones—which had never been visited by a scavenger, have been well cleaned out. Of course, they will not remain clean long; it is hopeless to expect that, as things are; but they will remain more or less decent for some little time.

Now that the war is over, we are again venturing to hope that this chaotic state may really be nearing its end, and that amongst the many questions held over for solution when Peace is signed the future government of Tangier will not be forgotten.

Many rumours as to the eventual fate of Tangier have been current during the war, each in its turn gaining a certain amount of credence. What the British colony desire is easily guessed, and their view has many supporters, both native and foreign.

Peace Rejoicings.

In common with the rest of the world, Morocco gave itself over to rejoicing on the signing of the Armistice—both Moors and Europeans feeling, though not yet able to realise fully, the relief after the fearful strain of the last 4½ years. Here at Tangier it had been announced on the night of Friday, the 8th, that the Armistice was signed, and the news was duly fêted, both privately and at the Club and the Kursaal, until a late hour. On Saturday morning there was great disappointment when the news was contradicted, an unwarranted depression being evident in some quarters; but on Monday, when the official news arrived, rejoicing became general, banks and offices closed, and the streets were crowded with joyful throngs. There was naturally a great demand for flags, and an attempt was made to corner the stocks, and the supply of British colours was soon exhausted.

A thanksgiving service was held in our English Church on Sunday, the 17th, the Rev. E. Blaxland coming from Gibraltar, where he is stationed, to officiate. All the members of the British Diplomatic and Consular Staffs were present, as well as representatives of all our Allies. A number of officers and men from British steamers lying in the bay attended the service, and the little church was very crowded.

On Tuesday, the 19th, Sir Herbert and Lady White gave an At Home and impromptu dance at the Agency, to which all members of the colony were invited. A very large number attended and showed their appreciation of

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the opportunity of meeting to demonstrate their loyalty and to exchange congratulations.

A solemn Te Deum was celebrated in one of the Roman Catholic churches on the 12th, and a thanksgiving service held in one of the Jewish synagogues; and a torchlight procession and a demonstration in the local theatre were organised. Altogether a most memorable ten days' rejoicing.

A Hint to Invalids.

We are having glorious weather; the sun is still quite warm, beautiful starlight nights with just enough sharpness in the air to be pleasant. What a pity, for some of the poor tired, jaded people in England, that the tourist steamers are not running! Though living here is frightfully dear—much more so than in England—we are in many ways much better off than those at home.

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EMIR FEISUL IN ENGLAND.

The Emir Feisul, third son of the King of the Hejaz, arrived in England on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of presenting the respects of his father to the King. The Emir (says Reuter's Agency) is a tall, dignified figure, somewhat fairer than the usual Arab type, and is thirty-two years of age. He assumed direct command in the field of the Arab Northern Army, and led it on three successive and successful campaigns. During the whole of this period he lived as an ordinary soldier, enduring extremes of heat and cold, and was continually in the firing line. A price was placed on his head, and at any time he was in danger, if captured, of being executed by the Turks. A most interesting account of his achievements appeared recently in a series of articles, entitled "The Arab Epic," in *The Times*.

The Emir was met on arrival in this country by Mr. R. F. Synge on behalf of the Foreign Office. Wearing a long black *abba*, or cloak, and a headcloth of Damascus silk with golden *hagal* of Meccan manufacture, he received Mr. Synge in his saloon. On landing at Dover the Emir was received by the naval authorities. He is accompanied by Colonel T. E. Lawrence, General Nury Faieh, Chief of the Staff of the Arab Northern Army, and a suite including A.D.C.s, a doctor, and a secretary. General Faieh, who is a native of Baghdad, commanded a flying column of the Arab Army which co-operated on General Allenby's right wing last September. His army fought so well that General Allenby gave him the prestige of being the first to enter Damascus and Aleppo at the head of his columns.

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"THE SALT OF THE EARTH."

To those of us who love the Arab, the visit to this country of the Emir Feisul is an event of almost unique interest. Other distinguished Allies have come and gone of late, and London has welcomed them tumultuously. What will the Londoners think of the Emir? How will they welcome him? Less warmly, in all probability, than they have welcomed many a lesser man; for the only "Arabs" of which the majority of them know anything at all are their own "street arabs." The Desert is all unknown to them, as is the spirit that it breeds; and the outlook on life of the Bedawi is as unlike the outlook of the Londoner as are the black tents of the Desert from the grimy buildings of a modern great city. Indeed, your lover of cities never could catch the spirit of the Desert, nor could he ever truly appreciate the character of the Bedawi; though, if he were an admirer of Mr. Hichens' stories, he might pretend to do so. Not his to share the enthusiasm of the writer of that brilliant "Arab Epic" that appeared recently in *The Times*. There we read of the "townsmen and villagers of Syria" that they are "excellent people, but not the salt of the earth, as are the Arabs of the desert." Which is plain truth.

It is men like Colonel T. E. Laurence, Captain Woolley, Captain Newcombe, the late Major Wavell, Captain Shakespeare, and a hundred others who are able to understand the Bedawi. And they understand him because they like him, in the first place, and because they honestly like—or certainly do not dislike—his simple way of life. England has been fortunate in that she has had many men of this type in the past—Burton and Kitchener, for instance—and that the Great War has brought many of them to the fore. In Mesopotamia to-day there are numbers of young "politicals" who, by reason of the faith that is in them, have been, and are, working miracles amongst the Arabs of that troublous region. It is these lovers of the Arab who will surely help him and his race to restore the glories of the Abbasside days, when Baghdad was the Queen of Cities. It is they who have helped him

doing it no less than the "Bedu" has revelled in it himself.

It is, perhaps, unfortunate that so few Englishmen know what splendid work our Arab Allies have done in this war. We are all indebted to the writer already referred to for lifting the veil for us to some extent; but we still want to be told a lot more. For "The Arab Epic" is full of colour and of deeds of chivalry (on the part of the Arabs) such as redeem war from some of its worst horrors; and this tribute to the Emir and his countrymen cannot be closed more fittingly than by a quotation from it. It concerns an action outside the walls of Medina. The Arabs were clamouring to be led against a strong fort, and when Feisul tried to hold them back they "plunged forward without him." The writer continues:—

"The Turks had, however, a formidable armament collected there, and the Arabs had never before met artillery fire. The assaulting column swerved aside and took refuge in the broken lava slopes of a low hill outside the north-east angle of the town. The Turks saw their weakness, and sent out an enveloping force to cut off and destroy them. Feisul, with the rest of the Arabs, a mile back on the flank, saw the danger of their fellows, and started out to help them. The Turks opened with all their guns from the town wall, covering the open ground with bursting shrapnel, and after their first losses the Arabs wavered, and then took cover in the gardens. Feisul rode up to their front line on his horse and called to them to follow him. Their chief refused, saying that it was death to cross the plain. Feisul laughed, and, turning his horse, forced it at a walk through the Turkish fire till he had gained the shelter of the opposite gardens. Then he waved to the men behind him, who charged across to him at a wild gallop, losing only about twenty men on the way." Having regard to Arab methods of and views upon fighting, surely nothing finer than that was done in all the war. And—Emir Feisul is now in our midst.

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THE PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 18.

The administration of the occupied territories in Palestine is gradually being consolidated and organised on a firm basis. Various appointments have been made or are about to be announced. Amongst them are the following, which will interest those readers who have had any connection with Egypt:—

Lieut.-Colonel Gabriel as Financial Adviser; Colonel Cathcart Garner, late of the Egyptian Public Health Department, as Chief Medical Officer; Major Orme Clarke, who prior to the war was one of the experts called in by the Ottoman Government to revise the Ottoman Codes, etc., as Senior Judicial Officer; Major Norman Bentwich and Major J. H. Scott, both of the Sultania School of Law, as Judges; Colonel E. S. Jackson, C.M.G., D.S.O., of the Sudan Service, as Political Adviser to the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration; Major Tadman, of the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of Education; Captain J. W. A. Young, of the Ministry of Finance, as Agricultural Officer; Captain Waley as Deputy Military Governor of Zamerin and District; Captain Hubbard, of the Egyptian Coastguards Service, as Military Governor of Jaffa; Major Kenny, of the Egyptian Army, as Military Governor of Nablus; Major Mason, of the Egyptian Veterinary Service, as Veterinary Adviser; whilst the services of Major G. H. Carey and Captain W. A. C. Baynes, both of the Egyptian Bench, have been lent for a period in connection with the Palestine Courts. In addition it should be mentioned that Colonel Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., late Oriental Secretary to the Residency at Cairo, who has done such excellent work as Military Governor of Jerusalem, was recently delegated to organise the administration of Haifa whilst retaining his post in the Holy City. As can be seen, Anglo-Egypt is supplying many of the posts, and there is reason to believe that other appointments from the Egyptian Civil Service will in due course be made to fill posts in the Judicial, Financial, Educational and Municipal Administrations of Palestine.

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Parcels can now be accepted for transmission to Greece. The rates of postage for Greece are: Weight not exceeding 3 lb., 2s. 4d.; exceeding 3 lb. but not exceeding 7 lb., 3s; exceeding 7 lb. but not exceeding 11 lb., 3s. 8d. Parcels cannot be insured and must not exceed three and a-half feet in length or six feet in length and girth combined. One despatch note and one

THE VALI OF SMYRNA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, November 10.

Among the names of leading Turks which are mentioned in the articles written on the political situation in Turkey prior to the Armistice appears that of Rahmi Bey. This is the man who was Vali of Smyrna from the beginning of the war, and was only recently dismissed from that post. He has always been known as very "Ententophile," and the residents of Smyrna confirm in every detail the statements that he did everything he could to assist the enemy subjects and make their life easier and more bearable. He is generally regarded as the best Vali that district had ever had, for not only was he an able administrator, but he was also absolutely reliable, always carrying out his promises and never evading responsibility or a direct answer to a question.

According to the Turkish papers, which, by the by, appear to have become very outspoken and anti-German by that time, he was dismissed from his post for wanting to take a too active part in the political activities which preceded the armistice. He published an article in the *Journal d'Orient* of October 18, declaring that Turkey was going to throw off the German yoke and make a separate peace with the Entente. This somewhat upset the calculations of his friends in Constantinople, who were aware of his progressist tendencies and of his ambitions, and who, feeling that he would push on too far and leave them behind, decided to dismiss him. His dismissal took place on October 24. When the news was known in Smyrna there was great regret and indignation. The local press published eulogistic articles on the ability with which he had filled his post—encomiums which were certainly merited—and expressed the hope that his successor would be actuated by the same high motives; and he was presented with a farewell address, expressing their gratitude, by the British residents.

Apart from his Ententophile feelings, Rahmi Bey was exceedingly anti-German, and an amusing story is told of his dealings with the German Consul. Wishing to provide money for the building of a Turkish school, Rahmi Bey increased the postal rates on parcels by one piastre. As the Germans were sending large number of parcels, containing food and curios, to Germany, this increase hit them rather hard, and their Consul complained of what he termed the illegality of the Vali's act. Rahmi accordingly took off the extra piastre, but the Germans found that the boatmen who loaded the parcels immediately started to charge three piastres instead of one per parcel. The German Consul duly complained, but Rahmi replied that he really couldn't help it if the boatmen chose to charge more than usual. To the Consul's plaint that the extra two piastres were being taken from the boatmen by the Vali, the latter replied that that was not so, and that if the boatmen liked to give him two piastres per parcel towards the cost of erecting a school he was not going to refuse to take the money. The school was in due course erected, and at the inauguration ceremony Rahmi Bey publicly thanked the German Consul for the assistance the Community had given towards the cost of the building, adding at the same time details of the manner in which this contribution had been made. The story runs that the German Consul was beside himself with rage, and left after rebuking the Vali for asking him to be present in order to insult him.

THE BRITISH IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A letter received this week from Constantinople gives particulars of some members of the British colony who remained in that city. The writer mentions that the Rev. Robert Frew, who had been sent to Brousa, is back in Constantinople, "just the the same as ever, not altered a bit," and that he was, at the time the letter was written, "preparing a social evening for our officers and men." Others mentioned as having been seen are Mr. P. C. Leete and his mother, Mr. James Gatherall, Mr. Morton Dawson, Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Viricombe, and Captain Palmer. Mr. James MacGill, who had been interned for some time, is reported to be now on his way to England.

Another letter says:—"The sight on shore was very interesting, comprising a mixture of English 'Tommies' and French soldiers, English, French and Greek sailors, and Turkish and Hun soldiers, all mixed up, and in such crowds that it was difficult to move about. The 'Tommies' walked about very cheerful-looking, with caps on one side and pipes in mouths, seemingly thoroughly happy and contented. . . . Everything that was obtainable was rather expensive. Cigarettes were unprocurable."

◆

From a Serbian source Reuter's Agency learns that Dr. Rot, formerly Chief Governor of the Banat, denies the report spread in the Hungarian and German Press that Bolshevism was spreading in the Banat and Southern Hungary. Perfect order prevails in all territories occupied by the Serbian Army.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.
London Institution, Finsbury Circus, E.C.2.

ORIENTAL LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS.

Instruction is given in the principal languages of the East and of Africa, and on Oriental and African Religions and Customs.

For particulars, apply to Sir E. DENISON ROSS, Director.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The *Pioneer* tells an amusing story about a "padre" at Bangalore who, being stopped by a policeman for cycling without a light, claimed to be engaged on duty for His Majesty. The police officer rose to the occasion at once. "So am I, sir," he replied, and took the "padre's" address. By the way, what manner of man was it that was once described as loving the darkness and hating the light because his deeds were evil?

⁂

The advertisements in the *Basrah Times* continue to provide me with much interesting reading, as, I suppose, they provide many others who knew the city in its unregenerate days. For instance, who had ever heard of Hyde Park Corner, Magil, twenty—or even four—years ago? But to-day that is gravely given as the address of one of the numerous cinema shows advertised in the *B. T.* Then, among the official notices I have observed one announcing the establishment of a Civil Post Office at Kurnah; another regarding "the conveyance of public goods to Baghdad" by "the Mesopotamian Railways," a third imposing a speed limit for motor bicycles; and yet another, headed "Police Orders for the Muharram," which contained some fairly stiff rules and regulations. That last notice, more than anything else, I think, brought home to me the fact that British law and order really *are* established in Busreh to-day.

⁂

Another notice that I cut out from the *Basrah Times*—it appeared in August, I believe—offered a reward of one thousand rupees for information leading to the arrest of each of four prisoners of war, three of whom were Germans and one "of Indian nationality." "The prisoners were probably dressed as Arabs," says the notice. I hope they were all safely nabbed, especially the gentleman of "Indian nationality," who so far forgot himself as to mix in such company. The Salvation Army, we learn from another notice, has established "Date Palm Corps, Mesopotamia No. 1," which holds meetings at Magil, "in the United Board Chaplain's Tent" and "also under the date palms near Jubailah Road Bridge" at certain specified times. "Will you come?" asks the notice. Nothing would give me greater pleasure. I honestly admire the S.A., and I feel sure it is doing good work on the banks of the Shatt-el-Arab, as elsewhere.

⁂

My reading of unofficial notices and private advertisements (still in the *Basrah Times*) has not provided me with many thrills of late. But when I find enterprising firms advertising the arrival of "Tussore silks . . . embroidered voiles . . . manicure sets," I conclude that Busreh must number more ladies in its population than one would suspect. The item "crochey" in the same advertisement piques my curiosity. Is it meant for "croquet" or for "crochet"? Finally, I find an advertisement of "Persian ware for sale," announcing that the advertiser has "just received another considerable lot of Persian handwork," etc. And the advertiser is a certain ——, dentist. It may be unprofessional, but I should call it "good business." One would hardly care to argue on prices—or any other subject—when one was sitting in the chair of torture. Properly worked, the dental-trading combination ought to prove a little gold-mine.

⁂

When I am told a tale in which the 'long arm of coincidence plays the leading part, so to say, I am usually prepared to accept it as true; for I have seen too many strange coincidences myself—some of them verging on the uncanny—to be sceptical on the subject. The latest thing of the kind to come my way is from an unimpeachable source—a C.F., who is now serving somewhere in Mesopotamia. Some time ago he was acting as *locum tenens* for the rector of a certain London parish, and during this period it fell to his lot to conduct the funeral of a number of victims of an explosion. At the time he noticed a cinematograph man busily at work, but paid no further heed to his presence, and soon forgot it entirely. A short time ago, on arrival at Amarah, he visited a cinematograph show in that unlovely little Tigris town. One of the earliest pictures thrown on the screen was the funeral, with himself very much in evidence. Apart from the interest it holds—for me, at any rate—by reason of the coincidence it hinges on; I found the tale interesting as showing an odd taste on the part of Mesopotamian cinema patrons. Why anybody should care to see pictures of a funeral—especially of a funeral in an ugly London cemetery—passes my comprehension. And I suppose the managers of the "pictures" do consult their patrons' tastes!

CORSAIR.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Call to America.

The coming Peace Conference will have many tough problems to tackle, but none is likely to prove tougher than the disposal of what the *Round Table* refers to as "derelict territories severed from the German and Turkish Empires." The expression occurs in a section of the first article ("Windows of Freedom"), in which "America's Place in World Government" is discussed. "The crux of the problem" (we read) "lies in the fact that none of the territories outside Europe detached by this war from the German and Turkish Empires can in the near future provide peace, order, and good government for themselves. How to provide government for these territories is the most difficult of the questions which the Conference has to face. From a hundred lips and pens the answer will come that the solution lies in international control." That, however, is not the solution urged by the *Round Table*, which wishes to see America shoulder the responsibility. There are countries that can only thrive under guidance and guardianship—

> Egypt is an example of the countries of the Near East for which there is at present no hope except in the guardianship of some civilised State. As powerful financial interests of Europe gained a footing in Egypt, her native despotism developed typical symptoms. Corruption, indebtedness, over-taxation, rapacity, torture and anarchy followed each other in turn. Less than forty years ago Egypt was one of the most miserable countries on earth. To-day she is one of the most prosperous, and is gradually contracting the habits of order from which progress towards self-government can begin. The marvellous transformation worked by Lord Cromer is well known. For the performance of that task, subject to definite treaties, England might well have been made responsible to an Inter-State Conference, had one existed. But what would Lord Cromer's position have been had he been answerable to a Conference of Powers from whom he could obtain no authority or instructions except in so far as they were all unanimous? The results would have been paralysis to begin with, disaster in Egypt, and, perhaps, in the end a conflict between the Powers themselves.

And Americans are invited to "apply the same reasoning to the problem of Mexico, which is at their doors." Later we read: "If ever a League of Nations, clothed with the appearance, but not with the attributes, of a government is used to administer vast territories which cannot as yet govern themselves, it will collapse. Those territories will be involved in its ruin, which will shatter the fabric of civilised society." The time has come for America to consider the whole matter on wide grounds. "The duty of external government can now once for all be placed on its right footing of trusteeship to society at large, if at this juncture the greatest and wealthiest of all democratic nations will not shrink from assuming her share."

> Is it too much to ask that in this crisis of human destiny America shall forget to think of herself, and think rather of those infinitely wider interests to vindicate which she has sent two million Americans to Europe, and in doing so has saved freedom for mankind? Having put her hand to the plough, can she look back? Can she now shrink from the dignity of her calling? Can she now go back to the plea that American interests are the dominating principle of her policy? Can her spokesmen submit that plea to the Conference? And if not, if the welfare of the world at large be now and henceforth freely accepted as the pole-star of her policy, what infinite consequences follow?
>
> There are no problems more calculated to provoke jealousies in peace between allies who have held together in war than those presented by German East Africa and by all the territories of the Middle East bounded by the frontier of Turkey in Europe, the Eastern frontiers of Egypt and Persia, by the Caucasus and the seas which connect these lines. Let us say at once that in these regions there are engagements with France and Italy which must in any case be observed. Pledges are pledges, however made, and it is not in the world's interest to break them. It is at least possible, however, that France might prefer to exchange the responsibilities to which she aspired in the Levant for others in respect of the German colonies of West Africa. All things are possible if the French and British as well as the American people can rise to the spirit of these times. There is no self-denying ordinance which England might not be prepared to make if France would consent to maintain the open door in all her African territories. If America can discard her old traditional aloofness it is surely not too much to ask that her Allies should forget their old rivalries and claims. The interest of the world is the only platform wide enough to hold them all. If once the problem is really considered on that plane it will come to be seen how largely it is solved if once America will make herself answerable to a League of Nations for peace, order and good government in some or all of the regions of the Middle East. Her very detachment renders her an ideal custodian of the Dardanelles. For exactly similar reasons her task in preserving the autonomy of Armenia, Arabia and Persia will be easier than if it were to rest in our hands. Her vast Jewish population pre-eminently fits her to protect Palestine. Her position between India and Europe removes all our objections to the railway development which these regions require. The task is one which she understands better than ourselves, and her knowledge of irrigation is second only to our own. Above all, she has the capital for these works, while we, with less than half her population, will be hard put to it to find enough for the vast territories we already control. Nor can America plead that she lacks knowledge. As a matter of fact, Robert College and the American missions in the Near East have given her a preponderant share, if not the monopoly, of public-spirited men with a first-hand knowledge of these regions.

The *Round Table* certainly makes out a strong case for the policy which, our readers will remember, was advocated long ago in THE NEAR EAST.

The Baghdad Railway.

It is not only the future of Constantinople that will require much careful thought at the Peace Conference when questions affecting the Near East are under discussion. The Baghdad Railway will afford food for discussion, as the *Christian Science Monitor* (Boston) points out in an editorial:—

> The question of the rule of the Turk has to be settled once and for all. The proprietorship of Constantinople is, strictly speaking, a European question, but in concert with the whole question of the Ottoman Empire, it may be regarded as an Asian one. It is perfectly certain that the security of the Armenian people has to be provided for in the future, and an Armenian State set up which shall be endowed with the right and power to govern itself in its own way. Even then there will remain the question as to whether the Turk is to be allowed to hold sway on the western bank of the Bosphorus, and if the Turk is not, then as to who is to be entrusted with the keeping of the Straits? And, in addition to all this, there arises the question of the neutralisation in some form or another of the Baghdad Railway. It is quite certain that the Baghdad Railway cannot be allowed to pass into the hands of some one power with all the possibilities for mischief it possessed before Germany entered the war. The Baghdad Raiway, with its colossal trade opportunities, will have to become an international line, and the security of free transit and equal rights will have to be granted to everybody in the family of the nations.

Dirty but Lively.

Mr. Edmund Candler contributes to the *Spectator* a candid, if uncomplimentary, description of "Shuster." He begins it thus:—

> Shuster is known for its filth, heat, and fanatics. It is probably the most dirty, religious, and immoral town in Persia. Outwardly the place is not characteristically Persian—the town and the people have an individuality of their own; inwardly, I believe, it is the quintessence of old-world Persia—not the ripe fruit ready to fall, but dry and withered fruit on the dead bough.
>
> The dirt, of course, is the most evident of the three evils to which Shuster owes its ill-fame, and the smell which is the soul of dirt. The town challenges Hitt and Mosul for pre-eminence in filth. Mosul, I believe, stands first. Hitt I can vouch for. Shuster is probably less dirty than it was, for it is less populous. It is true that every house is provided with a cavity flush with the street into which its offal is shot; also that each street is a sewer. This is the rule in the East. But when every inhabitant of a city taints six foot of cubic air through the habits of indiscipline a dwindling census within a constant perimeter must be a step to healthier conditions.
>
> I have seen entirely deserted cities, inhabited by monkeys and lizards. They are not so mournful as these half-dead cities where the living pass dreamily through the silent streets. Many of the big houses stood empty, and there were acres of humbler dwellings which had been levelled with the ground. Some of the demolition, I was told, was strategic, and connected with the line of fire between *mahalla* and *mahalla*. For Shuster is troubled by faction. There is generally shooting going on.

Into all the details of the factions and the fights we cannot now follow Mr. Candler, though we enjoyed reading of them. But a conversation which he had with an Englishman on the road to Ahwaz, and with which he closes his amusing article, throws some light on the subject. So we reproduce it:—

> At Derra Ghazineh, on the road to Ahwaz, I met an Englishman who asked me how things were going at Shuster. "Fairly well," I told him. "There has been a bit of shooting at nights—nothing to speak of." "Oh! that is local," he said. "They are always at it. I thought perhaps this Seyyid Isa business might have upset them. You know the Khans have swapped him for Salar-i-Masud." "Yes, but the thing they are excited about now is a shop." "A *mahalla* quarrel, I suppose—property. Last time I was there the Raises got up a dummy scrap. A and B, hated rivals you know, both wanted funds, so they hunted together—a common ruse. First they faked a quarrel. Then delegates from both sides went round to the bazaars and told the shopkeepers there was going to be a scrap that night—'a big thing this time.' They advised them to have a guard, and of course offered to supply it. The merchant is for it either way. If he doesn't pay for the guard, his shop is looted, and the Rais comes round in the morning and says 'I told you so.'" This story was illuminating. Not only did it give me a clue to the inwardness of the Shusteri: it explained his physical appearance—that perched, perky, birdlike look about him which makes you think he is going to hop—not alertly, but deliberately, like one of his house-top storks.
>
> I know nothing about Shuster. I do not pretend to understand it. I carried away suggestions, not facts. But the place gave me the idea that an Englishman, a man who could speak Persian well and had a sense of humour, and was "not incurious in God's handiwork," might spend many days in the garden city of Khuzistan and not be bored.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SPELL OF THE ORIENT.*

"Turkey is doomed, and she deserves to be left *chiplac* (naked), as prophesied by the late Sultan Abdul Aziz, who hearing, whilst in his bath, of the birth of his son and heir said: 'The country under his reign will be reduced to the nakedness I find myself in when hearing of the news of his birth. All will go'" (p. 48).

If the members of the Allied Peace Conference, Eastern or Western, have any time for reading, they might do worse than pick up this unique volume, especially before tackling one of the greatest problems calling for decision—the Government of the "Bridge" between Europe, Asia, and Africa. We will venture upon another quotation to illustrate our timorous advice:—

"One of the Sheiks-ul-Islam at Constantinople, on receiving a visit from Mr. Alison, the First Secretary at the Embassy, who was a fine Arabic scholar, called for his prayer carpet, and devoutly petitioned Allah and Mahomet to forgive him addressing a dog of an infidel.

"When this devout Moslem had finished, Mr. Alison asked permission to use the sacred carpet for the same holy purpose, and, kneeling down, he repeated a form of prayer in excellent Arabic, and ended with a special appeal to the Almighty to forgive him holding speech with a dog of a Mohammedan. The Sheikh-ul-Islam learnt his lesson, while Mr. Alison enjoyed the joke" (p. 174).

Again:—

"I should think but few weddings have been of so composite a character as ours. (Monastir: 1858.) My brother-in-law was a Roman Catholic, His Holiness (the Archbishop of Pelagonia) was the head of the Orthodox (Greek) Church, we were members of the Church of England, and our two witnesses were Mohammedans."

Lady Blunt—"Aunt Fanny," as she is delighted to be known to half the British Navy: and Sir Rosslyn Wemyss writes an introduction to this her second book on the perimeter of the Bosphorus—has given us here a world of light and colour, patched with black and violent shadows—the loveliness of these Paradises of the Near East, the flowers and the honey, the fruits and the perfumes and the oil, the antiquity of Doric and Pelasgic culture, the social backwardness of the Balkan races, their bounteous natures but evil deeds, and over all pillage, ruin, waste, the foul blight of Othman. Lady Blunt's delightful reminiscences call for a lengthy commentary impossible here; they charm and instruct from page to page, with an intimate, even weird, insight into the things and peoples met in her chameleonic vicissitudes.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Can We Compete? Definite Ideas of German Pre-War Methods in Finance, Trade, Education, Consular Training, etc., adapted to British Needs." By Godfrey E. Mappin. (London: Skeffington and Son, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Kultur in Roman Times." By J. Selden Willmore. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Independent Bohemia." By Vladimir Nosek. (London: Dent and Sons. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Palestine of the Jews: Past, Present and Future." By Norman Bentwich. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 6s. net.)

The custom of sending Christmas and New Year cards is not a very old one, but it is a pretty one; and by helping us to keep in touch not only with intimate friends, but also with pleasant acquaintances, it serves a really useful purpose. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons stand easily first as producers of such dainty and seasonable goods; and, judging by samples they have sent us, they are likely to hold that position unchallenged. The reproductions of the Royal cards are of extraordinary interest this year, and the subjects selected by the King and the Prince of Wales—"Entry of Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude into Baghdad," and "Prince Edward, son of King Henry III., in Palestine"—will surely appeal to all readers of THE NEAR EAST. There are very many other beautiful and characterful cards, including types suited to all tastes and—no inconsiderable matter in these days—all purses. The firm's toy books and books for children are also noteworthy, especially a novelty in the form of "model books," which contain the materials for making and colouring various models. These will surely appeal to any boy or girl, and we commend them to the notice of perplexed parents, uncles, aunts, and others wondering "what to get for Tommy—or Mary."

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* "My Reminiscences." By Fanny, Lady Blunt. (John Murray, London, 15s. net.)

"A BURNT SITE was all that remained"

The Serbian Minister of War, General Rashitch, writes to Madame Christitch:

"The achievements of our wonderful men astonish even myself who was with them in their victorious campaigns of 1912 against the Turks, 1913 against the Bulgars, and 1914 against the Austrians. It does not beseem me, perhaps, to dwell on their latest feats, but I cannot refrain from comparing their last triumphant rush into Serbia with the exploits of Napoleon's classical veterans. Although now ripe in age, worn and weary by anxiety for my family and my country, I cannot think about the horrors of war, but have before my eyes the high ideals of my youth, the glory of our effort, and the deliverance of our long oppressed sturdy little nation. Our troops went forward this time not only to defeat the enemy, but to rescue the homes for which they had so poignantly yearned."

But to what homes have these heroes come? Plundered, devastated, ruined homes. The invaders had removed what they could, even to the doors and windows. But worse still, some found no homes; a burnt site was all that remained to recall the spot where a family had once dwelt in happiness.

To restore these homes, to bring together scattered families, is a fact which the Serbian Relief Fund cannot accomplish without your continual aid.

Send a donation to-day to the Hon. Treasurer,
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND
5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7.
(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

Offers of voluntary help at home or abroad should be sent to LADY GROGAN.
Parcels of Clothing, Materials, Boots, &c., for men, women and children should be sent to MRS. CARRINGTON WILDE, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. December 13	1918. November. 30	Friday	1337. Rabia I. 9	5679. Tebet. 10
14	December. 1	Saturday........	10	11
15	2	**Sunday**	11	12
16	3	Monday	12	13
17	4	Tuesday	13	14
18	5	Wednesday	14	15
19	o	Thursday	15	16

M. N. Cantacuzene, formerly Roumanian Minister in Petrograd, arrived in London from Copenhagen last week.

M. Michalacopoulo, the Greek Minister of Agriculture, and Madame Michalacopoulo have left London for France.

Captain E. O. Mousley, R.F.A., who was captured at Kut, has returned home as a special envoy of the Turkish Government.

To help those who have been crippled or maimed in the war, the Maharaja of Alwar has given the Viceroy half a lakh of rupees.

Sir Edward Maclagan, Lieutenant-Governor-designate of the Punjab, and Lady Maclagan are expected to arrive in England on holiday to-day.

Dr. Dobretchitch has arrived in England in connection with the measures being taken by the Inter-Allied Food Council for the relief of Montenegro.

The Serbian Minister and Mme. Yovanovitch on Monday entertained to luncheon M. Grouitch, the Serbian Minister at Washton, and Mme. Grouitch.

Lieut.-Colonel N. Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation and head of the Roumanian Military Mission, returned to London last week from France.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs under date of December 6:—It is understood that the Prime Minister, Rushdi Pasha, has tendered his resignation.

The Greek stall organised by Mrs. Gisburne at the Savoy Fair was very successful. Princess Patricia of Connaught visited the stall, and was one of those who made purchases at it.

The King of the Hellenes has conferred on the Bishop of London the Grand Cross, and on the Rev. Guy Vernon Smith, M.C., C.F., the Cross of Officer, of the Royal Order of the Redeemer.

In response to Lady Jellicoe's appeal on behalf of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, the manager of the Bank of Persia, Shiraz, has forwarded £77, collected from the small community in that town.

On December 6, St. James's Church, Piccadilly, the marriage took place of Mr. C. F. Wilkins, Public Works Department, India, to Miss Amy Warner, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H, Warner, Quorn Hall, Loughborough.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G., is one of the members of a Government Committee at Dover which is engaged in taking the evidence of returning prisoners of war on cases of special cruelty and ill-treatment by the enemy.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place between, Edgar Henry Hitchcock, of Sinnapittia, Gampola, Ceylon, and Elsie Muriel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Merchant, of Harrow.

On December 3, at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, the marriage took place of Henderson Russell Landale, I.A.R.O., son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Landale, of Limpsfield Grange, Surrey, to Gladys Rose, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. N. P. Phipps, of Chalcot, Wiltshire.

The engagement is announced between Captain J. S. W. Stone, M.C., R.E., youngest and only surviving son of Mr. J. H. Stone, C.I.E., and Mrs. Stone, and Dorothy, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Kelway, of Wearne Wyche, Langport.

M. and Mme. Gennadius entertained the Metropolitan of Athens at luncheon last Friday. Among those present to meet him were the Bishop of London, Mr. Athelstan Riley, the Rev. Dr. Fynes Clinton, the Rev. H. J. White, the Archimandrites Chrysostom Papadopoulos, Callinikos, and Moschovakis, Mr. Alevitzanos, Colonel Phrantzis, Mr. Giannakopoulos, Mr. Carydia, Mr. Pandeli Ralli, Mr. Alex. Ralli, and Mr. Matangos.

Before leaving India, his Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir, now on his way to England in connection with the meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet, presented £50,000 to the Government as a contribution towards the expenses of the war.

The engagement is announced of Captain David H. Loch, son of the late Deputy Surgeon-General J. H. Loch, I.M.S., and Mrs. Loch, and Mary Freda, youngest daughter of the late General Lord William Seymour and Lady William Seymour.

On December 6, at St. Nicholas Church, Ringwould, Major Anthony Bovill, M.C., 9th Lancers, son of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Bovill, 60, Pont Street, was married to Eleanor Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Monins, of Ringwould, Kent, and sister of Lady Kitchener.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain A. G. Blake, younger son of Major and Mrs. F. W. H. Blake, Chelmsford, and Helen Everett, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Everett, Valentia, Park Road, Winchester.

An engagement is announced between Captain H. C. Stork, Indian Civil Service and I.A.R., son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Stork, of Bridlington, Yorks, and Marjorie, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel F. R. S. Cosens, 4th Devons, attached R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Cosens, of Quetta, Baluchistan, and of Oakham.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Major Geoffrey B. Sankey, 1/1st Kent Battalion, son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy E. Sankey, of 44, Russell Square, and Constance Elnith, elder daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Bevan, of St. Lawrence Vicarage, Ramsgate.

The marriage arranged between Lieut. William B. Threlfall, R.N.V.R., third son of Sir Richard and Lady Threlfall, of Oakhurst, Edgbaston, and Evelyn, only daughter of A. F. Maconochie, Indian Civil Service (retired), will take place on December 18 at St. Clement Dane's Church, Strand, at 11 a.m. No invitations are being issued, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The Archbishop of Athens concluded his visit to London last Friday, and left in the evening for Paris on his way to Athens. He travelled from Waterloo, and among those present at the station to take leave were the Bishop of Dover, representing the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Great Archimandrite, M. Jean Gennadius, M. Demetrius Caclamanos, and several Anglican clergymen.

The Maharaja of Bikaner and Sir S. P. Sinha, who, in association with the Secretary of State for India, will represent India at the Imperial War Cabinet preparatory to the Peace Conference, and also at the Conference, are expected to arrive in this country to-day. They are accompanied by Sir Hamilton Grant, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, who has been deputed to give the latest information as to the attitude of the Government of India towards questions affecting India which are likely to be raised at the Peace Conference. During his stay here Sir Hamilton Grant will co-operate with the Foreign Department of the India Office.

BEYROUT AND THE LEBANON

Amidst all the tragedies of four years' war conditions THE LEBANON HOSPITAL (Mental) has "carried on" under its British Director, Dr. Watson Smith, who now writes: "All is comparatively well, but the Hospital has suffered greatly in repairs, linen, etc., and we have been living in semi-starvation and exorbitant prices."

Funds are needed immediately for relief and maintenance.

Donations will be gratefully acknowledged and a report sent by the Gen. Sec., Miss A. M. GOOCH, 35, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Alexandropoulos, formerly Greek Minister in Belgrade, has been appointed High Commissioner of the Hellenic Government in Constantinople.

Mr. M. E. Couchman, Indian Civil Service, has been appointed to the Committee on the Division of Functions, as successor to the late Mr. H. F. W. Gillman, C.S.I.

Indian papers received by the last mail announce that Sir Percy Cox, Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires and Special Commissioner at Teheran during the absence in England of Sir Charles Marling.

The Secretary of State for India has approved the grant of vacant Indian Good Service pensions to the following officers:—Major-General P. M. Carnegy, C.B., Major-General A. Wallace, C.B., Major-General J. G. Turner, C.B., Lieut.-General Sir A. Phayre, K.C.B.

Canon E. S. Savage, of Hexham Abbey, is leaving for Serbia on an official mission to report on the damage done by the enemy in that country. He is delegated by the Serbian Minister to the Serbian Foreign Office as British representative, and as representative of the Church of England, and he carries a message to Serbia from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Canon Savage was formerly Commissioner for the Y.M.C.A. in the Mediterranean.

OBITUARY.

MR. H. A. CUMBERBATCH, C.M.G.

We much regret to announce that Mr. Henry Alfred Cumberbatch, C.M.G., late Consul-General at Beyrout, died on December 3 at 5, Brunswick Terrace, Weymouth. The eldest son of the late Mr. Robert W. Cumberbatch, at one time Consul-General at Smyrna, he was born on June 27, 1858, and was only eighteen when he was appointed Student-Dragoman in the Embassy at Constantinople. Almost immediately he was employed at Belgrade, and from November, 1876, to the following January he was in charge of the Consulate-General there. He was afterwards employed at Bucharest until 1879, when he was appointed H.M. Vice-Consul at Sulina (1881). In 1888 he was promoted to be Consul at Adrianople. He acted as Consul-General in Philippopolis (1888 and 1890), at Salonika (1891) and Smyrna (in 1892), and in 1893 he was transferred to Angora. He was in Erzeroum in the autumn of 1895, when a massacre of Armenians took place there. At the time he was in charge of the Consulate for Kurdistan, but the next year he was transferred to Smyrna, and in 1900 was promoted to the rank of Consul-General. In 1908 he was transferred to Beyrout, where he remained until he was recalled to this country on the outbreak of war. Since January, 1915, he had been employed in the Foreign Office. He was made a C.M.G. in 1896, and was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1911.

Mr. Cumberbatch was extremely popular in Smyrna and in Beyrout, as, indeed, he was wherever he served, and his loss at a comparatively early age will be widely regretted. He had been in failing health since the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey, and last October he went to Weymouth for the winter. Unhappily he became weaker soon after his arrival, and was unable to leave his bed, and on the night of December 3 he passed away. The funeral service was held at St. John's, Weymouth, on December 6, and the following day he was buried in Brompton Cemetery. Mr. Cumberbatch leaves a widow, two daughters, and three sons.

Mr. F. G. Aflalq died at Basel on December 9 from double pneumonia.

Dr. Reginald P. Cockin, of the London School of Topical Medicine, died on Monday in his fortieth year. He had served in the Government Medical Service in Cyprus, and under Colonel Leiper in Egypt on an investigation of bilharziosis.

Captain Philip Wyndham Brodie, Seaforth Highlanders, attached R.A.F., died at Taranto on November 18, aged thirty-one. He served in the punitive expeditions against the Zakka Khels and Mohmands in 1908, and received the medal and clasp.

Lieut.-Colonel Mackintosh Alexander Thomas Collie, late of the Indian Medical Service, has died at Barrow, of pneumonia following influenza, at the age of sixty-two years. He joined the Indian Medical Service in 1883, reached the rank of ieutenant-colonel in 1903, and retired five years ago.

Major Philip Edmund Vaughan, Worcestershire Regiment, died at the Endsleigh Palace Hospital on December 4 of broncho-pneumonia, following influenza. He had served in the South African War and in Bermuda, and for six years with the Egyptian Army, and in the present war he saw much fighting in France.

Mr. Herbert F. Webb Gillman has died at Simla from influenza. He was appointed to the Indian Civil Service in 1886, and served in Madras as Assistant Collector and Magistrate, and afterwards was District and Sessional Judge at Vizianagram Zemindari. Mr. Gillman was a member of the Executive Council, Madras, and was made a C.S.I. last year

NEWS IN BRIEF.

An Armenian military mission under Major-General Torcom has arrived in London.

A de aachment of Greek sailors has landed at Constantinople, and hoisted the national flag on the Greek Legation.

An Italian decree was issued last week releasing all persons deported from Northern Epirus, who may now return to their homes.

The Manchester City Council on Wednesday decided to confer the Freedom of the City on M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister.

A Reuter's message (from Paris) announces that the Japanese cruiser "Nisshin," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Sato, with two torpedo boats, arrived at Constantinople on December 6.

The Rajah of Sandur, a small Native State in South India, has been temporarily removed from the direct administration of his State as a disciplinary measure on account of misconduct.

German and Turkish statistics are stated by Khan Zadian to show that in 1916 the number of Armenians who had been deported amounted to 1,396,350, of whom 1,056,550 were massacred.

On Tuesday evening next the Union of the East and West will present in English at Wigmore Hall the Indian play "Malini," by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, and "Caliph for a Day," a comedy with music. Tickets may be obtained from the hall.

Speaking at a banquet after investing the young Maharaja of Bharatpur (Rajputana) with full powers, Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, said the State would have the full benefit of the measures which were being taken to deal with the scarcity and distress now unhappily anticipated in many areas.

Armenian delegates are being elected in various parts of the world to go to Paris and take part in a national conference which is to be held shortly. With regard to this it is interesting to note that two out of the five members of the Armenian National Delegation were educated at Balliol College, Oxford.

General Coanda, the Roumanian Premier, has telegraphed to M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, expressing "the joy which we all feel, after the disastrous collapse of Russia, at finding ourselves again at the side of our noble Allies. I assure you especially," he continues, "of the feelings of brotherly friendship which unite us to the heroic Serbian nation."

Captain Rodocanachi delivered an address to a large meeting of American naval and military officers at the American Officers' Club on Thursday evening of last week (December 5). The gathering was presided over by Mr. J. Wilson Taylor. Captain Rodocanachi indicated the numerous links between Greece and the United States, both countries being democratic in policy.

A complete series of Turkish postage stamps, surcharged by the British for use in Mesopotamia, is being shown at the Exhition of War Stamps at the Philatelic Galleries, 110-111, Strand. The original inscriptions on the stamps are in Turkish, but they have been overprinted "Irak—in British Occupation." The British stamps for use by civilians in Palestine are also shown; they bear the imprint of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

The *London Gazette* announces that: "The King has been graciously pleased to grant to the Companions of the Order of the Bath, Star of India, Saint Michael and Saint George, and Indian Empire, to whom his Majesty recently granted precedence as Commanders, the privilege of surrounding their Armorial Bearings with the circle and motto of their respective Orders, and to suspend therefrom a representation of their riband and badge."

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1918.

FACING FACTS.

The future welfare of the Balkan Peninsula and the peace of Europe depend in large measure upon the extent to which certain obvious factors in the situation are appreciated and acted upon at the present time. Shibboleths have always been an essential part of the stock-in-trade of democracy, but the war wrought havoc among those that seemed in 1914 to be the most firmly established in popular opinion. In the absence of new political watchwords which required, at least in Great Britain, a general election for their creation the Allied peoples seized hold of the idea of a League of Nations. No attempt was made to discover whether a working basis for such an organisation could be formulated; the conception was taken on trust, and the picturesque belief is now widely held, or expressed, that a wave of the Allied wand proclaiming a League of Nations will inaugurate the Millenium. The principle of such a League is thoroughly sound; it has been applied to rescue the world from the heel of Prussian militarism, and it must continue to be applied, if all that has been achieved by the Allied victory is not to be jeopardised. But just as the Allies in general and the people of Great Britain in particular could not win the war without the organisation, discipline and sacrifice which the stern logic of German superiority imposed upon them, so the League of Nations can hope for no success unless it is prepared to face in a critical and practical manner the difficulties with which it is confronted. The first axiom would seem to be that it is idle to seek to bring together on the same plane of constitutional development and political aim peoples who are actually on entirely different planes. To pretend that any two Balkan States without outside prompting or pressure are likely to approach and to settle differences of opinion in the same way as, say, the United States and Great Britain or Great Britain and France would, is to sow the seeds of fresh trouble for Europe. In no responsible quarter is the suggestion made that the League of Nations could serve any practical purpose, if Germany in her pre-war character and frame of mind were a member on an equal footing with other countries. Is it, therefore, a sensible policy to adopt for those on whom the responsibility for bringing the League of Nations into being will rest to affect to ignore the existing position in South-Eastern Europe from a reluctance to run the risk of wounding susceptibilities? A strong belief in the ultimate efficacy of a League of Nations and an unshakable conviction that, with proper handling, good will and mutual co-operation in the Balkans constitute an attainable goal prompt us to call attention to certain factors which militate against strict uniformity in the application of the principle of admission to the League.

What, then, is the position in the Balkans to-day? Within an incredibly short time after the enemy's capitulation it has become a veritable cauldron of intrigue, political controversy and armed conflict, and all this within the ranks of the Grand Alliance. It is possible that too much has been made of the quarrel between Italians and Yugoslavs. The propagandist bureaux of the two nationalities have been working during the war under a certain degree of restraint, and when this was relaxed it was inevitable that both parties should affect alarm, to justify their existence. Even the character of the collisions between Italian and Yugoslav troops may have been exaggerated, and in extenuation it may be urged that both Governments have kept their heads. It is evident, however, that they could not exercise the same control over their nationals, with the result that Allied contingents had to be brought in to ensure that there should be no further breach of the peace. In Serbia there is, or the world is asked to believe that there is, a political controversy of the most vital nature, that threatens the immediate future of Yugoslavia. Intrigue is rampant in Montenegro, and it is not unnaturally inferred that outside influences are at work. Farther south again everything points to a desire to settle old questions by the simple process of claim-jumping rather than by more formal methods. In no direction can it truthfully be said that the searching trial of the war has evolved a new spirit among the peoples of South-Eastern Europe. Even among the Roumanians, to whom the Western nations look to give the lead in the new order of things to the Balkans, the old bane of party politics would seem to be still rife, and there is danger lest the representation of Roumania at the Allies' Peace Preliminaries may be determined by the exigencies of faction rather than by an impartial selection of the most suitable delegates. Grave or trivial, the details of the Balkan picture reflect fierce animosities, either between the different nationalities or between parties and individuals in the same nation. The theme is an old one: but the fact that it is still being reproduced after the war is evidence that the characteristics are deep-seated and will have to be reckoned with for some time to come.

The idea of the League of Nations is that it should be the keeper of the world's conscience. But if there be any reality in the picture presented above it has to be inferred that not even Europe, much less the world, has a definite homogeneous conscience. There is, rather, one conscience, let us say, for the Balkans and another for Western Europe, and it may well be that President Wilson will attribute to the United States yet a third, different from either of the others. Those who are about to form the League will have to decide on what plane they wish to see the world's conscience set; whether on the highest which the human mind can conceive or whether they will be content with a compromise, the resultant of an admixture of the different consciences. There can be little doubt which course they ought to adopt. If then there is to be a League of Nations to speak in the name of all that is best in civilisation, justice, and good government, the inclusion in the League of countries which are bent on injustice to their neighbours or on perpetuating quarrels, or which have difficulty in maintaining order within their own territories, must prove an anomaly and be liable to bring the League into disrepute. On the other hand, the exclusion of any country, particularly of an Allied country, from what aims at being a world-wide organisation, would not only be invidious; it might also be condemning a whole people for the sins of a few. A way of escape from the dilemma is possible if, instead of allowing idealism to outstrip practical politics, the Grand Alliance makes itself the nucleus of an ultimately wider League of Nations, and starts by setting its own house in order before embarking upon the government of the world. The history of the last few weeks has shown that there is ample scope within the Grand Alliance for the exercise of the moral authority of Great Britain, France and the United States, and it should be a charge to the Allies' Conference on peace terms to determine how effect can best be given to this authority for the future peace and welfare of South-Eastern Europe.

EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

THE SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 28.

The report on the Secondary Education Certificate Examinations which were held this year has just been published. It is signed by Mr. Boyd Carpenter, Senior Inspector in the Ministry of Education, and contains some very important and outspoken criticisms of the results of those examinations. The latter consist of two parts—viz.: Part I., for students who have spent two years in the secondary course; Part II., for students who have completed four years in that course and have passed Part I., this examination being more or less equivalent to the Matriculation in the English Universities.

In Part II. there were 1,341 candidates, as compared with 1,323 in 1917 and 1,133 in 1913. Of these 1,341 candidates, 451 came from Government schools, 527 from schools under State inspection, and 361 from other schools. The successful candidates, who represented 35 per cent. of the total, were divided as follows: 51 per cent. of the Government school candidates, 30 per cent. of the inspected school candidates, and 21 per cent. of those from other schools. In Part I. there were 5,192 candidates, as compared with 3,899 applicants in 1917, and 2,132 in 1913. Of these 5,192 candidates 849 came from Government schools, 2,020 from schools under State inspection, 2,323 from other schools, and 143 from French schools. The successful candidates were as follows:—37 per cent. of the Government school candidates, 14 per cent. of those from schools under State inspection, 12 per cent. of those from other schools, and 45 per cent. of those from the French schools.

Mr. Boyd Carpenter gives copious summaries of the reports of the examiners and revisers, and I quote below some verbatim extracts therefrom, beginning with Part II., as being the more important of the examinations, and taking each subject separately:—

Arabic.

The candidates occupied themselves far too much with small refinements of expression, and sacrificed matter to manner. There was a lamentable poverty of originality of thought as well as lack of orderly expression and connection, which proves that the more remote from actuality a subject of composition is the better pleased the candidates are. Aphorisms, platitudes and moral reflections are often memorised and inserted in compositions where they are totally irrelevant. In the oral part the general results were good, but in literature there was an unfortunate ignorance of the dates concerning the principal writers. In grammar the candidates showed a tendency to learn by heart rules which they were unable to understand, and their application was naturally faulty. The weakness of the candidates on the French side was very marked, and their general standard was that of foreigners learning the Arabic language rather than of Egyptian students. The standard of translation has fallen, and the work of the candidates showed lack of connection, a tendency to paraphrase rather than to translate, carelessness in the grammar of both languages, and an almost complete absence of style. In English they showed a lamentable ignorance of common terms and expressions, and this was most noticeable in a subject with which all should have been familiar—the work of the Nile in Egypt.

History and Geography.

The questions elicited very fair answers on the whole, but the non-European portion of the syllabus appeared to have been inadequately taught. The general faults were carelessness in reading the question, introduction of irrelevant matter, and too often an attempt to produce from memory a portion of the text-book or notes of lessons. The candidates tended to shirk those questions which required a reasoned answer. Fluency was the ruin of many answers, and long digression on irrelevant or small points destroyed whatever balance was attempted. The three desiderata appear to be clear thinking, a sense of proportion, and orderly arrangement. In geography, out of 554 candidates only sixty-seven obtained more than half marks. The questions were easy and the marking light, and the examiners are unanimously of opinion that the standard is far too low and the general work bad. Both the maps and the sketches were, comparatively speaking, worse than those of Part I.

Science and Mathematics.

The work submitted in mechanics was disappointing, and it is clearly almost impossible to set questions in this subject easy enough to be well done by most of the candidates. A very large number received no marks at all, and only succeeded in passing on their knowledge, usually imperfect, of the other subjects. In physics the papers were distinctly worse than the previous year. When attempting to answer the question on sound, the majority contented themselves with unintelligent reproduction of book-work and lecture-room experiments. The work in chemistry was on the whole fairly good, but the chief weakness was seen in a confusion of scientific terms. The drawing of apparatus was poor and careless. In many cases it was obvious that the candidates could not themselves have fitted the apparatus together, but were usually relying on the memory of some demonstration In general, there was an unsatisfactory absence of common sense and little evidence of knowledge how to apply scientific laws. In mathematics, on the literary side, the general results were fairly satisfactory, but great weakness was shown in geometrical exercises. It was evident that candidates are accustomed to memorise rules and formulæ to excess. On the scientific side a large number were very inadequately prepared. Lack of order, method, and neatness were very noticeable, and in many cases questions were carelessly misread. Generally in all divisions there was a lack of common sense, and in its place a display of purely mechanical work, which often showed that candidates did not understand their own methods.

French and English.

While the number of failures in French has greatly decreased, the examiners find little other cause for congratulation. The answers to the literature questions were too long, too diffuse, and in many cases totally unconnected with the subject. The syntax was most disappointing, and the meagreness of the vocabulary very remarkable. The compositions were marked by triviality, exaggeration of statement, and want of precision. In the supplementary the same remarks apply, but the chief impression on the minds of the examiners was one of mediocrity. The dictation was better, but full of curious mis-spelling, due in all probability to the bad pronunciation of the candidates themselves. In many cases the subject of composition was completely misunderstood. The faults displayed were due to want of attention and insufficient practice in the language. In the oral the results were better. In the principal examination few candidates had read sufficiently in private, and the want of general knowledge was very noticeable. In the supplementary the pronunciation and vocabulary were poor, and, whilst they could at least sustain a simple conversation, there were far too many phrases reminiscent of Arabic and English.

In the principal English examination about half the candidates passed, but it must not be inferred from this that the examiners were of opinion that the standard of English is actually satisfactory. They are unanimous and emphatic in deploring the present state of the English language in the secondary schools. English is apparently to a large number of candidates a dead language, and, therefore, to be learnt by mechanical translation, mental, verbal and written, from their tongue; there still persists a disastrous tendency to write Arabic-English—i.e., to use Arabic phrases, sentences and construction, in which each word is simply translated into the English equivalent. In composition the most striking feature was the utter ignorance not only of contemporary events, but also of what are usually regarded as the commonest topics of conversation. The mental poverty displayed was most marked. For example, the two chief advantages of "open spaces" were considered to be that in them people could "smell the pure air," and that "tents could be pitched for the purpose of holding Government examinations"; whilst those who wrote on the subject of inventions during the war either contented themselves with moral dissertations upon war in general, or when they attempted to give concrete examples only succeeded in being ludicrous, as, for instance, in suggesting that the war had made the Egyptians think how to invent lamp-glasses. These two instances show the unfortunate absence of a sense of proportion. By contrast, in the supplementary examination only one out of the sixteen candidates failed. The work was distinctly good, and the candidates appeared to be of a very promising type. There was certainly more variety of ideas than usual in the composition. In the oral the reading was bad, the recitation worse, and the conversation was rendered difficult by the fact that the candidates had a very small vocabulary. In the supplementary part the reading was fair, the grammar bad, and the conversation halting.

Having summarised these reports, Mr. Boyd Carpenter proceeds to give his views on the position as regards Part II. of the examination. He points out that the examiners as a body are but ill content with the general results, and that in one subject only is there any

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE
AND
NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to
KING GEORGE.
KING OF SPAIN

satisfactory improvement, the Arabic language—the native tongue of practically all the candidates. He considers that while the fact that any subject escapes the general condemnation may be a matter for congratulation, improvement in this can hardly be regarded as typical of the general tendency. The examiner's reports all point to one main conclusion. To quote him verbatim, for his remarks merit reproduction *in toto*:—

> The candidates rely on their memory rather than on their intelligence. They produce what they remember, and content themselves with the repetition of phrases and facts which are often ludicrously inappropriate. In Arabic or English the theme of the essay is often ignored, and a subject that has done duty in the class-room and which has been committed to memory is substituted. In mathematics, processes are blindly gone through, resulting in answers or attempted proof that the exercise of some intelligence would show to be absurd. In science, diagrams and apparatus are reproduced as they happen to be recalled from text-books or blackboard, without reference to the definite points required by the question. In fact, the root of the evil, so far as their mental qualifications are concerned, is their general failure to exercise common sense. Almost all the faults . . . can be traced to this. A very slight amount of intelligence applied to their own work would remove the constant puerility, the disconnectedness, the false inferences that are so common.,

The critical faculty and the power to discriminate and choose are, he says, two of the fundamental requirements of any educated youth or man, and the distressing part about the absence of this faculty is the fact that the majority of the candidates in Part II. are not children, the average age this year being 21. "They are usually far more developed physically, morally, and socially than youths of the same age in Western countries. Unfortunately, their mental development is not similarly advanced. Narrowness of outlook and ignorance of contemporary events, lack of general knowledge, and, worst of all, absence of interest, show that education for itself is not the object which most candidates have in view." He adds that this may be a temporary phase, and that it may pass, but that it must not be ignored, and he proceeds to advise teachers in secondary schools to keep the ideal of education before them, and both to remember themselves and cause their pupils to remember that education is an end in itself, not merely a means of obtaining wealth or social importance. If they will do this, and if they can inculcate into the young men of Egypt a disinterested love of learning and the extension of human knowledge, it may be possible to hope for an intellectual renaissance of Egypt. Finally, he points out that the origin of these evils, which have contributed to this year's unsatisfactory results so far as numbers are concerned, lies in the conditions governing the admission to Part I., which will be dealt with in a separate article.

In concluding his remarks on Part II., Mr. Boyd Carpenter calls attention to the almost rapid increase of candidates on the scientific side. Twelve years ago the literary candidates were more than double the scientific, but the pendulum has swung completely the other way now, the explanation being that, restricted though the opportunities of higher education are, there are more chances of continuing education on scientific lines than on literary lines. It is, however, important to note that on both sides a large and increasing number of unsuccessful candidates find that there is no opportunity of continuing their studies in Egypt. "Bad as the result of Part I. has been, the great additional number of candidates is a clear indication that the numbers for Part II. will in the course of the next few years show a large increase, and the want of a sufficiently wide and varied system of higher education, already seriously felt, will become more acute."

A message from Mytilene states that the late M. Simon Pantazopoulos bequeathed his entire fortune of £480,000 to the Greek State.

According to information from Smyrna, the ex-Vali, Rahmi Pasha, has placed himself at the head of a Turco-Levantine League, whose object is to agitate for an Allied Protectorate in the Smyrna district.

An addition to the portion of the British Museum open to the public has been made by the reopening of the Assyrian Transept, containing the colossal human-headed bulls and lions from Nineveh. The following galleries are now open (from 10 to 1 and from 2 to 5):—The Entrance Hall, Grenville Room, First, Second, and Third Græco-Roman Rooms, Archaic Room, Ephesus Room, Elgin Room, and Assyrian Transept. The Trustees hope to have other galleries open before Christmas.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I may state that I am a regular reader of The Near East, and hope I will be allowed to occupy some space in your columns.

I shall not venture to correct any one, especially Miss Durham (the fair sex are always correct), but simply to express my opinion.

I can understand the arguments of Mehmed Bey, or of Mr. Kessary—the former pretends to represent an Albanian Committee, while the latter is a Hellene—but I cannot understand either the *casus belli* of Miss Durham or her cerebral conception of ideas in comparing North Epirus to Alsace-Lorraine.

An episode between a simple-minded shepherd and a highly educated apostle of "Kultür" which I witnessed twenty-two years ago is applicable to the present question as to whether Koritza or any other part of North Epirus is Greek or Albanian. I was then a student in Smyrna; our headmaster took us for a day's excursion, and the route carried us through the field of the German Archæological Society. The German Professor in charge of the researches amused himself by putting questions to the boys, and the conversation soon turned to the events of the day—the Græco-Turkish War, 1897.

We boys—boys always will be boys—were "pulling the leg" of the Turcophil Professor, not hiding our feelings towards Hellas, with hopes that Smyrna would soon be Hellenic. The German Professor, either in fun or in earnest, was opposing our views, adding that Asia Minor was purely a Turkish country, etc. A shepherd was standing near by, leaning on his crook, listening attentively. When he heard the remarks of the German Professor he smiled the simple, natural smile of the mountaineers, shrugged his shoulders and made a grimace. "Ask the Professor," he said to the boys, "to dig the soil and see if the stones speak Greek or Turkish!"

Unless Miss Durham has made Albania her "spiritual home," inspired by the Albanian literature and history, I am sure, when next at Koritza, she will take the advice of the shepherd and "dig the soil and see if the stones speak Greek or Albanian."—I am, etc.,

X. K.

3, Tudor Street, E.C.4.

Mr. *Punch's* Christmas Number is sure of a welcome, year by year; and this year, besides welcoming it and laughing over its pictures and letterpress, we find ourselves admiring the skill with which the merry hunchback put his Almanack together so artfully that it was adapted either for Peace or for War. There are many good things in the number—that goes without saying—and though we, personally, like best Mr. Brock's illustrations of the Dragon's adventures—terminated only by a Tank—it is certain that Mr. Bateman's handling of the "Two's Company" theme will secure a large number of votes for First Place.

ROYAL SCHOOL
FOR
Daughters of Officers of the Army.

Patrons:
Their MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN
and HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.
Chairman: Lt.-Col. A. GRUBB. J.P.
Vice-Chairman Surgeon-Gen. SIR WILLIAM TAYLOR, K.C.B.

Daughters of Officers of the Army are admitted to the above Schools according to the circumstances of their parents, at rates of £20, £45, £65, and £80 a year. Granddaughters of Officers are admitted at £45, £65, and £80 a year according to circumstances, and a limited number of daughters of civilians are admitted at £120 a year when there are vacancies. There are 15 Scholarships, open to competition, in the School, of amounts varying from £10 to £20 up to one of £50.

As half of the School consists of pupils on the £15 foundation, which includes both board and education, a deficiency of about £2,500 a year has to be met by contributions, which are earnestly solicited. Donations of £5 5s., giving one vote for life, or subscriptions of 10s. 6d., giving one vote for the year, may be sent to

F. W. T. ATTREE, Colonel (late R.E.), Secretary.
Office: Panton House, 25, Haymarket, S.W.1.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

To Lancashire, in particular, the reopening of Near East markets is a question of immense importance. The Lancashire cotton trade is now in a far from satisfactory position, and it would do much to relieve matters if traders were in a position to take advantage of the need for cotton goods which undoubtedly exists throughout the Near East. It is not only immediate business which is at stake, it is also a question of the re-establishment of business relations with Near Eastern countries with a view to future trade.

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In this respect France is ahead of us. French merchants are already able to correspond with the Near East, and I understand that a steamship service for goods is being instituted between Marseilles and the Levant. It is obviously very desirable that British traders should have equal facilities for the speedy resumption of business there.

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The economic position in Malta in 1916-17 plainly indicated that the continuance of the war might mean considerable distress in the island, and it is clear from the White Paper on Malta in 1917-18, some extracts from which are given elsewhere, that this has been the case. The question of supplies has been the root of the trouble. The authorities grappled firmly with the food problem and succeeded in maintaining supplies and in preventing excessive profits, and in normal circumstances this would have been enough. But the position in Malta is peculiar, for the working part of the population is much in excess of the proportion that obtains elsewhere, so that while prices have continued to rise, wages have not made a corresponding advance, with the inevitable result that war conditions have been felt to an increasing extent by numbers of the inhabitants.

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As regards Malta's finances, it may be noted that while there was a small excess of expenditure over revenue in 1916-17, this has been considerably increased in the year under review. The actual revenue amounted to £435,497 against an actual expenditure of £449,247, the deficit thus being £13,750. There has also been a decline in the excess of assets over liabilities, the figures being £29,324 against £43,074, and altogether it must be admitted that the financial position of the island is far from satisfactory. But this was only to be expected in view of the effects of the war, and now that the struggle is over it may confidently be anticipated that it will not be long before the former comparative prosperity of the island is restored. Trade during the year calls for little comment. There was rather a large decrease in imports, the figures being £2,874,420 against £3,318,412, while exports show a slight increase at £610,212 against £589,552.

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Elsewhere in this issue will be found particulars of the Abyssinian Corporation, Limited, the prospective formation of which I was able to announce two weeks ago. The capital of the Corporation is large, but, all the same, not too substantial in view of the vast possibilities for commercial enterprise in Abyssinia. The part it is hoped the Corporation may play in the development of that largely unknown country may be gathered from its objects, which are of the most comprehensive character, including, *inter alia*, banking, trading, mining, and shipbuilding, and as some of the most influential firms and individuals in the commercial life of this country are behind the enterprise I shall not be erring on the side of optimism if I anticipate great results from this venture. I have only one criticism to offer, and that is, that the Corporation ought to have been formed a couple of decades ago. While other countries have taken advantage of the slow development of Abyssinia to widen the scope of their trade relations there, British traders have practically ignored the country, with the result that, as we pointed out last week, at the outbreak of the war the direct share of the United Kingdom in the trade of Abyssinia was practically negligible. I shall look to the new Corporation to effect a striking alteration in this direction.

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About two weeks before the Armistice the preliminary notice of next year's British Industries Fair was issued to the effect that it would again be limited, as expected, to the minor industries. Since then the whole position has been changed, and the objections to making the exhibition thoroughly representative of British industries no longer exists. I hope, therefore, that there will be no question of holding the fair as arranged on the ground of time, but that even if it means postponing it for a few weeks or months every effort will be made to include exhibits from the larger industries.

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From the point of view of "Indiamen," probably the most interesting portion of Lord Inchcape's notable address at the general meeting of the P. and O. was his reference to the prospects of the restoration of normal services to the East. As their ships were returned to them, he declared, they would resume their position in the Eastern and Australian trades, but it would be some time before they would be able to offer the public their pre-war standards of convenience, comfort, and regularity. He hoped that the regularity of the sailings might soon be restored, and added that the old prestige of the P. and O. Company would be at all costs maintained.

⁂

Among other matters dealt with by Lord Inchcape was the question of new construction. In this connection he declared that had shipowners been allowed to invest their depreciation, surplus earnings, and the amounts that had been recovered for ships that had been sunk in replenishing their fleet, the British mercantile marine would to-day have been much better equipped for the post-war trade of the world. Had they been permitted to make contracts to replace their vessels when they were sunk, and before values increased to present-day figures, they would not now have had to pay two or three times the pre-war prices. At present, he continued, when earning power was considered, they were two or three millions to the bad, if the value of the lost ships was compared with the amounts recovered, but the process of replenishment must go on. "Within the last few days," he added, "we have arranged for the construction of two large mail and passenger ships with Messrs. Harland and Wolff and for three steamers for the branch line with Messrs. Caird, while provisional arrangements have been made with other builders."

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The recent flight from Cairo to Baghdad via Damascus could no doubt have been done in half the time if a direct route had been taken across the desert, and the fact that it would be possible to bring Baghdad within about a day's flight of Cairo is, perhaps, as telling an illustration of the potentialities of the aeroplane as can be obtained. It is extremely unlikely that a railway would ever be made across the true desert, and but for the areoplane communication between Egypt and Mesopotamia would probably have remained a long and circuitous process. It is in bringing together countries divided, as in this instance, by a natural obstacle that the aeroplane will perform one of its greatest services in the future.

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Another way in which the aeroplane will be invaluable is in the provision of speedy services from one place to another. The people who really need such rapid transit will be mainly found in the commercial world, and among business men it will undoubtedly make a tremendous difference, for they will be able in some cases to do in person what they would otherwise have attempted by cable or by the post. It is certainly most likely that when the Near East can be reached early on the day after leaving Great Britain, and India on the third day after departure the temptation to make a personal visit will be irresistible. The expense of flying will naturally restrict its utility just at first, but it is presumable that, like every other mode of transit, fares will become cheaper in the course of time.

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MOROCCO TRADE NOTES.

The Commercial Mission.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tangier, December 1.

The Commercial Mission to Morocco, composed of Mr. E. H. Muloch, of H.B.M. Consular Service, and Mr. L. N. Barker, of the Department of Overseas Trade, arrived here on November 6. Mr. Muloch has been Vice-Consul at Saffi and Laraiche, and has therefore considerable knowledge of the country and of British trade here.

A lunch in honour of the Mission was given by the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco. By a very happy coincidence the date appointed for the lunch was the day of universal rejoicing—Armistice Day, November 11.

The hon. president of the Chamber, Sir Herbert E. White, H.M. Agent and Consul-General, presided, and after referring to the great news which had just been received drew attention to the happy chance, and expressed the gratitude that every one must feel to all who had taken part in bringing about the glorious end, which would permit the world to devote itself to works of peace and commercial development. Sir Herbert White concluded by proposing the toast of our "Soldiers and Sailors," which was honoured with enthusiasm.

Sir Harry Maclean's Views.

Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, President of the Chamber, proposed the health of the members of the Mission, and wished them all success in their important work. They were all, he said, delighted to know that steps were being taken to inquire into and promote British commercial enterprise in Morocco, and the Chamber would do all in its power to help in any way.

Mr. H. Muloch replied, thanking the British Chamber of Commerce for their cordial welcome and hospitality to the Commercial Mission and for all they had done to facilitate its task.

The members of the Mission, who interviewed a number of British commercial men and attended a meeting of the Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce, left for Tetuan on November 15, returning here on November 19. It had been their intention to go by motor to Laraiche, and on to Rabat, but unfortunately heavy rains had fallen, making motoring over the tracks in the Spanish zone very risky, so they left for Casablanca by sea, and will visit Laraiche from here on their return.

The Commissioners are evidently out for work, and do not intend to miss any points. They appear to be attacking their by no means easy task with energy, knowing what they want and duly appreciating the importance of the work entrusted to them. They have every one's good wishes, and great hopes are entertained of the results of their visit to Morocco.

The Armistice and Trade.

On receipt of the news of the armistice with Turkey and Austria trade in Morocco ceased entirely, and many merchants became greatly alarmed. It is fortunate that the armistice with our last enemy followed so closely; prices could not have gone worse, but a long period of waiting would have been disastrous. As it is, there are signs that saner ideas are spreading, and it is being gradually realised that there is not going to be the tremendous fall in prices of English exports that so many expected.

Shortly before the armistice the Intendance ceased buying canary seed, and announced that purchasing was free to anyone. There have, in consequence, been some important transactions, prices being nearly double what the Intendance was paying. Prices ruled high in both France and England, and it is hoped that the restrictions of export will soon be withdrawn or modified.

Some fear was entertained less the Intendance might recommence buying and that pre-armistice prices only would be given; but even if they did recommence they could hardly refuse to take into consideration the higher prices paid on the strength of the official notification that anyone was free to buy.

EGYPT'S COMMERCE.

Imports in Excess of Exports.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 14.

The Customs statistics for September have just been published. During the nine months imports have amounted to £E37,812,974 and exports to £E35,962,109, as compared with £E22,312,566 and £E27,637,531 respectively at the same date in 1917. Imports have therefore increased by £E15,500,408, or 70 per cent., and exports by £E8,324,578, or 30 per cent., and the balance of trade has swung over against the country to the extent of £E1,850,865, as against one in its favour of £E5,324,965. Exports have increased by £E530,658 to £E932,342, so the balance against Egypt should be reduced correspondingly.

Increases and Decreases.

The principal imports during the period have been: Meat £E1,176,599, hides, skins, and leather goods £E356,025 (an increase of 80 per cent.), flour £E343,309, sugar £E633,226 (an increase of over 90 per cent.), coffee £E513,603, tea £E258,245, vegetable oils £E390,599 (an increase of over 200 per cent.), mineral oils £E534,263 (an increase of over 100 per cent.), stationery £E1,255,066 (an increase of over 200 per cent.), coal £E3,751,579 (an increase of 45 per cent.), glass and crystal ware £E300,273 (an increase of 300 per cent.), matches £E38,248 (an increase of 400 per cent.), medicinal preparations £E472,591 (an increase of 150 per cent.), textiles £E18,480,094 (an increase of 130 per cent.), cotton piece goods £E12,038,980 (an increase of 150 per cent.), ready-made underclothing and hosiery £E1,100,924 (an increase of 266 per cent.), manufactured iron and steel £E1,522,019 (an increase of 125 per cent.), and tobacco £E2,211,271.

Under exports the principal items were hides and skins £E458,811, cotton seed £E1,948,534 (in 1917 £E1,347,957), sugar £E457,082 (a decrease of £E302,733), gum £E326,605, rice £E178,304, onions £E152,642 (a decrease of £E134,289), eggs £E255,628, cotton £E30,703,248 (an increase of 40 per cent.), and cigarettes £E461,447 (an increase of over 50 per cent.). There was a notable falling off in the quantity of oilcake exported; up to the end of September it stood at £E579,956, whereas this year it is only £E50. This is undoubtedly due to the consumption of oilcake in industrial establishments and in private houses, as a result of the shortage of fuel.

Great Britain's Share.

Turning to the share taken in Egypt's external trade by the trading nations of the world, we find that both in imports and exports Great Britain stands far at the top. In imports she was responsible for 60 per cent. and in exports she took nearly 70 per cent.; in either case a substantial improvement on her share last year. The whole of the Empire increased its sales to this country, the most noteworthy being India, which rose from £E2,111,144 to £E3,167,986. The United States, Brazil, Greece, and Chili all showed a falling off; but France augmented her sales by £E659,914 to £E1,396,225, Japan hers from £E248,124 to £E1,943,273. In exports, likewise, the United States shows a decrease, as also do France and Japan, but Greece and Italy both have an increased portion. These changes are mainly due to cotton, three-quarters of which was exported to the United Kingdom, which also took all the eggs, cotton seed, and onions.

Trade between the Sudan and Egypt during the nine months has continued to be brisk. Imports from the former have risen from £E1,630,829 to £E2,013,521 and exports from Egypt from £E1,044,405 to £E1,881,014. The principal imports have been livestock £E667,064 (against £E268,130 in 1917), hides and skins £E135,331, maize £E207,097, sesame £E150,241, gum £E304,853 (against £E103,186 in 1917); whilst the chief exports to the Sudan have been sugar £E461,697, textiles £E675,935 (against £E305,120 in 1917), and tobacco £E131,946.

THE LEVANT COMPANY.

British Commercial Enterprise in the Near East.

The formation is announced of the Levant Company, Ltd., with a nominal capital of £1,000,000, of which for the moment £200,000 has been issued and paid up. Its office is at 626, Salisbury House, London, E.C.2, and it aims at reviving in a modern form the commercial side of the activities of the old Levant Company, which, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, was the recognised spearhead of British influence in the Near East. The directors of the company are:—The Right Hon. Sir Maurice N. E. de Bunsen, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B. (chairman), Sir Francis Barker (Vickers, Limited), Sir Ernest Hiley (Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Limited), Mr. A. C. M. Dickson (British Trade Corporation), Mr. A. Henderson (managing) (late Henderson, Lane and Co.), and Mr. Guy H. Locock, C.M.G., and it has associated with it, both in London and abroad, English business men with a lifelong experience of the lands where it proposes to operate, its aims being to capture for this country some share of the extensive business hitherto carried on by enemy firms. It will work through subsidiary undertakings abroad, and a feature in its programme will be the company's ability to offer traders a network of reputable and reliable firms pledged to push British interests, and all working in close touch with one another and the parent company in London.

The leading British firm in Constantinople, J. W. Whittall and Co., have ceded their business to a new company known as J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd. (in which the Levant Co., Ltd. has a considerable share interest), and will work in close co-operation with the Levant company. While continuing the export trade from Turkey, in which they have hitherto been principally engaged, they contemplate devoting special attention to the development of an import and agency business, and have secured the services of men experienced in the proposed developments.

Another subsidiary is the Levant Co. (Greece), Ltd., which is taking over, as a nucleus of its business, Messrs. Whittall's branch house at Salonika, and which also proposes to extend its sphere to Athens at an early date.

Arrangements are nearing completion for the formation of the Levant Co. (Serbia), Ltd., to be followed as soon as practicable by subsidiary companies for Roumania, Bulgaria, Egypt, Syria, and the Sudan, Mesopotamia, etc.

The company recognises that lack of co-ordination has in the past been a source of weakness to the British houses scattered throughout the Levant, and it aims at remedying this by, wherever possible, enlisting the active co-operation of existing firms, but proposes to break new ground where necessary.

It is believed that Constantinople and Cairo are likely to become the hatching-grounds of schemes for the development of the surrounding regions, and the company will aim at taking a share in such business and calling the attention of investors to promising openings. It is notorious that hitherto British capital has lagged behind other competitors in the development even of countries within the Empire, such as Egypt, and it is hoped that a new era is now beginning.

The company has entered into a close working arrangement with the National Bank of Turkey, which will specialise in caring for British commercial interests. For this purpose it contemplates opening branches in the principal centres with the least possible delay.

H.M. TRADE COMMISSIONER AT CALCUTTA.

H.M. Trade Commissioner at Calcutta has recently completed a tour of Ceylon, and is now on a visit to Bombay, and will proceed to Karachi, the Punjab, Delhi and Cawnpore. He will return to Calcutta at the end of this month. These tours are being undertaken in order to keep in touch, as far as possible, with local conditions at these trade centres.

The Ionian Bank, Ltd., have opened an agency at 7, Sheria Sherifein, Cairo.

MALTA IN 1917-18.

Effects of War Conditions.

A White Paper has just been issued containing a report on the Blue Book for Malta for 1917-18, from which we give the following extracts :—

The revenue for the year 1917-18 was £470,976, and the expenditure £484,726; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £13,750. These figures include an amount of £35,479, representing the duty collected on articles imported for His Majesty's naval and military forces, which was subsequently refunded in the form of drawback. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £435,497, and the actual expenditure £449,247. The excess of assets over liabilities on March 31, 1918, was £29,324, as against £43,074 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

The revenue collected in 1917-18 was £10,811 more than that of 1916-17. The only important decreases were under customs (£5,587) and harbour and quarantine dues (£1,333), the decrease in both cases being attributable to the disturbance of normal conditions caused by the war; while there were appreciable increases under other heads

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £2,874,420, as compared with £3,318,412 in 1916-17, showing a decrease of £443,992. The value of imports during the year was £7,047 above the average for the past three years. The value of exports amounted to £610,212, as against £589,552 in 1916-17, an increase of £20,660 for the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £217,458 of the total, raw materials for £343,978, manufactured articles for £35,494, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

Agriculture.

The total area of land under cultivation was 42,849 acres, as against 42,687 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,842 acres, as against 3,979 in 1916-17. At the end of the year under review the number of holdings was estimated at 11,097, as against 11,107 in 1916-17. The principal agricultural products were cereals (including wheat), barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, and onions. The total area under cereals was 20,107 acres, as compared with 18,330 in the previous year, the increase of 1,777 being due to the high price and scarcity of wheat. The total yield was :—Wheat, 39,441 quarters; barley, 18,708 quarters; and "mischiato," 5,230 quarters.

The area under beans and pulse was 2,742 acres, against 2,005 acres in 1916-17, and the total yield was 4,410 quarters, as compared with 3,430 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 2,718 acres, as against 3,190 acres in 1916-17, and the total yield was 290,800 cwt., as compared with 190,900 cwt. in 1916-17. The quantity of imported potatoes during 1917-18 was 39,846 cwt., of which 32,310 cwt. only were used as seed, the remainder being unserviceable through damage in transit.

The area planted with onions was 819 acres, as against 1,279 acres in 1916-17. The yield amounted to 2,958 tons, as compared with 6,054 in the previous year. Restrictions were imposed on the cultivation of cummin, in order to encourage the cultivation of foodstuffs, and the yield of this product was insignificant. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 171,560 dozen, as against 169,500 in 1916-17. There was no exportation of oranges during the year under review.

Cotton was grown on 744 acres, and the total yield was 128,395 lb. (an average of 172.57 lb. per acre). In 1916-17, the area under cotton was 817 acres, the production being 158,420 lb. (an average of 193 lb. per acre). The average price per lb. obtained was 11½d. In order to encourage the production of cotton, export of a limited quantity (82,416 lb.) was allowed, the high price obtainable affording a large profit. It is probable that all locally grown cotton will, for some time to come, be required for cloth manufacture in the island. Malta sail cloth is now much in demand and commands a high price. The development of the industry will, it is hoped, be followed by increased production of cotton.

Ten thousand seven hundred and sixty-one acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 10,913 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 308,596 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 323,114 loads in 1916-17.

Fisheries.

Nine hundred and nineteen boats were engaged in the fishing industry, and the number of hands employed is estimated at 2,910. The regulations governing fishing during war-time have placed restrictions on the areas and times in which fishermen can carry on their calling, and the industry has, naturally, been seriously affected in consequence. The average catch for the year 1917-18 may be taken as about 450 lb. per diem. The industry is one which, it is thought, could be largely extended and improved, when normal conditions are restored, by the introduction of more modern methods and appliances. Direct assistance by Government would appear, however, to be essential, as the fishing class are generally conservative and attached to their primitive habits and systems

Railway, Water and Lighting.

The gross revenue of the railway during 1917-18 was £10,439, as against £8,712 in 1916-17. The expenditure, including additions and renewals (£461), was £10,269; in addition to which £152 was expended on the railway technical school. The revenue derived from water supplied, introduction of house services, and rent of meters, was £27,030, as compared with £26,978, in 1916-17. 826,000,000 gallons of water were consumed in 1917-18, as against 857,000,000 in the previous year. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £21,726, as compared with £21,499 in 1916-17. The capital on March 31, 1918, was £49,300, and the profit on the year's working, after deducting interest and depreciation, was £1,283, or 2.6 per cent.

Control of Supplies.

With the reduced facilities for importation, the work of the Control Board, with its subsidiary boards, in the maintenance and distribution of supplies has been gradually extended to all essentials, though food and fuel have naturally demanded most attention. Prices and distribution of all foodstuffs, whether imported or locally produced, are controlled at all stages. Small committees in each district, consisting usually of the parish priest, the district medical officer, and the government schoolmaster, and one or more private citizens, report as to stocks and consumption of every commodity of importance, and make recommendations as to allotment to individual retailers in accordance with the requirements of their district. A flour board directs allotment of wheat to millers, the issue of flour from the mills to bakers, the amount issued being calculated on information supplied by the district committees as to the number of persons supplied with bread by each baker. Difficulties with regard to fuel have been met by the introduction of economical stoves designed to burn sawdust, while a cheap food kitchen is attached to each district.

Although the measures taken have been so far successful that food has been obtainable, and excessive profits prevented, distress has been general owing to increase of prices. Wages, in peace time, were not calculated on a high scale of living, and there has been little increase in the rate of wages since the outbreak of war. The patience with which privation has been borne and the readiness with which restrictions imposed by Government have been accepted, is all the more remarkable.

The financial position of the Government throughout the year has not been free from difficulty, as the advance in prices of all commodities has added to the cost of maintaining the principal public works—water supply, drainage, electric light, railways, etc.—and the charitable institutions, the demands on which became increasingly insistent, while at the same time the revenue was largely affected by the restrictions on importation. Measures for imposing additional taxation were introduced which will, it is hoped, tend to restore the balance of revenue and expenditure.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 5:—

Useful rain has fallen in the Central Provinces. There have also been light to moderate rains Madras, Bombay, Burma, Bihar and Orissa, and in the United Provinces. Scarcity conditions have been declared to exist in several districts in Bombay.

Bombay cotton market is irregular. Fully good broach April-May quoted Rs. 569 a candy. No improvement in piece goods market.

The survey by State Agency of the Agra Karachi connection has been sanctioned.

◆

Mr. C. C. Curwen, general manager of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company at Alexandria, arrived in London on December 11.

M. Vassa Yovanovitch and M. Milosh Soutchitch, members of the Serbian Industrial Mission, arrived in London on December 11 from Paris.

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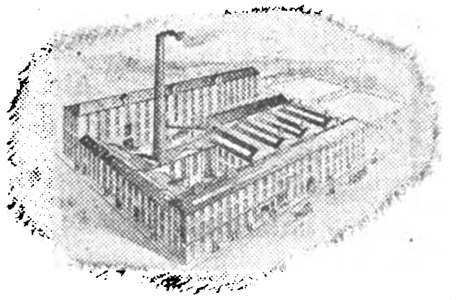

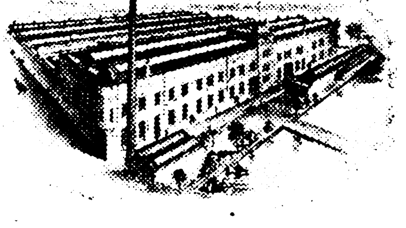

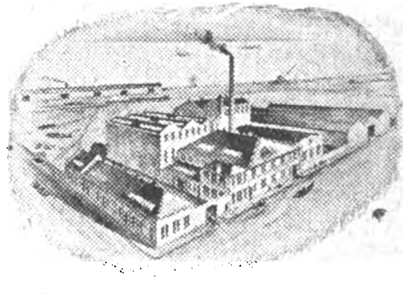

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Balkan Potentialities.

The remarkable industrial and agricultural progress that has been made by the Balkan States during the last twenty-five years is a convincing proof of the potentialities and economic value of those regions. When peace is permanently established they will, undoubtedly, rank among the most desirable markets for all kinds of machinery; whilst as fields for engineering and industrial enterprises they will afford great opportunities to enterprising firms. The Germans, well aware of this fact, have not spared efforts in the past to secure an economic predominance in those regions, and even during the war, notwithstanding their aggressive attitude and their doubtful military position there, they set in operation a most systematic commercial propaganda with the purpose of securing not only German trade supremacy, but also the "Germanisation" of some of the most important industrial and agricultural resources of those regions by an ingenious method of assimilation of German and local interests. Thus we hear now that various companies have been formed in the regions occupied by the Germans or their Allies during the last two years for the exploitation of local industries, mines, forests, water-power, etc., which companies, while apparently of native origin, had their economic and guiding centre in Germany! It may be assumed that effective measures will be taken in due course to deal with these companies.

Machinery for Roumania.

Roumania is one of the chief cereal-growing countries. In 1913 she exported 30,663,500 bushels of wheat, over 100,000,000 bushels of maize, and large quantities of oats, barley and rye. There is a flourishing trade in plums, exported as fruit pulp, dried, and also as plum spirit. Mining is almost entirely confined to coal and petroleum. For these industries it is obvious that large quantities of machinery and implements are employed. Taking the latest available returns (1913) the imports of machinery only represent a value of £2,366,200, of which the largest share was taken by Germany and Austria. These latter countries had also the largest share in an item of £4,902,200 representing the value of imported metals and manufactures thereof. It is needless to point out how urgent it is for British manufacturers who wish to do business in that market to act at once. The former chief suppliers of these machinery and metal goods, Germans and Austrians, have left Roumania in the worst possible condition. It will not be the fault of Roumania, if in its very urgent need for agricultural and other machinery and in the absence of any offer or approach from this or any other Allied country, it returns to the markets of Germany and Austria-Hungary, who, undoubtedly, in the circumstances will propose very attractive terms.

Roumanian Railway Schemes.

It is reported that a sum of four million francs has been set aside by the Roumanian Government, and all the necessary funds have been voted for the construction of a railway line to connect the northern part of Moldavia and the north of Bessarabia. The new line will join Lipcani, Radantzki, and Dangeni. Northern Moldavia possesses great natural resources, which have been but little developed hitherto. During the war this district provisioned the whole of the Roumanian army. The Government, it is stated, will do everything possible to hasten the completion of this new line.

Petroleum Industry.

According to recent German reports the Steaua Romano Company for the petroleum industry in Bucharest continues to increase its output and the refineries are fully occupied. Its final accounts for 1917 show that a dividend of 16 per cent. was distributed. With regard to the reconstruction of the ruined plant of the company it is asserted that this has been successfully carried out. The work of rebuilding began on February 1, 1917. Of the 288 oil-yielding soundings existing before the outbreak of the war in 1916 up to the end of December 115 had been re-opened. The output of oil grew as the restoration work progressed, and reached in the occupied territory in June, 1917, the highest daily quantity of 76.9 truck-loads. The company produced altogether in the occupied territory in the year 1917, 132,482 tons of oil to which must be added 38,544 tons supplied through the administration in Jassy from the Moldavian mines, so that in the last year 171,026 tons were obtained compared with 281.685 tons in the previous year.

A working association was constituted to open up part of the Roumanian State oilfields still unexploited. Most of the little available boring plant had to be used for the purpose of this association; in consequence of this, it is said, the usual activity of the company was much restricted.

Electricity in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarians have recently shown a remarkable aptness for modern industries and enterprises, which undoubtedly will help to expedite the development of their country's natural wealth. Concession after concession have been granted recently to companies and individuals which if properly and successfully utilised will enable Bulgaria to secure a prominent position among Near Eastern countries. According to recent reports, the Bulgarian Ministry of Trade has granted a concession for the production of electrical energy for industrial purposes in Preslaw and the vicinity, also another for the production of electrical energy from coal in Bistritza.

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"NEAR EAST" MARKETS.

Bombay Piece Goods Market.

Owing to various factors the Bombay piece goods market was in a very depressed condition by the commencement of November. The position is explained in the following extracts from a recent letter from India:—

"As it became apparent that the rains were a failure (this has been the worst monsoon that Bombay Presidency has experienced in the past 100 years), the market commenced to slump. The further absence of late October rain added to the depression. On top of this came the Government announcement of an Excess Profits Tax; then the Government scheme whereby every mill has to manufacture a defined quantity of standard cloth to be retailed, principally in other provinces, at fixed low rates. On top of this the influenza epidemic.

"The changes in the war situation completed the causes which have led to the present position. Local grey cloths, which were changing hands in early September at Rs3 to Rs3.8 per lb., have since been offered in the bazaar at Rs1.8, and this despite the fact that the mills replacing sale prices have varied from Rs 1.15 to Rs2.2 per lb. Broach cotton has slumped over Rs100 a candy, and cotton mill shares have declined all round, in the case of certain speculative shares by as much as 30 to 40 per cent. Japanese and Manchester cloths declined to well below replacing cost.

"The only redeeming feature in the situation is that this decline, owing to the series of causes which have led to it, has been much more gradual than would have been the case had, say, the monsoon been fair, and had Peace come upon us later and more suddenly.

"Gross speculation was taking place, and more and more outside people with no knowledge or previous experience of piece goods were becoming involved; the set-back now has badly shaken many, but it has, in general, made the position more healthy. Bombay is a panic market, but the effect to be looked for on the cessation of hostilities has probably been very largely discounted by the present fall.

"There are one or two factors which make for a little improvement in the situation. Certain dealers have held a meeting, and discussed steps to be taken to support the market. No decision was arrived at, but it is understood that most of the large dealers are agreeable to allowing *bona fide* cloth buyers two to three months extensions of delivery due date, on the buyers depositing margin.

"The local mills are granting extensions of delivery date fairly freely, and, in addition to this, their production will be curtailed a little, as the Tata Hydro Electric, owing to the failure of the rains can only supply full power to April, or alternatively, power for ten hours daily up to next monsoon. As against the effects of a curtailment of production is the probability that Indian Munitions Board purchases for 1919 delivery, or at least for July-December, 1919, may be much smaller than the quantities taken during the present year.

"Dewali falls on November 4, but we do not look to the festival bringing forth much forward business this year. Dealers will probably be content if they can move stocks into consumption. The fact that Peace may even result in increased oversea transport difficulties is recognised, and the buyers realise that labour troubles and a possible European demand for cloth may make it impossible to import cloth at present rates; but there is also a feeling—rightly or wrongly—that manufacturers are working on margins which allow of a very fair addition to their costings, and that there is room for reductions in home prices.

"An intelligent anticipation of what this market may do during the next few months is extremely difficult to make, but our feeling is that prices of Indian made cloth (and it must not be overlooked that the fact of dealers doing well, or otherwise, out of their local goods does materially, if indirectly, affect the prospects of the imported cloth trade), will steady up, while imported cloths will suffer a further temporary set-back when Peace is definitely arrived at. The set-back will probably only last for a few months—that is, until the market is steadied by the purchases from ready stock, and until the shortening of stocks brings a full realisation of replacing costs."

Egyptian Crops.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in October.

Cotton.—The weather, except in El Faiyûm, was warmer than usual and generally beneficial to the late crop. The heavy rainstorm which broke out on the 24th and 25th of the month, however, caused some damage to the unpicked cotton in parts of Lower Egypt, especially in Gharbiya, Sharqiya and Qalyûbiya. Water supply was sufficient. The attack of the pink boll worm, although naturally on the ascendant as compared with last month, is still somewhat lighter in Lower Egypt than in past seasons. The second picking is approaching completion, except in the northern Delta, and has given disappointing results in Minya and the Mudirias lying south. The yield is generally below average, but the quality is comparatively good. A general tendency has been noticed this year of a more careful picking and cleaning of the crop by cultivators. The latter are now busily engaged in cleaning and removing their cotton sticks, in order to prepare their land for the early sowing of the winter crops.

Rice (*Sêfi*).—Weather favourable and water supply generally sufficient. The crop is free from pests. Harvesting is proceeding everywhere, but varieties such as Fino and Ein el Bint are still being watered in some parts of Daqahliya Province. A good yield is expected.

Rice (*Nili*).—Harvesting has started in the early-sown fields, while the late-sown rice is ripening. The yield is expected to be slightly above average.

Maize.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable to the early-sown maize, but quite unfavourable to the late crop. The rainstorm caused a certain amount of damage in parts of Lower Egypt, especially in Sharqiya and Qalyûbiya. Although slight attacks of stalk borer and smut are reported in some provinces, the mischief caused is negligible, but in Daqahliya Province the crop has suffered to a certain extent from the usual depredations by crows. The maize is now approaching maturity, and harvesting has started in the early-sown fields. Despite the shortage of manures, a good yield is expected this year, especially from the early-ripened crop.

Millet (*Nili*).—Weather seasonable and water supply sufficient. Some difficulty is being experienced, however, in watering the crop near the small branch canals which have dried with the emptying of the basins in Giza Province. The area under millet appears to be smaller than last year. Trifling attacks of stalk borer are reported in Girga Qena and Aswân, but the condition of the crop is, on the whole, satisfactory.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was congenial and unusually favourable for the growth and development of the cane in Minia Province. Water supply adequate. The attack from stalk borer is general, but damage caused is of no importance. In Asyût and provinces further south the canes appear to be rather smaller than usual, owing probably to the shortage of chemical manures.

Bersim.—Weather favourable and water supply plentiful. Sowing is general, and is to a great extent, carried out under the standing crops, maize and cotton. Owing probably to the scarcity of fodder, farmers appear to be putting a larger area than last year under bersim. Few attacks by the cutworm and the cotton-worm are reported, but damage is insignificant. Germination is satisfactory and the growth of the young plants is good. Early crop sown after bare fallow is being grazed.

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The receipts of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended November 28, amounted to £1.271, making the total for the year £48,619. The figures for the corresponding week last year ended November 29 were £848 and £51,219.

EGYPTIAN STATE FINANCES DURING AUGUST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 8.

The State accounts for August show continued progress in the country's revenue. During the month revenue amounting to £E1,885,748 was collected, and expenditure of £E1,459,492 was incurred, leaving on the month's working a surplus of £E426,256. For the five months from the beginning of the financial year the revenue totals £E10,469,304, and the expenditure £E8,491,420, as against £E7,833,782 and £E7,281,712 at the same date in 1917. There is, therefore, a surplus of £E1,977,884 as compared with one of only £E552,070 a year ago.

The chief items of revenue during the month were direct taxes £E215,617, customs £E407,801, which are already within £E800,000 of the total estimated for the complete year, tobacco dues £E196.029, judicial fees £E122,423, railways £E597,221, whilst the main items of expenditure were, irrigation £E96,898, railways £E218,864, ghaffirs £E66,615, war office £E166,972, pensions and indemnities £E72,241, public debt £E117,324, and war gatuities £E48,720.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Strike.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Manchester, Wednesday.

The feature of interest in the market this week has been the strike of the operatives in the spinning mills of Lancashire, and business has been thoroughly disorganised. The immediate output of yarn and cloth is very uncertain, and it is contended that unless the dispute is settled weaving sheds, in addition to spinning mills, will be at a standstill at the end of the year. Last Friday, at a joint conference arranged by Sir George Askwith, the employers repeated their previous offer of 40 per cent. on list rates as against the claim of the workpeople for 40 per cent. on current wages, which means about 66 per cent. on list rates. The Trade Union officials again refused the proposal, and also declined to agree to arbitration. A deadlock, therefore, existed, and the meeting broke up without any settlement. Late on Wednesday Mr. Lloyd George intervened in the strike, and made arrangements to meet both parties early on Thursday morning. Nothing new can be said with regard to Egyptian cotton prospects. Nominally Egyptian yarns are distinctly dearer, but only small stock lots have been sold, as producers have not been inclined to book fresh orders. Inquiry in piece goods for Egypt remains slow. Very few offers have been met with for India and China. Most manufacturers have refused to quote. The American yarn market has been disorganised. Here and there 4d. to 6d. a pound more has been paid for stock lots. The bids mentioned in shipping counts have been altogether too low.

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GREEK FINANCES.

A Reuter message states that in the Greek Chamber on December 8, M. Negropontis, the Minister of Finance, in a speech on the financial situation, pointed out that during the year 1918 there had been a surplus in the Greek Budget of sixteen million drachmae, as against an anticipated deficit of 165 millions. The surplus for 1918, which was expected to amount to 237,000,000 drachmae would only reach 163,000,000, owing to the increase in the salaries of the Civil Service. The Public Debt of Greece now amounted to 1,500 million drachmae. The mobilisation had entailed an expenditure of 500 million drachmae and the war 500 million drachmae more. In spite of this, however, the deficit for 1919 would only amount to 100 million drachmae, which would be covered by the yield of the new fiscal measures which had been submitted for the Chamber's approval.

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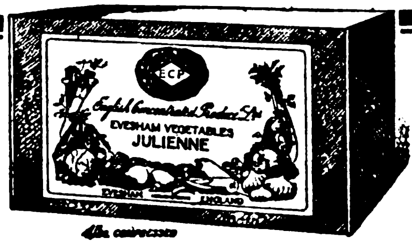
The joint report of the United States Mint and Geological Survey gives the silver production of the United States of America for the calendar year 1917 as 71,740,362 fine ozs., compared with 74,414,802 fine ozs. in 1916.



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COMPANY MEETINGS.

P. and O.

The seventy-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on December 12 at the offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Abbott) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that a considerable sum had been set aside by the company to meet the enhanced cost of building the ships needed to replenish their fleet. There would be great difficulty in working ships costing two or three times the pre-war amount so as to yield a profit and provide for depreciation on the cost. To keep values at a reasonable figure it would be necessary to write down drastically the outlay on new ships as soon as they were in the water. For the past few months they had had only one ship running to India, all the others being in Government employ, and the Indian mails had been mostly carried by British India steamers. As their ships were returned to them they would resume their position in the Eastern and Australian trades, but it would be some time before they would be able to offer the public their pre-war standards of convenience, comfort and regularity.

On the subject of the nationalisation of shipping, his lordship pointed out that at the outbreak of war the shipping companies placed every vessel needed by the State at the State's disposal at "Blue Book" or Government rates; later the whole mercantile marine was handed over, also at Blue Book rates. Then came the suggestion of permanent Government control, against the advocates of which the common sense of the Prime Minister and the House of Commons had prevailed, with the resulting pronouncement of the Government that they did not contemplate the nationalisation of shipping. Advocates of such a policy did not appreciate that much of this country's shipping was employed in international trades, the vessels so engaged never returning to these shores after leaving the builders' hands. Shipping was the most vital of all their "key" industries, and unless its superiority, its prosperity and its adaptability were restored the whole edifice of their foreign commerce must collapse.

As to reconstruction, they were, if left alone by Government Departments, perfectly capable of reconstructing themselves. He believed we should enter the first crucial period of peace in as favourable a position as most of our rivals. If we had high prices they would be world prices, but with a vast empire as yet undeveloped, its lands unworked and its treasures untapped, he trusted the days of the workhouse were well-nigh over. We could not hope to create a new heaven and a new earth in an old country, but we should pull through. Some few there were in the country who considered that labour was the sole creator of wealth, and who would welcome a war of classes. To know what happened when workers acted in the belief that the organisers of industry should be denounced and treated as enemies, that capital—the seed corn of the industrial harvest—was counted only as something to be confiscated, one had only to look at Russia, where in full and deadly bloom were flourishing every economic fallacy and every form of political quackery that had ever bewitched mankind. Russia to-day was a reference library of all the social, governmental, financial and industrial errors that it was possible for half-educated or wholly uneducated men, spurred on by passionate greed and hatred, to commit. Universal ruin, famine and anarchy would be the fruit of such policy. If it had been decreed that Government officials were to control British shipping while Allies, neutrals and enemies were free, they would have disposed of the two millions of tonnage which they and their associated companies possessed, have divided their assets among their shareholders and retired from business.

There had been a great deal of talk about the standard ships which the Government had built. He did not know who was responsible for the idea; one seldom knew who was responsible for a Government's idea. He had nothing to say against so-called standard ships, but they had always built standard ships, Having settled the type of ship they required, they placed orders, not for one but for several. There were limits to standardisation, but no finality to ship design or construction, and their next batch of ships was always an improvement on the previous one. Had shipowners been allowed to invest their depreciation, surplus earnings, and the amounts that had been recovered for ships that had been sunk in replenishing their fleet, the British mercantile marine would to-day have been much better equipped for the post-war trade of the world. Had they been permitted to make contracts to replace their vessels when they were sunk and before values increased to present-day figures, they would not now have had to pay two or three times the pre-war prices; he instanced the amounts recovered for three ships sunk by the enemy, which sums would, he said, not be sufficient to replace one-half of one of them. At present, when earning power was considered, they were two or three millions to the bad, if the value of the lost ships was compared with the amounts recovered. But the process of replenishment must go on. Within the last few days they had arranged for the construction of two large mail and passenger ships with Messrs. Harland and Wolff and for three steamers for the branch line with Messrs. Caird, while provisional arrangements had been made with other builders.

In the diversion of ships from their accustomed trades to other routes it had been laid down and confirmed by the Shipping Controller that there was to be no after-war poaching, and that each line, when things became normal, was to respect the other's prewar trades. When the liner requisition came to an end, as they hoped it shortly would, he trusted there would be no disposition by one to take advantage of the other by means of information gained or relations established while all have been fighting the common enemy; but he was afraid such attacks might be made by those who were not British. Several dips had already been made by Allies and neutrals into British trades. British shipowners would have to fight to regain their positions, and in doing this would be at a great disadvantage from the fact that their profits had been severely limited, while the profits of others had been fabulous. The Government, for instance, were paying British owners 15s. per ton per month, and for neutral tonnage as much as 40s. or 50s. Under the Finance Act of 1917 all firms were granted a refund of excess profits duty should their profits fall in any year below pre-war standard, but from this rule shipowners have been especially excluded. It would be no more than an act of justice if the shipping community were in this respect put on an equality with all other business concerns. There was no greater dead-weight on enterprise, initiative and industry than the excess profits duty; it had been loyally accepted, but its operation was vicious in the extreme, leading to indifference and extravagance.

Two and a-half years ago they, in conjunction with some shipping friends, had purchased land and laid out a modest building yard at Chepstow, with every prospect of success; the Government, fifteen months later, had commandeered their property and plant, and, after protracted negotiations, they had been paid out in August last on terms extremely favourable to the Government. As Marryat had said in "Jacob Faithful," "What's done can't be mended," and the P. and O. Company in September last had acquired on fair terms a controlling interest in one of the most up-to-date yards on the Clyde, with ample ground for development, which acquisition, he believed, would be a valuable adjunct to the associated companies. Whether the covetous eyes of some Government official would lead to this yard being appropriated as well as Chepstow, he could not tell. In the course of two or three weeks the P. and O. express would, he hoped, again be running to and from Marseilles. Commencing with the steamer leaving Bombay on the 15th instant, the mails would be landed at Marseilles, and in a very short time the outward mails would be embarked there. He paid a tribute to the services rendered to the country by the captains, officers, engineers, and crews of the P. and O., British India and associated lines throughout the year, whose devotion, nerve, and courage had been beyond all praise. Many of their captains, officers, and engineers had been serving in His Majesty's ships throughout the war and many had received distinctions. All who cared to come back to the company's services would be welcomed. In conclusion, he would like to say that, thanks to the prudence displayed in the conduct of their finances, the company was in a perfectly sound position. Their ships and properties were well written down and their investments stood in the books at a realisable figure. Notwithstanding the uncertainties ahead, they faced the future with confidence and hoped to give next year the same modest return on the capital invested as they proposed to do for the year last terminated.

Mr. W. G. Rathbone seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved :—"That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 6 per cent., with a bonus of 6 per cent., on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment for the same be made on and after the 17th instant."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. P. Williams and unanimously adopted, and the retiring director and auditors were reelected.

Mr. Edward Herbert proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

Mr. W. B. Atkinson seconded the vote, which was unanimously accorded.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The sixtieth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on December 5, at the offices, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller (the chairman) presiding. The Managing Director (Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : From the accounts you will observe that the expenditure on capital account during the year ended March 31 has been extremely low, amounting as it does to £176,731, of which £81,678 only was expended on rolling stock. I need hardly inform you that those sums are much below our average annual expenditure on capital before the war. During the year ended March 31, 1914, we spent £451,047 on rolling stock, and our total expenditure on capital account amounted to £917,776. We have been fortunate in being able to place an order in Canada for 150 bogie goods vehicles which are most urgently required for handling coal, ore, rails, and other steel sections manufactured by the Tata Iron and Steel Company, situated on the railway. I hope that this stock will shortly be delivered and erected in India, as it will relieve to a certain extent the shortage now experienced. Since preparing these remarks we have had information that the stock in question is in course of being shipped. As comparatively few engines and wagons have been placed on the line for the past three years, every ounce of work has had to be extracted from our existing stock owing to the exceptional traffic that has had to be handled. Our post-war expenditure in repairs will of necessity be heavy for a time.

Dealing now with the results of the past year's working, you will have observed that the gross earnings are the highest we have ever received. These amount to £3,759,503, and exceeded the gross earnings for the year 1915-16 by £801,284 and those of 1916-17 by £344,275. Our working expenses, although very heavy, do not constitute so high a percentage of the gross earnings as during the two preceding years. The working expenses rose to £1,750,645, exceeding those of 1915-16 by £300,767, and those of 1916-17 by £108,260. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings amounted to only 46.57, whereas for 1915-16 and 1916-17 the percentage was 49.01 and 48.09 respectively. So low a percentage has not been obtained since the year 1912, when it fell to 45.74. As I have already informed you, the revenue expenditure during the year amounted to £1,750,645, or an increase of £108,260. The heads under which the increase is most noticeable are locomotive and carriage and wagon, these having increased during the year under review by £48,933 and £63,733 respectively. The increases are mainly due to the very heavy repairs that have been necessary to our locomotives, and to a very much larger number of goods wagons having been overhauled and returned to service. The abnormal price that has had to be paid for the iron and steel required for these repairs has also very considerably increased our expenditure. Owing to the efforts being made in India to keep as large a number of engines and wagons fit for the road as possible, the abnormal duty that is being extracted from them, and the excessive price of material, I am afraid we must anticipate that these expenses will rise to an even higher level this year than they stood at last year. Part of the increase in working expenses has been occasioned by a temporary war increase granted to our staff.

During the greater part of the year the amount of coal traffic that it has been necessary to move has been the chief factor in regulating the amount of other traffic that could be moved, since coal required for Government and railway purposes was given preference over other traffic. The development of the coal traffic and Government, military and other preferential traffic during the year under review was so great that little or no margin of capacity was left over for the carriage of ordinary public traffic during the greater part of the year. A Special Coal Controller was appointed by the Government to regulate and distribute the whole of the coal traffic, and for this very important work it is a compliment to this railway that Mr. Godfrey, our agent, was selected to fill the post. In spite of the extraordinary traffic that we have had to deal with during the past year, we are making preparations to deal with a further large increase during the current year, as it is anticipated that more coal and more general traffic must be carried over our system than we have hitherto been able to deal with. I would mention that our receipts for the current year up to the end of November exceed those of last year by about £260,000. To meet this anticipated increase of traffic the construction of additional crossing stations and additions to existing yards are being hurried forward as fast as possible. It is hoped that most of these will be ready in time to help in dealing with the anticipated demand. As the Government of India are fully alive to the urgent need of increasing our facilities, I have no doubt that steps will be taken to permit the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., to roll the necessary rails. There was some doubt about that until quite lately, but I have been given to understand that rails will be more easily obtained and at a lower price than was recently the case. Although hostilities have ceased, I surmise that Government traffic on Indian railways will be heavy for a considerable time to come. Very great leeway has to be made up in carrying public goods traffic, and the partial failure of the rains will create a traffic in grain by which we should benefit. I do not anticipate, therefore, any sudden drop in receipts owing to the sudden cessation of hostilities.

When I last addressed you I ventured to prophesy that when the war ends the railway will find that a large new and permanent traffic has been created. This opinion I still adhere to. Moreover, since our last general meeting enormous deposits of iron ore have been proved within seventy-five miles of our railway to the south of Chakardharpur, one of our headquarter stations. Several firms, besides the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., have obtained concessions in these fields, and one new steel and iron company has been floated within the last six months. This company has selected a site for its works on our line near Asansol, in the Sanctoria coalfields, and the works they are erecting are bound to bring a large increase of traffic to our railway. As soon as the difficulties regarding the manufacture of machinery and plant in England are removed, and the Government of India's restrictions in respect to the flotation of new companies are withdrawn, I can forecast with some certainty that other companies will be formed, situated on our railway. All these iron ore deposits are in the area served by your railway, and consequently we have good cause to be optimistic regarding its future prospects. A line is being surveyed to tap ore deposits, and will be constructed as soon as possible after the best route to serve these ore fields has been decided on. A survey is also being made for a line to serve the coalfields in the Korea State, to the east of our Katni branch. As iron ore has been found in proximity to these coalfields, which are reported to contain coal of good quality, I have little doubt that this branch will also add not only to the prosperity of India, but also to that of the railway. At our last meeting I mentioned that the negotiations which had been proceeding for three or four years regarding the construction of a harbour and docks at Vizagapatam by this railway had been successfully concluded. Steps are now being taken to acquire land for the harbour, docks, and railway approaches. I wish to bear witness to the severe strain the depleted superior staff of the railway in India have been subjected to during the year owing to the large numbers of officers absent and the great and unremitting increase of traffic. They deserve the greatest praise for their untiring efforts. In this praise I also include the whole of the subordinate staff of the line, who have cheerfully and willingly worked to their best. I would also like to congratulate our acting agent, Mr. Clark, on the way he has dealt with the difficulties of working the line under abnormal conditions.

Mr. Frederick Schooling seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The dividend and bonus recommended by the directors were approved, the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

NEW COMPANIES.

Abyssinian Corporation.

The Abyssinian Corporation, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £1,005,000, in 1,000,000 ordinary and 5,000 deferred shares of £1 each. The objects of the corporation are to seek for and to secure openings for trade, and the employment of capital in Abyssinia and elsewhere, and to carry on the business of general traders, importers, exporters, planters, farmers, builders, contractors, carriers, shipbuilders, shipowners, shipbrokers, proprietors of hotels and general stores, land and mine-owners, bankers, and merchants, etc. There are to be not less than three and not more than eleven directors. The first directors are Viscount Wolmer, Mr. J. A. Barson, director of the Pekin Syndicate, Ltd., Mr. J. H. Batty, Mr. E. W. Janson, director of Fanti Consolidated, Ltd., Mr C. M. Higgins, director of the Commercial Bank of London, Mr. D. B. McGillivray, director of the Sudan Plantations, Ltd., Mr. P. H. Thomas, and Mr. C. H. Villiers, director of Magadi Soda, Ltd. As regards the distribution of profits, the ordinary shares are to be entitled to 90 per cent. of the profits available for dividend, but should that be insufficient to pay a dividend of 6 per cent., then to as much of the remaining 10 per cent. as may be required to make up the deficiency. The deferred shares will receive 10 per cent. of the profits in a year when 6 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares.

J. W. Whittall and Co.

J. W. Whittall and Co., Ltd., was registered on December 5, as a private company with a capital of £350,000 in 15,000 Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each, and 200,000 shares of £1 each, to take over all or part of the business of J. W. Whittall and Co., of Constantinople, and to carry on the business of general merchants and traders, financial agents, ship and barge owners, mine owners, farmers, etc., and to enter into an agreement with F. E., W. J. H. and R. La F. Whittall.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER & PARR'S BANK, LTD.
ESTABLISHED IN 1836.
Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq. Deputy Chairmen: SIR MONTAGU TURNER, R. HUGH TENNANT, Esq.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £30,000,000
(1,500,000 Shares of £20 each)
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL 27,314,260
PAID-UP CAPITAL 6,828,565
RESERVE 6,828,565

(29th JUNE, 1918)
Current, Deposit and other Accounts ... £230,425,743
Cash in Hand and at Bank of England ... 42,931,098
Money at Call and Short Notice ... 29,525,701
Advances and Discounts 117,402,229

Head Office .... 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.
Joint General Managers: F. J. BARTHORPE, J. W. BUCKHURST, J. C. ROBERTSON.
Foreign Branch Office ... 82, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

SPANISH BRANCHES ... Barcelona: Paseo de Gracia 8 and 10. Madrid: Calle de Alcalá 43
AFFILIATED IN FRANCE ... ... London County & Westminster Bank (Paris), Limited
PARIS ... 22, Place Vendome. BORDEAUX ... 22 & 24, Cours de l'Intendance.
LYONS ... 37, Rue de la Republique. MARSEILLES ... ... 31, Rue Paradis.
AFFILIATED IN IRELAND ... ... Ulster Bank Limited
All cheques on the Ulster Bank will be collected for Customers of this Bank, free of Commission.
The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom, and has Correspondents throughout the World.
EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

British India Steam Navigation.

The report of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 states that after providing for depreciation, there is a balance of £170,095, which (less interim dividends paid in May) the directors recommend should be disposed of as follows:—Dividend of 5 per cent. on preference stock, £35,000; dividend of 8 per cent. (free of tax) on shares, £76,576; special bonus of 4 per cent. (free of tax) on shares, £38,288; leaving to be carried forward £20,231. The entire fleet has been under charter to, or requisition by, Government at Blue Book rates. The company has consequently been unable to provide sufficient tonnage for the requirements of some important trades, and opportunity was thus given, and availed of, by foreign tonnage to participate in these trades. When the steamers are again available it will be the first concern of the directors to recover their trades. The directors are arranging to make up the company's fleet to its former standard by contracts with builders.

Assam Bengal Railway.

The report of the Assam and Bengal Railway for year ended March 31 shows that gross receipts amounted to Rs76,77,127 and working expenses to Rs56,97,944, the ratio being 74.22, compared with 78.04. The usual half-yearly dividends at the guaranteed rate of 3 per cent. per annum were paid on January 1 and July 1.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.

The trading profit of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30, including Government subsidies, and after adding dividends, interest and transfer fees received, and after providing for estimated liability in respect of excess profits duty and income-tax, amounted to £51,111. After deducting therefrom London office expenses, debenture interest, directors' fees, depreciation, etc., £24,613, there remains a net profit of £26,498, to which there is to be added the balance brought forward, after appropriations, and after deducting therefrom the dividend on the preference shares for the half-year to December 31, 1917, £15,844, making the balance £42,343. Out of this there has been paid since the date of the accounts half-year's dividend on preference shares to June 30 and an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, together, £10,497, leaving a balance available for appropriation of £31,845, cut of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 15 per cent. (making 20 per cent. for the year), £15,000, leaving to be carried forward £16,845. During the greater part of the past year the company's ships have been running under Government control.

Sudan Plantations.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 states that the issued share capital remains at £135,000, and the debenture capital is likewise unchanged at £57,000. Since the closing of the books the debenture capital has been entirely paid off. The crops handled at the two ginning factories, compared with the previous year were as follows:—Zeidab 2,012 bales, against 1,631 bales; Wad Medani 3,120 bales, against 3,388 bales. The prices realised for cotton were very satisfactory. The supply of irrigation to natives in the Zeidab district again shows a further increase. The Government agricultural station at Tayiba continues to be worked by the syndicate on behalf of the Sudan Government. A scientific research station was started in the Gezira at the beginning of this year under the joint direction of the Sudan Government and the syndicate. The syndicate's own station at Barakat is now fully developed, and is proving most useful as a training ground for the future. The yield of cotton from this station last year was not good owing to the shortage of water. The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £59,692 7s. 10d., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £11,014 0s. 7d., less directors' fees, since paid, £600, brings the total credit to £70,106 8s. 5d. It is proposed to deal with this sum as follows: To recommend the declaration of a dividend of 25 per cent., equal to 5s. per share (less income-tax), payable to shareholders registered on December 13, absorbing £33,750; to carry forward the balance of £36,356 8s. 5d. Mr. F. Eckstein and Mr. D. M. Hannay, directors of the syndicate, retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Land Bank of Egypt have declared dividends of 8s. 6d. per share, payable 16th instant, against coupon No. 16, and £3 per Founders' shrae, payable against coupon No. 12, in London at the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, 8-13, King William Street, E.C.4.

The preference stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, Limited, will be closed from the 19th inst. to January 4, both days inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to the shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books. No transfer will be received at the office while the books are closed.

The directors of the Panawatte Tea and Rubber Estates have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, payable early in January.

The directors of the Eastern Assam Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year ending 31st inst. (same as last year), payable 17th inst.

The directors of the Panagula Rubber Company have declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent., less tax, on account of the current year, payable 10th inst.

The directors of the Jhanzie Tea Association have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., or 4s. per share, less income-tax, payable on and after 23rd instant.

The report of the Southern India Rubber Company for the year ended March 31 last states that the loss on the year amounted to £1,540, which brought the total debit up to £8,070.

British Indian Tea.—Preference and ordinary registers will be closed from 11th to 20th inst., inclusive.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 60 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1918, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombar Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Limited; in Alexandria, upon the making of a de claration as to ownership in the form required by the above Bank, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 8th November, 1918.
By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, Wednesday.

There has again been very little doing this week. But the undertone of the market is quite good, and the news from Egypt is all of a very satisfactory character, although the Bourses are generally keeping very quiet.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are ½ down at 88¾, round which price some small buying has been in progress. The 3½ per cent. pref. loan remains a firm spot at 77.

In Bank shares, whilst there has been no change in Agriculturals, which have remained a very quiet market, there has been a good demand for National Banks, with the result that the price has jumped a half to 21¼. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are rather lower at 16 ex rights. There has been no change in Land Banks, although the dividends just announced, of 8s. 6d. on the ordinary and £3 on the deferred shares, are a further improvement on last year's results, and the prospects for this concern appear to be very bright.

Delta Light Railways have been a firm spot at 8¼, and there is some quiet buying in progress.

In Land shares prices have remained firm on the whole, and a certain amount of business has been passing; but the only quotable change is a rise of 6d. in New Egyptians to 22s.

Amongst Miscellaneous descriptions Salts and Sodas have been a feature on the very fine annual figures recently published, and have improved 7s. 6d. to 78s. 9d. Khedivial Mails, which had dropped at one time to 73s. 9d., have jumped up on the report issued to-day, which shows a very high financial position, and a dividend of 20 per cent. in all, as was the case last year. The shares close 1-16th up at 77s. 6d. There has also been some inquiry for the preference shares in the neighbourhood of the current quotation.

Amongst Greek securities Rentes are a half up at 56½, but otherwise there is no change in Government loans. Bank of Athens shares were done to-day at 81s. for 500 shares, which is rather lower than the recent quotation.

Oil Shares.

The tone in the market is rather better. Anglo-Egyptians (B) are somewhat stronger at 2 11-16, while British Burmahs are 3d. up at 13s. 9d. Anglo-Persian Prefs. are unchanged at 25s. 6d.

The Roumanian market has been weaker. Roumanian Consols and Traian Roumanians are unchanged at 16s. and 10s. 6d. respectively, but Anglo-Roumanians are 1s. 1½d. lower at 8s. 6d.

Russians have remained about the same. Bakus are 1½d. up at 4s. 7½d. Ural Caspians at 1 9-16, and Russian Petroleums at 2s. 3d. are unchanged. Russian Generals are ¼ up at 1⅛, and North Caucasians are 1 9-32.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canals close at 5,450 francs, a fall on the week of 85 francs. Other prices are: Egyptian Unifieds 94.50 (against 91.75), Serbian 1895s 61.90 (unchanged), Turkish Unifieds 71.40 (against 71.80), Banque d'Athenes 101 (against 108), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 785 (against 783), Land Banks of Egypt 191.50 (against 202.50), and Ottoman Banks 535 (against 550).

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."

CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		Dec. 11
	July 27 1914	Nov. 4	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	39	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	89½	88¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	77	77
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56 8	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81⅛	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 13/16	6 13/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅜	7⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	20½xd	16xr
Bank of Athens	£2	4¼	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7½	6½xd	6½xd
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 33/64	9 33/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	90	87¾
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14½	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	8⅞	9
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7½	7½
London County and Westminster	—	19	18⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	20¾	21¼
National Bank of India	43	69	71½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	8½	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	24/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	14	14
Do. Pref.	4½	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	16/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	2¾	2⅝
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/6	22/-
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 21/32	2 21/32
Sudan Plantations	—	—	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	70/-	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/9	3/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅞	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	71/3	78/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	76/3	77/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - -	£650,000
RESERVE - - - - - -	£190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kasvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samohs, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - -	Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - -	Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank. Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principal towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up	Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments	Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

Agency in Bombay: ELPHINSTONE CIRCLE.

Current Accounts opened free of charge. **Fixed Deposits** received at interest.
Government and other Securities received for safe custody; purchases and sales effected.
Interest collected and **Remittances** made.
Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
Savings Banks Deposits received and interest allowed

Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 398.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There would seem to be a physical explanation for the scanty nature of the news received from the Balkans. Wireless telegraphy affords the only means of rapid communication for the present, and even this entails transmission through three or four stations before a message can reach England. When the daily capacity of the instruments comes to be distributed between numerous claimants, all of them official, the number of words allotted to each is comparatively small, and there is little opportunity for news of a general character. With regard to Bulgaria, the British Mission at present in that country is a military one, and cannot be expected to give much attention to non-military matters. It is to be hoped that an improvement will shortly be effected in the means of communication, as it is to the interests of neither the countries themselves nor of the Alliance as a whole that the details of the transition stage from war to peace should be elaborated in secret.

A correspondent in *The Times* puts his finger on the weak spot in the terms of the armistice granted to Turkey—the absence of "some formal putting down of the German mighty from their seats, some memorable and unmistakable assertion of the victory of Great Britain over Turkey and her German Allies, which would make a lasting impression on the Oriental mind." For a fortnight after the Turks had surrendered no Allied forces approached their capital, and "during all that fortnight the Germans continued to trail their rattling sabres in the streets of Constantinople, and the Young Turk party strove to regain credit by representing the peace as an honourable compromise and not a defeat." Even when the British forces did arrive, they landed "inconspicuously"; the Germans still had a fortnight's grace before they were obliged to leave, and they appear to have been at pains to parade themselves in public as prominently as possible, while British colonels tramped about on foot, and ultimately purchased from Greek middlemen the cars that they had failed to commandeer from the Germans.

These details of the British occupation of Constantinople are eminently characteristic. Whether the forbearance thus shown bears fruit in the long run is a matter for argument. There can be no doubt, however, that in the case of the members of the Committee of Union and Progress it has served to encourage an attitude bordering on *intransigeance*. The Turkish Press is emboldened to attack the Allies for alleged violations of the armistice, and there are said to have been cases not only of maltreatment of the local population for celebrating the Allies' victory, but also of German soldiers trying to hustle British troops, needless to say, with physical discomfort to the Germans. It is possible to overrate the significance of these and similar incidents; and the attitude adopted towards them by the average British officer, naval or military, can easily be imagined. On the other hand, they will be gall and bitterness to more sensitive peoples of southern latitudes, and there is always the possibility that lenience in one direction will encourage the Turk to commit excesses in another. Thus it is reported by a Greek newspaper that the situation of Smyrna has become critical owing to the appearance outside the town of bands armed by the Young Turks. Their positions, according to the same authority, have had to be shelled by the Allied Fleet. The wiser course, as we urged at the time, would have been to impose upon the Turks at once the regime, as near as possible, that the peace terms hold in store for them. It would have been better for the Turks themselves, and would have obviated the charges that are now being laid at their door of further outrages and oppression.

The problems awaiting solution at the hands of the Allied Conference in Paris are so numerous and intricate that there will be great temptation here and there to shirk the issue and to trust to the future finding a way out of the present difficulty. Any such temptation, however, must be resisted in the interests of the world's peace, for it is certain that an unsatisfactory settlement of any one question will mean a copious harvest of unrest. Not the least difficult among the problems will be the settlement of the Armenian question, with the complications represented by the Armenian districts in Russia and the presence of Kurds in the Armenian vilayets. The formation of an Armenian military mission to visit England, France, and the United States has much to commend it, as it is an attempt on the part of the Armenian people to help themselves, a preliminary step towards the reconstruction of their distressed country. The intention, we gather, is that the members of the mission should get into touch with the Armenians in the Allied countries with a view to the creation of an army which could supply the practical support that would be indispensable to the Armenian State in its early days. In England alone there can be no doubt that much material exists for such a force.

As much as any other people the Armenians require to have done with the political aspect of reconstruction as quickly as possible with a view to settling down t the more pressing economic aspect. The greater part of the country is probably devastated; communications of all kinds are primitive and wholly inadequate. Here, then, is another claimant on the Allies for practically all the requirements of modern existence. As it has been found necessary to centralise the relief measures for which the Allied Governments have made themselves responsible, so it may be the more practical to attempt to systematise the efforts to restock the different countries with the necessaries of life. The prospect, let us say, of Armenians and Slovenes as rival claimants at this stage for essential Allied manufactures is not a satisfactory one; and in view of the congestion that will be the rule in many trades owing to the consumption of stocks during the last four years, there is every probability of many people having to do without the goods they need, unless some official estimate of the world's requirements can be compiled in order that manufacturers may realise the extent of the markets awaiting their products.

The new Yugoslav State is experiencing some difficulty in getting under way. With the news that the first Government had been formed with M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, as Minister President; M. Koroshetz, the head of the Agram Provisional Government, as Vice-President, and M. Trumbitch, President of the London Yugoslav Committee, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, it was to be thought that the personal and political obstacles had been surmounted. There has been a considerable amount of intrigue on foot, and it was confidently asserted that the Yugoslavs were determined not to include M. Pashitch in any Federal Government. The spectacle of an English publication lending itself to personal attacks on the head of an Allied Government was objectionable enough to make most people wish to see M. Pashitch take up the position to which his claims entitled him. Now, however, comes the report that he has immediately resigned the Presidency. News from the Balkans is notoriously tendencious in character, and it will be well to wait for confirmation of this report. There can be little doubt as to M. Pashitch's personal popularity in his own country, if any reliance can be placed on the descriptions that reach us of the reception accorded him on his return to Serbia.

No greater disservice can be done to the peoples of South-Eastern Europe than to encourage their weakness for political intrigue, and it is nothing short of a tragedy when this encouragement comes from Englishmen who have acquired influence among the Balkan nations. As the clique that has been so violent in denunciation of M. Pashitch has been equally active in the Serbian Militarist designs on Montenegro, it is essential that whoever is the head of the new Yugoslav Government should lose no time in dissociating himself from the attempt to absorb Montenegro in Serbia before the Montenegrin people have an opportunity of determining their own destiny. It does not appear that the new Government contains a representative of Montenegro, but in view of the indeterminate conditions prevailing in that country, the omission is not unnatural. The adhesion of Montenegro to Yugoslavia is already an accomplished fact; but before the country can play its part in the new State it must adjust its own political anomalies. Both Serbia and Yugoslavia can afford to wait until the Montenegrin situation is cleared up to the satisfaction of the people. An attempt on Serbia's part to annex Montenegro before an unexceptional plebiscite has been taken cannot fail to prejudice the Yugoslavs in the eyes of the world.

Side by side with the attack on the Serbian Prime Minister and the designs on Montenegro has been carried out in the same English quarter a campaign calculated to embitter the relations between the Italians and the Yugoslavs. The grounds of dispute between the two peoples are admitted; but the only rôle that an outside observer is called upon to play, especially if he belong to a nation which has a reputation for level-headedness and statecraft, is to counsel or compel moderation on both sides and to point the way to an honourable settlement. Italian imperialism cannot be satisfactorily counteracted by fanning the flames of Yugoslav imperialism. It is to the Serbian Government's credit that it does not seem to have lent itself to extreme views on this subject, but has carried on negotiations with the Italian Government with the object of arriving at an amicable settlement.

A considerable amount of ground might be cleared away at the first meeting of the Allies' Preliminary Conference if all the delegates present were to be reminded that the discussion must start from the basis of the principle of nationality and the necessity for the more constitutionally experienced peoples to act as trustees for less favoured nations. Such a basis would at once knock the bottom out of the contention of Signor Tittoni in the Italian Senate regarding Italy's interests in the Levant. "Our interests," he said, "in the Eastern Mediterranean are of first-class importance, and, therefore, if the other Powers acquire territorial possessions there, we must do so too; if only as Protectorates, or zones of influence, then we must have the same; if for commercial or economic advantages, we must have them also; if they are to have nothing, neither shall we ask for anything. These are not Imperialist criteria, they are simply criteria of distributive justice. We shared largely in the risks and sufferings of the war, and we must share in equal measure in the advantages of peace."

To judge by these remarks the war has meant nothing to Signor Tittoni. If Great Britain, France, or the United States become responsible for the good government and peaceful development of certain portions of what was the Ottoman Empire, it will not be with a view to reaping "the advantages of peace" or equalising their material resources. It will be because Mesopotamia, Syria, and probably Constantinople cannot for the present be left to govern themselves, and the countries indicated are in existing circumstances marked out as the obvious trustees. The territory claimed by Italy in Asia Minor stands in no need of tutelage; it is claimed, according to Signor Tittoni, on the ground that Italy insists upon "getting something out of the war" in the Eastern Mediterranean. Unless appearances are deceptive, President Wilson can be relied upon to make short work of any such claims. They are reminiscent, it is true, of the secret treaty of 1915; but Italy is in honour bound to repudiate that document, which is altogether at variance with the spirit that has enabled the Allies to pull through the grim ordeal that has since confronted them.

The flight of a British aeroplane from Cairo to Delhi with a subsequent trip as far as Calcutta is a notable achievement in the world's history, and may well be associated with the Great War in marking the inauguration of a new era for the British Empire. The Handley Page machine employed for the purpose had previously been flown from England to Egypt, and had taken an active part in the final operation against the Turks on the Palestine front. It was, therefore, an ordinary service machine of the particular type. The actual journey was accomplished without incident, the distance of 3,200 miles to Delhi being covered in about forty-two hours of flying time. Behind these bald facts lies a considerable amount of organisation, to say nothing of expense, in connection with the preparation of petrol, oil, and spare depots; and this aspect of the undertaking will be responsible for any delay there may be in the introduction of aeroplane services the world over. But that these long-distance flights are practicable is now proved conclusively, and there will be thousands of British subjects at this moment envying Major-General W. G. H. Salmond and Captain Ross Smith their good fortune in having been able to demonstrate this fact.

NOTICE.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, it will be necessary to print next week's issue of THE NEAR EAST *on Tuesday afternoon. Communications intended for publication in that issue must reach* THE NEAR EAST *Office by the first post on Tuesday morning.*

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 18.*

Egypt celebrated the signing of the Armistice in joyous style. Flags of all the Entente Powers were hoisted at every point, and enthusiastic crowds filled the streets, cafés, and theatres, and cheered the various anthems, the strains of which, as well as of the most popular war melodies, were heard until very late into the night. Generally speaking, the people conducted themselves in an orderly manner. The Egyptians were, as usual, most undemonstrative, and few showed any enthusiasm. The British preserved great calm, though relief was plainly visible on their faces and in their actions; the troops also behaved generally in an exemplary fashion. As for the foreign colonies, the French, contrary to what one would have expected, showed great restraint, but the Italian and Greek were beside themselves with joy, and paraded the streets singing and shouting long before the final armistice was signed.

So much for the private, or what one might call the unofficial, recognition of the Armistice. As regards the official recognition, Cairo for once in a way was left far behind. In Alexandria, no sooner was the news known than Mr. Percy Carver, chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce, issued an invitation to the British Community to meet him at the Savoy Palace Hotel on the following day, when a most enthusiastic meeting was held, speeches were delivered by Mr. Carver; Mr. Geary, the Acting Consul-General; Judge Cator, of the Mixed Appeal Court; and Archdeacon Warlow; and telegrams of congratulation were despatched to H.M. the King and the leading men who had contributed to the Entente victory. The French communities in Cairo and Alexandria also held a meeting, but as far as the British community is concerned nothing at all has been done in Cairo. As regards the Government, a holiday was given to the schools, but that is the only outward recognition by the Egyptian authorities of the great event. Cairo, especially the British community, is not generally lacking in patriotic instincts, nor does it usually lag behind Alexandria in the expression thereof. One wonders why, for instance, the chairman of the Cairo community of the British Chamber of Commerce did not take the initiative or even follow the excellent example set him by his Alexandria senior, and call a meeting of the Cairo residents, who were only waiting for a lead from someone in authority. Certainly this omission of any official recognition by the British colony of Cairo, which has aroused surprised and unfavourable comment in Egyptian and European circles, is most regrettable.

The British Red Cross.

A four days' fête in aid of "Our Day, 1918," has been held this week in the Esbekia Gardens. It has proved a gigantic success, and the British Red Cross funds should receive a substantial addition as the result. The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate paid a visit to the gardens just before the fête was opened, and expressed their great satisfaction at what they saw. Sir Reginald subsequently sent the organisers a warm letter of appreciation of their efforts. In a report on the work of the British Red Cross the Commissioner expresses the opinion that it will not be possible to take any serious action with regard to demobilisation for several months yet. The large number of sick that are coming down from Palestine and Syria has necessitated the reopening of hospitals and the extension of existing ones, in addition to which the repatriation ships have to be looked after and provided with comforts; so that there is still plenty of good work to be done by the British Red Cross, which will continue to want funds for some time yet.

The Armenian Question.

The Armenian colonies of Egypt and the Sudan held a mass meeting on Sunday last in Cairo and voted a resolution to be sent to the President of the Armenian Delegation in Paris to the effect that they maintained the claim of the Armenian nation to the independence and sovereignty of the whole of Armenia, including Cilicia, and that they asked for the institution there of a provisional Armenian Government and the immediate evacuation of Turkish troops and their substitution by Allied troops and the Armenian contingents. This resolution they requested should be communicated to the Entente Powers and the United States. In this connection it is interesting to record that the Armenians both here and in Turkey look to Boghos Nubar Pasha as their head, and that they are ready to follow his leadership.

November 25.

General Sir Edmund Allenby, who came up to Cairo yesterday, had a most enthusiastic reception. This is the second occasion since his accession to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces that he has made an official entry into the capital. The first occasion was after the capture of Jerusalem, and yesterday's ceremony may be regarded as an official celebration of the signing of the armistice with Turkey and with Germany.

General Allenby, who travelled by special train, was received on arrival by the High Commissioner and his staff, Lewa Shehata Pasha Kamil (representing His Highness the Sultan), Major-General H. D. Watson and his staff, the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, and the leading British and European officials and notables. A guard of honour was furnished in the station by British troops, and outside by a detachment of the Sultan's Bodyguard. On alighting from the train General Allenby was received with cheers and the playing of the National Anthem, and after inspecting the two guards of honour, he drove off with his staff in motor-cars to his residence at Ghezireh. The cortège, which was preceded by three motor-cycles, passed at a slow pace through the main streets, which were lined with British troops, and thronged with a cosmopolitan crowd. Everywhere the gallant General was enthusiastically acclaimed, and at certain points flowers were thrown on his car from the upper stories of the houses. From the time of the entry of his special train into the station to his arrival at his house at Ghezireh the General was escorted from above by a squadron of aeroplanes.

It was an historic occasion, and General Allenby had every reason to be satisfied with his reception. At the same time considerable regret is expressed, not only in European, but also in Egyptian circles, that his triumphal progress through the capital should not have been made the occasion for a greater display.

The Turf.

The winter racing season has now begun. As last year, meetings will be held at Heliopolis and Gezira on alternate Saturdays, and some good sport is anticipated, owing, in the first place, to the rest which the animals have had since the close of the Alexandria season; and, secondly, to the introduction of a number of English thoroughbreds that were specially imported from England last summer. Certainly the character of the past meetings which have been held leads one to expect that the anticipation as to an improvement in the general standard will be realised this winter.

Spanish Influenza.

The attack of Spanish influenza has become sufficiently serious for the public health authorities to take up the matter. The malady is not one of those which require to be notified to the sanitary officials; in fact, it would be exceedingly difficult to treat it in the same manner. All that can apparently be done is to warn the public to place themselves under the doctor immediately the first symptoms manifest themselves, and to take certain hygienic and medical precautions to avoid contagion. This the public health authorities in Alexandria and Cairo have done in the form of a circular which has been extensively published, and it is to be hoped that the recommendations will be observed, and that as a result the spread of this malady will be restricted and the number of fatal cases reduced.

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* Delayed in transmission. We much regret that our Cairo Letters—like others—have for so long boen repeatedly and seriously delayed in transmission. Mails are now arriving more rapidly, and we trust that it will no longer be necessary to trust to our readers' kindness in bearing with the dela[illegible] so patiently. It has seemed advisable to publish the letters, how[illegible]l, for the sake of a record.—Ed.

LETTER FROM PORT SAID.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, November 25.

Since my last letter peace has come upon us almost as suddenly as war broke out in 1914, when we realized the providence that removed the Goeben from her moorings at the entrance to the Canal, where she lay the greater part of July. Had she remained there till the 4th of August she might have blocked the Canal so that it would have taken from six to twelve months to clear it.

The news of the signing of the Armistice was known to some here on the evening of Monday, November 11, but it was eight o'clock the next morning that the residents let themselves go. One could hardly hear oneself speak on the water front for the noise of the ships' syrens and hooters, and the natives came pouring down from Arab-town, hardly realizing what all the noise was about. All the ships in the harbour were dressed, and even the observation balloon went up with lines of flags attached. The warships fired salutes at noon, bands and processions paraded the town, stopping and demonstrating opposite the various consulates, all the flags in the place seemed to be hung out, and altogether Port Said has never before seen such a spontaneous celebration. In the evening there was a considerable display of rockets and Very's lights from the ships in the harbour.

In the morning there was a hastily convened Thanksgiving Service at the Rest Camp Y.M.C.A., which was attended by nearly every man there. At noon a meeting of British residents at the Consulate sent a telegram to Sir Reginald Wingate, requesting him to convey to the King their loyal congratulations on the signing of the Armistice.

Two days later a Thanksgiving Service was held in the English Church, at which the Allied Consuls were present, also representatives of the Greek Orthodox and Coptic Churches; while the Nonconformist Chaplain and the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. were seated in the chancel. The following Sunday the usual church service was shelved, and a united service was held in the open air in the grounds of the Sporting Club.

Port Said is rapidly getting back to pre-war routine, and perhaps the most significant signs of peace conditions are the ships, which now arrive when and how they can, instead of in carefully shepherded convoys during daylight only. The Canal Company and the various shipping agencies are now giving information as to the expected arrivals and departures of vessels, which has been unobtainable through legitimate sources for the last four years.

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PERSIAN TRAVEL AND THE WAR.

Before the Persian Society, on December 11, at Burlington Gardens, Colonel Napier repeated the lecture on Persian Roads and Means of Communication which we briefly reported when he delivered it before the Royal Geographical Society recently.

In the short discussion that followed, Mr. Greenway, who presided, said that the one thing which struck him more than anything else was the extraordinary change which had come with the advent of the British forces. The improvement in the comfort and speed of travelling was enormous, even as compared with only a few years ago. In 1911 he had travelled over very much the same route as Colonel Napier had taken when going from Baghdad to Baku, and had experienced conditions pretty nearly as bad as if he had been journeying to the North Pole. The whole country from the Tap-i-Girrah through Kermanshah, Dalatabad to Teheran, and on to Kazvin and Resht, was covered with snow to a depth in many places of from ten to fifteen feet. Persia owed us a great debt of gratitude for ameliorating the conditions of travel, by the introduction of motor and other forms of traffic necessary for a military expedition. The hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who every year travelled Persian roads—many of them coming from as far as Astrakhan or Bokhara, taking six months on the journey and experiencing every sort of climate—would have cause to rejoice that one of the services we should before long be rendering Persia would be the introduction not only of motors but of railways. Thus it would almost be made possible for Shiahs going to Kerbella to perform the pilgrimage in as many hours as it now sometimes took months.

Mr. Alexander Finn said he had lived in Persia for eleven years without a day's leave out of the country. He fully recognised that at the present day the necessities of life included motor-cars and railways; but he would be very sorry to go back to Persia and find motor-cars and railways there. Life in Persia was far more interesting in his day than it could be now. When he first went out it took ten days to go from Resht to Teheran, and a month to go from Teheran to Meshed. Letters used to arrive every four weeks. The European residents of Teheran would work hard to reply to their letters and then go away for four weeks' leave. Thus they learned a great deal more about the country than those who came afterwards.

THANKS FOR VICTORY.

A NOTABLE SERVICE IN JERUSALEM.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jerusalem, November 17.

A lovely November day of clear air and bright sunshine was just the right setting for a unique Sunday morning in Jerusalem. We wended our way through the rocky fields, where the vines are already sprouting after the early rains, to where the white tower of St. George's beckoned us to join with representatives of all creeds and nationalities in a service of praise and thanksgiving for the good news of victory and coming peace.

It was only representatives who could gather there, though the space was used to its utmost capacity, and wonderfully planned and thought out so as to accommodate the maximum number of all those who would fain be present. Fifty-one units of the victorious army were represented, and khaki filled the body of the building; but seats of honour were reserved for the Mufti and the Moslem notables, as for the Chief Rabbi and his colleagues. In the choir the stalls were occupied by the dark-robed figures of the dignitaries of the Eastern Churches, headed by the venerable Archbishop of Sinai and including as well Syrians and Greek Orthodox, Copts and Abyssinians, and Armenians in their quaint peaked head-dresses.

When every seat and all the standing room was occupied, we all stood and sang "O God our Help in ages past," while the choir boys led slowly in, followed by no gorgeously robed clergy, but khaki-clad men for the most part. It was a simple beginning to a service impressive in its simplicity, and from beginning to end one's heart was able to go out in fullest participation, without a jarring note. There was no disorder, no haste, no confusion, and a really devout atmosphere throughout. One wondered how it would strike the dignitaries accustomed to the elaborate ritual of the Eastern Churches, and still more the non-Christians present. I am sure that for these latter it would have a strong appeal.

What would be strange to all of them was the notable way in which the whole service was taken part in by all the worshippers. The hymns were the well-known ones, "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven" and "All people that on earth do dwell," and the Te Deum was chanted to no new-fangled setting. So the praise from all these men's voices—for it was pre-eminently a men's congregation—rose strong and clear. Then the prayers were brief and clearly articulated, and the General Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer were joined in by all. The sermon or address was based on Psalm cxxvi., and you can see how appropriate it was. The Senior Chaplain who gave it had the courage to supplement it with a short address in Arabic, giving to the Arabic-speaking part of the congregation a few helpful thoughts along the same lines. The service closed by our standing with bowed heads while the choir sang softly the "Nunc Dimittis," and we thought of those, the comrades of so many present, who had laid down their lives to win the blessing of peace and freedom for the world.

When the short service was over we watched them all file past, the dignitaries in their robes of office, sombre for the most part; the Chief Rabbi in scarlet and lilac turban and grey soutane, another in long black velvet coat, and then the scarlet tabs and be-ribboned tunics of the Army men, and the well-worn khaki of bronzed privates. There was nothing of a parade service about it, and no forming up outside, but the Scouts of St. George's School lined up in the quadrangle, which was gay with flags and flowers. There was no Union Jack in the Cathedral or precincts, except as it figured with many others in the decorations; but over the marble screen of the choir on a background of green leaves stood out in white chrysanthemums the one word "Peace." That was the only attempt at decoration, and it was very effective.

One thought instinctively of the many who would have wished to be with us there, and of the many all over the world who were uniting with us in thanksgiving and prayer for strength to accomplish what lies before us. But I do not think that anywhere the words of the psalm and lesson (Isaiah xl.) can have seemed more fitting and appropriate than to that little congregation outside the Holy City.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Return to Bucharest.

The King and the Government are again in Bucharest. After exactly two years of German occupation, the cheerful capital of Roumania is free once more; the sufferings and miseries of that time are forgotten for a while; the Allied and Roumanian flags, flying overhead, help the citizens to forget the misdeeds of the Germans. At a notable dinner given by the Court, and attended by the representatives of the Allied nations, the King took the opportunity of expressing once more the gratitude of the Roumanians to the great peoples who are bent on securing justice for all mankind.

The French Minister, M. de Saint-Aulaire, also gave a luncheon at which the King and Queen were present, as were General Berthelot, with his staff, and the British representatives. M. de Saint-Aulaire in his speech referred to the terrible lot of the Roumanians during the past two years, and declared that the definite alliance between them and the Allies had been sealed anew by the great sacrifices they had made, by the blood of their sons, and, above all, by their unshaken faith in the cause of the Allies.

The new Government, which is Liberal in essence, is devoting itself to organization and to keeping order until the fresh elections make known the will of the entire Roumanian race. Probably these elections will be extended over Transylvania and Bukovina on the same democratic lines as in old Roumania.

Union of the Roumanians.

On December 1 one of the greatest events in the political life of the Roumanian people took place—their National Assembly, comprising Roumanians from Transylvania, from Bukovina, from Bessarabia, and from Banat, as well as from the kingdom, proclaimed their union. The delegates were elected on the principle of universal suffrage, and represented all classes, sects, political formations, and nationalities. Among them were forty members representing the Socialists of all the provinces. More than 200,000 people are reported to have arrived from various parts of the Roumanian lands to be present at this historic event.

The *Nepsava*, the official organ of the Magyar Socialist party, remarks that the Saxons and even the Magyars of Transylvania have decided to join the Roumanians. The journal expresses its view on the union of the Roumanian peoples as "a great event that will mark the beginning of a new civilization."

The six bishops of the Roumanians of Transylvania have also proclaimed the union with the Kngdom. This historic event took place in the old town of Alba Julia, where, in 1601, Michael the Brave, Prince of Wallachia, proclaimed the union of Transylvania with the other Roumanian provinces.

Roumanians' Political Programme.

The political programme of the Roumanians is very interesting for all who appreciate efforts towards a democratic organization. It is as follows:—

1. The National Assembly of Roumanians of Transylvania, Hungary, and the Banat declares the union of all Roumanians with the kingdom. It grants the inhabitants of the said territories provisional autonomy till a constituent Assembly elected by universal suffrage shall take a definite decision.

2. The political principles of Roumanian national unity are: (*a*) Full national liberty for all nationalities inhabiting the territories of the union. Each of these nationalities shall be free to govern itself, with its own language, it own administration and justice. The officials shall be elected from its midst. Each nationality has the right to be represented in the legislative bodies. In the government of the country they shall be represented proportionately to their number. (*b*) All creeds shall have equal rights and receive autonomy. (*c*) There shall be democratic government in every department of public life. Each citizen on reaching the age or twenty-one shall have an equal right to vote in secret. Women shall have the same rights. (*d*) Complete liberty of the Press, of meetings, and of associations. (*e*) Radical agrarian reform All estates, especially big estates, shall be requisitioned. On this basis the right of entail shall become extinct, and facilities shall be given to small peasants to obtain land which they can cultivate with the members of their families.

The guiding principle is equalization of social levels and the growth of production. To industrial workers shall be assured all rights enjoyed by the workers in the civilized countries in the west.

The Provisional Government is located at Sibiu (Hermanstadt).

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THE ABYSSINIAN REVOLUTION

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 19.

A very well-informed correspondent gives the following account of the last stages of the Abyssinian revolution :—

It had been widely rumoured that the deposed Prince Yassou was killed in an engagement between his supporters and the new Government troops, and that the Government had hushed up the news of his death for political reasons. It is, however, ascertained now that this Prince is still alive and a fugitive in the interior of the Dakanel country. A few days ago there arrived at the capital some of Yassou's followers who had refused to abandon him on the occasion of his flight from Harrar following his deposition. These spent two years with him in the deserts of Abyssinia; but, realizing at last the futility of their chief's dream of regaining the throne, they forsook him and returned to the capital. Here they proceeded straight to the palace of Ras Tefari to ask for his pardon, which they readily obtained. The following is the account they gave to the correspondent who interviewed them :—

" When we left Yassou in the interior of the Dakanel country he had only about 200 soldiers remaining with him. He was so haunted by the fear of being surprised by the Government troops that he would often jump suddenly on his horse to reconnoitre for a possible enemy. He spent most of his time in hunting and predatory incursions. The land there being bleak, rainless, and waterless, it was not possible to settle long in any given place. We used to spend sometimes weeks on end without getting any grain and having only meat, and often we were deprived of both."

This Prince, who lost the throne through reckless ambition and evil counsels, is now being forsaken even by the small remnant of his own guard, and it is expected that he will any day either commit suicide or surrender to the Government. The inhabitants of Adis Abeba think and speak of him as though he had never existed for them. Yassou's father, Ras Mikhail, who is detained in a prison outside Adis Abeba, has lost his sight.

NEW BULGARIAN CABINET.

Reuter's Sofia correspondent telegraphs, under date of November 28 (delayed).—M. Malinoff, Bulgarian Prime Minister, has resigned with the entire Cabinet. The new Cabinet is composed as follows :—

M. Todoroff............................	Premier and Foreign Affairs
M. Mouchanoff (Democrat)......	Interior
M. Daneff (Progressive)	Finance
M. Kosturkoff (Radical)	Public Instruction
M. Liaptcheff (Democrat)	War
M. Djidroff (Unified Socialist)...	Justice
M. Draghieff (Leader of Peasants' Party)	Agriculture
M. Sakasof (Unified Socialist) ...	Industry, Commerce, and Labour
M. Bacaloff (Peasant Deputy) ...	Posts and Railways

M. Bacaloff will temporarily be in charge of the Ministry of Public Works, which is also destined for a member of the Peasants' Party.

ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

The Armenian Bureau has been informed by the Foreign Office that a telegram has been received from General Clayton stating that the Armenian situation at Homs, Hama, and Aleppo is serious. It is stated that eighty-five thousand Armenians are concentrated in these centres, of whom forty thousand are totally destitute, and that the situation is aggravated by the approach of winter and the arrival in these towns of large numbers of refugees from outlying districts. In order to relieve the prevailing distress it is estimated that a monthly cash contribution of £25,000, in addition to a supply of clothing and necessaries, would be required. The total contributions hitherto received amount to £4,000 for Damascus and £2,600 for Aleppo.

Another telegram, dated December 4, has been received from General Clayton to the effect that there are now 3.000 Armenian workmen in the Relief Camp at Damascus and that their numbers are increasing daily. General Clayton adds that all available funds are exhausted and that more are urgently required.

The Delhi correspondent of *The Times* reports that a leading extremist newspaper of Bengal, which virulently attacked the Rowlatt Committee, is now assailing the Allies on the ground that they are imbued with a passion for vengeance. Their thanksgivings, it says, have no greater moral or spiritual value than the sacrifices of primitive man to his war gods.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN WEDDING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 25.

An interesting wedding took place this week when Miss Thema Swete Langley, daughter of Mr. John Langley, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, was married to Lieutenant Sinclair (attached R.A.F.). The ceremony took place at All Saints' Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. C. T. Horan. All the leading members of the Anglo-Egyptian colony were present, the congregation including the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, Lady Allenby. Major-General H. D Watson, Sir Alexander Baird, Sir James and Lady Willcocks, Lady Cheetham, as also Mahmud Pasha Shukri, representing the Sultan, Sir Ismail Pasha Sirry, K.C.M.G., Minister of Public Works; Sir Adly Yeghen Pasha, K.C.M.G., Minister of Education; Abdel Khalek Pasha Saroit, Minister of Justice; and Ahmed Pasha Ziwar, Minister of Wakfs. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by two little bridesmaids, the Misses Celia and Lena Westropp, and Lieut. Aitkin was best man. The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate signed the register after the ceremony, and Sir Reginald conducted Mrs. Langley to her car. A guard of honour was supplied outside the church by men of the R.A.F., under whose crossed sticks the happy couple passed from the church to their car.

A reception was subsequently held at the house of the bride's parents at Ghezireh, whither most of the guests proceeded from the church. During the afternoon the R.A.F. "conferred its blessing" on the happy couple by sending out four aeroplanes, which hovered over the house and performed some remarkable "stunts" until Lieut. and Mrs. Sinclair left for their honeymoon.

GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

We have already noticed the report of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, for the year 1917, but pressure on our space forbade reference to certain matters dealt with in the later sections of the report. As the subject is of such great interest to many of our readers we make no apology for returning to it now.

In the instructional workshops work has been somewhat handicapped by various calls which have been made on the staff for work in connection with the Censorship, the destruction of locusts, and other special duties, but the output has been, on the whole, well maintained. "The number of apprentices has been reduced slightly, and is now 118. This reduction is due to the fact that, owing to the general shortage of timber, there is small demand for carpenters outside, though the carpentry section in the College has received as many orders as before; and the prospects in this section are brighter, as we have secured a fairly large consignment of timber from the South."

The research work has been kept up to a high level, in spite of difficulties caused by the war. Dr. Chalmers's Report makes satisfactory reading, and on the Central Research Farm and in the fields of archæology and natural history valuable results have been achieved.

Regarding the archæological excavations the report states :—

" Dr. Reisner continues work on the pyramid field at Nuri which he had been already able in the previous year to identify as a royal cemetery of the great period of the Ethiopian Monarchy. The work of the last season has been extraordinarily productive of valuable historical data. Before Dr. Reisner's work we knew the names of seven kings who ruled Ethiopia between the time of Tirhaka, B.C. 668, and the close of the 4th century, and, with the exception of the first two of these kings, Tirhaka and Tanutamon, we know nothing as to the order or approximate date even of the five kings whose names had been already recovered. Dr. Reisner has now provided us with a list of twenty-two kings who ruled in Napata between B.C. 668 and B.C. 300, and has discovered evidence which leaves little doubt as to the sequence of these kings: he discovered the tomb of each of these kings and the tombs of several of their queens and other relatives, and sufficient remains in these tombs to give a tolerably clear idea of the progress or degeneration of the arts of building, pottery, gold work, and stone carving during these centuries. One of the most revolutionary results is the discovery that King Nastesen, who had been previously regarded as a contemporary of King Kambyses, must now be dated about two centuries later. All the pyramids had been seriously rifled in antiquity, and it was only the extreme care and skill of the excavator which has enabled the original order and grouping to be recovered. In spite of the rifling several objects of real value have been found, notably alabasters and jewellery from the pyramid of Tirhaka, a wonderful scarab and fine gold ornaments from the pyramid of Espalta and a massive silver mirror stand from that of Nastesen. The more important finds were divided last summer in Cairo, and Mr. Drummond, whose services have fortunately been returned to us, is now engaged in arranging to exhibit in Khartoum those which fell to our share."

M. Foucher, the leading authority on the Græco-Buddhist period of sculpture, is going to India shortly. He will be employed under the Archæological Department in connection with the Taxilla, Peshawar and Sanchi monuments, and he will also carry out certain archæological duties for the Hyderabad State.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

IRREDENTA DODECANESUS FILIA GRÆCIAE EST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Grecian Irredentists claim not only Thrace and Asia Minor, but also the Dodecanese (where Herodotus and Hippocrates were born), whose history, religion, and culture bear witness to their right to appeal at the coming Peace Congress for their long delayed union with Greece, the Mother Country.

Tidings of good news are already spread throughout all the Greek communities abroad that our national rights will no longer be considered as a Midsummer Night's Dream and Utopia. The Unredeemed Greeks hope that their movement will meet with as much support as the similar rising of national spirit of the Armenians and Syrians has received. Irredentist meetings are held, a Provisional Government already established, and every Greek expects the realisation of the "Grand Idea" for which the Hellenic nation twice arose against the Osmanli before the Eight Years' War of Independence took place in 1821.

The Dodecanesians, true to their motherland, and a vital part of the Greek family, will emphasize the justice of their claim by presenting the following official statistics to the Peace Conference :—

Islands.	Greeks.	Turks.	Jews.	Various.	Tota
Patmos	2,700	—	20	—	2,720
Leros	6,000	—	—	—	6,000
Kalymnos	18,000	—	—	—	18,000
Kos	10,550	4,000	20	—	14,570
Nissyros	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Astipalea	1,200	—	—	—	1,200
Symi	16,000	—	—	—	16,000
Delos	1,300	—	—	—	1,300
Halki	2,740	—	—	—	2,740
Rhodes	25,010	7,960	3,960	150	37,080
Karpathos	8,527	—	—	—	8,527
Kassos	5,700	—	—	—	5,700
	102,727	11,960	4,000	150	118,837

In fact, every Dodecanesian could repeat a new version of Mary Tudor's last words : "Open my heart, you will find Greece written upon it."—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONAS.

32, Oxford Street, Manchester, December 16.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Please allow me yet a little space to answer the attack made by Mr. Kessary upon Konitza Bey. He implies that Mr. Konitza is not a representative of the Albanian people, but only of a small pro-German party. Let me remind you that Mr. Konitza was one of the delegates chosen by Albania to represent her at the important Conference of London in 1913. Albania then and now would have been only too glad to have welcomed an English Prince ; but the united wisdom of the Powers inflicted a German one upon her. Because the Albanians accepted the decree of Europe, Mr. Kessary refers contemptuously to their support of "the notorious Prince of Wied." Mr. Kessary refers those who wish for information to "their organ called *Vatra.*" No such "organ" exists. The daily paper published by the Pan-Albanian Society Vatra, which Mr. Konitza represents, is called *Dielli* (the Sun). From a recent number I learn that the head of the society has just been consecrated Archimandrite (Bishop). Yet Mr. Kessary would have us believe that the society consists entirely of Moslems !

Mr. Konitza was sent to London in 1916—that is, before America entered into the war. He came expressly to enlist English sympathies, and has gained many. To pretend that he has worked for the enemy is to insult his many English friends and colleagues who have worked with him. Several well-known members of the peerage belong to the Anglo-Albanian Society, and will certainly not permit themselves to be classed as working for Turks and Germans.

Mr. Kessary seems to think that Major Paget is a sportsman who paid a casual visit to Albania. He appears to be unaware that Major Paget resided for many years in Albania, speaks Albanian, and still owns property in Albania, and that he was in South Albania during the days of the Albanian League. He has, therefore, that personal knowledge which neither Prince Lichnowsky nor the late Marchese San Giuliano possessed. I note by the way that Mr. Kessary appeals to a German Prince (Lichnowsky) for support. And we have none of us forgotten that the numerous supporters of the "notorious King Constantine" were—well, not pro-English.

Very many Albanians enlisted in French and Italian ranks to fight for the liberation of their country. And they have fought bravely.

Mr. Kessary is correct in one point: "150,000 refugee families" should read "150,000 persons." This was a clerical slip. I was doing relief work at Valona at the time ; and in that town alone and its immediate environs over 70,000 persons arrived within a very short space of time. The plain northward was also full of them, and when I rode up towards Tepeleni to reconnoitre the position of the Greek Army at the beginning of August, 1914, I found the whole track lined with unfortunate and destitute creatures, both Christian and Moslems. When I left Valona on August 5, 1914, there were still refugees coming in. The figure 150,000 was given by the American mission which visited the place after I had gone. Judging by what I saw, I think it is most probably correct. The misery and suffering of these poor creatures was such that I can never forget it, and that of the Belgians seemed little in comparison.

In conclusion, I must add that the accusation that Vatra is a pro-German society is a direct insult to that very gallant and upright gentleman, President Wilson, who has received its head, Bishop Noli, very kindly and promised his support. As has also Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, whose anti-German sentiments are too well known for me to have to enlarge upon them.—I am, etc.,

M. E. DENHAM.

(This correspondence is now closed.—ED.)

THE FUTURE OF SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—With reference to your comments upon the future government of Syria in your issue of the 13th inst., may I be allowed to say that the news we read and hear about the probable division of Syria into several spheres of influences is apt to make Syrians feel very concerned for the welfare of their country. I think that you will admit that if that country is to be divided partly under British control, partly under Arab rule, and partly under French administration, there will be a poor prospect for its future progress and unity.

I have not seen Mr. Ganem's article to which you refer, but I know him to be a true patriot, and I should not be surprised if his protest was bitterly worded, because if such division of the country is even contemplated it will only spell ruin to our just expectations and future national development. Let it also be said to Mr. Ganem's credit that he is very loyal to the cause of the Allies. To mention only one item of his activities, he sent last year a special mission of Syrians to Brazil, the result of which was that 600 Syrian volunteers swelled the ranks of the fighting forces of the Allies from that country alone ; and I feel sure you are the first to give credit where credit is due.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, December 17. K. JEBARA.

◆

A telegram from Aden announces the surrender on December 11 of Said Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces operating in the Aden Hinterland, and his staff.

The Delhi correspondent of *The Times* reports in a message dated November 29 (delayed) :—News of the triumph of the Allies appears to have been received with rejoicing in all parts of the frontier district. One effect of victory is a remarkable rise in the Russian rouble in Peshawar bazaar. The termination of the war has also caused satisfaction in Kabul bazaar. Prices at Kabul have been extremely high, and a feeling evidently prevails that a reduction may now be expected.

EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.
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LECTURE SEASON FOR 1918-1919.
SIX LECTURES have been arranged for December, January February, March, April and May. The First Lecture is by
Dr. A. M. BLACKMAN,
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and will be delivered to-day, FRIDAY, December 20th, at 4 p.m ;
at the
ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE
(by kind permission of the President and Council). Admission Free.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is proposed to have a war exhibition in Lucknow in the cold weather. The exhibition will open for about a month, probably in February.

It is understood that Lieutenant-Colonel Gurdon, of the Foreign and Political Department, has decided not to return to India, for reasons of health.

Lieutenant-Colonel Desvoeux, Inspector-General of Police, Burma, has been granted an extension of service, which otherwise would have expired this year.

Colonel Douglas, Chief Commissioner of the Andamans and Superintendent of Port Blair, has been granted an extension of service for one year with effect from last month.

According to a telegram from Bucharest, M. Bratiano is to form a new Government, in which he will hold the portfolio for Foreign Affairs, and which will include M. Take Jonescu.

A protest by the heads of the Greek Mission in Sofia has been sent to the Bulgarian Government against the retention of Greeks who were forcibly incorporated in the Bulgarian Army.

According to reports from Constantinople, the Greek populations of the Black Sea littoral are about to urge the establishment of a Greek Republic of Pontus, with Trebizond as its capital.

The Canadian Pacific liner Tunisian reached Liverpool on December 12 from Canada with 150 Serbian soldiers, under British officers, on their way to the Continent to rejoin the Serbian Army.

A telegram from Mytilene states that the situation in Smyrna gives rise to anxiety. Certain Turkish elements have fortified themselves outside Smyrna, and the Allied Fleet has been obliged to bombard the position.

On January 13 at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in the Society's Theatre, Burlington Gardens, Mr. James Berry will read a paper on "Transylvania and its Relation to Ancient Dacia and Modern Roumania."

A proclamation from President Wilson calls for contributions to help to feed Armenian and Syrian sufferers from the war in the Near East; £6,000,000 is necessary to keep alive during winter 4,000,000 sufferers, including 400,000 orphans.

Mme. Grivas, honorary president of the National Council of Greek Women, has addressed an appeal to the National Councils of Women in France, England, and America, "In the name of the widows and orphans of Asia Minor and Thrace."

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, is reported to have arrived at Dubrovnik (Ragusa) on Monday from Italy. A great number of people welcomed him, including the official representatives of Serbia and the military and civil authorities.

The marriage arranged between Dr. G. R. Hubbard, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and Nelly Kathleen Riley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Riley, Ivy Croft, Wimbledon Common, will take place at the end of February, in Rangoon Cathedral, Burma.

General Russky, former Commander of the Russian Northern Army in Galicia, and General Radko Dmitrieff are reported from a Ukrainian source, through Petrograd, to have been shot on an order of the Soviet of the town of Piapiagorsk. General Dmitrieff was a Bulgarian.

According to information from Constantinople, all the Turks, Young as well as Old, are anxiously awaiting the verdict of the Peace Congress on the subject of their crimes against the Greeks and Armenians. They have begun to collaborate in order to preserve Turkey and Islam from what they describe as "the common danger."

The Egyptian Exploration Fund has arranged for a series of six lectures to be given between now and May next. The first will be by Dr. A. M. Blackman, on "The Relations of Ancient Egypt with Foreign Countries," and will be delivered this afternoon, at four o'clock, at the Royal Society's hall, Burlington House. Admission is free.

The first parties of repatriated Indian prisoners of war from Kut arrived in Bombay on December 6, where preparations had been made to extend them a very hearty welcome. Great crowds thronged the docks, which were gaily decorated. Lady Willingdon, the wife of the Governor, accompanied by the leading officers and citizens, met the parties as they landed, Lady Willingdon shaking hands with and welcoming each man.

A Budapest telegram says that Marshal Mackensen on his arrival in Budapest was summoned by Count Karolyi to order his entire army to lay down its arms in accordance with the terms of the armistice. He at first raised objections, but afterwards agreed, provided he received the subsequent sanction of the German Government. He has already ordered his entire army to lay down its arms, and, according to the *Az Est*, he has been interned by order of the Hungarian Govrenment.

The death in Bombay is announced of Mr. W. R. Howson, O.B.E. Mr. Howson belonged to the Indian Telegraph Department, but since 1910 he had served under the Foreign and Political Department of the Indian Government in Persia, where, says the *Pioneer*, he gained the respect of all who knew him. He did not spare himself, and his intimate knowledge of the country and the language was of especial value. At the time of his death Mr. Howson was H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul at Bandar Abbas and Assistant to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

A retired member of the Indian Civil Service, who desires to remain anonymous, has placed at the disposal of the Secretary of State for India the sum of £1,000, and has asked that the amount may be placed in permanent trust with the Government of India in order that the interest may be applied to the relief of scarcity and famine in Ahmednagar and Gurgaon, two districts with which this officer was closely associated during his service. Mr. Montagu has expressed his cordial appreciation of this public-spirited offer, and the Government of India has been asked to make the necessary arrangements to give effect to the wishes of the donor.

British Help in Serbia

THE Serbian Relief Fund, whose organisation has been continuously relieving Serbian distress throughout the whole period of the war, made a special appeal to British generosity at the time of Bulgaria's surrender; since that time the Serbian Relief Fund has sent over 595,000 garments to Serbia. These and supplies of food and medical comforts are being distributed through the various ramifications of this British Organisation, which is wholly equipped and maintained in Serbia by British generosity.

The need for money and clothing is so great that all we can possibly send will be rapidly absorbed and still leave the utmost need for more.

Parcels of Clothing should be addressed to Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

Cheques and donations of money should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer,
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF PLYMOUTH, G.B.E., C.B.

SERBIAN RELIEF FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.)

5, CROMWELL ROAD, LONDON, S.W.7.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ON THE WRONG SIDE.*

M. Taslauanu, formerly of the Austro-Hungarian army operating against the Russians in Galicia, was a Transylvanian patriot. In pre-war times he was secretary of the Society for Roumanian culture in Hungary, one of the powerful moral links between the persecuted Transylvanian peasants under Magyar domination and their Moldavian and Wallachian brothers. War found him an officer, however, in the Austrian Army, in command of a platoon of Transylvanian Territorials who went through the Galician campaign, always in the front line and in the most dangerous sectors. The Russian advance in those early days of the war is now a matter of history, but little light has been thrown on the terrible defeats of the Austrians as seen from the Austrian side of the line. M. Taslauanu in his book on the subject throws a lurid light on the military chaos in Galicia, on the lack of organisation, on the cowardice of the Austro-Magyars, on the way in which the Transylvanian peasants were brutalised, sent into the worst zones and practically annihilated—all with a purpose, namely, that the lives of the Magyars, those arch-bullies of the Near East, might be saved. No wonder that the Roumanians of Transylvania longed and prayed for Russian victories against themselves. This seems paradoxical, and yet it is what really happened. As for Roumania, her entry was anxiously awaited. Was she never coming in against the Austro-Hungarian tyrant? We now know that she did, but it was later than the concluding chapter of M. Taslauanu's homely narrative, which has this about it, that it is the simple chronicle of one forced to fight under terrible hardships against the friends of his own country. The situation naturally became impossible and the Roumanian patriot-officer in the Austrian Army crossed the Carpathians. The book, in the form of a running diary, and brimful of quaint pictures and child-like touches, is well worth reading.

THE MILITARY ACTRESS.*

It is better late than never to have read the letters of "Thomasina Atkins," and to pass their weird charm on. Our innocent belief is that they are written by a young married W.A.A.C. to an invalid husband, which, in itself, seems a perfect reversal of pre-civilised custom, when Adam delved and Eve span; although, there being nothing new under the sun, we recall the Amazons from the musty mine of our schoolboy classics.

What is it that we do not like in these intimate and edited letters? First, that they are penned by a professional actress, and we had never imagined an Amazon an actress; secondly, "Peachie dear" and "Peachie darling" are dissonant to our fossilised concept of Miriam or Deborah, to say nothing of Jael, writing to their husbands. Perhaps Jael was the forerunner of all W.A.A.C.'s—the Amazons have no calculable date—as the inimitable Thomasina is among the newest. Perhaps Thomasina's letters break off too early—March 31, 1918, from "Somewhere in France." Or we, perhaps, were greedy, and wanted fireworks, and the letters carry us only to within sound of the rumble of Rupprecht's presumptuous guns. Are we within the limits of criticism in saying that "Peachie darling's" nerves under the strain of London air-raids distract from our instinctive homage to feminine patriotism and valour?

But what is it we like in these letters? Naïveté and nerve? Yes; and a considerable vein of philosophic thought, and the supreme grace of feminine unselfishness. There are also an excellent knack of literary skill and vigorous word-painting and raw humour. It is "some W.A.A.C. who, on active service, begins a letter with this attractive assurance: "Just a line to remind you that I love you, in case you have forgotten it." And Thomasina in a few skittish strokes instantly gives us a sharp mental picture of colonel or sergeant-major, sub. or orderly, good Waac, naughty Waac, pretty Waac, plain Waac, thistle or leek—may we suppose that she is herself rose or shamrock? She does not say; but she does like chocolate. There is then to be added up in the total merits of these letters the plain "unvarnish." Some other Waac may write her story, but this picture of war's rough demands and Boadicean pluck stands. It is a noble picture; and all Waacs, and those who do and do not own Waacs, will be glad to have read it.

SPAIN'S BOGEY.*

It has become axiomatic that the only people persistently to misunderstand and misrepresent the Spaniards are our friends the French. This is a great pity, if for only one reason—namely, that the Spaniards resent it, and do not hesitate to show their resentment. They have one bogey—for which our Allies are solely responsible—and that is a dread of French designs on their country. The result is a strong anti-French feeling characteristic of Spain. It finds expression in the pro-German sentiments (mind you, not at all anti-British!) of so many Spaniards who ought to have known better and in the studied anti-French policy of pinpricks in Morocco. These are ruthlessly exposed in M. Laborde's recent work. Justice is not, however, done to the underlying motives. We do not approve of the latter, but they will continue until the average Frenchman has forgotten to look down on the Spaniard, much as the third-rate Anglo-Egyptian official used to look down on the Cairo effendi.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"British Campaigns in the Nearer East, 1914-1918." By Edmund Dane. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 7s. 6d. net.)

"La Révolution Russe." Tome II. By Claude Anet. (Paris: Payot et Cie., 4fr. 50.)

REBUILDING OF ATHENS.

At King's College, London, on December 13, Mr. T. H. Mawson gave an interesting account of the far-reaching improvements and extensions to the city of Athens which have been projected, and the carrying out of which has already begun under his supervision. Athens, he said, was a city in which, from the spectacular point of view, art and nature were in proper juxtaposition. Conflicting elements united to make a perfectly harmonious composition. Between the modern Athens, where there was scarcely a house that was more than eighty-five years old, and the monuments that had survived from the classical city, the only connecting link was provided by a few Byzantine churches and Turkish mosques. Athens, through the ages, had gradually extended from a small area immediately surrounding the Acropolis. As it existed to-day, it was built on a plan prepared in 1856. The plan was a good one, but traffic conditions had altered. Further, there were four or five railway stations scattered about the city, and there were factory chimneys which in various places obtruded on the view. In the new plan that he had prepared the whole of the railways were brought to a common centre; and the factories, marble-working shops, etc., were built in a section of the city set apart for them, and run by power brought from a power station about a mile and a-half to the westward. Thus factory chimneys would be done away with. The city was divided into areas or zones. One of these would be devoted to Governmental purposes, where new Houses of Parliament would be built, surrounded by the Administration buildings, which in most capitals were scattered about the city. Another would be the business centre. Others included the first and second class residential areas, and the section of the city set apart for the housing of the working-class. This last was built close to the industrial zone, so that the workman need not spend more than ten minutes in walking to or from his work—a very important matter, as had been recognised by the captains of industry who had built industrial villages in England. These homes were built in blocks of seventy-two on a plot of about eight acres. They were built surrounding a court, and were connected with the road by a vine-covered pergola. Adjoining each block was a large garden. Each residence consisted of a living room about sixteen feet by eighteen, two bedrooms, scullery, etc., and it was hoped the rent would not be more than ten shillings a week. Athens already had a fine system of public parks, but this would be greatly extended, and when complete would be superior to that of any city now existing. The plans for the future extensions of Athens provided for its covering about forty square miles, and, among other things, took in the whole area between the existing city and the Bay of Phaleron.

Interesting slides illustrated the lecture.

Sir T. G. Jackson, who presided, said he hoped none of the Byzantine churches would be sacrificed to the new schemes; although, until a generation back, people in Greece thought only of the Parthenon and ancient monuments, and regarded the Byzantine work as barbarous.

Mr. Gennadius said that a great merit of Mr. Mawson's plan was that it not only preserved all the ancient and Byzantine monuments, but it rendered them more visible.

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* "With the Austrian Army in Galicia." By Octavian C. Taslauanu. With map. (Skeffington. 6s.)

* "The Letters of Thomasina Atkins, Private (W.A.A.C.) on Active Service." (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 6s. net.)

* "Il y a Toujours des Pyrénées." Par Jules Laborde. (Payot. Frs.4.50.)

INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY
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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. December	1918. December.		1337. Rabia I.	5679. Tebet.
20	7	Friday	16	17
21	8	Saturday........	17	18
22	9	**Sunday**	18	19
23	10	Monday	19	20
24	11	Tuesday	20	21
25	12	Wednesday	21	22
26	13	Thursday	22	23

Prince George of Serbia has left London for Paris.

On December 14, at 28, Nelson Road, Lexden, Colchester, the wife of Major A. M. Mills, I.A., gave birth to a son.

M. S. Grouitch, the newly-appointed Serbian Minister to Washington, accompanied by Mme. Grouitch, will leave London to-morrow for America.

Sir George Lloyd, the new Governor of Bombay, entered upon his office on the 16th inst., when Lord Willingdon sailed from India for England.

It is understood that Prince Nicholas, second son of King Ferdinand of Roumania, will shortly arrive in London, and that he will continue his studies in this country.

General the Hon. Sir Julian and Lady Byng have returned to Thorpe-le-Soken for Christmas. They will remain there until General Byng returns to France, about the first week in January.

The marriage arranged between Commander Eustace H. Marsden, R.N., and Miss Nancy Lees, daughter of the late Sir Elliott Lees, Bt., D.S.O., of South Lytchet Manor, Poole, Dorset, will in all probability take place in Bombay towards the end of January.

The British Colony at Salonika, headed by the Consul-General, Mr. A. C. Wratislaw, has, says Reuter's correspondent at Salonika, presented General Milne with an address expressing admiration at the magnificent achievements of the British Army in the Near East.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, leave permitting, between Captain James Desmond Gabb, Indian Army, son of Dr. J. P. A. Gabb, Poyle Mount, Guildford, and Constance Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. S. Davids, Hillier House, Guildford.

On October 18, at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, the marriage was solemnized of Lieutenant John Stevenson, I.A., only son of the late J. D. Stevenson, British Guiana Police, to Phyllis, elder daughter of W. N. Richardson, Esq., J.P., City and Cantonment Magistrate, Karachi.

The marriage arranged between Captain A. A. Fraser Harris, 25th Punjabis, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fraser Harris, and Phyllis Mary, third daughter of the late Robert Davis, M.R.C.S., and of Mrs. Davis, Darrickwood, Orpington, Kent, will take place at the end of December, leave permitting.

The Delhi correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs (December 4) :—Sir George Roos-Keppel, whose services to India and the Empire have been invaluable during the war, is taking a long furlough early next year and will probably not return to India. Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant, the Foreign Secretary, is spoken of as his successor.

In honour of the birthday of the Serbian Crown Prince the Serbian Minister in London and Mme. Yovanovitch held a reception at the Serbian Legation, Queen's Gate, Kensington, on Tuesday afternoon. In the morning a service was held at the Orthodox Russian Church, Welbeck Street, and was attended by the Serbian Minister and his wife and representatives of the Serbian colonies in London.

Prince Feisul, who was attended by Brigadier-General Nuri Pasha Said, Lieut.-Colonel T. E. Lawrence, and Mr. R. F. Synge, specially attached, visited the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, December 12. The Prince was decorated by His Majesty with the Chain of the Royal Victorian Order. The King afterwards had a long conversation with the Prince, Colonel Lawrence acting as interpreter. It is understood that the King expressed to the Prince his high appreciation of the assistance which the friendly Arabs had given to the British forces operating on the Eastern front. The Prince left London for the North last week with the intention of visiting the Grand Fleet, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and returning to London this week.

Major Ralph de Seton Dudgeon, 25th Bombay Rifles and Military Accounts Department, Lahore, Punjab, India, who died April 29, left property valued at £8,520.

Letters received quite recently from Constantinople report that the Rev. W. Wigram, who was for some time interned by the Turks, is now on his way to this country. Dr. John McLean, of the British Hospital, Constantinople, is also homeward bound.

M. Jean Gennadius, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Greece, was received in audience by the King last Saturday morning, and presented his Letters of Recall. M. Demetrius Caclamanos was also received in audience by his Majesty, and presented his Letters of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Greece.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Claude Pemberton Wilkinson Lloyd, I.A.R.O. and I.E.S., son of the Rev. Pemberton Lloyd, of 3, Carlton Road, Ealing, late vicar of Ancaster, Lincolnshire, and Eileen Muriel, widow of Captain P. B. Maxwell, the East Yorkshire Regiment, and only daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Hamilton Gordon, K.C.B., and Lady Hamilton Gordon, of Lynwood, Farnborough, Hants.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Harold Strachan, M.C. King's Own Scottish Borderers, elder son of the late Walter Strachan and Mrs. Strachan, of Hook Heath, Woking, and Kathleen, only daughter of Col. H. A. V. Cummins, 24th Punjabis, and Mrs. Cummins, Glenville, Camberley, will take place at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, on Tuesday, January 21, at 2. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

A Reuter's message reports that among the passengers in the Finnish steamer Oihonna, which recently arrived here from Petrograd, was the Serbian Princess Helena, King Peter's daughter. The princess, who was married to the Russian Grand Duke Ivan Constantinovitch, was arrested by Bolshevists and imprisoned at Perm for four months and then in Moscow. Finally an attaché of the Norwegian Legation succeeded in securing her release.

A marriage has been arranged between Hugh Le Geyt Kensington, the Rifle Brigade (retired), elder son of the late Sir Alfred Kensington and of Lady Kensington, and Agnes Manson Macfarlane, youngest daughter of Mr. Richard Whitecross Adamson. It will take place on Tuesday, December 31, at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, S.W., at 10.30. Owing to mourning in the bridegroom's family, there will be no reception or invitations, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

On December 10, at St. George's Church, Camberley, Captain Mark S. Teversham, 32nd Sikh Pioneers, only son of Col. R. K. Teversham, D.S.O., and Mrs. Teversham, of 5, Lansdowne House, W., was married to Miss Evelyn Mary Ross, only daughter of the late David Ross, Divisional Judge, Burma, and Mrs. Ross, of Pendennis, Camberley. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. P. Gutch, vicar of St. Margaret's, Streatham (cousin of the bride), assisted by the Rev. F. A. Storrs, vicar of the parish.

Major-General his Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and Sir S. P. Sinha, the Indian representatives, in association with the Secretary of State, at the Imperial War Cabinet and at the forthcoming peace negotiations, arrived in London on Saturday, and are staying at the Ritz Hotel. They were accompanied by Lieutenant Maharaj Kamar Sardul Singh, the eldest son of the Maharaja, Major Hanson, and other members of his Highness's staff; Mr. W. R. Gourlay, I.C.S., who is acting as private secretary to Sir S. P. Sinha; and Sir Hamilton Grant, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. Colonel Sir James Dunlop-Smith (Political Aide-de-Camp), representing the Secretary for India, met the visitors on their arrival at Victoria Station. There were also present Sir Charles Bayley and Mr. B. N. Basu (members of the Council of India), Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox, and Mr. M. C. Seton, Mr. C. H. Kisch, Mr. J. E. Shuckburgh, and Mr. N. C. Sen, of the India Office.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The City Corporation has decided to offer to General Sir Edmund Allenby the Freedom of the City and a sword of honour.

M. Rentis, Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Stockholm, has been appointed a member of the Greek delegation to attend the Peace Conference.

Mr. W. T. M. Wright, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Meerut, has joined the Legislative Department of the Government of India.

Mr. C. R. Ashbee, F.R.I.B.A., has been appointed Civic Adviser to the City of Jerusalem. He returns to Palestine in January to take up his duties.

Mr. E. R. J. Hussey, 2nd Inspector, Red Sea Province, has been transferred to the Education Department, Sudan Government, with effect from November 1.

The King has granted authority to Mr. S. Simpson to wear the Cross of a Chevalier of the Greek Order of the Redeemer, conferred on him by the King of the Hellenes.

Mr. D. G. Mackenzie, of the Foreign and Political Department, Indian Government, has been selected for the appointment of Assistant Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

The King has granted to Mr. G. Raymond, M.V.O., British Consul at Corfu, authority to wear the Insignia of an Officer of the Greek Order of the Redeemer, conferred on him by the King of the Hellenes.

Mr. N. R. Udal, Chief Inspector of Schools, Sudan Government, has been appointed Assistant Director of Education in succession to Mr. Simpson, recently transferred to the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

The King has granted to Mr. Walter Burton Harris, of Tangier, authority to wear the Insignia of Commander of the Shereefian Order of the Ouissam Alaouite, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Morocco.

Sir Lionel Abrahams, Joint Assistant Under-Secretary of State for India, having been in indifferent health for some time past, has been granted six months' leave of absence, during which time his place will be taken by Mr. Malcolm Seton, Secretary in the Judicial and Public Department, who accompanied Mr. Montagu on his recent tour in India.

OBITUARY.

LORD EDWARD CECIL.

We deeply regret to learn, through *The Times* Special Correspondent in Berne, of the death last Friday at Leysin, Switzerland, of Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

Lord Edward Cecil, the fourth son of the late Marquess of Salisbury, was born in 1867 and commissioned at the age of twenty to the Grenadier Guards. His ensuing military career embraced the Dongola Expedition in 1896 (British and Khedive's medals), the Sudan Campaign, 1898 (D.S.O. and lieutenant-colonelcy), and the South African War (Chief of Staff and A.A.G. in the defence of Mafeking).

However brilliant his military talents, Lord Edward's principal services to his country and to the Empire were rendered in the political field, as becomes a scion of the distinguished family of the Cecils. As a member of the Irish Viceregal Staff during Lord Crewe's Viceroyalty, later on Sir Rennell Rodd's mission to Abyssinia (1897), as Military Secretary to Sir Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan (1903), and finally as Agent-General of the Sudan and Director of Intelligence to the Egyptian Army at Cairo (1904) he had ample opportunity for displaying his political abilites and bringing them to the notice of Lord Cromer. Thenceforward his rise in the Anglo-Egyptian Administration was rapid and assured: Under-Secretary of State for War (1906), joint Under-Secretary of State for Finance with Mr. Mitchell-Innes in the same year, and on the latter's retirement in 1907 sole Under-Secretary for the same Department. On the departure of Sir Paul Harvey from Egypt in 1912, Lord Edward was offered and accepted that most difficult and arduous post, the Financial Advisorship to the Egyptian Government. He still held this post when death overtook him at the early age of fifty-one years last week in Switzerland, where he had gone to recuperate after years of strenuous overwork in Cairo.

The very best of Lord Edward's life work, and that by which he will be remembered, is centred in his six years' activity as Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government. His training for the post was thorough, covering as it did the period of Egypt's great financial depression, and he filled it with great tact—a *sine qua non* of successful administration in the East—and clear insight during the four terrible years of the Great War. Some of the measures which he introduced, or had introduced, were of a most controversial nature, but with few exceptions they proved beneficial to the country at large. As *The Times* points out, it is in no small measure due "to the tact and firmness with which the financial aspects of the situation were handled that the Egyptian masses have remained quiet and contented throughout the war." Lord Edward's share in this happy administration of our Egyptian Protectorate was a large and successful one. He may not have shone as a great financial expert, and we doubt very much whether his most enthusiastic supporters will care to claim this honour for him, but he was what is much more necessary in the post he filled, namely, a diplomatic and skilful statesman, and one whom it will not be easy to replace.

Lord Edward leaves a widow, a daughter of the late Admiral Maxse, and one daughter. His son, George Edward, of the Grenadier Guards, was killed in action in France in September, 1914.

Colonel C. J. L. Stuart, late 22nd Cavalry, P.F.F., whose death is announced at Bexhill, took part in the Jowaki Expedition in 1877 and in the Afghan War two years later, and had the medal with clasp for each campaign.

The death at his residence, Sele Grange, Hertford, is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry S. Daniell, late of the Indian Army, and for 31 years Chief Constable of Hertfordshire. He joined the 3rd Queen's Own Light Cavalry (Bombay) in 1856, and served with them in the Persian Expedition of 1856-57 and through the Indian Mutiny. With the Central Indian Field Force he took part in the siege and capture of Ratghur, the action of Burodsa, in which he was wounded, the relief of Saugor, the forcing of the Muddenpore Pass, the siege and storm of Jhansi, and several other actions during the campaign. He retired from the Army about 1880.

Lieutenant R. F. D. Plunkett, 2/1st Gurkha Rifles, who was accidentally drowned on September 6 while on active service in Mesopotamia, was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Plunkett, of Cairo, Egypt. Born in Cairo in 1898, he was educated at Clayesmore School, Crowthorne Towers, and Oundle School. From Oundle he passed third in the examination for the Indian Army in July, 1916, and proceeded to Wellington College, whence he obtained his commission in the Gurkhas in 1917. He went to Mesopotamia last February attached to the 1/5th Regiment of the same service, with which he took part in the advance up the Euphrates as far as Abu Kemal, including, among other actions, that of Khan Baghdadi.

Colonel Harry George Melville, C.I.E., I.M.S., has died at the 23rd British Stationary Hospital, Baghdad. He was born in Edinburgh in 1869, and entered the Indian Medical Service in 1892. He was appointed to the 5th Punjab Cavalry, and was with that regiment until he was transferred to the civil side of his Service. In 1901 he was appointed to Lahore Medical College, and he held several chairs there. He served in the Waziristan campaign, 1894-95, and received the medal and clasp; in the Punjab frontier campaign of 1897 (medal and two clasps); and in the Tirah expedition of 1897-98. In 1916 he was appointed consultant physician to the Indian Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, and afterwards to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. He was mentioned in General Marshall's despatch of April 15, 1918, and later was awarded a C.I.E.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1918.

THE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

The Report of the Indian Industrial Commission is a document of which the importance cannot easily be exaggerated. The Commission was exceptionally strong, and the final pronouncement of its members may be taken as definitive, both as a diagnosis of the evil and as an indication of the general lines on which remedial treatment should proceed. The verdict of the Commission is that India is unnecessarily poor. Raw materials abound, and industrial possibilities are great, but the people have hitherto failed to take advantage of this favourable position, and it is on the people that the blame is rightly placed. Labour is inefficient, supervision has to be provided from outside, owners of capital are inert, and, worst of all, the indispensable leaders, the men who should bring capital and labour together, are rarely to be found. India, then, has failed, and it is for the British Administration to intervene. The guiding principle is thus clear, and it is only in its practical application that difficulties arise, difficulties which the members of the Commission have faced with skill and resolution; they have indicated the ways in which the Administration can effectively intervene, and they have devised machinery by which, in their opinion, intervention can be undertaken to the best advantage. Their proposals are doubtless open to criticism in various matters of detail, but our present object is to consider the scheme from the broadest possible standpoint, and to endeavour to estimate the prospects of its coming into operation: how, we may ask, will the Report be viewed by men who are neither captains of industry nor captains of finance, but administrators, legislators, and statesmen?

Two different views are possible. The men of the younger generation, which has come so quickly to maturity under the stress of war, will find in the report a trumpet-call to new exertions. India is bound by the trammels of an evil past to a rock which the tide of economic progress already threatens to submerge. Unable to free herself, she has called for help, and assuredly it is no unworthy task to cut her bonds, tend her wounds, and set her feet firmly on the upward road. That, we believe, is the view which will be taken by the younger generation, and we earnestly hope that the task will be approached in this spirit, the spirit which looks on obstacles merely as things to be overcome. We must, however, reckon with a somewhat different view, that of the older men, who have indeed learned many things in these last strenuous years, but who have not forgotten what they learned before the war, and are not yet convinced that human nature has been suddenly transformed. Men of this type will rise from the Report with mingled feelings. They will sympathise with the enthusiasms of the younger generation, but they will recall former occasions on which not less enthusiasm has been displayed, and they will ask whether this Report really clears the way for action, or whether it is only one more stage in a discussion which has been carried on for nearly half a century. To recapitulate that discussion would serve no useful purpose, and if we recall a single episode which marked its course it is because of the lesson which that episode conveys. It is now more than a decade since Sir John Hewett, then India's strongest man, decided that the time for action had come, and called a Conference to formulate an industrial policy for the province of which he had just become Lieutenant-Governor. The Conference was strong and representative. We may mention, in passing, that it included the President and two of the most active members of the Commission which has now reported. It formulated a practical policy closely resembling that which has just been put forward, so far as provincial administration is concerned; and it broke up in an atmosphere of hope and confidence for the future. Its labours were not entirely unfruitful, for some concrete results were achieved, but when the more important proposals were submitted for sanction the old stream of dilatory correspondence broke out afresh, and enthusiasm gradually waned, until Lord Morley's famous despatch threw the whole question back to the position of thirty years before, and effort was sterilised not in one province only, but throughout the length and breadth of India. The recollection of such episodes inevitably prompts the question whether similar dangers await the proposals of the present Commission, and whether one more carefully wrought scheme may not be destined to perish in the bogs and sands of an unsympathetic environment. To this question we are unable to return a confident negative. We do not indeed anticipate that the present proposals will be shipwrecked on the shoal of the strict doctrine of *laisser faire* applied by Lord Morley in the despatch to which reference has just been made, but there seems to be a real risk that the vessel's course may lie in a region of hostile currents and conflicting winds, through which the best energies of her crew may fail to bring her into port.

To abandon metaphor and speak quite plainly, we fear that the organisation proposed by the Commission may prove to be incompatible with the impending changes in the Indian constitution. The members indeed indicate in a postcript to the Report their view that the scheme is "in general unison with the administrative changes" put forward by Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu, but, as everyone knows, the constitutional question involves very much more than administrative changes, and what we dread is a conflict of principles and aspirations, not a mere discord in matters of administrative detail. The machinery devised by the Commission centres in the proposed Imperial Department, which, according to the official summary of the Report, is to "be responsible for the industrial policy of Government, and the inauguration and carrying out of a uniform programme of industrial development throughout the country." The administrative work would indeed be "almost entirely decentralised, and would devolve on Local Governments," but if the words we have quoted mean anything at all they mean that the central authority shall decide what is to be done, and that the provinces shall put those decisions into practice. We are not entirely certain that this summary does not go beyond the actual terms of the Report, but in any case it is clear that the central authority is designed to formulate a strong constructive policy, and to exercise a general control over its execution. Now while this central authority is being brought into existence, the provinces will be advancing towards responsible self-government, and towards that financial independence without which self-government is an empty phrase. Already some of the provinces have fairly definite ideas as to the lines on which their industrial development should proceed, and everyone who knows India will recognise that this will be a burning question in the provincial Legislatures of the future. Are these Legislatures to carry out, and pay for, the industrial programme of the central department, or are they to pursue a policy of their own? It is possible that the two authorities may agree, but it is equally possible that they may differ, and in that case there is a very real risk that the energies of both sides may be diverted into sterile controversy. To take one only of the many possibilities of conflict, suppose a province desires to establish a particular industry within its borders, while the central department considers that it should be localised in another part of India, and that the province should devote itself to some enterprise in which its Legislature is not interested; on the one side are technical efficiency and Imperial need, on the other provincial self-consciousness and aspirations, and while the question can be decided by reason, the experience of the world forbids the assumption that reason will in every case prevail. The result may well be a deadlock between a sullen and obstructive Legislature and the expert enthusiasm of the central department, and pending its solution industries will not develop and the poverty of the people will not be alleviated. In our view this danger is sufficiently real to necessitate a careful reconsideration of the machinery designed to secure objects which in themselves are beyond dispute. Provincial self-government is inevitable, and administrative measures which fail to take it into account have no great prospect of practical success.

GENERAL ALLENBY IN CAIRO.

CAIRO, November 28.

Cairo has this week given itself up to celebrating the Palestine victory and affording the man responsible for it—General Sir Edmund Allenby—some outward evidence of the admiration and gratitude everyone feels towards him. On Sunday, as already reported, the Commander-in-Chief made his triumphal progress through the city, when the population gave him a most enthusiastic reception. On Monday it was the turn of the troops to give expression to their feelings towards their gallant chief, and the occasion was a fête given in his honour and "to celebrate the Palestine victory" by the Y.M.C.A. The grounds of Luna Park were thrown open to the troops, who were entertained to tea, and spent hours in and on the divers "side shows." The fête, which was in every respect a most impressive and memorable one, began with a meeting in the Skating Rink, presided over by the High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate. With him on the platform were Lady Wingate, General Sir Edmund and Lady Allenby, Lieut.-General Sir Louis Bols, Major-General H. D. and Mrs. Watson, Lord Radstock, Sir Alexander Baird, Sir Reginald and Lady Oakes, Brigadier-General Sir George Macaulay, Sir Mil[illegible] and Lady Cheetham, Brigadier-General and Mrs. Clayton, Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Watson, and the members of the Y.M.C.A. Committee.

The proceedings opened by the singing, as the two generals made their appearance, of the National Anthem, followed by the Old Hundredth. The High Commissioner then rose, and amid loud cheers addressed the gathering in the following words:—

Men of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force,—I am sure you will all agree with me that on such an occasion we could not have done better in opening this fête—so generously and kindly given by the indefatigable committee of the Y.M.C.A. —than by all joining together in that magnificent hymn we have just sung and in thanking God from the bottom of our hearts for the glorious victories won by the Allied arms on the fronts.

The black shadow which has been hanging, not only over the British Empire, but over the whole world, and the German dreams of world conquest have gone for ever.

Our gallant comrades in France have taken no small share in giving the knock-out blow—as well as those in Salonika and Mesopotamia—but, most of you men here to-day have taken part in General Allenby's magnificently successful campaigns in Palestine and Syria, and we have the great good fortune to have with us on this platform and sharing with us in this celebration your own most gallant Commander-in-Chief, whom, in the name of each of you and in my own, I welcome most warmly. (Loud cheers.)

Sir Edmund Allenby has led you on from victory to victory; and the splendid force he commands and all who have shared in these great successes, living or dead, will go down to posterity as men who have covered themselves with glory and have taken such a great share in delivering those crushing and lightning strokes which dealt so deadly a blow to the German plans of domination in the East, and which have liberated for ever from oppression and misrule the fair lands of Palestine and Syria, and have thus prepared the way of a new era of peace and prosperity.

You can, indeed, be proud of your magnificent achievements, and I know your great leader is proud of you and all you have done to give effect to his instructions. Believe me, these great victories will go down to history as world's records of what can be achieved by bold and faultlessly conceived plans, initiated by capable leaders and carried into execution by brave and gallant troops who know no fear and who were not to be denied.

In the name of our Beloved King Emperor, as his representative in this country, and as patron here of the great association which has organised this fête, I thank you, General Allenby, and your splendid troops, for all you have done to maintain and uphold the honour of our King and country, and the glorious traditions of the British Empire.

You have all borne the burden of these campaigns undaunted —discomfort, wounds, sickness, and even death—and here I would pay a last tribute to our gallant comrades who have fallen in the field of battle or died from sickness; they have paid the Great Sacrifice, and it has not been in vain.

I rejoice to think, too, that this ancient land of Egypt and its inhabitants—from its illustrious Sultan down to the humblest tiller of the soil—have also contributed to these great and historic achievements, and are profoundly grateful for the powerful British protection which has saved their homeland from invasion and devastation and furthered its prosperity and progress.

Before sitting down I would say one word more to you men who left your homes and all that is nearest and dearest to you—some of you more than four years ago—to proceed overseas to fight for the freedom of the world, so seriously menaced by our now beaten foe. Many of you had families dependent on you, who, as you well realised, could ill afford to lose their supporters; and these domestic anxieties were added to the many hardships you have had to bear. Believe me, a grateful country is not unmindful of these sacrifices on your part, as the organisations for the provision of suitable employment for men released from service amply testify. Moreover, the habits of discipline, training, and of working together for the good of the whole which you have learnt in the Army will be an invaluable asset to you in after life, and I am confident none of you will regret the time you have passed with the Colours. On the contrary, you will look back on all these hard days with the happiest recollections, and you will feel thankful for the experience you have gained, and which will help you immeasurably in the battle of life that lies before you.

In conclusion, I am sure you will all agree with me in feeling that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Y.M.C.A., which has done, and is continuing to do, so much in providing distraction and help to the troops in a hundred different ways. I was present at the Ezbekia Gardens a few days ago when they welcomed more than 3,000 convalescents to tea and where every sort of entertainment was provided, from swimming baths to concerts, games, and other recreations; and here in Luna Park I do not think there can be less than 7,000 men gathered together for this great celebration as guests of this great association.

I know you will join with me in offering to the committee and the various workers an expression of our heartfelt gratitude, to which I would add my personal and warmest congratulations, on the admirable arrangements they have made for this afternoon's fête. To the whole committee—with its able chairman, Mr. R. E. Monteith-Smith—to its most energetic secretary, Mr. Jessop, and Mrs. Jessop, to Mr. Johnson, who must be known to everyone of you as a most capable organiser, and especially to all the ladies who are so kindly assisting to-day, and who have since the beginning of the war devoted so much of their time and energies to the welfare of the men, we desire to offer an expression of profound gratitude and appreciation.

I will now ask you all to rise and join me in giving a hearty welcome to our illustrious Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Edmund Allenby, and to Lady Allenby, who is so closely associated with him in every effort to assist the officers and men of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force when they come to Cairo or Alexandria, whether it be to hospital or for a rest and change. Three cheers for General Allenby and Lady Allenby.

His Excellency's call was responded to most vigorously by the many thousand soldiers who thronged the huge hall. When the Commander-in-Chief rose to reply the band played "See the Conquering Hero Comes," amid resounding cheering and applause. Indeed, it was several minutes before he could obtain a hearing, so enthusiastic was the reception accorded him. General Allenby said:—

In a few words I wish to thank you for all the kind things you have said about myself and Lady Allenby. I heartily thank you in my own name and in hers. We appreciate very highly your kind words, and for my own part I can only say, if I could not win battles with such troops as I had under me in Palestine and Syria no man could. On October 31, 1917, we attacked Beersheba. On October 31, 1918, we signed the armistice. (Laughter.) Many, alas, of those who were with us then are not now, but they have been followed by men as good as themselves, and every time a gap was made it was immediately filled; where a man has fallen another has stepped into his place. You will remember, Sir, when we attacked at Gaza, we advanced until we reached the walls of Jerusalem without any serious check. There we had, owing to climatic conditions and the rough country, to make a slight check. But on December 9 Jerusalem was taken, forty days after we started from Beersheba. And up to that time there was always perfect co-operation of all branches of my forces, the forces of the Army, artillery, infantry, and the Air Force working with absolute precision.

After taking Jerusalem a large part of my army was taken away and replaced by troops from India, many of them men only partly trained. The way these men prepared themselves for the work they had before them was excellent and deserving of the highest praise. I was told it would take seven months to train them, but we trained them in ten weeks, and all was most ably administered and organised by the members of my staff, many of whom are here to-day. It was wonderful how all applied themselves to the task before them. On the morning of the 19th we began the attack. This was at 4.30 a.m. By 6.30 a gap had been broken by our cavalry, and in thirty-six hours the 7th and 8th Turkish armies were surrounded and practically destroyed. On October 19 the attack began, and on November 1 Damascus was occupied. On the 26th Aleppo was occupied, and Aleppo is 400 miles from the Jaffa line. What carried these troops to victory was the fact that during the summer they had been training mind and body with one object in view, that was to beat the enemy, and every man worked unceasingly until that object was attained. I want to express my debt of gratitude to the Y.M.C.A. for helping to bring about this result. The Y.M.C.A. was of the greatest assistance, and all through the operations they worked with us absolutely hand in hand, and have done more than I can express to bring about that combination of sound minds in sound bodies in the troops under my command. Generally, after an advance, within forty-eight hours up came the Y.M.C.A. with all sort of comforts. They encountered great risks and great hardships, and provided not only spiritual but material comforts. They provided food, entertainments, etc., and I want to express my very great gratitude to them; and I am sure that the whole of the troops who have served with me in Syria and Palestine will heartily join me in thanking the Y.M.C.A. and all connected with them for all they have done. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the High Commissioner for presiding, proposed by Mr. R. E. Monteith-Smith, the indefatigable president of the War Works Committee, to whose energy and enterprise the entertainment and care of the troops in Egypt and Palestine are mainly due. He testified to the invaluable assistance he and his colleagues had always received from the High Commissioner, who never refused them a favour or his support in anything they wanted.

As the two generals shook hands publicly the audience rose and sang "God Save the King."

On Tuesday evening the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate gave a dinner at the Residency in honour of H.H. the Sultan. The guests who were honoured with invitations included H.I.H. the Grand Duke Dmitri, General Sir Edmund Allenby, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., and Lady Allenby, H.E. Sir Hussein Rushdi Pasha, G.C.M.G., Sir Charles Marling, K.C.M.G., and Lady Marling, Sir William Brunyate, K.C.M.G., and Lady Brunyate, H.E. Mahmud Chukry Pasha, H.E. Said Zulfikar Pasha, Mr. Harry Farnall, C.B., C.M.G., and Miss Farnall, Mr. Douglas Dunlop, Mr. James Haines, Sir Milne Cheetham, K.C.M.G., and Lady Cheetham, Major-General H. D. Watson, C.B., G.M.G., C.I.E., and Mrs Watson, Brigadier-General E. S. Herbert, C.M.G., and Mrs. Herbert, H.E. El Lewa Chehata Kamil Pasha, C.M.G., Monsieur and Mme. Rolo, Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Watson, C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Mr. and Mrs. Greg, the Hon. M. Herbert, Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Symes, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major Castle Smith, Capt. and Mrs. Napier, and Capt. J. U. Alexander.

The loyal toasts of H.H. the Sultan, and H.M. the King were duly honoured, and the High Commissioner then raised his glass to General Allenby. Sir Reginald said that the details of the illustrious Commander-in-Chief's successful campaigns were far too well known to require recapitulation. It was to the complete confidence in his splendid qualities as a brilliant soldier and a man among men which General Allenby inspired amongst all ranks, from the High Commissioner downwards, to the high quality of the staff he had gathered around him, and to the magnificent gallantry of the troops under his command that we owed the series of great victories he had achieved. The messages of congratulation from H.M. the King and H.H. the Sultan had been wholeheartedly endorsed by the British nation, no less than by the Egyptian population, whom the Commander-in-Chief had saved from the dangers of invasion and devastation. He felt sure that he was only voicing the feelings of H.H. the Sultan and of all present when he expressed to General Allenby heartfelt gratitude for the great service he had rendered to England and Egypt, and offered him warmest congratulations on his splendid victories and on the well-merited honours he had received. The High Commissioner concluded by wishing health, long life and happiness to General Sir Edmund Allenby and Lady Allenby.

In thanking the High Commissioner, General Allenby said he was extremely proud to be the recipient of such words of esteem from His Excellency. He had been in command of the finest troops in the world; had always received invaluable advice from the High Commissioner; his Highness the Sultan had supported him; and the Egyptian Government had also placed at his disposal everything possible to assist him in his work. It was largely due to these factors that he had been able to lead his troops to victory and to save Egypt from devastation. He emphasised the fine work carried out by the Camel Transport Corps and the Egyptian Labour Corps, who, in addition to their splendid work on the lines of communication, had frequently shown the greatest bravery and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy, and he concluded by paying a special tribute to the Donkey Transport, whose splendid organisation left nothing that could be desired, and reflected the greatest credit on those responsible for its administration.

◆

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Palestine.

The following highly significant passages are extracted from notes in *Palestine*, which is usually very well informed in regard to the subjects with which it deals:—

> We have pointed out that the French have established an administration in Galilee, and have maintained it in spite of the protests from the British Government. We have the best of reasons for saying that the French Foreign Office are maintaining to the full their pretensions in relation to Palestine. They take up the position that the secret pact of 1915 holds good, and they are insisting upon every word and every particle of that unhappy document. We are not sure whether the French Foreign Office expects the Peace Conference to admit its pretensions in relation to Palestine. Probably not, for its agents in America, at any rate, are suggesting either international control or even American control in preference to British control over Palestine. The French Foreign Office, we take it, has two aims. It would, in the first place, like to prevent Great Britain securing the mandate for the creation of a Jewish Palestine. It would, in the second place, like to barter its own claims to Palestine for some solid equivalent elsewhere or in Palestine itself. All this is thoroughly orthodox as the old diplomacy understands it, and the circumstance that not one single thought is given to the interests and wishes of the Jewish people in this matter puts the seal upon its orthodoxy. We should like to say to the French Foreign Office two things. The first is that unless the Peace Conference is going to give the lie to every principle and profession on behalf of which it sent the manhood of the world to death and mutilation, the French pretensions in regard to Palestine will wither up as soon as men's minds are directed to them. The second is that the Jewish people will not suffer any of the various varieties of bargaining in re[illegible]on to Palestine which have been conceived by French diplomats in their own interest. There is no wisdom or vision in this handling of the Jewish Palestinian question by the Quai D'Orsay.

The second note says:—

> The *New York Times* reprints, with a map, an article on the territorial settlement of the Near East. It is the work of an Armenian writer, and the only thing to which we desire to draw attention here is the indication in the map, although not in the text, with regard to Palestine. The map limits the territory of the new Jewish Palestine to the Jordan Valley. All the other territory east of the Jordan, stretching south to Arabia and north into Syria, is put in this map under French control. It will, of course, be for the future Arab State to decide whether it desires, as this map makes it, to be under French control; but the idea that the eastern boundary of a Jewish Palestine should be the Jordan Valley must be rejected offhand. Palestine, the Palestine of history, of economics, of geography, and of politics, should properly stretch as far as the great Syrian desert.

◆

A Reuter message from Athens states that on the anniversary of the attempted *coup d'état* by King Constantine in 1916 the Anglo-Hellenic League addressed a letter to the British Minister in Greece expressing joy and pride at the prowess of the Greek soldiers who have fought side by side with British troops in the great war.

A letter from Soudi, a Greek town on the railway between Dedeagatch and Adrianople, states that the Bulgars, even after the armistice, are committing destructions and plunder in fields and houses, forcing the inhabitants to hard work, outraging young girls, and putting Bulgarian inscriptions on churches and schools. Refugees from the Byzantine city of Meleniko, at present occupied by the Bulgars, have decided at a special meeting to do everything possible to put an end to Bulgarian rule.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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What I have said time and again regarding Balkan trade opportunities is fully confirmed by a message this week from the special correspondent of *The Times* at Belgrade. "There is now an enormous demand for manufactured and Colonial goods, agricultural implements, and machinery of all kinds in Serbia, as well as in all other countries of the Balkan Peninsula," he says, "and at present there are no means of satisfying the demand. British exporters should bestir themselves, so as to be the first to profit, and enter into immediate relations with reputable importing firms in these countries."

⁂

I hope British merchants and manufacturers will read the passage quoted very carefully, and will take special note that there is at present no means of satisfying the demand for manufactured goods in the Balkans, for it depends mainly upon their enterprise whether our friends in the Near East are able to establish the close economic relations with Great Britain which they desire, or whether in despair they must once more look to the enemy for their supplies. Trade difficulties at the present time are unquestionably very great, but the importance of the Balkan market is such that, even at the cost of neglecting for the moment other markets, no effort should be spared to meet its requirements.

⁂

Mr. T. H. Mawson's proposals for the reconstruction of Athens, outlined in a lecture last week, a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, are on the same comprehensive lines as his plans for the rebuilding of Salonika. There is, however, a noticeable difference in treatment, due to the fact that in Salonika he was dealing with a city destined to become one of the great industrial and distributing centres of the Near East, while in Athens he had to take into consideration not only the industrial requirements but also the claims of antiquity. Briefly stated, his proposals are to combine the various railway stations of Athens in one centre, to have first and second class residential districts, and a working-class district in close proximity to the industrial area, and to have power provided from a plant a mile from the city, so that the outlook may not be marred by the sight of the chimneys of factories and workshops.

⁂

There can be no question that Mr. Mawson's proposals to convert Athens into a garden city are interesting, but opinions may differ as to their practicability. Reconstruction would be entailed on such broad lines that it would almost be tantamount to the entire rebuilding of the city, and in a period like the present, when the first essential is to restore the economic life of whole countries, it is unlikely that there would be much support for such a plan. Greece is certainly not in a position to finance a scheme of this nature by herself, and it is equally inconceivable that any of the Powers would be prepared to give assistance for any purpose for which a good case could not be made out on a utilitarian basis. In any case many generations would be required to carry out the scheme. M. Gennadius aptly expressed the position when he said that it "was so vast that many of them could only contemplate it as something to be accomplished after they had gone."

⁂

I see that Mr. Ward Price has had an interview with M. Edouard Huguenin, the director-general of the Baghdad Railway, and has obtained from him some interesting particulars regarding the condition of that line. He stated that the Taurus Mountains were opened for broad-gauge traffic in October, and that trains can now run to Nisibin. The track is reported to be in good condition, but the rolling stock has naturally deteriorated, in which connection he made the significant statement that two-thirds of the engines were unfit for work through lack of spare parts, which Germany had been unable to supply. Despite this, he thought that a limited daily traffic would be possible but for the coal famine.

⁂

The Baghdad Railway has been, of course, staffed with German engineers, and on this point M. Huguenin's views are of interest. "Most of our German engineers," he said, "are civilians who have been in this country thirty years. They have acquired a special knowledge of the peculiarities of the Baghdad Railway, without which the line could not be worked. Even should the Allies insist on replacing them by engineers of their own, it would be necessary for the latter to pass a couple of months in collaboration with the present German staff before they would be able to accept responsibility. The system of the Taurus tunnels alone is one of the most difficult in the world. Daily inspection is necessary for the safety of the line." Naturally they will all have to be replaced, no matter what their length of service or their position with regard to their "Fatherland." M. Huguenin is making very large mountains out of very small mole-hills, as plenty of British engineers I am sure are prepared to prove.

⁂

The report of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. for the year ended June 30 shows that while the net profit was not quite maintained at the high level of the previous year the outlook for the company is extremely satisfactory. The profit amounted to Rs.1,05,69,798, against Rs.1,10,76,692, and including the carry-forward the total was Rs. 1,08,86,677. Out of this Rs.45,00,000 have been placed to the depreciation fund account, Rs.5,00,000 to provision for income-tax and super-tax, the dividends are maintained at the previous year's figures, and Rs.4,67,927 are carried forward. As regards the company's progress, it may be noted that both blast furnaces worked continuously throughout the year, the production being the highest on record, while the production of the rolling mills showed a very considerable increase. Then the company's general scheme of extension has been actively prosecuted, a significant indication being the acquisition of three collieries, two of them gas-coal properties.

⁂

The outlook for this enterprising company may be gauged from the decision to make a substantial increase in the capital by the creation of 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of Rs.100 each. The reason for this increase is that it is believed that the demands of the Government and the company-owned railways will be much greater than the company on its present basis will be able to meet. Among new developments it is stated that arrangements have been made for the manufacture of enamelled ware, tinplate, sulphuric acid and zinc, jute mill machinery, steel tubes, chemicals, tea machinery, agricultural implements, and structural work. The company is also contemplating the establishment of a number of other industries, notably general engineering, electrical machinery, manufacture of wagons, and steel shelving.

⁂

I have dealt with the Tata report in some detail because it gives a very good indication of the contribution that India may be expected to make in future years to the world's manufactures. Owing very largely to the war, India has made a very great advance in the direction of supplying herself with materials which she formerly drew from the Western world, and it does not need an extraordinary stretch of imagination to picture the day when she is not only capable of satisfying her own requirements for iron and steel manufactures, but also of entering into serious competition for markets within her immediate range. The prospect may be remote, but it undoubtedly exists, and it is one which British merchants and manufacturers must take into account.

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A statement has been issued by the Department of Statistics in India with respect to the prices of commodities there at the end of the fourth year of war, showing that in August the wholesale prices of all commodities had risen 134 per cent. compared with the pre-war level, and 44 per cent. during the year. Prices have varied greatly in different localities. In Madras the rise above the pre-war level was 193 per cent., in Bombay 160 per cent., in Calcutta 90 per cent., and in Rangoon only 75 per cent. The rise in food prices during the four years has not been so marked as in other commodities, the increase being only 31 per cent.; but it may be noted that 15 per cent., or nearly half of this increase, took place in the past year.

⁂

Mr. James Rendel, presiding at the general meeting of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company, was able to give a most satisfactory picture of the year's working, as, in common with other Indian railways, the Assam-Bengal line has had a marked expansion in receipts despite the adverse war conditions. In the course of his speech the chairman referred to the old question of the transfer of the Dacca section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to the Assam Bengal Railway, and said that Colonel Huddleston, who was deputed to lay their case before the Indian Government, had had two interviews with the Railway Board, but, so far as he knew, without any success. He added that the Railway Board were making a report to the India Office on the subject.

COMMENTATOR.

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FUEL ECONOMY IN EGYPT.

Work of Mr. John Wells.

(From a Correspondent.)

When the price of coal reached prohibitive figures, and even at that the import of the required quantities into Egypt became uncertain, some qualities like anthracite becoming altogether unobtainable, the Egyptian Government, to meet the danger of a fuel famine, wisely thought of enabling the country to fall back on its own resources; and to that end the Financial Adviser engaged the services of a consulting engineer possessing previous experience of Egypt. That the choice was a happy one may be said to have been demonstrated by results. It is only about nineteen months since Mr. John Wells founded the Research Works at Shubra, Cairo, and although he has done the whole work of technical and general supervision single-handed, and has been seriously handicapped by existing difficulties, yet enough has been achieved, both in the theoretical and practical domain, to justify to the full the existence of these research works, which have opened up vast possibilities for Egypt, but more especially for the Sudan, where the fuel problem presents an insistent challenge to the authorities.

Recently Mr. Wells was kind enough to satisfy my desire for a close inspection of these works, and took me round the charcoal and tar-begrimed buildings constituting the workshops, laboratory, office, etc., explaining to me all that could interest, and be understood by, a layman. Along one side of the approach to the works my attention was attracted by a line of little heaps of what looked like sweepings, but were in reality samples of wood fuel, ranging from wheat, rice, and bean straw to chips of wood and bark of trees of commonest growth in Egypt, even to rags, to show that every organic matter could serve for the gas producer.

As I said, the works are the single creation of Mr. Wells, and are run practically under his sole supervision, and only a man inspired by the enthusiasm of a big idea in process of translation into useful action, and endowed with indomitable courage and persistent energy, could have carried on as he has done. With limited funds and innumerable and constant difficulties arising from war conditions, especially in connection with mechanical operations conducted in a country where the condition of the mechanical industry makes a call on home supplies a constant necessity, Mr. Wells had to exercise his ingenuity to the utmost, and his attempts at summary solutions of technical difficulties deserve the highest praise.

It seemed to me that in positive researches of this kind, where the actual results can be gauged with mathematical precision, no room for scepticism could be left, and I therefore obtained some data regarding the practical results achieved, which should, I think, be of special interest to readers of The Near East.

According to the latest report, there are at present in Egypt 277 engines operating wood fuel, of which over 80 per cent. are the same as those evolved at Shubra. As forecasted last year, the adoption of the first system evolved has led to a number of other systems, either based on, or improvements on, what had been done at the Research Works, mostly attempts at adapting a down cast producer to get rid of tar. A number of these have been introduced in combination with the cleaning apparatus used at Shubra, though a few are operating without it to the serious detriment of the engines.

The fuel cost to the owners and the wide variety of fuel being used are matters of considerable interest. Some owners report their cost per day on engines of 40 to 45 h.p. at 26 to 30 up to a maximum of 100 piastres, against 500 to 580 P.T. for coal in October, 1917. The power of engines varies from 30 h.p. in a few cases to 40-50 in the majority, with only a small number of larger engines of 75, 80, 100, and 260 h.p. each. It is safe to assume that the average owner is not expending more than 50 P.T. per day, therefore the cost of 277 engines at 50 P.T. per day is £E.138,500 per day, and on an average of 200 working days the total fuel costs would be £E.27,700 per year.

The amount of coal used during the same period would have been 26,592 tons. Coal from the date of starting of the engines has varied between £14 and £30 per ton, but for purposes of a year of running, taking £10 as a basic price, the fuel bill would have been £265,920.

Now let us see what has been the cost of this change of fuel. From information available, it appears that the cost of alteration per engine has varied from £150 to £350, with occasional higher figures, but it may be safely assumed that the average cost has not been more than £250, making the total cost £68,250, which, allowing for the lower cost of the fuel, represents a net saving to the owners of between £153,120 and £222,440, not taking into account the general value of land maintained under cultivation or mills kept at work which otherwise would have had to be closed down for lack of coal.

Since the inception of the research work in July, 1916, the actual expenditure incurred by the Egyptian Government has been £31,000 on the work and some £8,000 on professional fees. Reckoning the net value of the plant at Shubra at £9,000, the total amount of actual expenditure is reduced to £30,000, but of this only about half has been spent directly on gas engines, so that even if no more gas producers were to be installed the country would have already derived a handsome profit in the first year, represented by a net saving of from £123,000 to £192,400 on fuel alone, and three to four times this amount in the yield of cultivated land, which otherwise would have lain barren.

Very soon Egypt will begin to feel the benefit of the new research work of the last six months in the shape of much improved gas producers at a greatly reduced cost per unit, a new system of application of producer gas to boilers, and a line of producers suitable for converting kerosene oil engines into gas producers.

There are over 3,000 kerosene engines in Egypt, 750 gas engines, and a much greater number of steam engines. The engine-owner, having a gas producer to generate gas, has a wide range of fuels to draw upon, viz., wood, charcoal, coke, soft coal, hard coal, tibn, straw, reeds, cotton sticks, in fact any vegetable matter. He is not at the mercy of the speculator in particular lines of fuel, as he is in a position to choose the fuel that suits him most as regards price, accessibility, etc. Furthermore, those possessing quantities of vegetable fuel in excess of their requirements may utilise the new combination charcoal and gas producer, producing at the same time gas and charcoal. The advantage of this new combination may be realised from the fact that charcoal is worth to-day from £20 to £25 per ton.

LIFE IN TURKEY.

Hardships of British Subjects.

What has already been said in these columns regarding the economic position in Turkey is fully borne out by the following extracts from letters just received from British subjects in Turkey:—

"The rate of exchange for an English £1 note is 180 to 200 piastres, and for a sovereign 300 to 350 piastres. Everything is about ten times the price asked in peace time. A suit of clothes costs from £50 to £60."

"Tea of the first quality costs £50 the oke (2.8 lb.); beef, 120 piastres (21s. 7d.) per oke; mutton, 140 piastres (25s. 2d.) the oke; fowls, 150 piastres (27s.) each; bread, 25 piastres (4s. 6d. the oke; and second quality bread *uneatable*, 4 piastres (8½d) the oke."

"I went to try and get some vegetables, only having had dried peas and haricot beans for a long time. I managed to get three cabbages and 2 lb. of potatoes, for which I paid 9s. 6d."

Another correspondent states that the whole British community in Turkey has been living on *bulgur* (crushed wheat), and the straits to which they have been reduced may be gathered from the fact that the little boy of one family was wearing a pair of boots made of sheepskin which cost £10!

EGYPT'S FOOD SUPPLIES.

Position Still Difficult.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 25.

The situation in the towns as regards the supply of flour and wheat has not improved very much, great difficulty being still experienced in laying hands on the stocks held by the cultivators. There is, however, every hope that the present state of affairs will be materially relieved in the very near future, as an order has been placed in Australia for a large consignment of flour, the first shipment of which is due to arrive here very shortly. The arrival and sale of this flour will bring prices down considerably, and will force the hoarders to unload their stocks, possibly—as they fully deserve—at a loss to themselves, since the foreign flour will in all probability be offered below the tariff prices.

The final link in the chain of control is also about to be forged—viz., the bringing under control of the bakers. The latter, who have become entirely dependent on the Government licensed millers and retailers, are now being forbidden to work unless they have a licence from the Supplies Control Board; and the Board will, of course, only issue those licences on condition that the bakers conform to certain prices, etc. Thus, complete control will be effected at all stages, and the complaint that the cultivators and intermediaries have their profits restricted, but that the bakers can do what they like, will no longer have any foundation.

In connection with the question of food supply, it is interesting to note that an important innovation has been made in Alexandria in regard to meat. Owing to the difficulty experienced from time to time in obtaining meat, although regular supplies come down from the Sudan, the municipality has come to an arrangement with the military authorities whereby horses unfit for use but free from disease are to be handed over to the former for slaughter and sale as meat to the poorer classes. A special slaughter house has been set up under Government supervision, and the sale seems to be meeting with success. At first the Moslem and Jewish communities refused to touch the meat, but arrangements have been made for the animals to be killed in accordance with the rites of the two religions. Whilst enabling the poorer classes to obtain meat at a reasonable price, this innovation, if it attains any extension, should in the long run tend to alleviate the general food situation, since it will lessen the demand for bread, etc., which has increased amongst the lower classes owing to their inability to afford meat at the prices hitherto ruling.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated December 12:—

Useful rain has fallen in South of Bombay Presidency. Local rain in Burma, Baluchistan, and Sind.

Bombay Cotton market still continues irregular. Fully good Broach, April-May delivery, quoted 572.

THE DESTRUCTION OF BAKU.

Mr. P. de Morgan gives the following picture of the destruction of Baku and its oil wells in the *Mercure de France*:—"On September 27 the enemy forced his way into the city, and the weak garrison, exhausted by a long struggle, was compelled to take to the boats, leaving the city in flames. Wholesale massacre, pillage, and destruction then took place, and the terrified population fled, abandoning their houses to the soldiery. Soon all the great industrial undertakings, the oil wells, representing millions of capital, were committed to the flames. Balakhané was a grand and terrible sight, the flames rose up in a roaring, whirling column hundreds of yards high, and in forty-eight hours the city of Baku was entirely destroyed." For years to come, says Mr. de Morgan, Europe will be deprived of its main source of supply for oil, and an enormous amount of capital will be required to put the oil wells in working order.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING COMMITTEE.

Sir Henry Birchenough on the Outlook.

The Council of the British Cotton Growing Association have recently had an interview with Sir Henry Birchenough, K.C.M.G., the chairman of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee.

Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Bart., C.I.E., presided, and congratulated Sir Henry Birchenough on the great work he had done for the Empire in his capacity as chairman of numerous committees set up by the Government. The British Cotton Growing Association early in 1917 had come to the conclusion that the development of cotton cultivation within the British Empire was not receiving the attention and assistance which it merited from the Government, and that there was a good deal of indifference being shown which was injurious to the work the Association have at heart. It was, therefore, decided to send a deputation, which was received by the President of the Board of Trade on behalf of the Prime Minister. The outcome of that meeting was the appointment of a powerful committee, under the name of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, of which Sir Henry Birchenoungh was chairman, to investigate the whole of the circumstances of the growth of cotton in the British Empire and to report. The British Cotton Growing Association had during the past fifteen years effected a great deal of arduous spade work, which had been done uncommonly well. Lancashire, both employers and operatives, had subscribed liberally to the funds of the Association, and nearly half a million of money had been raised without any expectation on the part of the subscribers of obtaining any return beyond extending the area of cotton cultivation. Any profits that might have been earned would have been spent in new developments.

Sir Henry Birchenough explained that the Empire Cotton Growing Committee was formed largely at the request of the British Cotton Growing Association, supported by a strong recommendation of the Board of Trade. The object of that committee was in no sense whatever to replace anything that had been done, or was being done, or would be done in the future, in Lancashire, but, on the contrary, its object was to supplement and support those efforts, and the committee was not intended to replace any efforts, or committees, or bodies which were already at work. Sir Henry recognised most gratefully the extraordinary work which the British Cotton Growing Association had done under circumstances of great difficulty. The early years were the difficult ones, but when once the preliminary difficulties had been overcome the reward came much more rapidly than seemed possible in the early stages. The Empire Cotton Growing Committee was composed of representatives of the self-governing Dominions and various colonies, of the representatives of public departments, and of representatives of the various branches of the cotton industry. The committee had been in existence almost a year, and during that time there had been certain pressing problems to advise upon. The war had made progress in many directions difficult, but the committee had now reached a stage at which they felt they could go ahead. The committee was being further strengthened in order to obtain the co-operation of all classes in Lancashire, a co-operation not only of interests but of knowledge.

Up to the present time seven sub-committees had been set up to divide the work among them on the one hand, and on the other hand to secure still further the cordial co-operation of the different classes in Lancashire. The committees already appointed were Finance, Commerce, Research, Information, and three territorial committees, viz., India, Egypt and the Sudan, and the self-governing Dominions and colonies. It was not desired that the committee should be regarded as a London one; certain meetings could most conveniently be held in London, but a large number of the committee meetings would be held in Manchester, or elsewhere in Lancashire, because it was necessary for Lancashire to feel that they were their committees, and that this was their work; and its association should be as close as possible to the industry itself. A combination of private enterprise and government assistance was vital to the future. The main committee of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, which, of course, was interested in cotton-growing all over the world, even in the self-governing Colonies and India, could take over a great deal of the difficult work which the Association had done in the past, namely its relations with Government Departments, Colonial Governments, the Egyptian and Indian Governments. This would leave the Association freer to carry on the work of the active production of cotton. The desire and effort of the Empire Cotton Committee would be to assist the Association in every way, to give advice where possible, and represent the Association's wishes, wants, and needs, to the Government. Under these circumstances it was hoped that as soon as the troubles and difficulties of the war were over, the Association would be able to take a fresh leap forward, and attain the era of prosperity which all desired. It was absolutely necessary to develop the cotton growing areas in the British Empire, in view of the large increase of American takings, and there was now an atmosphere at Whitehall most favourable to that position. The present attitude of the Government was very sympathetic. The committee wished to feel that it had the united support of Lancashire behind it, and if so real progress would be made.

Mr. Hutton also spoke, and stated that it was for the Association to see that the committee was a success. It was necessary for capital, labour, and everybody to pull together in this matter, because sooner or later there would not be enough cotton to go round.

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EGYPTIAN STATES FINANCES DURING SEPTEMBER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 29.

The State accounts for September have just been issued, and so we are able to see how the Egyptian Government stands financially at the end of the first half of the financial year. Revenue during the period has totalled £E12,399,958 and expenditure £E10,255,778, as compared with £E9,085,328 and £E8,581,163 on the corresponding date last year. There has therefore been an increase of £E3,314,630 in revenue, as against one of £E1,674,615 in expenditure.

The chief items of revenue have been :—Direct taxes £E2,352,039, customs £2,346,411, tobacco dues £E1,025,218, legal fees £E754,354, railways £E3,201,640, State domains £E338,043, excise £E321,523, ghaffir cess £E571,692, interest on funds £E200,900, sale of land £E203,492, and miscellaneous receipts and dues £E366,554. The more important increases in revenue have been :—Customs £E1,105,682, railways £E1,010,407, tobacco dues £E213,204, ghaffir cess £E164,724, sale of land £E154,645, whilst excise and telephones, which appear for the first time this year in the State accounts, are responsible respectively for £E321,523 and £E99,284 of the total increase.

Under expenditure the heaviest items have been :—Sultan's Civil List :—LE175,995, post office £E182,187, education £E228,822, public health £E237,981, prisons £E172,470, irrigation £E559,471, railways £E1,680,678, police £E261,384, ghaffirs £E387,281, War Office £E649,243, pensions and indemnities £E369,428, public debt £E2,283,189, war gratuities £E395,017, extraordinary war expenditure £E298,214, mixed courts £E128,265, and native courts £E201,105. Important increases are railways £E214,078, war office £E201,828, war gratuities £E350,472, extraordinary war expenditure £E298,214.

The result of the first six months of the financial year is that there is a surplus of receipts of £E2,144,180, as against one of only £E504,165 at the end of September, 1917. This is eminently satisfactory, as the first is always the worst half as regards revenue collections, the heavier receipts from direct taxes being due in the third quarter of the year. We may confidently look forward, provided there is no unknown heavy item of expenditure to be met, to an even larger surplus at the close of the current year than was recorded at the end of the last one, when receipts showed an excess over expenditure of £E3,636,182 (before the contribution of £E2,967,056 to H.B.M.'s Government was written off).

SUDAN NOTES.

An Interesting Co-operative Movement.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Khartoum, November 6.

The various armistices have had the expected effect on the local market, and a period of stagnation has set in. The merchants, who had not contemplated so speedy a turn to affairs, have considerable stocks of cotton goods in hand, obtained at a high price from Egypt, where there is said to be a two years' supply of such articles. The buyers, feeling that a great reduction is to be expected, are refusing to buy at prices that the merchants offer, and stagnation is the natural result.

A movement has been begun to start something in the nature of a co-operative store on the part of the officials, who feel that the prices that they are called upon to pay by the grocers and import merchants are not justified by the facts. Whether the movement is likely to be brought to a successful conclusion or not is uncertain. It is probably true that the prices charged by the Greek grocers (and nearly all the grocers are Greek) are higher than those that would be charged by firms of greater financial stability, as there are many bad debts, and the majority of the firms practising in the Sudan have not enough capital and are compelled to make the good debtors pay the debts of the bad ones. Moreover, although the prices are sometimes high, they are not as outrageous as those charged by some of the firms in Egypt, who seem to be able to make what charges they please. There seems to be a very weak public opinion in Egypt, and prices are extortionate, but no one beyond becoming slightly abusive does anything. Besides, the shopkeepers are so rich after the enormous harvest of the war that they do not care greatly whether a would-be purchaser buys or not. In these circumstances it is difficult for the small public of the Sudan to make itself felt. A movement such as the one mentioned above, however, may help to bring the merchants to a proper appreciation of their position, and put prices on a more satisfactory basis. It is a commonplace to describe Egypt as the land of anomaly. Certainly this seems to be so in economics, as prices are not decided by the law of supply and demand, but by the machinations of the middleman, whose chief interest it is to prevent either maker or consumer knowing anything about the facts.

It is to be hoped that advantage will be taken of the present opportunity to establish British firms in these parts with a proper sense of proportion and genuine British methods. No doubt the Chamber of Commerce, which has in the last year taken on a more definite British attitude—a very welcome sign—would be glad to give any assistance possible to enterprise from the British Isles.

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GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1918. (New Style January 14 to October 13, 1918) :—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Sep., 1918	3,525,785	2,581,000
Do. do. do 1917	3,142,015	1,198,000
Estimated receipts for 9 months (Law of Control)	21,675,000	8,025,000
Actual do. do. 1918..	28,121,842	24,021,000
" " " 1917..	24,361,282	9,499,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months 1918	+ 6,446,842	+ 15,996,000
1917	+ 2,686,252	+ 1,474,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

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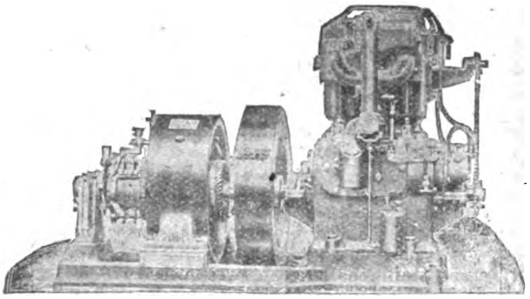

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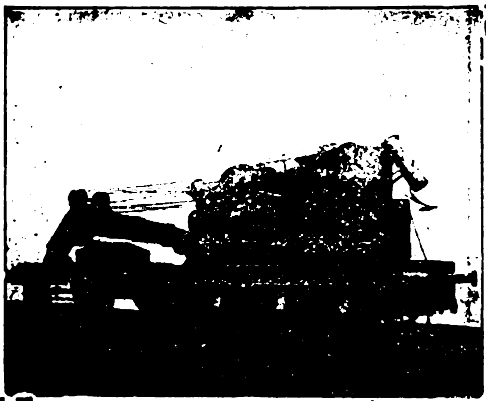

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Balkan and Indian Timber.

The enormous consumption of seasoned and unseasoned timber for war purposes during the last four years has created an embarrassing situation in all branches of industry. The building trade generally, and especially as regards projects of reconstruction, is most seriously affected by the apparent scarcity of this most important material. It is expected that Sweden and Norway and some of the countries on the other hemisphere will be able (as far as shipping facilities allow) to supply the crying needs of Central and Western Europe; but Austria, or that region which until recently was part of Austria, and has been the principal supplier of the timber trade and allied industries in South-Eastern Europe and the Near East, is, for the present and, perhaps, for some time yet, out of the market. Thus, the scarcity of timber is general in Europe, especially in the South-Eastern regions. In the circumstances it may be pointed out that these districts and others in the East may be supplied with very large quantities of timber for building, railway, and industrial purposes, from hitherto commercially unknown, or little known, sources in the Balkans and even India.

Albania.

There are vast forests in Albania which would provide a ready and easy source of timber. With very few exceptions, all are quite unexplored, and the transport of wood in logs, etc., from the forests to the sea would be facilitated by the utilisation of the rivers and rivulets which Albania possesses. Some years ago one French and two Italian companies obtained concessions for the exploitation of forests in the districts of Durazzo and Scutari, but owing to the disturbed political conditions at the time none of them attempted to commence work. Later, just before the Balkan war began, an English company arranged the lease of certain forests in Northern Albania, from which, besides a variety of timber for industrial purposes, great quantities of railway sleepers could be obtained and brought to Liverpool or London at much less cost than those brought from other countries.

Macedonia.

From Macedonia great quantities of timber for all purposes can be obtained. There are, according to available information, 2,000,000 acres of forests in Macedonia, 30,000 of which are being developed on scientific lines by a company; the remainder are being unscientifically "damaged," to say the least, by charcoal burners. In the district of Grevenna a forest of some 650,000 acres produces excellent timber; 40 or 50 saws are working at various parts of the forest, operated by native workmen, producing timber for building and other purposes. The Turkish Government had a revenue of £2,000 from this forest.

Bulgaria.

Old Bulgaria possesses very extensive forests, which cover some 30 per cent. of the entire surface of the country. The State has a profitable source of revenue in them if properly cut, but so far forestry, as understood elsewhere, is non-existent in Bulgaria. A developed timber industry is unknown; this industry requires a larger capital expenditure than can be raised in the country itself. Germans and Austrians admit that a large field for enterprise is presented by the Bulgarian forests. The State owns wide tracts of wood, especially in the Varna region, where there are large stocks of oak, which hitherto have been but little exploited owing to defective means of transport; there are also great quantities of elms and ash trees. A certain amount of timber has been cut for railway sleepers and for fuel, but in more remote parts the trees have scarcely been felled at all.

In many other parts of the Balkan Peninsula there are vast forests which are not utilised, simply because the people concerned cannot exploit them. For men with enterprise who are prepared to launch out upon an initial expenditure for the purchase of machinery, the employment of labour of the right sort, and the organisation of transport, the exploitation of these forests presents an admirable opportunity.

India.

This scarcity of timber is a question to which also Indian timber merchants might with advantage give attention. It is asserted that one quarter of the total importation of timber in Baghdad comes from India. It is evident, therefore, that Indian timber can be brought to the Persian Gulf for shipment to England at cheaper rates, especially if the wood is sent in the native sailing vessels which come from India to fetch dates. With regard to the quality of the Indian wood, it is an interesting fact that the wood found in the ruined palaces of the Sassanian Kings at Ctesiphon (550—637 A.D.) and the Arab Khalifs at Samarra (860—900 A.D.) is Indian teak. At any rate if supplies of Indian timber for Europe cannot be conveniently arranged at present, they may greatly help the progress of Mesopotamia's reconstruction, for which large quantities of timber will be required.

Fiume Harbour Extensions.

To the optimism of the Austrians regarding the fate of Fiume is due the preparation of most elaborate plans for widening the harbour of that important Croatian seaport in the Adriatic; for a competent staff of engineers has been busily employed as recently as the summer of this year in this work. The Governor submitted the plans to the Government, and the works for carrying them out were to begin soon after peace was concluded. The projected extensions are estimated to cost more than 100 million kroner. The naval authorities were planning to increase the size of the harbour considerably by broadening and lengthening the present breakwaters and constructing large basins and moles, as well as new warehouses. These extensions are of great importance, for if the proposed territorial arrangement in the Slavonic States is carried out, Fiume will be one of the most, if not the most, important commercial distributing centres in the Adriatic, not excluding Trieste.

Machinery for Mesopotamia.

It is evident that Mesopotamia is developing at a very rapid rate, judging by the quantity of agricultural machinery and supplies which are being sent there both from India and the United Kingdom. India, says the *Baghdad Times*, is supplying ploughs, pumping sets, harrows, horse rakes, seed-drilling machines in large numbers, and also quantities of potatoes, peas, oats and grass seed. All these are being produced in India, so that the development of Mesopotamia is very favourably affecting Indian industries, manufactures and agriculture. England is sending grinding mills, chaff-cutters, mowers, and other agricultural machinery, which hitherto it has been found impossible to obtain from India. The gradual and efficient development of the agricultural machinery and allied industries in India we have often had occasion to point out in these columns during the past few years; and with the opportunities that Mesopotamia now offers a further incentive will be given to India's industrial expansion. Apart from India, there are also other countries which will undoubtedly avail themselves of the opportunities presented in Mesopotamia, and it is hoped that British manufacturers will not be the last to appear in the field.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Strike Settlement.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday

The market has been generally inactive throughout the week, and producers in all quarters have again lost ground. The spinners' strike has been settled by the employers improving their previous offer. It has been arranged that the workpeople shall receive an advance of 50 per cent. on standard lists. The original application was for 40 per cent. on current wages, which meant about 66 per cent. on list rates. The operative weavers as a result of arbitration proceedings, have also secured a rise in wages of 50 per cent. on standard lists. The operatives in all branches of the industry will now receive higher wages to the extent of 110 per cent. on the wages ruling in July, 1914, when the war began. The cost to employers of the advance in wages to all operatives in the cotton industry will amount to about £180,000 a week. Nothing new can be said with regard to the Egyptian crop. Egyptian yarns have been slow of sale. Fine counts remain deeply sold, but engagements in the lower numbers are getting more irregular. Certain counts and qualities are scarcer than ever. Business in piece goods for Egypt has been at a standstill. News from Cairo has not been encouraging. Some cloth advices from India have been a little better. Inquiry has been about for China, but dealers in Shanghai are not prepared to pay Manchester prices. Complaints from manufacturers of cloth are increasing, and more looms are being forced to stand idle. There has been an absence of business in American yarns for home use. Prices when tested have been very irregular. Only small lots have been sold in export descriptions.

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"NEAR EAST" MARKETS.

The Tea Trade.

Indian Outturn.

The following extracts are from the review of the tea trade in 1917-18 of Messrs. Brooke Bond and Co., Limited:—

The 1917 Indian crop exceeded that of the previous year, being 350,000,000 lb., against 345,000,000 lb. The contract of the Food Controller to purchase 66 per cent. of this year's crop is based on an estimated total outturn from North and South India of 373,000,000 lb., a far larger crop than has ever been manufactured before. With regard to the Ceylon crop we have no reliable statistics, but apparently not quite as much was manufactured as during the preceding twelve months. Malay planters, finding they could not get freight for a large crop, plucked fine, aiming at quality.

The quality of the Indian crop was in no way remarkable, the tea from most districts being generally about on a par with, and in some cases inferior to, that of former seasons. There has been no encouragement for planters to produce high-class tea. As tea can only be sold in the United Kingdom at 2s. 8d. a lb., it pays planters better to supply medium tea in large quantities than small quantities of fine tea. Exactly how much of the crop reached Great Britain we cannot say, but the quantity must have been considerable. The total stock in bond at the end of October was 113,226,000 lb., of which the greater part was Indian. The amount at the same date in 1917 was 32,131,000 lb., a stock which was unduly low. The total stock in bond on May 31, the date accepted for the end of the Indian tea year, was 103,636,000 lb., a figure never before reached in the annals of the trade, against an average of 86,783,000 lb. for the preceding six years.

Russia's Imports.

After the United Kingdom, for many years past, Russia has been India's best customer, and continued to be so for the first three years of the war. During 1917, however, Russia took 13,000,000 lb. less than in 1916, the demand from that country, which normally absorbs about 50 per cent. of the offerings in Calcutta, being practically non-existent during the latter part of the season. During the last few months Russian buyers have again operated in Calcutta, but their purchases have been very small compared to what they were before the war.

To the end of 1917 Australia took 4,000,000 lb. more than in the previous year, owing greatly, doubtless, to the embargo laid by the Commonwealth on Java and China tea. Early in the present year the embargo was partially raised, but on September 11 a proclamation was issued again prohibiting the importation into the Commonwealth, except with the written consent of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs, of tea other than that grown or produced in British Possessions.

Statistics as to Ceylon tea are almost non-existent. We know that the 1917 crop was normal, and that the quality of the Ceylon tea that has come to Great Britain during 1918, has been satisfactory, or, at any rate, up to the average, but dealers are at a loss to account for the smallness of the quality which has arrived here, particularly during the early months of the year. Imports during March were 3,000,000 lb. of Ceylon tea, against 41,000,000 lb. of Indian. It has been suggested that a great deal was taken for the use of the Army, and therefore did not appear in returns.

The Japanese are trying hard to capture some of the markets at present held by Indian tea. The Japanese Tea Manufacturers' Associations decided to spend 68,142 yen (about £6,956) on advertising in the United States, Canada, Russia, China, Manchuria, and Corea. The greater part of this sum—31,500 yen (about £3,215)—was allotted to establishing tea-houses, distributing samples, newspaper advertising, etc., in the United States. During the present century the consumption of tea has greatly increased, and British-grown tea has to a great degree taken the place of Chinese and Japanese. The Japanese are now trying to recover this lost trade.

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The Bank has been established for over 55 years, and has its own Branches or Agents in every important commercial town in the Near East.

The Offices of the Bank at 26, Throgmorton Street, London, and 25, Pall Mall, Manchester, can now enter into transactions with all the above-mentioned places, subject to British Government regulations and local restrictions where in force.

Manufacturers, Traders and others are invited to correspond with the Bank, where all possible facilities will be afforded for the re-opening of business.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

The ordinary general meeting was held on December 17 at the offices, Bishopsgate House, Mr. James M. Rendel presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said : I am glad to say that, notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions imposed by the war—want of tonnage for exports and imports, shortness of rolling stock, and the continuous and heavy strain which has been thrown on a depleted staff, and has been borne by them with a cheerfulness which is beyond praise—notwithstanding these unfavourable conditions, the year shows an expansion both in gross and net receipts which is exceedingly satisfactory. This is due in the main to three causes. In the first place, the Hill Section, after having been closed for two years, was reopened for traffic in July, 1917, so that for nine months of the year we have had the benefit of through traffic over the hills. In the second place, there has been a substantial increase in the passenger fares. This was a war measure, taken at the instance of the Railway Board, with the object of restricting unnecessary traffic. The actual result was a small decrease in the number of passengers carried and a very substantial increase in the receipts from passenger traffic. The conclusion seems to be that the traffic will easily bear the increased rates. If so, it will be a question for serious consideration whether, and to what extent, these new fares should be diminished when normal conditions have returned. The third and most interesting source of increased traffic is the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar line. This line, as you are aware, is the property of a separate company, and the Assam-Bengal Railway have undertaken to work it on what is known in India as "Branch Line Terms." Though only partially open during the financial year, it has already, in its incomplete state, developed a very considerable traffic.

As the result mainly of these three causes, the gross receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway have risen from Rs.67,38,485 in 1916-17 to Rs.73,66,660 in 1917-18, an increase of Rs.6,28,175, or over 9 per cent. This increase is all the more satisfactory because the ratio of working expenses to gross receipts has, at the same time, fallen from 78.04 per cent. to 75.25 per cent. If, instead of confining ourselves to the Assam-Bengal Railway, we take the whole system worked by it, including the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Railway, we find that the total gross receipts of the system for the year amounted to Rs.76,77,127, the ratio of working expenses to gross receipts being 74.22 per cent.

I have already stated that the Hill Section, after two years arduous labour, has at length been reopened for traffic. But the work of restoration is as yet far from complete. For two important river crossings we have still to rely on temporary bridges, the provision of permanent work having been inevitably postponed by the war. Until these permanent bridges are erected our engineers will necessarily have a somewhat anxious time, especially during the rainy season. So far I am glad to say that we got through without any serious mishap.

At our last meeting I called your attention once more to the long standing controversy with the India Office on the subject of the proposed transfer to the Assam-Bengal Railway of the Dacca-Mymensingh section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and I told you that the board had decided, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to depute one of their number to India in order to lay the case in all its bearings before the Government of India and its advisers in that country. We had then to determine who should go, and in this difficulty we naturally turned to Colonel Huddleston, who had succeeded me as managing director, and who, by his long experience of railway working and his intimate acquaintance of traffic management, was peculiarly well fitted to represent the view of the board on the question at issue. I need not say that Colonel Huddleston placed us all under a great obligation in undertaking this mission, with all the discomfort, not to mention the danger, of a passage through the Mediterranean at such a time. I wish I could say that we were not disappointed at the result. Colonel Huddleston had two long interviews with the Railway Board, but, so far as he knows, he was unable to make any impression on them. There, for the present, the matter stands. It is believed that the Railway Board are making a report on the subject to the Secretary of State, with whom, of course, the ultimate decision rests. We presume that we shall, in due course, receive a copy of this report from the India Office, and we reserve our reply to it until it is actually in our hands. In the meantime, it is a satisfaction to know that, if the Railway Board is against us, the Government of Bengal, on grounds of public policy, strongly supports our view, and that outside the Railway Board, the weight of expert authority is entirely on our side. In support of this statement, it is sufficient to cite the names of Sir Francis Spring and Sir George Buchanan, both of whom have made elaborate reports dealing with the question from the point of view of the development of Chittagong Port. They both arrive at the same conclusion. They both hold—Sir Francis Spring as the adviser of the Chittagong Port Trust, and Sir George Buchanan more recently confirming him as the adviser of the Railway Board itself—that the Port of Chittagong is the natural outlet of the whole of the vast tract of Eastern Bengal and Assam which lies to the east of the Brahmaputra and constitutes its hinterland, that, by a moderate expenditure of public money judiciously applied, it can easily be converted into a harbour of really first-rate importance, and that the obvious and reasonable way to secure its development is, as we also contend, to place the whole system of railway communication between the port and its hinterland under the control of a single administration, viz., the administration of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

Ceylon and Indian Planters.

The report of the Ceylon and Indian Planters' Association for the year ended June 30 states that after paying debenture interest and all fixed charges there is a balance of £3,078, which, with the amount brought forward of £13,622, less excess profits tax £5,415, makes a total of £11,285. From this has been deducted the Preference dividend for the year, depreciation, etc., and the interim dividend on the Ordinary shares at 5 per cent., paid in May last, amounting to £4,597, leaving £6,687, plus interest and gain in exchange, £1,097, making £7,784. It is proposed to pay a final dividend on the Ordinary share capital of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, £4,400, and to carry forward to next account (subject to return of excess profits tax) £3,384.

Bibi Eibat.

The report of the Bibi Eibat Oil Company for the year ended March 31 states that the debenture issue (originally £62,500) was further reduced by £5,050, and the amount outstanding is now £45,450. The gross income, chiefly consisting of interest accrued on loans to the Russian company, amounted to £13,245, of which general charges absorbed £4,264, leaving £8,930. Against this there has to be set £7,000 for interest and redemption of debentures and £359 for loss on realisation of investments, leaving £1,622. Adding £18,964 brought in, there remains £20,586, which it is proposed to set aside to the formation of a general reserve fund. The accounts are based on the assumption that the Russian company will ultimately be in a position to discharge its obligations to the English company, amounting to £109,537. The gross production of crude oil during 1917 is estimated at 2,663,000 poods (42,952 tons), in comparison with 3,012,000 poods (45,581 tons) for the previous year. The directors have reason to believe that the reports which have appeared in the public Press regarding damage to the oilfields during the September disturbances in Baku have been greatly exaggerated. The directors have received no communications from Mr. Walton, the general manager at Baku, since July. Mr. Walton mentions that the Government had decided to concentrate the working of the various oil undertakings into groups, one of which was that of Nobel Bros., and to this group the properties of La Société de Naphte de Bibi Eibat were to be attached as from July 18, 1918.

New Schibaieff.

The report for the year ended April 13, of the New Schibaieff Petroleum Company states that in the present unsettled condition of Russia it has not been possible for the auditors to examine the books of S. M. Schibaieff and Co., and no accounts have been received from that company dealing with the year 1917-18. The gross production of S. M. Schibaieff and Co. for the twelve months ended March 31 (O.S.) amounted (February and March, 1918, being estimated) to approximately 3,677,000 poods (59,306 tons), compared with 5,554,065 poods (89,582 tons) for the previous year. The net output, after deducting royalty and quantity used for fuel, should be about 2,143,300 poods (34,569 tons), compared with 3,309,800 poods (53,384 tons). The decrease is mainly due to the difficulties of working the fields, especially since the seizure of power by Bolsheviks, and the fact that two of the best producing wells in the Bibi-Eibat plots had temporarily ceased to yield and were being repaired. Since the downfall of the Kerensky Government the conditions under which oil companies have been obliged to work have become increasingly difficult ; S. M. Schibaieff and Co., in common with other firms, have had to pay exorbitant wages, allowances, etc., for inefficient work, while it has been almost impossible to obtain supplies of materials even at the excessive prices ruling. On June 20, 1918, a decree of the Soviet Government was promulgated nationalising the whole of the oil industry in Russia. This decree has undoubtedly taken effect in the case of S. M. Schibaieff and Co. Claims for the property seized under this decree, as well as for all other loss and damage, will be lodged with the Foreign Office, and every step taken to protect the shareholders' interests and obtain restitution and full compensation.

Mocha Tea of Ceylon.

The report of the Mocha Tea Company of Ceylon, Ltd., for the year ended June 30 last, states that the profit on the year's working, after taking into account Rs.12,910.06 for loss on exchange, amounts to Rs.130,097.91, from which has to be deducted Rs.434.86 shortfall on the previous season's crop, and added Rs.9,791.41, the balance brought forward from last season, making a sum of Rs.139,454.46 to be dealt with, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent., absorbing Rs.45,000, was paid in July. There now remains a balance of Rs.94,454.46. The directors recommend a final dividend of 20 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year, carrying forward Rs.3,454.46.

Kegalle Rubber and Tea.

The report of the Kegalle Rubber and Tea Company for year ended June 30 states that profit, after paying debenture interest and writing off Rs.2,287 for loss on exchange, amounts to Rs.267, which is carried forward.

Russian Petroleum.

The directors of the Russian Petroleum Company announce that they are unable to submit accounts for 1917 owing to the internal affairs of Russia stopping effective work by the company since the outbreak of the revolution in the early part of 1917. From information which has reached the company in London it would appear that the gross production of crude oil during 1917 was 2,310,127 poods, as compared with 3,040,867 poods for 1916 and 4,064,444 poods for 1915.

East India Distilleries.

At the Ordinary meeting held on December 17 the Chairman, Mr. E. S. Ormerod, stated that the accounts had not arrived from

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 60 is payable on and after the 15th December, 1918, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Bank, form of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 8th November, 1918.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

India. The meeting would be asked to sanction the payment of the usual dividend on the preference shares and to transact other formal business. A cablegram from Madras showed that the profits for the twelve months were larger than those of the previous year. The resolution for the adoption of the report was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned to a date to be fixed by the directors.

Bombay Baroda Railway.

The directors of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Company, in their report for the half-year ended September 30, which includes the detailed accounts of the working of the railways in India for the six months ended March 31, state that the total length of the railways worked was 3,822.63 miles as at March 31. Capital expenditure since December 31, 1911, up to March 31, 1918, including suspense accounts, but excluding payments on account of liabilities incurred prior to January 1, 1912, has amounted to Rs5,13,46,420. The funds to meet this outlay have been advanced by the Government to the extent of Rs4,93,36,420 and by the company to the extent of Rs20,10,000, and these amounts constitute temporary additions to the preferred capital of the Secretary of State and of the company respectively. For the half-year ended March 31, coaching traffic shows an increase of Rs12,27,957 on the broad gauge and of Rs2,91,205 on the metre gauge, goods traffic a decrease of Rs16,321 on the former and an increase of Rs2,07,210 on the latter, sundries an increase of Rs13,434 on the broad gauge and of Rs1,22,565 on the metre gauge, and telegraph an increase of Rs4,661 on the former and of Rs5,667 on the latter. For the whole year 1917-1918 the total net earnings amounted to Rs4,50,92,641. From the company's share the stockholders received a total payment, including the guaranteed interest, of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the capital stock, comparing with $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for 1916-17, 5 per cent. for 1915-16, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1914-15, $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for 1913-14, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1912, 4 per cent. for 1911, and with $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for each of the preceding five years. As the profits are calculated on the results of working for the complete financial year, no statement of profits for the half-year ended September 30, 1918. can be made, but information from India justifies the directors in recommending the payment in January next of an interim dividend in respect of the current financial year of 10s. per cent. in addition to the guaranteed interest then due, and a resolution authorising these payments will be submitted to the meeting. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.. to-day (Friday).

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Assam Frontier Tea.—Ad-interim dividend of 3 per cent. on Preferred shares, payable 31st instant. Preferred share register will be closed from 17th to 31st instant, inclusive.

The directors of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company recommend a final dividend for the year ended September 30 of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 10 per cent. per annum, payable, less income-tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, early in February.

The directors of the Alliance Tea Company of Ceylon announce an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, on account of the year ending 31st instant, payable January 6.

The directors of Hornsey Tea Estates Company, in their report for the year ended June 30 last, state that the gross profit is £2,045, and the directors propose a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. (less tax), carrying forward £2,088.

The directors of the Jetinga Valley Tea Company have declared an interim dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum), free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares, payable 31st instant.

The directors of the Jokai (Assam) Tea Company have declared an interim dividend for 1918 on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less income-tax, payable on and after January 9 next.

Malta Tramways (In Liquidation).—An extraordinary meeting will be held at 4b. Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, E.C., on the 27th instant, at 2.15 p.m., for the purpose of appointing Mr. R. H. Parker liquidator in place of Mr. J. R. Tulloch, deceased.

The directors of the Bandarapola Ceylon Company have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax on account of the current year, payable forthwith.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce a dividend for the half-year ended September 20 last of 5s. per share, free of income-tax, payable on and after 30th instant.

Chartered Bank of India Australia and China.—At an extra-ordinary meeting on December 18 the resolution for increasing the capital from £1,200,000 to 2,000,000 was carried unanimously.

An interim dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax at 5s. 9d. in the £) in respect of the year ending December 31, 1918, has been declared on the ordinary shares of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, payable on and after December 19, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 20 tons (previous week, 21 tons); Hurgada, 3,363 tons, against 4,481 tons.

British Burmah Petroleum.—November production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 79,725 barrels.

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EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The returns of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., for the week ended December 5 were: Cattle markets, £734; general markets, £537; total, £1,271; total for year, £49,890. The figures for the corresponding week in 1917 ended December 6 were: Cattle markets, £294; general markets, £501; total, £795; total for year, £52,014.

MOTOR CARS FOR INDIA.

The Overseas Department of Trade of the Foreign Office and Board of Trade states that a cable received from India announces the removal of the prohibition of the importation of motor-cars into India. The removal takes effect immediately.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—December 9, 10, 11, 12, 960,000 francs, against 1,220,000 francs.

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The Brussels Bourse was to reopen on December 16.

Up to the 7th inst. Indian Treasury bills were sold to the following amounts:—October 16, 1917, to March 31, 1918, Rs.43,50,00,000, April 1 to December 7, 1918, Rs.55,19,60,000; bills discharged or discounted, Rs.70,38,00,000; bills outstanding on December 7, Rs.28,31,60,000.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, Wednesday.

This has again been a very quiet week, and business has almost been at a standstill, excepting for a certain amount of activity in one or two specialities.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have dropped ½ to $88\frac{1}{4}$, round which price there are still some buying orders in the market. The $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Prefs. also are nominally half a point down at $76\frac{1}{2}$.

In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ easier at $21\frac{1}{8}$, and Agriculturals have relapsed 3-32 to 6 23-32. Some business has again been done in Agricultural Prefs. round $7\frac{5}{8}$. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have recovered ¾ to $16\frac{3}{4}$. Land Banks are about unchanged at 7xd.

In Railways Delta Lights are ⅛ harder at $8\frac{3}{8}$.

Amongst Land shares Aboukirs are 6d. higher at 24s. 6d. Some small business took place in Allotments round the current level; but Beheras are again ¼ easier at $13\frac{3}{4}$. Delta Lands and New Egyptians are both 3d. lower at 15s. 9d. and 21s. 9d. respectively; but there has been a very fair amount of business in the shares of the latter company, about which the most satisfactory reports continue to come from Egypt. A feature in this market has been the jump of 13-16 in Sudan Plantations, from $3\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 15-16, on the issue of a most satisfactory report and a dividend of 25 per cent., against 10 per cent. last year.

In Miscellaneous shares Salts and Sodas are 1-16 lower at 77s. 6d.; but, on the other hand, there has again been a very strong demand for Khedivial Mails, and the price has been pushed up 12s. 6d. to 90s.

In Greek securities the market has remained firm, the only change worth recording being a rise of half a point in the 5 per cent. 1890 Loan to 75xd.

Oil Shares.

The market has been far from buoyant. Anglo-Egyptians "B" are unchanged at 2 11-16, as are British Burmahs at 13s. 9d., and Anglo-Persian Prefs. at 25s. 6d.

Roumanians have again been weaker. Roumanian Consols are 6d. lower at 15s. 6d., and Traian Roumanians at 9s. $7\frac{1}{2}$d. are $10\frac{1}{2}$d. down.

Russians have been lower on the general outlook. Bakus are unchanged at 4s. $7\frac{1}{2}$d., and Russian Generals and Ural Caspians remain at $1\frac{1}{8}$ and 1 9-16 respectively. Russian Petroleums are 3d. lower at 2s., and North Caucasians are 1-32 down at $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares are again lower at 5405 francs, a fall of 45 francs. Other prices are Egyptian Unifieds 92.25 (against 94.50), Serbian 1895's 61.50 (against 61.90), Turkish Unifieds 71 (against 71.40), Banque d'Athenes 103 (against 101), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 782 (against 785), Land Banks of Egypt 201 (against 191.50) and Ottoman Banks 527 (against 535).

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TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited by the Calcutta Corporation for the supply and delivery for twelve months of lighting stores, including inverted incandescent mantles for street lighting, complete inverted incandescent burners, glass cylinders for inverted burners, and inverted incandescent gas arc-lamps. (Spec., 2 rupees, Central Record Keeper, Central Municipal Office Buildings.) March 10.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries, and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 11	Dec. 18
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88¾	88¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	77	76½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75	75xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	68
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 13/16	6 23/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16xr	16¾
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6½xd	6½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 29/64	9 29/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	87¾	89
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14¼	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7¾	9	8⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7½	7xd
London County and Westminster	—	18⅝	19¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21¼	21⅛
National Bank of India	43	71½	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8¼	8⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/-	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	11	13¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	16/-	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	22/-	21/9
Sidi Salem Co.	5/16	2 21/32	2 21/32
Sudan Plantations	—	3⅛	3 15/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	70/-	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/9	3/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅞	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	78/9	77/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	77/6	90/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	4⅛	4⅛

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 399.—Vol. XIV. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

In his conception of the Allied Conference on peace terms President Wilson excludes the possibility of a master mind being able to settle the problems of to-day. The Allies, he points out, have all got to put their heads together and pool everything they have for the benefit of the ideals which are common to them all. He inveighs rightly against the "bosses" of the Congress of Vienna, who were concerned with their own interests and with those of the classes they represented rather than with the wishes of their peoples. But the event will prove, we imagine, that the Conference will need, if not a master mind, at least a master will. The various appeals that have already been addressed to the United States President are in some measure an indication of the general desire for a definite decision. True, the applicants all hope for a decision in their favour; but if the alternative of a compromise and the perpetuation of the present uncertainty were placed before them, there can be little doubt which they would select. It is essential that the great nations, as comrades of the less powerful, should share the difficulties and responsibilities presented by the successful termination of the war, and where rivalries exist between the smaller States the part that the former will have to play is to act as arbiters and to see that their decisions are carried into effect.

With M. Bratianu again at the head of the Government a definite landmark has been reached in the settlement of Roumania's affairs. The new Prime Minister is leader of the National Liberal Party, and as, contrary to the first report, no place has been found for M. Take Jonescu, the chief of the Conservative Democrats, we must infer that the decision has been taken to form a single party administration. It is no small tribute to the political sagacity of the nation that, in spite of the ordeal through which it has passed, its confidence in those who declared war on its behalf has not been shaken. If Roumania had kept out of the war she might have escaped military defeat, but she would have experienced a political and economic subjection to the Central Powers that would have been even more humiliating. Not only would she have lost her self-respect, but she might have forfeited some of the loyalty and affection on which she could always rely from her kinsfolk in Transylvania.

The establishment of a Greater Roumania would seem to be proceeding with a smoothness that the race, in view of all its sacrifices, has thoroughly deserved. In Transylvania there was never any doubt that the Roumanians would vote unanimously for incorporation in the Roumanian kingdom. The initial steps to this end having been taken, it might have been thought that there would be no need for Transylvania to be represented separately at the Allied Conference in Paris. But until the formal act of union has been consummated Transylvania enjoys an independent existence. Consequently the new Roumanian Cabinet is representative of the kingdom only. As an integral part of the former Dual Monarchy the Roumanes of Transylvania have the right to place the Conference officially in cognizance of their act of self-determination.

Incorporation in the Kingdom of Roumania will by no means entail the effacement of Transylvania. In the past several of Roumania's prominent men have been drawn from the other side of the Carpathians, and it is evident from the proceedings of the national gathering at Sibiu that the Transylvanians hold strong views on political questions. Their democratic leanings would make short work of any attempt to retain one moment longer than was absolutely necessary the restricted franchise that has hitherto done duty in the kingdom. In the same way, if we may judge by the degree of political autonomy that they propose to give alien communities in their own midst, their influence will be exercised in favour of the complete emancipation of the Jews. Fortunately, the political and social reforms of which Roumania has been for so long in need will be the first concern of the new Government. But it will be of interest to watch the effect that the inclusion of Transylvania will henceforth exercise on the constitutional development of Roumania.

The tendency towards what is known in mining-camp phraseology as claim-jumping shows signs of growing in the Near East. A report, which, as it is said to emanate from Budapest, must be accepted with reserve, states that the Italian National Council in Fiume has resolved to found an independent Republic, comprising the city, the harbour, and surrounding country, and that the first President of the new Republic has been elected. Fiume is claimed for the Southern Slavs, but has been occupied by Italian troops. It has less reason than Trieste for being a free port, but it is conceivable that the inhabitants, to avoid international complications, might decide among themselves in favour of an autonomous Town-State. Such a step, however, could only be taken as the result of the free and deliberate choice of the people, and the plebiscite should not be held while troops are in occupation of the town. Republics are greatly in favour these days, and after examples of the big and the little the world is being treated to lesser ones, with the prospect of their being multiplied *ad infinitum*. Whether they will all survive the war settlement, when something like finality comes to be given to the map of Europe, remains to be seen.

Before long plebiscites will have to be the order of the day throughout the Continent. A number are overdue in Russia; the Southern Slavs will, no doubt, call for many, if Italy maintains her objections to the boundaries claimed for the Yugoslav State; Montenegro will require one, if an attempt should be made to invest the Podgoritza gathering with the status of a constitutionally elected assembly; there can be no other satisfactory solution for the settlement of the Albanian question, especially in the south. In every instance an indispensable preliminary to any voting should be the withdrawal of all troops. It would also be more satisfactory if arrangements could be made for the plebiscites to be held at least under the auspices of French, American, or British officials, with the consent of all the parties concerned. In the case of Albania, as neither the Italians nor the Greeks would consent to see the voting controlled by the other, it will be necessary to place the officials of one of the other countries named in entire charge of the process of self-determination. However great the inconvenience of this method, it has to be remembered that failure to arrive at an equitable settlement in regard to any one locality is almost certain to sow the seed for continued unrest in that part of Europe.

The French Prime Minister has made a very shrewd contribution to the settlement of the controversy between the Italians and the Yugoslavs. He points out that there is an interest superior to all extension of territory—in Italy's case to have good friends on the other side of the Adriatic—and asks the Italians to consider that an equitable accord between divergent interests must come before the old-fashioned tradition of the indefinite extension of territory. This principle will also have to be applied to the settlement of Nearer Asia, where new sentiments of solidarity among the Arabs will have to be reckoned with by the Allied Powers. Any delimitation of spheres of influence must be careful not to detach from one another tribes that show any desire to work together. Thus, if the inhabitants of the Mosul district want to be associated with Baghdad, they must not be joined for administrative purposes to Aleppo. In the same way, the Powers will not wish to encourage an Irredentist spirit among the Arabs of Damascus through the failure to accord them the same freedom for administrative development as the people of Baghdad, or to respect any sense of solidarity with the Hejaz that they may now feel.

Indian politics have been receiving but scanty attention from the Press in this country during the last few weeks, and we cannot honestly say that the British public are complaining of the neglect of a topic in which they are not for the moment keenly interested. A certain amount of campaign literature has, however, recently come into circulation, and we have before us three pamphlets which at any rate furnish material for thought. The views of the backward classes of Bombay are presented by the Indo-British Association, Dr. Nair is making a direct appeal to British Labour, and Mr. Dawlat Ram Kalia, of Ferozepore, writes from the point of view of the peasants and workmen of the Punjab, so that in the aggregate our authors claim to represent a substantial portion of India, and they give us a view which is remarkable chiefly for the fundamental unity underlying peculiarities of status and locality.

The sentiment which, in these pamphlets, unites Bombay, Madras, and the Punjab is a profound distrust of the classes from which most Indian politicians have hitherto been drawn. Its expression is necessarily distasteful to the classes in question, and the pill is not gilded by any attempts at euphemism; but politicians must expect hard language, and, language apart, the sentiment is important, because it springs from one of the ugliest facts of Indian life—the long-standing antagonism between the masses who work and the classes who live on the fruits of that work. "The real fight in India is between the dumb masses and the few educated"; "the working classes will get no sympathy or help from their caste superiors"; such statements may be objectively true or they may not, but the important point is that they represent accurately the mental attitude of a very large part of India.

Indian problems would be very much simpler and political discussions would be very much pleasanter if this feeling of antagonism did not exist; but there it is, and at the present juncture it would be fatal to ignore the ugly fact. It is a legacy from an indefinite number of centuries, during which it was better to be a parasite than a producer; the old *régime* was characterised by ruthless economic exploitation, and the masses are opposed to any changes which, in their eyes, appear likely to restore that evil tradition. The antagonism is of old standing; the new facts of the situation are, first, its transfer from the sub-conscious to the conscious plane, and, second, the courage which enables it to find expression. These new facts are pregnant with hope to those who can take a long view, but they are exceedingly awkward for the men who have to solve the problems of the moment.

These problems centre on the constitution of provincial Legislatures sufficiently representative to assume responsibility for an increasing measure of the work of government. In the existing state of feeling, which is certain to wax before it begins to wane, the Legislatures must represent the illiterate masses or they will be unable to bear the burden of responsibility, and so we come to the position so often pressed in these columns: that the work of Lord Southborough's Commission is fundamental, and that until we know the franchise we can form no judgment on any constitutional scheme. The solution may be found in communal representation, or in some other adaptation of electoral machinery; but if the feelings of the masses should be excluded from the councils at the outset, we see no prospect of anything but an increase of the existing antagonism until the disastrous omission is rectified.

One other pamphlet on our table is important from a somewhat different point of view. The Indo-British Association have issued an epitome of the Rowlatt Report, and we hope the effort will be successful in spreading knowledge regarding the actualities of what it is the fashion to speak of as political crime, actualities which have a very definite bearing on the constitutional problems of the moment. We could wish the compiler had found it possible to exclude some of the technical expressions, which are likely to puzzle the ordinary elector, and perhaps even the ordinary member of Parliament, but apart from this drawback the epitome is a useful piece of work, and we trust that it will be widely read by those who for any reason are unable to study the report itself.

Perhaps some of our readers may ask whether such topics as these are appropriate to the closing week of a year during which the clouds of war have parted, and India, with the rest of the Empire, has been privileged to watch the dawn of peace. We have not written in forgetfulness of the season. No lesson of these nightmare years stands out more clearly than the need of facing facts, however ugly they may look. It was by facing facts that India was enabled to render such material help to the cause of civilisation in the mountains of Palestine and on the plains of Mesopotamia, and it is by facing facts that she can best prepare herself for the new and larger life upon which she hopes to enter in the coming year.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, December 2.

His Highness the Sultan.

His Highness the Sultan gave a luncheon this week at the Abdin Palace in honour of General Sir Edmund and Lady Allenby. The guests invited included the Ministers and the Senior British Officers of the Staff. His Highness also received a visit at his private palace from the Grand Duke Dimitri of Russia, which he returned later on at the Russian Agency; and he attended the races this week at Heliopolis, the first time since the opening of the winter season.

General Allenby.

General Allenby continues to be the recipient of attentions from the European and Egyptian Communities. This week he was entertained by Mr. Smyrnow, the Russian Minister, at a reception given in his honour at the Russian Agency, to which were also invited the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, His Excellency Hussein Rushdi Pasha, Prime Minister, and the Ministers, the Grand Duke Dimitri, and the Diplomatic Corps. The gallant Commander-in-Chief was also the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Syrian Community at their club in Cairo; delegates from all the other Syrian Communities in Egypt attended and very cordial speeches were exchanged, a notable instance being an eloquent oration by Dr. Farès Nimr, the well-known Syrian journalist and politician. General and Lady Allenby have now proceeded to Alexandria, where he is to review the troops and to be entertained by the British Community.

The Influenza Epidemic.

Spanish influenza is still ravaging the country, and it is feared that the cold weather, which has now set in, will aggravate the situation by exposing people more to complications, such as pneumonia, etc. The Public Health authorities are hard at work trying to combat the epidemic, but the mortality is still very heavy, especially among the native population. As a precautionary measure it has been decided to suspend funeral processions and ceremonies in all but the large towns. It was also proposed to close the schools, but after consideration it was decided for more reasons than one that it was preferable to keep them going; and so far only in the cases of certain categories of schools, especially those not directly under State supervision, has any order in this respect been given. A large quantity of serum has been ordered from Europe, but it has not yet arrived, and until it comes no bacteriological preventive measures can be taken.

Prisoners of War with the Turks.

More of the officers who were prisoners with the Turks have now landed in Egypt. They report that there have been many cases of utter brutality on the part of the camp commandants, and that the treatment has in certain instances been so disgraceful that the Turkish authorities themselves brought the men responsible to book for their actions. During the past year the treatment of the officers improved somewhat, but that of the men has been consistently bad throughout.

The Fuel Question and the Water Supply.

The Fuel Committee presided over by Mr. P. M. Tottenham, which has been dealing with the question of fuel, has issued a timely warning to cultivators with regard to the prospects of water next year. It points out that the country has been favoured during the last two years with an ample summer water supply, which, together with the exceptional measures taken by the Irrigation Department and the extended use of cotton sticks, vegetable refuse, and oil-fuel, has made it possible to give an adequate supply of water to all crops. The water supply of the coming summer will, however, be much smaller than that of the last two years, probably below the average of the previous ten years; and in view of the lower levels which will be maintained in canals, owners of all lifting machines are advised by the Committee to get their plant put into working order, to collect and store all available fuel, such as cotton sticks, wood, rice-straw, and vegetable refuse, to adapt the boilers of steam engines to burning oil fuel, and to make arrangements for its supply. At the same time the Committee is careful to point out that this warning must not be understood to imply that the coming summer water supply will necessarily be much below normal, but that it does, nevertheless, imply that considerably less free flow irrigation will be possible, and that higher lifts will certainly be involved from May-July, 1919, than in recent years, though it is possible that the position will be very materially improved by the early arrival of the 1919 flood.

The reminder that Egypt has been very well favoured by the water supply during the past two years is quite correct, and the fortunate position of the country in respect of fuel is perhaps not as generally realised as it should be. Normally Egypt imports about 1,700,000 tons of coal annually, of which a large portion is required for industrial and irrigation purposes. The good summer water supply has meant that less lifting has had to be done, and thus less fuel has been required for the irrigation and pumping engines, etc., whilst the extended use of vegetable refuse as fuel has materially reduced the quantity of fuel required in these circumstances for irrigation purposes, which had to be imported from abroad. When one considers that, whereas during 1912-1913 the total coal imports came to 3,360,000 tons, worth £E3,600,000, they aggregated only 2,380,000 tons with a value of £E10,900,000 during the three war years 1915-1917, one can understand that the direct saving on the country's fuel bill has been enormous, even allowing for the increase in the amount of cotton seed crushed in the country since the war, from which, in addition to domestic oil, a large quantity of cake has been obtained for fuel purposes. At the same time the real value of the combination of these two important factors is still greater than it would appear; for it is a moot question whether the country could have obtained, even at a price, the whole quantity of coal it normally requires, in which event it would not have been possible to put as much of the cultivable area under cereals and cotton as has been done these past two years. In short, the country has been saved several millions sterling.

With regard to the use made of vegetable refuse as fuel during the past two years, the question presents itself whether, once coal and oil fuel become more moderate and more accessible, the agricultural classes will revert to them or keep to vegetable refuse, which they put to no extensive economic use before the war. The main difficulty appears to be connected with collection; but now that a device has been contrived for the production of producer gas for consumption in furnaces, which can be easily converted to the consumption of gas

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and can just as easily be converted back for oil-fuel, it is to be hoped that the people will generally make use of the almost inexhaustible stock of vegetable refuse which lies unutilised, and by reducing the quantity of foreign fuel which has to be imported annually thus lessen the dependence of Egypt, in this respect, on foreign sources, and decrease the amount which has to be sent out of the country either in gold or produce to pay for the fuel imported.

INSCRIPTION OF PHILIP THE TETRARCH

A discovery of much historical and biblical interest in the Near East has now been made known in the 4th Divisional volume of the reports of the Princeton University Expedition to Syria, in the shape of an inscription in Nabatean characters, in seven lines, found engraved upon the pedestal of an altar examined at Sîc, in the Southern Hauran, East of the Jordan. This text refers to Philip (II.) the Tetrarch, who is mentioned in Luke iii. 1, and who must not be confounded with the Herod of verse 19, of the same chapter, and of the other gospels. This Philip was one of the well-known Herodian family so much connected with Syria and Palestine about the commencement of our era.

The text of the inscription is as follows :—"In the year of our lord Philippos there was made by Witr, son of Budar, and Kasin, son of Sudai, and Hanu'el, son of Masak'el, and Nuna, son of Garm, this altar of the statue of Galis, son of Banat."

This is the first time that a mention of the Tetrarchy of Philip has occurred in any Oriental inscription, and consequently it is of importance. The southern Hauran, where it was found, was presented to Herod in B.C. 23, and is described by the classics as forming part of a country denominated Auranitis. Inscriptions during Herod's reign are dated according to the Seleucidan era, Philip II. was the son of Herod by a Jerusalem lady, named Cleopatra; his wife was named Salome, she was daughter of Herodias. Philip's sovereignty extended over Gaulanitis, Batanea, Traconitis, Auranitis, and Paneas. His rule lasted from B.C. 4 to the twentieth year of Tiberius, A.D. 34. Josephus tells us he was a lenient ruler and popular with his people, who accordingly dated their documents by his regnal years, as did the neighbouring Nabateans by their kings at Bosra and Petra. This new inscription completely confirms the historian.

The existence of Philip's tetrarchy and the comparative independence it enjoyed are confirmed by its coinage, which bears, in Greek, the legend Philippos Tetrarch; also as far as present known specimens are concerned the representation of a tetrastyle temple. They commence with Philip's twelfth regnal year. Upon the other face, which may be termed the Roman one, are portraits of Augustus or Tiberius. The temple was supposed to be the famous edifice Herod I. erected at Paneas, a city whose name Philip changed to Cæsarea Philippi, in honour of Cæsar; but De Saulcy considered the building to be the elaborate tomb Philip constructed for himself at Beth Saida of Galilee, which he renamed Julius. As the temple is on Philip's earliest known coin this seems improbable.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

THE NEW ROUMANIAN CABINET.

The following message, which has been much delayed, was sent off by Reuter's correspondent in Jassy on December 14 :—

The new Roumanian Cabinet has been constituted as follows :—

M. Bratiano	Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs
M. A. Constantinesco	Industry and Commerce
General Vaitolano	War
M. Saliqa	Public Works
M. Buzdagan	Justice
M. Osdar Kiriacesco	Finance
M. Duca	Public Instruction
M. Marsezoe	Interior
M. Enesco	Agriculture
M. Inoculez	Ministers without portfolio
Dr. Cingureano	
M. Pherekyde	

In submitting to-day the policy of the new Government, M. Bratiano said that foreign policy would aim at the complete realisation of the rights of the Roumanian nation, which were based on their great war sacrifices. Internal policy would direct all its efforts to the immediate application of the two reforms recently introduced—namely, universal suffrage and the breaking up by way of expropriation of large estates and the distribution of land thus secured among the peasants.

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ROUND THE BADGNAK.

Women carol singers are below the window. In the darkened room we sit by the flickering light of the fire on the hearth and listen. It seems ages ago since carols were sung at Christmas by women voices. Out in the trenches we hummed tunes or stood pensive, trying to keep warm.

"Peace on earth!" There is rhythm even in dissonance, and music (at Christmas) in street voices. The words, moreover, are, or would, seem to be so appropriate. The whole scene inspires in a contemplative sort of a fashion, and thoughts wander to other times and other people.

"Peace on earth!" What is happening this Yuletide in the stricken hamlets and towns of Serbia the Old, fortress and bulwark of the Southern Slavs? Are peasants worshipping Daybog, the Sun God, in their old quaint way, just as in our holly and mistletoe customs we live again in the superstitions of the Druids? Does the wandering minstrel, the gousslar, tarry beside the burning Badgnak and sing of Marko, the Serbian Cid, and of Sharatz, his immortal charger, both of whom were last seen (to my knowledge) on that memorable day in the year 1913 when, on the plains of Kumanovo, they led the Serbian troops in a victorious charge on the armies of Sultan Mahomet V.? Perchance, however, the undying hero accompanied his valiant Serbs into exile, bringing up the rearguard of the fugitives under Putnik (what has been General Putnik's fate?) across the snows and ice of the White and Black Mountains unto the island of Corfu. More likely still, when the bugle sounded the advance among the cliffs of the Vardar last autumn, Marko and Sharatz, and even the veela Raviyoyla, were there—figures like wraiths of mist of an early morning in dampened meadows—and hurled themselves on the Bulgars, driving them from their stolen forts and fastnesses. Surely the blind gousslar, who saw all these glorious deeds, is chanting their praise in some forgotten Serbian village to the elders seated around him in the gloaming, crumbs of the thesnitza cake on the table, and a carpet of strewn straw on the earthen floor. At least, I like to think that it is so. Besides, why should Marko *not* have been in at the finish? Is he not everywhere in Serbia, in every cottage, and in the thoughts of all the men and women? Nothing more natural, therefore, than that he and his white charger should have been seen time and time again in the hills of Monastir, doing sentry go and on scout duty, leading the brave and firing them with enthusiasm, killing the faithless enemy and speeding the valiant to their own particular dwelling place in the heroes' heaven. A mere matter of imagination—but the Serbs are highly imaginative. For them romance is not a sickly dream, but a dream of life made beautiful, and they quaff deeply and wisely in the glorious epics of Dushan the Mighty and Milosh Voïnovitch, of Roksanda the Fair and the Beautiful Iconia, of the building of Skadar and the death of Sultan Amurath on the plains of Kossovo.

Alas, however, for the old-time forgotten village! Methinks it has been wiped away by the Hun, the Ungar, and the Bulgar, and that in few, very few, homely spots will the maid proceed on this Christmas morn to the public well and throw into its gurgling water a handful of corn or a sprig of basil. Few will be the festivals of the Bojitch, and fewer still the families able to kill the traditional sucking-pig and roast it on a spit over an open fire. But the wishes for a happy Badgni dan will be as hearty as ever, and the Patriarch's blessings on homestead and homelands no less fervent than they were wont to be in those dim and distant days before the first Balkan war came to the valleys of the Morava and Struma, a tiny forerunner of the war of the Rhine, the Po, and the Danube.

The future? Who knows what the future has in store for the dwellers in the realm of the Southern Slavs? But this we do know, that the brave people who have fought and suffered so much in this terrible war will not be downcast on this Christmas Day, this Badgni of theirs. On the contrary, they will be as hopeful as Marko ever was, and many a father will console his destitute family by promising a solemn and well-stocked Yuletide when next the shortest day of the year comes round and the Sun God has to be appeased for his seeming disfavour. The good wife also, at home again after years of exile and hardship, will look ahead to those better days when the golden coin has been given to the blacksmith to melt in the ploughshare, when the wax candle has been lit and incense burns on the Christmas embers, when wine is poured on the flaming log and sparks fly from the boughs and branches of the Christmas-tree, and when the gousslar in the wake of the polaznik hobbles into the low-ceilinged room and sings of the great doings of the Yugoslavs of yore, of the wooing of maids and the loves of the veele, and of the greatest national epic of all—the heroism of the men and women of Serbia the New.

CHARLES RUDY.

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE ROADMAKERS.[*]

A Song of the Dead Men of Kut.

The Jews they toiled for Pharaoh
And groaned beneath his rod,
For Pharaoh's hand was heavy;
Till the people called on God,
And God showed signs and wonders
To set his chosen free,
And broke the rod of Pharaoh,
And smote the land of Pharaoh,
And slew with plagues his first-born,
His armies with the sea.

Five to our one, you fled from us on many a stricken field;
We fought you all the sweltering seasons through;
And when you hemmed us in at last and we were forced to yield,
We struck our flag to Hunger, not to you.
You lied to us with courteous speech, and we believed you then,
To learn too soon your honour's little worth.
To-day but few are left alive to tell the tale to men,
But our blood cries out against you from the earth.

Famished and spent, across the waste, beast-like you drove us on,
And clubbed to death the stragglers by the way;
Our sick men in the lazar-huts you left to die alone,
And you robbed the very dying as they lay.
Naked and starved, we built your roads and tunnelled through your hills,
And you flogged us when we fainted at our work.
Fevered beneath the sun, we toiled, racked with the winter chills,
Till death released us, kindlier than the Turk.

The wastes where through you herded us, the barren ways we came,
When the weak fell out to die beside the track;
The remnants of your armies shall be hunted through the same,
With the swords of our avengers at their back.
Your dole of bread shall fail you then, and thirst shall thin your ranks,
You shall faint beneath the burden of the suns,
And the carrion-scenting Arabs shall be hovering on your flanks
To snatch the dwindling salvage of our guns.

The kin of us you murdered shall be masters of your lands,
They shall batter down the bulwarks of your trust;
The city of your sultans shall be wrested from your hands,
Your glory shall be trampled in the dust.
And the tunnels that we drove for you, the roads that we have made,
Shall be highways for the armies of your foe;
We shall mock you from our graves that in what we did as slaves
We helped, we too, to work your overthrow.

Heartbroken and forsaken,
Our Calvary we trod,
Yet with our faith unshaken,
We turned from you to God;
And God has greatly taught us
To count our losses gain,
Since we who fought for England
Here, too, took thought for England,
In bondage wrought for England,
And have not died in vain.

W.

◆

Mr. Fremantle, of the Indian Civil Service, has been appointed Controller of sea passage to and from India, which will be fully arranged by the middle of January. Newspapers strongly urge the Government to take action regarding present high rates of passages.

It is said that a letter addressed to an officer of the Indian Army in London with the name of his regiment—the "Poona Horse"—largely written thereon, was returned to the writer with this official addition: "No public house of this name known."—*Sudan Times.*

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports (December 22):—A Belgrade message states that a new Yugoslav Cabinet was constituted there on the evening of December 20, including the following members:—M. Protitch, Premier (late Minister of Finance); M. Koroshetz, Vice-President of the Council; Dr. Trumbitch, Foreign Affairs; M. Nintchitch, Finance. M. Pashitch, the late Premier, will head the Mission representing the new Yugoslav State at the forthcoming Peace Congress in Paris.

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[*] *This poem was originally published in the journal of the prisoners at Kastamuni, April, 1917.*

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt's "Nationalists."

A Cairo correspondent contributes to the *Morning Post* (December 13) an interesting article on "Nationalism in Egypt." He begins by remarking that little has been heard of Egyptian nationalism during the war, chiefly because "we have been living under martial law, which does not blend kindly with nationalist organisation," partly because Egyptians have been too busy making money to spend energy on less profitable pursuits. Moreover, at the beginning of the war several irrepressibles were asked to leave the country and went off to Spain; while others were interned.

> But the Nationalists in the early days were content to wait. They felt sure Germany and Turkey would triumph. This assurance was strengthened by the Turkish attack on the Canal and our own failures at Gallipoli and Kut; indeed, down to July last their faith in the victory of Great Britain's enemies was unshaken. Happy in this illusion, the Nationalists waited for the inevitable end. So quiet, indeed, were they that one might have thought they had seen the errors of their ways and had decided to turn over a new leaf and work loyally with the Government for their country's good. . . . Only occasional slight ebullition showed that the old spirit had not been exorcised. Sultan Hussein, on his accession day, was hooted by the Law School students as he drove up to the Palace steps, and two separate attempts were made on his life in the first six months of his reign. The Ministers were also threatened, and one of them, a staunch friend of the British, was stabbed on the platform of Cairo railway station and severely wounded.

The Sultan subsequently became popular because of certain rumours about his having opposed the introduction of compulsory service. Nine out of ten Egyptians believe this story, says the writer—and we can agree with him when he remarks that "Egypt is a marvellous country for the *on dit.*" For a time, then, the "Nationalists" possessed their souls in patience.

> Only in July last did Egyptian Nationalists begin to have doubts about their having backed the wrong horse. It became necessary to look for "liberation" elsewhere than from the arms of Germany. Then it was that they suddenly discovered that their liberation would come from President Wilson. With the political obtuseness that has always marked the Nationalist movement here, it did not seem to strike them that the British nation was fighting for the same cause and against the same enemies as the country of which President Wilson is the head. They had read the famous "fourteen points" and taken to heart Clause 12, which stated that non-Turkish nationalities in the Ottoman Empire should be assured of autonomous development.
>
> So after a little preliminary thinking some of the gentlemen who may be considered as leaders of the Nationalist movement decided to apply to the American Diplomatic Agent in Cairo. Mr. Hampson Gary, who has filled that post with great success for something under a year, received them politely and gave them good advice. He told them it was quite useless their appealing to his President over the heads of the British authorities, that Great Britain was the Protecting Power, and to Great Britain they should apply for anything they wanted.
>
> Mr. Hampson Gary's candid remarks have been taken to heart, and they have laid their case before the High Commissioner.

The Nationalists' hopes have been raised by the joint declaration by the British and French Governments regarding Syria and Mesopotamia. "What is sauce for the Syrians and Arabs of Mesopotamia is sauce for the Egyptians. So (the writer declares) a mild attack of nationalism is at present to be anticipated."

> Egypt has probably never been so tranquil as in these past four years. That result has been secured on the one hand by a wave of prosperity, exaggerated though it has been in the English Press, affecting all classes, and on the other by a Press censorship which has required all newspapers to have their proofs submitted and approved before publication, by the prohibition of all public meetings, and by the non-summoning of the Legislative Assembly. This body has not met since May, 1914. But the Press censorship in its present form cannot exist indefinitely, and there can hardly be any reason why the Legislative Assembly should not meet in the spring. And then we shall hear more of Egyptian Nationalism.

"Flying in India."

Under the above title, *The Times* published on December 13 an article which gains in interest in view of Major-General Salmond's fine flight to India. The writer holds that "from many points of view India offers an unrivalled field for contributing to the foremost position in aeronautics, to which the great responsibilities of the British Empire and the enterprise of the British race in the development of modern means of communication entitle us," and he thinks that "it is of hopeful augury that Brigadier-General Lord Montagu of Beaulieu has devoted special attention to the Indian aspects of the question from the early days of the war." It is also announced that "Lord Montagu will proceed to India within the next few days in order to pursue his investigations. Though his stay cannot be prolonged, owing to important calls of public service here, his enthusiasm and practical knowledge will have a stimulating effect on the various developments in contemplation."

After a tribute to the unselfish part played by India during the war in regard to aeronautical matters, the writer glances at the future.

> If only from the point of view of the readjustment of India's position in the scheme of Imperial defence, aeronautics are bound to be an important factor. She must not lag behind the standards of Western countries, as she has done in respect to other means of communication and transport.
>
> Happily, the return of peace finds India so full of zest for the economic development which the war has initiated that her administrators and business men will be most eager to see aircraft turned to the fullest possible account for this purpose, and for meeting the expanding needs of the country, as powerfully expounded in the Report of the Industrial Commission. The railways have been sorely taxed by war conditions, new construction having been brought to a virtual standstill, and the upkeep of equipment suspended, save in cases of absolute urgency, while some lines have been taken up to meet the clamant needs of theatres of war oversea. All the important lines have been severely strained by the congestion of military and export traffic. With so many competing claims in the work of reconstruction, it will take some years to bring the Indian railways up to the pre-war standard, and many more years to equip the country with the mileage—at least treble the present 36,000—that she needs. Motor transport is doing good service; but its use is greatly circumscribed by the infrequency of good roads, by great waterways, by mountain ranges, and other natural obstacles.
>
> If the transport by air of commodities, save those of small bulk and high value, is not practicable within the near future, the aeroplane can soon be called into effective service for purposes of rapid written communication, which are so important to the business man. The Government of India was the first of our oversea governments to announce that the establishment of an aerial mail service between important centres is under consideration. The value of such service for urgent correspondence, whether official or commercial, in a country where trains are relatively slow, and there are frequent breakdowns owing to floods and other causes, may be judged by a few figures based on the assumption of an average air speed for India of no more than 70 miles per hour.

Later we read:—

> Opinion in Burma every now and again is unsettled by arguments for the separation of the province administratively from India. The familiar complaint that the country is isolated and forgotten by the Government of India owing to the slowness of sea communications (and these, by-the-bye, were temporarily suspended when the Emden was active in destruction of shipping in the Bay of Bengal), would be rendered obsolete by the establishment of a postal service by air from Rangoon to Calcutta, via Mandalay and Chittagong.

Another possibility is envisaged thus:—

> The isolation of which we hear most is that of the Imperial and Provincial Governments during the hot and rainy months that they spend at the hill stations. This is not the occasion to discuss this long-standing controversy. The advent of the aeroplane as a regular means of communication must enormously reduce the practical inconvenience attaching to the present system on the one hand, by helping to mitigate Government isolation in health resorts, and, on the other, by providing a means of week-end recuperation from the plains without spending most of the time on trying railway or motor-car journeys. There could be much closer personal contact between Government and district officers, who could be called to headquarters, whether in the hills or on the plains, for consultation and instructions on urgent matters within a short time. The need for so many high officers of Government to be on the hilltops for more than half the year would be much less apparent if access to the hills consumed no more time than a run down to Brighton from London.
>
> The best opinion is decisive that a passenger service could be regularly carried on between the plains and Simla and other Himalayan stations, except for the three most winterly months—when there would be little need for it.

Finally a tempting prospect is opened up by the reminder that the Vale of Kashmir, now so remote that a holiday of a fortnight or three weeks is of little use for sojourn there, could be brought within an hour or so of the railway, by flight over the Pir Panjal range, in place of the road journey from railhead, which now occupies nearly two days.

We have received copies of the first and second numbers of the *Adriatic Review*, a journal published (monthly) at 97, Compton Street, Boston, U.S.A., and devoted to furthering Albanian interests. It reproduces many articles from the British Press and contains original notes and articles of the most vigorous character.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RUSSIA AS A FIELD FOR BRITISH CAPITAL.[*]

No country in the world can vie with Russia in the opportunities offered to industrial and commercial enterprise. All the factors making for success are there in limitless profusion. The climate is sub-polar in the north, temperate in the central districts, and sub-tropical in the south. The mineral wealth of Russia defies calculation: its soil is very fertile, especially in the black earth region. Labour abounds, and may be controlled with ease by appealing to the co-operative instinct ingrained in the racial character. It may safely be said that no immigrant of British birth possessing ordinary intelligence, a business training, and some capital has failed to make his fortune in Russia. The world-war and its *sequelæ* have severed a connection dating back to Queen Elizabeth's spacious days. But Russia's deliverance from the nightmare of anarchism cannot be long delayed, and the time is approaching for co-ordinated efforts to resume relations which are full of promise for both countries. Two books written by experts may be recommended as guides to the British investor. Baron A. Heyking, who was formerly Consul-General for Russia in London, pleads for sympathy with a mighty race in travail. He opines that it would be as unjust to judge a man's business capacity by his condition while suffering from German measles as to consider Russia hopelessly bankrupt because she lies for the moment prostrate under the heel of a soulless tyranny. She needs our pity rather than pardon. We should not forget that she saved France from almost irretrievable disaster by invading Eastern Prussia at the outset of the war, and that Nicholas II. proved a staunch ally until his German wife encircled him with a network of intrigue. Baron Heyking sheds no new light on the revolution. It has pursued a course in strict analogy with that of France during the years 1789-94, a course which may be followed in Western Europe unless the economic and political situation be handled with real statesmanship. The most useful portion of Baron Heyking's book is Chapter IX., which affords a lucid survey of Russia's resources. He urges the construction of a short line of railway linking the Trans-Caspian and Indian systems. Not less important from an Imperial standpoint is the establishment of steam communication between Odessa and Bombay. Our author has some pertinent remarks to make regarding the eternal Jewish question. Russia harbours about 7,000,000 of the Chosen Race, whose commercialism and clannishness give them an overwhelming advantage over the amorphous native population. But Russians who are galled by the Jewish yoke must realize that it will not be lightened by pogroms or social ostracism. Hebrews are very rarely met with north of the Tweed, because Scotsmen possess better education and greater cohesive power the moral of which is that Russians must fight Jewry with its own weapons. Most readers would dispense with Baron Heyking's portrait, which serves as a frontispiece, in favour of a map of Russia coloured to indicate the staple products of every region. More valuable from an economic point of view is "Russia: Its Trade and Commerce," by M. Arthur Raffalovich, who is one of the pillars of our Royal Statistical Society and chairman of his country's Chamber of Commerce in Paris. His work is a fairly complete manual of Russian industries, and merits careful study by the British investor. M. Raffalovich lays especial stress on the necessity of reforming the law of joint stock companies, which dates back to 1836, and offers almost insurmountable obstacles to foreign enterprise. The racial love of strong drink is another factor which robs Russian labour of half its efficiency. For, like all Asiatic people, the Russians drink solely in order to bemuse their brains. It has been stated more than once that the defeats of 1914 were due to the Tsar's ukase forbidding the sale of vodka at a loss of nearly £70,000,000 to his revenue. M. Raffalovich, however, proves that the output of Russian farms and factories increased enormously when the *Muzhik* was unable to absorb his daily poison. It is devoutly to be hoped that prohibition may be re-enforced when Russia attains the blessing of a strong government. One fact leaps to light in both volumes; unless the Entente join hands in a strenuous effort to restore order, Russia will be mercilessly exploited by a ruthless neighbour which had ground her down for nearly three centuries.

F. H. S.

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[*] "Problems Confronting Russia." By Baron A. Heyking. (London: P. S. King and Co. 1918. Price. 10s. 6d. net.) "Russia: Its Trade and Commerce." By A. Raffalovich, id. (Price, 12s. 6d.)

ISLAM AND MORALITY.

Lecturing at the School of Oriental Studies (on October 17) on "Islam and its Relation to International Morality," Mr. Alexander Séfi said that, leaving the Mohammedan belief in the Koran as the word of God on one side, there was no doubt that the early preaching as well as the first mission of Mohammed to his pagan people was the outcome of his desire to give them a better and truer religion. He could not read, but was highly intelligent (none of the famous old Arabian poets could read), and was by hearsay familiar with Judaism and Christianity, then flourishing in Arabia, being especially intimate with the Nestorian monks, who inculcated in him the belief in Christ; and their version of that belief is what we find textually reproduced as dogma in the Koran. He sympathised with the poverty and piety of those monks, although he disapproved of celibacy and seclusion, and he had a reverent respect for the merciful mission of Christ, and was probably on that account impatient with the Jews. His first effort, however, was to try to conciliate the Jews by the retention of circumcision, and to bring them to believe in the prophetic mission of Jesus, and to unite them with the Christians and his own people in a universal religion. Having failed to persuade either Christians or Jews, and his own tribe, the Korashites, showing him hostility, he put himself at the head of his adherents (Companions and *Ansars*) and fought them.

Later, referring to the position of Moslem women and Moslem households, Mr. Séfi said: "Whatever our opinion may be of such households and their inconvenience to husbands and wives, morality did not suffer, especially as the new institution was an improvement on the old custom, and had in mind the propagation of the race. The use the Mohammedans had made of this advantage or disadvantage, however, is very small in general, and at the present day one wife is more the rule than the exception. Divorce is, perhaps, too easy; but if the judge is capable, he can make it difficult. The real and positive evil resulting from this Mohammedan system has been rather in the seclusion of the woman from the age of twelve, which in the great majority of cases has prevented her from receiving full education, even when willing to receive it. Arab women were, however, never veiled or secluded by order. With all that, Islam has given the world some of the finest specimens of women and men, and as the 'Hadith' (i.e., the recorded authentic sayings of the Prophet) foreshadow the possibility of modification in the laws to suit modified future circumstances, there is room for education to expand and very little for Jews and Christians to take exception to in this faith, especially as the Koran says: 'Do not argue (in the matter of religion) with the peoples of the Book (Old and New Testament), except in kindness'; also, 'Thou shalt find thy nearest friends among those who call themselves Nazarenes.'

"Is Islam, then, a true and good religion?" asked the lecturer, and continued: "Jews and Christians, whose God it adopts and whose Books it accepts, cannot dispute its truth; and as to being good or bad all depends on the instruction of the men who profess and practise it, just as in all other religions. The higher the ideal, of course, the better the religion, as a religion, and *vice versâ*. Hence ideals must be respected in proportion to their aim." Mr. Séfi concluded his lecture: "The character has much to do, after all, with the race of the people, and the pure and old Arabian race, which the British have always liked, and are now helping to a fresh start in the government of this world, promises to be—education and experience in the light of modern history assisting—of great service to humanity. But it must be allowed to develop on its own lines, and not be diverted either by foreign customs or, worse still, by the example of half-castes, who despise Arabian culture, and are incapable of assimilating the culture of the West!"

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Italian Sea Power in the Great War." By Archibald Hurd. (London: Constable and Co. 2s. net.)

"The Throw Back." By G. B. Burgin. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 6s. 9d. net)

"Catherine Sterling." By Norma Lorimer. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 7s. net.)

"The Game of Diplomacy." By a European Diplomat. Illustrated. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"L'5rlande Ennemie?" By R. C. Escouflaire. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 4f. 50.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Showing Concordance of the Gregorian, Julian, Moslem, and Jewish dates.

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1918. December	1918. December.		1337. Rabia I.	5679. Tebet.
27	14	Friday	23	24
28	15	Saturday........	24	25
29	16	Sunday	25	26
30	17	Monday	26	27
31	18	Tuesday	27	28
1919. January				
1	19	Wednesday	29	29
			Rabia II.	Shebat
2	20	Thursday	1	1

Lord and Lady Inchcape left London last Friday for Scotland.

On December 6, at Simla, the wife of Mr. H. B. Saxby gave birth to twin sons.

M. Boeresco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on Monday for Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Levack, of Baghdad, are expected to arrive in England very shortly.

King Alexander of the Hellenes and certain of his guards have been bitten by a dog.

Sir Arthur Steel Maitland is ill with blood poisoning as the result of an abscess in the jaw.

On December 6, at Dacca, Eastern Bengal, the wife of Captain M. H. Ravenhill, Military Police, gave birth to a daughter.

The marriage arranged between Mr. G. Purefoy Jervoise and Miss Winifred Gripper will take place at Mombasa early in March.

On December 19, at Moor Mead Hill, Hitchin, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Norval Home, of Calcutta and Boothby Hall, Burgh, Lincs.

Prince Feisul, who was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Lawrence and Mr. R. F. Synge, specially attached, visited Queen Alexandra on Monday at Marlborough House.

A resolution has been passed by the Bombay Legislative Council expressing high appreciation of Lord Willingdon's services as Governor, and regret at his leaving Bombay.

Major-General the Maharaja of Bikaner and Maharaj-Kumar Lieutenant Sadul Singhji had the honour of being received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on December 19.

At Buckingham Palace, on December 19, the King invested Major James Yates, Indian Army, with the Insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire and the Distinguished Service Order.

Major T. D. Cree, who was taken prisoner (for the second time) by the Turks at Kut, has arrived in this country with Mrs. Cree and their children, having travelled by way of Constantinople, Salonika, and Marseilles. All are well.

Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild (Equerry to Queen Alexandra) represented Queen Alexandra at the memorial service for Colonel the Lord Edward Cecil (Grenadier Guards), which was held at the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Monday.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Norman Odling, 4th Dragoon Guards, second son of Mr. Arthur Odling, of 16, Belsize Square, N.W., and Katharine (Bunty), third daughter of the Rev. J. A. Graham, D.D., C.I.E., and Mrs. Graham, of Kalimpong, Bengal, India

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Bombay, between Major E. F. Vereker Ventris, Royal Artillery, attached Headquarters Staff, Simla, eldest son of Major-General F. Ventris, Commanding British Force, Hong Kong, and Mrs. Ventris, 136, Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich, and Dorothea, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Janasz, of Salford House, Welford, near Rugby.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, the second son of King Ferdinand, has arrived in London. He was met by M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, and Lieutenant-Colonel Arion, Military Attaché to the Legation and Head of the Roumanian Government Mission. Prince Bibesco and the *personnel* of the Legation also arrived. The Prince visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Sunday afternoon.

In a letter to *The Times*, the Countess Michel Karolyi, Government Commissioner of the Hungarian Red Cross, writes:—"I do not know in which part of the world is living now Lady Paget, who in 1915, as leader of an English Red Cross Mission in Serbia, has been the last and most persevering friend and nurse of the unfortunate Hungarian prisoners of war abandoned to starvation, and dying by thousands of typhoid fever. Lady Paget treated them as if they had been British soldiers. She provided blankets for them when they were nearly frozen with cold in their rags; she had the sick isolated, disinfected, and fed; the dead buried. The Hungarian invalids who knew her said about her, 'She has been a mother to us; she was God's angel among us.' We know she has been but an English lady, the perfect incarnation of her generous race, of its ancient virtue, which is always to assist, never to strike, the fallen and the helpless. In the name of our heart-broken mothers, I bow to this great heart. The name of Lady Paget will be known in every Hungarian home, and our children will learn in school to remember it for ever." Lady Paget is the wife of the former British Minister at Belgrade.

Sir Charles Edmund Fox, K.C.S.I., of Bigswear House, St. Briavels, Glos., formerly Government Advocate in Burma and afterwards Puisne Judge of the Chief Court, Burma, and Chief Judge in 1906, left property valued at £12,836.

Under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Mme. Yovanovitch, a Serbian Victory Ball will be held at the Prince's Galleries, Piccadilly, this evening (Friday, December 27), in aid of "Le Fond des Officiers Serbe morts dans la guerre." Mlle. Lydia Kyasht will give a solo dance. Dancing from 9.30 till 2. Tickets can be obtained from Messrs. Keith Prowse and from Ashton and Mitchell's Royal Library, Bond Street.

OBITUARY.

Colonel James Sconce, Indian Army (retired), died at 18, Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh, on December 19. He was formerly Deputy Surveyor-General of India.

Mrs. Josephine Grigg, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Grigg, Commissioner of Kumaon, India, died on December 21 at Westlands, Rothsay Gardens, Bedford.

Second Lieutenant Frederick William Campbell, I.A.R.O., attached 105th Labour Corps, died of pneumonia at Tank, North-West Frontier Province, India, on December 11. After serving as a gunner from the beginning of the war he was later embodied in the Indian Defence Force, and had only recently been selected by the Burma Government for special training in Staff duties. He was an employee of Messrs. Bullock Bros., of Rangoon, and was well known for his frequent hunting exploits in the wilds of Burma.

A telegram announcing the death of the ex-Sultan of Zanzibar on December 15 has been received at the Foreign Office. The ex-Sultan succeeded his father as Sultan in 1902, when he was a boy of seventeen. He abdicated nine years later in favour of his eldest son, who was five years of age. "It is entirely due to considerations of health," he said, "as I have to be away undergoing treatment in Europe for six months every year." He was educated at Harrow and Oxford, and spoke English perfectly. He was a good sportsman, playing racquets, football, and tennis, and was fond of motoring. His State, which is under British protection, yielded him an income of £7,000 a year when he was the Sultan, but he had other sources of wealth which made him a rich man. One of his hobbies was the collection of clocks, of which he had a great number. "My upbringing at an English public school and university have, I am afraid, unfitted me for the monotony of an Oriental Sovereign's life," he confessed just before resigning his throne.

Sir Frederick Alexander Robertson, LL.D., formerly Judge of the Chief Court, Punjab, India, died suddenly in London last Friday, aged 64. He passed into the Indian Civil Service in 1874, and in the Punjab served first as Settlement Officer and then as Director of Land Records and Agriculture. Later, having been called to the Bar in 1887, his work became judicial. In 1896 he was made a Divisional Judge, and six years later was appointed to the Chief Court of the province. A few years later he was

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS
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Regt. Section 1, War Charities, 1916.

A DEVASTATED COUNTRY—MONTENEGRO,
The Smallest and Poorest of our Allies.
Thousands of Starving Women and Children need Food and Medicaments.

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Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON,
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confirmed as a Puisne Judge. In 1909-10 he was Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University. In 1913 he retired, but he still retained his strong interest in India after his return to this country, and was active in work for the welfare of Indian students here, being chairman of a hospitality committee for their benefit. He was much interested in the Indian Gymkhana Club, and in fostering the love of cricket among young Indians in this country. He was lecturer in Hindu and Mohammedan law for the Council of Legal Education, and lecturer in Mohammedan law at the Imperial Institute.

◆

THE GRAVES ON GALLIPOLI.

The following official statement was issued last Friday:—

The Secretary of the War Office regrets to announce that a telegraphic report has been received that the cemeteries on the Gallipoli Peninsula have in many cases been grievously molested and desecrated by the Turks.

A detailed report has been asked for, and on receipt of this an explanation will be demanded from the Turkish Government, who have previously given frequent assurances that the graves and cemeteries on the Peninsula should be carefully safeguarded.

Meanwhile immediate steps are being taken to rectify matters by the Graves Registration Unit, composed of British, Australian, and New Zealand officers, which landed on the Peninsula on November 10.

◆

A MOTHER IN SERBIA.

Autumn, 1917.

Haggard and mute, stubbornly she cleaves
  To those rich fields, now treasure of the foe;
While the tired hands pile wearily the sheaves,
  Her mind dwells on the measure of her woe.

One brother in Bizerte, one at Focsani slain,
  Her love a wounded prisoner in Rhodope,[1]
Strange places, names uncouth to haunt the brain—
  She broods, unconscious of one living hope.

Sombre for her the sky of ardent blue,
  Barren the soil teeming with ripened wheat,
Sullen she stands, deaf to a plaintive coo,
  Blind to two black stars gleaming at her feet.

Till lo! her knees are clasped, with gurgling whoops!
  She needs must turn and gaze upon the boy;
And gazing, soften. Suddenly she stoops
  And gathers to her breast her tragic joy.

"For thee, my heart!* the corn shall one day grow,
  The trees shall bear their fruit for thee, my Gold†
For thee the Serbian sun again shall glow,
  For thee these sacred Serbian lands I hold!

"And those who left know well that I who stayed
  Nightly croon Serbian ballads in thine ear;
The spirit of our proud race shall not fade,
  Nor Serbia be lost while I am here!"

ELISABETH CHRISTITCH.

[1] Dissyllable, for Rhodopé. * Serce moje!
† Zlato moje!—Serbian terms of endearment.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND

will be

AT HOME

on WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY,

at LOWNDES HOUSE, LOWNDES PLACE, EATON SQUARE, from 3.30 to 7 o'clock, in order to meet their friends from Turkey. As addresses are so difficult to obtain, they much hope that anyone seeing this notice will accept it as an invitation.

LADY NEAVE, President.
LADY BARKER, Vice-President.
LADY LOWTHER, Chairman.

ROYAL SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

At an ELECTION of Six Pupils at £20 a year on the 17th December, 1918, the following was the RESULT of the POLL:—

SUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss N. H. Mortimore...	7,910	Miss N. H. Reid	5,662
Miss R. J. Edridge	7,237	Miss S. M. Bentley	5,561
Miss V. M. K. Smith ...	6,486	Miss A. M. Sykes	5,267

UNSUCCESSFUL.

Miss G. D. S. Smyth ...	3,309	Miss M. F. Maycock......	772
Miss U. C. Mortimore...	3,000	Miss K. M. Wilson	630
Miss M. F. I. Wood......	2,507	Miss D. Owen	370
Miss R. L. Edridge ...	2,452	Miss E. M. Owen	314
Miss A. Smith	1,311		

By Order,
F. W. T. ATTREE, Col. (late R.E.), Secretary.
25 Haymarket S W 1

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Reports received last week from Syria indicate a continuance of the recently announced distress.

Five hundred pounds has been contributed by the Government of New South Wales to Australian canteens for Serbians. The total sum in hand is now almost £10,000.

The Ceylon Legislative Council has passed a resolution that no German or Austrian should be permitted to reside in the island, at any rate till after the lapse of some years.

Representatives of the Dodecanesians resident in Egypt met in Alexandria on December 1 and passed a resolution asking the Allies to put an end to the present transitory state of the islands by uniting them with Greece.

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated December 22, states:—It is reported from Agram viâ Berlin that the Montenegrin Skupshtina in Belgrade yesterday issued an official notification of the union of Montenegro with Serbia.

A considerable number of Palestinian Jews who had been deported by the Turkish authorities to Damascus during their retreat before the victorious attack by General Allenby are now returning to their homes in Palestine. The British authorities are rendering them every assistance.

M. Adonis Kyrou, editor of the Athens *Hestia*, died on December 16 of pneumonic influenza, complicated with heart trouble. The Vice-President of the Chamber announced the same afternoon that the Cross of Knight Commander of the Order of the Saviour had been awarded to M. Kyrou. M. Venizelos announced that the funeral would be at the public cost.

By order of General Allenby, December 17 was declared a general holiday throughout Egypt in celebration of the signing of the Armistice. In Cairo the day's programme began with an open-air thanksgiving service in the Sporting Club at Gezira, conducted by Dr. MacInnes, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by the Rev. C. T. Horan, British Chaplain in Cairo. The congregation included Sir Reginald Wingate, representatives of the Sultan, the Prime Minister, and members of the Government.

To commemorate the River Clyde's part in the Gallipoli landing a Liverpool shipowner is providing a special war medallion in bronze, designed and executed by Mr. E. Carter Preston, the designer of the National Memorial War Plaque and other work of a similar kind. The Imperial Merchant Service Guild will distribute these medallions to those who were serving in the River Clyde at the time and were awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous valour in effecting the landing, or to the next-of-kin. Only three of the six survive.

General Allenby visited Hama and Aleppo on December 10. At Aleppo he made a state entry, with a large escort of Indian cavalry. The streets were lined by the 5th Cavalry Division, and the numerous crowds, estimated at 100,000, watched the procession. At the Serai the Commander-in-Chief gave an audience to civil and religious chiefs, Moslem, Christian, Jewish, and leading citizens, and then the administrative heads, and subsequently addressed the people gathered in the Serai square, amidst scenes of the greatest enthusiasm.

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Open all the year round.
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Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.
GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.
GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
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This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20;
Dinner P.T.25.

THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
1, DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON, E.C. 2.
Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, AVE, LONDON." Telephone No.: 618 London Wall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918.

HITHER ASIA AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The attitude of certain Powers at the Paris Conference towards the settlement of that part of the Ottoman Empire lying between the Ægean Sea and the Persian Gulf is likely to prove the "acid test" of the sincerity with which they subscribe to what are generally accepted as the Allies' war aims. Before the war the question of the reversion of the Turkish inheritance was continually before the European Chancelleries. The latest claimant for favourable consideration was Italy, whose war with Turkey represented a definite step in a policy that aimed at Mediterranean equilibrium, in other words, the equalizing of Italy's position in the Mediterranean with the position of Great Britain and of France. Those were the unregenerate days of Europe. The war between Italy and Turkey ended with the latter in possession of the islands of the Dodecanesus, with the right to retain them as security for the fulfilment by the Turks of their treaty stipulations. Before these islands had been returned to Turkey, the Italians secured from the Porte a concession which gave them a foothold on the mainland of Asia Minor. It was found that this concession, a railway from Adalia to Bourdour, near Egadir, clashed with the rights of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway. The British company was understood to be willing to waive part of its claims, but the negotiations between Italy and Turkey were still in suspense when the European war broke out. As a result of her decision to range herself on the side of the Allies Italy's overseas ambitions have experienced a marked development. According to the Italian version of the Treaty of April, 1915, the Entente Powers agreed that Italy should obtain full possession of all the islands of the Dodecanesus actually occupied by her; the same Powers also recognised that Italy was interested in maintaining the political equilibrium of forces in the Mediterranean, and acknowledged her right, in the event of Great Britain, France, and Russia occupying parts of Turkey, to occupy the south-western portion of Asia Minor. At a later date it was asserted by the Italian Press that the Allied Conference at St. Jean de Maurienne had agreed that the Italian sphere in Asia Minor should comprise Smyrna, Konia, and Adana. Much water has passed under the bridges of the Tiber since 1915. The Western democracies found that far loftier motives than the mere lust of territorial aggrandisement were required to sustain a war of so exacting a character. The evils of the old system were realized, and it was seen that the only hope for the future peace of the world lay in the renunciation of purely Imperialist aims. To this doctrine the Allies have formally given their adherence.

With the complete collapse of Germany and with the prospect of, as it were, a free hand for the Allies in the drafting of the peace terms, there has been a tendency in certain quarters to forget the self-denying ordinances that were enunciated so readily when victory seemed a long way off. The necessity of making provision for the non-Turkish inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire has revived all the pre-war claims. Italy is again exercised over her future as a Mediterranean country, on the same lines as she was six or more years ago. "The Mediterranean interests of Italy," said Baron Sonnino in the Chamber of Deputies in June, 1917, "are based essentially on the principle of equilibrium and equality among the Powers." At a later date he declared that Italy did not pursue Imperialist aims in the Eastern Mediterranean; but he added, "we merely wish that in the case of eventual aggrandisement on the part of others as a result of the war the equilibrium of forces should be maintained." Speaking a few days ago, Signor Tittoni amplified this doctrine by stating that Italy must play in the break-up of Turkey exactly the same part as Great Britain and France. If the latter Powers annexed territory Italy must do the same; if they exercised a protectorate over some of the non-Turkish peoples Italy must exercise a protectorate over others. French claims, it has to be admitted, are urged on grounds equally remote from the new spirit that the war is supposed to have engendered in the world. Thus, in a work which has just been published, entitled *La Paix Coloniale Française*, by M. Camille Fidel, we find France's claims on Syria based on her historic protection of Christians, the moral priority conferred by her educational institutions, her economic preponderance as a result of capital invested, and the expressed wish of the Syrian population to be "reunited" with France. Individually the claims may be unexceptional; but it is noticeable in their presentation that, apart from the reference to the attitude of the Syrian people, only French interests are kept in view, and there is nothing to show that the French writer is conscious of any responsibility towards the inhabitants of the territories claimed. The omission is most unfortunate.

Unlike Italy's pretensions to South-West Asia Minor which cannot be harmonized with the declarations of the Allies, the French claims in regard to Syria are not challenged. The peoples now freed from Turkish misrule cannot yet be left entirely to their own resources, and as Great Britain is the natural protector of the Arabs in Mesopotamia, so France may be regarded as the obvious Power to assist the Syrians. An exemplary statement of the Allies' intentions was officially given a year ago, when the Syrian Central Committee was informed that, rejecting any idea of colonial domination, France and Great Britain were resolved, each in her sphere of action, to direct the populations concerned towards a regime of autonomy and civilized development. It will be recalled that a similar assurance has been given by the British Government to the Arabs of Mesopotamia. But whereas every detail of the Mesopotamian administration reflects this sense of trusteeship which actuates the British, there is nothing, as far as we are aware, in the French declarations to suggest that France is going to assume her responsibilities in the same spirit. We trust that we are wronging her intentions, and in that case she will be able to make good the omission and reassure public opinion in Syria. One thing is certain, the French will find in Syria a population far more advanced politically as well as in civilization than the original inhabitants of her actual colonies. In these circumstances it is inevitable that such a statement as that of the French publicist, Count Cressaty: "It (Syria) will be in the East a second France," should give rise to misgivings; and there need be no surprise if, at the outset, symptoms of friction with Syrian and Arab manifest themselves. The misunderstanding, it is to be hoped, will be cleared away at the Allied Conference in Paris, when it will be impressed upon all the Powers that the exercise of a protectorate over less advanced nations is not to be regarded as an advantage derived from the war, but as a trusteeship for which an account will have to be rendered, if not to a formally constituted League of Nations, at least before the bar of Allied public opinion. It follows, therefore, that in the delimitation of boundaries the interests of the native population must be strictly the determining factor, and that the allocation of this or that port to one or other of the spheres of influence will be decided by the requirements of the hinterland that the port serves.

Google

THE YEAR OF GRACE.

By Estelle Blyth.

The passing of a year must always waken in us feelings of regret. It has grown so familiar to us by December, it has brought us joys as well as sorrows, and we feel as though an old friend were abandoning us to a new one whose worth and qualities are all unknown. It may be that the years of war, as they drew mournfully to their close in shadows and uncertainty, passed amid fewer regrets than other years, so stricken and scarred they were, so terrible to look back on with their tale of desolation and tears. Waiting for the burden they bore, for the legacy of woe they left behind, the sad years passed into the darkness. And yet their track was not only desolation, their legacy not only mourning. Each in turn has borne on its tattered colours the battle honours of our mighty dead—of the young lives whose shining glories make new constellations round the feet of God; of that inarticulate unnamed host whose deeds of chivalry, of mercy, of daring incredible, of self-sacrifice and dumb devotion, we shall one day hear as a new song in the mouths of the sons of God.

The year 1918 is the year of dawn. The dread voices of the guns are silent for the first time in four years; swift death no longer flashes on us out of quiet skies; slowly the elements sink back into harmony that were chained by man's violence to work destruction. Our pride for a past in which our worshipped England has surpassed even the greatness of her own record, our hope and confidence in the eternal promise of her future, bid us take regretful leave of 1918.

This is the year that has seen the liberation of the East—Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria. Jerusalem was freed, and, as was meet for the Mother of the world, she became the centre from which the liberation of the Holy Land and of Syria, its twin, was directed. To England was entrusted that supreme task—a task not undertaken in any lightness of spirit nor in pride of power, but a task that was enjoined upon her in terms too plain to be misunderstood. "Dieu le veult!" We need not here repeat the story, wonderful as it is and endlessly fresh, of the dumb trust in England's will and power to help them which the people of Palestine cherished for three years of darkness, nor recall the extraordinary passion of welcome that met the deliverers in each place as they set it free, not only in Jerusalem, but in Beyrout, in Damascus, in Galilée, in Aleppo, in Salt. Syria, no less than Palestine, paid her glad tribute of gratitude and welcome to those English soldiers who struck the fetters link by link from her hands. It is enough to say that it is to England that Palestine has looked all these years for help, to England that she has called for deliverance and protection. It is England that Palestine wants, and now that England has come Palestine is satisfied. A great word that, but true.

The greatness and splendour of a trust does not always imply a fitness in the instrument employed. Nations, no less than individuals, can fail and falter under a trust. But I think we can look back without fear or disappointment at what our England has done in and for Palestine in the year of grace, according to the good hand of our God upon her.

The Turks ruled in Jerusalem for some seven hundred years, and were merely a blight upon her and upon the whole country. There was no water supply, practically no roads of communication and travel, no harbourage for ships, no facilities of transport or import, no poor relief of any sort, and such municipal offices as existed were either a scandal or a farce. Things went from bad to worse; the officials were so shamefully underpaid that they could not live without taking bribes, and depression and despair settled on the people out of whom, in the long run, the living of every class was wrung. In December, 1917, the English came. In June, 1918, a full supply of water blessed the Holy City. A railway now spans the desert, linking Palestine with Egypt in a fifteen hours' run. Roads are being made or repaired, telegraphic communication is increased, a safe postal service is installed, food supplies are ensured, and employment is organised. Relief centres and orphanages are at work wherever there is special need. We must remember that all these reforms were started and in vigorous action while fighting was still going on within a very few miles of Jerusalem. We, who are dulled by centuries of safety and good government, can only dimly realize what it is to the people of Palestine to experience paid and protected labour, courts of justice which need no golden key to open them, a Law which provides and protects but does not rob, an army in which every soldier behaves as a friend and a gentleman. Think what it must be to them to have young business ventures supported, and not suppressed, by authority; for age and weakness and poverty to be sheltered and helped instead of being kicked to the wall; for the Fellah to be able to plant and sow knowing that he, and not another, will reap the fruits of his labour. That the people understand what English rule means two small instances suffice to show. The day after the British troops entered Ramleh the Fellaheen were out ploughing behind our lines, and within two hours of the reading of General Allenby's Proclamation the shopkeepers of Jerusalem were displaying all those choice wares which they had hidden for three years from the Germans and the Turks. Straws, perhaps, but they show how the winds of Palestine blow towards England. It were idle to go on elaborating these facts; it were equally idle to seek to belittle or evade them.

There is a great deal of talk just now about "claims"—claims to indemnity, claims to territory, claims of all sorts and descriptions. We can be proud in reflecting that England's voice has not been raised to press any claims of her own, though she has spoken clearly in support of those of her Allies. She has freed Africa and the East. She, who alone understands what *is* the freedom of the seas, has held those seas open for lawful use. All this, and more, she has done, and perhaps it does not become her children to speak of what they know and the world avows. But she alone has made no claims. She has freed Mesopotamia and Palestine and Syria, and has brought order out of chaos, installing a wise and efficient form of government which is in complete harmony with the temper and prejudices of the people. She has shed her blood lavishly in East and West; she has fought on every front, and alone on two; of the three great epics of the war—Mons, Gallipoli, and Verdun—two are hers; and amid all the horrors and preoccupations of war she has found time to turn a new and purified page of her literature.

There are claims to be urged in regard to Palestine which in justice should not be set aside. There is the claim of a people long distressed to have the government they desire. There is the claim of the Moslem to share in the city which is also holy to him. There is the claim of the Jew and his starved aspirations that turn to Zion. There is the solemn claim of our dead that they shall not have died in vain for Palestine. No amount of political argument and gainsaying can do away with the fact that it is England who is wanted by the people of Palestine. It is not just *any* Christian Power, *any* European form of government, that they desire, but England and the English way of rule. England understands the East, and the East trusts England. If Palestine would play Ruth to England's Naomi, why, in the name of justice, should she be prevented? It is only under English guardianship that the vexed and complex problems of Palestine will be solved with justice to all creeds and races and claims. The Jew knows this, the Moslem knows this, and there is no reason that others should not know it too. If England were to relinquish her hold of Palestine now, the East, and particularly the Moslem East, including India, would for ever feel that she had evaded a trust. If ever ungrudging sacrifices and unstinted giving on the one side, and on the other the passionate desire of one people to be affiliated to another, constituted a claim, then England has that claim to Palestine, whether she urge it or not, and Palestine has claim on her.

This problem of Palestine must be left to 1919 for solution; 1918 passes in honour, ever to be remembered by us as the Year of Grace whose ways have led us to the gate of Peace.

The *Matin* says that Admiral Amet, French High Commissioner in Constantinople, has requisitioned all German ships in Ottoman ports. On board these vessels will be placed a number of Austrians and Germans who have been a source of mischief in both European and Asiatic Turkey. They will be conveyed to France, and will be kept there under strict surveillance until the conclusion of peace.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to
KING GEORGE
KING OF SPAIN.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I see that the Military Governor of Busreh recently offered prizes for the best papers on (1) the type of residential house best suited for Europeans in the lowlands of Mesopotamia, and (2) the type of residential house best suited for Arabs in the lowlands having regard to their special customs. The competition closed on November 1. Competitors who endeavoured to strike out on original lines, and yet to confine their suggestions within the limits of the practical, will have found the task no easy one, I fancy. As far as planning and arrangement are concerned, the good-class house of Baghdad or Busreh appears to me to be particularly well adapted to the country and climate. That is what one would expect, of course: the Mesopotamian heat, flies, and other trials of the flesh have set man's wits to work, and experience has evolved a good type of dwelling on the whole. But there are certain sanitary improvements that might well be introduced, and the kitchens and servants' quarters will give an architect much to think about, too, if once he makes a start on them. But the thing most to be desired is better building in general—better foundations, better bricks, real mortar instead of mud, better plastering, and, most emphatically, better roofs. For the rest the Baghdad house is not a bad place of its kind; and it is of the kind suited to the country.

⁂

The greatest trouble that confronts the builder in Lower Mesopotamia (the "lowlands" of the Military Governor of Busreh's announcement, I take it) is the lack of decent materials. Stone there is none, and brick is hard to make locally with any satisfaction. Some of the very old Babylonian bricks were excellent, as is proved by the fact that they have been used over and over again, and are still serving in many houses and public buildings in the country; and when bitumen was used with them, for waterproofing purposes and as mortar, they made a first-class job, although the problem of "bonding" was always an awkward one to solve, owing to their shape. But the supply of these bricks is limited, and obviously it would be wiser to look elsewhere than in the ruins for material. There seems to me to be an opening for concrete construction in Mesopotamia. I do not like it, and—for very good reasons, though I need not give them here—I strongly mistrust "ferro-concrete" buildings. But plain concrete is no worse than the crude masses of mud that often do duty for walls in Irak: it would last longer and wear better, and in many ways it would lend itself well to local forms of architectural treatment. Moreover, it is sanitary—which mud is not!

⁂

A young lady of my acquaintance informs me that other people's umbrellas seem to have a peculiar fascination for some folk who attend church; and as she speaks from sad experience, one has to accept her statement as correct. Similarly, if one may judge from what one hears and reads, footwear left at the doors of mosques by worshippers possesses an irresistible attraction for some Orientals. The latest example I have come across is that of a native of Alexandria who, charged with stealing three pairs of boots from a mosque to which he had gone to attend prayers, confessed the crime, but pleaded that Satan had enticed him into committing it. As his instigator failed to put in an appearance, the Court sentenced the prisoner to three months. The plea had all the greatness of originality, and the prisoner deserved a better fate!

⁂

The report of the Chin Hills administration mentions a primitive method of deciding cases that is still in use in the Chiefs' Court in the Arakan Hill district. This is, in fact, an "ordeal by water" of the same character as the old "ordeal by fire." When a conflict of evidence troubles the judges, the defendant and the plaintiff both have to go under water, and the one who stays longest is the winner of the case. This may or may not be satisfactory to the litigants, but it certainly seems to me that it is not a method that would find favour in the eyes of an asthmatic litigant, and I am not surprised to learn that cases are to be referred to these courts in future only when both parties desire it. The reference of such a case will be pretty sure evidence that both plaintiff and defendant have faith in their own lung power.

CORSAIR.

"AN ALBANIAN PROTEST."

We much regret that by a printer's error Miss M. E. Durham's signature to the letter under the above heading published in our last week's issue was wrongly given as Denham.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

A message published this week from the Madras correspondent of *The Times* gives some interesting particulars regarding the industrial possibilities of Southern India. Pointing out that Southern India has hitherto been regarded as a reservoir of raw material, the lack of cheap fuel having prevented progress, the correspondent states that attention is now being paid to hydro-electric schemes to provide the lacking power, but that results cannot be expected in this direction in less than three years. "The following fields," he adds, "offer an immediate prospect of successful development, viz., cottonseed oil, groundnut, copra, castor and many other seeds; in fact, the fringe of the oil and fats industry has hardly been touched. The Government experimental soap factory has done well during the war period, and Messrs. Tata have recently floated a company for crushing copra on the west coast. They propose to make soap, vegetable butter, and other oil seed products. The east coast, with its vast stores of oil seeds, still awaits development, and signs are not wanting of increased activity in forest produce."

⁂

Of the important tanning industry of South India the correspondent says that though there are over six hundred establishments for rough tanning there is much room for the development of a more finished article. For other industries the outlook is said to be eminently satisfactory. "Small power industries, catering for local needs, are gradually adapting themselves to the use of power machinery and labour-saving appliances," the correspondent concludes, "namely, rice husking, water-pumping, cotton ginning, seed decortication, and button-making. There is also a marked tendency to use improved appliances for agricultural work. Smaller industries that afford promise are fibre bristles for brushes, distillation of essential oils, such as sandalwood, eucalyptus, lemon grass, thymol, and vetiver. Rubber plantations make steady progress, and the vulcanisation of crude rubber offers scope for another industry."

⁂

This picture, it will no doubt be admitted, leaves little to be desired, but unfortunately there is another side to this pleasant vista, namely, the prospect of labour unrest, which, the correspondent tells us "is chiefly manifest in the European controlled industries, politics having, unfortunately, been recently introduced into the factories by unions started by the Home Rule propagandists, and strikes have been frequent through the year." The introduction of this element into Indian industrial life would be far more disastrous in its effects than in a country already more or less developed, and it is to be hoped that the tendencies already noted will prove to be nothing more than merely temporary phenomena, for, if otherwise, views on India's coming industrial development will have to be entirely recast.

⁂

It is not too soon to begin considering what British policy is to be with regard to the future of the Baghdad Railway. That the line will be completed in due course may no doubt be taken for granted, since the commercial possibilities attaching to it are very considerable, and the railway would be a valuable accessory to British shipping in the development of Mesopotamia. This naturally pre-supposes that an end is put to all German interests in the line, for it would otherwise be impossible for this country to permit the construction of the remaining portions of the railway. The question of the control of the line may possibly present some difficulty, and in this connection I will only point out that the region from Mosul southwards has always been recognised as falling within the British sphere of influence—even by French authorities.

⁂

Apropos of this subject, I wonder if my readers have been as struck as I have been with the remarkable secrecy the Germans managed to maintain with regard to the reason for their great project. It was not merely a question of the official German, but every German, high and low, seemed to be in a compact to do everything possible to throw dust in the eyes of the rest of the world. And they may be said to have nearly done what they desired, though some of their excuses were too absurd to pass muster for a moment. One influential German was once asked point blank what were Germany's intentions in pushing forward the railway. And the answer came pat: "We are out to get the passenger traffic to Jerusalem"! Need I add that he supported this luminous proposition with excellent statistics, culled from goodness knows where, and would have made out quite a good case if he had not been talking to someone who knew too much to be taken in by such Teutonic guile.

⁂

At the meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., the chairman, Mr. F. Eckstein, was able to give an excellent account of the year's working. The receipts from all sources were £43,861 higher than the previous year, against an increase in expenses of £12,242, due to the increase in the cost of irrigation, increased salaries, and expenditure in connection with the newly-founded scientific research station, and the final results showed a profit of £59,692, or £44,855 better than last year. This is being utilised to pay a dividend of 25 per cent., and £36,000 is carried forward. "As regards our prospects for the coming year," said Mr. Eckstein, "we have lately received cabled advice from the Sudan, intimating that the Zeidab cotton crop is very promising, and that 4,000 kantars have been picked, as against 1,516 at the same time last year. The area at Zeidab is 3,200 feddans, against 3,000 feddans in the previous year. Further cable advice from the Gezira states that at Tayiba the crop is fair. The cotton area at this station is 1,727 feddans, as against 1,700 feddans last year. At Barakat the cotton area is 2,237 feddans, as against 2,156 feddans last year. Prospects at Barakat are not good, owing to an attack of fly, but it is to be hoped that some recovery will set in before picking starts."

⁂

The report of the European Oilfields does not contain the statement of accounts as disorders in the Caucasus, and the interruption of communications with Baku, have prevented any accounts from being submitted. For the year ended April 13, the production of crude oil was 3,554,000 poods, against 4,696,500 poods, while the gross profits are estimated approximately at Rs.450,000, against Rs.919,400. The production for the thirteen weeks to July 13 was 602,500 poods, compared with 1,073,500 poods, and there have been no later advices. It is stated that the Baku Local Government, after nationalising the oil industry in June, denationalised it in October. All the available information is to the effect that the mills appear to have suffered little damage, except through neglect.

⁂

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Ltd., has unquestionably had an excellent year. The profit amounted to £42,343, against £37,163, and the investments of the company have risen from £91,187 to £394,660, an increase of over £300,000. As to the prospects before the company, it may be noted that Lord Ernest Hamilton, at last week's general meeting, said that as soon as the ships which were under Government control were released it was anticipated that a very profitable trade would await them in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. He particularly emphasised "the very enhanced prospects of trade on the Syrian coast, and generally in the Eastern Mediterranean." There was a good deal of discussion at the meeting regarding the future of the company, some shareholders suggesting the advisability of taking advantage of the fortunate position in which the company is at present by selling the assets. Whether any developments will take place remains to be seen. Personally, I doubt it.

COMMENTATOR.

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BRITISH COMMERCE WITH EGYPT.

Opening to Capture Enemy Trade

It may be hoped that the Egyptian market will receive special attention at the hands of British merchants in the future, not only on account of the exceptional prosperity of the country, but also because a great opportunity exists there at the present time of obtaining most, if not all, of the trade in goods which were formerly imported from Germany and her ally. The trade of the Central Powers with Egypt before the war was on a considerable scale; it was also on the increase, and there was every evidence that the enemy was cultivating the market with particular care. In 1914 Germany's share in imports, amounting to £E23,504,000, was 6.3 per cent., and Austria's was 5.2 per cent. Of the exports, totalling £E30,460,000, Germany took 9.5 per cent. and Austria 4 per cent. As in the case of enemy trade with India, it will be noted that Germany's imports from Egypt were much greater than her exports to that country, a fact which carries the obvious moral that if Great Britain is to take the place of the enemy she must be prepared to increase her purchases of Egypt's produce.

As to the reasons why the enemy trade with Egypt was on the up grade, it may be said that they are, roughly, similar to those which have contributed to the success of the policy of commercial penetration in other countries. German and Austrian merchants studied the market requirements, and spared no pains to meet them, and they were absolutely unscrupulous in their methods, while their low prices gave them a marked advantage in a country where cheapness is a great recommendation. Then they were faced with little serious competition in their special lines, for British merchants preferred to follow their old routine rather than produce varieties of goods suitable for changed circumstances. As things were, indeed, but for the war enemy trade with Egypt would no doubt have continued to increase at the expense of British commerce unless our merchants and manufacturers had acquired a new outlook, which the conditions of the time hardly suggest as probable. It is possible to excuse the failure of British traders to hold their own in the Balkan markets, but in Egypt, where the position was largely in their favour, it is scarcely possible to understand how it was that German and Austrian traders did not encounter such strenuous competition, even in their special lines, that they would have been unable to make any headway. As it was, German and Austrian trade steadily increased during the thirty years before the war, up to, as we have seen, 11.5 per cent. of the imports, while Great Britain's share of the imports fell from 37.84 per cent. in 1888 to 32 per cent. in 1914.

The list of German and Austrian exports to Egypt is far too long to deal with in detail in the space of a short article, for, as a matter of fact, with the exception of natural indigo, the enemy's trade covered all the principal imports of the country. In attempting to give a brief outline of the field for British traders we shall, therefore, merely touch on the main items in this trade. Without further references it will be understood that the figures are for the last year before the war.

Wealth of Imports.

Of Egypt's imports of indigo, the whole of the artificial indigo, valued at £E68,381, came from Germany, while that country also supplied aniline dyes to the extent of £E10,983, against imports from the United Kingdom of £E3,214. Here there is undoubtedly great scope for British dyes. In metal and hardware the enemy found another profitable line, and while British trade predominated in most of the items coming under this heading, enemy imports were on a considerable scale. Austria was not greatly concerned in trade, but in one instance—enamelled ware for domestic purposes—she supplied the bulk of the imports, the figures being £E33,901, out of a total trade of £E40,919. Of German lines, mention may be made of windows and door fittings, which were supplied to the extent of £E57,533, against the United Kingdom's total of £E28,503. The reason of German success in the hardware trade was that she flooded the market with very cheap goods and so placed the British manufacturers at a great disadvantage.

The bulk of the imports of clothing came from the enemy. Of ready-made clothing, valued at £E305,912, Austria's share was £E165,480, Germany's £E6,116, and the United Kingdom's £E49,984. Knitted and woven articles were imported to the value of £E248,906, and of this total Germany's trade amounted to £E76,435, while the figures for Austria and the United Kingdom respectively were £E20,203 and £E23,733. Of ready-made underclothing, the United Kingdom supplied imports worth £E84,295, out of a total of £E315,472, but Austria was a serious competitor with imports worth £E45,814. In machinery and railway rolling stock, German imports were on the increase. Her trade in agricultural machinery amounted to £E48,297, against the United Kingdom's figures of £E195,833, while she supplied practically all the locomotives, her imports amounting to £E51,592 out of a total trade of £E55,132. Oil and petrol engines was another line in which German trade was increasing, her imports totalling £E30,528, against the United Kingdom's figures of £E61,504.

Variety of Enemy Goods.

In leather goods Austrian imports were important. Egypt's imports of leather were valued at £E142,996, and of this the United Kingdom's share was £E40,927, Austria's was £E23,323, and Germany's was £E11,092. Under the heading "boots and shoes," Austria and Germany respectively exported goods worth £E16,200 and £E8,640, while of Egypt's imports of fancy leather goods those from Austria were valued at £E8,500, or almost twice the United Kingdom's total. Probably the leather in question, or most of it, came from India, whose resources of hides, as our readers know, were absolutely exploited by Germans. Paper, of course, provided the enemy with a satisfactory field for commercial penetration. Here Austria led the way, with Germany prominent in one or two branches of the trade. Austria supplied writing and printing paper to the value of £E46,700, against the United Kingdom's £E28,744, packing paper to the value of £E39,200, against £E2,200 from this country, and cigarette paper to the value of £E31,207, against the United Kingdom's meagre total of £E500. Germany was to the fore in the trade in cardboard boxes and other articles in cardboard, her imports being £E11,400, against the United Kingdom's £E9,900. Furniture was another trade in which the enemy had a decided hold. Egypt's imports amounted to £E117,904, and of this £E38,400 came from Austria and £E8,800 from Germany, while of imports of other joinery work, amounting to £E109,582, Germany supplied £E16,900, against the United Kingdom's £E13,900. Then in regard to imports of basket work, Austria's trade of £E6,742 was almost treble that of the United Kingdom. Austria found another profitable line in cement, her trade in which totalled £E15,800, or about half that of the United Kingdom. China and glassware have been special lines in the enemy's trade aggression throughout the world, and the Egyptian market was no exception. Thus, of imports of china and glazed earthenware of £E68,939, Germany's share was £E20,400, and Austria's £E14,300, against £E3,800 for the United Kingdom. Of articles in glass other than window glass and mirrors, the imports of which came to £E114,123, Austria supplied goods worth £E58,357, and Germany's trade was £E24,803, against £E4,355 for the United Kingdom.

The trade in matches was very largely in the hands of Austria, her share being £E23,727 out of a trade of £E81,368. Then, as regards textile imports, while the enemy trade did not approach the figures for the United Kingdom, both Germany and Austria were making evident headway, particularly in cheap lines. Of the imports of woollen piece goods, valued at £E372,917, for instance, while the United Kingdom's figures were £E131,658, Austria's trade was £E99,259 and Germany's £E58,751. Shawls were almost entirely imported from the enemy, Austria's figures being £E28,257, and Germany's £E48,463, out of a total trade of £E92,761. Mixed fabrics were also largely supplied by Germany and Austria, their joint trade amounting to £E45,227, against the United Kingdom's figures of £E33,116. Egypt's imports of jewellery, watches, and clocks were almost entirely taken from Germany and Austria. The trade in these commodities has been small, the only considerable item being gold jewellery, totalling £E18,744, of which Austria's share was £E11,789. In miscellaneous imports both Austria and Germany played a leading rôle. Austria had the monopoly of the supply of tarbooshes, with a trade of £E24,507 out of £E33,676, while the enemy between them supplied Egypt's need for pianos, organs, etc.

Market Requirements.

These items show very clearly the ramifications of the enemy trade with Egypt, and the splendid opening that awaits enterprise on the part of British merchants and manufacturers. The trade will not go back to Germany and Austria; that much is certain, but whether our business men will seize the chance of regaining their position in the Egyptian market is another matter. Some part of this trade will no doubt be taken by the development of Egypt's industries, but too much should not be made of this factor because, in the most favourable circumstances, a long time must elapse before any definite results accrue from the movement to promote industries in the country. The United Kingdom, is, however, not the only competitor in the market. Japan and America, who have made their presence felt in so many new markets during the past few years, are fully alive to the possibilities in Egypt, and unless British traders are alert enough to catch the fleeting hour, they may find themselves too late. But we will not contemplate that prospect, for it is unthinkable that so inviting a market as Egypt should be ignored especially in a time when it is evident that the United Kingdom will need all the markets it can find. The trade will not be obtained merely for the asking, however, and it is well that British traders should realise that fact. Hard work will be entailed; the market will have to be cultivated as it never was before, and the task must be entered upon in a very different spirit from the *laissez faire* attitude which obtained before the war. There must be an end of the "take it or leave it" spirit; if the goods of a competitor have the preference for the time being, they must be examined, and every effort made to produce a similar article, and *a better one at the price.* The words in italics might well be hung up in every export house in the country; for on the accomplishment of that feat British trade supremacy will depend in the future, not only in Egypt, but throughout the world. It need hardly be added that every British trader who desires to enter on an Egyptian campaign should have constantly before him samples of German and Austrian goods which were in demand in that country. Enemy trade methods naturally cannot be followed, but there is no reason why we should not supply Egypt with exactly similar articles to those which were formerly imported from Germany and Austria. Above all, it is quite essential to enter the Egyptian market with the aid of an agent in Egypt of adequate standing, and English for preference. In the past unsatisfactory agents of foreign nationality have often been employed, to the detriment of British trade interests. Then, besides a resident agent, travellers should occasionally be sent out, firms combining together to send one should the cost be excessive for a single business. It is in following these methods that success will await those traders who decide to enter the Egyptian market.

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ILLUSTRATED PRICE LISTS and Indents
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The Food Controller has added Egyptian dates to the schedule of the Dried Fruits (Retail Prices) Order, 1918, the maximum retail price being 10d. per lb. as from to-day.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Mining in Serbia.

In previous notes reference has been made to the partially developed state of the mining industry in Serbia. This condition was to a great extent the result of the unsatisfactory state of affairs created by the systematic political intrigues of neighbouring States, which naturally discouraged serious enterprises. There are, however, mines in Serbia which, if adequately developed in accordance with modern scientific methods, should prove of great importance to the country. In 1910, the last normal year before the outbreak of the Balkan war, the production of coal in Serbia, amounted to 276,845 tons, lead and zinc ore to 1,032 metric tons, iron pyrites to 36,835 metric tons, antimony to 326 metric tons, copper to 5,335 metric tons, lead to 56 metric tons, and gold to 303 kilogrammes. Alluvial gold has recently been discovered in the vicinity of the Pek, a tributary of the Danube. Gold has also been traced at Cestobodica, near the Austro-Serbian frontier, and in the Timok mining district, on the eastern frontier facing Bulgaria. Quicksilver is found at Avalaberg and antimony at Kostainik. Plenty of lead ore, frequently containing silver, is found in Serbia, notably at Rudnik, situated in Central Serbia, south of Belgrade. Zinc is also obtained here, together with silver and gold. Copper is found, both pure and in the form of pyrites, near Majdan Pek at Bor, in the east, and at Rebelj and Wis in the south-west. It is hoped that these mines will be thoroughly explored as soon as possible.

Roumanian Sugar Industry.

It was recently announced at Bucharest that only the ready co-operation of the large land-owners was needed to establish an important sugar industry in Roumania, and it was pointed out that already seven large factories existed in different parts of the country, which might form the nucleus of the enterprise. The climate and soil, particularly in Moldavia, are favourable to the cultivation of the sugar-beet, and only enterprise is required to develop the industry. The announcement aroused considerable interest among German industrialists and others, whose schemes for the exploitation of Roumania's resources were very numerous. Their hasty evacuation of the country has undoubtedly upset their schemes.

Electricity by Wind-Power.

The development of wind power for generating electricity, which has recently been announced, will be of much interest to many municipal governments, industrial companies, and private individuals in many districts in the Near East, where, owing to transport difficulties, scarcity of water, or high cost of fuel, steam or oil engines cannot be advantageously employed, and wind-power is principally utilised for any local milling industry, or for irrigation purposes. To such districts the new development of wind-power for generating electricity will be very beneficial. It is a wind-turbine, the wheel of which has rigid screen screw-shaped blades and drives through conical gear-wheels. Its direction is adjusted according to the direction and strength of the wind. A battery, working in parallel with the dynamo, has a capacity sufficient to cover the output required for two days. An electromagnetic switch interrupts the connection between the battery and dynamo when the speed falls below a given value and resistance is automatically inserted in the field circuit of the dynamo when the speed rises. The voltage of the battery is controlled by a double battery switch. The voltage regulation of the dynamo may also be effected by a compound winding, or mechanically, by an arrangement including a slipping belt. The cost of generation is given as ½d. to 1d. per h.p. hr., including interest, depreciation and maintenance.

Building Activity in Sofia.

According to the *Bulgarenshau*, great building activity prevails in Sofia in spite of the war conditions. An up-to-date railway station, designed by Professor Kühne, is to be erected. The city aims at enlarging and beautifying its public buildings, and the authorities intend to make Sofia vie with other capitals. For the purpose a loan of 60 million francs is to be issued, and with the funds thus obtained many new buildings will be constructed, including a fine city hall, four district town halls, eight district municipal offices, two branch fire stations, two public baths, three new hospitals, an extension of the old infirmary, numerous workmen's cottages and cheap houses, three elementary schools, three higher schools, an opera house and an abattoir. The cessation of building operations in the larger towns has, apparently, been very severely felt, for, like all other people in the Near East, every Bulgarian likes to have a house of his own. The rent of houses during the war has increased by between 100 and 150 per cent. Thus, with the existing great dearth of houses, and the carrying out of the above-mentioned building plans, there will be in Bulgaria, not only a great demand for building materials, but also for expert builders.

With regard to financial means for carrying out these plans, it appears there will be no difficulty since, according to the statement in the annual report of the Kreditna Banka of Sofia, during 1917 there was an unprecedented commercial boom in Bulgaria, unheard of prices being paid for agricultural produce, especially when exported. Tobacco brought in no less than 700 million francs, as against about 100 million francs before the war. Very large deposits were received by the banks, and there was no fall in the value of money owing to the number of new companies floated and to speculation in securities. The Kreditna Banka itself increased its capital by 4 million leva (= francs) and paid a 7 per cent. dividend, against 6 per cent. in 1915.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Brighter Outlook.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

Nearly the whole of this week has been given up to holidaymaking, and since Tuesday the market has been entirely closed. Although no particular development in the situation can be recorded, the prospects rather tend to improve. There is less inclination to anticipate lower values in the near future. Owing to prices being controlled, Egyptian cotton keeps steady. A rather hardening movement, however, has shown itself in American qualities. A little more inquiry has been mentioned in Egyptian yarns, chiefly in special sorts. Business in piece goods for Egypt remains depressed. Better telegrams have again been received from India, and freer clearances are said to be taking place in the bazaars at hardening prices. American yarns remain uncertain. Most users continue to purchase from hand to mouth. Some fair sales have been mentioned in yarns suitable for France.

TENDERS INVITED.

Corrugated Iron Sheets for Morocco.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Tetuan reports that a client of a general commission agent at Ceuta desires to purchase 10,000 sheets of corrugated iron, measuring approximately 8 mm. thick, 2 m. 10 cm. long, and 80 cm. broad, from United Kingdom manufacturers. The sheets, which need not be all alike, are required urgently to cover sheds destined to serve as stores for goods deposited in the "depots francs." Information can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence), quoting Reference No. 420.

THE MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT, LIMITED.

The Board have decided to pay a DIVIDEND on the Five per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1918. Warrants will be nosted on 31st instant, and the BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 18th December to the 31st December inclusive.

ROBERT H. EGGAR,
Secretary.

INDIA'S MINING INDUSTRY.

Position in 1917.

The report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1917 states that there was a large increase in the output of coal, which reached 17,326,384 tons, an increase of 907,302 tons on the figures for 1916. The increase was general throughout British India, and only in five of the seventeen coalfields was there failure to respond to it. The five included, however, the important Raniganj and Giridih coalfields. The main increase was in the Theria coalfield, the output of which was 833,470 tons more than in 1916. Of the total output, 16,562,712 tons, or 95.59 per cent., were raised in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. The percentage for the previous five years for these provinces was 95.89.

The output of mica amounted to 35,896 cwts., against 35,978 cwts. in 1916. There was an increase of about 10,000 cwts. in the Bihar and Orissa field, but this was balanced by a similar decrease in the Madras field.

There was a decrease in the output of manganese, the figures being 497,252 tons, against 568,032 tons in 1916. The demand was strong for this material in all the Allied countries, and prices marked a further advance, the average rate for the year being 37½d., against an average rate for 1916 of 29½d.

The output of wolfram showed a substantial increase, the production amounting to 79,312 cwts., against 59,094 cwts. in 1916. The increase was most noticeable at the beginning of the year, which, it is stated, points to its being the result of lode mining rather than of hydraulic methods. There are now four air compressor plants operating machine drills, and two mines are equipped with milling machinery of fairly large capacity. In hydraulic mining much progress has been made, and water rights have been granted to enable several important schemes to be put into operation. The most important scheme comprises a reservoir with a capacity of 550,000,000 gallons to supply water under a head of approximately 1,800 feet to turbo generators which will develop power to electrify most of the machinery of a large mine and also to drive dredging machinery. It is pointed out that the installation of a magnetic separator at Tavoy has been of much assistance in the separation and cleaning of concentrates for shipment. Great progress has been made in road construction throughout the field.

The output of gems amounted to 198,200 carats against 209,724 carats in 1916. There was a somewhat spasmodic demand for rubies in the Home market, but in the Indian market there was a considerable business in most qualities. There was no improvement in the rates for the finer stones, but there was a substantial advance of about 25 per cent. in the prices of the inferior qualities. The year was an excellent one for the producer of sapphires owing to a great demand from Paris, and really fine Mogok stones brought very high prices. The supply was naturally stimulated, and the view is expressed that more sapphires were probably produced in 1917 than in any previous year.

There was a slight decrease in the gold output, the figures being 22,991 oz. against 23,235 oz. in 1916. The copper output showed a remarkable increase on the previous year's total at 20,108 tons, against 2,671 tons. Increases also took place in limestone, iron ore, magnesite, molybdenite, chromite, clay, tin, steatite, and fuller's earth, and decreases in slate, salt, bauxite, galena, silver, and graphite. An output of samarskite is again reported from a mica mine in the Nellore district, Madras, and bismuth and yellow ochre appear for the first time.

TURKISH FINANCES.

In Berlin it is reported from Constantinople, says Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent in a message dated December 21, that the Turkish Government intends to declare the State bankrupt.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

Sudan Plantations.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., was held on December 20 at the registered office of the company, 1, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C., Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman) presiding.

The acting secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The chairman said:—Gentlemen, our annual report, balance-sheet and profit and loss account having been circulated and sent to all shareholders, we will, with your permission, follow the usual course of taking them as read. The directors' report gives the number of bales of cotton forwarded from our ginning factories in the Sudan. The yield of cotton grown in the Zeidab and Tayiba districts was quite satisfactory. The Barakat return was lower than usual owing to shortage of water and pests. Zeidab district produced 7,738 kantars, against 6.450 kantars in the previous year. Tayiba average yield per feddan was 4.1 kantars, giving over 1,700 feddans 6,953 kantars, and Barakat 2.6., giving over 2,156 feddans 5,743 kantars. Cotton prices have ruled high. Shipping facilities were distinctly bad in the early part of the year, but improved later on owing to representations made by the Sudan Government. All our shipments arrived safely and were sold to advantage. We disposed of one consignment of 481 bales in Alexandria at satisfactory prices.

If you will now look for a moment at our balance-sheet you will see that our share capital remains unaltered at last year's figure, and our Debenture capital was likewise unaltered on June 30 last, but since that date the total amount has been paid off, so that this liability no longer exists. We have again increased the Gezira reserve account by £4,000. This account now stands at £20,000. Creditors in London are represented by drafts (£3,000) drawn on London in June last and not presented during that month. This account also includes our provision for postponed repairs and a bonus to our staff. Sudan creditors, £44,000, is made up of £36.925 tenants' deposits, £884 staff deposits, and £6,291 outstanding accounts. The amount owing to the Sudan Government is £39.468. which is higher than usual, but is accounted for by the fact that the Government share in Tayiba for the previous year, amounting to £14,172, is included, and was only paid after the closing of our books. The balance of £25,296 is Government share in Tayiba for the year under review. Turning to the other side of the balance-sheet, concession and land account is less than last year's figure by £22. General development.—The Zeidab figure again remains unaltered. The Gezira figure is £775 less than in the previous year, owing to recoveries for work done. Buildings and furniture stand at £4,000 less than last year. This reduction has been effected by the sale of our building in Khartoum at a figure above cost price. Instead of taking this profit into our profit and loss account, we have reduced capital. Canalisation account remains at last year's figure. Pumping installation is reduced by £2.000. Agricultural implements are reduced by £2.000, through the sale of machinery and writing off. Ginning factories remain at last year's figure. Tug, barges and boat account is less by £500. Cotton and seed, appearing as an asset for £215.821. is now all sold at that figure, and it gives me great pleasure to mention here and gratefully acknowledge our thanks to the British Cotton Growing Association, Manchester, for the valuable assistance we have received from that association. These friends have done all they could to expedite sales and render accounts, and the same remark applies to our friends, Messrs. Kelly and Co., Glasgow. Other stocks in the Sudan include our live stock, stores and supplies necessary for our work, and also about 500 tons of cottonseed lying at Port Sudan awaiting shipment. Debtors in the Sudan (£6.020) are represented by £158 loans to tenants against the present growing crop, £978 sundry accounts, and £4.884 working account. The latter represents work done by the syndicate with heavy steam ploughing tackle, and later on charged to the tenants. Treasury bills and cash are at the figures shown in the balance-sheet as at June 30 last. Since that date our cash position has largely increased owing to cotton sales, and you will be glad to hear that, after paying off all our Debentures, our cash position to-day stands approximately at £160.000.

Turning now to our profit and loss account, you will notice that receipts from all sources amount to £121,296, or £43,861 higher than last year. Expenses in London and the Sudan are £37,632, or £12,242 more than last year, which requires an explanation on my part. In the first instance, I have to record a natural increase in the cost of irrigation, increased salaries, as well as a bonus paid to our staff in the Sudan during the last winter. It also includes expenditure in connection with the newly founded and necessary scientific research station, of which you will find mention made in the directors' report. Altogether these items amount to £12,166, which is practically equivalent to this increase. Provision for postponed repairs is a new item. Since the outbreak of war we have found great difficulty in obtaining certain necessary spares to keep our agricultural implements, pumping installations, ginning factories and buildings in first-class order, and we now propose laying aside the sum of £9,948 14s. 4d. for this purpose. We propose paying a bonus to our staff, and are making the necessary provision. We have written off the sum of £4,102, as per details shown in the profit and loss account. The final results, therefore, show a profit of £59.692, which is £44,855 better than last year. From this we propose to declare a dividend of 25 per cent. for the past year, which, after payment, will enable us to bring forward a balance of about £36.000 to the new account.

As regards our prospects for the coming year, we have lately received cabled advice from the Sudan intimating that the Zeidab cotton crop is very promising and that 4,000 kantars have been picked, as against 1,516 at the same time last year. The area at Zeidab is 3,200 feddans, against 3,000 feddans the previous year. Further cable advice from the Gezira states that at Tayiba the crop is fair. The cotton area at this station is 1,727 feddans, as against 1,700 feddans last year. At Barakat the cotton area is 2,237 feddans, as against 2,156 feddans last year. Prospects at Barakat are not so good, owing to an attack of fly, but it is to be hoped that some recovery will set in before picking starts. Reverting to our negotiations and agreement in respect of the Gezira scheme with the Sudan Government, I regret to say that the war, now happily and victoriously ended, has so far prevented a final ratification, but I can say this, that the draft agreement, as far as we have been able to complete it, has this year been approved by the Sudan Government. We sincerely hope that with the coming peace negotiations we may also reach our final turning point and that when we have the honour of meeting you next year we may be able to announce to you the conclusion of negotiations which began and lasted for so many years. It will interest you to hear that work in connection with the dam on the Blue Nile has been going on, though, naturally, on a modified scale. Our colleague, Lord Lovat, is still in France, and therefore unable to be present at our meeting. Another and valued colleague, Mr. Hutton, has, I regret to say, been unwell and unable to attend our meetings for some time, but last week we had the pleasure of seeing him again at one of our directors' meetings. Again I wish to record the Board's grateful appreciation of the loyal and efficient services rendered by our staff in the Sudan. I now beg to propose that the report and statement of accounts be received and adopted.

Mr. D. M. Hannay seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The chairman next moved:—" That a dividend be declared for the year ended June 30, 1918, upon the issued shares of the company at the rate of 25 per cent., equal to 5s. per share, less Income-tax, and that such dividend be payable to all shareholders registered at the close of business on December 13, 1918."

Mr. F. Wise seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted, and the chairman announced that the dividend warrants would be posted that evening.

Mr. D. M. Hannay and Mr. F. Eckstein, the retiring directors, were unanimously re-elected, and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors.

Colonel Whitburn, in moving that the sum of £200 each be paid to the directors as remuneration for their services, referred to the difficult and arduous work they had carried on and the success they had achieved, as reflected in the results now submitted.

Colonel S. H. Pollen seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, proposed by Mr. Styer and seconded by Colonel Pollen, was unanimously carried.

The chairman having acknowledged the vote, the proceedings terminated.

Khedivial Mail Steamship.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Ltd., was held on December 20, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ernest Hamilton (the chairman) presiding.

The acting secretary, Mr. Alfred C. Silley, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—From the shareholders' point of view the result of the year's working may be considered extremely satisfactory, and I think shareholders will agree, as undoubtedly the Board does, that great credit is due to our management in Egypt for the very satisfactory result shown. The profit for the year is £42,343, as against £37,163 in the preceding year. During this year the steamship realisation fund has risen from £12,770 to £128,000. Our investments have risen from £91,187 to £394,660, or an increase of over £300,000. You have already been notified in the report of the ships which we have unhappily lost since we last met. It is satisfactory to be able to report to you that little loss of life accompanied the sinking of any of these ships with the exception of the "Osmanieh," which was being used as a transport, and had on board a large number of troops. All the company's ships are still under Government control, and we have received no intimation as to when there is a probability of their being released. The Board, however, anticipates that as soon as they are released there is a very profitable trade awaiting them in the Mediterranean and Red Sea. The twelve months under review has been a period of constant anxiety and very strenuous work for the management out in Egypt. For the first time since his appointment in 1914 our general manager has been able to relax temporarily his control in Egypt and to meet us here; the war has precluded his taking any holidays.

I cannot conclude my remarks to you without drawing your attention to the very enhanced prospects of trade on the Syrian coast, and generally in the Eastern Mediterranean. It should be a simple matter, as soon as opportunity offers, to re-establish our agencies in that part of the world and renew trade which was broken off by the outbreak of war. That, gentlemen, is all that I have to communicate to you at the present moment.

Mr. Francis Allen seconded the resolution.

Mr. W. H. Skeel remarked that neither in the report nor in the chairman's speech had it been mentioned whether the ships which the company unfortunately lost were covered against war risks, but he supposed they were.

The chairman replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Hugh Reeves said that during the twenty years' existence of the company the Ordinary shareholders had received £113,000, including the dividend now proposed. That was just about 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital, which amounted to £100,000. What, he asked, had they done with the rest of their large earnings? Well, they had put £400,000 into depreciation. It was a curious thing to find that £400,000 was represented by liquid assets, which fortunately was the property of the shareholders. The payments to those who were necessarily employed—the directors and the auditors—had absorbed £50,000, which was just about half what the ordinary shareholders had received. He did not complain about this; it was only a matter which should be borne in mind in looking at the future. The company was in a very sound position to-day and he should have liked to hear from the Board what their real policy was to be in the future. Personally, as a considerable shareholder he should be against embarking any of the liquid assets in tonnage at present prices.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith said that it seemed to him that any sensible shareholder would wish to touch some of the cash which was in the company's coffers, and there were three courses open to them:—To go on in business as they were; to amalgamate with some other concern; or to sell the assets out and out. It seemed to him that the most beneficial course for the company would be to liquidate. I they could not sell their assets lock, stock and barrel at a reasonable price, they might sell them piecemeal.

The chairman, in reply, said that the directors quite realised that to shareholders a bird in the hand was worth two or even three in the bush, but he thought some of the remarks were open to comment. In the old days the company was run with very old, unsuitable boats. They were boats picked up here and there—anything that could be got at a cheap price, whether it suited the trade for which it was required or whether it did not. A further disadvantage was that the company started absolutely without any working capital, and all the ships had to be bought and paid for out of profits. To-day they had half-a million in round figures in cash, which in the ordinary course would be reinvested in ships. Those ships would not be the old shells which they used to buy and attempted to trade with, but ships which were suited to their purposes, which could be run cheaply, and on which the profit presumably would be very much greater than the profit earned on the old ships.

A shareholder said that they would have to buy at the top of the market.

The Chairman: No Sir. I do not think anyone here would for a moment advocate buying fresh tonnage at present prices. He stated that it was quite impossible for him to outline a definite policy for the future because the future of shipping was uncertain. All the directors could say was that they would leave the company's money as it was until they saw a suitable opportunity of investing it in ships at reasonable prices. The alternative, as Mr. Vere Smith had said, was either amalgamation or liquidation. Amalgamation, he thought, they might brush aside as out of the question; he did not think it was practicable. As to the question of a direct sale, that was not so easy a matter as it would appear on the surface to the shareholders. He thought there was very little doubt that they could only sell their remaining assets as a whole to some existing company. Someone had suggested that they might sell them piecemeal, but he did not think that that was at all feasible. No definite policy had been outlined and nothing could be done at that meeting, because no notice of a resolution had been given, and it seemed to him that the only procedure possible was for the directors, at the instigation of shareholders, to summon a special meeting, at which two alternative resolutions could be submitted—one authorising the Board to sell not under a certain figure named, and the other giving them a free hand to make the best negotiations possible. He thought the first alternative would be very much the preferable one from the point of view of the Board. In order to requisition an extra-ordinary general meeting the shareholders would have to deposit 10 per cent. of the value of the issued shares, and if they did so it would show that there was a sufficient desire on the part of the bulk of the shareholders to have the liquidation carried through.

Mr. Parsons said he thought the feeling of the shareholders was very much in favour of liquidation.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved:—"That a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company for the year ended June 30, 1918, be and is hereby declared payable on January 6, 1919."

Mr. Allen seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring directors, Mr. S. Wellhoff and Mr. Francis Allen, were re-elected, and Messrs. Edwin Guthrie and Co. were re-appointed auditors.

Mr. Reeves proposed that the company should defray the income-tax on all directors' fees payable for the period covered by the accounts presented to the meeting.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith, in seconding the motion, suggested that if the directors required a mandate to call a special meeting the shareholders should communicate with Mr. Hugh Reeves, of 42, Old Broad Street, E.C., so that the necessary shares could be deposited.

The motion was agreed to and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, the general manager, secretary and staffs both at home and abroad concluded the proceedings.

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COMPANY NOTES & REPORTS

European Oilfields.

The report of the European Oilfields Corporation states that in consequence of the continued disorders in the Caucasus and the interruption to communications with Baku the directors are unable to present the accounts for the year ended April 13. Production during the year ranged from 43,800 poods to 86,500 poods per week, and in the aggregate amounted to 3,554,069 poods (57,298 tons), an average of 68,348 poods (1,102 tons) per week. For the previous year the total production was 4,696,514 poods (75,716 tons), an average of 90,318 poods (1,456 tons) per week. The gross profits of the year are estimated at approximately Rs.450,000, in comparison with Rs.919,402. The last advice of any production was that for the week ended July 13, 1918. The production for thirteen weeks to that date was 602,500 poods (9,713 tons), in comparison with 1,073,500 poods (17,307 tons). Upon the return of normal conditions on the oilfields the first aim of the board will be to restore production to its former volume. The directors have no reason to suppose that the wells have suffered serious damage.

Central Province Ceylon Tea.

The report of the Central Province Ceylon Tea Company for the year ended June 30 states that the net profit, after writing off £300 from estates account for depreciation of machinery, placing £400 to Income-tax and excess profits reserve and £2,000 to maturing suspense account, is £9,409, which with £1,951 brought forward makes £11,359, dealt with as follows:—Preference dividend paid January 15, £3,000; Ordinary dividend of 13 per cent., less Income-tax, now recommended, £6,500, carrying forward £1,859.

Beau Sejour Tea.

The report of the Beau Sejour (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Company for the year ended June 30 last states that net profit was £1,013; £1,365 was brought in, making £2,378. After providing for preference dividend amounting to £696, there remains £1,681, which the directors propose to carry forward.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Chandpore Tea.—Interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year, payable January 11.

Adulla Rubber.—$7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share), less tax (interim). Last year, 10 per cent. (paid in July).

Pathini Tea.—5 per cent. (1s. per share), less tax, on ordinary shares (interim), payable 24th instant. Last year, dividend same.

The directors of the Dekhari Tea Company have declared an ad-interim dividend of 6 per cent., less income-tax, on account of 1918, payable on January 3.

◆

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following weekly cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, dated December 19:—

Prohibition on importation into India of motor cars, etc., has been removed.

Season.—Favourable in Madras. Light to good rain has fallen in parts of Bombay. Light rains in parts of Punjab, South Madras, South-East, Central Provinces, and in the United Provinces.

Markets.—Bombay cotton market irregular. Fully good broach quoted April-May Rs.580. Piece goods market hopeful.

Mr. Freemantle has been appointed controller of steamer passages.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

Indian Crop Acreages.

Cotton.—The second forecast of the cotton crop for 1918-19, relating generally to sowings made up to October 1, estimates the total area sown this year at 15,814,000 acres, 25 per cent. below the estimate at the same date last year. The decrease, which is mainly due to unfavourable weather conditions at sowing time, occurs in Mysore (80 per cent.), Ajmer-Merwara (60 per cent.), Rajputana (46 per cent.), Madras (41 per cent.), Bombay and Hyderabad (38 per cent. each), the United Provinces (37 per cent.), Central India (12 per cent.), and the Central Provinces and Berar (9 per cent.). On the other hand, the North-West Frontier Province shows an increase of 41 per cent., Burma 33 per cent., Sind 31 per cent., Punjab 14 per cent., Bihar and Orissa 13 per cent., and Assam 3 per cent. The crop has been adversely affected by deficient rainfall in most of the important cotton-growing provinces.

Sesame.—The total area under crop reported at the end of October for the present season is 1,589,000 acres, against 2,756,000 acres reported at the same time last year, or a decrease of 42 per cent.

Ground Nuts.—This forecast is based upon reports received from the three provinces of Madras, Burma, and Bombay, which comprise 99 per cent. of the entire ground-nut area of British India. The total area sown in the present season in these provinces is estimated at 1,147,000 acres, against 1,771,000 acres estimated in October, 1917, or a decrease of 35 per cent. The decrease is attributed to deficient rainfall at sowing-time.

Rice.—This forecast is based upon reports furnished by provinces which contain about 99 per cent. of the total area under rice in British India. The reports relate to conditions up to October 1. The total area sown is reported to be 70,952,000 acres, which is 6 per cent. below the revised estimate for the corresponding period last year. As compared with the final estimate of last year (79,614,000 acres), the present estimate shows a decrease of 11 per cent.

Sugar Cane.—This forecast is based upon reports furnished by provinces which contain, on an average, 99 per cent. of the total area under sugar cane in British India. The area so far reported this year amounts to 2,590,000 acres, as against 2,565,000 acres estimated in October, 1917, or an increase of 1 per cent. As compared with the final estimate (2,796,000 acres) last year, the present estimate shows a decrease of 7 per cent.

Tunisian Export of Dates.

A decree published in the *Journal Officiel*, Tunis, of October 23, states that in view of reports received regarding the date harvest, it is possible to open an export credit of 9,100 quintals of deglas, and 30,000 quintals of inferior qualities, for shipment to France and Allied countries.

◆

COX'S SHIPPING AGENCY

Cox's Shipping Agency, Limited (in connection with Messrs. Cox and Company), 16, Charing Cross, S.W., announce that on January 1 they are opening an office at 16, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, to transact chartering, insurance, and general shipping business, and have appointed Mr. Henry F. Bennett, late chairman of Messrs. Wm. H. Muller and Company (London), Limited, a director of the company, to control the chartering, and engaged Mr. S. V. Lockitt, who is a member of Lloyd's, and who has been connected with Lloyd's for nearly 24 years, to manage the insurance department.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street.

During the few days comprised in this short week there has been rather a better tone, but business has continued on the restricted scale.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds are $\frac{1}{2}$ better at $88\frac{3}{4}$, and there has been a like improvement in the Three and a-half per Cent. Preferences at 77 on buying orders from Egypt; but, for the time being, there are no sellers.

In bank shares, Nationals are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at $20\frac{7}{8}$, and Agriculturals have lost 1-32 at 6 11-16 on some small local realisations. On the other hand, Agricultural Preferences have been a firm spot at $7\frac{5}{8}$, at which business has been done with further unsatisfied buyers. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have improved another $\frac{1}{4}$ to 17.

Amongst railways, Delta Lights are again $\frac{1}{8}$ higher at $8\frac{1}{2}$.

In land shares, Aboukirs are in good demand round the current level It is understood that the bank's encashments this year have been of such a satisfactory character that the payment of a dividend for 1918 is quite on the cards. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are fractionally harder at 15s. 9d. On the other hand, United Egyptian Lands have relapsed $4\frac{1}{2}$d. to 3s. $4\frac{1}{2}$d., and Sudan Plantations are 1-16 lower at $3\frac{7}{8}$, on profit-taking after their recent substantial rise. Amongst miscellaneous descriptions there has been a certain amount of business doing in Alexandria Waters, which are in demand for Egypt round about the current level. Salts and Sodas are fractionally easier at 76s. 3d., and Khedivial Mails, after being up to 92s., are closing unaltered at 90s.

In Greek securities, beyond a drop of one point in the 1902 Loan to 67, there is no change in prices to be recorded. Bank of Athens shares have again been done for a few hundreds at 81s., at which price there are further buyers.

Oil Shares.

There are few changes to record. British Burmahs are stronger at 14s., but Anglo-Egyptians B and Anglo-Persian Prefs., are unchanged at 2 11-16 and 25s. 6d. respectively.

Roumanian Consols are steady at 15s. 6d., but Traian Roumanians are $1\frac{1}{2}$d. down at 9s. 6d. Anglo-Roumanians are 8s. $4\frac{1}{2}$d.

Of Russians, Ural Caspians were stronger at $1\frac{5}{8}$, but North Caucasians were slightly lower at 24s.

Paris Bourse.

Suez Canal shares were again lower at 5,360 francs. Other prices were: Egyptian Unifieds 91.30 (against 92.25), Serbian 1895's 62 (against 61.50), Turkish Unifieds 70.15 (against 71), Banque d'Athenes 103 (unchanged), Credit Foncier Egyptiens 77 (against 782), Land Banks of Egypt 184.50 (against 201), and Ottoman Banks 540 (against 527).

◆

The death is announced at Bidston, Cheshire, at the age of 74, of Mr. Herbert Wheeler Hind, principal of the firm of J. H. Hind and Co., East India merchants, Liverpool, and one of the most esteemed men in that city, where his interests were very extensive, particularly in insurance and banking circles. He was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1909.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.
Telegrams: "Trabanque, London."
CAPITAL: Authorised - £10,000,000 Subscribed and Paid Up - £2,000,000
Governor - THE LORD FARINGDON.
Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON. London Manager, P. C. WEST. Secretary, G. De B. BROUNLIE.

The Corporation has been established with the object of developing the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world, and brings to the notice of all interested that it is prepared to grant financial facilities to British Manufacturers and Merchants for the increase of their Import and Export Trade.

It will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise, and will afford financial facilities for the enlargement of works and the extension of plant.

The Corporation is appointing representatives in the chief cities of the world, and will open credits at home and abroad. It invites inquiries and will endeavour where necessary to put expert advice at the disposal of correspondents regarding the financing of their foreign and overseas business. Moneys received on fixed deposit. Terms on application.

"NEAR EAST" STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price.		Dec. 25
	July 27 1914	Dec. 18	
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian 6 % State Mortgage Bonds, 1892	99	—	—
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	85	85
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	88½	88¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	76½	77
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	75	75
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	75	75
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	56½	56½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	75xd	75xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	67	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	68	67
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	65	65
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	80	80
Do. 5 % Currant	—	95	95
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81½	81½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	71	71
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	83	83
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	75½	75½
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4¾	6 21/32	6 11/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	16¾	17
Bank of Athens	£2	81/-	81/-
Bank of Bengal	—	—	—
Bank of British West Africa	7¼	6½	6½
Bank of Madras	—	—	—
Bank of Roumania	8¼	8¾	8¾
British Trade Corporation	—	9 39/64	9 39/64
Chartered Bank of India	65	89	89
Imperial Ottoman Bank	—	14¼	14¼
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	8⅞	8⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	6	6
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	7xd	7xd
London County and Westminster	—	19¼	19¼
National Bank of Egypt	13½	21⅛	20⅞
National Bank of India	43	69	69
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	8⅜	8½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	69	69
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	56	56
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	24/6	24/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Béhéra Co.	8¼	13¾	13¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4½xd	4½xd
Daira Sanieh	2/2	4/-	4/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	15/9	15/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	15/6	15/9
Gharbieh Land Co.	1¾	2¾	2¾
New Egyptian Co.	10/-	21/9	21/9
Sidi Salem Co.	9/16	2 21/32	2 21/32
Sudan Plantations	—	3 1/16	3⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	70/-	70/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/9	3/4½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12¼	11⅞	11⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	11/16	77/6	76/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	90/-	90/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	4½	4½

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,560
RESERVE FUND - - - - 75,000

HEAD OFFICE—

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

BRANCHES—

Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - - - £650,000
RESERVE - - - - - - £190,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - £1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Baghdad, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan. Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman. Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz an Yezd. Agency at Busreh

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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BANK OF MADRAS

Capital (Fully Paid up) - - Rs.75,00,000
Reserve Fund - - - - Rs.50,00,000

Head Office: MADRAS.

Branches.—ALLEPPEY, BANGALORE, BIMLIPATAM (*Outstation*, Vizianagram), CALICUT, COCANADA (*Outstations* Narsapur and Rajahmundry), COCHIN, COIMBATORE (*Outstation*, Erode), COLOMBO, GUNTUR (*Outstation*, Bezwada), MADURA, MANGALORE, MASULIPATAM, NEGAPATAM, OOTACAMUND, SALEM, TELLICHERRY, TRICHINOPOLY, TRIVANDRUM, TUTICORIN, and BELLARY.

Current Accounts.—Opened on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Fixed Deposits.—The Bank allows interest on Fixed Deposits and receives small sums in Savings Bank Rules and Terms on application.

Letters of Credit and Drafts.—Issued on the principa towns in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

Government and Other Securities.—Received for safe custody, Purchases and Sales effected and Interest and Dividends Collected and Credited to Account, or Remitted, according to instructions.

Loans and Cash Credits.—Granted, approved Mercantile Bills discounted and Bills of Exchange negotiated.

By order of the Directors,

W. B. HUNTER, *Secretary and Treasurer*

BANK OF BENGAL.

Capital, Fully paid up.. .. .. .. Rs.2,00,00,000
Reserve Fund Rs.1,58,50,000
Reserve for Depreciation of Investments Rs. 67,50,000

Head Office: CALCUTTA.

Branches: CLIVE STREET, PARK STREET, AND BURRA BAZAAR, CALCUTTA, AGRA, AKYAB, ALLAHABAD, BENARES, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, DACCA, DELHI, HYDERABAD (DECCAN), JALPAIGURI, LAHORE, LUCKNOW, MOULMEIN, NAGPORE, NARAINGUNGE, PATNA, RANGOON, SECUNDERABAD (DECCAN), SERAJGUNGE, SIMLA.

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Loans and Cash Credits granted. **Discount Accounts** opened and approved. **Mercantile Bills** discounted.
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Copies of Rules, Rates, etc., may be had on application at the Head Office and at any of the Branches.

By order of the Directors,

N. H. Y. WARREN,
Secretary and Treasurer.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, GOLD COAST, AND NIGERIA.

Authorised Capital -	£2,000,000	Called-up Capital - -	£580,000
Subscribed Capital -	£1,450,000	Reserve - - - - -	£237,500

CHAIRMAN: THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE: 17-18, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER - LESLIE COUPER.

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WEST AFRICA:—
THE GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GOLD COAST, ASHANTI, TOGOLAND, NIGERIA, FERNANDO PO.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	**£2,000,000**	**Paid-up Capital** (£12 10s. per Share)	**£1,000,000**
Subscribed Capital (80,000 Shares at £25 each) ..	**£2,000,000**	**Reserve Fund**	**£1,350,000**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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General Manager, H. CHALMERS. *London Manager*, C. NICOLL.

BRANCHES.

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Bombay
Madras
Karachi

Cawnpore
Lahore
Amritsar
Delhi

Tuticorin
Cochin (S. India)
Chittagong
Rangoon

Mandalay
Aden
Aden, Steamer Point
Colombo

Kandy
Newera Eliya
Zanzibar

Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu } British East Africa

Entebbe, Kampala, Jinja } Uganda

OCCUPIED TERRITORY GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against, or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa, and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfers on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the Purchase and Sale of Government, Indian and Colonial Securities, Railway Stock, Bank and other Shares, the collection of Furlough Pay and Pensions from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of Interest and Dividends thereon.

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